

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

1992/1993, Vol.13, No.3

Dear Friends: Happy Autumn to you all!! Fall is all around us here in Northwest Michigan. It has been a beautiful "Indian Summer" in Empire. Autumn is my favorite time of year ... as it always was on South Manitou Island. I enjoyed blackberries the size of your thumb ... golden-orange August Beck pears, deep maroon rose hips from farm fields ablaze with sumac, a cornucopia of "old time" apple varieties and the "possibility" of a sweet peach from "the secret tree." One of my favorite memories recalls an adventure to the Anderson homestead to "sample" a variety of apples that grew on their farm. We taste-tested them all while we picked, and retrieved a variety to take back to the mainland. We shared our "island harvest" with Charles and Sammy Anderson, while Charlie told boyhood tales of his adventures on South Manitou Island and on the seas of Lake Michigan. Charlie could not make it to the Island that year ... so we brought South Manitou's Autumn to him ... and he brought Autumn, 70 years ago, to life for us! I hope you all take a moment to remember your favorite South Manitou Island Autumn memory ... whenever it was!!!

So ... What's been happening with our Memorial Society, you ask???

He also reported Mr. Sarns is not comfortable accepting money from the Society and suggested that sometime in the future the Society should present a plaque to the school and Mr. Sarns in appreciation.

The fence around the cemetery is to be completed this summer. There will be a wooden fence across the front with woven wire on the other three sides.

Brian distributed and then read aloud RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE NOMINATIONS PROCESS IN THE FUTURE. A motion to consider the process was made and discussion followed.

Ethel Stormer asked who we should credit for those recommendations. Brian responded that Johanna de Kok, Joan Carlson, Glenn and Ethel Furst had met in Ludington and had developed them.

Concern was expressed that the process was not in complete agreement with the Society's by-laws. The process provides for nominating and voting by mail so that the new Officers may be announced at the Annual Meeting. A motion was made and seconded that we use this process for the next election of Officers.

Motion was approved by voice vote with one dissenting vote.

The following people were approved by voice to act as the Nominations Committee:

Donald Roy Cynthia Heisler Ethel Stormer, Chairperson Margaret Braden, Vice Pres., ex-officio

Kathy Bietau brought up the need for a Memorandum of Understanding between the Society and the National Park Service (NPS).

Brian read a letter from John Abbott, Acting Superintendent, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, to Glenn Furst dated August 1, 1991. The most recent letter is from Ivan Miller, Superintendent, dated April 1, 1992.

A Historic Structures Report is being developed for the NPS by Kim Mann, Historic Architect.

Questions raised while discussing the goals of the Society:

- which buildings are on the list of historic sites?
- can the wilderness designation be amended?
- NPS goals for the Lighthouse?
- can the whole Island be a Historic Site?
- how will the NPS respond to the Americans with Disabilities Act?
- how can the Society make material available to visitors?
- can markers be placed at significant sites?

Members of the Society want to see historic buildings preserved which depict the lifestyle of the people. Farms such as Johnny Hutzler's with structures still standing have historic significance.

Brian Harlett, President, and Joanna Smith, Secretary, are to write a letter which, hopefully, will lead to a Memorandum of Understanding which should outline the goals of the National Park Service and the South Manitou Memorial Society.

Fred Burdick reported that Richard Halik, Chairman of the Finance Committee, was unable to attend the Meeting.

There was discussion of how to recruit new members. Al McWaters volunteered to do graphics for a brochure. Bob Ruchoff said he would include a membership application in the next printing of his book. Can we develop stories that visitors can have access to in the Island Museum?

