

MAY, 1980 EDITION

# KELLEYS ISLAND Home Town News

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THE GRAPE HARVEST ON KELLEYS ISLAND.....

Left to right: Bill Blatt, Norma Blatt Pauline Blatt, Grandma Michaels, Irene Carcas, Reverend Zeigler. (Photo courtesy of: M/M William & Norma McKillips)



## The charm of yesterday —

THE STRANGE SAGA OF EVELINE KELLEY HUNTINGTON (second in a series of articles). Who were those first Kelleys who settled on Kelleys Island? What was their life here like? Now you have it all word-for-word from a manuscript by Eveline Kelley written when she was 76 years old.....

"When there was snow our shoes would get full and packed like ice. A knife would have to be used to dig the ice out nights when we got home from school. Summers all children under 10 yrs went barefoot and some older ones. I wanted my shoes off early in the spring so I could splash through the puddles of water and wade in the lake. My feet nights would be so sore and cracked open by being wet, they looked like toads back and ache dreadfully.

Mother would give me a little cream and a rag to wind around them send me to bed, next morning I was all well and ready to splash in the water again. I used to think it great fun to make the water fly. When I was about 12 yrs old, I had drawers to put on for the first time. Loretta Wood and I wore them a year before any of the other girls had them.

They were very comfortable, but most everyone thought them very boyish and we were not commended for putting on boyish clothes. It must have been 2 or 3 years before girls began to wear drawers after we wore them. I well remember what a comfortable addition my panties were to my clothing.

When I was 10, old Gov. Wood (then Judge Wood) moved to Rockport from Cleveland and lived on the next farm east of us. Their oldest girl, Loretta, was my fast chum until her death in 1884. She was in Cleve. a good deal, and brought home all the new styles going, and she was 11 months the oldest, so I had to dress about as she did and do about as she did. She was a great favorite with my older brothers, a good dancer and in that way I got to go to public balls very young.

Dancing parties at our house were quite frequent. Father never danced in his life, but mother did and when they built their frame house they put up a board partition between the two back chambers so it could be taken down easily and throw them together which made a room 30 ft. long by 11 ft. wide. We commenced dancing in those days about 4PM and about 1AM the fiddler (Judge Coe) would put up his fiddle and leave. We had refreshments about 11PM. We danced the plastering off the kitchen over head, some of it, every time which made quite a muss to clean up.



## *the excitement of tomorrow...*

The house Judge Wood moved into was not finished. No rooms upstairs were plastered and rats & mice cantered all over it. The Judge was gone a great deal and the family were afraid to stay there nights, and would come over after me, (10 yrs. old mind you) to protect them & be company. I was used to living in the country, and fearless so nights found me over to Lorets as I called it. I enjoyed it very much being thought so brave and of course, they all made it very pleasant for me. Mrs. Wood and my mother were great friends, & I think next to my mother, she was the best woman I ever knew. Mrs. Wood would do anything to get me up in good style as Loretta, to go to parties with her. Loretta had an easy riding horse, and a side saddle. I had a man's saddle and a hard riding horse, but could beat Loret blind riding horseback.

I cannot remember the first time I rode alone on a horse. Father used to send me 5 miles with a bag of corn to get it ground into meal when I was no more than 6 yrs. old. Mr. Taylor, the man who owned the mill, asked me how old I was and I told him 6, which made me feel more of a baby than I wanted to be thought on such an errand so far from home.

There was a show in Dover once and I wanted to go awful bad. I teased brother Addison to go with me, but he only laughed at me. Said I did not want to learn any more trix riding horseback, that I could give any show pointers in that line etc. I did not go that time, but have been to a good many since I was my own boss, as my grand girl well knows.

