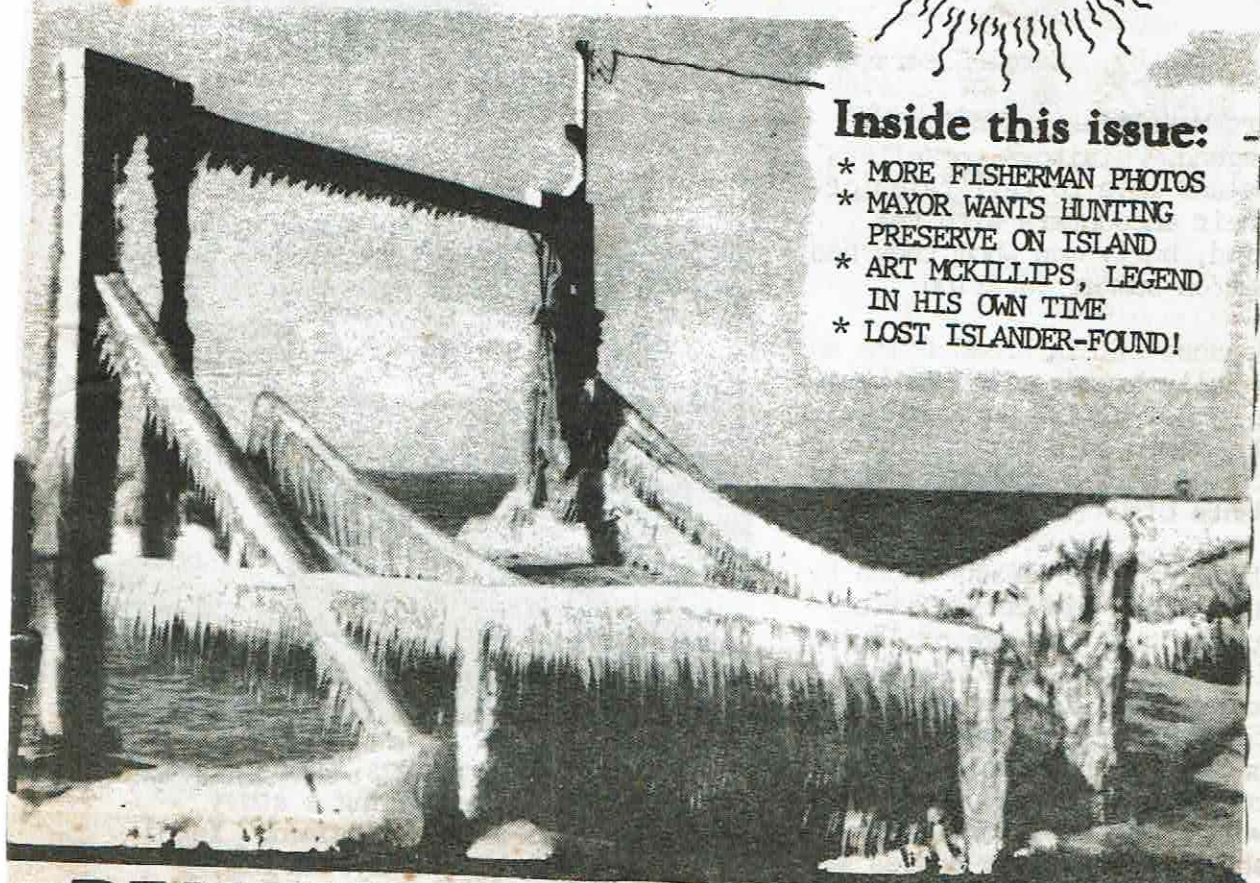


# KELLEYS ISLAND

## Home Town News



### Inside this issue:

- \* MORE FISHERMAN PHOTOS
- \* MAYOR WANTS HUNTING PRESERVE ON ISLAND
- \* ART MCKILLIPS, LEGEND IN HIS OWN TIME
- \* LOST ISLANDER-FOUND!

