

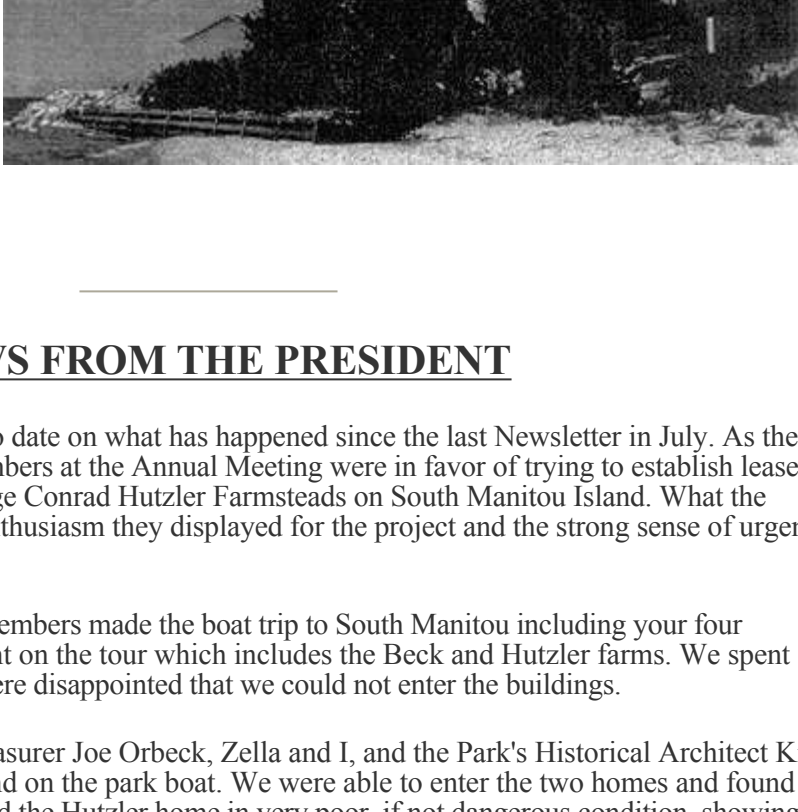
P.O. Box 177  
Empire, Michigan 49630

1998/1999Vol.9, No.3

November 1998

**GREETINGS FRIENDS!!**

**"Dedicated to the Preservation of our History, in order the we may pass the light of our symbol to the future generation."**



**NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Allow me to bring you up to date on what has happened since the last Newsletter in July. As the minutes in this issue show, the members at the Annual Meeting were in favor of trying to establish leases on both the August Beck and George Conrad Hutzler Farmsteads on South Manitou Island. What the minutes cannot show is the great enthusiasm they displayed for the project and the strong sense of urgency to get it underway.

The next day many of the members made the boat trip to South Manitou including your four officers. Many of the members went on the tour which includes the Beck and Hutzler farms. We spent more time there than is usual but were disappointed that we could not enter the buildings.

However, on August 6, Treasurer Joe Orbeck, Zella and I, and the Park's Historical Architect Kim Mann made another trip to the island on the park boat. We were able to enter the two homes and found the Beck house fairly well preserved and the Hutzler home in very poor, if not dangerous condition, showing the results of

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Photo courtesy of Tim Hall

several years of having no roof on it. There is no way to adequately explain how difficult it is to see in boarded up houses with no lights, other than to say that the darkness seems to absorb the light from the flashlights.

Despite the cool and rainy day, we all came away with a sense of great excitement and were sorry to have to leave the island to return to the mainland.

Fortunately, the photographs taken under extreme conditions came out surprisingly well and showed us things that we had missed

After conferring with Vice President John Kolasinski and Secretary Judy Fogle, Joe Orbeck and I met on August 13 with Ivan Miller, Superintendent of the Lakeshore, and Kim Mann, to indicate that the Society was interested and eager to go forward with the process of establishing a partnership with the Lakeshore. One of our questions was whether the Park could have the generator, lights, pump, well, and septic field made operational by the Park maintenance staff. On August 21, the two families were able to go through the Beck House and Dwight concluded that the task was "do-able", but would require a lot of work by members of the Society. (More on this in a separate article in this Newsletter)

Our son, Dwight, and his family were camping on South Manitou in August along with their next door neighbors and their family. Dwight owns a marine service business in the Jackson area, and earlier ran a K-Mart auto repair center. More importantly, he and his wife, Natalia, are near finishing a complete rebuilding of their old farm house near Grass Lake. On August 21, the two families were able to go through the Beck House and Dwight concluded that the task was "do-able", but would require a lot of work by members of the Society. (More on this in a separate article in this Newsletter)

I talked to Ivan Miller again on September 18, and he indicated that no progress has been made on our proposal so there was no reason for us to meet. As of mid-October when this is being written, there is still no indication of any progress.

