

Journal Tells of Dolsen Family History in Area St. Ignace

By Miriam Blair

643-7994

The following information was supplied to columnist Miriam Blair by Ralph Dolsen of Warren:

A genealogy chart shows the relationship of Gilbert Dolsen, P.J. Dolsen, Charles Dolsen, and Nettie Elizabeth (nee Dolsen) Closs. The name Dolsen or Dolson is used interchangeably.

P.J. Dolsen's journal shows that he bought land and started a farm on Lant Lake Road. When he passed away, Charles Dolsen took the farm. He stayed there with his mother, Mary (nee Lant) Dolsen until she passed away.

He then moved to St. Ignace and gave the farm to the Closs family. Mr. Dolsen's family lived in St. Ignace until 1963.

Mrs. Dolsen's brother owned the farm across the road. Sarah (nee Dolsen) and her husband, Robert Steele, owned the farm west of the Dolsen-Closs Farm. When Ralph Dolsen was young, he spent a lot of summer vacations from school at the Steele and Closs farms.

P.J. Dolsen did farming, logging, and contract hauling with his horses. His son, Charles Dolsen, helped as he grew up.

In 1910 he worked at the brickyard at various times to clear land and mine the clay. They mined the clay with scoops and a team of horses. When Charles Dolsen moved from the farm to St. Ignace, he worked for the railroad as a car inspector, and helped with the derailment car repairs.

In 1909, John Closs did some work for Mr. Dolsen, and he paid



Roy Closs was an engineer on the tug Favorite in St. Ignace in 1939. (Photograph courtesy of Ralph Dolsen)

him for his labor. He paid Mr. Closs \$10.50 for labor on logs for 700 posts, and \$3 for two days labor on logs. (Pretty good wages?)

In 1900, 1904, and 1905,

records show P.J. Dolsen charged *The Republican News* for cordwood that may have been for heating. He also charged 80 cents for two bushels of apples, which may have been grown on the farm.

Mackinac Island

By Jeannette Doud

847-3301

Saturday, July 7, Mackinac was a wedding haven. Seventeen brides chose the Island for their special day, many at Ste. Anne's and the Little Stone Church, while others preferred to be married outside on a magnificent, bright, warm sunny day. The wedding carriages with their high-topped drivers were kept unusually busy driving the beautiful brides; much cheering could be heard from onlookers. The date was especially chosen as it was the seventh day of the seventh month in the year 2007.

We send happy birthday wishes to Kelly Bean July 13. Hope you enjoy your day.

I was delighted and honored to attend Cecelia Flanagan's 100th birthday celebration Wednesday, July 4. Her room at the Mackinac Straits Hospital Long Term Care facility in St. Ignace was filled with red roses and flower arrangements. The party was held in a large guest parlor decorated with balloons, and everyone was treated to a special birthday cake and ice cream. Music was provided by Cecelia's nephew, Jack Welcher, who played "Happy Birthday" on the piano as we all joined in the singing. Another delight for the guest of honor was the playing of many Irish songs and the theme from "Somewhere in Time." Cecelia was pleased to welcome a special guest, Father Rey Garcia, pastor of Ste. Anne's, as well as her daughter, Kay Hoppenrath, Mr. Welcher, and his sister-in-law from Rudyard, and myself.

Mackinac is at its peak for beauty. The pleasant days and temperatures bring many visitors each day. If you have leisure time, look to the east each morning to see the rising sun as it sends its rays all over the

Island and the Straits of Mackinac. It is truly an unbelievable sight. Come evening, walk to the west end of the boardwalk to catch a glimpse of the setting sun as it slowly descends, with the Mackinac Bridge in the background. You must see it yourself, as it will be an unforgettable memory of your visit to our magical Island. Mackinac is noted for its charm and natural beauty.

Happy birthday to Ken Sawatzki of Lansing, the father of Jill Sawatzki, and to Jim Murray of Petoskey, who both celebrated July 15.