# REMEMBER? LAST WINTER

JANUARY 1980 ISSUE

# his stature cast a tall shadow



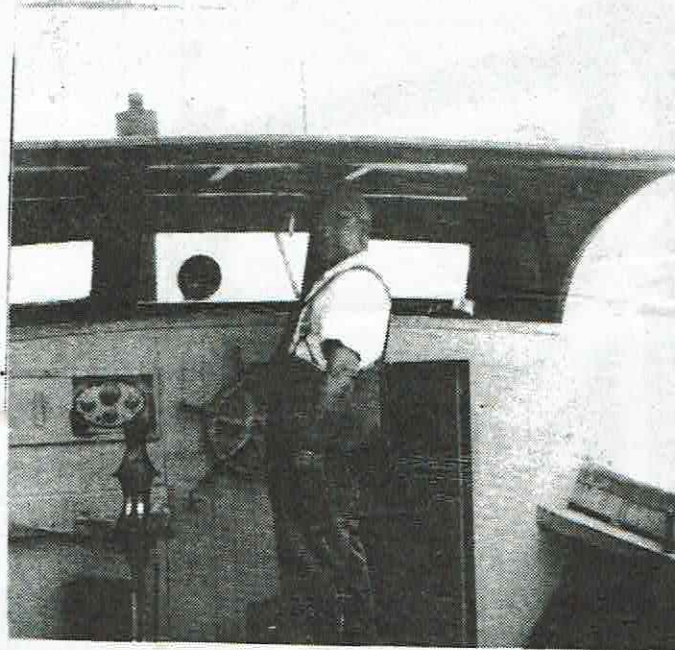
By; Carol Elfers

Art McKillips was a living legend. Visitors to Kelleys Island love to tell tales of their encounters with the kind, burly man whom they had met on summer vacation.

Because of his broad frame and equally broad smile, he became a symbol of island congeniality. One woman said her children believed he was the only "real Santa Claus "

Uncle Art, as he was known by all, spent his entire life giving. At the age of 18, he left his home in Bono, Ohio and joined his brother and family on the island. As the number of children continued to grow, an extra paycheck as well as an additional man to share in the heavy chores was a welcome addition to the family.

He was basically a shy man for all his huge build, and



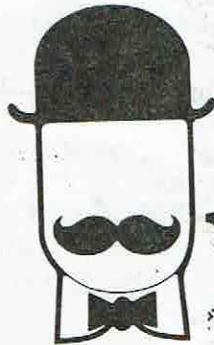
would refrain from "fisherman's jargon" when telling a story in the presence of women. Yet many recall the days in his youth when, as an amateur baseball player unequalled in strength, Art declined an offer from the professional leagues because he would not desert his adopted family.

It was a bond that was to follow him the rest of his life.

He saw most of the 12 children grow up and leave the island. He was there when they buried his brother, and other family members. His strength and generosity were the only important things Art ever owned. It was tragically ironic that his death should come in a slow gnawing manner. It sapped his great heart of it's drive. His last words included instructions included instructions to feed the dog and warn a young nephew about ice fishing.

He never married, yet was loved and respected more than if he had raised his own family by all who knew him.

He died February 22, 1969, He was 70 years of age.



## NEW YEAR GREETINGS


SPECIAL THANKS  
TO ALL WHO  
CONTRIBUTED  
TO THE

'NO BAKE'

Bake Sale.

The interested  
Citizens of K.I.


As you sail into the  
New Year, may all  
your dreams come true.  
Best wishes to all!



**HACKER'S  
WAGON WHEEL**

1700 Cleveland Road  
Sandusky, Ohio

Open Monday thru Thursday 9 A.M. - 9 P.M.  
Friday & Saturday 9 A.M. - 10 P.M.



DO YOU REMEMBER???

Nostalgia Column,.....

CCC Camp  
The Cut  
The Pit  
Haunted House  
Little Italy  
Rat Trap Factory  
Round House  
Powder House  
Incubator  
Crusher  
Ditchie Point  
Fido  
No. 33, 7, 29  
Macabee Hall  
Lodge  
Old Stone School House  
Ice House  
Schardt's Hotel  
Ward's Hotel  
The Cove  
Lime Dump  
Bowling Alley  
Himmelein Hotel

YOU CAN TAKE THE BOY AWAY FROM THE ISLAND.....