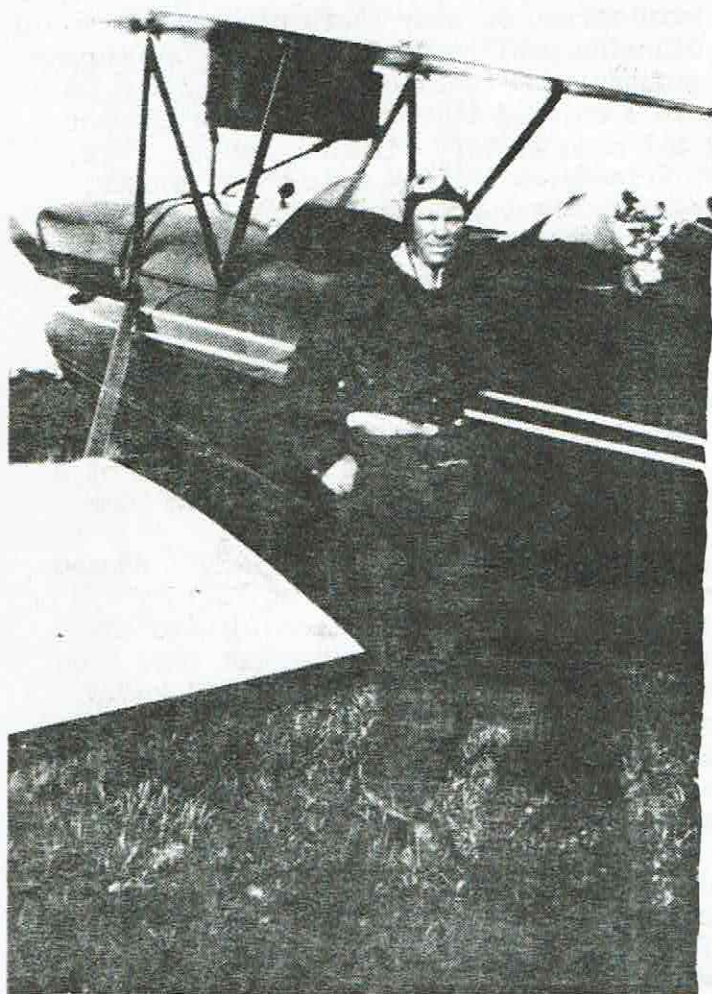
I used to suffer every year with Fever & ague until it seemed to be a habit. Folks told me to "tie it"(the fever & ague up to a tree) & it would leave me & several mental cures. One day I got up on my horse before the shakes came on and tried to ride them off, or forget to shake. I rode until I shook so hard I had to give it up, and went home & curled down on the sunny side of the house where mother found me shaking worse than ever. They got me in bed and put hot bags & covered me up warm and soon my fever came on. I was as much too hot as I had been too cold. I did not want to try the experiment of riding to keep the shakes away anymore.

Every summer for several years in August & Sept. I was miserable about 3 hours each day with chills & fever. The rest of the day I was up & around, ready for play and do some errands, but seldom called upon to wash dishes or much else.

....to be continued next month.....







WILLIAM (BOY) MCKILLIPS AND HIS 1930 "WACO"

The proud smile could be due to the fact that McKillips owned the first private airplane on Kelleys Island. Photo taken 1931-32.

3.

With the advent of the airplane, islanders found that they had a new, exciting method of transportation. But more important, they could substitute the old "iron claw" which had hauled mail and freight between the island and the mainland. A general feeling of enterprise prevailed as the community received permission from the K.I. Lime Co. to utilize a parcel of land on the north side (near the Whinnen cottage now) for an airport. Villagers worked most of the summer clearing land of brush and trees. When completed, the land had been transformed into a landing strip! A young man from Youngstown, last name of Hirschberger was employed by Parker Bros. (now Griffing Flying Service). He began the first flights bringing mail to and from the island. He founded a small airport at a farm in Venice, O. and later moved to one in Pt. Clinton.

One of the first islanders to learn to fly was Logan Bickley. He was soon followed by Steve Feyedelen. Along came William McKillips, who was so taken up in the new sport that he traveled to Detroit to learn about the craft in earnest. Loving his new-found hobby, McKillips



## Love Affair with Flight

SUE GRIFFING LEARNED TO FLY IN 1937...

