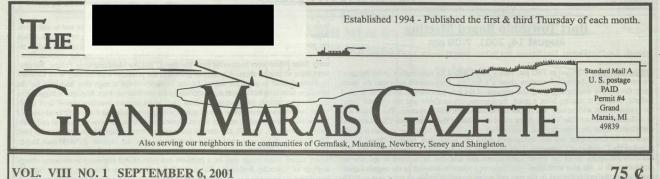
SEND FORWARD AND ADDRESS CORRECTION TO: GRAND MARAIS GAZETTE P.O. BOX 370, GRAND MARAIS, MI 49839-0370



VOL. VIII NO. 1 SEPTEMBER 6, 2001

# **AMBULANCE CORPS NEWS OPERATION: SAFE DELIVERY** 100

**BURT TOWNSHIP** 

Back row L-R : Ted & Heather Shepard, Tracy Brooks, Joe Francis, J.C. Ogden, Gee Petruske, Bob Hughes, Nancy McDonald, Lee Goewey Front Row L-R: Don Stalter, Nancy Weston, Margaret Roberts, Evely Morrison, Kris Brooks, Dave Bailey, Neil Korsmo, Sean Hughes, Lou Bailey & Bob Weston. Several members not present.

If you observed different ambulances driving around town lately and wondered what sort of emergency has befallen our community, put your mind at rest! Burt Township Emergency Medical Services is de lighted to announce that it has been awarded another Rural Health Initiative Grant opportunity though the State of Michigan.

For the past few weeks, Emergency Medical Services Director, Bob Weston, has been negotiating bids from many different Ambulance companies. Assistant Chief, Lou Bailey, along with other Ambulance Corps. members, have been reviewing specifications and looking over the different ambulances. We now have made a selection and are in the process of sorting out the details. The new ambulance will be able to hold and store more equipment and allow the crew members more room to treat the patient. It will have 4 wheel drive and dual tires to handle the various types of road and weather we experience in Grand Marais. In addition we have decided on an EXTRA feature that is not covered under the Grant monies. One of the demonstration Ambu-lances was equipped with "Air-Ride Suspension". It was a wonderful feature for our terrain. After riding in the back compartment over some bumpy back roads it was decided this feature would make our patient's ride to the Hospital much more comfortable. The crew would experience less of a challenge from bumps and jerks when treating the patient The cost was \$5,500 extra! The Ambulance Manufacturer was able to get it at \$4,500 and money donated by EUPSAR (Search & Rescue), Chamber of Commerce Festival Donation, and the Ambulance Memorial Fund will bring us to \$2,500.00 more to raise. The Burt Township Ambulance is accepting donations toward the AIR-RIDE OPTION. Donations may be sent to: BURT TWP. AMBULANCE - BOX 115 -GRAND MARAIS, MI 49839. For further information contact Nancy McDonald (906-494-2679) or Bob & Nancy Weston (906-494-2744). This grant will be a 50/50 match with the State of Michigan & Alger County Ambulance Tax Revenue share. Our present ambulance will become part of the Alger County Sheriffs' Ambulance fleet in Munising

This has been such an exciting year because of the boost from the Rural Health Initiative Grant Opportunities. Burt Township Ambulance Corps. will be able to purchase some assisting radio equipment, pagers. In the education area it will be able to assist students with tuition scholarships, books, and supporting teaching materials. The Emergency Medical Technician Basic class starts September 4<sup>th</sup> with 11 people signed up to participate. We are looking forward to a very exciting class with varied experience levels and ages. Participants will be taking part in Hospital clinical time and ambulance rides for experience. Stud participating are Josh Splurlock, Jodi Walton, Mary Underwood, Sean Boyak, Tracy Brooks, Marc Oglevie, Evelyn Morrison, Joe Francis, Pat Savage, Kevin Hughey, and Judy Kaye. These 11 people are making a significant contribution of their personal time to strive for a National Registry and State of Michigan Emergency Medical Technician Basic Licenses. The class ending around March 1<sup>st</sup> will be taught by Bob and Nancy Weston.

# **Grand Marais Cares Web Site** update.

We are happy to announce that the natureinabundance.com web established by the Grand Marais Cares economic development group in 1999 has re-ceived over 25 thousand "hits" or visits in the last year and a half since we started keeping a record. Cathy Egerer, our web manager said that the number of page hits within the site is about six times that amount.

In a recent interview, Colleen Grove, co-owner of the Alverson Motel on the bay here in Grand Marais said "I am sure that most of our web site reservations are from people who found out about us from your web site. We are very pleased with the results.

As in every venture by a group of this nature, there are constant improvements and new things being tried. The purpose of the web site is to promote Grand Marais, its school and businesses, its beauty and that of the surrounding area to the Internet users and to bring more businesses and people into our area because of what they see and learn about us from the site.

We now have over 240 people receiving the e-mail newsletter which is sent out at least once a month to people who request it. With the e-mail link we have received requests for 185 information packets from potential visitors. We work with the Chamber of Commerce getting the information, but we print and mail this information as a service to the community. If you are interested in learning more about the web site, log on to natureinabundance.com yourself and check us out. If you have any questions about it, contact Betty Goewey, who is the Grand Marais contact for the organization. A special thank you to all of you have chosen to have a web page on the site, or who call with information for the newsletter. We really appre ciate your help in getting the word out about this wonderful community.

# Local Woman honored



The Seventh Annual Alger County Women of Honor Observance was held August 23, 2001, at the Alger County Heritage Center. During the ceremonies three Alger County women, Lois Leavenworth Rochell Cotey and Helen Maki, were inducted to the Alger County Roll of Honor. These outstanding ladies were added to a list of 33 prior inductees. The Roll of Honor recognizes Alger County women who have lead enriched lives, whether through work, hobby, volun-

Lois Leavenworth

eerism, or everyday living.

This year's program focused on "Women of Courage and Vision". It vas noted, "Learning the true stories of women's history has a positive effect on just about everyone. For girls and women, these empowering stories from America's shared past generated feelings of personal strength and new possibilities. Correspondingly, boys and men gain increased respect for women by knowing more about the female experience across time. Celebrating women's lives-filled with courage, vision and contributions - is valuable to us all."

All three of the women have many accomplishments that led others in their communities to nominate them for the honor roll. Leavenworth was born in New Britain, Conn. She received a medical secretarial degree from the University of Hartford in Hartford, Conn. in 1948. She has a resume that includes several positions in a range of cities including work for a dermatologist in Hartford, a church secretary and hospital office manager in New Britain and a medical transcriptionist in Albuquerque, N.M. She retired in 1992. Leavenworth moved to Grand Marais with her husband James.

In Grand Marais, she is very active in the community. That is why he was nominated for the honor roll. She is a lay leader for the United Methodist Church and is chairperson of God's Church and is chairperson of God's Country Cooperative Parish, which includes seven area Methodist churches.

She is a member of the Burt Township Planning Commission and a trustee on the Burt Township Board. She is a past member of the Burt Township School Board, past president of the Grand Marais Women's Club and past board member for the Senior Housing Center.



Construction is nearing completion on the School Forest Rd, bridge.

## SEASONAL ROAD HEARING

he Alger County Road Commission will be holding a hearing regarding request for plowing seasonal roads for the 2001/2002 winter sea son. The hearing will be held on September 24, 2001 at 4:00 p.m. at the Alger County Road Commission office.

