



Manitou Memories

Manitou Islands Memorial Society Annual Excursion Saturday, July 30, 2016

9:15 A.M. Arrival and check-in time at Manitou Island Transit's ticket office. Advance reservations are highly recommended to guarantee space and facilitate MIT. Extra parking fee applies and cars must be parked at remote lot (car pool from dock to parking and return). Phone MIT at 1-231-256-9061.

10:00 A.M. All Aboard—Miche-Mokwa departs for South Manitou Island

11:30 A.M. Arrival at SMI dock. Assemble on lawn in front of Coast Guard Station for welcoming comments and to enjoy your own packed lunch!

12:30 P.M. Motor tour of the Island departs—a \$10 fee applies for this tour.

- View the MIMS volunteer efforts at the August Beck Farm and the SMI Schoolhouse.

3:00 P.M. Motor Tour returns to Village. Members may

- Island Museum closed this year
- Lighthouse Tour - learn about the history of the light and view a breathtaking vista.

- Walk the Island's beautiful beaches and go for a swim.
- Tour Haas House Exhibit

4:00 P.M. All Aboard—Miche-Mokwa departs from the Island. Cash bar available.

5:30 P.M. Arrival at Leland dock

Manitou Islands Memorial Society Annual Meeting Sunday, July 31, 2016

10:00 A.M. Arrival and visitation at Empire Town Hall—Bring your photos and Island memories to share.

12:00 P.M. Pot Luck Luncheon—Main Entrees will be provided by MIMS Board. Please bring a dish to share for approximately 15 people and your own table service. Tea, lemonade and water will be provided.

1:00 P.M. Annual Meeting—What is your "Island Connection?" President's Report, NPS report, Treasurer's Report, Reports on Island projects, and elections for President and Treasurer.

3:00 P.M. Final Announcements and Adjournment

3:30 P.M. Clean-up - Volunteers appreciated

4:00 P.M. Hall Closes

George K. Tobin passes at age 99.

Written by niece Bonnie Bellmer



George K. Tobin of Spring Hill, Florida, passed away May 28, 2016.

George was born on South Manitou Island on August 24, 1916, the son of Lighthouse keeper John Tobin and his wife, Charlotte (Lottie) Hutzler. The family lived in the

lighthouse dwelling.

His early life growing up on the Island, held many fond memories for him, and he never tired of telling stories of these times to his family and friends. He especially spoke about his long walk to school from the lighthouse.

His first job on the Island was working for fisherman August Warner. George earned his captains license at the age of 19, becoming a commercial fisherman. As a young boy, he had dreams of owning his own fish tug. He once owned a fishing tug that had a steel hull that could cut through the ice.

During World War II, he was stationed in the Philippines. Because of his ability to navigate small tugs, he was chosen to taxi officers to and from the islands, including General MacArthur.



George retired from United Airlines.

In his mid 80s, he taught himself to play the organ.

He is survived by two sons: Donald and Stanley of California, a sister, Dorothy of

Traverse City, a special cousin Dale Hutzler, a cousin Edith Robinette Bates, and many nieces, and nephews.

Stanley plans to take his father's ashes to South Manitou Island this summer.

Scott Tucker Selected as Superintendent of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

By Gary VanDerziel, Executive Assistant, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore



EMPIRE, MI - Scott Tucker, a 19-year veteran of the National Park Service (NPS), has been selected as the Superintendent of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore (Sleeping Bear Dunes). Tucker currently serves as the Superintendent of Lewis and Clark National Historical Park (Lewis and Clark), which consists of seven units along the Columbia River and the Pacific Coast from Long Beach, Washington, to Cannon Beach, Oregon. He will begin his new assignment in mid-June 2016.

"I am pleased to welcome Scott to the Midwest Region," said Midwest Regional Director Cam Sholly. "He has a proven track record of working closely with communities and partners."

Tucker said, "My family is thrilled to be moving to northern Michigan and eager to make a connection with both the park and the community. Sleeping Bear Dunes and the state of Michigan are already in our family photo album, and we look forward to making many more memories there. I am excited to help the park continue protecting its amazing resources for the next generation."

Prior to Lewis and Clark, Tucker served for five years as the Park Manager of President's Park in Washington, DC, where he had responsibility for the 54 acres of NPS property immediately outside the White House complex.

In that position, he navigated complex partnerships and fostered relationships with multiple federal agencies and private entities.