She has been a charter pilot & instructor, office manager and "done a little of everything" connected with the airport on Cleveland Rd. in Sandusky, Ohio



purchased his first plane, a 1930 WACO. His head in the clouds, he would taxi down the new runway and take off over Lake Erie. Leaving the island of his birth behind him, he soared like the American Eagles which nested on the island at that time. Commanding his craft with the ease of a professional, McKillips often landed in Sandusky, Pt. Clinton, Put-In-Bay or Cleveland. No longer was this island boy bound by the water which surrounded his home...he was as free as the very air itself!

He married island girl, Norma Blatt and found that economics forced him to change his life style, including giving up that beloved plane. "It was hard to afford an airplane, so I sold it", he said. He worked as a commercial fisherman for several years employed by Lay Bros. Fisheries and finally moved to Sandusky where he was employed by Ferrell Cheek. He retired 6 years ago. The couple have one daughter, Shirley Woell, who is a regular visitor to Kelleys. McKillips plans to attend Homecoming again this year.

During the following years, other island men found that flying was important in their lives and a number of them received their pilot's licence. Harry Griffing of Griffing Flying Service, Sandusky was influential in the success of the following: Ned Haig, Bob Overcashier, Bob Schmittker, Ben Elfers, Sonny Elfers, Wally Elfers and Warren Elfers. Kenny Haig and Dr. Heinz Boker are presently owners of their own planes and fly them regularly from the island. Jake Martin commuted via his plane for many years, but recently sold it in favor of his boat.

Since Sandusky is the nearest airport to Kelleys, it has always played a major part in the history of flight there. Harry and Sue Griffing have seen two generations of islanders mature and change as they went about



their jobs as owners of the airport. Harry became involved with the business when the city of Sandusky failed to exercise it's option to renew a contract during the war years. Major improvements had recently been completed by the WPA including extending the original 27 acres to the present 153 acres.

At that time the field was known as the John G. Hinde Airport. Bill Hinde and Harry operated the business together. During the 50's Hinde joined forces with Ralph Dietrich and the business was known as Sky Tours for a number of years. During this time, the famous Tri-Motor or "Tin Goose" was making regular trips to Kelleys. Harriet Martin became a familiar face behind the glass window. Griffing had moved his operation to Columbus Avenue in Sandusky, but returned to the original location in April 196 when he purchased the business.

"When we got started originally everybody had to learn to do a little bit of everything around here", Harry said. "No job was too large or too small it took plenty of cooperation and hard work". And since the entire family flies, Harry had plenty of hands to help out. Son, Tom is a licenced commercial pilot and daughter, Melody has her private licence. Sue has worn just about every cap in the place from charter pilot and instructor to office manager and time study engineer. Her distinctive voice is loud and clear coming over the radio and familiar to those who travel the airways regularly.

Future article will feature story of present airport and how it became real

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!!

- May 3 Tom Saylor
- 12 Joe LaLonde
- 21 Lydia Bechtel
- 30 Charlie Pascoe
- 19 Norma Blatt McKil
- June
- 6 Eila Davis Russel
- 10 Ben Elfers
- 16 Eric Elfers
- 18 June Navorska
- 25 Ruth Lange Schmittl

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!

M/M George Yoscovits  
June 9, 1980.....

## WHO SAYS TEENAGERS ARE TROUBLE?

Margaret Kuchar, granddaughter of Jeanette Kuchar, was the subject of an extensive newspaper article recently for her volunteer work in Safety Town.

The daughter of Fran and Ed Kuchar of Hudson, Ohio, 13 year old Margaret has earned the Young Citizens Award for three consecutive years.

One of six children, Margaret was highly praised by Jan Etling Hudson High School teacher who supervises the program. "All volunteers are great, but Margaret

is special", she noted. Safety Town teaches pre-kindergarten students the basics of safety when on the sidewalks and streets.

Fondness for others extends also to her work in the Student-to-Student (STS) program at school, where Margaret and other "old timers" help newcomers get acquainted with unfamiliar surroundings. She also volunteers during study hall in the program called Students Helping Other People. She hopes to become a kindergarten teacher in the future.

Is Jeanette a proud grandmother? Just ask her...she'll tell you!

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## It Feels So Good!

