

# Autos Across Mackinac: Mr. Reid Is New Commissioner

\*Continued from page 11

ermen noted an unusually large fish kill in Lakes Michigan and Huron, with tons of smelt and perch washing up on beaches as far away as Little Traverse Bay. Some theorists blamed blasting for the causeway, but more knowledgeable sources credited northwesterly storms, which whipped up raging winds and huge waves that washed schools of fish as far as 75 feet ashore.

Despite the hunters, November showed a 20.7% traffic decrease from the previous year. The yearly total averaged a drop of 28.7%. Commissioner Kennedy predicted the final count for 1942 would be down by nearly 100,000 cars.

The end of November also marked the end of phase one of a causeway construction. On Monday, November 30, the crews of contractor Johnson and Greene moved their equipment off the site, and then 24 workers celebrated the end of the job with a dinner at the Homestead clubroom.

Marine subcontractor Luedke Engineering Co. remained on site a few more days to replace several 10-ton boulders with riprap of cut stone along the water. There also was still the pending property condemnation litigation for land near the causeway entrance, but for all practical purposes, causeway construction had come to an end.

On Tuesday, December 1, gasoline rationing began, bringing auto traffic across the Straits to a virtual standstill. That morning the ferries moved about 25 pieces of Johnson and Greene's equipment southbound, and then made two more sailings completely devoid of cars. The next trip carried but two cars, and the following trip had only five. Only about 200 vehicles were car-

ried the entire day, one of the slowest days in ferry history. In light of the decline, ferry officials announced they would decide whether to keep the two-boat schedule in effect the rest of the year, or make changes, by the end of the week. In 1941, the schedule had remained in effect well into the New Year.

One sailor missed the end of the season. Aaron "Mickey" Sweeney, a deckhand who had originally been hired to work on the *Ariel* out of Port Huron in 1938, had been transferred to the Straits when Blue Water service ended. Sweeney was lashing a tarp across a lifeboat atop the *City of Cheboygan's* cabin after a boat drill in Mackinac City when the line he was pulling broke, throwing him off balance. He lost his footing and plunged to the deck below. The fall shattered his right heel. Fortunately, Sweeney would return later in the 1943 season.

The litigants in the condemnation suit returned to court in December. Privately, property owners, including Senator Brown, heard Judge David Murray tell the Highway Department that, based on expert testimony, their property was worth nearly \$15,000, while they had initially been offered only \$6,221 for the land. The full details of the valuation were withheld from the public until the Highway Department had a chance to review the decision and perhaps file an appeal. They did, and another hearing was scheduled for sometime in 1943.

Soon to be "former Senator" Prentiss Brown also learned he wouldn't be out of work long. Although his Senate term expired with the New Year, the press announced he would probably take over as Director of the Office of

Price Administration in Washington, D.C. His nomination was expected January 7, as soon as the new Congress was seated, and his confirmation was expected to be forthcoming.

Another political change was also announced toward the end of December. Highway Commissioner G. Donald Kennedy presented plans to resign after the first of the year. Lost revenues and the downward spiral his entire department was taking weighed heavily on the commissioner, and he left the state for "other fields." As Michigan's most visible Democrat, Kennedy may also have felt he would have too much pressure after Governor Harry Kelley and the Republicans took office January 1. Deputy Commissioner L. B. "Dutch" Reid was left with the headaches when he assumed the office pending election of a new Highway Commissioner in April.

Before leaving office, Kennedy assigned Reid the task of answering a letter written December 10 by Stuart Woodfill of the Grand Hotel. Woodfill noted the decline in auto travel across the straits and suggested that since, obviously, some ferries wouldn't be needed the following years, they might be put on runs from Detroit and Chicago to bring fuel-starved tourists to vacations in Upper Michigan, particularly to the resorts on Mackinac Island. Woodfill proposed that 500 or 600 passengers could be accommodated each trip by converting the car decks for passenger accommodations and serving meals prepared in the existing galleys.

In one of his first correspondences, Reid wrote Woodfill that he

appreciated the suggestion, but that to use the boats that way would require extensive modifications and, more importantly, he'd received word from the Office of War Transportation that any surplus ferries would be needed for some sort of war-related service. Reid noted that at least two, if not three, of the boats were being eyed for some other use on the lakes if they were available the following summer.

While summer was still some months off, the new Reid administration didn't even have to worry about running the white fleet when the new commissioner took office in January. December's last weekend brought high winds, falling temperatures, snow, and slush. Windrows built up in the Mackinaw City harbor, and after seven hours bucking the ice trying to land, the *Chief Wawatam* gave up and returned 200 southbound holiday travelers to St. Ignace. The mercury continued to fall, and by Tuesday, December 29, the State Ferries were ordered to lay up for the year, leaving the *Sainte Marie (II)* alone to handle the auto run. Her winter schedule called for southbound sailings at 5:30 a.m., 9 a.m., noon, 3 p.m., and 6 p.m. Northbound runs were made at 7 and 10:30 a.m. and 1:30, 4:30 and 7 p.m.

Despite the weather, in the face of the rubber shortage, the rationing board generously authorized purchase of three pair of boots in all of Mackinac County during December.