Please call or write the Burt Township Office if you wish to have your road added to the list.

**GRAND MARAIS GAZETTE** 

#### **SEPTEMBER 6, 2001**

## Burt Township Board Meeting August 14, 2001 7:00 pm

Present: Lee Durrwachter, Lori Savage, Jim Seibert, Rose Benmark, Lois Leavenworth Sixteen visitors.

**Public Comment:** Opened at 7:02 pm. Nancy Fuller asked for information about the camera and internet, including information about it's funding. Durrwachter answered the questions: the camera will be supplying live pictures of the bay for Channel 24 and an internet website; funding is coming from a grant, the Gazette, Grove Cable and the General Store; the computer that will be used will be one of the townships retired systems. The camera will be called the "Harbor Cam". Larry Allyn asked the status of the Snowmobile Committee and complained about the music festival. Durrwachter responded that he had no updates from the Snowmobile Committee and that complaints about the Music/Arts Festival should be directed to the Chamber of Commerce. They meet next Monday at the Community Center. Jim Leavenworth spoke about the music festival also and said that he enjoyed it and saw no problems with it. He also mentioned what happened when he listened to the negative comments about the music festival in the past and wrote an article trying to put a stop to it. He stated that it appeared (at the time) Ibitrict Conservationalist, with the Alger County Conservation District, asked for the boards support to apply for grant monies on the behalf of Burt Township. Seibert motioned to write a letter to Terry Minzey with the Alger Conservation District to support their efforts to pursue grants through the Federal Clean Water Act, to support efforts to reduce sedimentation in the township water sheds, and be willing to provide meeting rooms as needed. Seconded by Leavenworth. 5 Ayes. Motion carried.

#### Public comment closed at 7:35 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda: Motion by Seibert, seconded by Leavenworth to accept the agenda. 5 ayes. Motion carried.

Correspondense/Petitions/Appointments/Resignations: Savage read correspondence: Let-ter from Wallace Parrish announcing his desire to resign from the Zoning Board of Appeals. Letter from Dorothy Morrison announcing her desire to resign from the Zoning Board of Appeals. Letter from Norm and Marge Schmidt thanking the township for a refund given by the park when they were unable to complete their stay due to a funeral. Letter from Larry Roggenbuck, Infrastructure Specialist, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, informing the board that \$3,791.00 in administrative fees has been approved for the Revolving Loan Committee. Letter from Susan Duszynski complaining about the noise caused by a street dance held by Don Lawrence for the Kayak Symposium on Saturday, July 18, 2001. At 1:00 am, she asked the group if they could turn down the music and received rude com-ments. This complaint was forwarded to the Chamber of Commerce. Letter from Sue Fratzke, Statutory Refund Section of the State of Michigan Dept. of the Treasury, concerning a refund of \$126.00 which is owed to the township. Letter from Deidre Brooke concerning her request for a refund from Woodland Park because she decided to leave. Seibert is writing a letter in response. Letter from Lonnie Barnette, Manager, Dept. of Community Health, to announce a grant in the amount of \$47,121.00 for rural health initiative programs through the Burt Township Ambulance Service. Letter from Edmond T. Warren in response to Durrwachter's interest in purchasing the pickle barrel and adjacent property. Edward J. Miller of Kenwood Advisors will contact the Burt Township offices to work out the details of Mr. Warren's wish to place the property in the hands of Burt Township and to keep the Teenie Weenie story alive forever. A motion was made by Seibert to appoint Karl Wilson to the ZBA effective January 1, 2001, for a 3 year term. Seconded by Leavenworth. 5 – ayes. Motion carried. A motion was made by Seibert to appoint Jack Roberts to the Planning Commission effective January 1, 2001, for one year. Seconded by Leavenworth. 5 ayes. Motion carried.

<u>Minutes of the Previous Meetings</u>: Motion by Leavenworth, seconded by Seibert to accept the minutes of the July 10, 2001, Regular Board Meeting and the August 1, 2001, Special Board Meeting. 5 ayes. Motion carried.

Special Board Meeting. 5 ayes. Motion carried. <u>Treasurer's Report</u>: Accepted by Supervisor Durtwachter subject to audit: General Fund \$57,346.59, Payroll \$16,947.06, Improvement \$61,100.02, Medical Center \$314.29, Ambulance \$14,766.11, Fire \$93,472.33, Woodland Park \$64,494.68, Marina \$7,295.06, Water Receiving \$128,830.41, Water Operation & Maintenance \$2,593.28, Water Bond & Interest Fund \$15,129.26, Harbor Fund \$55,869.26, Tax Account \$111,660.53, Beach Access \$18,750.95, EDC/Revolving Loan Fund \$113,920.17. Comments by Seibert: Water Operating fund is critical, all expenditures must be closely scrutinized and held to a minimum. The money in the Tax Account ALL belongs to the school, don't make any plans to spend it. All bills must be approved by the person responsible for the operation except in emergencies when the person is not available. RLF loans of Wilson's Market and the Dune's Motel are delinquent again. The audit is underway, a report will be made on the progress at this meeting and on it's final status when the report is received.

Payment of Bills: Approval on motion by Leavenworth, seconded by Seibert to pay bills as presented with one change – a power washer listed under Woodland Park should be paid out of the Township Improvement Fund – 5 ayes. Motion carried.

paid out of the Township Improvement Fund – 5 ayes. Motion carried. General Fund \$14,058.13, Payroll \$15,016.74, Fuel System \$4,522.10, Improvement \$17,387.18, Youth Action Grant \$891.20, Medical Center \$437.04, Ambulance \$2,114.69, Fire Department \$565.98, Woodland Park \$42,156.07, Marina \$12,957.79, Water Receiving \$9,433.33, Water Operation and Maintenance \$7,900.48, Harbor Fund \$166.67, Revolving Loan Fund \$504.17.

# <u>Refunds</u>: Motion by Leavenworth to refund 4 rental deposits, seconded by Seibert. 5 ayes. Motion carried.

Monthly Reports: Woodland Park/Marina: Park Manager, Pam Hicks, reported on an incident in the park which resulted in a small hole being burned in a tent. Motion by Seibert, seconded by Leavenworth that the Township pay for damages on the tent plus offer a certificate good for a couple days of camping. 5 ayes. Motion carried, Seibert to write letter to customer. Park manager reviewed music festival. There were 20 overflow sites within the park, however, the park was filled to capacity between 8/10/01 and 8/12/01. Six toilets were clogged – but they were able to be fixed. The beach bathhouse was closed and locked on 8/11/01 due to overflow problems, DPW was notified on 8/14/01. There were water heater problems in the park bathroom. The Chamber allowed public use of the Community Center