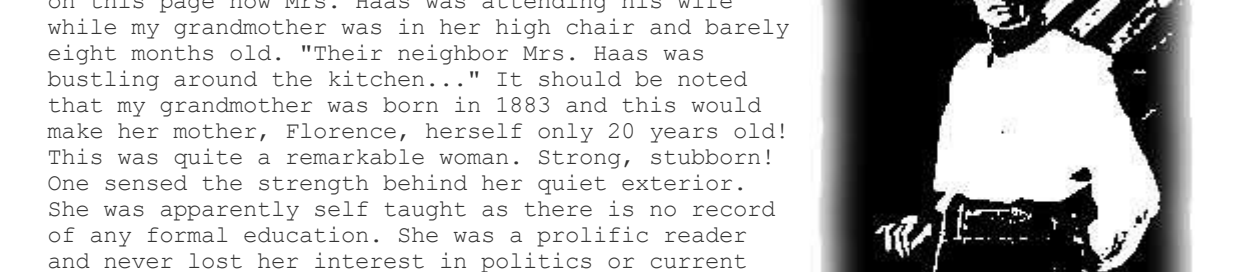
During the meeting Zella Morris answered a phone call which came from Henning Vent, son of Myron Vent. Myron Vent is very ill in Sibley Hospital, Washington, DC and wished to send greetings to all present.

Meeting adjourned 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Joanna B. Smith Secretary

CEMETERY FENCE UPDATE ISLAND HOMESTEAD UPDATE

An outing to the Island on August 17th of this summer involved completion of the wooden Cemetery fence. It was a beautiful warm and sunny day for the group, which included Dave and Alice Birney, Amanda Fogle, Sylvia Krueger, Glenn and Ethel Furst and Kathy Bietau. Glenn's bronco hauled the necessary tools, and Dave Birney provided his "skilled carpenter expertise." We were also assisted by Greg Rickett, Warren Putney and Ray Kimple, of the National Park Service. We thank them all! We have yet to replace the woven wire fence that surrounded the one acre plot. Ray Kimple and Bill Herd, of Sleeping Bear Dunes N.L. are working to locate the replica fencing that was once there. We anticipate locating the fence-type this winter, and hope to purchase needed materials to allow for placement this spring/summer. The Cemetery looked beautiful. It is being well-cared for. We thank the National Park Service Maintenance employees for it's ongoing care!



SOUTH MANITOU ISLAND CEMETERY FENCE

(Pictured from left to right: Ethyl Furst, Glenn Furst, Dave Birney, Alice Birney, Amanda Fogle and Sylvia Krueger)

Flashback To The Past By Sandra M. Black

BURRRRRRRRRRRR! 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, 1893, JOSEPH HAAS was the first to make 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 ROTH and NELS NELSON, Assistant lighthouse keepers, who returned to the keeper's 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, CLAREBELL, 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

FLORENCE HAAS, A REMEMBRANCE

Visitors to South Manitou Island often take the Island tour. One of the sights that they visit is the inland lake named Florence. Today there are few people alive who remember Florence Haas who died far away from family and friends in Galveston, Texas in December of 1943. Some accounts tell of her being the mail carrier between Glen Haven and the Manitous, but otherwise very little is known of her and her life on South Manitou Island.

Although I was only fourteen years old when my great grandmother, Florence Haas died in 1943, my memories of her are as vivid as yesterday. She always enjoyed visiting my mother who was one of her favorite grandchildren. My grandfather, Louis Hutzler, had left South Manitou late in the 19th century, to become head lighthouse keeper of his own station. My grandmother, Jessie Haas Hutzler, returned to South Manitou for the delivery of her first two children early in the 20th century. Her mother, Florence an experienced midwife, delivered aunt Gyda in 1900 and my mother, Jessie Hutzler, in 1902. The ties between my mother and her grandmother, Florence Haas, were very deep. They wrote to each other almost every month of their lives. It was this correspondence along with family pictures, newspaper clippings, census reports and much family oral tradition that has aided me in this short reconstruction of her long and eventful life.

Florence Raymo Haas was born in 1863. The place of her birth was Racine, Wisconsin. This information I learned from my Grandmother. However, when I spoke with her youngest sister Donna Raymo Bancroft in 1962 she gave me Menominee Falls, Wisconsin as the place of her birth. I learned very close so either would do! The family traveled considerably before they arrived on South Manitou. Isaac Raymo was a man of many trades: lumber jack, deep sea diver, farmer, and fisherman. He was an extremely handsome man and it was no small wonder that Isabelle Fuller would marry him when she was barely sixteen years old. He was six years her senior. The U.S. Census of 1870 for South Manitou does not mention the Raymo family, but they are mentioned in the Census of 1880. Isaac and Isabelle Raymo had a large family of eleven children. Four were to die as infants. The only remaining son died at 24 in 1896. Florence was the second oldest of the remaining six daughters. Most were to enjoy long lives. Her sister, Evelyn Raymo Foyse lived well into her 90's.