Prior to working at the White House, Tucker spent five years at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian, where he served as the first Manager of Visitor Services. In that role, he created the visitor services program for the museum, planned for its grand opening in 2004, and contributed to ensuring Native American voices were represented in all public interactions and services.

Tucker has also worked for the National Mall and Memorial Parks, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, and Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park in Skagway, Alaska.

Originally from Colorado, Tucker has a Bachelor's degree in Social Science from the University of Northern Colorado, with minors in History and Archeology. Tucker will be moving with his wife, a Michigan native who works for the Government Accountability Office, and their two young children.

For more in-depth information about Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, please go to www.nps.gov/slbe. Also, check out their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/sbdnl and Twitter site www.twitter.com/sleepingbearnps. www.nps.gov/slbe

About the National Park Service: More than 22,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 411 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov.

The Doris Shirk Story

Written by Judy A. Fogle



Doris Shirk, is a very brave and strong woman. Not afraid to work. Knows her limits. Helps others. Did whatever she thought was right for the residents of South Manitou Island, back in 1950s and until

the early 1980s.

Doris' Uncle Joe Harold (Doris' mother, Margaret Brown, was his sister) purchased the "The Lodge" a/k/a Theodore Beck house, located on the west side of South Manitou Island, in the 1940s. Uncle Joe worked at a Detroit business (Heating and Air Conditioning) that had a rotary club, and the group was looking for a place to relax on the weekends and not have to answer questions and telephones. After the purchase, Uncle Joe and club members, Bill Boales and Jay Lee Barrett brought out their wives to see this awesome place. Well, that's not what they thought. No flush toilets, no shopping stores, no restaurants and no place to visit friends. Waaaaay to rustic for them. So after their visit, "The Lodge" was for the guys only. So they needed someone to maintain "The Lodge" and that's when Doris' Mom and Dad (Margaret and Jack Brown) were asked to be the caretakers. Doris believes that her folks lived in Bertha Peth's house. Soon "The Lodge" had a working toilet, an airstrip, hunting seasons, and Margaret cooking the meals. Doris' dad, Jack, would walk to town to meet the ferry and pickup supplies and freight, almost every day.

The Lodge had an outhouse with a pitcher sink. Well in the basement – platform with gasoline engine for the hot water tank in attic – which they filled. Gas lights in the living room – used flashlights or candles for bathroom and bedrooms.

The attic was shared with the bat "Herman" who came and went as he pleased.

When you flew to SMI, Jim Mesick and Connie Grosvenor would meet your plane with beer and peanuts!

Good friends, Ken Taylor and wife, Judy, built the A-Frame on the west wide – north of “The Lodge”.

Doris was born September 7, 1926 (now aged 90) and came to SMI about 1947. She stayed on the Island in the summers with her three children.

John Shirk, Doris’ son, was good at mowing the grass, especially when they knew an islander was flying in (i.e. the priest). Once, Doris knew that the Ranger might try to stop them from mowing the grass, and while her son was mowing (the Jeep with a grass cutter pulled on the back), Doris would call him on the CB radio to say the Ranger just drove by (Jim Mesick’s house – where she was playing cards), so he could hide everything until the Ranger passed. It worked that time!

John and Wayne (Doris’ sons) had a sleep over with friends. They went out on the roof and had a pillow fight. Some of the feather pillows broke open, and Fred Burdick couldn’t understand where all the duck feathers came from the next morning.

Doris son, Wayne was killed in a car accident about 1985, and is buried in the cemetery on SMI.

When NPS informed SMI residents that they were taking over SMI and NMI and the Sleeping Bear Lake Shore, Doris purchased a place on Beaver Island. She paid tugboat American Girl (still running) to come to SMI to take her belongings to Beaver Island in 1978. NPS paid for the first 100 miles.

It was a sad day when an NPS park official became angry with the SMI residents for not regarding the “rules.” He took a tractor and bulldozed the barn on the August Beck farm, pushed over the pillars at the Anderson Farm, and put trenches in the airfield.

When Doris’ daughter, Terri Ann, cut her leg, and NPS called for a plane to take her to Traverse City to get stitched – but had to wait for

the Riker’s to clear the cows off the airfield (which the cows grazed on).