bathrooms – although they were told by the Park Manager that they were not to use them. Alger County Sheriff's Dept. reported 11 minor's in possession (MIP's), an eviction within the park, and Stalter's money box was stolen (amount unknown). Munising State Police reported 3 minor's in possession (MIP's), and backup for the sheriff during the eviction. New berry State Police were backup for both the Sheriff and the Munising State Police. No cita-tions were written by them. A couple of groups in the primitive area felt they were harassed by Festival Staff to purchase tickets for the Festival – even though they had paid for the primitive sites long before and not specifically for the festival. Park Manager's suggestions for next year include requiring the Festival Staff to set up their overflow sites 3 days in ad-vance and contract an overflow camping area with port-a-johns and water well in advance of the festival. Also, possibly contact Altran Busses to run trips between the festival and overflow camping area. Overall, the state of the park was much better this year than in the past. The Chamber did a very good job of cleaning up after the festival. **DPW/Water Dept.**: Manager, Mike Beek, reported that he had been working with leak detection to determine where excess water usage may be a problem and with retired engineers to do some energy analysis of Township Buildings. Employee Policy Committee: Chairman, Sandee Sibbald, stated that no meetings have been held yet. Seibert said that he wants the committee to address the definition of Sick Days and change the pay dates for hourly employees to the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup>. He feels this will give the supervisor, clerk and treasurer more time to check for accuracy and errors before the employees are paid. Supervisor's Report: Lee Durrwachter reported that he is meeting with the attorney on Thursday to discuss the Reiss and Behnke requests. Information about the Reiss property and resolution are being looked at by the at-torney. The Behnke property Quit Claim Deed needs to be written more clearly since it appears that a portion of the "railroad property" in question is on H-58. Durrwachter also spoke with Bill Priesman's neighbor, Wayne Murlinger. Mr. Murlinger has constructed a chest high single wire between his property and Mr. Priesman's property. Durrwachter asked that Mr. Murlinger either remove the wire or sufficiently mark it with flags. Durrwachter will speak with attorney about this also. Seibert has contacted the Meldrum family whose property was damaged during the cemetery clean-up to determine a settlement.] UNFINISHED BUSINESS: A) Woodland Park: Bathhouse/Destruction/Basketball

Court After discussion and review of information concerning removal of the sign at the basketball court, destruction of electrical conduits at the Rec Center and noise and profanity complaints from neighbors of the basketball court, several options were suggested by Durrwachter: close the basketball court and pole barn facility for recreational use; provide adult supervision; hire a guard; or relocate the facility. Seibert mentioned that a year ago an agreement was made to upgrade the court and use soundproofing. Seibert said that the town-ship had not held up it's end of the agreement made last year when township youth presented a petition. Savage stated that closing the basketball court is wrong - taking away the positive activities that the kids have because of the disrespect of a couple kids (maybe not even local kids) or the complaints of one family is unfair. In response to the complaints about destruction, Pam Hicks stated that she had to take away the Youth Center key from the Bayshore Market because unsupervised youths were destroying the center. Pam Hicks also supported the fact that local kids use the basketball court by saying that she believes the "Bell clan" uses the basketball court quite a bit and that very few summer kids use it. Seibert asked if the Township should do what they said they would – or shut it down. Seibert also explained that Park Money should not be used for recreation. Savage said that there is \$5000 allocated to recreation each year. Seibert said that it is not just for youth recreation. Leavenworth asked for input from local kids - maybe a meeting to ask them what they want. If they aren't interested why should anything be done for them. If there is interest, then the township should provide adult supervision. Savage asked if the board could have a meeting of the Township Board and the kids. Seibert asked what we will do in the interim - should we hold up our end and put down new asphalt and noise deferring backboards or shut it down. Seibert said he hasn't seen much interest. Savage asked where the lack of interest is? The kids use that basketball court every day - adults use it too. Seibert asked what should be done put up the new asphalt and backboards? Savage said that the township should do what they said they would Leavenworth added that the township needs to provide supervision. Seibert said he thinks the beard should shut it down and see if there is interest. If the parents are interested, he added, they can provide their own supervision - he didn't feel that the board should pay for it. Savage asked how the kids would find out about the opportunity to re-open the basketball court - if it is shut down? Seibert said there could be a meeting. Durrwachter initiated a motion to put before the board to fulfill the agreement to suppress the noise. Savage made a motion that the Township fulfill the agreement to suppress the noise and upgrade the facility. No response by Board. Motion dropped. Seibert motioned to remove the basketball hoops and shut down the basketball court until such time as the youth of this community decide what they want and how they are going to cooperate with the town-ship for their own recreation. Seconded by Benmark. 4 ayes; 1 nay. Motion carried. Pam Hicks asked how the board is going to notify the youth of this decision. Durrwachter said that the board would post signs and put the information on Channel 5. B) Bayshore Park Bathhouse – Durrwachter said that he understood that the bathhouse had toilets that are overflowing and asked if it was still shut down. Mike Beek stated that it is open, but there is something wrong with the septic and it stinks in there. Durrwachter said this would be a project for next year.

NEW BUSINESS: A) Hospitalization Program: Seibert made a motion to accept the change of health care coverage to Community Blue PPO Plan 2, with Dental 50/5/50, Blue Vision 24/24/24 and RxAdvantage Plus Prescription coverage, family coverage available for all elected officers, including trustees, and full time employees. Seconded by Leavenworth said that it has been taken care of. His concern was with the east line of the property coming up from the bay because it was undetermined. The people in that area wanted the brush trimmed – no-one could trim it because no-one knew where the line was. Survey came through on the fax. Township office was very helpful. C) Alley Vacation Request: Catherine Reiss sent \$125.00 and requested that the alley near her home be vacated and property transferred to her. Rules of engagement require board to proceed using standard procedure.

Adjournment on motion by Leavenworth, seconded by all at 9:40 p.m. Respectfully submitted: Lori Savage, Township Clerk

These are the unapproved minutes of the August 14, 2001 regular meeting. Included in the body of these are all of the offical actions taken by the Burt Township Board.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO WATCH OUT FOR CHILDREN ENTERING AND LEAVING SCHOOL BUSSES! Laws Of Work

A pat on the back is only a few centimeters from a kick in the butt. Don't be irreplaceable: if you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted. Important letters that contain no errors will develop errors in the mail. To err is human, to foreive is not our policy.

#### SEPTEMBER 6, 2001

# **GRAND MARAIS GAZETTE**

# A Message from the Supervisor By Lee Durrwachter, **Burt Township Supervisor**

#### Vacating Alleys, Streets and Property -

Say you want the township to vacate that alley you've been mowing for the past forty years, because hardly anyone uses it any more, and the extension on your garage would fit nicely into that extra 10 feet of property? You have just entered into the world of "Plat Changes", in which there are state guidelines the township follows. Besides paying a township's filing fee to make this request, there could be additional fees for services that you would be responsible for reimbursement. The township may want a survey, \$650; consult with its township attorney, \$200 per hour; require an impact study on such a vacation, which requires an expert - \$100 per hour. All of these fees are assessed to you, the plaintiff, if required for clarification by the board. Now just because it's vacated, and you have ownership of half of an alley, it still may not be built upon. The township may choose to retain easement rights for future utilities. In addition, if the alley, street and/or property is less than eighty feet from a lake or stream, it can't be vacated. (For further excerpts, see Land Division Act, Act 288 of 1967, "Plat Changes": Article 560, Sections.255a, 257 & 259).

# Handling Donated Funds -

Recently, questions have been raised on how to handle donations to the fire department, ambulance corps. and youth center. First let me say, any and all money that is received by township personnel for township programs, services, functions or equipment is township money that should be received and receipted by the treasurer (or designated officials/employees who are bonded). With a few exceptions (such as the 2% money from Indian casinos), the township can only spend that money as the laws allow, known as lawful expenditures. The expenditure of township money must be authorized and approved by the township board, unless the township board has adopted a policy that authorizes specific officials/ employees to expend funds up to a certain amount or for certain purposes without prior board approval. Those expenditures must still be "post audited" by the township board.