One thing that I have learned recently is that the lease can be made by a local park for only 5 to 7 years, although the Regional Office of the National Park Service can make it for much longer. Since the cost of renovation may equal the Society's total resources (although the plan is to raise the money to pay for it), I would not recommend doing the renovation without a longer lease. This would make the approval of the proposal take even longer.

President, Donald Morris

**MINUTES FROM THE SOUTH MANITOU MEMORIAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING JULY 25, 1998**

Meeting called to order at 10:10 am. (9:30 - 10 10 a.m Social Time).

Minutes of 1997 Annual Meeting were approved with a motion from Harvey Rocheleau. Introductions given by all in attendance.

Treasurer Report was given by Joe Orbeck:

**ANNUAL TREASURY REPORT South Manitou Memorial Society June 30, 1998**

Table with 3 columns: ASSETS, Amount, and Date (6-30-98). Rows include Chicago NBD Corp. Bond, Empire National Bank C.D.'s, Jack Phillips Memorial Fund, etc.

Table with 3 columns: CREDITS, Amount, and Date (6-30-98). Rows include 6/30/00 Balance - Checking, Savings, 1997/1998 Memberships, etc.

Table with 3 columns: DEBITS, Amount, and Date (6-30-98). Rows include 1997/1998 Newsletter, Postage, Meeting Expenses, etc.

NET CASH \$ 4,607.80

MEMO - 6/30/98 Balance: Checking \$ 467.80, Savings 4,140.00, Total Cash \$ 4,607.80

Submitted by Joe Orbeck - Memorial Society Treasurer. 7/25/1998

Discussion from Patty Kelly that the Sales Tax License Fee should only be \$1, not the \$10 that was paid. Joe will investigate, and get a refund. Ethel Stormer asked how much was received for Fred Burdick's Memorial. Research will be done and an answer given in this Newsletter (Donations were made in the amount of \$318.00).

Jack Barratt made the motion, a second was made, and after a vote of the members in attendance, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

The next Election Committee members will be Paul Rocheleau, Don Tobin, Ethel Stormer, and Bill Goeman. (Linda Henry was added later). After a vote of the members in attendance, the motion passed.

Ivan Miller wrote a letter requesting a donation from the SMMS for \$450 to go towards the \$900 cost of making and placing a sign at the North Manitou Island Cemetery. This sign would detail names of those buried within the Cemetery. Discussions were held whether to donate this, or another amount. Brain Hazlett made the motion to give \$200; Judy Fogle amended this motion to provide the full amount of \$450. More discussion ensued. Kim Mann stated that there are three community burial locations on NMI. The cemetery is about four miles from the dock. Approximately 25 to 30 names would be listed on the sign. Margaret Braden spoke of the support that the NMI people have given to the SMMS. Brian Hazlett's motion was amended and changed to \$450. Robert Ruchhoff made the motion and it was seconded by Margaret Braden. The motion passed.

Don Morris presented information on the August Beck and George Conrad Hutzler farmsteads, which are eligible for the historic leasing program. Don stressed his concern about perhaps being too far in front of our members on this project. He noted that the Beck home was closer to being in a "livable" condition, and that the Hutzler Farmhouse was in much worse condition (later confirmed by a visit to the island). The discussion quickly led to the concept of restoring the Beck House for use by SMMS members as a live-in while conducting historical interpretation, and to also try and acquire the Hutzler homestead as a long-range project to stabilize the farm buildings.

Kim Mann said this restoration and lease project could be a partnership between the NPS and nonprofit groups, with perhaps a lease of up to 99 years. It was estimated that there are about 20,000 island visitors annually. The interpreters would provide a "living history" of the island farmsteads.

