



# Manitou Memories

Volume 2

Winter 2008

Issue 1



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## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Bylaws of the Manitou Islands Memorial Society were amended on July 28, 2007. With much discussion the members agreed on annual dues of \$10.00 per member. The annual dues commenced on July 31st, please renew your support now.

MIMS,  
P.O. Box 177,  
Empire, MI 49630.  
As always, we appreciate your donations,  
past, present, and future!

## Thank you for your recent contribution

### Monetary Gifts

Marcie Brightman  
Keith Cameron  
David and Nancy Clark  
James M. and Carolyn Furst Clark  
Dorothy Cooley  
Charles and Sharron Furst  
Trina Haas  
Brian T. Hazlett  
Pete and Jelaine Horton  
John F. Hughes  
Cheryl and David McDaniel  
Patricis A. Nader  
Dawn Niewenhuis  
Thomas A. Persing  
Wil and Sarah Reding  
James and Lynn Roe  
Donald and Carol Sanctorum  
Joanna Smith  
Ethan B. Sparrow  
Anna Smucker  
Carol and Joseph Taber  
Jason A. Tenieras  
Harold and Muriel Wallace

### Relighting of Light Project

Robert A. Jackman and  
Alexandra L. Jackman  
Friends of Wilfred Larson,  
In Memory of Wilfred Larson  
Mark and Sara Nesbitt  
Ray G. and Frances E. Rhoton

### South Manitou Island

**Volunteers 2007**  
Tamera Anderson  
Mia Anderson  
Davis Anderson  
Mike Berge  
Sheri Berge  
Marie Brightman  
Dorothy Cooley  
Anna DeCoster  
Austin Fillmore  
Judy Fogle  
Camille Garber  
Andrew Glatz  
Beth Glatz  
Gwen Glatz  
Noah Glatz  
Ron Glatz  
Linda Henry  
Randy Hicks  
Steve Hicks  
Neil Hodges  
Joe Hunter  
Marcy Hunter

Katy Jenks  
Peter Jenks  
Kerry Kelly  
Bob Kruch  
Joe Kruch  
Rhonda Kruch  
Carl Luther  
Jeff March  
Bill Payne  
Jayne Payne  
Charles Psenka  
Mike Rocheleau  
Paul Rocheleau  
Sue Rocheleau  
Lynn Roe  
Jack Sheridan  
Brian Sikkenga  
Sarah Wendt  
Shawn Williamson  
Dan Zezulka  
\* To all that setup/cleaned up  
at Annual Meeting\*



## CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE— ILLUMINATE SOUTH MANITOU ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE LIGHT

It has long been a dream to see the SMI Lighthouse beacon shining across Lake Michigan once again. Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Manitou Islands Memorial Society, Manitou Island Transit, Electro-Optics Technology, Inc., Manufacturing Technology Academy, and Leelanau.com have partnered together to make this initiative happen.

### A grant was submitted by the NPS this past summer to:

- Fabricate and install a replica third order Fresnel lens in the lantern room of the SMI Lighthouse.
- Illuminate the lens using a solar powered L.E.D. light.
- Replace clouded, scratched and cracked Plexiglas panels with glass in the lantern room.
- Remove rust, prime and paint exposed metal surfaces of iron spiral stairway.

Please consider helping make this dream a reality. Work is planned to begin in the summer of 2008. Grants have been written to cover part of the costs, but additional donations will be needed. The total cost of this project is \$81,000.00. Our part is \$40,500.00.

### Please consider a tax deductible donation to:

Manitou Islands Memorial Society  
PO Box 177  
Empire, MI 49630-0177

www.manitouislands.org

## RITA HADRA RUSCO RETURNS HOME

A perfect day was in store with wind, weather, and whim looking favorably on Rita's family and friends as they enjoyed a September 8th day visit to Rita's beloved North Manitou Island. All gathered to help Rita celebrate her 87th birthday, and her return to the island on the grounds of the former U.S. Life Saving Station. Rita's birthday wish was fulfilled. She would once more set foot on the island that has been a part of her life since 1942. The beautiful weather was cherished, as last years trip brought about a cancellation due to rough weather.

Some of us in the group made the trek down to Rita's former cottage site to reminisce of the hospitality, history, and island smash Rita dispensed so freely. A visit to Rita's was the highlight to many, as she was a representation of North Manitou Island.

As Rita stated, in her book, written about the island, "Where ever I look, fond memories fill my mind. Those claimed by the spirit of the Manitou will always yearn to return." Such is the thought of many of us, viewing Rita as the embodiment of the Manitou's spirit. Thanks Rita.



## UP COMING PROJECTS

### Coming Through For SMI Cultural Landscapes

Much was accomplished this year at the August Beck Farm as the remnant orchard west of the farmhouse was cleared of choke cherry as high as 20 ft., sumac, and ever present poison ivy. Revealing the remaining struggling fruit trees, scattered farm equipment, and old sawmill remains. More importantly lilacs, domestic roses, and vinca marking the original knoll top homestead site of Christoph Beck revealed a long forgotten beauty present at that site. With approximately 20 acres of field cleared and viewed through the open orchard, the spatial feel and view reclaimed is dramatic. Also cleared back was the stove wood barn foundation, ice house with adjacent foundation, as well as some clearing north of the farm house.

At the George C. Hutzler farm, the field was improved upon by the removal of stumps, improving of views, and re-mowing. Also 95% of the trees have now been removed from the hillside of the hill top grave of Conrad Hutzler, regaining much of the historic view of the farmstead at the foot of the hill. Much thanks to the assistance of NPS maintenance who removed the larger trees.