When the township is offered donations, the board can choose whether or not to accept the donations and any "strings" attached. The donations do not need to be put in separate bank accounts, but they can be accounted for separately. This is especially true of earmarked donations, with strings, which are placed in a Trust-in-Agency account (on paper, not separate bank account) in the Uni-form Chart of Accounts 700 numbers.

"The key is that public money can only be used for public purposes and must be accounted for and expended according to the laws governing public money.

"If the township currently has a number of bank accounts that are being used for various private purposes or donations, the board may want to consult with its auditor/CPA for advice on how to consolidate the accounts and implement greater internal controls over the acceptance and use of donations.

"It's a big subject!"

Just for the record, donations to a township (or other governmental unit) are tax deductible for IRS federal income tax purposes. They are not tax deductible or subject to a tax credit for state income tax-unless you're donating artwork to a township museum!!

	Oxyn	noron	IS
* New Y	ork culture	*	Extinct life
* "Now,	then"	*	Taped live
* Peace	force	*	New classic

#### **Editorial Policy**

We encourage our readers to use these pages as a community forum for a free exchange of ideas. Your letters are welcome.

The one stipulation is that letters to the editor must be signed. Pen rames will not be accepted. We will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for space and clarity, and we will publish your comments as space allows.

Further, the views expressed by our writers and guest correspondents are welcome additions to the forum. They reflect, however, opinions of the writers and correspondents and are not those explicitly endorsed by the Gazette.

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OFFICE HOURS: If you see the silver and green Dodge pickup out front, give it a try. If you questions please call and leave your name and phone number on the au machine. We'll get back to you.

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#### **GRAND MARAIS GAZETTE**



equipment that was put in place this summer. EMT classes start this week for the winter with Bob and Nancy Weson as the instructors.

The big wedding weekend is over. With all the help we had every-thing went very well, except Mother Nature had to provide us with rain during the reception. The garden welding was beautiful, the summer parasols that were supposed to keep the hot sun off of us were used for the light rain in the air. They worked great. In for our daughter Jenny's wedding was my sister Maggie and her family, my brother George and his family, my brother Bruce and his wife Carlene all from Ithaca. John's brother Larry and wife Terri, along with daughter Barbara from Calumet City, Ill. Brandi Morrison, and sons, Billy, Brandon and Alex from Calumet City stayed with Grandpa Bill Morrison. My good friends Sid and Cheryl Hull, Kathy and John Densmore, and Tish Mallory from the Ithaca area were in and gave me so much help with every thing. Thanks to Dick Casebeer and John Dettwiler that made all the wonderful food and actually kept me semi sane through this summer. Thanks to Mom and Dad who did all the things I couldn't find time to do. Everyone was a great help.

Terry Hardy from GR was in with friends Bob Heater, Dan the Blues Man, Julie and Loni. They did some fishing, sight seeing and visiting friends

Camp Buckshot had their annual Labor Day party, with lots of good food, volleyball against other camps, horseshoes, and a 50/50 raffle You could not have asked for better weather.

Bob Stocking made it up from Grand Rapids for his annual Labor Day fishing trip. He was the guest of Neal and Ruth Beaver. Mike and Nickole Beaver from Las Vegas were in visiting with their grandparents Neal and Ruth.

Brooke and Ryan Whaley were up for Labor Day from Marquette. Dennis and Cindy (Barney) Elliot were also in form Marquette.

Chris and Scott Roberts were in for the weekend from Mt. Pleasant staying at the Love Shack.

I'm sure you will notice the house on Agate Beach road soon. The colors are changing from dark brown to a yellow, green and wine color; watch for the transformation coming this week. With the new heating and air conditioning system put it place now, who knows how long they will stay, maybe forever.

Happy birthday to Sandee (Vanna) Sibbald, Margaret Roberts, and Mary Capogrossa

Get well to my brother Jim, who had a bad accident at his home in Colorado. He is in the hospital with 5 broken ribs, fractured eye socket and cheek bones, multiple cuts and a concussion of top of all that. What a way to get a vacation.

We all hope you had a wonderful Labor Day and see you Around the Bay. Keep on smiling ..... Evie morriso3@jamadots.com

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT Lois & Jim Leavenworth have a new grandson. Their daughter, Kathleen gave birth on Friday, August 10th at 7:17 a.m. to a bouncing baby boy weighting 9 lbs. 2 ozs. and measuring 21", at Alaska Regional Hospital in Anchorage, Alaska. Kath-leen & her husband Geno live in Wasilla, Alaska, & have 3 daughters; Mariah, Jessie & Cynthia. The baby's name is Augustine Leavenworth Yerbich - "Augie" for short.

# <u></u>

**THANK YOU** Ben and I would like to thank everyone that made our wedding day so special. Thanks to Ira and Nancy McDonald for providing the beautiful setting at their home. You added so many flowers to match the color theme of our wedding. Every thing was so beautiful. Thanks to John Dettwiler and Dick Casebeer for the wonderful food and their assis-tants, Sandee and Barb. Thanks to all my family and friends that decorated the barn and yard. Thanks to Barb Whaley for her hand crafted candleholders for the trees. Thanks to Tish Mallory for taking the time to come up and working in mom's shop all day doing hair, nails and makeup. Thanks to Kay Wampler and her mom Jeanne for all the flower ar-rangements; they were gorderful food and their assisrangements; they were gorrangements; they were gor-geous. Thanks Mom and Dad for making this day so special for making this day so special for us.

# **OBITUARIES**

# JUNE M. COREY

June M. Corey, 69, of Grand Marais, died Thursday afternoon August 30, 2001, at her residence under the loving care of her family and North Woods Hospice

Born June 24, 1932 in Ely, Minnesota, daughter of the late John & Tyne (Ojala) Lampi. Mrs. Corey had been an Grand Marais resident for several years formerly residing in Garden City. A devoted housewife and homemaker, June was a member of Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Grand Marais. June married Bernard F. Corey April 6, 1951 and he preceded her in death on December 2, 1998. Her son, Bernard W. Corey preceded her in death in 1987.

Survivors include her son Michael (Jenny) of Fife Lake, daughters Patricia Corey of Grand Marais and Linda Corey of Inkster; grand children Autumn, Cassie, Samantha and Jesse; brothers Clarence & Ronald Lampi both of Ely, Minnesota.

A memorial mass was held Tuesday September 4, 2001 at the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Grand Marais with Fr. Glenn Theoret officiating. Rite of Committal took place at Holy Rosary Catholic Cemetery. Beaulieu Funeral Home in Newberry assisted the family.



**CLAUDIA MARIE NUGENT** Claudia Marie Nugent, age 102, died at her home Wednesday, May 9, 2001.

Claudia Swanson was born June 24, 1898 in Grand Marais and had lived in the area since 1948. She was married August 3, 1932 to Frank Nugent She attended Marquette University, Alma College, Northern Michigan University and Indiana University and was a teacher in Wakefield, Brethren, Baldwin, Ludington, Walla Walla, Wash. Twin Wells Indian School, New Mexico, and Ari-

293-517

cona. She was a member of the Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel and the Mason County Historical Society.

