

P.O. Box 177  
Empire, Michigan 49630  
July 1, 1992

1992/1993, Vol.13, No.2

Dear Friends:

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings from Empire! Summer weather has arrived in Northern Michigan. We are enjoying sun-shiny days with fresh water breezes off of Lake Michigan. South Manitou Island appears within an arms reach from shore when we enjoy clear blue skies. I imagine my favorite smells of the Island... the lilacs, apple blossoms, narcissus, wild lilies! And the beauty of the yellow Lady's-slippers among the maidenhair ferns in the Valley of the Giant Cedars! The island is beckoning us to come home!

Dear Membership:

I cordially invite you to the Annual Meeting of the South Manitou Memorial Society. Several important issues will be addressed.

We should hear from our Finance Committee and our Activities Committee. Our goal to encourage the restoration of the Lighthouse and our participation in having one room as a memorial to Jack Phillips will be discussed. Ways in which funds will be secured and the role of the National Park Service in this venture will need to be addressed.

Here on the mainland we are preparing for the Annual Board of Directors Meeting and the South Manitou Island Reunion/Picnic!

I would like to see the continued growth of this Society. Over the past year descendants of islanders, friends of islanders, and people who simply love the Islands have joined. I welcome all of them. Many people learned of our Society from an article in the Traverse City Record Eagle. As membership in the Society continues to grow, however, I feel it is important to involve as many people as possible in the Society's decision-making processes. I would like to include every member in the election process, rather than those who are fortunate to attend the annual meeting. Our by-laws allow us to change the balloting procedure, yet I would like the Society to discuss any changes before they are put into effect for the elections which will be held in 1993. The nominating committee for these elections will need to be formed.

\*\*\*\*\* REMEMBER \*\*\*\*\*  
The ANNUAL MEETING is to be held:  
SATURDAY JULY 25

at the Empire Methodist Church  
10:00 a.m. TO 11:30 a.m.

\*\*\*\*\* REMEMBER \*\*\*\*\*  
The ANNUAL REUNION PICNIC:  
SATURDAY JULY 25

Empire Township Hall  
12:00 Noon

SEE YOU ALL THERE! !!!!

On a more personal note, my flora of Sleeping Bear Dunes N.L. (with special note of the plants on the Manitou Islands) was recently published in the Michigan Botanist. I hope to have copies for your inspection at the annual meeting. I look forward to seeing you there.

Brian T. Hazlett

## ISLAND NEWS

The National Park Service is hard at work this summer on South and North Manitou Islands. They have begun restoration work on the South Manitou Life-Saving Station, built in 1902. Their work includes, replacing the cedar-shake shingled roof, painting the exterior building, removing the linoleum on all floors to restore the hardwood flooring, replastering the walls, and returning the light fixtures to their original historic design throughout the building.

construction in early July with a proposed completion date in early fall. The plans call for a 157' extension, with a "T" section perpendicular to the end of the dock of 285'. This section will be steel, with concrete fill to act as a breakwall. The dock, when completed, will extend into approximately 11 feet of water. The Manitou Transit Ferry Boats look forward to landing passengers onto the new dock by the start of the deer hunting season on the Island. We, too, look forward to arriving at North Island at the Historic Coast Guard Village!!

The Life-Saving Station has been utilized by the National Park Service as Ranger Headquarters on the Island, as well as living quarters for Island personnel. The Life-Saving Station on South Manitou is nearly identical to the Life-Saving Station at Glen Haven, which has been restored by the National Park Service and is open to the public. We applaud the restoration efforts of the National Park Service on South Manitou!

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Sleeping Bear Dunes N.L. has recently hired a Historic Architect! Kim Mann came on board in October. Kim has a degree in Architectural Design from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. She has worked with the Army Corps of Engineers in Sacramento, CA and with the NPS at their Midwest Regional Office, in Omaha, Nebraska. She oversees the historic structures program at the park, which involves over 300 buildings! Kim's fascination with historic buildings is obvious upon meeting her.

The Park Service is currently involved in several restoration projects on North Manitou Island. They are also restoring the Life-Saving Station on North, built in 1878. Projects include: Removal of aluminum siding on exterior of building, painting of exterior, reconstruction of screened-in front porch, removing linoleum on all floors to restore hardwood flooring, replacing original light fixtures and possible partitioning, with walls, the upstairs crews quarters.

This summer Kim and two seasonal architects, Beth Bumpas and Tina Slattery, will be gathering research and obtaining preliminary measurements from the following South Manitou Island Historic Buildings: August Beck or Bowles farm, the Robinette or Burdick house, the George I. & Selma Hutzler house and the Kramer or Furst house. Beth Bumpas is studying Architecture at the University of Virginia and Tina Slattery's major is Preservation at Ball State University.

