



Flashback To The Past

By Sandra M. Black



BURRRRRRRRRRRRRR! ITS COLD OUTSIDE ...

In 1880, the northern part of Michigan registered 20 degrees below zero. The Leelanau Enterprise reported three men crossing the Straits of Mackinac had their feet so badly frozen that one of them had to have both feet amputated.

FEBRUARY 3, 1881, two men came from the South Manitou Island, to Glen Haven, on skates. If you think that was exciting, on March 22, 1883, **JOSEPH HAAS**, crossed Lake Michigan on foot from South Manitou Island to Leland. It was the first time the feat had been performed that particular winter. Joseph Haas had scarcely arrived in Leland before a seam opened behind him exposing quite a broad strip of water. Mr. Haas must have been a daring man as he lost his life from accidental drowning on July 10, 1912, at the age of 59. If there any truth to the story, I heard that Joseph Haas was transferring a case of beer from a large boat to his rowboat anchored off South Manitou Island when he slipped overboard and drowned as the case of beer fell on top of him?

DECEMBER 22, 1927 - "NORTH MANITOU MAIL MAKES TRIP YESTERDAY. TRACY GROSVENOR took advantage of the first calm day in more than a week and came over yesterday to get North Manitou's Christmas mail. There was a large accumulation and his boat was well filled on the return trip. He was accompanied to Leland by MARTIN HOEFT, who returned for the winter, JOHN KINNUCAN, ERNEST HUTZLER, lighthouse keepers. Also, MIKE ROTTA and NELS NELSON, Assistant lighthouse keepers, who returned to their homes in Traverse City, Milwaukee, and Northport, respectively, for the winter. GILES MERRITT, who was serving in the coast guard was also on board. BURTON and LESLIE FURST, who are attending high school in Traverse City, returned with him to spend the holidays on the island."

The Colonial Theatre in Suttons Bay is showing a dog picture, "A HERO OF THE BIG SNOW", starring Rin-Tin-Tin. Admission 15 cents for children and 35 cents for adults.

At Christmas time while living on South Manitou Island, **FLOYD S. THOMPSON**, said his favorite Christmas gift from his father, **THEODORE**, was a pair of skis. Floyd's sister, **CLARABELL**, remembers getting lots of candy and a new dress for Christmas. **BEATRICE (THOMPSON) HOLMES** gets a big smile on her face when she relates the story of sneaking upstairs over the storeroom in their home and finding all the Christmas candy and nuts hidden in an old trunk.

* Leelanau Enterprise