

Dedicated to the preservation of our history in order that we may pass the light of our symbol to future generations.

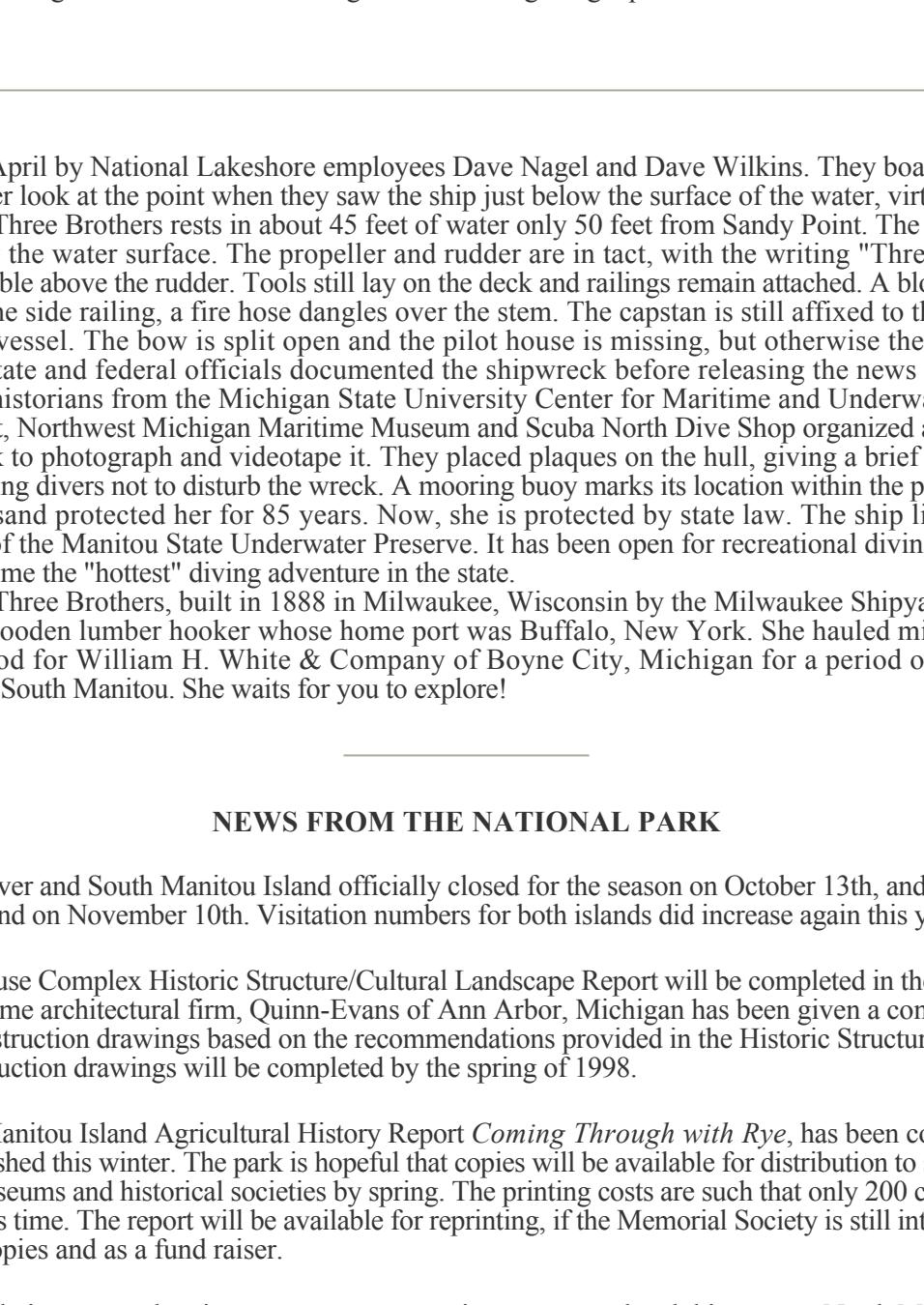
P.O. Box 177  
Empire, Michigan 49630

1996/1997, Vol.7, No.3

November 1996

**GREETINGS FRIENDS!!**

**SOUTH MANITO ISLAND OUTING  
1996**



Sunday, July 28, 1996 started out quite gray, and by the time the Mishe-Mokwa pulled out of Leland it was raining. BUT, that meant everyone had to cuddle in the dry part of the boat and, right away, little history stories started being told. One of the reasons why the South Manitou Memorial Society was started was to be "dedicated to the preservation of our history in order that we may pass the light of our symbol to future generations." And that's just what happened all day.