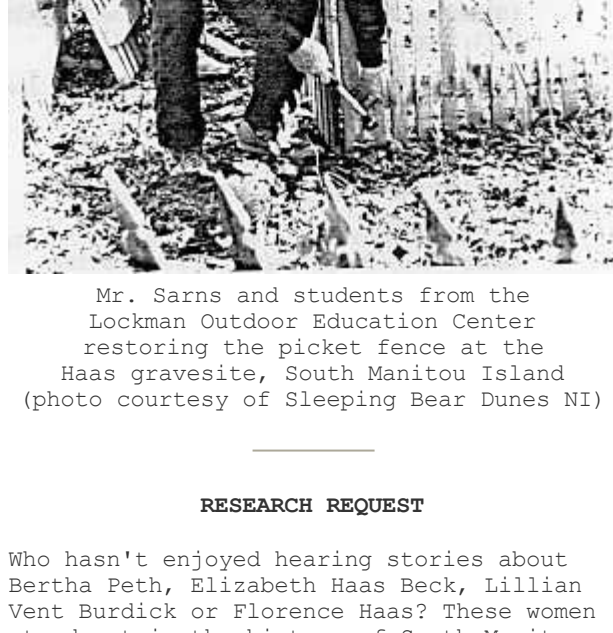
The Sawmill roof will be repaired with sheet metal. Research into the Sawmill is ongoing to determine it's history which will one day aid in restoration efforts.

You can assist their research efforts by providing any information, photographs, drawings, stories, etc. you may have relating to the buildings being studied. Please contact Kim Mann, C/O Sleeping Bear Dunes N.L. Empire, MI 49630 or phone 616-326-5134.

The "Big" news is North Manitou Island will be completing the NPS dock on the east side of the Island. Currently the dock lies in 4'3" of water, which prevents most large watercraft from landing. The Ferry Boats out of Leland have been unable to off-load passengers at the village dock. The dock construction was awarded, by bid process, to Roen Construction Company from Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. They will begin

## GRAVESITE RESTORATION

On May 14th and 15th, Ray Kimpel, of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore accompanied George Sarns and 6 students from the Traverse City Lockman Education Center on their 2nd visit to South Manitou Island. They have been involved in an ongoing volunteer project to build picket fences and erect them around outlying gravesites on the Island. The pickets are constructed and assembled in 4 and 8 foot sections at the Center and brought out to the Island to be put in place. On an earlier visit they replaced the fence around the Conrad Hutzler grave. This visit involved a trip to the Haas farm on the north end of the Island. The students removed the existing fence and replaced it with an 8 X 8 foot picket fence around the George and Maria Haas graves.



Mr. Sarns and students from the Lockman Outdoor Education Center restoring the picket fence at the Haas gravesite, South Manitou Island (photo courtesy of Sleeping Bear Dunes NI)

The students handle the entire project from design/construction plans to assembly of finished product. They are involved in a program geared toward students who love the outdoors and working with their hands. They do beautiful work which serves to further the goals of our Memorial Society. Future plans include erecting picket fences around additional outlying gravesites on the Island.

RESEARCH REQUEST

Who hasn't enjoyed hearing stories about Bertha Peth, Elizabeth Haas Beck, Lillian Vent Burdick or Florence Haas? These women stand out in the history of South Manitou Island. We are interested in learning more about the island women, their daily lives, their hardships, their accomplishments, etc. A small room in the Visitor Center on South Manitou was started to display exhibits relating to the women on the Island. If you have information, photos, etc. to contribute, please contact:  
Johanna de Kok  
P.O. Box 332  
Leland, MI 49654

Mr. Sarns and the students deserve a heartfelt thank-you from our Organization. If you would like to express your appreciation, please do so at the following address:

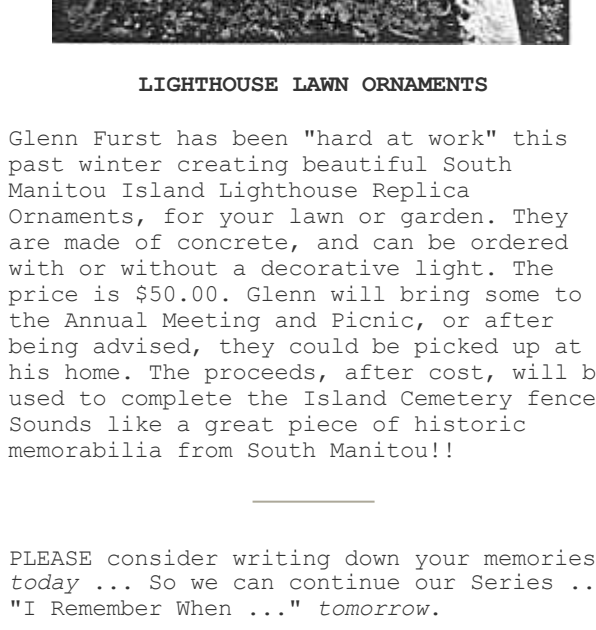
LOCKMAN OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER  
W-37 South  
Traverse City, Michigan 49684

Information does not need to be of certain length or in story form. **Thank-you!!!**

## MANITOU ISLAND LITERATURE

The List is growing long of fine books written about the Manitou Islands! I thought I'd share this list with you, so you can share the books with your family and friends! The retail shop locations are printed in parenthesis. Give a gift of history!