Near the end of living on SMI, Doris was hired to paint the Riker house (George Cameron Hutzler or a/k/a Boales house) by herself. She sometimes would have to wait for Mr. Riker to come and move the cows and bull away from the house so she could come down from the ladder and move it. At one point, she was taking the ladder down when the latch gave way and the pin went right through her hand. The Coast Guard was called to take her to Traverse City for stitches, but they had to wait while she got a ride back to her house to pick up her movie camera. This was her first time flying over the Island and she knew this event needed to be documented!

I remember a time in the 1980s when Doris was visiting South Manitou Island, and I was honored to be on one of her “tours” to the Morazan. Her son Wayne and I were at the back of the group, and he would say her words just before she did!

On August 18th, I went on a visit with Doris to Beaver Island – her summer home after she left South Manitou Island. Doris and I had not seen each other in 35 years! At age 89, Doris was a marvelous hostess, taking me on field trips all over the Island showing me memorials, big stones, native American stone calendar, 150 old birch tree, incredible sun rises and sunsets, attended the funeral of a beloved and devoted school teacher, Jim Stambaugh, the art of “flying” to the Island, and eating meals at all the restaurants for the aged. It was great meeting all of Doris’ friends. One could tell that they just adored her!

For many years, Doris and Ken Taylor ran the Beachcomber deli and ice cream place. She lived alone above the store. All was heated by a wood stove in the basement (that Doris kept fired herself)!

A photo sits on the side table, taken of Doris last year, of which was found for sale in one of the gift shops, but later given to Doris. On the back was written, **Doris Shirk, “The Spirit of Beaver Island.”**

From: the President's Desk,
Paul Rocheleau



2016 will be another busy year on South Manitou Island. In May, I was working at the Theodore Beck farm again, painting and assessing the next steps in order to help preserve

the integrity of the buildings. In September, I hope to return with more people to further the work that was started.



East side of Theodore Beck house "before" painting.
 Photos by Paul Rocheleau



After painting

During this past winter, high water levels were responsible for some changes to the coast line of SMI. Near the lighthouse, a path from the village to the lighthouse disappeared due to the high lake levels.



The Park is working on both short term and long term solutions to this problem.

I would like to thank all of our members for their support of this and other projects that helps to preserve the history of the Manitou Islands.

Volunteers are always welcome. If you are interested, contact MIMS at info@manitouislandsmemorialsociety.org
 Paul Rocheleau, President
 Manitou Islands Memorial Society

Activities in the Haas House.

Window protection from the sun has been placed in the Haas House south window. An activity bench has been built by Randy Mackie and Bill Poplaski. The bench has an inlaid checker board, and opens for storage of checkers and old time games.



Photo by Robert Beck



Randy Mackie and Bill Poplaski

Officers to be Elected at the Annual MIMS Meeting.

Election of officers will be voted on for President, Vice President, and Treasurer.



Robert Beck will be a nominee for the President position, and if he is elected, the Vice President position will need to be filled. We are also looking for nominees for the

Treasurer position.

Members tell how they are related to the Islands

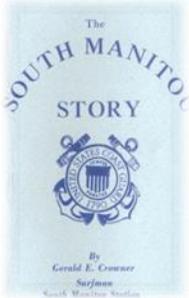
- **Jim and Kaylynn Anderson**, Jim's grandmother was Marie Smith, along with grandfather Mike Smith. We had great childhood memories spending summers on the Island (SMI).
- **Trina Haas**, I am the great granddaughter of Joe and Florence Haas.
- **Diana and Marc Oberschulte**, we owned what is now the Visitors Center (Tobin House) and Schollmaster's cottage. We were married on the Island (SMI) in 1970 on the beach!

- **Jeffrey Smith**, my grandfather was Oscar Smith, coast guard/lifesaving service; and father was Willard Smith, coast guard, and I attend grammar school on the Island (SMI).
- **Don and Joanna Smith**, Joanna was the daughter of Ethel Furst Stormer.
- **Emily Thompson**, my great grandfather was Floyd S. Thompson, who was raised on South Manitou Island. Floyd's father, was Theodore Thompson, one of the mail carriers. My great, great grandmother was Mathilda Thompson, who is buried on South Manitou Island.
- **Priscilla Thompson**, My father-in-law, Floyd Thompson was born and raised on South Manitou Island and family home is still there. (My husband, Donald Floyd Thompson passed away April 1, 2014. Donald's grandmother is buried on South Manitou Island, who was Mathilda Thompson. Grandfather Theodore Thompson was one of the mail carriers on the South Manitou Island.
- **Thomas E. Thompson**, my father was George E. Thompson, born on the South Manitou Island in 1907.
- **Shad Welke**, friend of the Theodore Beck family.
- **Theresa Wilson**, my grandfather was Floyd Thompson, and great grandmother was Matilda Thompson, who is buried on South Manitou Island.

