

P.O. Box 177  
Empire, Michigan 49630

2001/2002 Vol.12, No.2

July 2001

**GREETINGS FRIENDS!!**

**The South Manitou Memorial Society Annual Meeting will follow the Picnic this year!!**

**SOUTH MANITOU ISLAND - ANNUAL PICNIC  
EMPIRE TOWNSHIP HALL  
SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2001  
SOCIAL HOUR STARTS 10:00 - 10:30 a.m.  
FOOD WILL BE SERVED AT 12:00 NOON**

**SOUTH MANITOU MEMORIAL SOCIETY  
ANNUAL MEETING  
(will follow picnic)  
SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2001  
EMPIRE TOWNSHIP HALL  
1:30 P.M.**

**News from Our President**

As many of you know, the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore has been working on a General Management Plan which will provide long-term management for the park, including South and North Manitou Islands. The park held "gatherings" on June 11 in Lansing, (which Society Secretary Judy Fogle attended) June 12 in Traverse City, and June 13 in Empire, (which I attended.) The relatively few persons who attended viewed large wall hangings with descriptions of four alternatives for the future of the park. I will focus only on South and North Manitou Islands in the limited space available.

Under Alternative 1, North Manitou would be "primitive" and South Manitou "backcountry". North would have no day visitors and South would have no motorized trail use.

Alternative 2 would have both South and North listed as "primitive", with North having no day use and South allowing "very little evidence of human activity" at the dunes on the western side of the island.

Under Alternative 3, both North and South will be zoned "back country" with moderate numbers of visitors. South would still have very little evidence at the dunes on the western side of the island. North would have more access and day use opportunities for visitors.

Alternative 4 would be most open to visitors with thematic and guided tours in some areas. South would list the historic village and the farm loop as "cultural landscape".

None of these alternatives would allow and encourage the level of access and mobility that our members are used to.

An interesting development was reported in the June 19th Traverse City Record Eagle. The Leelanau County Road Commission passed a resolution earlier in June asking that vehicle traffic be allowed on Ohio and Shelter Roads on South Manitou to afford easier access to the large cedar trees on the southwest corner of the island. The two roads are among 17 miles of road that the county currently owns on the island.

Where do we go from here? We will have an extensive discussion at the Annual Meeting on July 28th. We will try to have many copies of the General Management Plan for you to study. Your Board will listen to your ideas and then meet to develop a written platform, our comment to the park's proposed plans. It will be shared with the membership for any suggestions before sending it to the park as our formal comment.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Donald A. Morris, President

**ANNUAL MEETING  
AGENDA**

EMPIRE TOWNSHIP HALL:  
1:30 P.M.: Meeting comes to order.  
Introduction of Board Members and Members present.  
Announcements

Old Business:  
Reading of the Minutes of 2000 Meeting: Judy Fogle, Secretary. Vote to accept.

New Business:  
Nominating Committee Members: Paul Rocheleau  
Treasurers Report: Joe Orbeck  
General Management Plan Discussion

Additional items from the floor:

4:00 P.M.: Adjourn

**News from the National Park**

A Series of Public Open Houses were held in June regarding the Park's General Management Plan (GMP) process. They were June 11th in Lansing, June 12th in Traverse City, and June 13th in Empire. If you would like to be involved in this process - please contact Mike Duwe at Sleeping Bear Dunes N.L. (231) 326-5134 Ext. 502. You can also access this information on the internet at:

<http://www.nps.gov/planning/slbelpmp/news3/slb3index.htm>

New Rangers on the Islands this year are:  
SMI---Tina West, Nate Mazurek, Sara Schultz.  
NMI---Kevin Kavanagh, David White, Becky Mullins, Clinton Pike.

The maintenance employees on each of the islands are:  
SMI--Dave Nagel, Larry Parrotte, Betsy Winters, Leroy Winters.  
NMI--Will Margetson, and Jim Wendels.

There are a number of projects on the islands this year:

SMI-- 1) Repair SMI Lighthouse windows, shutters and hardware. 2) Repair front steps, and reposition flammable storage building from village back to the lighthouse complex. 3) SMI Farm District Repairs. Includes work at the G.J. Hutzler and G.C. Hutzler and August Beck Farms, Schoolhouse interior preparation for painting, and Theodore Beck stabilization. 4) Paint SMI Coast Guard Station and Boat House #1. 5) Stabilize two cottages in village near Visitor Center and Maintenance complex.