Both Millie and I were looking forward to the challenge as to who would be on the dock as the first car in line for the first boat this season. But, after getting the last issue of Home Town News, with the spring ferry schedule, it looks like we have been knocked out of line due to the starting date. We are flying to Little Rock, Ark. on April 3rd to attend a family reunion with Millie's dad and five brothers, and will not get back until Sunday evening April 6th. We are looking forward to being on the 5:30 PM ferry on Friday April 11th (will try to make 4:30). We have just returned home from Cleveland. Went down to sign the papers for the sale of our home in Westlake. Spent the night with Eileen Anderson. It looks like John will not be returning from Florida until about May 1st. PS: Our new granddaughter's name is Kristen Elizabeth Grubb and we are looking forward to her first visit to Kelleys Island in May!

Best Wishes,  
Bob & Millie Grubb  
Canton, Michigan

We enjoy the paper very much!  
Keep up the good work...

Tony Kuchar  
Maple Hts., Ohio

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We really enjoy the Home Town News. It's better every issue! We especially liked the articles by Mar Schock and the issue with my sister and brother-in-law Detsy and Andy ERne.

Keep 'em coming!!

Catherine McManis  
University Hts.

Enclosed is our check for the renewal of Home Town News. Although we built our cottage over 25 yrs. ago, we are still strangers to so many on the island. I guess you can call us weekenders...its the only time we have there. We want you to know how much we do enjoy the island News. Our best and good luck.

Enis & Al Connors  
Lorain, Ohio

Dear Carol;

We don't know you well enough to call you by your first name, but we do know Ben well enough to call him "anything"! We have been getting the Island News second hand. Now, we have decided to subscribe to it. You have come a long way with the paper. It is really a very interesting piece of reading. Thank you.

Mrs. John Perkinson  
Sandusky, Ohio



As former residents of Kelleys Island, we are deeply interested in all news and activities of the island. My husband's parents were M/M Michael Sabo & my parents were M/M Albert Rudolph. My husband & I were both students of Estes High and were married at St. Michael's church in 1940. We left the island in 1941 and still manage to get back there at least once a year.

My husband is now retired, but I am still working as banquet manager of the Celebrity Room in Mayfield Heights, Ohio. Ann & George Kekelik are very close friends of ours and they gave us copies of the K.I. Home Town News. We think it's an excellent paper, and are looking forward to receiving ours as regular customers! Keep up the good work and we hope to meet you when we come to the Island this summer.

Sincerely,  
M/M George Sabo  
(Theresa)

Would like two subscriptions to your great paper...one for us and one for our son, Jim. He was omitted in the article about us. We met Bob Schnitker and he told us about the article. The paper was received that day. Needless to say, we hurriedly looked one up! Were we surprised!!! Keep up the good work!

M/M Andrew Erne  
Sandusky, Ohio

Where in the world did you find the pictures of the ball teams for the March issue? I must keep that issue. I took the center fold and had it framed. That was some ball team. I was the bat boy for that team and the first real baseball glove I ever had was given to me by Ollie Schesselman. It was a three-fingered glove as I remember. Did you notice the resemblance of Roland Brown to a young Bing Crosby?

There are two more pictures of KI sports you might want to include in one of your future issues. I think Teddy Blatt has both photos. One is of our 1940-41 basket ball team & the other is of the Red Wings baseball team.

Have a nice summer season. I hope to see all of you around August.

Rodger "Ike" Kurtz  
Cupertino, Ca. 95014

I wish to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, food, flowers, plants and visits I received during my hospital stay. Also, thanks to the priest, sisters, nurses and doctors at Providence Hospital.

Sincerely yours,  
Robert Erne  
Kelleys Island, Ohio



# EASTER EGG H

By Carol Elfers

Sunny skies prevailed over the festivities at the annual Easter Egg Hunt in the village square.

This year's event was well attended by kids of all ages, another example of community-minded islanders providing the opportunity for everyone to participate in a worthwhile project.

A total of 15 dozen eggs were colored and hidden throughout the



**Share  
Easter Joy**

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park to the delight of the totting youngsters. The prizes were received from the Flying Service, Neill the Matso's, Wayne Frankie Pohorence, John Staires, Dick Mary Ellen Huntley

Hidden deep in the woods was a special Easter Bunny. A note to the editor of the News and a large basket of treats...it was so much fun. "Easter Bunny", her writing resembled the New York Times. The gesture was appreciated!