Opportunities*

Note: The cards and The South Manitou Story will be sold at the annual meeting for \$10.00 ea.

The South Manitou Story written by Gerald E. Crowner



About the Author:

My father, Gerald E. Crowner, was born in 1905, at Hart, MI. His Grandparents lived in Pentwater near the Life Saving Station where his Grandpa was a member of the crew. It was here that Dad began learning about the life of a surfman. At age 15, Dad's family moved to Pentwater where he signed up as a Temporary Surfman, studying the duties of standing watch, signal sessions, and beach cart drills. After graduating from high school, even though he was gainfully employed at a sign company, he inquired about serving in the Coast Guard at the Tenth District Offices in Grand Haven. Dad signed up, was stationed to South Manitou Island, making the crossing from Glen Haven on December 28, 1926. Thus began a lifelong love of the Island. Memories of adventures on South Manitou Island with my parents and family continue to bring joy to my heart today!

Bio written by: Lynn (Crowner) Roe, July 2012. All proceeds go to Manitou Islands memorial Society. The book is being sold at a cost of \$15 which includes shipping and handling.

A Note Card

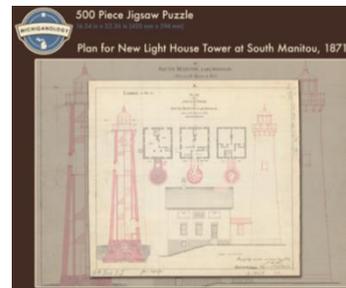
has been donated to MIMS by Linda Wolf entitled "Going Home" South Manitou Island Lighthouse. Linda's mother was Betty Jean Tobin (Hopkins) and her grandparents were Lottie and John King Tobin. The MIMS Board would like to extend our appreciation to Linda for this fundraising opportunity.



All proceeds go to Manitou Islands Memorial Society. The note cards, with individual envelopes, have been packaged in groups of 10 at a cost of \$15 which includes shipping and handling. Please send your order and payment to:

MIMS
PO Box 177
Empire, MI 49630

Jigsaw Puzzle



1871 Plan for New Light House Tower at South Manitou Island 500 piece jigsaw puzzle. This is the website (made in Michigan). This puzzle is also available at Schuler's Book Store.

<http://www.michiganology.com/collections/puzzles/products/south-manitou-lighthouse-architectural-drawing>

MIMS Website

Check out the MIMS website:
www.manitouislandsmemorialsociety.org

We are still adding information – PayPal is in place. You will be able complete the Membership Form and Photo Release Form (download and forward online) etc. We are open to suggestions as well.

If you are a member (dues currently paid) – you will be able to read the newsletters, minutes, and view photographs online (soon). You will need to login and give yourself a password. Any problems, contact judy@manitouislandsmemorialsociety.org.

Our thanks to Dhammika Welipitiya of iLeo Technology, Okemos, Michigan, for coordinating our site www.ileotechnology.com



MIMS
PO Box 177
Empire, MI 49630

President: Paul Rocheleau
Vice President: Robert Beck
Treasurer: Rhonda Kruch
Secretary: Judy A. Fogle
Member-at-Large: Jeff Reuteler
Member-at-Large: Randy Mackie
Editor/Website: Judy A. Fogle

The following is a list of membership/renewals and donations since our last Winter 2016 newsletter. Thanks to our generous members.

Maureen Albright
Charles and Maudie Anderson
James and Kaylynn Anderson
Edith Bates
James and Carolyn Clark
Denise Elwell
Leah Esch
Jeannette Feeheley
Rob and Deb Foti
Elizabeth Gray
Trina Haas
Dr. Richard Halik, PH. D.
Neil and Mary Hodges
Pete and Jelaine Horton

Barbara Johnson
Kerry Kelly
Joe and Rhonda Kruch
Robert and Mary Anna Kruch
Randy Mackie
James Morris
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Paul and Sue Rocheleau
Lynn Roe
Doug Shoemaker
Donald and Joanna Smith
Betsy Thompson
Emily Thompson
Priscilla Thompson
Thomas E. Thompson
Stanley Tobin
Warren Tvardek
Brannon Tvardek
Dan Walker
Shad Welke

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