BUT, YOU CAN'T TAKE THE ISLAND OUT OF THE BOY!!!



Bill Schlumbohm (left) Robert Schlumbohm (right)  
"I can still smell the fish frying in my grandmother's iron skillet....."

By Carol Vogler Elfers

## Happy New Year

Hoping the New Year  
will light your way  
through prosperous  
and healthy days.  
We cherish your con-  
tinuing friendship.

**M. P. McCUNE**  
REALTY

746-2091

625-6780

ge 3

Robert Schlumbohm left the island as a young boy. His father moved to Logan County in Ohio where they were involved in farming and beef cattle. He later married and moved to the Findly, Ohio area, where I met him quite by accident. When we discovered our mutual love for Kelleys Island, the words flowed like the hot coffee his gracious wife, Sis, prepared. While the snow fell lightly outside, our excitement mounted with stories of the "old days" on the island.

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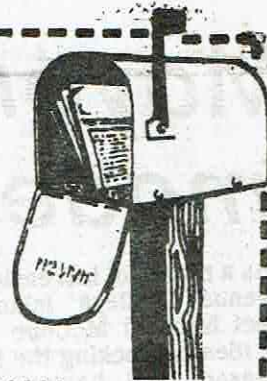
A hand-written genealogy provided extensive information regarding Robert's history on the island. His grandmother, Catherine Sophia Theilman was a decendent of the Kusters of Koster's dock. His grandfather, John Christopher Fred Schlumbohm sang with great reverence at the old German Reformed Church on Division Street. He told stories of lighting the Christmas candles on the tree and a rush of air ignighting the "Tannenbaum". Alfred Schlumbohm Sr. was killed in a quarry accident on Kelleys.

"I haven't been back for many years, now" Robert confided. "My youngest son, Bill, has never been there, but we will bring the family and my mother back for Home Coming in August", he promised.

He issued a genuine invitation to any islanders who wish to investigate their history to share the records which are neatly and completely compiled in the Schlumbohm genealogy. Notify him by mail at the following address; 17536 State Route 568 Findlay, Ohio 45840.

"Sometimes, out of no where, I can still smell the fish frying in my grandmothers iron skillet...it is like yesterday.....Robert confided.

They'll never take the island out of the boy!



OUR READERS WRITE.....

Dear Carol,  
Enjoyed your December issue of K.I. Home Town News, really nice to see the faces and see who...what with election and all.

The Miami, Ft. Lauderdale weather is great, but so is the Island's warm greetings and early spring-summer and fall.

To all Kelley Islanders, a very happy holiday season, hope to see you all next summer.

Sincerely,  
M/M Jack Evans  
Hollywood, Fla.

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED!!

Mr. & Mrs. Carl A. Wilken Sandusky are announcing the engagement of their daughter, Christine Mary to Allan R. Mielke, 3209 Columbus Ave. She is attending Firelands College. He is employed by Mielke Furniture Repair. A Sept. 20, 1980 wedding is planned.

# Mayor wants Kelleys made hunting area

As a means of increasing jobs and revenue, Kelleys Island Mayor-Elect Michael McCune is pushing the idea of stocking the island with pheasant and having the island designated a hunting preserve.

A hunting season would be established and hunters would be charged a fee for a permit to hunt in addition to a possible 25-cent fee each when they land on the island from the ferry, McCune said Thursday in bringing Erie County commissioners up to date on his efforts.

The number of persons allowed in each hunt would be limited, perhaps to 200, he said.

McCune said he is talking to various state agencies such as the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' divisions of wildlife and parks and recreation, the Ohio Department of Economic and Community Development, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and 84th District State Rep. Fred Deering (D-Monroeville) because it appears the Ohio General Assembly would have to pass a law creating such a hunting preserve.

McCune said the reaction of the wildlife division has been "generally favorable."

McCune, who has had the idea for the past 18 months, indicated his purpose is to "make Kelleys Island able to support itself" and "take the burden off the county." He asked county commissioners to lend their support in any way they can.

McCune indicated the enterprise will boost the motel, bar, and restaurant businesses by extending the traditional tourist season.

Under his concept, the whole island would be designated a hunting preserve. The 100 year-round

island residents are "generally favorable" to the idea, he said. The village council is "100 percent" behind it.

