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RUSSELL ISLAND PROPERTY OWNERS NEWSLETTER

Volume II Number 3

Don Pollard, Editor

I S L A N D I T E M S

Our young people have begun the organization of their new Junior Russell Island Association as though they mean business.

They are talking about weekly dances at the picnic grounds next year, a tennis-badminton-basketball court at the same place, and a water slide, new diving board and non-skid paint job for the big dock.

To finance the plans the young people are discussing soliciting unwanted items from cottagers and holding rummage sales also proposed is a raffle. The winner would receive, free of charge, the labor of some young man or woman for a certain number of hours each week throughout the summer. The slaves would cut the grass or what-have-you.

The juniors also offered to paint the big dock themselves. Doubtless there will be more ideas before the next cottage season is very far advanced.

Assisting in and coordinating the work is an adult committee composed of Al and Joyce Truax, Bob and Margaret Hall, Frank Boyer, Helen Bryant and Hobe Loomis.

However, the young people elected their officers with no adult assistance. They decided by themselves to have six directors, two from the older group, two from the younger and two from the middle.

Elected were: Karl Hamel, president; Beverly Bryant, vice-president; Susan Zick, treasurer; Linda Schmuck, secretary, and these directors:

For the older group, Tom Scott and Cheryl Traux; Middle group, Tim Traister and Nancy Caponi; younger group, Fred Hamel and Marie Bryant.

Everyone offers them congratulations and best wishes.

The former DeYonker cottage now is the Ave Marie Club. The club members are ten priests--two Monsignors and eight fathers--who have purchased the cottage and are looking for a few more members.

Fr. William Child of St. Ignatius Parish, who sparked the idea, explained that the priests plan to use the cottage "on our days off, just like all other Islanders".

The club members do their own cooking and house cleaning and

and the installation of a diving board and ladder on the dock. They have bought a 17 1/2 foot outboard motor boat for fishing trips. Six boys of St. Ignatius spent a week at the cottage this summer painting and shoring up the underpinnings.

"We keep a good stock of food on hand," Fr. Child said. "Any member who comes over and cooks a meal drops money in our cash box to pay for what he has used."

Fr. Child is known through the Detroit archdiocese as the originator and conductor of the "Disc Jockey Religion Program" heard at 7:30 a.m. Sundays over Radio Station WCAR. The program celebrated its first anniversary August 4. One of those interviewed on the program recently was our own ferryman, George Webster.

The fathers have installed a chapel in the cottage where they hold private masses.

"We would like to hold Sunday masses here for the convenience of Catholic Islanders but usually none of us is here on Sunday," Fr. Child said.

"We have sent letters about our club and pictures of the cottage to 750 priests of the archdiocese but we don't anticipate a large membership. A similar club, Peter Noster Club at Stony Point on the Canadian shore of Lake Erie has about 60 members but we would prefer not to be that large here."

Present members of the club are, in addition to Fr. Child: Msgr. Albert Matyn, pastor of St. Lucy's; Msgr. William Sherzer, teacher at Sacred Heart Seminary; Fr. Pasquale LoGrosso, of St. Martin's parish; Fr. James Burns of St. Agatha's; Fr. Gaston Des Harnais of St. Jude's; Fr. Edward Ritter of St. Francis; Fr. Edward Hurley of Sacred Heart; Fr. Donald Kuntz of St. Cletus, and Fr. Michael Kundrat of Divine Providence.

The only new cottage on the Island this year, on the western shore next to Stecks, was built by Elton Vyse, 23417 King Drive, Mt. Clemens who is in the business of manufacturing dinette furniture.

Mrs. Vyse is Helen and their two daughters are Mrs. Marion Kaminski and Ruth.

New owners of other cottages which have changed hands this year are: Mr. and Mrs. Lott, 1153 Grayton, Grosse Pointe Park, the former McGregor cottage; Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Marker, 17070 Juliana, East Detroit, the Al Henning cottage; Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Roundbeen,

20290 Goulburn, the Gus Tytica cottage, and Mrs. Helen Lazar and her son, Gerald, 19707 Albany, the Giesecking cottage.

The listing of new domiciles perhaps should include the eight-boy tent and the equally large straw hut which were erected in their backyards by the Loomis and Harris children respectively.