Work to bring in younger (next generation) people to help build and pass on the history is needed. This could be the opportunity. Ivan Miller has a sense that the SMMS is sincere in its goals (as stated by Kim Mann). Kathy Bietau mentioned the opportunities to acquire grants and corporate sponsors to assist with funding the restoration. There would be no NPS fees for those working on the island. A motion was made by Jack Barratt, and seconded by Robert Ruchhoff, to authorize SMMS officers to proceed with discussions, paperwork, etc. with Park authorities, which hopefully would result in a partnership with the Park Service and in the buildings being repaired to be made livable. Approved. Don Morris said that any partnership agreement would be shared with the members before it is signed.

Judy Fogle reminded members to purchase T-shirts and sweatshirts at 1/2 price at the Empire Town Hall Picnic.

Judy Fogle reminded members to complete attendance sheet (about 28 members in attendance).

Kim Mann stated that 95% of the SMI Historic Structure Report was completed.

Brian Hazlett motioned to adjourn meeting at 11:50 am., and was seconded and carried.

Meeting adjourned. (Minutes prepared by Judy Fogle)

**TREASURER'S REPORT - SEPTEMBER 30, 1998**

Table with 3 columns: ASSETS, Amount, and Date (9-30-98). Rows include Glenn First Memorial - Perpetual Fund C.D., Empire National Bank C.D.'s, etc.

Submitted by Joe Orbeck - Memorial Society Treasurer, 10-1-98

**SOUTH MANITOU MEMORIAL SOCIETY ISLAND OUTING ISLAND, JULY 26, 1998**

Attended: Don and Nancy Rosie, Dawn and Breanna Heneveld, David and Candy Zych (Rosie), Ronald W. Rosier III, David P. Dalzell, Jeff Rotman, Paul Maleski, Don and Zella Morris, Joe Orbeck, Norma Egeler, Don Tobin, John F. Tobin and Dustin, David Maleski, Jeff Maleski, Jack and Barbara Kolasinski, Judy A. Fogle and Amanda, Patty Kelly, and Margaret Braden.

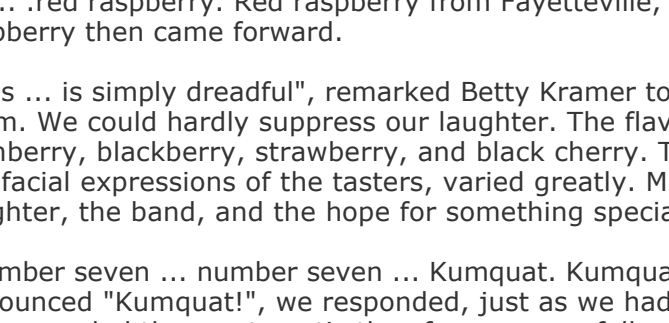
The day was clear, water was blue, nice and smooth, as 26 "old" islanders, relatives and friends chatted all the way to South Manitou Island. After a picnic in front of the Ranger Station (aka Coast Guard Station) we filled two buggies (thanks to Melissa and the Manitou Island Transit) and headed out. Upon arriving at the schoolhouse, the door was open (thanks to Bob Smith) and stories began. Ron Rosie told about how the windows had been moved from the north side of the building to the south side. He pointed out the library, chalkboards, teacher's desk, and when the students desks had been placed. Ron went to school on South Manitou from 1934 to 1941. Where I explained that the teacher had to walk down the desk rows sideways because of being too close together. Ron laughed and said, "Not when she was mad!". Is it true that the teacher was Florence Haas? He also told about ice skating on Lake Florence during their lunch hour. Kerosene lamps used to hang from the ceiling (the hooks are still there), shades hung over the windows (pulleys still there too), and the pipe for the rope to ring the school bell, was also still there. The younger students sat near the front, close to the stove, with the older students in the back wearing their coats when it was really cold. Then they got a young woman teacher who couldn't figure out how to run the stove, so school got out early for a number of days until she learned

A photographer, Tim Hall, was visiting the island and happened to be at the schoolhouse when we arrived. He took some great pictures of our group, some of which are shown in this newsletter. If you desire copies of these pictures, contact him at: Tim Hall, 4165 Carrie Dr., New Palestine, IN 46163 (317) 861-6621. He will sell the pictures at cost plus shipping.