"Five Swans a Swimming." A call Sunday afternoon, July 8, from Karen Leonard described the beauty seen from her cottage at Stonebrooke looking out at the Straits of Mackinac, where five beautiful white swans were swimming. It was fun for Karen's daughter, Shannon, and four-year-old granddaughter, who enjoyed such a natural picture.

We are very proud of four members of our community. They are Mark "Bo" Biellinski, Molly Green, Brandy Shunk, and Lorie Sturm, who completed Basic EMT training. They're very dedicated, and started classes last October and finished in April. They will join Allied EMS and work on the ambulance. Congratulations to Bo, Molly, Brandy, and Lorie from Island friends.

The Mackinac Island fire and police departments were alerted Saturday afternoon, July 7, that a plane had landed at the Mackinac Island Airport without its landing gear down. Fortunately, no one was injured and no fire occurred.

Jack and Sharon Shaffer of Gwinn have enjoyed a visit this past week with their son, Jeff, and

Dwight LaPine at their home on Market Street. Great to see them back on Mackinac.

The old-fashioned Fourth of July celebration on Windermere Point for Island children and visitors warmed our hearts, seeing them have such a wonderful time. There was face painting, games, races, ice cream cones, balloons, spraying the big fire hose, and the traditional grease pole.

Bob Benser had a wonderful time putting money on the top of the pole and watching the children try to climb up to get it. It was a beautiful day, with laughter, fun, and a magical spirit. The Mackinac Island Fire Department, with helpers Jennifer Blosswick, Brenda Bunker, and Kelly Bean, who organized and worked this event. In the evening, American Legion Post 299 members Roy Bissell, Ben Horn, Paul Wandrie Sr., and Glenn St. Onge carried the colors in front of the Mackinac Island firetruck as it paraded through town and ended at the Mackinac Island Public School for the fireworks. Many people worked to bring delight and fun on this very special day.

Frank Blosswick Jr. and Eric St. Onge celebrated their birthdays July 17.

A call today from Mary Wojcik gave me the following news. Judy

* Please turn to page 22

We needed rain, as our lawns were turning yellow, but I'm not sure about those high winds and cool temperatures. No sense complaining.

Another successful Mud Run took place Saturday, July 7, at St. Ignace. Drivers and spectators enjoyed a fun afternoon's entertainment at a reasonable price. The animal shelter held a concession stand.

Kelly Steiner, daughter of Laurie and Dean Steiner, was graduated from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo Saturday, June 30, with a degree in accounting. Grandparents and immediate family from St. Ignace attended the ceremony. It was a beautiful day for the graduation.

The Blue Water Ramblers will be at the Marina Thursday, July 19. Bring your favorite chair and enjoy the music.

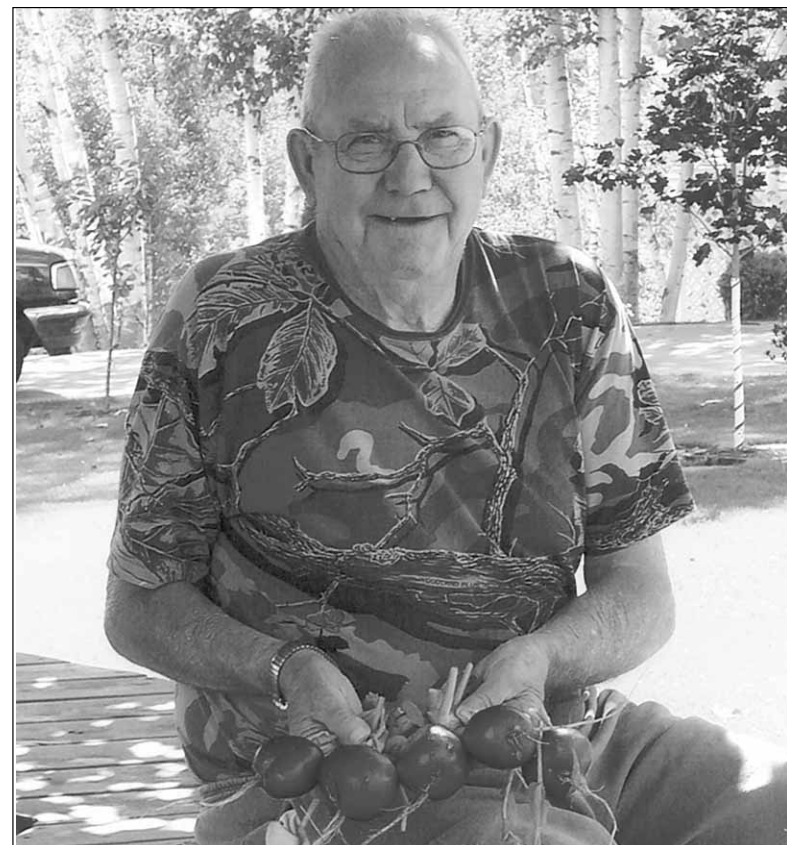
The Lions Club recently inducted new officers June 12. Willie LaLonde is the King Lion, or president. The first vice president is Bruce Dodson, second vice president is Fred Strich, and third vice president is Mary Kae Tamlyn. The newly elected secretary is Mike Wilkins. The treasurer is Don Gustufson. Merlin Doran was elected as the Tail Twister, and Eric Dodson is the new Lion Tamer. Paul Grondin and Craig Therrian were elected as the new directors. The Lion of the Year award went to Paula McNamara.