At the time we arrived on two Manitou Island Transit vehicles it had stopped raining, which made for a nice picnic lunch. By the time of us piled into two Manitou Island Transit vehicles (courtesy of Mike Grosvenor), with Wayne Braden and Patti Siegrist driving. We headed off for the "big" island tour.

Stopping at the Schoolhouse first, we were awarded with stories about broken arms, posterior being sliced while one-ski-sledding, horses being cauterized with a hot iron, Christmas pageants, and finger pointing to where the wooden railroad is/was.

On to the Cemetery where the newest visitors were told histories about Bertha Peth, Bea Burdick, Wayne Shirk, and Ethel Stormer's Aunt Paulina Furst.

We circled on to the farms to check out the grave sites and relate stories that we had heard on past tours. We shared stories about the Beck's with the younger members, telling them how the ice was cut and transported for storage in the "ice house". We explored the chicken coop!

We made it back to the "village" to see the old houses all fixed up, tour the museum and take a lighthouse tour. We also heard stories about the THREE BROTHERS shipwreck which showed up off sandy point where the point washed away in the spring.

The trip back was delightful with friendships being renewed and created by young and old alike. And maybe, just maybe, next year we will have 60 South Manitou Memorial Society members participating in the outing and we will learn many more new histories!

by Judy Fogle

**THE WRECK OF THE THREE BROTHERS**

by Ethel Furst Stormer

For many years the early fall storms had brought ships into South Manitou's excellent harbor, and so it was that on September 27, 1911 the ship Three Brothers, loaded with lumber, sought shelter from a fierce wind and main storm. However, they came in too close to the south point of the harbor and ran aground on the sand-bar in front of the Life Saving Station's Lookout tower.

Captain Allen Kent, as Officer in charge of the Life Saving Station, was ill that summer, so my father, Martin Furst, rated as the No. 1 Surfman, was in charge of all drills, rescues, etc. We were living in a small house on the point, where I was born in July 1906. It probably was the first house to be built after the Life Saving Station was established in 1902.

When my Mother, Zella, heard the distress signals of the Three Brothers (four long blasts) she knew that the Life Saving crew would be launching their surfboat and responding to the call for help. She could tell that the ship was in close to the shore. She was very frightened and worried and began pacing back and forth across the kitchen, - crying. She wanted to go out in the storm and see what was happening out there. However, she had two very young children to care for, and I was five years old and my brother, Norman, was three. I had never seen my mother so upset before and, it frightened me. When she could bare the suspense no longer, she put Norman and I in a big rocking-chair near the kitchen window and told us that we must stay in that chair until she returned. She said she would be back soon.

I remember that after a short time Norman began to cry, - then I joined him and we cried together. Our Mother had never left us alone like this before, however, when she returned, she found two screaming kids still sitting in the rocking-chair by the window where she had left us. When the storm had abated several days later, we all went out to the point to see the "Wreck of the Three Brothers". Thirteen crew-men had been rescued from the ship. The Captain gave my Father his chair, which we had in our home for many years.

Over the course of the winter and early spring of 1996, a large portion of undercut beach known as sandy point "sloughed off" into Lake Michigan. It was this geologic phenomenon which led to the discovery of the

ship in late April by National Lakeshore employees Dave Nagel and Dave Wilkins. They boated into shore to get a closer look at the point when they saw the ship just below the surface of the water, virtually intact.