Survivors are one daughter, Sheila of Ludington; grandsons, Marc Colitti of Battle Creek and Guy Colitti of Longmont, Colo.; granddaughter, Renata Corlett of Lafayette, Colo.; great-grandchildren, Julia. Emily and Vincenzo in Colorado

She was preceded in death by her husband, Frank J. Nugent; three sisters, Elfreda (Mulligan, postmaster in Grand Marais for 40 years), Clara Elizabeth (Bessie Pugh of Grand Marais) and Lily (Bjork) of Califor-

Interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Grand Marais, August 18, 2001. Memorials may be directed to Community Church or the charity of choice







# SPECIAL DEER SEASON PLANNED FOR YOUTH

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources encourages all young hunters age 12-16 to participate in the special youth firearm deer season scheduled statewide Sept. 22-23. A properly licensed youth is allowed to take one deer.



Last year's first-ever youth-only hunt in Michigan drew 13,679 youngsters who harvested nearly 5,000 deer, less than one percent of the total deer harvest in 2000. Youth-only hunts have been established across the U.S. in recent years in response to concerns about the declining national trend in hunter numbers. Such hunts are an opportunity to provide beginning hunters with training and mentor-

**UNING WEW** ing, helping them develop interest, skills and firearm safety awareness. "Mentoring is a vital component of the youth hunting program," said DNR Wildlife Chief Rebecca Humphries. "This special weekend hunt provides mentors the opportunity to teach, share experiences, and help instill in our young people a respect for animals and their habitat." Changes for the 2001 season will provide additional opportunity for youths to hunt white-tailed deer throughout

the state. This year, young hunters age 12 and 13 may use archery equipment to participate in the weekend hunt. Also, both public and private lands are open to the youth firearm season.

All young hunters participating in this special hunt must be accompanied by an adult at least 18 years of age. The accompanying adult does not need a deer hunting license and is prohibited from carrying a firearm or bow during the special youth firearm deer season. Hunters may not use bait during this season. All youth hunters are required to wear hunter orange.



TEL: 906-494-2720, FAX:494-2489 E-mail: rmeldrum@jamadots.com Web Page: rosiesgrandmaraisrealty.com

# NEAT 2 BR COTTAGE LOCATED ON LARGE LOT FRONTING ON LAKE SUPERIOR.

If you've been searching for an ideal vacation spot with beautiful beach frontage in Grand Marais, then check this out. Updated 2BR, with no-care vinyl siding, most of windows newly installed, new septic tank and city water, Berber carpeting, updated bath, new stove in kitchen AND includes ALL furnishings, in-

cluding linens and dishes. Ready to occupy. Lot fronts on Canal Street on Coast Guard Point, is well over 800 ft. in depth, and lots of room for enlarging cottage, if desired.



# LETTER FROM FATHER JOE

A letter was received recently from Fr. Joe Plappallil in India. Fr. Joe was with us for three years and now is back caring for a mission school in the north of India.

Part of what he wrote is the following;

I had gone home for three weeks of vacation and spent time with my parents, brothers and sisters. Vacation was wonderful, as the whole family was present. I blessed my youngest sister's marriage on  $17^{th}$  May, 2001. She is Staff Nurse in Saudi Arabia. I have a new and wonderful brother-in-law. Be is employed in the same place. Now they have gone back for work.

The school and boarding were re-opened on  $2^{nd}$  of July. This year we have 60 boys in the boarding, from Kg. to X. The boys are wonderful it seems. In the school we have about 800 boys and girls from Kg. to X (10<sup>th</sup>).

The monsoon (rain) is already here. I have started the construction but it will take time to finish the classrooms. The soil here is not as strong as we require. So we have to dig at least 6-ft. deep and put columns and beams of concrete. Then over those heavy beams we have to put bricks. There is a lot or work underneath.

Half of the money I received from all or you will be spent for the strong foundation. So I am still in need of financial help. I encourage people to donate some dollars even sacrificing your chocolate and sweets for my mission. Remember when you buy a candy-bar, with that expense I can feed one child.

Remember me and my mission. My children always pray for you. May God bless us. There is nothing impossible for God. In spite of my struggle for help, this year I have to help two poor girls to continue their nursing study.

# Please pray for me.

There is a bank account for Fr. Joe's mission at Peoples' State Bank for those who would like to contribute to his mission work.



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#### SEPTEMBER 6, 2001

# DO THE RIGHT THING By Lee Goewey

#### "The mere existence of conservatives should be proof enough to liberals of the fallacy of their belief in the perfectibility of mankind."

A couple of years ago, when discussion began in earnest over what to do with the embarrassingly large projected tax surplus, one exceptionally outrageous argument was made against any refund to the taxpayers: A prominent spokesman for the tax-and-spend crowd in Washington held that the taxpayers were too dim-witted to be trusted with any refund of their overpayment. They would only spend it, you see, on frivolous, foolish things. The money needed to be left in the hands of those in the Congress best qualified to know how to spend it.

In the meantime, a similar argument has been made against allowing private, individual Social Security investment accounts for us average taxpayers. We are, our public "servants" inform us, too dull and thick-headed to own and manage such accounts. Forget the fact that the return on Social Security is a miserable 1 to 2 percent over the working life of a retiree. Forget the fact that we don't "own" the account and can't will it to our heirs when we die. Forget the fact that federal workers have a pension fund known as the "C Fund," through which they may invest in the stock market. Forget the fact that this fund, which these workers own and can pass on to their survivors, has had an annual return of over 17 percent for the last 10 years. Just remember, we are too dumb to manage our finances; the government must do it for us.

A recent editorial cartoon by Gary Markstein, distributed by the Copley News Service, captures the average taxpayer, as viewed by our "betters:" In the first frame, President "Dubya," holding a news-paper reporting "Economy Still Slow," says "It's a good time for Americans to be receiving their tax rebate checks." In the second frame, a man presents his tax rebate to a woman behind a cash register, asking her for "600 Powerball tickets, please..." (You do get it, don't you? After all, we are so terminally stupid.)

I have to say that our own tax refund came at a point where it really helped with some serious and unexpected expenses and was put to good use. I suspect the vast majority of refunds helped meet important needs.

As the final "straw that broke the camel's back," we are now being told from D.C. (the aply named "seat" of government,) that the puny tax refund is wiping out the surplus and threatening Social Security. The only force wiping out the surplus is the insatiable and uncurbed drive of Senators and Representatives of both political parties to spend every last dollar extracted from us, whether it's surplus or not. The only threat concerning Social Security comes from the refusal of those same worthies, again from both parties, to recognize the fact that the System <u>is</u> broken and <u>must</u> be fixed. Our older generation needs the promises made to them about Social Security to be honored; our younger generations need a better deal! The same sort that federal workers get!

Please, DO THE RIGHT THING and let any elected official of either party who insults the electorate know how you feel about that at the ballot box. As for the rest of them, let them know what you believe and what you expect from them, in a courteous manner. You may agree or disagree with me, but the important thing is to educate yourself on the vital issues of the day and then communicate with your public servants on those issues. You may reach these individuals at the following addresses; don't forget to include your name, address and phone number if you write:

President George W. Bush, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20500

(202) 456-1414 e-mail: president@whitehouse.gov

Senator Carl Levin, 269 Russell Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6221 e-mail: senator@levin.senate.gov

Senator Debbie Stabenow, 776 Russell Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-4822 e-mail: senator@stabenow.senate.gov Representative Bart Stupak, 2348 Rayburn Bldg., Washington, D.C. (202) 225-4735 e-mail: stupak@mail.house.gov



# GOEWEY FAMILY REUNION

Ellen Goewey, who is celebrat-ing her 90<sup>th</sup> year, was recently honored at a family reunion in her home town of Aurora, Illinois. She is the mother of Lee Goewey of Grand Marais. There were over 50 family members present from as far away as Florida and Japan. Family photos were taken and will be assembled and presented to Ellen in a remembrance album as a reminder of her big day. She told everyone in church the morning of the reunion that she had decided to celebrate her 90th year for the next four months until her birthday in November. Ellen, who still drives, says she likes to "help old folks with letter writing and reading." She is a faithful member of her church, Secretary for her church ladies' group, an active member of her local DAR Chapter and an excellent correspondent. She serves as an outstanding example for her entire family. She and her husband George used to come up to Grand Marais every vear before he passed away.