By the Census of 1880 we also learn that Florence was already married to Joseph Haas and the mother of a 2 month old son. In my cousin Myron Vent's excellent work, South Manitou Island; From Pioneer Community to the National Park, he reproduced the wedding picture of Florence and Joseph Haas. The original wedding picture was given me as a keepsake by my great grandmother and inscribed to me on the back. Myron comments in his book that the picture must have been taken in 1877 when Florence was fourteen. She was actually sixteen and the date of the wedding was 1879 in Manistee, Michigan. The Census of 1880 lists her first child Isaac (George) Haas as two years old when his actual age was 2 months. Hence the confusion over the 14 year old bride. The young couple actually eloped and were married in Manistee because parental opposition to the marriage was so great. Maria Hoffman Haas the mother-in-law to be, a woman of strong opinions, disliked young Florence Raymo, a woman of equally strong opinions.

The young couple eventually settled down on their small farm on the western end of the island near the lighthouse. Joseph Haas struggled hard to make a living and support his wife and three children. The family attempted to make a living from farming and fishing and later as mail carriers. An account in a Detroit newspaper tells of their mail carrier days in an article which was published in 1905. At that time Florence was in her early forties and still an extremely handsome woman. Determination was always evident in her face.

From her earliest years she gained a strong reputation as a capable mid-wife. Many island children were delivered under her very careful and confident hands. I will never forget her saying, "I never lost a baby." Ethel Furst Stormer, whose family lived very close to my great grandmother, was one of Florence's babies and she tells a very amusing story. As a very small child Ethel was told by Mrs. Haas that "She was found in a juniper bush." For years, Ethel who always loved babies, searched juniper bushes on the island in vain ...

... Looking for babies. Jessie Haas Hutzler, Florence's second child and my grandmother, gave me her copy of Martin Knudsen's A Glean Across the Wave; the Biography of Martin Knudsen. Martin Knudsen, a lighthouse keeper of the island, inscribed this copy to my grandmother and referred to page 41. He tells us on this page how Mrs. Haas was attending his wife while my grandmother was in her high chair and barely eight months old. "Their neighbor Mrs. Haas was bustling around the kitchen..." It should be noted that my grandmother was born in 1883 and this would make her mother, Florence, herself only 20 years old! This was quite a remarkable woman. Strong, stubborn! One sensed the strength behind her quiet exterior. She was apparently self taught as there is no record of any formal education. She was a prolific reader and never lost her interest in politics or current events. I am fortunate that at her death her scrap book was passed on to me. It was a testament to her universal interests.

Lake Florence was once and still is referred to as the "Little Lake." I asked my grandmother who named the lake after great grandmother. She thought it was Sigwald Johnson. Other than the fact that we know great grandmother was friendly with the Ben Johnson family, I know of no way to really trace the source or origin of the name.

My great grandfather, Joseph Haas, drowned in Lake Michigan in 1912. He was alone and he apparently fell while loading a box from the side of the boat thus rendering himself unconscious. He was spotted from the look out and a boat was launched in minutes. Although there was still air bubbles in the water, he could not be revived. "The Visitor's Guide to South Manitou Island," published in 1989 says that Florence Haas supported her large family after her husband's death. This is not exactly true as both her son, George, and daughter, Jessie, were married and had families of their own in 1912. My mother, Jessie Hutzler, was ten years old! This leaves only Lawrence who might possibly have still been at home in 1912.

Florence Haas had received her license to pilot a boat the year before in 1911. Hence her claim to be the first woman to pilot a passenger boat on the Great Lakes. The framed copy of this license is one of the most treasured possessions that I have received from my great grandmother. After my great grandfather's death, Florence remained on the island for about five years. Later she became a cook on the boats crossing the Great Lakes. At that time she seemed drawn to the sea. I have a picture of her taken in 1923 or 1924 with my father on one of the car ferries. I have a number of pictures of her, but this is the only one that I have ever seen where she is smiling and seems completely happy. My father was only 21 and was eager to win the approval of his wife to be's grandmother. Needless to say they became warm friends after her early opposition to him and his family. My father always was very fond of all my mother's family, but I think that great grandmother Florence Haas was always his favorite. She visited us for many years and I remember well that Christmas of 1942 when she traveled all the way from Texas for what was to be her last trip.