1. South Manitou Island: From Pioneer Community to National Park - by Myron Vent. (Sleeping Bear Dunes Visitor Ctr.)
2. The South Manitou Story - by Gerald Crowner. (Sleeping Bear Dunes Visitor Ctr., Manitou Transit Gift Shop, Leland)
3. Isle of View - by Charles Anderson (Sleeping Bear Dunes V.C., Manitou Transit Gift Shop, Leelanau Books, Leland)
4. Tales from South Manitou - by William Vent. (Temp. Out of Print)



LIGHTHOUSE LAWN ORNAMENTS

The following are "recent releases" written about the Manitou Islands:

5. North Manitou Island: From Sunrise to Sunset - by Rita Susco. A fascinating history of North Manitou Island. (Sleeping Bear Dunes V.C., Manitou Transit Gift Shop)
6. Exploring North Manitou, South Manitou, High and Garden Islands of the Lake Michigan Archipelago - by Robert Ruchhoft. A hiking, backpacking and historical guidebook. (Sleeping Bear Dunes V.C., 44anout Transit Gift Shop)
7. Charlotte of South Manitou Island - by Donna Winters. A charming great laces historical romance novel. (Leelanau Books, Leland)

Glenn Furst has been "hard at work" this past winter creating beautiful South Manitou Island Lighthouse Replica Ornaments, for your lawn or garden. They are made of concrete, and can be ordered with or without a decorative light. The price is \$50.00. Glenn will bring some to the Annual Meeting and Picnic, or after being advised, they could be picked up at his home. The proceeds, after cost, will be used to complete the Island Cemetery fence. Sounds like a great piece of historic memorabilia from South Manitou!!

Read and enjoy these books! Perhaps after reading these books, you too will become inspired to join these authors with a publication of your own. Or perhaps they will conjure up memories within you that you will want to share in our next Memorial Society Newsletter. I hope so!

PLEASE consider writing down your memories today... So we can continue our Series... "I Remember When..." tomorrow.

## GENEALOGY STUDY

Enclosed in this Newsletter you will find a genealogy chart. I encourage everyone with a family connection to South or North Manitou Island to please take the time to fill this chart out to the best of their knowledge. Chuck Kruch has volunteered to organize the research generated and provide Memorial Society Members with his findings. Chuck has been gathering Manitou Island family histories for the past 6 years. He has most recently used videotape to record interviews with past Island residents and their families.

Please send your completed charts to:

Kathy Bietau  
P.O. Box 99  
Empire, Michigan 49630

## ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Agenda for the Annual Meeting of the South Manitou Memorial Society to be held in the Social Area of the Empire Methodist Church on July 25th, 1992 (10:00 to 11:30 a.m.):

1. Report of the recent work on grave-site fences on South Manitou and discussion of sites for additional work in the future.
2. The appointment of a new chair to the Nominating Committee.
3. Discussion in changing the procedure of nominating officers and the inclusion of balloting by mail.
4. Report on the efforts to enlarge and use the Lighthouse fund. Funds to be addressed include: fund-raising, goals (original intent was to restore ONE room and have a memorial plaque), the National Park Service's role.
5. Report of the progress and plans of the Activities Committee.
6. The recruitment of new members and increasing the visibility of the Society.
7. Discussion of new projects for the Society

