

Wilfred Ramsey Remembered by Yacht Club

The Mackinac Island Yacht Club dedicated its Thursday dinner on July 28 to Wilfred Ramsey, the son of Francis De and Maude Ramsey, who died February 5 in a fog-related plane accident.

Francis Ramsey was commodore of the club for two years and continues to serve on the board of directors. The memorial will be particularly special, Mr. Ramsysaid, because people on the Island knew his son.

"I think we have more friends on Mackinac Island than anywhere else," said Mr. Ramsey, who spends five months here and the rest of the year in Florida.

The Reverend Dr. Vincent Carroll of Little Stone Church presided at the memorial.

Wilfred Ramsey was 60 years old when his home-built plane crashed in heavy fog while he was flying to Rochester, Indiana, to visit an ailing friend. Ice may have been a contributing factor in the crash.

He was an electrical engineer for Continental Research and Engineering and his work took him around the world. He also served as a pastor for Faith Christian Fellowship International Church and was involved in missionary work in Albania.

Mr. Ramsey remembers his son as an outgoing individual who was loved by everyone he knew.

Wilfred Ramsey was born September 11, 1944, in Wyandot and was living in Fort Worth, Texas at the time of his death. He is survived by a son, Kevin, of Florida, his brother, Richard, of Fort Myers, and two sisters, Bernice Ramsey of Fort Myers and Diana Sukta of Merrillville, Indiana.

City, State Parks Commission Find Common Concerns

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day, people ask where there are sandy beaches, and where there are places to swim."

Alderman Armand "Smi" Horn, meanwhile, reminded council members that there would be a limit to the benefits of a sandy beach. A similar attempt was made by Grand Hotel some years ago at the end of the boardwalk. He said that it couldn't be a swimming beach, because rocks would be needed to hold the sand in, to prevent waves from washing it back out.

Mr. Porter was also concerned about the legality of creating a sandy beach. Mr. St. Onge proposed the beach sites at the end of the boardwalk, just past Mackinac Island Public School, where Grand Hotel had its beach. While some of the land above the high water mark there belongs to the state park, a section also belongs to Grand Hotel, and the bottomlands, under the water, belong to the state.

Another new idea proposed to bring tourism back is to create a free music concert series in Marquette Park. Mr. St. Onge said that the city could provide the music if the Commission would grant the use of Marquette Park. Installation of new cement benches in the park was also brought up.

Mr. Porter said that constructing the benches would not be difficult, because the Parks still have the molds for the old ones.

"They're simple to make, and are a good winter project," said Mr. Porter, who noted that the Commission still has the molds used to make the benches that are in Marquette Park now. The question, once again, was one of money.

"The business community here is very generous," said Mr. Cawthorne, citing an obvious source of funding, "but they get tapped in so many ways."

The group decided, however, to

seek sponsors for the benches and Mr. Porter assured all present that those who donated money to the benches would be recognized in the park, and that it would even be possible to have the benches made with a name on them.

It was agreed to take steps toward implementing some of the new ideas, and Mayor Doud said that a city committee would be set up to put the ideas together and to discuss them with Mr. Porter.

Alderman Mike Hart brought up the master plan, which the city has been working on. He mentioned that the final plan will both directly and indirectly affect the Mackinac Island State Park Commission. Current zoning allows up to 600 new housing units on Mackinac Island, which would more than double the winter population and add to traffic, which, according to Mr. Hart, the infrastructure can not maintain.

Such increases would tax the city's water and waste management facilities, which are housed on state park property. If zoning is not changed through a new master plan, he said that the city would need to ask for more land from the Commission to handle its waste treatment.

"I can't guess what the reaction to a request for more state park land would be," said Mr. Hart, "but I know that there's no mandate in your charter to provide infrastructure for the city, and if an action doesn't support the charter, you're almost asked to deny it."

He then asked that the Commission take a more active role in the master plan process, but Mr. Porter reminded council members that decisions must ultimately come from the State Park Commission.

"What I can do is indicate what would involve the commission," said Mr. Porter. "The Commission would then need to review this, and take action. I can give guidance,

but in the end, it all needs to be reviewed by the Commission."

It was decided that while no representative from Mackinac State Historic Parks would be present on the city's master plan committee, Mr. Porter and Mr. Hart will remain in close communication, and a draft summary of what is discussed will be passed along to commissioners.

Also discussed at the meeting was street lighting. Alderman Dan Wightman, who also works for Edison Sault Electric Co., has been working closely with Mr. Porter on improving the lighting outside of Marquette Park, as well as updating the lighting through downtown and city properties.

"New technology cuts down on everything," said Mr. Wightman. "Eighty percent of light goes to the sky, but these new lights and globes have reflectors to the ground. Also, it will improve stargazing and give light on the ground where we need it."

Mr. Porter agreed that new lighting is needed at Marquette Park for safety issues, but did add that there are certain areas that the Commission prefers to keep more dimly lit, for historic reasons.

"We are working toward a reasonable compromise," said Mr. Porter. "And we are working on better and safer lighting outside Marquette Park."

Another issue of concern for both the city and state park is stickers received at city amusements, which are found on buildings, sidewalks, and anything with a smooth surface.

"More and more, in the parks and Fort buildings, we've been finding stickers for admission to sites," said Mr. Porter. "I'm afraid of proliferation, and the only way to contain this is through licensing. It's a litter problem and a historic preservation problem. It saddens me to see these stickers on historic buildings."

Mayor Doud added that the City could use help from the Park with the purchase of a new ambulance. She said that owing to regulations, ambulances are supposed to be fueled by diesel. She added that the state park currently fuels the fire truck, and that if it were possible for them to also provide fuel for the ambulance, it would be appreciated.

MHA Holds Third Tack Sale

Mackinac Island prides itself on a long history of horse culture, which was seen in full swing Saturday, July 23, when the Mackinac Horsemen's Association (MHA) held its third bi-annual Tack Sale at Chamber's Paddock.

The Tack Sale provides good bargains on good equipment, said MHA President Candice Dunningan, and the equipment included used equestrian equipment like saddles, bridles, helmets, and apparel. Also for sale were MHA key chains, T-shirts, patches, and posters. All the items were donated by MHA members, Island residents, shops, and off-island friends and they ranged in price from 25¢ to \$400.

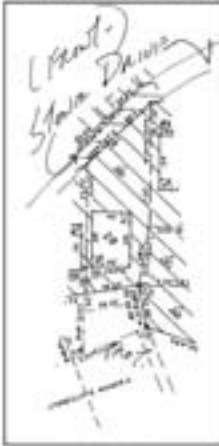
The proceeds will support the MHA Special Events Fund, which pays for clinics, lectures, and other events put on by the Horsemen's Association.

The idea to hold a tack sale came about several years ago when club members realized how much horse stuff they owned.

"We all had lots of stuff in our barns," said Lin Sheppard, the corresponding secretary.

The Mackinac Horsemen's Association is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible. To donate, write to the Mackinac Horsemen's Association, P.O. Box 484, Mackinac Island, MI 49757.

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