Plans are very preliminary at this point, he cautioned. "There are 15,000 things to do. This has never been done before." There's no precedent, he told the *Register* when asked for details.

He asked county commissioners for help in clearing brush on the island which is so thick "there are places you can't even crawl through."



Mike McCune

## NOTICE

FIREMEN'S

BALL!!!

Sat. Feb.  
9, 1980

LIVE BAND

FREE BEER

8PM

BUFFET

ADMISSION  
\$5.00  
AT DOOR

GOLDEN  
AGERS  
FREE!!

EVERYONE  
WELCOME!

Ya all  
Come!

# Lawsuit

William E. Marshall, Kelleys Island; Frances S. and Peter Minshall, 8120 Kerry Lane, Chevy Chase, Md.; William E. Minshall III, 4822 Tilden St. NW, and Werner E. Minshell, 1461 Swan St. NW, both of Washington D.C., have filed suit against Kellstone Inc., 8800 Dix Ave., Detroit, Mich. and the Island Stone Corp., 945 Broadway Ave., Lorain, charging a nuisance and trespass on their Kelleys Island property as a result of Island Stone's quarry mining operation on Kellstone property in 1976. The operation deprived the plaintiffs of their peace, enjoyment, comfort, and privacy, and resulted in noise at all hours, emitting of fumes and dirt, and earth vibrations, the lawsuit claims.

## OBITUARY

Catherine Schardt 84, 1110 Decatur St., Sandusky, was pronounced dead on arrival recently. She was a retired housekeeper at Good Samaritan Hospital, Sandusky. She is survived by three daughters, Mrs. Charles (Anita) Gollive, Crystal Rock, Mrs. Kathryn Donaldson, Huron and Elise Marie Schardt, Chicago Illinois. She is also survived by two sisters, Laura, Ft. Lauderdale and Beth Gordon of Cleveland and 9 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

### RICHARD EHRBAR

Richard C. Ehrbar, 55, Huron, O. died recently in Providence Hospital, Sandusky after a brief

## OBITUARIES

illness. He was employed by Cedar Pt. as a mechanic, served in the US army during WW II. Surviving are his wife, the former Florence McKillips, son Richard C. Jr. at home, two daughters, Mrs. Robert (Corrine) Miller, Huron and Kathy at home 3 grandsons, brother Del, Kelleys and sister, Marie Duignan, Nevada.

### WALTER RAUM 71, Division St.

Kelleys Island died recently at his residence after a brief illness. He retired in 1963 as president of the A-Brite Plating Co., Cleveland, he was an honorary member of the American Electro-Plating Society. Surviving are his wife, the former Ethel Bond, two sons, Walter F. and Richard L, Cleve and four grandchildren, two brothers and two sisters. He was buried in Kelleys Island Cemetery.

### BERTHA SEWARD 102, formerly of

Coshocton Ohio died recently in Classic Center, Sandusky after a lengthy illness. She had recently been residing with her daughter, Rosetta Navorska Kelleys Island. She was preceded in death by her husband in 1938. Surviving in addition to her daughter are two grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Burial was in a Coshocton Cemetery.

### EVELYN PARKS formerly of Cleve-

land had recently retired with her husband Frank to Kelleys Island. She had been a beautician in the Cleveland area. Her husband, Frank, will continue to live on the island.



Many readers have expressed their enjoyment at seeing our recent photos featuring fishermen of the island's past.

We are grateful for your support, and especially for use of these photos. If you wish to contribute, please do so!

## **Nature at Her Best** -----

WHERE HAVE ALL THE STURGEON GONE?

This mammoth sturgeon weighing 180 pounds was caught near Kelleys Island on April 29, 1935 by Alfred McKillips, Albert Kugler, and Sylvester Dwelle. According to reports, this fish was a female and contained 35 pounds of roe. A similar fish was later taken by trap net near the west end of Middle Island by Hops Perruchon, Jay Norris, Carl Seeholzer and Walter Elfers in the mid 1950's. According to Elfers, the fish was a male and weighed in at 180 pounds also.