NMI-- 1) Stabilize and re-roof 2 cottages in village; Blossom and Newhall. 2) Restore Sawmill. 3) Stabilize Bourmques. 4) Stabilize two Sheds in Village. 5) Finish 1854 Volunteer Rescue Station to receive surfboat exhibit. 6) Repair windows in Village Barn.

A new Superintendent has not yet been chosen. Currently, Dan Krieger is acting Superintendent. Lee James is acting Assistant Superintendent.

The North Manitou Island Agricultural Report "Tending a Comfortable Wilderness" has been published. Cottage Book Shop in Glen Arbor is reprinting. Anyone interested in a copy should contact Barb Siepker at 231-334-4223. A number of people have already pre-ordered for their families.

Rita Rusco is returning to North Manitou Island for a visit on September 8th. The Mishe Mokwa has been set aside for that trip. Anyone wishing to go with the group should make a reservation with the Manitou Island for the day. Cost is \$25/person. Rita asks that you make your reservation by June 30th if you intend to go along.

submitted by Kim Mann, National Park Service, Sleeping Bear Dunes. SMMS Liaison.

**ANNUAL ISLAND OUTING  
SUNDAY JULY 29, 2001**

Grab your "island memories" and come share them with the group at our "Annual Island Outing" to South Manitou. Our annual trek begins with a call to the Manitou Island Transit to reserve your spot on the *Mishe Mokwa*. (231-256-9061). Please make your own individual and family reservations. We'll meet at the ferry docks between 9 and 9:30 a.m. Sunday July 29, for a 10:00 a.m. departure. Bring a sack lunch, and the usual camera, sweatshirt and rain gear. We'll take a tour of the island and "have a ball" meeting new friends and renewing past island acquaintances. We look forward to seeing you all there!! Judy Fogle has graciously offered to lead the tour again this year - so if you have questions concerning this trip, please contact Judy at 517-349-2794.

**Contributions made to the South Manitou Memorial Society  
2000 & 2001**

**Contributions from Jan. 2000 to March 2001:**

- Pauline Orbeck Allen
- Charles and Maudie Anderson
- Sandra M. Black
- Irene Blanchard
- Lulla Brock
- Harold and Marsha Case
- Peter (Clayton) Fox
- William Goeman
- Charlie Gum
- Brian T. Hazlett
- Janet Helmer
- Vincent D. Herreid
- Margaret T. Hodge
- Don Jessen
- Rick Lahmann
- Paula Leinbach
- Gloria Backus Marks
- Robert and Helga Meeker
- Donald A. Morris

- Larry and Jeanette Nyblade
- Louise Oigney
- Joseph A. Orbeck
- Donald A. Thompson
- Theresa A. Wilson

**Additions as of March 12, 2002:**

- Diana and Marc Obershulte
- Mr. and Mrs. Irwin Beck Jr.

**Additions as of May 28, 2002:**

- Robert A. Oberst
- Donald K. Good
- Neil I. Hodges
- Mrs. Lulla Brock
- Dr. Richard J. Halik
- Mrs. Clarabell Mack
- Ms. Nancy Hahn
- Ms. Lucy H. Metelle
- Jim and Kathy Firestone

**VOLUNTEER PROJECT  
SOUTH MANITOU VISITOR CENTER DISPLAY ROOM**

We've been asked to assist with putting the "finishing touches" on the upper level of the Visitor Center/Museum on the Island. The project will consist of patching and painting the walls and trim of the upper level room of the Visitor Center. This area will soon be used for additional display area. Our group has been offered space in the Museum. The project will only need 5 volunteers - and should take 2-3 days. Anytime this summer would be great! If you are interested - please contact Kathy Bietau - who will organize this project. I believe the Park will provide housing for the group during the volunteer time, as they did with the Schoolhouse painting. Email or phone: [bietau@carrinter.net](mailto:bietau@carrinter.net) (231) 898-2286. Also - stay tuned - next summer we will be finishing the interior of the Schoolhouse on the Island. We had hoped for this year - but it will not be possible - So next year we will "gear up" for this project!!!

**A SOUTH MANITOU MEMORY ...**

About 1918 my father, Daniel A. Backus, was posted to South Manitou Island as first or second assistant at the lighthouse. He, his wife, Almeda, and their four sons (Floyd, Robert, Leon and Charles) lived in a small house. I've heard that the Post Office was in one end of their house. (Almeda's father was a rural mail carrier and she had also delivered the mail).

