

SOUTH MANITOU MEMORIAL SOCIETY
ISLAND OUTING
SUNDAY, JULY 26, 1998

Attended: Don and Nancy Rosie, Dawn and Breanna Heneveld, David and Candy Zych (Rosie), Ronald W. Rosie III, David P. Dalzell, Jeff Rotman, Paul Maleski, Don and Zella Morris, Joe Orbeck, Norma Egeler, Don Tobin, John F. Tobin and Dustin, David Maleski, Jeff Maleski, Jack and Barbara Kolasinski, Judy A. Fogle and Amanda, Patty Kelly, and Margaret Braden.

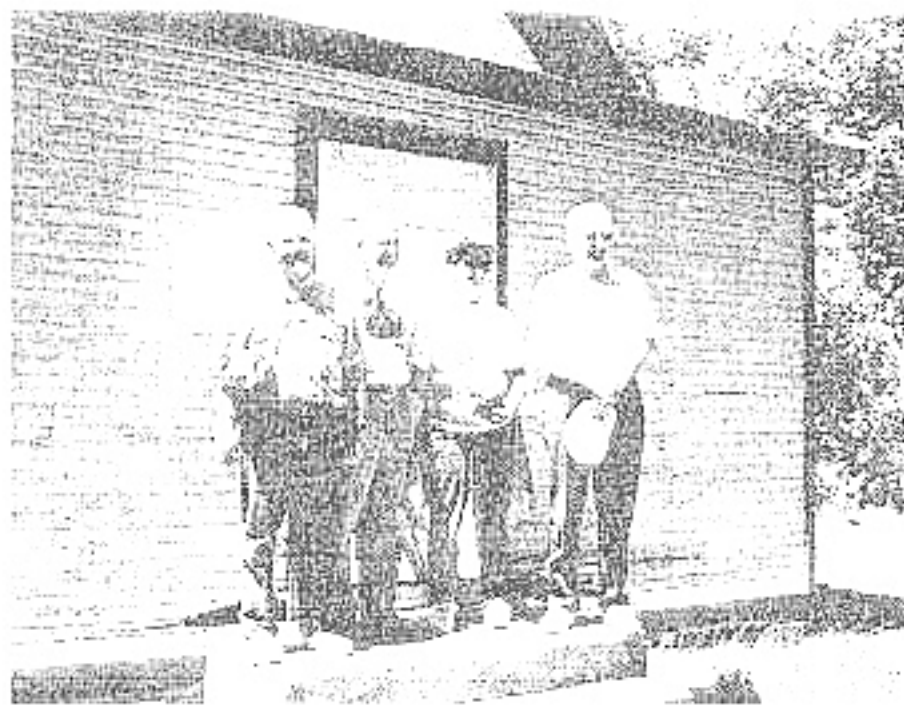
The day was clear, water was blue, nice and smooth, as 26 "old" islanders, relatives and friends chatted all the way to South Manitou Island. After a picnic in front of the Ranger Station (aka Coast Guard Station) we filled two buggies (thanks to Melissa and the Manitou Island Transit), and headed out. Upon arriving at the schoolhouse, the door was open (thanks to Bob Smith) and stories began. Ron Rosie told about how the windows had been moved from the north side of the building to the south side. He pointed out the library, chalkboards, teacher's desk, and where the students desks had been placed. Ron went to school on South Manitou from 1934 to 1941. When I explained that the teacher had to walk down the desk rows sideways because of being too close together, Ron laughed and said, "Not when she was mad!". Is it true that the teacher was Florence Haas? He also told about ice skating on Lake Florence during their lunch hour. Kerosene lamps used to hang from the ceiling (the hooks are still there), shades hung over the windows (pulleys still there too), and the pipe for the rope to ring the school bell, was also still there. The younger students sat near the front, close to the stove, with the older students in the back wearing their coats when it was really cold. Then they got a young woman teacher who couldn't figure out how to run the stove, so school got out early for a number of days until she learned

A photographer, Tim Hall, was visiting the island and happened to be at the schoolhouse when we arrived. He took some great pictures of our group, some of which are shown in this newsletter. If you desire copies of these pictures, contact him at: Tim Hall, 4165 Carrie Dr., New Palestine, IN 46163 (317) 861-6621. He will sell the pictures at cost plus shipping.

At the Cemetery, it was peaceful as usual. Fred Burdick was there beside his wife, keeping watch over all. Bob Smith placed a rose trellis (handmade) at Bertha Peth's grave for the roses to climb. It was stated about the sailors being buried across the road, west of the cemetery, and how the farmers never plowed or planted there out of respect for their graves. Ron stated that Bertha Peth went to Johnny Hutzler's home every day to take him fresh bread and work on the garden. Almost every Sunday there would be a church meeting at Bertha's where

she played the organ. Someone said that her pies were a little sour. Zella recalled her mom's sadness the day Tilly Thompson died in 1912.

Passing the four corners, Ron Rosie pointed out where the two boilers had been for the sawmill. It was noted that the Anderson family had replaced the stone pillars at the corner, just the week before.



"Schoolhouse Memories"
(photos courtesy of Tim Hall)



At the Beck Farm, Ron Rosie pointed out where the entrance to the shop was down by the barn. In the barn, the cows occupied the first stall, then came the horse stall, and on the west side were the pigs. He also said the barn floor was cement. Ron had spent many nights in the southeast bedroom with the Beck boys. George Hutzler and Ron Rosie conferred about the great cider that "Willy" Beck used to make. Seems as though if you drank it sitting down, you were lucky to get up and walk away!

After touring the Hutzler/Riker Farm, we all headed back to the dock area, to do tours of the lighthouse and visitor center.

Amanda and I waved goodbye to all the visitors as the Mishe-Mokwa motored away. We loaded on our backpacks and headed out to the Weatherstation campground for two good days of hiking.

by Judy A. Fogle