An interesting reservation came in for a sunset cruise Monday, July 9. As I spoke with Michael Steinman of Scarsdale, New York, he was very excited to take a journey under the Mackinac Bridge as his grandfather, David Steinman, was its engineer. While in town, Michael Steinman had a chance to meet and visit with Larry Rubin, former secretary of the bridge authority.

Todd Insley, our local Waste Management employee, has been assigned to a three-week work trip to Oakland, California, where there is a workers' strike. He is the only Waste Management employee from the entire U.P. district that was chosen for the assignment so far. We wish him well and a safe return home to his wife, Andrea, and his two boys, Donovan and Brendan.

Anita Dobbraty of Gahanna, Ohio, will be visiting in town the last week of July and reports that her brother, Steve Campbell of St. Ignace, is employed at the Mackinac Bridge. They plan to enjoy the celebration of the Mackinac Bridge together and even take the fireworks cruise.

Everyone enjoys the old photographs in our newspaper, including those of the train wreck that happened around 1928, sent in by Peter Dolsen. I got in touch with Mr. Dolsen and received the nicest handwritten letter with more pictures. Peter is 87 years old and is the brother of my grandmother, Nettie Closs. Every day we learn something new. I figured he was a relative, as I have the identical picture of the train wreck. He also sent a genealogy



Melvin Lant Jr. of Lant Road in St. Ignace shows off the five large radishes that grew in his garden. The radishes each measure between seven and eight-and-a-half inches.

chart and a picture of my uncle, Roy Closs, on the tug *Favorite* in 1939.

Also of interest to history buffs, author and historian Les Bagley will visit the St. Ignace Public Library Wednesday, July 25, at 6:30 p.m., to sign copies of his book, "Michigan State Ferries." The newly published work is a pictorial history, and its publication coincides with the anniversary celebration of the Mackinac Bridge. Mr. Bagley's presentation is free of charge. He is known to readers of *The St. Ignace News* as the historian who is contributing "Autos Across Mackinac" historical articles about the ferries every week this year. The new book will contain more than 200 photographs, but does not contain his historical articles. His work has been very well received this year by readers of *The St. Ignace News*.

"In the middle of difficulty, lies opportunity." - Albert Einstein

Birthday wishes go out to Chris Barker July 20, Patricia Boynton and Paul Krause July 21, David Ramsey July 22, Lil McDonald and Troy Huskey July 23, and Herbert Hamel July 24.

We welcome Father Al Mott, who is the new pastor for the St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church. Reverend Allen P. Mott has taken over as pastor at St. Ignatius Loyola Parish and Immaculate Conception Parish in Moran.

Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Friend and their children, Annabelle and Clayton, of Lexington, Kentucky, are vacationing for a week at a motel on US-2.

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