

THE ISLANDER II

Saturday, August 7, 1937

THE ISLANDER

The publication for which this is written, is, in a certain sense a rebirth or resurrection of an earlier Kelleys Island periodical called "The Islander".

The first edition of the original Islander was written in long hand, for typewriters were then unknown, and there were no printing presses on the island. For this reason, no copies were made of it. Carbon paper also was unknown and as there seemed to be no demand or necessity for duplicates, the ink used was writing fluid and not copying ink. In fact, there was no copying press then known here by which offset copies might have been made if the proper ink had been employed.

Therefore, after due preliminary announcement, the members of the island Lyceum and such other persons as were interested, met on the twenty-second of December 1860 in the old Stone School House on Division Street, (now the residence of Wm. Meyers), to

listen to the reading of the first edition. The paper was so well received that the Lyceum, (under whose auspices it was conceived and produced), continued to publish each following week, successive editions during the winter of 1860-1861. The Lyceum appointed a different person from its membership, to act as editor each week.

With such a variety of editors there was necessarily a greater variety in the style of the publication and this feature added interest to it.

While theoretically speaking the burden of editorship was distributed and actually there were, during its life of seventeen years, seventy-five editors. Yet, eight men edited the Islander one-fourth of the time. An average of 25 times for each of the eight men. At the time the Islander was published, the inhabitants of Kelleys Island were shut off from the outer world far more than at present and were dependent upon the condition of the ice and weather in winter for the regu-

larity and promptness with which they received the news. In 1860, and for many years thereafter, there was no telegraph, nor telephone connection with the mainland and the radio had not been invented -- no speedboat nor airplane then. No automobile to cross the ice in a few moments from shore to shore.

Then, the crossing was accomplished in winter when the channel was frozen, by dragging by hand a heavy iron sheathed row boat on runners across the ice -- sometimes two men toiled all day across rough ice and frequently traveled from twice to four times the actual distance from the island to Marblehead because of encountering running ice or open water that was filled with slush ice too thick to row through. Sometimes under favorable conditions, a round trip was made in from four to six hours; at other times it took twice as long.

If crossing had been prevented for a week or longer, the amount of mail that had accumulated, was

(Cont. on P. 3)

The WHY of This Newspaper - - - - -

You are probably wondering what prompted us to start such a venture on Kelleys Island.

There are several reasons. The first is:

There is always something happening here, and the only means of communication are the tongues of the islanders. This, as we all know, makes for an interesting conversation, so why would it not make good newspaper material?

Secondly:

The summer people here feel that they would enjoy knowing their island neighbors more intimately, sharing with them their real feelings and taking part in their business and social affairs to a greater extent.

Lastly:

In hopes that we might, by this little venture, start the ball rolling for a more complete year round island paper, written, published and read by and for Kelleys Island.

By your interest and support alone will we be able to succeed in our plan. Your criticisms and suggestions will be greatly appreciated by the editing staff.

The Editors.

THE ISLANDER II

This paper is edited every week. Price - five cents.

- STAFF -

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Frances Williams

SOCIETY and GADABOUT Kay Haas and Josephine Pohorence

SPORTS Adelbert Farbar

NATURE and FEATURE STORIES Norman E. Hills Theodore Himmelein

MYSTERY MAN Ward I. Huber

TYPIST Roberta Hummell

Go To _____

THE CASINO

_____ For

Soft Drinks, Ice Cream and Candy.

IT'S A PLEASURE TO EAT
WHERE IT'S CLEAN AND NEAT

-- NOTICE --

This first edition is a complimentary issue, presented in hopes that you will become a regular reader of our paper. It will be distributed every Saturday from the general stores for five cents

IT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED.

An island wilderness. Kelleys Island in the raw. The day is overcast and cloudy. Far out in the lake an Indian canoe is seen swiftly moving in the direction of the Island. Closer it comes until the occupants can be plainly seen. In the canoe are crowded an Indian, his squaw, and his two small children. The expression on their faces indicate fear and terror. As they speedily near the shore of the Island their glances are turned to the rear scanning the horizon for signs of the pursuing avengers.

This Indian has lived far back in the mainland on a fresh water stream. He has been one of the re-

spected members of the tribe. Then one fateful day disaster overtakes the innocent family. The small son of our Indian hero kills the son of the tribe chief in a hand to hand combat. Quickly fearing pursuit, the family packed their few valuables and start their flight. The story of their hardships will never be told in full.

Cautiously the Indian makes his way to shore bidding his family to stay in the canoe. An hour passes and the Indian appears to tell his wife and family that the island is uninhabited. The two, leaving the children on the shore, go inland to find a place to camp and live.

The children begin to grow restless as after a time their

parents have not come to get them. So they climb up on a big smooth topped rock. The bigger picks up a small hard piece of stone and jabs it into the rock. He cries delightedly at the groove it leaves. He calls his small brother. Together they begin to chip and groove lines and then they draw pictures.

Hours later when their parents return, the rock is covered with pictures and drawings. The parents, disinterested, put their children in the canoe and leave, never to return.

Sun, wind, moon, Indians and white men have all gazed on these carvings in ignorant awe. Today we call it Inscription Rock.

Ted Himmelein

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* * *

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THE PROGRESSIVE STORE

The Islander (Contd)

more than could be transported in one trip. The men who contracted to convey the mail during the winter months had to be not only unusually strong and courageous but experienced with ice. Such men could distinguish between the various forms of ice and know when it was safe or unsafe to trust their weight upon it. They were able to find their way through fog or darkness or blizzard.

