

OBITUARY

Kenneth Horsburgh

Kenneth Phillip Horsburgh, 88, a summer resident of Cedarville with an avid interest in restoring antique boats, was instrumental in founding the Les Cheneaux Islands Antique Wooden Boat Show and the Ensign racing fleet at Les Cheneaux. He was active in many church and community activities in the Cedarville area. Mr. Horsburgh died in Palm City, Florida, October 19, 2008.

Mr. Horsburgh was born in 1920 in Cleveland, Ohio, and had been a summertime resident of the Les Cheneaux area since he was one year old. He considered it his home. He visited the Les Cheneaux area every summer with his parents and two older brothers, Charles and Don, and later, with his wife and children and grandchildren. In his lifetime, he would only miss two summers of visiting Cedarville, one while serving in the Navy and this past summer, owing to illness.

He was graduated from Case School of Engineering with a mechanical engineering degree in 1943. He served in the U.S. Naval Reserve from 1942 to 1946.

Mr. Horsburgh was associated with The Horsburgh & Scott Company in Cleveland, a manufacturer of gears and speed reducers, for more than 50 years. His professional interest was always on the shop floor, and with the people who worked there, said his son, Kip.

He was active in many civic and community-based activities in Cleveland, Cedarville, and Stuart,

Florida. Religion also provided an opportunity for Mr. Horsburgh to strengthen his ties with the Cedarville community, where he formed lifelong relationships with summer and year-around residents at the First Union Church.

He was also involved with the Les Cheneaux Islands Historical Association, which he always believed played an important role in helping residents understand the unique heritage of the area.

"He was a wonderful man," said longtime friend Marvin Tassier of Cedarville. "He was very generous in town and to his church."

In his younger days, before the Michigan State Highway Department introduced paved roads from St. Ignace to Clark Township and completed the Mackinac Bridge that connected Michigan's peninsulas in 1957, several times a year, Mr. Horsburgh and his family would make the 24-hour, 500-mile trek from Cleveland to Cedarville on the Michigan Central train to Mackinaw City, then on to the passenger ferry *Algomah* to Mackinac Island, and finally from the Island to the Lakeside Hotel dock on Coryell Island on the steamer *Islander*. From the hotel dock, it was a short ride on a Truscott gas launch to the family's cottage on the south end of the island.

Boating, particularly wooden boats, was Mr. Horsburgh's most enjoyed hobby.

He and Charles Letts of Coryell Island and Detroit were the



Kenneth Horsburgh

founders of the Les Cheneaux Islands Antique Wooden Boat Show in 1978. The ongoing event is in its 32nd year and is one of the biggest events in the area.

His passion for wooden boats began when he was a youth, having been introduced to the family boat *Firefly*, a 24-foot, three-cockpit Chris Craft speedboat, which was one of the area's most popular wooden boats.

In 1936, after he and his brothers showed an interest in sailing, their father, Robert Horsburgh, ordered a wooden sailboat through the mail for his boys. The three young adventurers sailed the 18-foot Cape Cod Baby Knockabout that they proudly called *Hoot Mon*. The boat is now displayed in Les Cheneaux Historical Association's Maritime Museum.

While in his late 50s, Mr. Horsburgh single-handedly sailed

his 36-foot yawl, *Meltemi*, through the local channels to Mackinac Island and the North Channel.

In 1964, Mr. Horsburgh was the first member of his extended family to move his summer headquarters to the mainland, building a cottage in Woodland Park on the channel between Cedarville and Hessel. He purchased the area's first Ensign for his family. The boat was a 23-foot long, fiberglass Pearson sloop. The sloop worked so well in the Les Cheneaux waters that its popularity grew and, today, there are 63 similar boats in the area, and their owners have formed a group.

The result was developing perhaps the largest and most active Ensign racing fleet in the country.

In 2007, Mr. Horsburgh received the national Ensign Association's lifetime achievement award for his contributions to the advancement of the class.

When the trend toward fiberglass sailboats was becoming

apparent, the love of wooden boats never waned for Mr. Horsburgh.

In the 1970s, he and Mr. Tassier restored a 1906 Truscott gas launch, called the *Antiki*, that was later featured on the 2006 Wooden Boat Show's official poster.

He would commission Bruce Patrick to build a replica 24-foot launch called the *Bonnie Lass*, 20 years later.

Both boats are still maintained by his family.

The wood-fired steam launch *Puffin*, however, was perhaps his most impressive restoration project to local residents. He would motor the channels, offering rides to anyone willing to step into the boat. The boat featured a steam whistle and white puffs of smoke billowed from its stack.

Boating was the foundation of friendship between Mr. Horsburgh and Mr. Tassier, who operates Tassier Boat Works in Cedarville.

"He was the best friend I have had," said Mr. Tassier, who remembers the many boating trips to Canada the two would take, as well as to other areas in Michigan. "We would go all over in our boats, and he'd always pay for gas. He was a real, real good friend. He was one of a kind. I'm really going to miss him."

He often shared his knowledge of boating and safety with younger boaters. Boaters in the area today, like Andy Bohn, Todd Snyder, Scott Graul, and all of Mr. Horsburgh's grandchildren trace their early boating education to his unwavering willingness to spend time with them on the water, said Kip Horsburgh.