Your letters are welcomed. The views expressed by our writers and guest correspondents reflect the opinions of those writers and correspondents and are not those explicitly endorsed by the Gazette.

#### Letter to Editor and Burt Township Board:

Grand Marais and Woodland Park have been our summer "home" for the last thirteen years, sometimes for only a few weeks, but, more often for a month or two. We have been here in August many years and one memorable year, September into October. Thus, we have experienced the music Festival on several occasions. This year provided us with a suprising and special treat: an orderly and enjoyable Festival with a spectacular highlight of the Northern Lights after the music ended Saturday night.

The week before the Festival several park "regulars" were discussing the upcoming event and preparing to decamp. While we were talking and remembering various horror stories of earlier festivals, a young woman walking by stopped to ask if all she had heard from others was true. "Was the festival dangerous?", she asked, adding. "I have little children camping with us and am very worried." I assured her that most incidents had been late at night and that none really threatened small children.

Since my motorhome was on site #11, near the new bathroom and in view of all the events, we prepared for the onslaught. Park personnel also prepared, with clear markings for sites and careful monitoring of the overflow and primitive camping areas.

On Friday night as the Festival began, we were surprised and pleased to see, for the first time, a solid and prepared police presence, both Michigan State Police and the Alger County Sheriff Patrol. A clear message. When small disruptions occurred, they were quickly and quietly handled before erupting into more serious events.

With the increased strain on facilities, the Park personnel responded admirably. They concentrated on quick and constant cleaning-up of the grounds and, best of all, instituted hourly monitoring of the bathrooms. At all hours of the night and day we saw park personnel checking bathrooms and grounds. The Park Manager, Pam Hicks, was in constant surveillance of the grounds throughout the entire weekend. We were concerned about their lack of sleep but they all remained cheerful, helpful and positive.

Monday, after the Festival, I was able to speak to the aforementioned young woman who was concerned about her young children. She said, "despite my previous fears, we had an enjoyable camping experience and look forward to returning to Woodland Park next year."

Any public event needs careful pre-planning, organization, and visible law enforcement to be successful. This year's Festival clearly demonstrated all this and sets a high standard for all subsequent Festivals. Fred and Nancy von Daacke

#### Dear Editor:

At the last meeting of the Burt Township Board they voted to close the basketball court at the recreation center. We are very much opposed to this and sent them the enclosed letter. Please print this in your Letters to the Editor column. Thank you.

Ernie & Sally Brooks

#### Burt Township Board Grand Marais.

Michigan 49839

One of the first things we observed when we started coming to Grand Marais approximately twenty years ago was the concern the townspeople had for the kids in the area. They seemed to go out of their way to make sure there were things for them to do in such an isolated area. We also noticed that the kids in town were very friendly, helpful, respectful kids -probably because of the concern on the part of the adults.

Before we bought our land we stayed in town and sometimes were near the park. Never, were we bothered by the kids at the rec. center or the basketball court. Maybe because we remembered that kids are kids and they are loud and sometimes a little too wise when they are trying to impress their friends. It seems a shame that a few people can't remember what it was like to be that age and want to spoil the fun that the kids of Grand Marais have had for as many years as the park has been there.

We are totally against removing the basketball hoops and the ball diamond and any other part of the recreation center. It is a perfect place for the town kids to meet the park kids and develop friendships that may last long beyond childhood. The only thing we have to say to the complainers is "if you don't like airplanes, don't buy a house near the airport." The playground and park were there long before the complainers were.

> Sincerely, Sally Brooks Grand Marais

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR CONTINUES ON PAGE 11

## SEPTEMBER 6, 2001



Well, the fecal matter has hit the rotating blades in our town. Regardless of all the ignorant and stupid statements being made, it could be a cloud with a silver lining, as other uprisings have been, if people will work together in a positive manner. It appears that some people have begun to put forth efforts toward solving the problem instead of being part of the problem. Hopefully when the issue is discussed at the next Board meeting and at subsequent get-togethers the intent of everyone will be to reach a solution; judging from some of the things that I have heard, that is doubful.

I will use part of this article to inform anyone who is interested, of the facts; that ought to really screw some people up. First, my vote to temporarily close the basketball court was because of vandalism and had nothing to do with noise; if you had been at the board meeting this would have been clear to you. Secondly, there were four of five members that voted to take this action, the only member that voted against the motion was new to the area, had no history of the problems there, and certainly couldn't be expected to be very objective. Thirdly, the Youth Center is a perfect example of what happens when the youth are involved and responsible and what happens when the youth and their parents don't give a rat's patoot. And finally, the youth have a whole lot more intelligence, responsibility, imagination and ability than most of the people who are making the loudest noises give them credit for having. I assure you that if there were no basketball courts, baseball diamonds, or other facilities provided for them, they would find something to do to entertain themselves. They have proven that they can and will be responsible when they want something. The idea that they are a group of morons that can not entertain themselves is a slap in the face to them.

One thing that upsets me about so many people that I used to consider as intelligent, open-minded and in some cases friends, is that they chose to believe a gossip monger instead of calling or asking me and the other board members what we did and why. There were a few that did so and I thank them. Some people chose to be problems instead of solutions, why so many chose to be sheep is beyond me. I imagine that at the next election there will be hundreds of you people with all the answers running for office to make things perfect in Burt Township. Want to bet! One last point, I wonder how many people would be so irate if we closed the library?

While we and the Howdy Doody Network are engrossed in our major controversy, Adolph and crew have decided to steal \$50,000,000 from you. But that gets little if any attention. I wonder if anyone out there even knew that the legislature and governor have decided to take this amount from revenue sharing funds that are dedicated to the local governments of the state? I don't know yet but I'll see if I can find out how much they are stealing from us.

# **GRAND MARAIS GAZETTE**

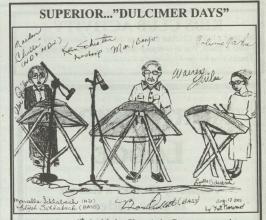
On the national scene, I am still waiting for the uto pia that the elephants promised. The economy con tinues to plummet, the stock market is lower than i has been in a long time, big industries continue to layoff employees and it looks as though the "surplus" has disappeared. Now the elephants point to the fact that the "slowdown" started last year; true, it started right after Katherine Harris appointed "Crybaby" as President. There appears to be two areas where crybaby will still blow money, Defense Dept. and education. The first is historically an elephant god; the second is unbelievable, that is nor mally an ass god; the elephants usually wanted to dump any national control and even were seriou about eliminating the Dept. of Education. What hap pened? Answer, the polls. It also looks like this tax rebate that I have yet to see, has done no good and that crybaby may have to break another promise- dip into the social security "lock box" whatever that is Surprise, surprise

I see that crybaby and both parties are ready and willing to cut Veterans benefits despite the fact that the Dept is already is dire need of more funding. I guess their position is that the W.W.II Vets are dying off – no reason to try to make their last years comfortable, no one wants to remember the Korean War Vets and most of the Vietnam era politicians were either draft dodgers or safe in some assignment that daddy and/or mommy got for them so we don't count either. The Vets from other wars, "peace keeping missions", etc. can be put off or forgotten too. The fact that we will never have a top grade military until we take care of our Vets doesn't seem to have infiltrated the heads of most politicians yet.

