SOUTH MANITOU ISLAND

Herald Correspondence

We have has very pleasant weather this winter, so far, only three days sleighing, and that is all gone now.

The farmers are busy cutting cordwood for market. Some of them have got tired of waiting for snow to haul their wood, and have commenced drawing it on the wagon.

The mail carrier has crossed the channel three times since Christmas. He made his last trip on Jan. 13th, accompanied by James D. Armstrong, 1st assistant light keeper. They reported hard day's work, no wind, the thermometer at 30 degrees above zero - at least they felt that way - with a white ash broom.

The young folks here are having a very pleasant time this winter, something like it used to be a few years ago. On the evening of Dec. 24th, George Hutzler opened his home for the invited public. Nearly all the inhabitants came, and enjoyed themselves dancing, as nearly all the young folks like to dance.

On the evening of Dec. 31st, George Haas opened his house, and nearly all came, had a good time, and only a few went home before daylight. On the evening of the 12th of Jan. Geo. Hutzler Sr. opened his house; nearly all came, had a good time, and after a midnight supper went home, as it was Saturday night.

Miss Louisa Hutzler is spending the winter here with her parents. She has spent the last two years in Chicago, where she will return in the spring, as soon as navigation opens.

Below is a short report of the light station at South Manitou, for the season of 1888: The lamp was first lighted on the evening of April 16th, and closed Dec. 17th. The first steamer seen in the harbor was the R. A. Seymour of Racine; the last of the season was the Annie Laura, Dec. 1st, 1888. Whole number of vessels and steamers in the harbor during the season was 396. Whole number of hours sounding fog signal, 2873. Fire kept up at the signal during foggy and snowy weather, 5883.

It is hoped that the plan of telegraphic communication between the island and main shore will soon be put in operation, as it would be of great benefit to the people living here, and also to the sailors who come here disabled or are driven here for refuge in a gale of wind, which happens quite often, as this is a good harbor.

The readers of the HERALD have seen that the editor of that paper only gives Manitou county the credit of two republican votes. That, I believe, was all that was cast at the last presidential election, but I think the editor is aware that there was only one island in the county that held an election. I think it hardly fair for the editor to come right out and say that there are only two republican voters in the county. He knows some of the islands are not organized and that those people are deprived of the privilege of voting, and I can tell him the reason that this island did not hold an election. In the first place, it is not working as harmoniously as it ought to. All the town offices are not filled. In the second place we received no tickets in time, or even no notice of the election, only from the papers. At headquarters in our county they were not very anxious for us to vote, as this island went republican the election before.

July 1889

BENZIE BANNER- Mr. Burton, who has lived on South Manitou Island for the past forty-five years, has disposed of the main part of the island to a Chicago syndicate, who will put up an immense summer resort, and it is said that the Detroit and Cleveland steam navigation company will place one of its immense side wheel steamers to carry passengers from Chicago and Milwaukee to the Manitous.

Aug. 1889

CHARLEVOIX SENTINEL: Mr. Harpold of Chicago, was in town Monday, and in an interview with the gentleman, we learned that he had purchased 300 acres of land of Mr. Wm. Burton, of the South Manitous, at a consideration of $5,000. Mr. Harpold intends building a hotel in the spring and fit the grounds up for a resort. A line of steamers will connect with the island next summer. He has chartered the tug Onward and will look over the timber on the North and South Fox Islands.

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