



The Island Scene

20¢

No. 5

Kelleys Island, Ohio

May, 1994

Council Notes - March

- **Kyle Paine** is requesting that the Craft property be rezoned C2-T. Motion brought to its first reading.
- **Tim Sullivan** is pursuing obtaining federal and state aid to expand and improve K.I. Airport.
- Village will contribute up to \$400 for flowers planted in downtown park if other contributions are not forthcoming.
- A resolution will be drawn up designating that a section of the ball park be set aside for planting of memorial trees.

Council Notes - April (unapproved)

- **Mayor Haas** appointed **Chris Yako** to the Board of Zoning Appeals and **Ed Curilla** to the Refuse Disposal Board.
- A two-deer limit with bow and arrow will be in effect for K.I. this fall, but a special license for the second deer will be required.
- An Ordinance will be drawn restricting roller blades, skate boards and motorized, two-wheel, small scooters on roads.
- Ordinances dealing with airplane parking and car parking brought to first reading.
- Approval by Council to submit Pre-Application for a Federal/State Airport Grant.

Too Late to Publish Last Year

Ted and Bonnie Blatt are pleased to announce the birth of another granddaughter, Victoria, on September 15, 1993.

Upcoming Events

Derby Day - Saturday, May 7th.
Bird Watcher Weeks - May 8-12, 15-19.
Plant Sale in Park - Saturday, May 21.
Lilac Week - May 15-21.
Bed & Breakfast Tour - Sunday, May 22.

FIRST WINTERS....

A number of couples spent their first winter on Kelleys this year: **Bob and Barb Behlen**; **Jim and Poppy Hodgson**; **Stuart and Phyllis Humphrey**; **Norm and Phyllis Pahler**; and **Dave and Dolores Wiatroski**. Guess what? We all loved it!

Coradine's Corner

(by Corradine Myers)

Both our editor and I kept notes on the happenings of the past fall and winter, and as Phyllis (our editor) used her notes for a special April issue, I was about to toss my notes in the waste basket. Then Phyllis pointed out that I had quite a few personal notes, while hers had been more factual, and asked me to use mine for the May issue. So, here they are.

Concerning the deaths of Bud Yoscovits and John Ludu: They had been buddies in the Navy, and Bud had been responsible for John's coming to Kelleys to live. He and his family lived in the apartment above the V.F.W. Hall, and they worked at the bar there. They both had a hospital stay at the same time, and both returned home. Then they returned to the hospital within a short time of each other. This time neither of them recovered and both died within a week of each other, and were buried here on the Island.

On September 27th we were on our way to Independence, Ohio (our former home town) to attend a Kiwanis installation party. We drove on to the Bay Bridge, travelled a few feet and came to a halt - as traffic was solid ahead of us and we stayed right there for two solid hours on a cold rainy day! As you must know by now, a huge tractor-trailer hauling a prefabricated office building had overturned on the curve on the opposite end of the bridge from where we were and blocked three lanes of traffic. I forgot to mention that it was a very windy day. Needless to say, we never made it to Independence.

On Sweetest Day, October 16th, the Island Drill Team was sponsoring a spaghetti dinner and our Zion Church was having a pot luck with the meat being furnished! So, we hurried to the Pump and bought three carry-outs, brought them home, put them in the fridge, and then took off for the pot luck at Zion!

The Island Christmas Pot Luck was a bit of a disappointment this year. The hall was jam-packed and people were leaving as there were no more places to sit down. Finally, extra tables were brought in - and with all that delay and the LONG lines, the food was a little cold! And, in spite of "no smoking" signs, the air was hazy with all the smokers and 'last but not least', some of the people had brought along beer and liquor - hardly the right things to see at a children's family party! Hope steps will be taken to prevent a recurrence next year.

On New Year's Eve, I was all prepared for a quiet evening at home, as we could not afford the price of the Water Safety Cafe party. Then we had a phone call from Lucille saying
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Way Back Then....

by Russ Matso

Kelleys Island as we know it today is quite a different place from what it once was. It was *alive* with it's own way of life. For 'way back then' it was self-supporting with many of its own industries. There was some tourism also, and it did help the economy somewhat; but for now, I will talk about the fishing industries of Kelleys Island.