I returned to the Island only once. In a chat with the Ranger there, I identified the three boys in the school picture. Charles was still young for school. When Floyd (the eldest) was ready for high school, the family returned to Harbor Springs and Daniel worked at numerous lighthouses in the Cross Village area. He retired from Skillygale.

Gloria Backus Marks (Daniel's daughter)

**SOUTH MANITOU SCHOOLHOUSE  
REMEMBERED ...**

Greetings from Anna Belle Hansen (Anderson):

Yes, I attended the little red schoolhouse on South Manitou Island. I attended through the 6th grade (1920-1927). It was a great experience!! All the students, through the 8th grade were in one room. We had a beautiful teacher named Miss Ames. How we loved her and what a lasting impression she made on all of us. She was so kind and so neat and well dressed. There were 12 brothers and sisters in the Anderson family and 5 of us went to school at the same time in the early twenties. It was a wonderful learning experience. I remember listening to the lessons of the older children and learning from them. Sometimes my brothers skipped school, but they all became successful businessmen.

I remember the double desks with the inkwells on the sides. If the girls had long hair they might find ink on their hair (not from my brothers, of course!). It would be fun to go into the school and see those old desks again. I would also like to look up at the ceiling and see if the soup stain is still there. My brothers put a kettle of mom's delicious vegetable soup on the stove and it exploded and hit the ceiling!

I am sure we walked three miles to school from the Anderson farm. My sister Carol and I would take three steps to our brothers' one. In the winter, our brothers would act like a snowplow and make a path for us. When we got to school, we would take off our snow clothes and let them dry by the fire all day. When school was finished, our clothes were dry and ready for us. Thank goodness our brothers always took care of the fire for Miss Ames.

When the clock in the schoolhouse would stop, Miss Ames would ask my brother Charles what time it was. Charles would look outside at the sun (out or not) and always say it was 15 minutes before time to go home. Sometimes we got home from school quite early. It took my sister Carol and I a long time to put our dry snow clothes on, so my brothers Charles and Haakon would bring in wood so that it would be dry for the next morning. My brothers also kept the path clear to the outhouse. I remember that there was a water pump out in the yard, but I don't think that we drank the water.

One very wonderful memory of school was Christmas Eve. The whole family went by sled to the school. Dad drove the horses. Everyone was dressed in his or her Sunday best. All the children would be in the program. The best part of going to a one-room schoolhouse was the close contact with all my brothers and sisters. It was fun to have 5 of us there at once. I thought they were the greatest, along with our wonderful parents Capt. Charles and Molly Anderson.

