

Looking Back



Celebrating Governor George Romney's signature on a bill to lower bridge fare from \$3.75 to \$1.50 (one way) are (from left) Representative Joe P. Swallow of Alpena, Senator Thomas Schweigert of Petoskey, Representative Bob Davis of St. Ignace, Representative Dominic Jacobetti of Negaunee, Representative Charles Varnum of Manistique, and Representative Dennis Cawthorne of Manistee. The new bridge fare went into effect January 1, 1969. Mr. Davis, who died last week, thought of the fare reduction as one of his crowning achievements while serving in the Michigan Legislature. Of the men in the photograph, only Mr. Swallow and Mr. Cawthorne are still alive.

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Scoutmaster Ed McNamara, Jr., of St. Ignace demonstrated the safe handling of axes and methods of cutting wood.

The event was sponsored by the Les Cheneaux Sportsman's club with Charles Wagner as the master of ceremonies.

In a move to supplement a unique journalism fellowship program at the University of Michigan, Wesley H. Maurer, chairman of the department of journalism has purchased the Mackinac Island Town Crier.

The eight-page tabloid weekly newspaper prints 10 issues during the summer for the historical resort community.

Professor Maurer bought the paper from students Robert Weinbaum, a U-M law student and son of the publisher of Detroit's West Side Courier and Warrendale Courier; Gerald J. Prescott, another law student; and James G. Wills, a graduate student in social work. The three young men started the paper five years ago with the help of publisher Weinbaum.

The paper was operated last summer by two U-M journalism students, under Professor Maurer's direction as publisher.

The students are William E. Bradford and Earl C. Gottschalk.

The Town Crier, which has a circulation of 2,000, is printed by the Cheboygan Daily Tribune.

30 YEARS AGO The St. Ignace News October 25, 1979

It was a usual off-day for the railroad ferry Chief Wawatam Thursday, October 18, while it was at its St. Ignace dock. No trips were scheduled across the Straits of Mackinac between St. Ignace and Mackinaw City. Captain Roderick Graham was periodically working on reports and the crewmen were busily completing chores.

The significance of the day was only marked visually by two banners flying over the vessel, but every man on the Chief Wawatam and followers of the coal-burning ferry knew the importance of the day.

Thursday, October 18, 1979 marked the 68th anniversary since the icebreaking railroad ferry arrived at Mackinaw City and St. Ignace, concluding its maiden voyage from the shipyard in Toledo, Ohio, under Commander Louis R. Boynton.

The two banners flying over the Chief Wawatam last Thursday were the ship's flag with the name Chief Wawatam" on it and the Mackinac Transportation flag, former owners of the vessel, with the letters "M.T.CO" on it, that were on the ferry when it arrived on its maiden voyage.

The flags were flying things to watchman Gordon Trainor of St. Ignace, who has worked full-time since 1964. Several years ago Trainor found the flags while cleaning out a storage area on the boat.

The former captain told Trainor to throw everything out, but when he asked the captain if he could keep the flags, the captain agreed. For this anniversary, Trainor had the flags cleaned.

"Oh yes, we came together, Christopher Columbus and I," laughs Nellie (Mrs. Guy) Hamel of Grove Street, Cedarville, who celebrated her 85th birthday on Columbus Day, October 12.

Nellie Erskine Hamel started life in the small rural village of Allenville, just a "whistle stop" on the outskirts of St. Ignace.

Nellie was one of a happy family at the J. D. Erskine home which, for years, was the site of the village post office.

Touch calling capabilities will be available in Cedarville in 1980 and automatic number identification equipment to replace most operator interruptions on long distance calls will be available to Cedarville, DeTour, Pickford, Rudyard, and Kinross next year, according to General Telephone Company.

With the touch calling equipment in Cedarville, customers will be able to install push-button phones.

The new automatic number identification will allow customers to dial long distance direct in most cases without having to identify their telephone number to the operator. The number will automatically register in the company's computers.

Fight cancer with early detection



In the battle against breast cancer, War Memorial Hospital is the region's leader in early detection. Thanks to the use of digital mammography, physicians can now get clearer pictures when accuracy matters most. Convenient, affordable, and high quality make digital mammography your best line of defense.

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THE FACTS

About The November 3 Millage Renewal Vote For Mackinac Straits Health System

VOTE NOVEMBER 3

? What are we voting on?

This is a five-year renewal of the operating millage for the hospital and the long-term care facility. This renews the same millage rate we've been paying for the last five years.

? What is the millage for?

Unfortunately private insurance, Medicare, Medicaid and other sources of funding don't cover all the hospital's operating costs. The millage covers the difference. This is especially important now that the state plans to cut millions of dollars in Medicaid funding which will deeply hurt hospitals and long-term care units.

? How much will this millage cost me?

It will be the same 1.2 mill rate we approved five years ago. That's a .2 mill reduction from the 1.4 mills we paid previously.

? What do we get for the money?

We get a hospital that's open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We also get top quality care when we need it. We have access to medical care in our own community so we don't have to travel 50 miles or more for hospital services. Our long-term care facility has been ranked among the top nursing homes in the state and received the Governor's Quality Care Award in 2002.

Please Vote November 3!

? What services does the hospital provide now?

- 24-Hour emergency room
- 15-Bed acute care hospital
- 60-Bed long-term care facility with 48 private long-term care rooms proposed in the new facility
- Internal medical physician on staff
- 24-Hour X-Ray and CT scanning
- Oncology services for patients who have cancer
- Renal dialysis unit for patients who have kidney disease
- Pediatrics
- Women's health services
- Ultrasound and mammography
- 24-hour laboratory services
- Outpatient therapy
- Physical, occupational and speech therapy services
- Rehabilitation services, including:
 - Cardiac stress testing
 - Echo cardiograph
 - Cardiac rehabilitation

? Is this a new millage?

No, this millage goes back to 1989 and has supported hospital operations for 20 years.

? Is the millage going to be used to build the new facility?

No. The millage is only for operational costs - expenses such as wages and benefits, utilities, medical supplies and patient meals. The millage cannot be used to build the new hospital. That is being funded by federal grants and guarantees, bonds and fundraising.

? When is the vote?

The election is on Tuesday, November 3, 2009. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. You can also get an absentee ballot from your city, township or village clerk.

Mackinac Straits
HEALTH SYSTEM

The Millage Renewal
for Mackinac Straits Health System

VOTE NOV 3