The commercial fishing industry on the Island did employ many people living here year-round; and for most of the Islanders in the fishing trade, it became a year-round occupation. In the winter-time the fishermen would keep busy building new nets; repairing old ones; fixing trucks, boats, and all the other equipment needed. The few men who were laid off for part of the winter would go ice fishing. That would put food on the table; and many of them sold their fish to the fish markets in Sandusky, Ohio. Some of the women, especially wives of fishermen, would spend much of their time ice fishing. So, along with the normal activities of winter life on the Island, everyone was kept rather busy.

Back then, there were a few commercial fisheries that were based on Kelleys. They included the Booth Fisheries, Post, Lay Brothers, and a few more; but their rigs did operate out of the Island with Island men working them.

Along with those, were many Island owned and operated rigs which were in the majority. Some of the later owners' names might be recognizable to today's readers, like: Bill Perruchon, Ben and Sonny Elfers, Francie Betzenheimer, Jack Sennish, Don DeBrova, The 5 B's, Orval Lange, Bob Bickley, Logan Bickley, etc. There were many others here as well.

The methods of fishing varied with trap netting, gill netting, and pond netting being the types most used.

Fishing did make up a good part of the Island's economy, but as many of us can remember, back in the fifties, Lake Erie was in a very bad way regarding water quality. With all that pollution, the water was killing off much of the marine life in it; and along with that - the fishing industries of Lake Erie. Later, when the water quality got better, and the fish started coming back, the laws that governed fishing on the lake got more stringent, limiting the amount and size of the fish to be taken. This caused many fishing rigs to stop operating because they couldn't make enough money to make it feasible.

Now, there are a few trap net rigs fishing around the islands, but none of them are from Kelleys Island. Gill netting has been stopped altogether in Lake Erie, except for some going on in the Canadian side of the lake. Pond pole netting had gone out many years ago; the last pond netting was done in the waters around Pelee Island.

In the hay day of commercial fishing, there were many good times, and a lot of amusing stories to tell. I hope to come back to you readers with some of them in the near future, along with information about other industries of the Island, and how they played a big part in our history.

Letters/Articles to the Editor:

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Memorial Day on Kelleys Island

by June Campbell

Neatly trimmed headstones; flowers placed by loved-ones on the graves of ancestors they never knew; and flags fluttering in G.A.R. markers to recognize military service - the cemetery is resplendent in its colors for another Memorial Day.

Last year 103 flags were placed at gravesites for the traditional Memorial Day observance taking several hours to accomplish.

Placing the flags to honor soldiers and sailors from long-ago wars has been lovingly done by one family for longer than anyone can remember. Mary Augusta McKillips considers it an honor and cheerfully checks her list and moves among the rows of graves to locate the flag holders. Often they need straightening or re-setting before the stars and stripes can be inserted. Each time, Mary bends or kneels to complete the task.

The family tradition began with her parents, John and Mary (Fetterson) Hughes. As a child, Mary and her brother, Clayton, helped their parents. When both elder Hugheses passed away, Mary and her husband, Oscar, continued. After Oscar died, Mary remained loyal and dedicated to the family task.

Flags are furnished by the VFW post, and Mary states she is grateful she is still allowed to decorate the veterans' graves. It is a matter of family tradition and pride for Mary. We are proud of you, too.

LIBRARY HOURS

Wednesday: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Saturday: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

(The Library is located in the basement of the school.)

Coradine's Corner (continued)

they were getting together a party for West Bay, so we decided to go - as the price was right. The food was so lavish and so good, and with all our friends there, we had a wonderful New Year's Eve! Thanks to Jim and Carmen Palladino!

Just the other day, April 8th, Jessie Martin gave us the news that Sally Fresch Dwight had had another baby girl, Lorenza Teresa, (an old Fresch family name) and she also told us that the Gloria Fresch, who had been killed in an auto accident was the wife of George - a first cousin of Albert (Abe) Fresch. Such is life - "the Lord giveth and He taketh away". Amen!