She often spoke of the old days on the island and I always listened. She gave me a five generation picture of our family. She was always proud of her heritage. From her English to the time of the French and colonial times. Her father was French. I sometimes wonder if her French-English background did not often set her apart from the other German settlers on South Manitou Island.

In her retirement years she invested wisely the money she made in Texas real estate. I always thought that it was strange that she chose to move so far from all her family and friends. But in those days money was to be made in land speculation. However, she did see that funeral arrangements were made so that her final resting place was to be Green Bay, Wisconsin next to her daughter and son-in-law. By the 1930's South Manitou had become too remote for burial. After my mother passed away in 1989, I found among her possessions a number of letters from her grandmother. The last was dated December 7, 1943. The writing was so weak and unsteady that one could barely read it. She tells of being very ill, but tells of the good care she received and the hope that she would be better. During most of her life she seemed filled with the hope that things would always be better. By the time the letter reached my mother, she had already passed away and word had already reached us from Green Bay from my grandmother.

And so ended the life of one of the most remarkable women that I had ever known or had the pleasure of knowing. There is so much more that I could tell of her, but it would require a whole book. Her strong opinions and nature made her a number of enemies even among her own relations. I remember her as a kind and affectionate lady and I miss her very much. They do not make her kind any more. The mold must have been lost!

Don Roy, Whitefield NH July 1992

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE OUR DEEPEST REGRETS

The Nominations Committee for the South Manitou Island Memorial Society is asking for EVERY MEMBER of our Society to submit a brief bio-sketch to include the following information:

Name: Institutional Affiliation: How long a member of the Society: Areas of interest/expertise: Background: Service to the Society: Goals for the Society:

This information will be kept on file with the Secretary of the Memorial Society.

Please send your Bio-sketches to Ethel Stormer, Nominating Committee Chairperson; at:

Ethel Stormer P.O. Box 173 Fonzonia, Michigan 49616

Please take the time to submit your bio-sketch. The future of our Society's Leadership depends on you!

ISLAND PICNIC HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA

The July 25 picnic this year was a great success! The attendance was heartwarming, the food was fantastic and a good time was had by all! The time always passes too quickly. There is just never enough time to visit with all whom we would like to. So, remember to keep in touch throughout the year! If anyone did not pick up an up-to-date Membership List with addresses, please let me know and I'll get one in the mail to you pronto! Also, if you did not pick up a new 1992 Membership Applications, please let me know. Membership in the South Manitou Island Memorial Society is a great expression of friendship, love, family heritage, etc. We look forward to next years picnic with anticipation. Thanks to all who contributed to the overall success of this years reunion!!!!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

We are in the preliminary stages of planning an "Island Outing" for next summer. Tentative plans include a one-day excursion to South Manitou Island aboard the MANITOU STATE. The date would be the Sunday following Saturday's reunion/picnic of 1993 (tentatively). We would need near 60 people to charter the boat, leaving Leland around 9:00 a.m. While on the Island we will be treated to Island tours. I'm hoping to coerce some "previous Tour Guides" and "Island natives" to step forward and lead our contingent. If time allows, a stop-over on North Manitou Island would be fun as well! Details will follow in the March Newsletter. So please try and attach an extra day or two to your trip to Empire this coming summer. We hope to make this a day of "family fun" with activities for young and old alike!! If anyone is interested in participating in planning this event, please contact myself ... and thanks so much!!!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!!

ISLAND STORIES

O.K., now that summer is over it's time to get down to business and write your "Island Memories." Winter is setting in, ... (even if you are taking flight to the sunny south) ... and whether you are honeymooning in the north or sunning on the sandy gulf beaches ... remember your South Manitou heritage and your association to the Island ... and share it with us all!!!!

SANDHILL SAVAGES

The Sandhill Savages increased in number this summer ... yet many of you have yet to join. Remember, it's simple and lots of fun! Send Glenn Furst those photographs of the "soon-to-be" Savage with the beach stone necklace, gullfeather cap and a \$5.00 donation ... and you'll receive an "official Sandhill Savage Certificate." Don't be left out of the club!!!!

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