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"Hops" Perr  
lines on t  
intensive



# FISHERMEN



## *a lively group*

Art McKillips (left) utilizes sheer brute strength of his mighty forearms to haul a trap net line. Pit Kekelik, at the wheel expertly guides the boat into position. Together, the men worked as a team for the Lay Brothers Fisheries out of Sandusky, Ohio.



inspects trap net anchors and  
North Dock, once the scene of  
cial fishing activity on Kelleys.

**CORRECTION:** Last month's center fold  
identified man on left as Herman  
Schardt. We are told the man is Roy  
Elfers. Anyone know for sure????

A TIME TO REFLECT.....

By Dick Schmittker

We gathered in Clearwater, Florida, my brothers and I to participate in a memorial service for our Dad, William Milton Schmittker. Born Dec. 21, 1900, deceased October 17, 1979, Dad was the youngest son of August and Emilie Schmittker who moved to the Island from Pittsburgh, Pa. in the early 1900's. Grandpa Schmittker worked in the quarry as did his son, Charles Schmittker, who was a long-time resident of the Island.

Dad spent his early years picking grapes, commercial fishing, and as the weigh master at the West Bay Dock. We reminisced about the exciting times Dad and Hank Schlesselman experienced when they had the U.S. mail contract for the Island. The pictures of the Model T, the open boat with runners, motor and sail are a treasure we will always cherish. The stories he used to share about crossing the lake in the middle of winter in a snowstorm to make sure the mail, plus passengers, coal, merchandise, medical supplies were delivered daily are a joy to recall!

Dad was postmaster until we moved to Sandusky in 1940. His later years were spent in Anaheim, California working with the Better Business Bureau. He and Mom retired in Clearwater, Florida two years ago.

Dad left us with many memories of Kelleys Island and it's people. We are thankful for those early years of working together with neighbors and friends of the Island which set fur us an attitude of concern for others. Dad had many friends on the Island, and of course, will be missed by Mom and us greatly.

Dad's last request was to be creamated and his ashes scattered over the mail route he used to travel from the Island to the mainland. This was done by his son, Max and nephew, Bob Schmittker on October 30, 1979.

Surviving are his wife, Viva R. Clearwater, Florida, and sons; William Jr. Chicago Heights, Illinois, Max A. Brunswick, Ohio, Richard D. Excelsior, Minnesota and Lyle G. of Dallas, Texas.



Neuman Boat Line crews have been busy dismantling the engines of the Kelleys Islander. The overhaul is done once in every few years according to John Neuman. In addition, they will be adding two new holding tanks to accommodate a new sewage system onboard. Although the crew enjoys an extended winter vacation during the Christmas-New Years break, they will be back on the job completing maintenance jobs until spring when the initial runs begin.

## Land transfers

Clifford & Alma Corbett to Joseph M. Steinert, Kelleys I parcel 1, subplot 82 part of out lot 1; parcel 2, subplot 82, part of out lot 1; parcel 3, subplot 83, part of out lot 1, parcel 4, subplot 84, part of out lot 1.

Reta Gales known as Reta Roberts to Harry and Sally Willis, Kelley I. part of west  $\frac{1}{2}$  of east  $\frac{1}{2}$  on lot 6 east Division Road.

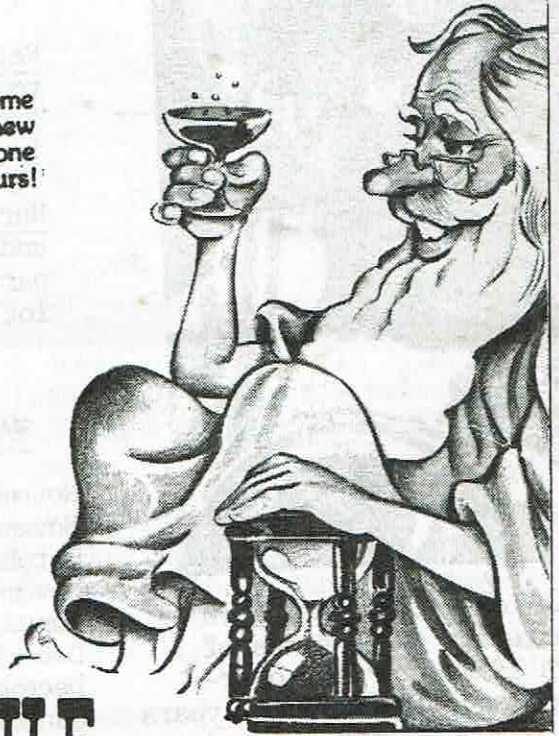
Harry and Sally Willis to Wm. and Melba Peters, Kelleys I, part of west  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the east  $\frac{1}{2}$  lot 6 east Division Road.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING:

