



5656 W. Jagger Road  
Ludington, MI. 49431

April 1991

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Dear Friends:

We have exciting news for you! We are now recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt organization. This treasured letter has been safely placed in the Society's safety deposit box in the Empire National Bank in Traverse City, MI. Application forms are lengthy, detailed, demanding, and are carefully examined by the I.R.S. It has been a time-consuming project, and Johanna de Kok deserves all the credit we can give her.

As far as your President is concerned, he has been trying to remember what life was like when he lived at the NORTH Manitou Lighthouse Station. So far, 150 pages of handwritten material has accumulated. It may, or may not, appear in print, but at least, my grandchildren may, some day, be able to determine why their children are, at times, - SUCH LITTLE SAND HILL SAVAGES.

I have also been working on a couple of other projects that I plan to present to the Board, Society members, and others, in an effort to raise funds for our Society.

- Do you have old island pictures that others may like to have a copy of? Why not have a few copies made, and sell them at the Island Reunion?

- Do you have a talent, or can you make something others would like to buy? to raise funds for the Society? Perhaps, in another year or so, we can organize a bazaar or something.

There ARE ways to make money, if only we use our imagination! The perpetual fund of our Society is now \$4500.00, and at today's rate of interest produces approximately \$300.00 a year. This is not enough to cover expenses, such as the printing of newsletters, postage and expenses for picket fences, gravestones and other planned projects, without the help of new memberships and donations by existing members. We have, so far, been richly blessed, and we have come a long way in three years.

I, like Martin Luther King, have a dream! I can see a perpetual fund producing enough interest to install a fence around the cemetery. I can see a perpetual fund that, on occasion, could help pay for the expenses to travel to the Islands for an annual picnic.

Best of all, I can see a perpetual fund, producing enough interest to support our members while they restore a room in the South Manitou Island Lighthouse! On the door of that room I can see a shiny, brass plate with the words:

"THIS ROOM REFURBISHED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE  
SOUTH MANITOU MEMORIAL SOCIETY

Yes, this is only a dream. Can you, or will you, help me make my dream come true?

Glenn Furst, President

From the Secretary:

I've had surgery on my left hand, and have been unable to type for a few weeks. However, with considerable help from Joanna Smith, we have been able to get this newsletter to you in due time.

We are also enclosing a membership list. Undoubtedly, you'll be amazed at how many members we do have. Alas, many names are also missing, not because these people do not like to join, but because they don't know about the Memorial Society.

If you have any relatives or friends who may be interested in joining, please send us their names and addresses.

Thanks again to Joanna Smith, we have also just mailed over 125 letters and application blanks to prospective new members. We'll be happy to send your relatives and friends this attractive package as well.

Mrs. Blanche R. Lewis of Midland, MI, a native of South Manitou Island, died January 16, 1991, at the age of 99.

A one-time postmaster of South Manitou Island, she later was a teacher and school administrator.

She was born on the island on October 17, 1891, a daughter of George and Selma Erickson Hutzler.

While postmaster, she met and married Coast Guardsman Clifford Lewis, and they later lived at Good Harbor, Empire, East Lansing, South Haven and Blanchard.

Mrs. Lewis is survived by a son, Bill of Midland; three daughters, Virginia Grim of Farwell, Joyce Lewis of Midland and Lillian Dunning of Livonia; a sister, Violet Robinette of Ludington; twelve grandchildren, twenty-four great-grandchildren and a great great-granddaughter.

Other former islanders who have recently passed away:  
Charles Anderson -  
Author of *Isle of View*

Attended school on the island  
Nellie Smith -  
Daughter of Oscar Smith, U.S.C.G.

Sister of Admiral Willard Smith  
Attended school on the island

William Ludwig U.S.C.G. on South Manitou  
Lloyd Hulett U.S.C.G. on South Manitou

Sincerely,  
Johanna de Kok

After 150 years the quest continues ...  
by Brian T. Hazlett

Botanists have had a long association with South Manitou, beginning soon after William N. Burton, the island's first homesteader, began his cordwood operation. Unlike many of today's travelers, the early botanists did not see the island as a specific destination, but usually arrived on the island when the ships on which they were traveling came to take on wood. The first known plant specimens from the island were collected by Dr. George Engelmann (for whom the Engelmann spruce was named) in August 1840, possibly during his honeymoon.