Occasionally when the ice was heavy, horsedrawn sleighs were driven across the ice by the inhabitants, but the regular mail carrier rarely resorted to horses, for that animal is timid on ice and very difficult to drive if there are cracks to be crossed. Cracks sometimes develop with lightning like speed and open crevices miles in length through solid ice. The noise, when this occurs, is terrifying to horses if not to man. One mail carrier used a pair of ponies, but eventually they were drowned.

When open water was encountered it was necessary to load the ponies into the boat and ferry them to solid ice. It was too much trouble and horses or ponies impracticable. (Cont'd. in next Col.)

Water sometimes covers the ice and makes traveling dangerous. Air holes and thin new ice between heavy ice are both dangerous and difficult to detect when water covered.

These are but a few of the difficulties experienced in those early times in obtaining news from the outside world. Therefore, a substitute was welcome and the Islander found to be very satisfactory. It contained little if any fresh news but its editorial comments were apt to be provocative of debate and after the paper had been read, there was free discussion of its contents.

At the beginning of each winter about the middle of December, for seventeen years, the first edition appeared. Each season's papers were gathered together and there are now sixteen of these bound volumes - the seventeenth (not the last) volume is missing.

The writer of this contribution succeeded in gathering together thirteen volumes and as the first three volumes had already been placed by Messrs. Hermon and Kelley for safe-keeping with the Western Reserve Historical Association of Cleveland, Ohio, and at the solicitation of the Curator and Pres- (Cont'd. in next Col.)

ident of the Society, W. N. Cathcart, it was decided to add the thirteen volumes to the three. The sixteen volumes are now to be seen at that museum. They are considered to be of unusual value and historical interest.

Norman E. Hills

COMPLIMENTS of SAM'S AUTO SHOP

Society

Mrs. Fritz Pape and her son William arrived Saturday to spend a week on the island. After a week they will return to Cincinnati and come back later to spend the remainder of the summer here.

Mrs. Florence Gerald, Mrs. Harry Eichmeyer, and Mr. Milton Corwin were guests of Mrs. Mabel Haas, Sunday August 1, through Tuesday August 3. Their home is in Bellefontaine. On Tuesday they started an auto trip thru Canada, to Niagara Falls, then home.

Mrs. Chester Cramer and Miss Jeanne Harrison arrived on the Mascot Monday evening to spend a week with the Williams.

Father Maerder, former priest of St.

Michael's Parish, visited the Island Sunday and brought with him a number of servers from his Bellvue Parish.

Brown's boat had to make two trips in order to get them all here.

The Priest and the boys spent their time swimming back at the Sand Beach.

Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Heishman are spending their two weeks vacation at the Hiawatha cottage.

Mr. and Mrs. Zepp and son, and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Anderson, all of Columbus, have been vacationing at the State's cottage during the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Down and children of Cleveland are spending their two weeks vacation at the Upp's home.

Mrs. Glen Ross and her daughter of Charleston, Illinois and Mrs. Lulu Dining of Clyde have been visitors of the Wm. Langes. Miss Helliass Dining was a guest of the Langes Sunday, August 1.

Mrs. Opal Hemler, Mrs. Clifford Stewart, Mrs. Parr, and Mrs. Gleason were visiting Mrs. Alice Huber at Rockmere Cottage, from August 3, to August 5.

Mystery Man - - - Ward I. Huber.

SPORT HIGHLIGHTS - - -

SPORTS

George Durkett, the man who many people think carries a horseshoe in his pocket, and who pulls off some of the craziest plays and gets away with it, did a rhumba for the girls in the grandstand Sunday, while playing short-stop in the practice session. The girls seemed to enjoy it.

* * *

Francis Erne made a smart play in the game Sunday. He was on third when the pitcher wound up. He smartly took advantage of it, and neatly stole home. For a few innings the boys were stealing sack after sack without much energy. If they had tried hard enough they could have walked off with a few shirts. They won the game. The Kelleys Island Red Wings lost a hard fought game by the score of 7 to 8.

* * *

The Island club is in a league in which each team contributes a specified amount of money at the beginning of the season. This amount is made into prizes for the teams that come out on top so of course they are trying hard to win.

K. I. went to Sandusky and played

the Soldier's Home Team. They got rained out and the pitcher of the S.H. team walked off the field. There were many other complicated affairs mixed with it. They then wanted K.I. to forfeit the game. The players are very dissatisfied, and put in a protest the other day. I think K.I. should get the decision, when it is judged, which will be in a few weeks. There will be more about it in the next issue of Islander II.

NATURE TRAILS

Fishing

An old island sport, fishing, has come back this year in a way that would make the old timers grin. The perch have begun to run off the Kusters Dock for the first time in years. Daily rowboat fishermen bring in huge catches. Mike Reidy's boat, which combines reef trolling with still fishing, has been very busy these past days. Pickerel and bass have been caught in a way that seems to satisfy the fishermen's hearts. In other words, the fish are sure bitin'!

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GADABOUT

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. B. Martin have taken over the Western Union Agency for sending, receiving, and delivering telegrams, cablegrams, etc.

* * *

There have been whisperings going around lately that there is soon to be another wedding.

WHOSE??

* * *

We wondered who the good looking lady with the grey outfit on that Bob Moysey was talking to. She was on the Chippewa Sunday on her way to Put-in-Bay. Too bad, Bob.

* * *

And we hear that Virginia Lange is officially our post-mistress. Congratulations, Ginny!

* * *

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Mrs. Frank J. Lange.