

Mackinac Island

By Jeannette Doud

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Merry Christmas to all our readers. May the glory of the season fill your hearts with peace, love, and joy, forever and ever.

We remember all of the soldiers, during this holiday season, who are serving our country. We pray for their safe return to their families.

The beauty of the season, brings joy in many ways; And adds a special brightness To cheer these wintry days.

As the mighty *Huron* sails into the harbor each day, her deck is lined with Christmas lights, and the Arnold Pier has red and green lights reflecting on the water. A star at the end of the dock, shining brightly in the midnight sky, announces the season of Christmas is at hand. A very beautiful scene of winter on Mackinac.

Happy 1st birthday to Vincent Davis December 7. I'm sure your big brother, Nicholas, helped you blow out your candles.

We send special greetings to Nancy Nelson of St. Ignace, who suffered a serious eye injury in the train accident in Chicago Friday, November 30. Island friends send best wishes.

It's Christmas time on Mackinac, the most beautiful time of the year. Standing stalwart on Main Street, at the head of the Arnold Dock, is the magnificent tall balsam, a donation to the City of Mackinac Island from Mr. Henry Dombroski, father of Dennis Dombroski, city building inspector. The Dombroskis have a tree farm in Cheboygan. A special thank you from all the residents of Mackinac. Friday evening, November 30, Christmas carols were sung by Island residents who gathered to watch little Wyatt Morse flip the switch, which illuminated the city tree in an array of beautiful colored lights and a brilliant star shining brightly at the top. Each lamppost is adorned with lighted pine wreaths tied with red velvet bows. At the head of the Arnold Dock, a lighted crèche stands silently, ushering in the Prince of Peace.

Fresh evergreens draped in bright shining Christmas lights on the historic Community Hall greeted everyone coming to the big Christmas Bazaar Saturday, December 1. A special highlight of this year's event was being filmed by the Home and Garden network for a showing next year. It was very interesting, and we look forward to seeing the program next holiday season.

The bazaar opened at 11 a.m. with many happy shoppers doing some serious Christmas buying. They first stopped by the bake sale booth, which was staffed by Kathi Wightman, Jen Wightman, Kathy Wightman of St. Ignace, and Janis Early. The aroma of the fresh-baked goodies filled the air. One specialty was homemade dog biscuits by Marc Bobinsky. In the plant booth, Trish Martin took orders for handpainted ornaments, wreaths, garland, centerpiece, and Christmas plants. She was assisted by Carrie Kaminen and Bill and Lornie Porter. The White Elephant table featured Christmas decorations, dolls, and a wide variety of gifts. The clerks waiting to serve you were Patty LaPine, Jackie Bradley, and Nancy Marks.

Caroline LaPine's booth was absolutely beautiful with all her handmade items. Island-born Helen Bunker Dixon sent many gifts for this table. Caroline was assisted by her daughter, Gwen, and granddaughter, Karen.

Helping everyone with their raffle tickets were Judy Bynoe, Sylvia Perault, and Linda Price. A special thanks to Sylvia for selling so many tickets. At the sundae



With visions of toy trucks and sleds, five cousins, bundled up against winter's chill, grab hands to make their own parade up Market Street on Mackinac Island to see Santa Claus. Bringing cheer to Mackinac Island children, Santa made a stop at the Fire Hall Saturday, December 1. Pictured are (from left) the Mosley brothers, Guyil, 2, Albert, 5, and Xavier, 4, and the Crawford brothers, Reed, 4, and Jerry, 3.

booth, wonderful malts, hot-fudge sundaes, and other treats were made by Lori and Ken Straight, Roy Bissell, and the Greenlees. People enjoyed bidding on the silent auction and hoping for a bargain. Helpers here were Betty BeDour, Dr. Karen Miljour, Mary Jane Barnwell, Lauren Seebohm, Carol Erbel, Loretta Spata, Kelly Dorman, and Margaret Horn.

The live auction, with our famous auctioneer, Mike Carley, was a real treat. Mike was assisted by Tony Spata, Bruce LaPine, and Smi Horn. Items ranged from Detroit Red Wings tickets, a La-Z-Boy chair, buffet lunch at Grand Hotel, Big Ray's famous chili, a section of the bar from the famous Mustang Lounge, autographed by Dennis Brodeur, baskets of cheer, to a hand-crafted rocking horse. Ladies assisting with the auction were Kay Hoppenrath, Melly Hagenbaugh, Jennifer Bloswick, and Lorna Straus.

Leanna Brodeur organized activities for the children, and Brandy Shunk and Kelly Bean sold used clothing in the fire hall.

As you approached the kitchen in the Community Hall, wonderful smells of delicious food filled the air. The items featured Deb Carley's famous nachos, a complete Prime Rib dinner Sunday, and hot turkey sandwiches Monday, plus a wonderful salad bar solicited by Nancy Pfeiffelman. A variety of desserts were baked by Laurie Myers, pastry chef at the Iroquois, and enjoyed by all who attended the bazaar. Those who worked with Deb Carley in the kitchen were Mona Carley, Donna

Killips, Jewel, Dan Seeley, Irene Rickley, Ed Chambers, Jim Marks, Rick Linn, Brenda Bunker, Gila Grossman, and Amy Larson.

Saturday at 1 p.m. Santa arrived aboard the Mackinac Island fire-truck. He greeted everyone in the hall before going to the fire hall to hear all the wishes of the little girls and boys. When he finished, he returned to the North Pole and will arrive back on Mackinac Christmas Eve.