And finally. This past weekend all my "greater grandchildren" were in town visiting. On Saturday night, we played flashlight tag, that is hide and seek at night. Too would hide and as soon as the "it" per son got close he would say: "here I am". Hoo would turn his flashlight on and talk to Dizzy. Lizzard and Doc couldn't keep their mouths shut either most o the time. When Paul had dropped off Lizzard and Doc they had on PJs and slippers, of course it rained just enough to make the grass wet and by the time that the game was over, their feet were soaked. They all laid down on the sectional and watched a movie after a snack, and other than a few arguments about who was squashing whom, slept there all night. Or Sunday night when Sherri and Poo were at bingo and Lizzard, Doc, Paul and Sandy were at the Nolan James Christening party; I took Hoo, Too and Dizzy for a ride, ice cream and rock throwing at Twelve Mile Beach. The road report for H-58 is "not good" While at the beach throwing rocks into the water, Dizzy's aim went awry and she whacked me in the shin with one, reminded me of my hockey playing youth when we didn't have shin guards and some one hit you, in the shin with a puck. After that we went home and watched another movie. On Mon day, they all headed home and our block on Wilson St. was quiet again.

And finally, finally. Nolan James was baptized last weekend, his parents Rich and Treva and all their friends and relatives celebrated the event including a second rate grandma who was a year older (somewhere around 98) Wednesday. Until next issue.

Hungry Jim



Friday August 18<sup>th</sup> the Market Place Artist Co-op was proud to present Warren and Aloe Giles (Grand Rapids) in their 4<sup>th</sup> concert with the "Lost Lake Effect" (former students, now professional). Those performers included Marilyn & Barney Qullette and Chelle & Ken Schuster. Also, the Schlabach family from Seney, were not only students but performers. Elijah, Marcella, Lyle, Larita. Lavina, Lauanda, and Lynelle.

For the Forth year, lessons were offered on Wed., Thurs., Friday and the evening concert. We have a "Special" Picture sketched by Katrina Kosmo and we wanted to share and enjoy "her interpretation".



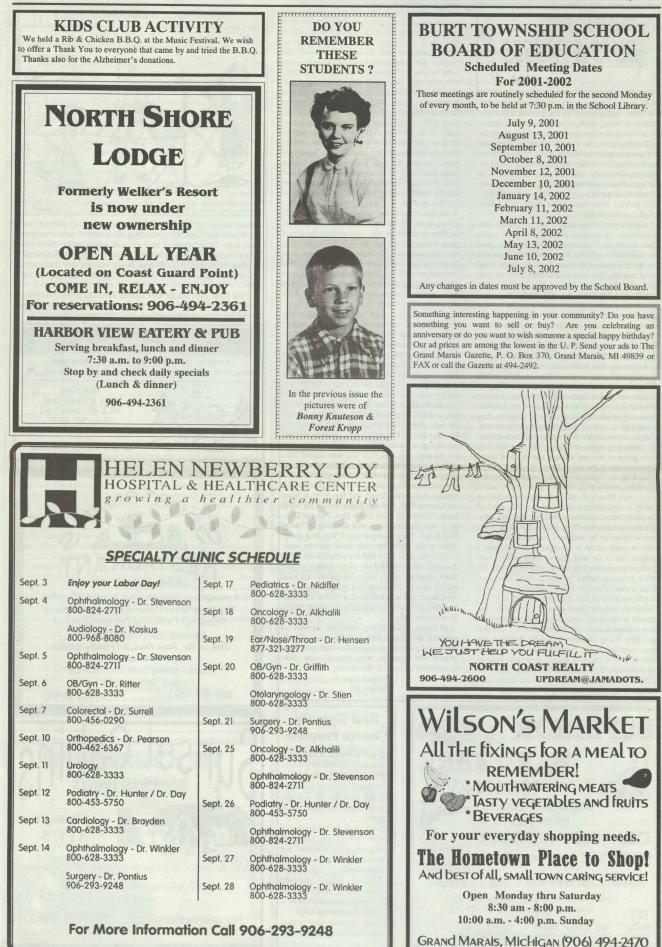


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**GRAND MARAIS GAZETTE** 

**SEPTEMBER 6, 2001** 



## **GRAND MARAIS GAZETTE**

# **BURT TOWNSHIP SCHOOL ANNOUNCES** THE FOLLOWING JOB POSTINGS

LUNCH ROOM HELPER - 2.5 hours per day helping to serve food and clean up lunch room after serving. Approximate time would be 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

CLASS ROOM AIDE - 3.5 hours per day assisting teachers and helping students in class rooms as directed by teachers. Must have a high school diploma, be able to work well with the students and follow the teachers' instruction. Recess duty inside and outside. Approximate hours would be 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon.

SUBSTITUTE SECRETARY - To fill in for the school secretary as the need arises and to fill in from October 16, 2001 through November, 2001. Must be able to type 45 wpm/computer literate, be able to answer phones and greet the public politely.

TO APPLY FOR ANY OF THESE POSITIONS CONTACT:

Burt Township School 906-494-2521 Post Office Box 338 Grand Marais, MI 49839

<u>ବିହେତତତତତତତତତତତତତତତତତତ</u>ତ୍ର **BURT TOWNSHIP SCHOOL SOCCER** Ō **SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 2001** Sept. 7/8 Sept. 12 Sept. 12 Sept. 14/ Sept. 19 Sept. 28/ Grand Marais @ Beaver Island Sept. 7/8 00000 Paradise @ Grand Marais Sept. 14/15 Mackinac Island @Grand Marais Grand Marais @ Paradise

#### Sept. 28/29 Northwest Academy @ Grand Marais



FOR YOU!

gie - Pears - Milk

nieces.

# Continued from the August 16th issue of the Gazette THE TRIP

# BY TOM SCAIFE

August 8th- It was raining when we got up this morning, but Elizabeth demanded I go swimming with her anyway. Arenal was more demure today, showing through the mists only occasional. The plan for today was to circle the hydoelectric lagoon at the base of Arenal and head for Guanacaste, which worked for awhile as we drove through some lovely forest, spotting a pizote (racoon/anteater type critter) en route before being flagged down by some European tourists who said the road was washed out ahead and was instead a river. Back we went in the pouring rain, a detour that added about 2 hours to what would turn out to be a grueling drive in the rain back to San Ramon and through the mountains down to Liberia - the gateway to Guanacaste. the regular traffic scene is bad enough, considering the hills, narrow highway, and pedestrians, bike, and animal traffic, but add to this the rain, growing dusk, and streaky wipers, and you have more than enough ingredients for a really bad soup. Helen and Elizabeth are good travelers, though, and the rain finally ended about an hour be-fore we got to Liberia. We briefly shopped motels, settling for the second one we stopped at, cheap and clean. There was a cute lizard on the ceiling in the hall; I interpreted this to be a good sign. After a light dinner across the street, we had no problem falling asleep, the girls first, and I after struggling to keep up with this. You know, I fully realize these journals make for ragged reading at times, but what the hack, at least I get it done. I keep hoping to inspire some international travel and at the same time lay the foundations of an exchange program. All right, lets go ...