**Next Week:** Several months of Mr. Reid.

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## DEAL ME IN

### Multiple Ways of Losing Monstrous Amounts of Money

**Dear Mark: Do Triple Play machines use just one, or multiple decks on the draw? Are the odds of each of the three hands the same? Will I get more royal flushes playing Triple Play than playing on a standard machine? Lastly, what do you think of Multi Play machines?**  
Kurt S.

A Multi-Game Play video poker machine plays out several games instantaneously with the same starting hand. Available in many popular versions of video poker, Triple Play allows you to play three separate hands at once, simply by touching the screen to choose the type of game and the denomination you want to play.

A Multi-Game Play deals five starting cards to you. You pick which cards are keepers and the ones you want to discard. The cards you retain automatically appear in the two additional hands. Press the draw button and the machine automatically deals the three hands new cards from different 52-card decks.

Because the overall payout and results remain the same (your answer to question two), you won't necessarily get more royal flushes per se, but the time it takes to hit one is reduced, on average, by two-thirds below that required when playing on a single-hand machine.

The pillaging of your bankroll comes as the machine eats away at your hard-earned money three times as fast as in regular video poker. For example, on a quarter machine you'll need \$3.75 per play versus \$1.25. On your dollar gambling gadgets, you're wagering \$15 instead of \$5. Then there are Multi-play video poker machines that offer an option of playing up to 50 (even 100) hands at once. Here is where I thank God I can't multitask.

I would suggest that players focus on video poker machines with the best paytables, and not on the glitz and glamour of up to 100 hands at a time.

**Dear Mark: I very much enjoyed column last week, The Taxman Cometh. It was very informative, especially for us lucky souls who have in the past hit a decent sized jackpot. I do though have one tax related question you didn't address. I recently hit a jackpot of \$10,000 at an Indian casino. I was issued a W-2-G. Do I have to include this as money won, even though I hit the jackpot on an Indian reservation, which is technically sovereign land?**  
Kenny J.



Mark Pilarski

Tribal sovereignty refers to the inherent authority of Native American Nations to govern themselves and exercise limited jurisdiction within and sometimes beyond reservation boundaries. However, because most Indian land is held in trust by the United States, Federal laws generally still apply, including Uncle Sam's taking a chunk of your winnings.

If you received a copy of form W-2-G or a 1099, so did the IRS, and you're on the hook for it. Besides, it really doesn't matter where you won the money. Unless specifically exempt by treaty or law, your tax liability is based on total worldwide income, which, yep, Kenny, includes Indian reservations.

**Dear Mark: A friend and I went in halves on a dollar slot machine that hit a jackpot of \$50,000. I didn't pull the handle nor collect the winnings. Can we split paying the taxes?**  
Donna D.

It's great to have a partner who isn't ethically challenged and decides, once paid, to split the winnings with you. Oftentimes when it comes to splitting the booty, friends go south.

Luckily, Donna, your newest best friend can share both her winnings and tax obligation, but she probably already signed a W-2-G, making her in the eyes of the IRS the sole recipient of \$50,000.

Because splitting winnings is not breaking the law, what typically happens is the IRS will provide you with Form 5754, "Statement by Person(s) Receiving Gambling Winnings." This allows both you and your friend a W-2-G for each of your shares.

Because this is now an afterthought, I would recommend that you consult your accountant to see if you can belatedly fill out Form 5754 and receive multiple W-2-G's.

**Gambling Wisdom of the Week:** "It might be instructive to remember that Nick the Greek died penniless and was buried in a pauper's grave in North Las Vegas." --Marvin Karlins Ph.D.

Got a question about gambling? Write to: Deal Me In, P.O. Box 1234, Traverse City, Michigan 49685 -email: pilarski@markpilarski.com • To order Mark Pilarski's "Hooked on Winning" audio cassettes-laminated win cards package (\$12.95 plus \$2 S&H) call 1-800-WINNERS.

## Gould City

By Marilyn McNeil  
477-6925 donmar@lighthouse.net

A spaghetti dinner is being held Sunday, August 26, at Little Bear West Arena in Manistique. Dinner starts at 3 p.m. There will be raffles, an auction, and live music by the band "Driver." Donations may be sent to the Chris Kieffer Benefit at mBank, or call (906) 450-0028 for more information. All proceeds will help toward medical expenses.

Project Backpack starts Saturday, August 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Pamida Store in Manistique. Child and Family Services and the Manistique Women's Club will accept donations for school supplies and backpacks to be distributed to referred youths in the Manistique Area Schools district.

Supply lists are available at Suzy's Shadow Box and Child and Family Services. Donation canisters are set up at Suzy's Shadow Box, Pizza Hut, and Linda's Bread Box.

Donations of supplies or money also can be dropped off at the Court House in Room 216 or the Manistique High School between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. The contact person for this program, Lisa Clark, can be contacted at (906) 341-4486.

Last week's birth announcement, reported here, contained an error. I would like to correct the spelling of the baby's name: It is

Abigail Anne Dibble, born July 17. Great-grandmother McNeil was so excited that she made an error in giving the name to me. We forgive her, because she was excited about her new great-granddaughter!

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