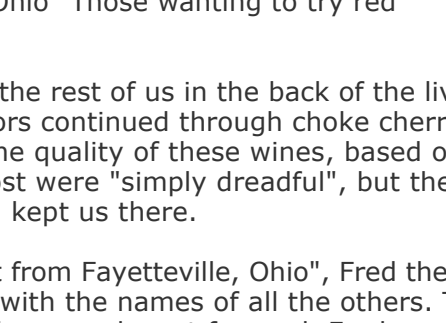
At the Cemetery, it was peaceful as usual. Fred Burdick was there beside his wife, keeping watch over all. Bob Smith placed a rose trellis (handmade) at Bertha Peth's grave for the roses to climb. It was stated about the sailors being buried across the road, west of the cemetery, and how the farmers never plowed or planted there out of respect for their graves. Ron stated that Bertha Peth went to Johnny Hutzler's home every day to take him fresh bread and work on the garden. Almost every Sunday there would be a church meeting at Bertha's where

she played the organ. Someone said that her pies were a little sour. Zella recalled her mom's sadness the day Tilly Thompson died in 1912.

Passing the four corners, Ron Rosie pointed out where the two boilers had been for the sawmill. It was noted that the Anderson family had replaced the stone pillars at the corner, just the week before.



"Schoolhouse Memories" (photos courtesy of Tim Hall)



At the Beck Farm, Ron Rosie pointed out where the entrance to the shop was under the barn. In the barn, the cows occupied the first stall, then came the horse stall, and on the west side were the pigs. He also said the barn floor was cement. Ron had spent many nights in the southeast bedroom with the Beck boys. George Hutzler and Ron Rosie conferred about the great cider that "Willie" Beck used to make. Seems as though if you drank it sitting down, you were lucky to get that "Willie" away!

After touring the Hutzler/Riker Farm, we all headed back to the dock area, to do tours of the lighthouse and visitor center.

Amanda and I waved goodbye to all the visitors as the Mishe-Mokwa motored away. We loaded on our backpacks and headed out to the Weatherstation campground for two good days of hiking.

by Judy A. Fogle

**SKILLS INVENTORY LIST FOR RENOVATION OF THE BECK/HUTZLER FARMSTEADS SOUTH MANITOU ISLAND**

FOR THE DEVELOPMENT STAGE: Review of Legal Documents, Fund Raising, Accounting, Grant Proposal Writing

Do you have contact with companies, foundations, or persons who make contributions to non-profit organizations? If so, please list the name of the person, company or foundation, and their address and telephone number:

Would you be willing to participate in the solicitation?:

FOR THE RENOVATION STAGE: Drywall Finishing, Electrical, Painting, Floor Refinishing, Cleaning, Plumbing, Propane Lighting, Water Pumps, Wells, Window Repairing, Stoves, Cabinets, Transportation, Screens, Countertops, Generators, Leader/Foreman/Jack-of-all-trades/Remodeling Experience, Septic Systems

Comments/Suggestions: (continue on back if necessary):

Your Name/s: (if you fill this out for more than one person, list names - and initials next to skill area checked):

Address:

Phone Numbers:

Please send to Donald A. Morris, 6551 E. Dorado Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85715 (502) 731-1697. Thank you - I look forward to hearing from you! Later we will ask for persons to help in the operation of the Beck Farmstead Renovation.

**BECK HOUSE RENOVATION**



The task of renovating the August Beck house will be a "very large job" according to Society member Dwight J. Morris, 7416 Cain Road, Jackson, MI 49201 (517) 522-5441, who with his wife, Natalia, are in the final stages of rebuilding an old farm house in the Grass Lake area.

The first step is to have the Lakeshore make the generator, water pump, well, septic system, water heater, electrical and gas lines operational. Next would be a meeting at the Beck House with a group of five or six persons, including someone from the Park maintenance staff to develop a punch list, room by room, of what needs to be repaired. This would include accurate measurements of what must be done, and what would also be good to do. That meeting would determine what materials, tools, and other equipment would be needed and the logistics of transporting it to the island (which does not have an Ace Hardware!). There will also need to be ways of transporting people and materials from the dock to the job site. The coordination of the tasks and the volunteers would need attention.