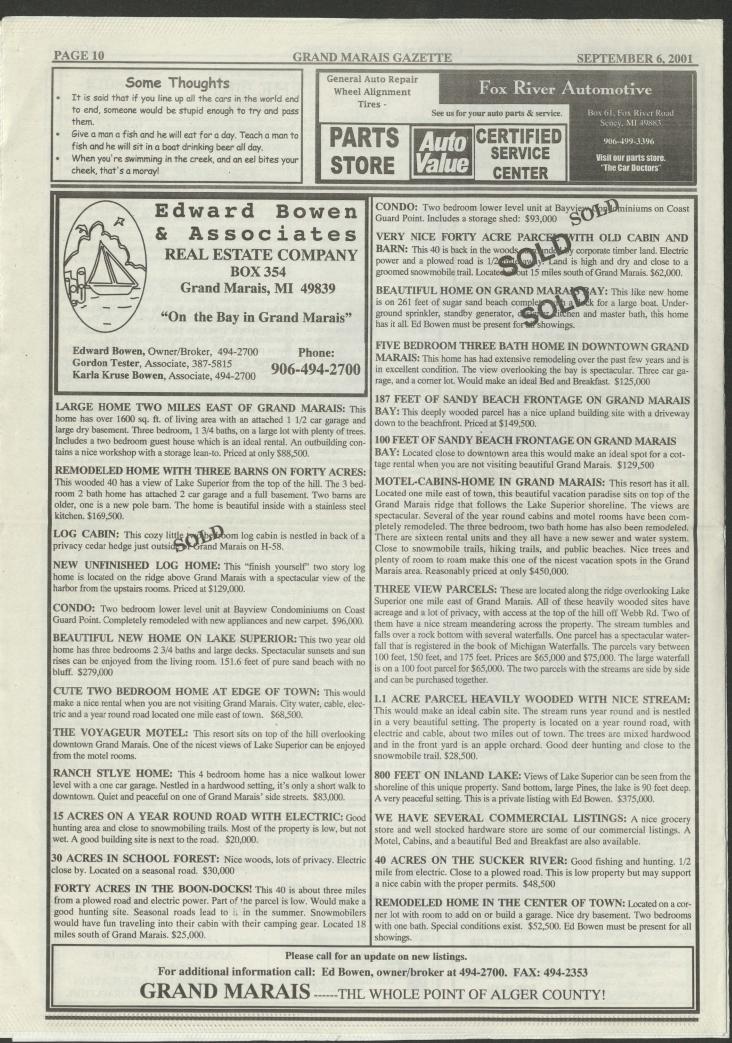
August 9th-Elizabeth and I walked out early for a weather check and for a survey of the premises and grounds. The motel is called the Aserrador, "The Sawyer" because it is next to the sawmill. The furniture is all wooden, some of it slab tables, and there are several huge ornamental trunks, two of them hollow, out back. We strolled past these back to a pasture where a mare and her cute foal were grazing, and there we paused to tickle some dormilones, small, palmate-leafed plants that are tactile-sensitive, folding inward when touched. The gravel drive and dewy, prickly ground cover soon drove us back to our room, where we quickly packed, grabbed some coffee in the lobby, and hit the road, determined to do as little driving as possible on this day.

We cruised the highway that bisects the Nicoya peninsula south of Liberia. The sun was shining and it felt good to be in the country, destination Playa Hermosa. It had been recommended to us by the shuttle driver at the airport, along with a cheap hotel run by an Italian. The beach was rated swimmer friendly because it lies in a natural cove that lessens the impact of the surf - a plus for our pint-sized novice Elizabeth. The hotel lay among some large trees inhabited by large lizards. The rooms were OK, nothing fancy. We got our suits on and hit the beach, checking out the rock outcroppings one way, swimming, checking out the crabs, and then hiking up the beach the other way until we reached a little grove with some makeshift tables supporting plastic buckets with some octopus remains. On the walk back it began to rain quickly, and we had to hustle to the hotel. The showers were intermittent and hard during the afternoon, and we dodged a few to get to a small restaurant for lunch. Later Elizabeth wanted to swim again, even though it was raining, so she and I did. At one point we saw a large school of fish, like bass, maybe, leap entirely out of the water in a flickering arc, and as we stood marveling at what we had just witnessed, they leapt again--straight at us! As they splashed down, I drew Elizabeth toward me, preparing for the finny tribe to brush past us, and--nothing. The whole school vanished not to jump again. Well, I never ... We swam a lot that day, and Helen observed a crab battling a bird to a standoff on the walkway outside our room while we were out there. In the evening we explored the tidal pools in the rocks before having a late supper in the open air restaurant of our hotel, where a large group of Italian tourists were gathered on holiday. Helen had the opportunity to tune up her Italian with the wife of the owner as they discussed the sizes of various children and grandchildren. Elizabeth's a big kid, don't you know? That's as much as I got out of it.

August 10th- After a leisurely getaway that featured swimming, of course, we pulled out and headed for Playa Tamarindo, a little way down the coast. The road by the beach was hot and dusty when we arrived, and the conditions limited our tolerance for hotel shopping. One was full, another was too expensive, and the third was just a series of rooms with showers, about four on either side of a tile hallway open to the outside on either end. The other roomers - all surfers, we would later find out - were gone, the maid and her kitten and various dogs were there, as was the green parrot in a cage out front by a hammock. There was one room vacant, and we took it, giving the maid cash up front. This beach was a step, or a number of steps, up on the ocean power scale. Many surfers were working the surf, which was regular and strong. The slope of the beach is gradual though, so Elizabeth was willing to take a beating in the shallows as long as I was rolling around in it with her When she tired, I went out further and did some body surfing among the larger breakers, getting occasional runs of 50-100 feet. Quite the charge when you catch one right, but sooner or later we had to get out of the sun rest up, and eat, so we went to a cafe along the street. Back at our room, the key would not unlatch our door, sc the two young surfer types who were watching the place for the owner came up from their grass hut by the road with their dark, deep dark skin, nylon shorts barely supported by hipless butts, bare feet (one guy had a midget "index" toe on each foot), and long hair to "fix" the situation. One removed the glass slats to our side window and climbed in, and the two of them pried and jimmied for the better part of an hour before finally busting up the whole outfit and opening the door. We all got a good laugh out of the proceedings, during which Elizabeth played with the kitten, which we called "loco", wild parrots called to the caged one out front, and Helen called me out back to show me a monkey in a mango tree. In the evening we returned to the beach and swam as the sun dropped into the sea, a dusk of power and beauty. We eventually crawled out and returned to our un-lockable room among the comings and goings of the surfers, some of whom were cooking their dinners over tiny propane stoves in the hallway. The actual "guy in charge", who looked a lot like the other guys, ex-cept he had a beard, showed up and asked for the parts of the locking mechanism, which I gave him, all 27

The Trip to be continued in the next issue of the Gazette





## SEPTEMBER 6, 2001

## **GRAND MARAIS GAZETTE**

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