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HISTORICAL SOCIETY of GREATER LANSING

Vol. V, No. 4

P. O. Box 515, Lansing, Michigan

January 1964

IN MEMORIAM--KENYON BOYER--1901--1963

It is with sadness that we report the death of a friend of history--Ken Boyer of Marquette on December 12.

Ken was Managing Director of the Marquette Historical Society. He was a graduate of Northern Michigan College and the University of Michigan. He sailed the Great Lakes and the Atlantic, and was a teacher in the Detroit School system.

He worked for four years on the Daily News, Smyrna, Florida and then returned to Marquette where he served in an editorial position on the Marquette Mining Journal. In 1931, he became an announcer on the Radio Station WDMJ when they first opened and for 14 years gave regular radio features called "Historical Highlights" as one of that station's public service programs. The feature column "90 Years Ago" in the Mining Journal was Ken's work. He was also editor of the newspaper of the Northern Diocese of the Episcopal Church. In 1961, he received the award from the Historical Society of Michigan for "his great interest in and the promotion of Michigan history over a considerable number of years."

BEAVER ISLAND ASSOCIATION TO BE GUESTS

We were most fortunate in obtaining the right person to introduce our guest speaker for our meeting January 8--the President of the Beaver Island Association, George L. Egbert. Mr. Egbert is with Public Relations at Oldsmobile in Lansing.

In telling about the Association Egbert says it includes anyone in Michigan who is interested in Beaver Island and this includes many of the "Islanders." There are about 150 members and once a year they have a reunion at Dines Terrace in Lansing in early March. This year will mark their fourth annual meeting.

The meeting is purely social and is a mixed group. Egbert has a cottage on Sand Bay on the Island and is the association's most enthusiastic supporter.

All members are welcome to join us in hearing Dr. Palmer tell of his experience of 30 years as resident physician on the Island.

DR. RUSSELL E. PALMER, BEAVER ISLAND PHYSICIAN

One of the most rewarding meetings of the season is to be held at 8:00 o'clock, Wednesday night, January 8 at the Michigan Historical Commission Archives, 3369 North Logan, Lansing. Dr. Russell E. Palmer, resident physician on Beaver Island is going to share with us his many experiences during the years on the Island.

Russell E. Palmer, M.B., M.D., M.C.P.S., graduated from the University of Toronto, Canada. He went to Beaver Island December of 1923 at a time when the population was 1800 souls and left the Island October 1952--the population had declined to 150.

A news clipping from the Grand Rapids Press, of December 20, 1949, carries the headline regarding Dr. Palmer--as STILL GOING STRONG. That headline is still appropriate January 1964. His "shingle" hangs at 535 South Capital Avenue in Lansing.

The clipping goes on to say that the "horse-and-buggy-doctor, made famous through the hardships he overcame everyday to serve his patients, was supposed to have been outmoded with the passing of the horses and buggy--but he wasn't."

The isolation of the Island made other modes of transportation imperative such as horse and sleigh, fish tug, motor launch, automobile, aircraft and just plain "shanks' mare."

Not to take a chance that the good Doctor doesn't happen to mention it, this same newspaper article reports his membership in the American Physicians' Art Association and at one time was awarded first prize for the best oil painting exhibited in St. Louis. He is also a stamp collector.

Dr. Palmer is a member of the Ingham County Medical Society and the British Medical Society.

He and his wife summer in Charlevoix and winter in Lansing.

TWO HISTORICAL BOOKS OFF THE PRESS

MICHIGAN WOMEN IN THE CIVIL WAR--published by Michigan Civil War Centennial Observance Commission, Lansing.

SILVER CITY--by Knox Jamison--The little settlement of Silver City, Ontonagon County, Michigan has one of the most romantic and interesting histories of any town in the state. As president of the Ontonagon County Historical Society he has taken an active interest in preserving and recording the history of this county.

BEAVER ISLAND

--Aptly named, "America's Emerald Isle, it is the largest Island in Lake Michigan--54 square miles. It is said that it has more than its share of natural charm. Approaching the island by motorship, visitors become aware of this outpost of nature the moment the island fully breaks into view--trees snuggle the shore line screening from casual view the lakes, streams and noiseless forest that lie beyond.

In the 1800's this island was the center of trade and commerce--even for people from the mainland--as it served as a wooding station for the steamboats carrying supplies and passengers.

FORGOTTEN COMMUNITIES OF CENTRAL MICHIGAN

Ford Ceasar reports that his annual report under the above title is in press. He had hoped it would be ready for Christmas distribution. Again, our thanks to OLDMOSBILE.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING

P. O. Box 515
Lansing, Michigan

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN

--has published its newsletter under a new format--and a beautiful job it is. They are looking for a "sprightly title". Please send your suggestions before January 15 to HSM, Room 309, Civic Center, Lansing.

The lead story in this Volume 1, No. 1 issue is about James Jesse Strang, who on July 8, 1850, "donned red robe and metal crown and was established King and his subjects were his Mormons" and his kingdom--Beaver Island. He ruled until his assassination in 1856 by some of his disenchanted followers.

The Society has also printed a new historical map of Michigan, designed to be both decorative, educational, and as a fund raising tool. Price is \$1.50 with a price of .85 on orders of 101-1000 or .75 on orders over 1000. They seek help in promoting this history project.

A NEW YEARS RESOLUTION FOR YOU

It is urgently requested that each member bring in one new member or give a gift of membership to someone who would be interested in joining our Society. Membership this year is \$3.00 and if we are to continue publishing TOWN CRIER we have to have resources.

FEBRUARY 12, FAMILY PRESENTATION MEETING

Arrangements are being made for the family history meeting at the State Library, now located at 735 East Michigan Avenue, Lansing. This is one of our most popular programs. Watch TOWN CRIER for further details.