Volunteers, Joe Kruch, Rhonda Kruch, Joe's brother Bob, Neil Hodges, and Dan Z worked intermittently in the spring and fall clearing fields in rainy weather, removing brush around foundations at the Beck farm in hot 90 degree heat, and mowing fields in an effort to maintain the cultural landscapes. Additional volunteers are always welcomed to help with the field clearing efforts.

### Haas/Jenks Restoration Project:

Restoration efforts will continue next summer on the Haas/Jenks cottage. The cottage will be restored and interpreted from the 1914 time period. It will remain with no electric and/or plumbing.

The planned restoration for 2008/2009 includes:

- New roof
- Exterior painting
- Window/door repair and painting
- Demo of interior
- Dry wall of interior
- Painting of interior
- Floor and molding repair and restoration

The cost of this project will range from \$5,000 to \$7,500 for materials. All labor will once again be completed by volunteers. We value all of our members that donate their time and/or money to help with our restoration efforts.

### Please consider a tax deductible donation to:

Manitou Islands Memorial Society  
PO Box 177  
Empire, MI 49630-0177

## SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

The National Park Service is looking for Volunteer's for the summer of 2008 as an Interpretive Ranger on South Manitou Island.

### For more information contact:

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore,  
9922 Front St., Empire, MI 49630.  
(231)-326-5134 or [www.nps.gov/slbe](http://www.nps.gov/slbe)



August Beck Farm



George C. Hutzler/Riker Farm



George C. Hutzler/Riker Farm



Haas/Jenks Restoration Project

## ANNUAL REUNION/MEETING:

The annual reunion/meeting was attended by 41 people on Saturday, July 28, 2007. Some of the highlights of the meeting were:

- Dorothy Cooley and Judy Fogle provided music and song during the social time before the pot luck luncheon.
- Dusty Shultz, SLBE Superintendent, addressed the membership:
- She thanked all MIMS members for their work efforts on the islands.
- She addressed concerns about the General Management Plan for the park:
- **The cultural resources that will take top priority are:**
- Glen Haven
- Port Oneida
- All Maritime Structures on SMI, NMI, and Sleeping Bear Point
- Other restoration efforts will happen only if money allows.
- Restoration of the SMI Keepers Quarters keeps being pushed back due to the large amount of money that this project will need to accomplish. The SMI Lighthouse Tower was painted in 2005.
- The main focus this past summer was Glen Haven.
- The GMP was halted in 2002 and restarted in 2006. It did include a wilderness study.
- Comments are welcome and may be submitted through the mail or on line.
- She also spoke of the Centennial Initiative to "Relight the Light on SMI":
- This will be a joint effort between:
- Manitou Islands Memorial Society
- Manitou Island Transit
- Electro-Optics Technology, Inc.
- Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore
- This is a signature project that hopefully will start in 2008 if the legislation is passed to make the grant possible.
- Next year will be the 50th anniversary of the extinguishing of the light and the 150th anniversary of the 2nd light house construction.
- The Coast Guard has been consulted. The range of the light must remain under a 12 mile radius. It will be a stationary light that is operated seasonally.

- The grant will allow us to:
- Fabricate and install a replica third order Fresnel lens in the lantern room of the SMI Lighthouse.
- Illuminate the lens using a solar powered L.E.D. light.
- Replace clouded, scratched and cracked Plexiglas panels with glass in the lantern room.
- Remove rust, prime and paint exposed metal surfaces of iron spiral stairway.

During the business portion of the meeting, the proposed changes to the MIMS bylaws were discussed:

- Most of the proposed changes consisted of cleaning up the language of the bylaws to reflect the actual policies of MIMS.
- Much discussion surrounded the concept of having annual dues. After much input both for and against, it was decided to put \$10.00 annual dues to the vote of the membership.
- It was also proposed to add not less than 5 additional board members in addition to the president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.
- The members voted by ballot to accept or reject the proposed changes to the bylaws (with \$10.00 annual dues). The vote was 20 votes yes and 2 votes no.

The amended Bylaws of the Manitou Islands Memorial Society were adopted on July 28, 2007.

- The following officers were elected by unanimous consent:
- Rhonda Kruch—Vice President
- Judy Fogle—Secretary
- Charles Psenka—Webmaster
- Lynn Roe—Hospitality Director
- Shawn Williamson—Newsletter Editor
- Dorothy Cooley—Additional Board Member
- Linda Henry—Additional Board Member

After drawing names for table centerpieces to be used as door prizes, the meeting was adjourned around 3:30.

## ANNUAL EXCURSION:

The annual SMI Excursion started in Leland once again this year as 35 MIMS members boarded the Mishe Mokwa on our journey across Lake Michigan. Once we reached SMI, everyone enjoyed a picnic lunch on the lawns around the old Coast Guard Lifesaving Station.

After lunch members enjoyed their prepaid motor tour of SMI. This year's itinerary was a 20 minute stop at individual sites with an interpreter available to answer questions.

- School House—Members could visit a past MIMS restoration project and see our donation dollars at work.
- Cemetery—This year the bell ran for Angelus Rosie, Paul Maleski, and Ethel Furst Stormer.
- Farm Loop—Members visited the field clearing efforts taking place at the Hutzler and August Beck farms. Remember volunteers are always welcome.

After the motor tours returned to the village, members were able to participate in the following:

- Haas/Jenks Cottage—Member saw first hand a current MIMS restoration project.
- Museum—Members were able to explore some of the island's history.
- Pre-Lighthouse Tour—Additional information about SMI Lighthouse was available while members waited for their lighthouse tour.
- Lighthouse Tours—Members climbed to the top of the tower for a breathtaking panoramic view of the island and the Manitou Passage.

It is always sad to see this day end as members board the Mishe Mokwa to journey back to Leland.