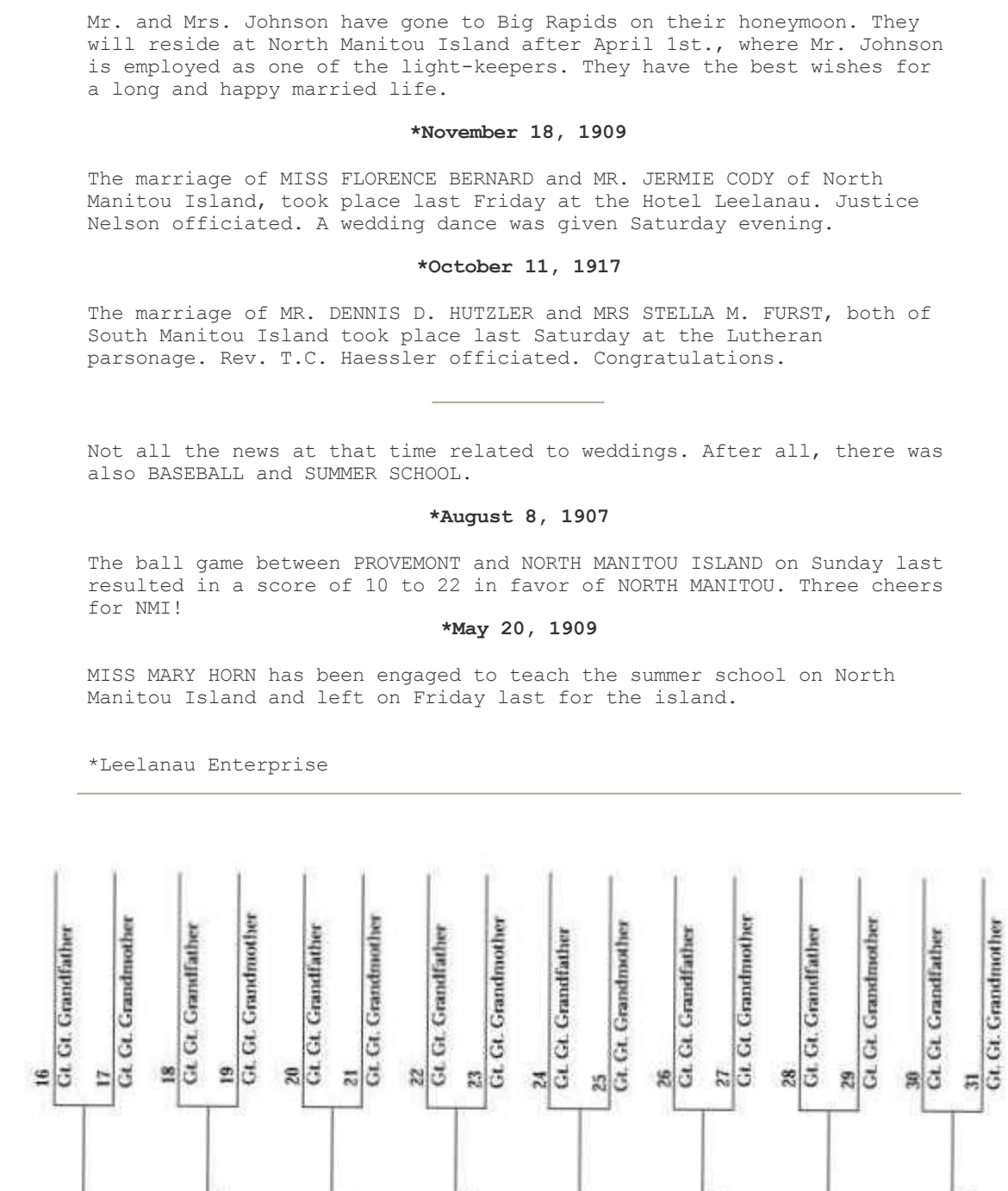
OR bring them with you to the very Much! Picnic! We appreciate it very much!!

## NEW "FEATURE ARTICLE"

I am pleased to relate that Sandra Black will be a contributing writer to our Memorial Society Newsletter.

Sandra Thompson Black is the daughter of Floyd S. Thompson, born on South Manitou. Her grandfather was Theodore Thompson and her great grandfather was August Beck. Benth S. Johnson was her great step grandfather and George Haas, her great great grandfather. Whew!! Needless to say, Sandra has strong ties to the Island. She shares a love for the island her ancestors called home. She also harbors a desire to research its history.

We hope you enjoy her 1st submission in the series "Flashback to the Past". Thanks Sandra, for your generous contribution! We look forward to many more!!



Not all the news at that time related to weddings. After all, there was also BASEBALL and SUMMER SCHOOL.

\*August 8, 1907

The ball game between PROVEMONT and NORTH MANITOU ISLAND on Sunday last resulted in a score of 10 to 22 in favor of NORTH MANITOU. Three cheers for NMI!

\*May 20, 1909

MISS MARY HORN has been engaged to teach the summer school on North Manitou Island and left on Friday last for the island.

\*Leelanau Enterprise

PLEASE FILL THIS OUT IF YOU LIVED ON SOUTH OR NORTH MANITOU ISLAND

DATE/DATES LIVED ON ISLAND	HOUSE/HOUSES YOU LIVED IN AND LOCATION OF HOUSE
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THANKS VERY MUCH FOR TAKING THE TIME TO HELP US PIECE TOGETHER MANITOU ISLAND HISTORY!!!