Among Engelmann's specimens (now at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis) is Pitcher's thistle (*Cirsium pitcheri*), a species whose distribution is restricted to the dunes of the upper Great Lakes. Because of its limited distribution, Pitcher's thistle is listed as threatened both by the State of Michigan and by the federal government. On South Manitou, however, most visitors will easily find this silvery thistle on the island's dunes and shores.

Other Michigan-listed threatened species in the South Manitou flora include ginseng, calypso or fairy-slipper, Pumpelly's bromo grass, the Sleeping Bear dune wort and the western moonwort.

The dune wort and western moonwort are small ferns in the genus *Botrychium*. Current research on this genus is being conducted at the University of Michigan by Drs. Florence and Warren H. Wagner. Collections which they made on South Manitou in 1985, when the western moonwort was discovered, suggest that a previously undescribed *Botrychium* species occurs on South Manitou in Garden City just north of Chicago Rd. They are making plans to return to the island to study this new species further. They will look for characteristics which will distinguish it from other members of the genus and then give it a Latin name.

In addition, the following members of the Memorial Society have recently passed away:

Alice Noonan and Margaretha DePuy

Both members visited the island many times and loved it. They also supported the Memorial Society and what it stands for.

The Board members have been discussing the possibility of making a day boat trip to South Manitou Island, either the day before or after the picnic in Empire on July 27, 1991, for our members.

Does anyone of you like to volunteer, and try to get this organized? It would be nice if they could become an annual event!

Glenn Furst has made memorial crosses for known, unmarked graves on South Manitou. These crosses needed to be embedded in cement bases. Glenn did the work on many of them, but did not get them all done last summer.

We would like to thank Chuck Kruch, NPS ranger, his brother Joe and friends Jack Phillips and Steve Rademacher for finishing the job on the memorial crosses. And also, we'd like to thank them and Kathy Bietau, NPS ranger, for clearing the Price girl's grave, and for removing the trees, brush and POISON IVY from the George and Maria Haas gravesite.

South Manitou Island means many things to many people, as you will notice in the story of our continuing series: "I Remember South Manitou ..." In the essay you will read about a plant species, discovered on the island and previously undescribed. This is exciting!

Other things we remember about the island may be less pleasant than the above, but that too is part of the history we need to record. Life is never easy, certainly not on South Manitou Island.

"Who in the world would want to live there," people may ask. Only we know why, don't we

I have spent several field seasons exploring South Manitou and documenting its flora. At present, I list 366 species of flowering plants, 10 conifers, and 41 ferns and fern-like plants. I am sure that in time additional species will be found. They will probably not be new to science such as the Wagner's ferns, but species which either have been hiding in small numbers and therefore have been overlooked, or species which have been dormant in the soil as seeds waiting for the right conditions to make themselves known. New island species could also be European weeds which have only recently migrated into the Great Lakes region.

The beauty of the island and the richness of its flora will continue to attract amateur and professional botanists. With each new pair of eyes is the potential of seeing something which the rest of us have overlooked.

About the author:

Brian T. Hazlett fell in love with South Manitou Island during an overnight camping trip in June 1980. In 1982 he began a vegetation study of both North and South Manitou for the National Park Service through the University of Michigan Biological Station.

In subsequent years he conducted similar studies on the rest of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, while pursuing graduate studies at the University of Michigan. His Ph.D. dissertation, "Factors influencing island floras in northern Lake Michigan," focused on the Manitou Islands, Fox Islands, and a mainland portion of the National Lakeshore.

While the "natural" environment of South Manitou is close to his heart, other matters of his heart are closely connected to South Manitou as well. He proposed marriage to his wife Yvonne on top of the lighthouse!

From the *Traverse City Record Eagle*  
March 1911

A landslide carried the Weather Bureau tower at South Manitou Island into the lake with 150 feet of cable, both of which were a total loss. This put both islands out of communication until necessary repairs were made.

Distributed in memory of Thomas Kitchen at a memorial service:

In affectionate Remembrance of the late

THOMAS KITCHEN

who lost his life by the breaking up of the ice on the Lake Michigan, North America on the 25th January, 1864 Aged THIRTY EIGHT YEARS

"If he's the Lord let Him  
Do what seemeth him good  
And if the body is not recovered  
We hope the Lord his soul hath found."

1. Original in NPS archives  
(I wonder if he was ever found, and if he's buried somewhere on the island!)

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