

Looking Back

Compiled by Ryan Schlehuber

115 Years Ago

**Saturday, October 8 to
Saturday, December 6, 1890**

Wm. P. Preston, of Mackinac, threatens to commence suit in the superior court against G.A. Wolf and A. Amberg of Grand Rapids, for \$5,000 damages for false imprisonment.

Michigan is no longer doubtful, for on Tuesday last she went Democratic by a large plurality, probably 10,000. The entire Democratic state ticket was elected from top to bottom.

Admiral Harmony has established a 10-inch fog whistle at Old Mackinac Point in the Straits of Mackinac. The whistle will be sounded for five seconds, with alternate intervals of 17 and 33 seconds. The fog signal house is of corrugated sheet iron, painted brown, with gable facing the straits.

G. Willis Morse, late cashier at the Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island, is now chief clerk of the Arlington Hotel, Hot Springs, Arkansas.

90 Years Ago

**Thursday, October 14 to
Thursday, December 8, 1915**

The freight movement at this point is showing a big improvement. The month of September as compared with the same month a year ago shows an increase of 241 loaded cars. At the present time, 40 empties a day are being delivered to the Soo Line to be loaded with grain and flour for foreign shipment. An improvement is also noted in bark shipments.

The sheriff of Cheboygan County, acting upon the advice of Governor Ferris that saloons were being operated contrary to law at Mackinaw City, visited that town Sunday when he found two saloons wide open. The result was arrests, heavy fines, and a lot of good advice to hereafter comply with the law.

Thomas Edison is quoted as saying that horses in the future will only be used as ornaments as they will be displaced by a large storage battery which he has invented for delivery wagons. Mr. Edison usually knows whereof he speaks so this statement must be given due credit, but the idea that the horse can ever be displaced is hard to be believed.

The coming of the automobile has taken from the horse much of the misuse which brought into existence the human societies. Before the general use of delivery cars for groceries and meat some delivery horses were much abused animals. They were driven at their greatest speed and were kept at work long hours through the hot summer sun and through the worst storms. The delivery horse probably got worse treatment than the draft horse because a horse is a good deal "human" in that it can worry itself to death.

Horses are more valuable now than they were before the automobile came into use and the war has caused such a scarcity that good horses can hardly be found for sale at any price. Relieving the horse from any of its former hard tasks seems to have the same effect as the invention of labor saving machinery has with men. They relieve the horse from the hard tasks but there is still plenty for the horse to do. — *Milwaukee*



Witmer's Steam Laundry served the Island in the late 1800s where Shepler's dock is today. It was later moved to the Mission area, across the street from Mission Church, behind what is now Tim and Margaret Horn's home. The laundry business lasted until about the 1930s. The people in the photograph are unidentified. (Photograph courtesy of Tom Pfeiffelmann)

News

George Lasley of Mackinac Island, with his launch, the "Two Bills," was in port Monday after a load of supplies, which he took on at Chambers dock.

The Island was well represented at the Allenville fair last week, among the Islanders taking in the show being Judge Benoni Lachance, County School Commissioner Lachance, Robert Benjamin, Ransome Hawley, Mr. and Mrs. F. Clair Breuckman, Mrs. Maude Cable Franks, Miss Mary Donnelly and Miss Helen M. Donnelly.

The marriage of Miss Lucy Gillespie and Mr. John Chapman was solemnized by Rev. Father Sommers at St. Anne's Church last Thursday, October 21.

Tuesday was the second anniversary of the great storm of November 1912, when 13 lake vessels with their crews went to the bottom of Lakes Huron, Superior, Erie, and Michigan, while many other boats were wrecked and scores damaged.

The summer of 1915 on Mackinac Island will be remembered for two things, the scarcity of tourists and the outbreak of typhoid fever. The former may happen again but we have reason to feel that there will be no re-occurrence of the latter.

The Couchois Bros. lost a valuable horse Monday morning. Frank Couchois drove on the dock after a load of cement and after getting his load backed the wagon over the side of the dock. The horse was drowned before it could be rescued.

Although the weather for the past week has been delightful we were greeted Sunday morn-

ing with snow flurries, which continued until about noon. Tuesday at the un-earthly hour of 6 a.m. the quite slumbering village presented a most pictur-

esque sight with all the windows in the store building most artistically decorated by the hand of Jack Frost.

The *USS Mackinac* of the

coast guard service came into port Tuesday having in tow the life boat for the Island station.

50 Years Ago

**Thursday, October 13 to
December 8, 1955**

Frank J. Dufina of Mackinac Island was in the city last Friday and says he has closed down the Wawashkamo golf course for the season. Frank entertained his daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. C.R. Allen and Sarah, at the Island last week and enjoyed their visit.

**Please turn to page 24*



AT THE CHIPPEWA HOTEL

Join us for
HAPPY HOUR
4-6 p.m. daily

OCTOBER 7-8

Myk Rise

OCTOBER 20-29

Myk Rise

SATURDAY, OCT. 29

Halloween Party
8 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

*Sit back, relax, enjoy the entertainment and have
"Yachts and Yachts of fun"*

Chippewa Hotel
Waterfront



*Mackinac Island's Turn of the Century Landmark
overlooking the Straits of Mackinac*

For reservations or information call

1-800-241-3341

or (906) 847-3341

www.chippewahotel.com

Stop by the *Harbor View*
DINING ROOM

For Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Mackinac Island, Michigan