In case there is anyone who doesn't know, Andy Pippier was elected president of the Russell Island Property Owners Association at the July 4 annual meeting, succeeding Gordon Laramie.

Other officers for the coming year are: Jim Scott, vice-president; Claude Caponi, secretary; Herb Path, treasurer, and Gordon Laramie, Bob Grosfield and Herman Hamel, directors.

The new administration got off to a promising start with the enjoyable July 31 picnic. Everyone was pleased to see a fresh young group, headed by co-chairman Eugene and Norma Bielewicz, taking over responsibility for the event.

The annual golf tournament and dinner the following weekend which Al Traux and Chuck Rivard (Rowe son-in-law) managed was equally successful. Al received his reward when he posted low men's score in the tournament. Ginny Jackson had low women's score for the second successive year. Bridgit Gioia, Fleischer guest, and Tony Brancato, Degriech guest, won the plaques for low handicapped scores.

The Grosfield family this summer is celebrating the hundredth anniversary of the Grosfield Agency, Inc., insurance and real estate. The agency was founded in July, 1866, by Anthony Grosfield, grandfather of Bob, George, Mary Lou and the late Tony. It has been in the same location, Michand and Twenty-Third, for the entire century of its existence.

Jack, oldest of the Bob Grosfield's four sons, was married July 16 in St. John Church, Dearborn Heights, to Rose Marie Pindel of Dearborn Heights. Jack now is working in the agency, starting it on its fourth generation of Grosfields.

Cousins Gust and Herman Hamel left Metropolitan Airport September 3 for Frankfurt, Germany, on a Lufthansa plane chartered by the German-American Cultural Society of Detroit.

Both Gust and Herman were born in Germany and both came to this country at the age of 18, Gust in 1912 and Herman in 1913. Over the years Gust has paid two visits to his relatives in the old country but this is Herman's first return in 53 years.

They came from nearby towns, Gust from Udenhausen and Herman from Mainz, both in the state of Essen. They will visit nephews and nieces in their respective home towns. (The cousins returned in mid-October having paid visits also to Switzerland, Austria and the Munich festival.)

Harry and Katharine Theisen took their daughter, Sister Joan Henry, a teacher in Homewood, Illinois, and a companion, Sr. Rose Louise, a native of St. Clair, on a two-months visit to France this summer.

The nuns belong to the Dominican Order and the party visited Prouille where the order was founded in 1206.

They also witnessed the ceremonies reestablishing Mont Saint Michel temporarily as a monastery and the observance, in Normandy, of the 900th anniversary of William the Conquerors successful invasion of England.

The Island's largest family--the Sloans-- lost two of their members during a one-week period in August.

Ruth Sloan, wife of Lee and mother of Jayne Glancy, Rose Washburn and Robert, died in St. Francis Hospital Aug. 24.

Helen Sloan, wife of Bill and mother of Bill, Chrissie and Maggie, died in Ypsilanti State Hospital Aug. 30.

Ruth and Helen were sisters-in-law of Mary Todd and Mabel and Ruth Sloan and related to a large number of other Island Sloans, past and present.

Ruth's death followed a long period of failing health. Helen had been a semi-invalid ever since a traffic accident sixteen years ago.

Due to the length of this letter, Mrs. George Brown's recollections of the Island's early days is being omitted but will be resumed in the next issue.

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PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE 2ND. ANNUAL RUSSELL ISLAND WINTER GET*TOGETHER SAT. FEB. 4, 1967

Place: Cambridge Hall (E. Outer Dr. & Ford Expressway) Time: 7:30 P.M. to 1:00 A.M.
Date: February 4, 1967 Tickets: \$12.00 per couple \$6.00 singles
Buffet Dinner.....Dancing.....Refreshments (Beer & Mix) All Russell Islanders'
and friends invited. Limited to 80 couples, so make your reservations now.

FILL IN HANDY COUPON AND MAIL

The officers wish to one and all a Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year.

Editor's Note: If what you have just read sounds rather out-of-date
it is because it was written for circulation in early September.
Distribution was delayed by some confusion in the mailing department.