The "Easter Bunny" was a person (Jude Evere) who wore a proper set of ears. The painted makeup was a highlight of her natural beauty. She loved her special

Those who colored and

Pat Hai  
Julie K  
Sharon M

L. to R. Jim Kennedy gets a basket from Easter Bunny, Jude Evere, while Peggy Bianchi contemplates the number of eggs she collected.



# JNT

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Youngest at the egg hunt was Michelle Coleman (2 mo.) held by her mother, Amy Coleman

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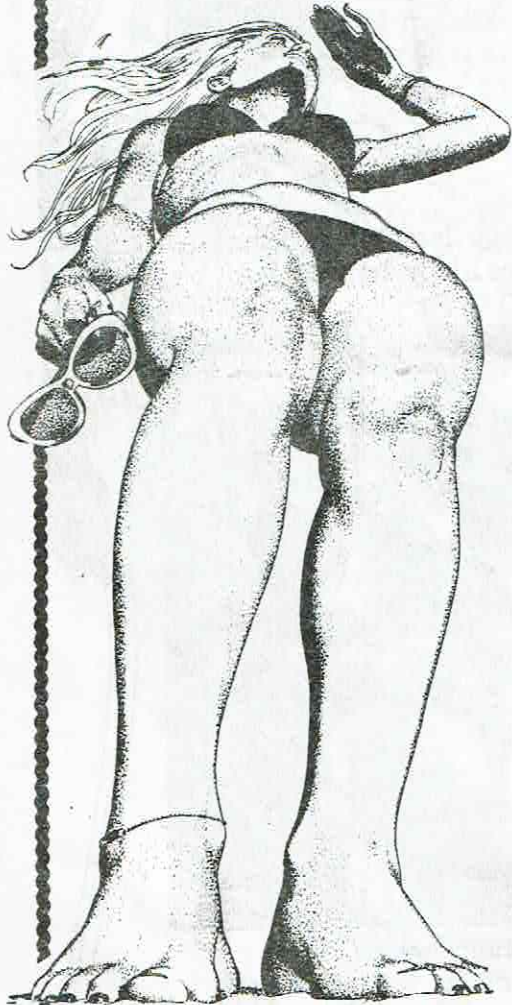
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Silver Dollar winners were; l to r  
David Stare 9½, Brandt Walton 12,  
Tom Taylor 12, Teri Bianchi 4½, Pam  
Haig 5, Robin Watkins, 3.



**DIRTY  
DON'S**



*Girl*  
*Watching*

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ARE ON

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# OBITUARIES

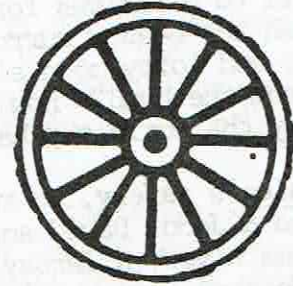
JOSEPH ADAM, 77, passed away recently after a prolonged illness in Cleveland, Ohio. He was preceded in death by a brother, Anthony, Frank, and his sister, Mary Vogler. He is survived by Arna Klostermeyer, Lillian Petrick, Charles, Edward and James, all of Cleveland. Employed by the Peerless Automatic Machine Co. Cleveland for 44 years, he retired at the age of 62. He owned a cottage on Kelleys for 25 years, but began regular trips there many years previous. He always carried his corn cob pipe in one hand and scratched the welcome ear of family dog, Pancho. Through his generosity, this editor spent many delightful weekends on the island. He loved whiskey from a mug and Bohemian music from the victrola. We loved him.

