



Making Kelleys Island History Everybody's Business

# Kelleys Island Historical Association

Volume 3, Issue 2

Spring, 2006

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## Board Members

**President**  
Mike Feyedelem

**Recording Secretary**  
Sharon Brunell McIntire

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Claudia Brown

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Claudia Brown (text) & Jacquie Kranyak (design)

**Ways and Means**  
Mike Feyedelem

**Acquisitions and Display**  
Ila Dick, Russ Matso & Mike Feyedelem

**Education**  
Claudia Brown & Mike Feyedelem

## Rosella (Elfers) Beatty diary excerpts

*This is a continuation of the Rosella Beatty diary that we had printed a portion of in our last newsletter. For Rosella's background information please see page 5.*

### Tuesday, March 16

Temp 50. Very windy S to SW. **Henny** went to special council meeting at **R. Brown's**. Radio said boat was coming Friday. Washed, ironed, mended and baked. [Roland Brown]

### Wednesday, March 17

Temp 30. Cloudy and damp. **Sonny** and **Herb** brought boats over. Washed my kitchen ceiling and cleaned dresser drawers. Talked to **Ila** and **Gerry** on phone (Rosella's daughters). [Sonny **Elfers** and Herb **Bickley**]

### Thursday, March 18

Temp 33. Beautiful clear day. **Henny** and **Orv** left with **Hinde** at 8 A.M. to get their boats. I'm washing and cleaning. [Orv is **Orville Lange**]



Cont., Pg. 2

## A Tribute to Betsy—

If it was summer with more people on the island, I would have asked many of you for your thoughts of Betsy on her passing from this life. Because, if you knew Betsy, you were her friend, because she was everyone's friend. She was gracious and caring, and overlooked all of our shortcomings as human beings. I met Betsy Walcott through the KI Historical Association when I worked with the gift shop closely one year and I was told that she might help organize the volunteers. When I called her and asked her to once again volunteer her time, she said yes. She continued to be our coordinator for the gift shop volunteers even though she was locked in a struggle with cancer for several years. She was always cheerful, always asking about

others, and never put off by our personal foibles. Betsy is missed and will continue to be missed by the many who have crossed her path in life.

### Claudia Brown More memories of Betsy

It was a privilege to know Betsy. Although our paths seldom crossed, each time we met it was as though we had known each other for years. I felt comfortable in her presence and she gave me the sense that, no matter what the circumstances, "everything will be OK." She had a wonderful sense of humor, and it was a joy to be in her company, especially when we had "lunch with the girls." She did more than her share of the volunteering. Wherever there was a need, she was there, and always with a smile. If I was to be asked why I enjoy

living on Kelleys Island, I would say it is because of people like Betsy.

Mary Lou Gilles

*Arti Mader has allowed us to re-print excerpts from what she wrote to Betsy's family:*

Betsy was a special, classy lady. Although I went to high school with her, she was an upperclassman, and we didn't know each other. As a lowly freshman, and new to the school, I was in awe of her. Betsy was a special, classy lady.

Later, when we met on Kelleys Island, I found that she was still one cool lady. She was honest and unpretentious, kind, thoughtful, and generous—qualities that are hard to find in people today.

I found that I could talk to her about just (cont. page 2)

## Tribute to Betsy, cont.

about anything, and she always had something interesting or funny to say, or a perspective that I hadn't thought of.

She will be missed not only by you and your families, but also by those of us who were her friends. She really added something rare and special to our island women's group, and it's hard to know that she won't be joining us in our summer silliness.

Our Red Hat Society president, Jane Wick, sent all of us members a card near Valentine's day, that contained this message: "God gave us memories so we could have roses in winter and mothers forever." This seems an especially true sentiment for all of us right now.

I do want to add that at her memorial service, one of her friends said that she and Betsy had been having a glass of wine

in the garden, and a cardinal flew by. Betsy said, "In my next life, I want to come back as a cardinal." The friend said that when next we see a cardinal, just think of it as Betsy dropping by to say hi! I thought that was a lovely story.

The next morning, at home, when I went to let the dogs out, there was the biggest, brightest, fattest, red cardinal you ever saw, and we haven't had many cardinals around this winter in our hemlock tree--I just looked up and said, "Hi, Betsy!" It's nice to have such a happy remembrance of Betsy.

She was one very special lady, and she fought her cancer with such dignity. Once last summer when I told her I admired her courage in the face of all she was battling, she downplayed her bravery, and said, "You do what ya' gotta do." She didn't dramatize it or anything else, she just said it like it was, and that's what was special about Betsy.