November 8 Kathryn Hamilton  
November 6 Jessie Dwelle Strack  
October 15 Karl Beatty  
November 15 Ruth Beatty Verber  
January 4 Edna Volk Carroll  
December 17 Anna Chervany Pohorence  
December 13 Nancy Ward Ritchie  
January 20 Don Erne  
January 28 Jean Dwelle  
January 4 Toby Zettler  
January 24 Nora Zettler  
January 28 June Hood Navorska  
December 8 Andrea Franketti Fuller  
October 12 Roger Kurtz  
December 8 Julie Martin Kennedy  
January 13 Adam Elfers  
January 24 Erin Elfers  
December 15 Bob Schwartz  
January 10 Nick Bianchi

# CHEERS!

The time has come  
to begin the new  
year. A good one  
to you and yours!



## THE CASINO

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KELLEYS ISLAND, OHIO

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COMMUNITY

COMMENTS

BY CORADINE MYERS

On Sunday, December 9th there was a "Happening" on the island that Lee and I will long remember!

On that day, Russ and Bea Matso, bless their little cotton-pickin' hearts...gave a party for our Ronnie in appreciation of his work at the little park on the square.

As most of you know, Ronnie is a retardate, but an educable one, and once he learns how to do something, he doesn't forget! Two years ago, Mayor Marchky wished to participate in the "Hire the Handicapped" program and asked if we thought he could raise and lower the flag each day and check the park for papers and cans. We were sure he could, so, for two summers now Ronnie has carried out those duties and Russ and Bea, from the windows of "The Lodge" could see Ron at work and admired what he did. Feeling he should have a reward, they sponsored the party.

Close to forty Islanders attended, and although gifts were not requested, many decided to bring one anyhow, and so, it was like Christmas with a pile of gifts under the Lodges' tree. Ron was one happy fellow, and Lee and I are so very grateful to all of you wonderful people for being so good to one boy. To Bea and Russ, God's blessings on you both!!!

On Tuesday, December 3rd, I finally managed to get back to Ethel Fox's ceramic class. Had been missing them because of my eye problems and was glad to see two new faces, Martha Onders, and Bernice Twilliger. Yesterday Mary Schock went along with me to see what it was like. She may join us in the future.

Thursday December 13th was our Zion Ladies Christmas Party and as usual, the highlight was the "Unveiling of our Secret Pal".

I had thought quite often that mine was Mary Augusta McKillips, but one day she came to the house with a beautiful basket of fruit and a "Get-Well" card (after my cataract surgery) and said "I'm just delivering!" So, naturally, I decided I was wrong. Then, on the night of the party, as I opened my gift and looked at the card...there was Mary A's name after all!

When I looked over to where she was sitting, she was laughing and laughing. The smarty! She purposely brought that gift to throw me off the scent!

Saturday, December 15th marked the Village Christmas Pot Luck, which was well attended, as usual, and as usual, loads of good food covered the tables. This year's Santa didn't need any stuffing. He was rotund enough...Dave Phinney was a very jovial Santa hugging and kissing all the little ones (and some of the big ones, too). After he had given out all his gifts, he called Sharon Bianchi to come up and be presented as a representative of the school board, a check for \$250.00, a gift from the local VFW to be used as they see fit. A very nice gesture!