A special thank you to Gwen Bagbey for decorating the hall, Mike Lee, Dale Beaudoin, and Lindy Maddox, who made the city a Christmas fairyland, Karen Leonard for typing the auction list, Doud's Market, the Department of Public Works, Mackinac Island Police Department, Mackinac Island Fire Department for all their assistance, the Mission Point Resort crew for their excellent job cleaning up the hall, and Urvana Morse for Santa's North Pole.

The following prizes were won: handmade angel at Caroline's Booth, Kay Hoppenrath; Santa dog/white elephant, Jackie Bradley; handpainted ornament and balsam pillow/plant booth, Kathy Wightman of St. Ignace; bake sale/Santa tea set, Larry Parel; sundae booth/frosty, Sylvia Perault; 50/50, Joan Nephew; Wii Raffle, Brenda Bunker; ham raffle, Candy Smith; 50 gallons of gas, Kathy Wightman of St. Ignace; Christmas Raffle - \$1,000, Betty BeDour; \$500, Loretta Spata; \$500, Frank Bloswick Jr.; \$500, Ann Taylor; \$500, Bud Chambers; snowmobile raffle, Polaris snowmobile, Billy Bentgen of St. Ignace; \$500, Mike

Lockwood; \$100, Brian Bertram of Onsted.

The bazaar grossed more than \$46,000 to be divided between Ste. Anne's, Trinity, Bible Church, Little Stone, and the Mackinac Island Medical Center. A big thank you to everyone, especially the contractors, who donated, worked, purchased items, and just came and enjoyed the event. We sincerely appreciate the donations from our neighbors in St. Ignace. The bazaar is truly the kickoff of the holiday season.

Tuesday afternoon, December 4, the Christmas Bazaar received a wonderful donation from a "Christmas angel" in the amount of \$5,000, which will pay for the Polaris snowmobile. What a tremendous gift, which reflects the true meaning of Christmas. We are so fortunate to have such a generous person as a member in our community.

Seen enjoying the Christmas Bazaar were many off-Island

friends, Ann Taylor and her granddaughter, Jacquelyn, of Delta, Ohio, Dennis and Peggy O'Keefe of LaSalle, Illinois, the Frank and Carole Pompa, the Peter Marabel and Fran Barger, Dr. Donald and Diane Goeckel of Bay City, Larry and Julie Kwiatkowski, Stella Grzymala, Tammy and Cassie Fraser of Mackinaw City, Deana and Glenn St. Onge of Remus, Kathy and Jim Smith of Cheboygan, the Ron Cowell family of Green Bay, Wisconsin, Cathy Cowell Frick and friend of Boyne City, Pat Cepalak and her husband of Grand Rapids, Paula Underwood, Gerry Brown, Jennifer, David, and Lucas Karhoff of Findlay, Ohio, Jay and Melanie Porcaro, Bob and Gloria Tweady of Farmington, who have attended 11 consecutive bazaars, John Hulett, John and Rogene Hui-bregste of Wisconsin, Marie Steensma, William and Joann White, Joe and Rosemary Kompis, Reinette and Jerry Murray, and many other folks.

Bertha Green had a wonderful time at the Bazaar, and so did one-month-old Grace Crowley, who was dressed in a handmade sweater and blanket set made by Aunt Lou Riley, who is 94 years old, an aunt to Sandra and Debra Orr. The event entertained all ages.

It gave me great pleasure Sunday, December 2, to have a visit from Alice Bennett and her husband, Clayton, of St. Ignace. They enjoyed the prime rib dinner at the Christmas Bazaar. Alice is employed at La Galerie during the summer months and Clayton is retired from Marshall Builders. Great to see you on Mackinac.

Happy seventh wedding anniversary to Frank and Jennifer Bloswick December 2. Island friends send best wishes.

May the smallest things in life be the most meaningful during this magical time of year!

As I sit in the comfort of our home this winter day Wednesday, November 28, looking out at Cadotte Avenue, my thoughts turn to growing up on Mackinac. It was

on Benjamin Hill that we would jump aboard our sleds and coast down to the bottom. Should our sleighs not travel as fast as we would like, we would stop by the Island Blacksmith Shop, where our good friend, Mr. Herbert Benjamin, would sharpen our runners.

With the Christmas spirit in our hearts, my uncle, Fred Metiever, would take us deep into the woods of Mackinac, where we would happily choose and cut a fresh balsam, which would brighten our home on Christmas morning.

Let us never forget that wonderful toboggan slide, built by another friend, the late Morton Pero, grandfather of Dan Wightman and Janis Early, which began high on the hill to the left of the Governor's residence, down over the seventh tee on the golf course at Grand Hotel, which would take us flying to the bottom with screams of delight.

At the base of Mahoney Avenue, we would watch John McCarty and his crew of Islanders cutting and sawing huge chunks of clear blue ice, which would be hauled by drays to many cottages and Grand Hotel to be covered with sawdust to preserve the ice for summer.

A bit further down on the lake side, the frozen Straits was perfect for ice skating. Seen having a great time were many Island children, along with expert skaters Herbert Benjamin, Jim Alford, Betty Flanagan, and Uncle Patrick Doud, who was in his 80s at the time.

Mr. Robert Benjamin, grandfather of Bob, and Patrick Doud also sailed their ice boat, the *White Islander*, on the smooth frozen water. It was always a treat to return to the Benjamin home on Lakeshore Drive for hot chocolate.

In our spare time, we would build snow forts big enough to crawl inside. Uncle Lou Dufina and his wonderful bobsled "The Ramblers," would carry folks down the Grand Hill. Lou would always be smiling as he drove

* Please turn to page 21



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