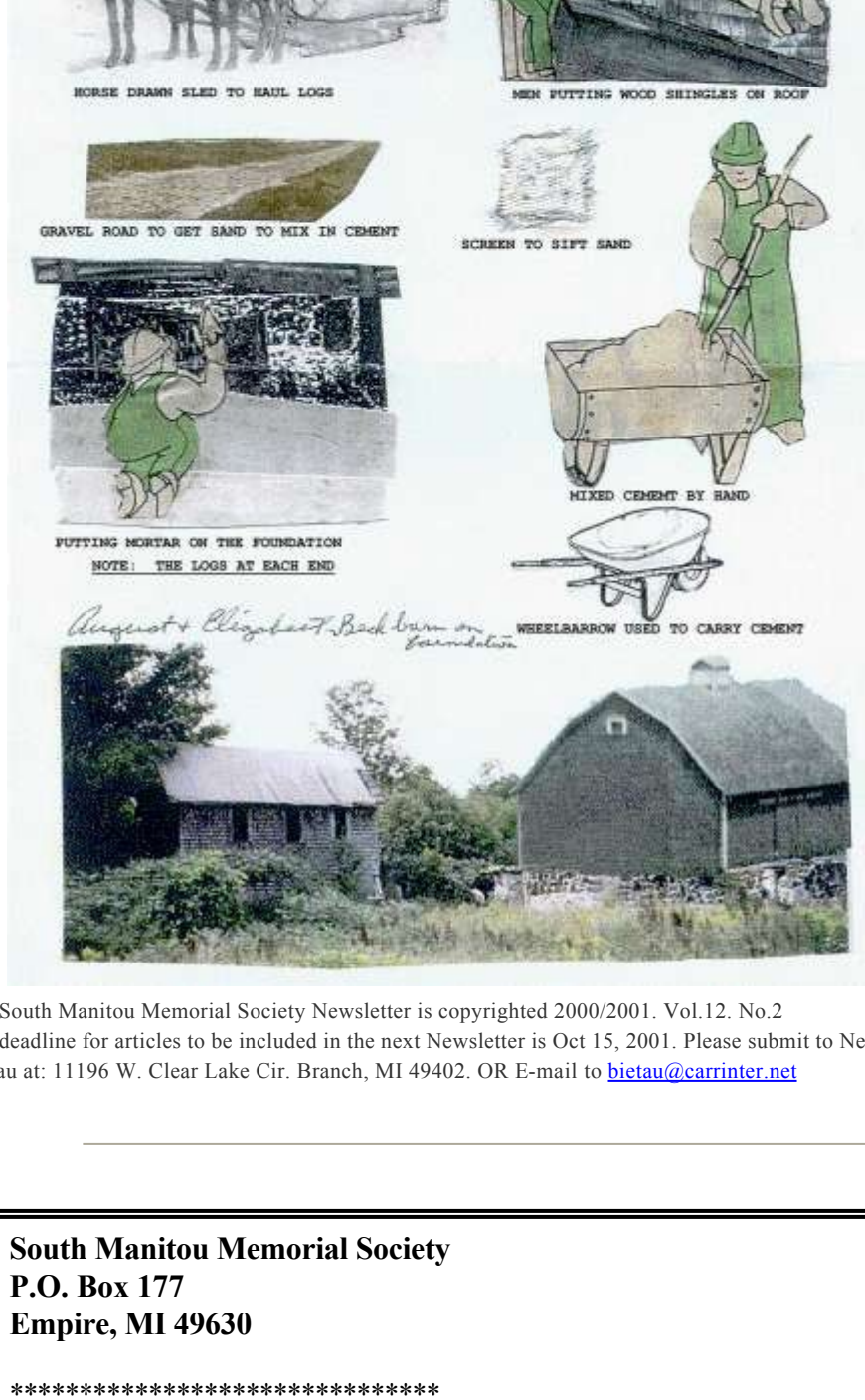
Now, when we have our family reunions, we travel with the beautiful and talented young people in our family to tour the island. We have many doctors, attorneys, business people and educators in our family. Our family knows the importance of a good education.

Sincerely,  
Anna Belle Hansen  
Vista, California.

Editor note: Thank you Anna for sharing these heartfelt memories of your family and growing up attending the South Manitou Island one-room schoolhouse. We will be restoring the interior of the schoolhouse in the coming summers - and you have created some great visions. The schoolhouse is the one building on the island which weaves all islanders together, and we look forward to walking through the door one day and seeing that soup stain on the ceiling!!

**Looking forward to the November Newsletter:**

Marie Smith has been sorting through boxes of South Manitou Memories in her home in Florida this past winter. She has been "digging up" some great writings of historical events and memories of South Manitou Island Life. We look forward to the next issue where you will read about Betty Jean Tobin's life story and family history. We thank Marie for her submissions and urge her to "keep digging"!!!! STAY TUNED ISLANDERS!!



**Mrs. Lillian Beck submits this article explaining how the Beck Barn was built.**

The South Manitou Memorial Society Newsletter is copyrighted 2000/2001. Vol.12, No.2

The deadline for articles to be included in the next Newsletter is Oct 15, 2001. Please submit to Newsletter Editor: Kathy Bietau at: 11196 W. Clear Lake Cir. Branch, MI 49402. OR E-mail to [bietau@carrinter.net](mailto:bietau@carrinter.net)

**South Manitou Memorial Society**  
P.O. Box 177  
Empire, MI 49630

\*\*\*\*\*  
President: Don Morris  
Lynn Roe  
Treasurer: Joe Orbeck  
Secretary: Judy Fogle

**FORWARDING & RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED**

The South Manitou Memorial Society Newsletter is published three times a year. In March, July, and November. Ideas, suggestions, research, stories, photographs, illustrations, etc., are encouraged.

Send to above address.



**SOUTH MANITOU MEMORIAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

DONATION: \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100.00 \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER

THE SMMS IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE TO THE EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW.  
SEND TO: SMMS P.O. BOX 177 EMPIRE, MI 49630