OUR SICK BAY KEEPS GROWING...Robert Erne was in the hospital for surgery on an infection in his jaw. He is home now and feeling better. Eleanor Franketti had by-pass open heart surgery and reports are that she is doing fine. Ted Blatt had surgery on his leg and walks over to Norma Blatt McKillips house "very slowly" nearly every day. He has also been seen visiting the office of our editor/publisher, Carol Elfers. Observers say he carries in small bits of paper with scribbled notes on them, which Carol grabs up with glee. Could it be that he is supplying her with news items for Home Town News? Mary Walton had to go back to the hospital because of problems with her medication. Was to come home Sunday and she wants very much to be here on the island this Friday, the 21st when Zion will have it's Christmas program.

Our heartfelt sympathies to Ethel Raum at the death of her husband, Wally. And it was such a shock to receive the news of Evelyn Parks Park's death! Our sympathies to you, Frank!

I dearly love to tease my husband, Lee, on his Island Lady friends and all the gifts they bring for favors rendered...Over the past year, Lee has had a bottle of very good liquor, a bottle of our favorite wine, a box of Faroh's candies, a half gallon of ice cream, plus a large can of mixed nuts, and now the very latest... a beautiful yellow potted mum! Really, tho, I am grateful and proud that Lee can give of his time to our widows and our elderly, and we both appreciate the very thoughtful gifts. All the more welcome because they are not necessary!

Each evening as I head for bed, I promise myself that i will not go with Lee in the morning as he goes to the post office and the store. Instead, I tell myself, I will stay home and get some work done! But each AM finds me ready to go...as there is always so much to see! This particular morning was no exception. As we drove along the lake, we saw ice forming on the edges and on the

and on the windward side of the docks, there were lacy patterns of more of the same. From the post office, we drove the long way round to the store and as we came to the end of the cemetery, Lee pulled over and stopped. Pointing over to the open end of the cemetery, we noticed it was covered with black birds like one huge black carpet. As we watched, it was as if someone had taken the corners of that carpet and given it a flick...for those birds rose up from the ground in one solid motion, hovered for a few minutes then settled down ...in unison again. We continued watching them in fascination as they repeated their performance several times, then took off for the wild blue yonder.

ANOTHER DAY...a very windy one, too windy for the planes to fly and bring our mail. Lee looked out on the water where clusters of sea gulls were flying around and said, "Look at that! Our huge planes can't fly but those little things sail through the air with the greatest of ease!" Man has much to learn from nature, and Kelleys Island is a patient teacher.

## Winners picked in holiday decorations contest

Geraldine Betzenheimer, our postmistress, took it on herself to conduct an ornament-making-contest. It ended December 15 and on Tues. Dec. 18 ballots were cast by the patrons. Winners were:

1. Lisa Matso, prettiest paper snowflake w/glitter
2. Kim Watkins, most original, tongue depressor sled
3. Pam Haig, funniest, doll made from life savers.

Thanks for an enjoyable experience, Geraldine!

On Friday the 21st, Zion Christmas Program opened with a BANG! Fuses blew and left Mary Augusta high and dry at the organ! Pastor Walton had to scurry around to replace the fuse! Our program was very impromptu this year, as Mary Walton had been unable to plan one of her wonderful programs. She was there that evening looking simply wonderful and so happy to be back. After several readings by different church members and friends, we had our candle-lighting service, which I love so well! There was one large solitary candle on a table in front of the altar and two of our teenagers came forward to light their candles from it's light. They continued by

lighting the candle of each person in the aisle seat. That person in turn lit his neighbors and so on down the row till all the candles were lighted and we sang "Silent Night, Holy Night". The church lights had been extinguished earlier allowing the sweet candle glow to illuminate all present in it's softness.

Although, as you know, I cannot hear the music, still I have a vivid imagination, and the dark church, candlelight, vibrations I can feel from the resounding organ music all give me the impression of something beautiful happening, reaching out and touching all of us present, making us stronger in it's unity.

When you read this, Christmas Day will long be over, but I sincerely hope that the "Spirit" of Christmas and all the wonderful, inspirational message it carries is with you and will remain with you throughout the coming year.

Till next time,

CORADINE

KELLEYS ISLAND HOME TOWN NEWS  
c/o C. A. ELFERS Editor/Publisher  
Rt #1 Norwalk, Ohio 44857



Charles Hacker  
131 46th St  
Sandusky, Ohio  
44870

**we  
wish for our friends  
and their families,  
a peaceful year filled with  
the precious things  
of life.**