The Three Brothers rests in about 45 feet of water only 50 feet from Sandy Point. The bow lies only 6 feet above the water surface. The propeller and rudder are in tact, with the writing "THREE BROTHERS OF BUFFALO" visible above the rudder. Tools still lay on the deck and railings remain attached. A block and tackle hang from the side railing, a fire hose dangles from the stem. The captain is still affixed to the deck at the stem of the vessel. The bow is split open and the pilot house is missing, but otherwise the ship appears complete. State and Federal officials documented the shipwreck before releasing the news to the public. Divers and historians from the Michigan State University Center for Maritime and Underwater Research Management, Northwest Michigan Maritime Museum and Scuba North Dive Shop organized a team to dive on the wreck to photograph and videotape it. They placed plaques on the hull, giving a brief history of the ship and asking divers not to disturb the wreck. A no-tour buoy marks its location within the preserve.

The sand protected her for 85 years. Now, she is protected by state law. The ship lies within the boundaries of the Manitou State Underwater Preserve. It has been open for recreational diving all summer, and has become the "hottest" diving adventure in the state.

The Three Brothers, built in 1888 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin by the Milwaukee Shipyard Company. She was a wooden lumber hulk whose home port was Buffalo, New York. She hauled milled hemlock and hardwood for William H. White & Company of Bayonne City, Michigan for a period of time before stranding on South Manitou. She waits for you to explore!

**NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL PARK**

Summer is over and South Manitou Island officially closed for the season on October 13th, and North Manitou Island on November 10th. Visitation numbers for both islands did increase again this year.

The Lighthouse Complex Historic Structure/Cultural Landscape Report will be completed in the spring of 1997. The same architectural firm, Quinn-Evans of Ann Arbor, Michigan has been given a contract to develop construction drawings based on the recommendations provided in the Historic Structure Report. These construction drawings will be completed by the spring of 1998.

The South Manitou Island Agricultural History Report Coming Through with Rye, has been completed and will be published this winter. The park is hopeful that copies will be available for distribution to schools, libraries, museums and historical societies by spring. The printing costs are such that only 200 copies will be printed at this time. The report will be available for reprinting, if the Memorial Society is still interested in it for family copies and as a fund raiser.

The photovoltaic array and maintenance structure project was completed this year on North Manitou Island. The array is a solar collector of which energy will be stored in the battery bank housed in the maintenance structure. This stored energy will provide most of the electric power needed for the park operations on North Manitou Island. A similar system is also being considered for the South Manitou Island Village.

The research work continues on the North Manitou Island Cultural Resource Report being prepared by the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Graduate student, Eric MacDonald will be spending a week at the park over

the Christmas holiday. If anyone has information, photographs, or family stories they would like to share with Eric, please contact Kim Mann, (616) 326-5134, at the park headquarters with your name and phone number.

**July 27, 1996      Annual Meeting of the South Manitou Memorial Society  
Held at Empire Methodist Church  
Empire, Michigan**

1. President Paul Rocheleau called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

2. Paul opened the meeting by asking for a moment of silence to remember those members that have passed on before us. Especially missed and recognized was Glenn Furst.

3. All the officers introduced themselves and explained their relationship to the island. Members present then did the same.

4. Secretary Pat Siegrist stated that the minutes of last year's meeting were included in the 1995/1996, Vol. 6 No. 3 edition of the Newsletter, which was published and mailed in November 1995. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as published.

The motion was unanimously carried.

5. Treasurer Karen McIntire provided the Treasurer's report. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report. A complete statement of account can be obtained by contacting her at 2272 Josephine, Muskegon, MI 49444-4325. It will also be published in the March 1997 Newsletter.

The motion was unanimously carried.

6. A draft proposed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) has been presented to Ivan Miller, Superintendent of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. The volunteer committee of Fred Burdick, Don Morris, Don Roy, Glenn Furst and Karen McIntire drafted the proposal in response to the proposed MOA presented by the NPS last year.

Don Morris paraphrased the SMMS counterproposal for the members in attendance and explained that he did extensive research into this matter. He found the language in our counterproposal to be in line with a proposal used by another nonprofit organization similar in size and scope to the SMMS. This MOA had been accepted by the Saguro National Monument in Tucson, Arizona. It was felt that this counterproposal would be more acceptable to both SMMS members and the NPS.

Although Duane Pierson, Assistant Superintendent was to address the MOA and our counterproposal at this Meeting, he was unable to do so due to family illness.