**Arti Mader**

## Rosella's Diary, cont.

### Friday, March 19

Temp 50. Went to town. Very rough - S wind. Hurricane in afternoon at 1:30. Demolished **Sonny's** airplane and **Bob** was in school that was hit. Stayed with **Madeline** all night. Much damage to Island. Trees and chimneys were toppled. Our dock was tilted. First trip of boat. [Sonny Elfers]

### Saturday, March 20

Temp 60. Came home at 9:00 a.m. **Mary** and I and kids took ride and viewed damage. **Ila** and **Gerry** came on the boat. **Henny** set the first nets - 5. **Rita** came home with baby. [Rita **Betzenheimer** and the baby is **Teri Betzenheimer**]

### Sunday, March 21

Set 5 more nets. Rain storm with lightning and thunder in evening. Very foggy most of day. Gerry left with **Hershberger** at 3:40 p.m. [Hershberger was a plane pilot & flew to Kelleys Island]

### Monday, March 22

Temp 52 degrees. Washed. Wayne came at 9 a.m.. Ila left on 8 o'clock boat.

### Tuesday, March 23

Temp 40. Northeast. First lift today - 13 boxes. [fishing with nets]

### Wednesday, March 24

Fair. Set four nets out line. Helped **Mary M.** get side altar ready for Holy Thursday. Wayne and I raked the whole yard. [Mary **Marchky**]

### Thursday, March 25

Weather NE. and cold. Went to 7:30 Mass on Holy Thursday. Church cold and door was open when we got home - nearly froze. Had 16 boxes fish. Went to services at 7 PM. Had choir practice after. Hear **Howie Brown** has Post Office. [Howard Brown will be next Postmaster]

### Friday, March 26

Windy and warm. Services a 7:30 AM. No afternoon Service but again at 7 PM. Helped Mary **Marchky** fix altar. Gerry came home with Hershberger for \$1.15 and missed the 3 o'clock boat. Wayne left at 2 o'clock for Sandusky - forgot fish - Sonny took them over. Had 14 boxes of fish out of 4 nets out at the line. Blew fresh from the south in the afternoon.

### Saturday, March 27

Went to Church at 7 AM. Kids came on 4 o'clock boat. **Wayne, Marion, Ila** and **Jim**. [James Himmelein, daughter Ila's future husband]

### Sunday, March 28

Went to 9 o'clock Easter Mass. Nice day about freezing around 25 degrees. Nice sunny afternoon.

### Monday, March 29

Went to pot luck supper at Marquette. Had a good supper and time. 23 boxes fish around Island. [Marquette was Marquette School at the corner of Woodford Rd. and Addison St., the Catholic School and Social Hall aka Marquette Hall after the school closed]

### Tuesday, March 30

34 boxes fish out of 6 nets at line. Very windy. Temperature 26. Ila left on 2 o'clock boat.

### Wednesday, March 31

Barometer way down. Spring storm - rain and wind southeast to south strong. 5 boxes out of 7 nets around island. Cleaned attic.

### Thursday, April 1

Temperature 46. Sunny - cool - damp. 2 boxes fish out of 13 nets. Nice day on lake. Henny gone to Council meeting.

### Friday, April 2

Clear day. Went to town - had dinner with Ila. 20 boxes fish.

### Saturday, April 3

Fair weather. Gerry came on Challenger. Masquerade at school. 23 boxes of fish out of 17 nets.

### Sunday, April 4

Gerry left at 5 PM. Henny went to Church Council meeting.

### Monday, April 5

Temp. 58. Fair - moderate south winds. Washed and cleaned closets. 42 boxes fish.

### Tuesday, April 6

Cold and damp. Washed all the woodwork upstairs. Had 34 boxes fish.

### Wednesday, April 7

A little warmer but threatening all day. Aired all bedding and finished cleaning upstairs. 32 boxes.

## 2006 Calendar

- **Historical Home Tour**  
Saturday, July 8
- **Art Show**  
Saturday, Aug. 5
- **Butterfly Festival**  
Saturday, Sept. 9

■ The KIHA Board meets on the third Thursday of the month at 4:45 p.m. in the office behind the Old Stone Church. If you have anything that you would like the Board to know or discuss, please contact President Mike Feyedelem, or another Board member before a Board meeting, or write to the Kelleys Island Historical Association; P. O. Box 328, Kelleys Island, OH 43438.

■ If you have any comments or suggestions, please address them to a Board Member or to the President.

## New acquisitions



Placards were once used to identify houses that were quarantined due to illness.