JOSEPH  
ADAMS



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## COMMENTS

On Tuesday, April 8th, we left Kelleys on the first lap of our journey to our daughter's home in Westwood, N.J. That evening we stopped at our oldest son, Bill's home in Olean N.Y. where we spent the night. Continuing early the next morning, we headed east on Southern Tier Expressway (R.17), an extension of the route we traveled last fall. We had the expressway all to ourselves for the first 1½ hours of the journey and were awed with the beauty surrounding us; open country, rolling hills, deep valleys, and lofty mountains. I couldn't help but bring to mind the first line from the hymn, "How Great Thou art" - "As I with awesome wonder, survey the world thy hands have made"!!!

Reaching Coralee's safely, we rested up a few days and then were accompanied by Coralee & John, David and Paul on a side trip to John's grandparents in Toms River, N.Jersey. After a delicious lunch, we headed for the Ocean! We parked right alongside the boardwalk of a beach called Sea-Side Heights and got out to wade through ankle deep, clean, glistening white sand. Standing near the water's edge, we watched the huge breakers come rolling in. The tide was coming in too, and our grandchildren had a great time racing the water as it spread into foam.

Walking along the boardwalk, we saw that some of the many shops were already open for business. Then back to Coralee's. Went shopping one day and bought a latch hook rug kit, and our 12 yr. old David taught me how to work with it. Now, I have it over 1/3 finished!

We will head back for Cleveland on April 22 and my eye doctor's appt. At that time, I shall find out whether or not I shall need surgery in my other eye!

APRIL ISLAND HAPPENINGS:

As usual, Zion's Sunrise Easter service and breakfast following were lovely. St. Michael's Sedar Service and pot-luck on Maundy Thursday were well attended by over 50 persons. As usual, the readings and symbolic foods were an inspiration to all during this Holy week. And after heavy rains and foggy weather most of April, the sun took pity on us and shone beautifully for Easter Day. Perfect for church-going and the Easter Egg Hunt that afternoon.

Heard one traveler remark that from the air Kelleys looked like a giant sponge, we have had so much rain lately. Cottage owners who live on the back roads have had difficulty reaching home with vehicles due to the mud.



### MARCH HAPPENINGS:

My last month's copy had to be ready before I could report on the St. Patrick's Day dinner at the VFW Hall. Once more, it was a very delicious meal of melt-in-your-mouth corned beef, tender cabbage, parsley potatoes and various salads, plus Irish soda bread. Our thanks to Laurie and Steve James who master minded the affair, and to their helpers, Donna Farmer, Ethel Fox, Martha Onders and Bernice Terwilliger.

Bert Miller and "Koke" were among the very first arrivals in the pre-ferry gang. Wayne Finger came along soon after and the very day after Jim and Vange Bugel got back Vange stopped by with a jar of tangelo marmalade...and we didn't even house-sit for them while they were in Fla! As I said before, it's nice to be a "stay-at-home" when the "go-aways" bring back gifts for you!

Elmer and Rosie Craft were among the arrivals on the first ferry. She stopped by for her keys and gave us a huge bag of fresh oranges! When we get back to Kelleys on the 23rd, we shall find just about everybody back and we shall be so glad to see them all again!

Way back in Feb. there was a poem in Dear Abbeys column which caught my fancy and I read it to my husband: "I'd rather have one flower now, pink or white or red, than have a truckload of them when I'm dead" A few days later (St. Valentine's Day) Lee got all dressed for ice fishing and grabbed his lunch and took off. About 45 min. later, he was back, carrying in his arms a beautiful red tulip plant...My Valentine from him and Ronnie! It pays to advertise!

A recent Kiwanis bulletin that Lee receives had a saying "You can tell a man there are 350 billion stars in the sky and he will believe you... but tell him the paint on a bench is wet, and he will have to TOUCH IT This reminds me of the day Hank Knapp came with Bud Yoscovits to pick Lee's fishing shanty up. He saw Lee's name painted on the front and asked "Is that paint wet?" And before Lee could tell him that it was indeed VERY wet, as he had just finished lettering it, Hank ran his gloved hand over the name. What a mess! We love to kid Hank about that!