7. After much discussion, five members volunteered to be the nominating committee for the election of officers in July 1997. They are: Don Morris, Bill Goeman, Judy Fogle, Don Tobin and Lorraine Kolasinski.

There was concern that the current officers are in direct conflict with the by-laws of the SMMS in that the Vice-President and Secretary are sisters. This was an oversight during the selection process in 1995. However, it was brought up that the by-laws state that no two members of the same family can be officers at the same time. Discussion took place on the definition of "same family" and it was decided that the language is vague at best. Therefore, a motion was made by Cindy Heisler and seconded by Dwight Morris to propose an amendment to the by-laws to state the following:

"No more than two members of the same family can simultaneously serve on the board. For purposes of the by-laws, 'same family' is defined as immediate family members consisting of father, mother, brother, sister, child and spouse."

The motion was unanimously carried.

After this motion was carried it was discussed and agreed that not all members were clear on the proposed amendment. Therefore, another motion was made by Judy Fogle and seconded by Bob Ruchhoff to amend the by-laws to state the following:

"No more than two members of the same family can simultaneously serve on the board. For purposes of the by-laws, 'same family' is defined as immediate family members consisting of father, mother, brother, sister, child and spouse."

The motion was voted by hand count; 14 in favor of this proposed amendment and 4 opposed.

The motion was carried by majority.

A motion was made by Don Morris and seconded by Kathy Bietau to exempt the present officers only from the "same family" restriction, for this term only.

The motion was unanimously carried.

8. Margaret suggested that since SMMS is growing, perhaps an election every two years for two officers at a time would be better for SMMS. It was suggested that the office elections be for four year terms and staggered so that there would be a smoother transition in the officers. This would allow for continuity in the ongoing work of the SMMS. The change would be best for the President and Treasurer, then after two years for the Vice-President and Secretary. It was suggested to stagger officers so that the officers that neither record keepers nor two executive officers would change at the same time. It was also suggested that a "board" be established made up of seven members of the SMMS. Members of this board would consist of the four officers and three directors which can include the immediate past president and two additional members. A motion was made by Cindy Heisler and seconded by Marie Smith to propose an amendment to the by-laws to allow for these changes.

The motion was unanimously carried.

9. Margaret provided a discussion of the proposed land swap between the Homestead Resort in Glen Arbor and the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Discussion ensued.

10. Laura Quackenbush provided a discussion of the Betty Kramer collection and urged members to volunteer with photo identification.

11. Kim Mann reported Ranger Chris Johnson is working in Atlanta, Georgia, as part of the Olympic security detail. We all wish Chris well.

She also reported that the cemetery fences were restored on North Manitou Island and thanked the SMMS for providing the seed money to allow for the restoration. The Sierra Club and the Friends of Sleeping Bear provided the labor for this project.

Kim stated that the first draft of the report entitled, "Coming through with Rye", which was prepared by Brenda Williams of the University of Wisconsin, is available for perusal. Kim suggested that perhaps the SIS would be interested in publishing this document with credit being given to the SMMS. Margaret stated that many private bookstores would probably be interested in selling this book and if the SMMS published it, it would be a great fund-raiser. The SMMS will look into estimates for publishing a limited number of copies to test interest in the book.

Kim also reported that the South Manitou Lighthouse report is approximately 75% complete. Restoration drawings will probably begin in January 1997.

12. Ethel Stormer brought an oil painting of her Aunt Paulina Furst, who died at age 26 in the year 1904. Paulina was buried in the old cemetery and moved to the Island cemetery around 1909 or 1910.

13. Bob Ruchhoff suggested presenting a slide show next year, which would take place after the annual meeting.

14. Laura Quackenbush requested that those that do not attend the Island Outing on Sunday, stop in at the Leelanau Historical Museum and review the information she has on hand regarding the islands.

15. With no further business, at 12:35 p.m., a motion was made by Don Morris and seconded by Julie Morris to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was unanimously carried.

16. A draft proposed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) has been presented to Ivan Miller, Superintendent of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. The volunteer committee of Fred Burdick, Don Morris, Don Roy, Glenn Furst and Karen McIntire drafted the proposal in response to the proposed MOA presented by the NPS last year.

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