

Looking Back

Compiled by Ryan Schlehuber

115 Years Ago

The St. Ignace News

April 4 to April 25, 1891

Captain McCarty of the Island left for Cheboygan Tuesday night, to fit out the steamer *Faxton*. He took with him a large crew of men, and intends making extensive repairs to the boat.

Good prospects of the Straits being open very soon.

The steamer *Atlantic* will leave Detroit on her first trip to Mackinac and way ports, Saturday, April 11, and the *Flora* the following Tuesday, April 14.

The ferry boats and tugs are all being ready for business. It sounds good to hear their whistles.

During the last two weeks S. Vilgeant sold \$1,175 worth of pianos and organs to St. Ignace and Mackinac Island parties. He started out determined to do a \$20,000 business this year, and his sales already aggregate in the neighborhood of \$4,000, without any special effort, he will get there sure.



A mid-20th century scene at the head of Union Terminal Piers on Mackinac Island. Coal is piled high on the coal dock to the right. (Photograph courtesy of Greg Main)

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90 Years Ago

The St. Ignace Enterprise

April 6 to April 27, 1916

The first Chicago boat to arrive at this port last spring was the steamer *Illinois*, which reached here April 26. The D&C opened her season here with the steamer *City of Mackinac*, which arrived two days later, April 28.

Isn't it about time that Manager Dennis was calling for recruits and getting his ball team in shape for the season? St.

Ignace should get the county championship this year but in order to do so it will have to get a move-on as word comes from the Snows, Charles, Brevort, and Mackinac Island that strong teams are to be organized in all those places.

Robert Bailey returned from the Ferris Institute, Big Rapids, Saturday, where he completed a course in pharmacy.

Contractor Pat Doud has started work on the David Hogg residence on the West Bluff. The

porch and roof are to have some much needed repairs together with several interior changes, installing of new baths, etc.

According to our genial townsman, Michael Doud, who is now in Cuba, we are to expect a banner season at the Island.

The election resulted in the election of Robert Benjamin for mayor; Andrew Chapman, clerk; Clarence Lachance, treasurer; Peter Early, supervisor; W.W. Smith, assessor; George Chambers and Frank Couchois, aldermen; Benoni Lachance, justice of the peace; and Clement Belonga and Theodore Hammond, constables.

A crew of men under the supervision of George Lapine have commenced work on the Arnold coal dock. They have been engaged in driving pilings and other needed repairs.

The work on the Mackinac Island golf course was resumed again on Monday. They were obliged to stop work, however, owing to the fact of the ground being frozen too much to accomplish anything as yet.

The Michigan historical commission has announced its intention of copying for public use the fur trade papers, which are now prescribed at Mackinac Island in the Astor house, headquarters of the Astor fur trading company, in the days when Mackinac Island was the center of the fur trade in this section. These records consist of two volumes of letter-books, five volumes of ledgers, and other

account books.

50 Years Ago

The Republican News and St. Ignace Enterprise

April 5 to April 26, 1956

Three vessels of the Michigan state ferry fleet here are ready to relieve the lone winter ship, *Vacationland*, as soon as ice conditions permit, it was learned this week.

Mary G. Franks was elected a member of the city council in Monday's election to become the first lady to sit with the aldermen in Island history.

As far as transportation is concerned, spring came to Mackinac Island Friday afternoon, when the motor vessel *Huron* carried 85 passengers to St. Ignace at 5 p.m. She docked at State Dock No. 1 in St. Ignace, where a coast guard ship had cut away heavy ice.

State police and Mackinac Island officials, under the direction of Commander Mixson of the Coast Guard, were conducting a search for the body of a 53-year-old Mackinac Island man yesterday. He was believed drowned after his light outboard motor-powered boat sank when cut by skim ice Wednesday morning. The body was recovered Thursday morning, with the assistance of the helicopter from Kinross Air Force Base.

The long dream of construction of a heavy duty water line for fire protection and sanitation at Harrisonville is now a certainty. Information to the effect that

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