KIHA has been given two of these: for whooping cough and chicken pox.

Lydia (Dwelle) (Ohlemacher) Bechtel has recently given many family items to the Historical Association for display. It is so recent a gift that we do not yet have a complete list, but we expect to include more information and photographs in coming newsletters.

### Treasurer's report



General Fund:	\$32,536.38
Checking Account:	4,033.72
<b>Total :</b>	<b>\$36,570.10</b>

## Rosella's Diary concludes for this issue...

### Monday, May 31

Still a NE breeze. Fishermen didn't work. Took kids back to Lakeside at 7:30 PM. Wayne forgot billfold, Don his books, Gerry the fish. Gerry fell down steps at bank - tore shoes - x!!\*!, if you know what I mean! [Don Haig]

### Tuesday, June 1

Beautiful day. Had forty boxes fish - good for this time of year. Television for the first time at Martin's and Tackie's. [Martin's Bar now the Village Pump, Tackie ran the Casino]

### Wednesday, June 2

Weather warm and clear. Painted cockpit floor blue - All remover wasn't off so Vi & I went down at 8 PM and took it off. Some job. (This was on Fri, June 4.)

### Thursday, June 3

Temp hot. Henny went to council meeting.

### Friday, June 4

Cleaned cellar and repaired (replaced) screens in comb. doors. Very hot.

### Saturday, June 5

Ila and Gerry came in PM. NE wind - fair day. Henny went to Chamber of

Commerce meeting - spent evening with Kate. Commencement (should have gone). [Kate Betzenheimer]  
© Jeri Yoest

## Rosella's Diary background:

Rosella's Diary (1948) was given to Ila (Beatty) (Himmelein) Dick's daughter Jeri (Himmelein) (Dick) Yoest by her Grandmother Rosella (Elfers) Beatty.

Rosella was born June 15, 1903 and passed from this life in May, 1985. She was raised on Kelleys Island, the daughter of Rose Moross and Walter Elfers. Rosella took piano lessons as a young girl, about age 12, traveling by ferry by herself with her music. After twelve lessons she decided she had an ear for music and stopped her lessons. Rosella played piano for silent movies at the Casino and dances and masquerades at the Town Hall.

She also played the organ at St. Michael's Church for forty years. She

## Memorials & Donations

In memory of Betsy Walcott by E. Anne Eddowes, Laura Jean & Frank Pohorence, Lois & Paul Brown, Madeleine & Roger Williams, Russell & Bea Matso, Anne Sennish

In memory of Dawn Kekelik from Geri & Lyle Bickley, Anne Sennish

In memory of Ron Bechtel by Lydia (Dwelle Ohlemacher) Bechtel

In memory of Patricia Baker by Geri & Lyle Bickley

In memory of Theresa Marie Os-theimer by Bea & Russ Matso

In memory of Ivan T. Lange by Esther Carlson, Richard & Juanita Collins, Audrey Karshuk, Lois & Paul Brown, Linda & Thomas James, Dennis & Jacqueline Darling, Karl Beatty, Ruth Bandeen, and Bob Pimsner

served on the Kelleys Island School Board and she was the first woman to be elected to Kelleys Island Village Council.

Rosella married Henry "Henny" T. Beatty. Their children were Wayne, Ila, Gerry, Ronny, and Mary Ellen. In addition, they had three children who died in infancy.

Through reading Rosella's daily entries, you can get a pretty good sense of what life was like on Kelleys Island for a wife and mother in 1948. We are reprinting the entries here through the generosity of Jeri Yoest. Biographical information was written with the consultation of Rosella's daughters Ila Dick and Gerry Bickley. Rosella's home was the 2nd home behind the West home on Huntington Lane. In 1948 there were 500-600 year-round residents on Kelleys. Explanatory notes were added.

This concludes the second excerpt from Rosella (Elfers) Beatty's Diary. We expect to print more in upcoming issues. Please let us know if you enjoyed reading them. Thank you Jeri for sharing them with us!

**MAKING KELLEYS ISLAND HISTORY  
EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS**

Kelleys Island Historical Association  
P.O. Box 328  
Kelleys Island, OH 43438

A 501(C)3 organization.  
All contributions are tax  
deductible.

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Kelleys Island Historical Association

*We're on the web!*  
[kelleysislandhistorical.org](http://kelleysislandhistorical.org)

*All stories and photographs in this issue by  
Claudia Brown.*

**Kelleys Island Historical Association  
P. O. Box 328  
Kelleys Island, Ohio 43438**

Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Summer address: (from / / to / / ) P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Winter address: P. O. Box \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

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