The only way that the Society can complete the necessary work on the Beck and Hutzler properties is to have a great many of us contribute our time, skills, and finances. No one can do all of them, but most of us can do some of them.

To help facilitate this, please fill out the SKILLS LIST INVENTORY insert to this Newsletter to help us determine what skills we have, and what skills we may be in need of. Please send the completed inventory list to Donald A. Morris, 6551 E. Dorado Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85715. (520) 731-1697. We will be requesting assistance for "labor" at a later date please feel free to comment at the bottom of the inventory list about any concerns/comments/suggestions you may have!!!! Thank you so much!!!!

Photo courtesy of Tim Hall

**"I remember when ..."**

The Last Great South Manitou Wine and Cheese Party! Brian T. Hazlett Past President South Manitou Memorial Society

July was especially full of activity. At the beginning of the month I had returned to South from my first trip to North Manitou and celebrated the 4th of July with the other island residents before heading to the Mainland to spend a few days organizing my field research at the University of Michigan Biological Station. It was now the 9th. While returning to South on the Manitou Isle, I met a botany professor and students from Au Sable Trails Environmental Institute. I spent the rest of the afternoon guiding that group around the island, but declined having dinner with them because I had already been invited to the Island's wine and cheese tasting party, to be held inside Fred and Bea Burdick's place. I don't remember that much the wine was served, but to provide an accurate record of the evening's activities, I sat in the back and sipped orange juice.

At least 20 South Manitou residents and guests attended. The festive spirit was enhanced by a trio of instrumentalists (guitar, fiddle, and banjo), who were guests of Marie Smith. The group (two from Mio, the other from Alpena) claimed to have never played together as a group. Nevertheless, they provided a fine performance of Gaelic, Scottish, and Country tunes.

Fred, as master-of-ceremonies, stood behind the east side of his dining room table, facing us assembled in either the rest of the dining room or the living room. On the table were bottles of various shapes, colors, and origins. All claimed to contain wine, most of it homemade. Fred's job was to announce each wine and dispense it into the Dixie cups of the tasters. Fred would introduce each wine by number and type. He began by saying, "Number one... red raspberry. Red raspberry from Fayetteville, Ohio" Those wanting to try red raspberry then came forward.

"This ... is simply dreadful", remarked Betty Kramer to the rest of us in the back of the living room. We could hardly suppress our laughter. The flavors continued through choke cherry, cranberry, blackberry, strawberry, and black cherry. The quality of these wines, based on the facial expressions of the tasters, varied greatly. Most were "simply dreadful", but the laughter, the band, and the hope for something special kept us there.

"Number seven ... number seven... Kumquat. Kumquat from Fayetteville, Ohio", Fred then announced "Kumquat!", we responded, just as we had with the names of all the others. This wine sounded the most exotic thus far, so more folks than usual went forward. Fred next picked up a fine looking bottle

and attempted to read its elegant label. "Zin..." "Zin..." He adjusted his glasses and remarked "I'm having a hard time reading this one."

"It's Zinfandel", chimed Bob Meeker. "We brought it back from Germany".

"Oh ... Zinfandel ... from Germany ...", mused Fred, "... perhaps we should save this one for later". Fred placed the bottle on the floor behind the table. He then went on to announce and serve horseradish, concord grape, blueberry, elderberry, carrot, cactus, and even a generic Chablis. The party had begun to slow down by the time number 13 had been announced, so it soon ended. All who attended had a great time, so, by island standards, it was easily considered a success.

When reminiscing about this party, I can vividly recall Fred announcing the wines - "Number seven ... Kumquat. Kumquat from Fayetteville, Ohio". And, I also wonder, what ever became of that bottle of Zinfandel?



"We missed you this year ... and hope to see you next year."

The South Manitou Memorial Society Newsletter is copyrighted 1998/1999, Vol.9, No.3. The deadline for articles to be included in the next Newsletter is February 15, 1999. Please submit to Newsletter Editor: Kathy Bietau at: 2400 N. Morse Rd. Fountain, MI 49410. OR E-mail to bietau@carriernet.net