

# Les Cheneaux

By Helen Shoberg  
484-2626 mink1@cedarville.net

The weather we are having here in the Eastern Upper Peninsula, and many other place, is certainly unusual for the end of December. The thermometer has been reading 40 degrees and above, the grass is turning green and, if it continues, I'm sure the trees will begin to bud!

In spite of the lack of "sleigh-bells-ringing" weather, holiday baking and last-minute mailing is taking place. Christmas lights are glowing, presents are being stacked under the tree, and children are full of anticipation, as they always are this time of the year. The weather has not made a difference in the excitement. College students are also home for a nice winter break during the next weeks.

Rose Miller has expressed great appreciation to all who baked cookies and special treats for the community Christmas party December 3. She said the coordinated effort of everyone made for a wonderful party.

Carolers from First Union Church were out last Saturday evening and I was one of the lucky ones serenaded. My little dog, Daisy, almost spoiled the some of the songs with her excited barking, but finally calmed down. She liked the music too!

There was a very nice Christmas party at the Mackinac Straits Hospital Long Term Care facility on Thursday. All of the hallways and the

dining rooms were decorated with Christmas wreaths and lighted trees. A full-course dinner was served to the patients and many, many guests. It was a nice time for everyone.

Bruce Maze won \$100 in the December 14 Lions Club lottery.

This week's story from Bruce Patrick is another about the ice fishing for lake trout that used to take place near Goose Island many years ago. He says:

"We used to fish through the ice years ago when the ice was frozen between the outer shore of Marquette Island and Goose Island. On this one day, ice was frozen to Goose Island. Gene Mertaugh was out there with his car (cars used to drive out from Hessel when ice conditions were right).

"On this day that he drove out, a lead was open near Goose Island. He started to fish when all of a sudden, the ice started to drift so he could not drive off. Well, he just waited, and eventually the whole ice field swung back to meet solid ice. Thus, Gene drove off to a good ice field. How do you like that, to be so lucky?"

"Some people nowadays wonder how cars could drive way out on to the big lake to fish for lake trout. Every once in a while, ice conditions were such that one could drive out from Hessel to fish near Goose

Island. On one day in February, I had several cars that came out from Hessel just to stop and ask, 'How is the fishing?'"

It certainly seems that Gene Mertaugh was one lucky fisherman on that day so long ago, but I'm sure he must have had some very bad moments as he watched that ice

break away, wondering how he was going to get back to Hessel. It's hard to imagine anything more frightening.

The First Union Church choir, under the direction of Alan Jacobus, will present its Christmas cantata during the regular service Sunday morning, December 24, at 10:30 a.m.



First Union Church of Cedarville carolers, (back row, from left) Joe Forrester, Jim Berryhill, Pastor Jeff Meyers, Robert W. Smith; (center) Becky Meyers, Lynn Forrester, Betty Struble; (front) Pat Feldhake, and Madge Berryhill, traveled around Clark Township this week to sing Christmas songs to residents, particularly those who cannot leave their homes. Jim Struble is in the group, but not visible in the picture.



Santa Claus (Clark O'Brien of Cedarville) made an appearance at the Cedarville High School and Cedarville Middle School Winter Music Concert Thursday, December 14, and greeted guests including Sue Rye of Hessel, while her husband, Glenn, watches.

## OBITUARY

### Richard Benson

Richard Lloyd Benson of Drummond Island drove large trucks, and formerly worked for United Parcel Service, moving to Flint with the company when it moved there.

Mr. Benson was 61 when he died Saturday, December 16, 2006, at his home.

He was born April 18, 1945, in Harbor Beach to Lloyd Graton and Lillian (nee Badgley) Benson. He grew up in the thumb area of Michigan, and was graduated from Harbor Beach High School. He married Karin Marie Mayes November 17, 1984, in Lapeer.

While on Drummond Island, he was a member of the Drummond Island Lutheran Church. He was a HAM radio operator under the call sign WA8HQW. He enjoyed computer work, fixing electronics, and working on jukeboxes.

Mr. Benson is survived by his wife, Karin; two sons and their families, Steve Benson of Burton and Mark and Angie Benson of Davidson; one stepson and his family, Russell and Denise Tarnowsky of Waterford; one stepdaughter and her family, Penny and Daniel Fantin of



Richard Benson

Roseville, and nine grandchildren, Jackie Benson, Remington Ashley Benson, Montana Benson, Kensington Benson, Loren Tarnowsky, Emma Tarnowsky, Leslie Fantin, Garrett Fantin, and Darah Fantin.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and by one stepson, Scott Tarnowsky.

Burial was in Drummond Island Cemetery, following a private family service. Deacon Charles Krahnke officiated. Reamer Galer Funeral Home of Pickford assisted the family.

#### ATTENTION SAULT TRIBE MEMBERS

Unit III Board of Directors

Fred Paquin & Keith Massaway

would like to let the

TRIBAL MEMBERS IN UNIT III

know that there will not be a Unit III Meeting for December in observance of the holidays.

If you have any questions or concerns you wish to discuss with your tribal board representatives please contact them directly.

*Fred and Keith would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and it is their hope that you enjoy the holidays with your families and friends!*

ATTENTION SAULT TRIBE MEMBERS

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*Best wishes to all for a joyous Christmas and a happy New Year!*

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