And speaking of Hank, there is a stone displayed prominently on the shelf at the VFW which has an uncanny resemblance to Hank Knapp. The story goes like this: Curt Boker, who has walked every inch of the island throughout his many years here, discovered the stone on a beach. He was impressed with the unique rock, which did indeed look like a



hand-carved caricature of Hank's profile. Curt carried the stone home and went one step further, he found an old blue knit beeny and put it on the stone's "head"...Voila! It was indeed truly Hank's profile captured there naturally by the sand and waves of Lake Erie. On display now at the VFW, the rock is the topic of many conversation and equally, many smiles of disbelieving customers. Best yet, Hank got just as big a kick out of the find as everybody else does.

Several issues ago, Del Ehrbar wrote a fine letter regarding how wonderful the year-round Islander's rally round to help out at funerals and being a fairly new year-round resident, I agree very much. Also, thanks so much for those compliments, Del...I am the lucky one!

#### RACCOONS DAMAGE TAYLOR'S TOEHOLD

Mother coons, it seems, never forget where they nursed their first brood and poor Jerry Taylor found out the hard way when he returned on the first ferry of the spring. Coons had ripped three large holes in the ceiling of his bunk house next to the cottage. The nest and added weight of the babies has caused the ceiling to sag and the animal waste has all but ruined his new ceiling! Jerry and Caroline found themselves facing the same problem several years ago, and never dreamed 'Mama Coon' would return to repeat her performance. They expect to remove the young ones within the next few weeks...anybody want a baby coon?

#### CHICKENS SELECTED TO SHOW AT HEIDELBURG

Teresa Trumpower, daughter of Mary and Walter Lesczynski, granddaughter of Rosetta Navorska, was recently selected to take her science fair project to Heidelberg for further judging at the state level. Having been selected as "superior" among the many projects from St. Mary's in Sandusky, OHio, the display provided first hand information on the development of a chicken during each day of it's development. Teresa raised the eggs in an incubator at home, and the handfull of chicks which were allowed to hatch have adopted her as their mother.

#### WEDDING SHOWER

A bridal shower was held on Sunday, April 20 at St. Michael's Church Hall for Debby Blatt. Given by Pam and Paula Haig, the affair was catered by Bea Matsō who also provided a hand-hooked throw pillow as her gift to the bride-to-be. Is there no end to this lady's talent? Deb and Keith Haig have set May 2nd as their wedding date in Sandusky.





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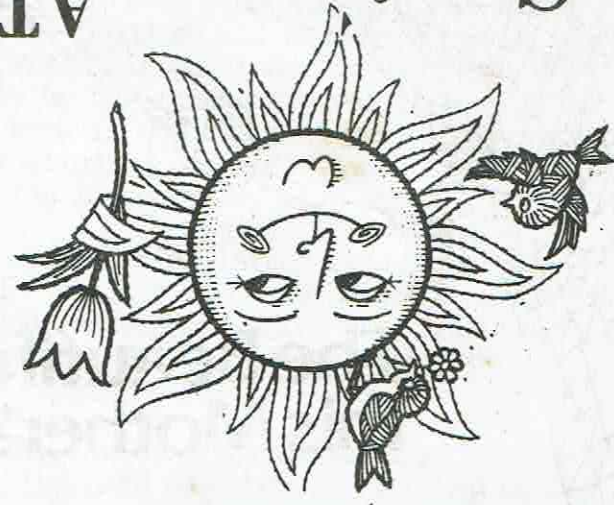
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# Spring: KELLEYS ISLAND

A Time For Joy And



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



M/M/ Ed Frindt  
 4856 Clague Rd  
 N. Olmsted, Ohio  
 44070

Frances Perkins  
 USA 15c

## And the winner is...

Two tried and true "diehards" managed to beat everyone else to the Marblehead boat dock on Saturday, April 5, 1980 for the first scheduled trip to Kelleys....Mr. and Mrs. Al Rumel of North Olmsted, Ohio are this year's "FIRST IN LINE" winners! "We had planned to be on the first ferry, but were really surprised to discover that we were the first ones there!" Marge confided. "We got there early, I'm not sure what time, but we did watch the sun rise over the lake that morning!" she added. An unannounced freight run several days previous from Sandusky found Ted Blatt aboard, making him the first to actually return and set foot on the island this spring by ferry boat. However, since most were not aware of this special trip, he is not eligible for the award.