Mr. Horsburgh is survived by his wife, Ruth, of 64 years, three children and their families, Kip and Jean Horsburgh, Christopher W. and Chrissy Horsburgh, and Laurie and Tom Herman, 14 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held next summer in Cedarville.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to the Les Cheneaux Historical Association, P.O. Box 301, Cedarville, Michigan 49719.

Girl, 13, Loses Life in I-75 Accident Sun.

Thirteen-year-old Christina Brooks of Traverse City died in an accident on I-75 Sunday, October 26, hit by a car as she stood along the side of the highway.

She was struck about one mile south of M-134 in St. Ignace Township by a southbound vehicle. The Mackinac County Sheriff's Department reported road conditions as wet and slippery following a hail storm which had passed through the area.

Miss Brooks, an eighth-grade student at Traverse City West Middle School, was a passenger in a family car which had stopped to render assistance to another vehicle, which had slid into the ditch. She was standing outside the vehicle on the shoulder of the highway when she was struck by the southbound driver.

Initial investigation released by Sheriff Scott Strait reports that Kenneth Cassibo of Kincheloe attempted to avoid a car which had stopped suddenly in front of him, lost control of his car, and struck Miss Brooks shortly after 3 p.m.

There is no evidence that alcohol was involved in the accident, said Sheriff Strait, and there were no charges pending as of late Tuesday.

According to investigators, Miss Brooks' family car pulled over to see if anyone was injured in the accident. Her father had gone down the ditch to the car while her mother was reporting the accident to 9-1-1 dispatch, and Miss Brooks was outside, relaying information from her father to her mother when she was struck.

Sheriff Strait said the road was covered with hailstones and very slippery.

"It was pretty bizarre," he said of the squall that had passed through just before the accident. Police responded to five accidents within a half-mile of the fatal accident at about the same time, he noted.

Miss Brooks was transported by Allied E.M.S. to Mackinac Straits Hospital in St. Ignace and later transferred to Grand Rapids. The Clark Township Ambulance Corps transported two other people with minor injuries, he said, but he was not sure which of the many accidents they may have been associated with.

The St. Ignace Fire Department also responded to the accident.

Children's Groups Meet Weekly in Chippewa County

An infant and toddler play groups meets every Monday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., at the Kinross Recreation Center in Kinross. For more information, contact Amber Guerreiro at (906) 632-3373, extension 107.

Another play group meets every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at the Algonquin Methodist Church in Sault Ste. Marie. Parents and children ages birth to five are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Kristi Chambers at (906) 647-3529 or Kim Dutcher at kdutche@yahoo.com.

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**Vote Judge Thomas North Into District Court on November 4th**

To the Voters of Mackinac and Luce Counties:

"This is to set the record straight as to a couple of recent events, prior to next week's election. First, as to the court case over some of our campaign materials, we thank *The St. Ignace News* for its excellent reporting, but one fact was left out. The state police have documented that the complaint was received by them directly from the campaign committee of my opponent (not the Bureau of Elections). Our materials were all verified as legal, as they do not represent me to be the incumbent District Judge, but do convey my judicial experience.

Secondly, we have been asked why I am not endorsed this election by Right to Life of Michigan, after meeting their criteria in 2006. Right to Life of Michigan has communicated that this is due to change in their by-laws, mandating endorsement now of incumbents that do not violate their criteria. Make no mistake, I have a solid record of pro-life involvement and support over the years.

Finally, thank you for the pleasure of talking to you and also hearing your many concerns during this campaign. I have enjoyed meeting you in your homes and at events."

~ Thomas North

**Vote the Non Partisan Ballot "Remember North on November Fourth"**

Paid for by Judge Thomas North Election Committee, P.O. Box 30, St. Ignace, MI 49781

**STABILITY FOR AN UNSTABLE TIME**

**Robert WINKELMAN**  
G.O.P. Candidate for Treasurer of Mackinac County

"When elected treasurer, I will use my experience as a small business owner, accountant and licensed financial advisor to effectively and efficiently run the treasurer's office."

	<b>Robert Winkelman</b>	<b>Nora Massey</b>
<b>Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting</b>	Yes	No
<b>Member Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants (M.A.C.P.A.)</b>	Yes	No
<b>Experienced as a licensed investment advisor</b>	Yes	No
<b>Over 20 years experience operating family business - Main Street, St. Ignace</b>	Yes	No

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**Rob Winkelman**

- Currently member E.U.P. Intermediate School District Board and Mackinac Straits Hospital Finance Committee
- Previous involvements include Chairperson of the following:
  - > St. Ignace Downtown Development Authority
  - > St. Ignace Kiwanis Club
  - > St. Ignace Area School's Middle School Building Committee

**Nora Massey**

- School Board Member Moran Township School
- > St. Ignace Chamber of Commerce
- > LaSalle High School Improvement Committee

The following proudly endorse and support Rob Winkelman for Mackinac County Treasurer:

- Nancy Kister - Treasurer, Portage Township
- Don McArthur - Retired after 30+ years Supervisor, Newton Twp.
- Kate TerHaar - Clark Twp.
- Paul Grandin - Mayor of St. Ignace, "Rob's background as a former main street business owner, C.P.A. and financial advisor will be a comfort in these troubling times".

**I would appreciate your vote on Tuesday, November 4th**

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