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Birmingham 1903

Michigan Mirror

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

By GENE ALLEMAN

HIGH ISLAND, Lake Michigan—An abandoned, deserted village, complete to a church, school, saw mill, barn and numerous cabins, silently greets the traveler today as he visits High Island in Lake Michigan, the one-time summer colony and hide-out for King Ben Permal and his House of David of Benton Harbor.

Like the nearby island neighbor, Beaver Island, where the Mormans once practiced polygamy under supposed divine sanction, High Island was the off-shoot of a strange religious sect featured by King Ben and his harem of young pretty girls.

The two islands, off the beaten path of modern tourists, have much in common as to their past history. Today, the Irish Catholic fisherfolk dominate St. James, the former Mormon colony. And today the House of David settlement on High Island is slowly decaying into the sandy soil, its wooden buildings standing gaunt like silent sentinels to remind the visitor of the bustling activity 25 to 35 years ago.

From the captain's cabin of the conservation patrol boat No. 1 we had our first view of the small island, about two miles wide and four miles in length, as we rounded the northern coast of Beaver Island on a circular route back to Charlevoix.

Erwin Belfy, first mate, was at the wheel. "About the turn of the century High Island was the home of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians," he related. "They lived in log cabins along the small bay at the northern end. The harbor is not a good one, but it does offer shelter under favorable winds. I recall the time when the Indians traveled by water in sailing boats, known as Mackinacs. That was about 1905, as I recall it."

Along the semi-circle of the bay was the deserted settlement, about 20 buildings in all. Other than the gulls in the sky, the scene was void of life. The quietude amid the buildings had a haunting fascination. We felt like explorers who had suddenly discovered a forgotten city—the first persons to walk upon the scene.

The air was laden with sweet perfume. Lilies were just in bloom. Outside of a large barn stood an ancient hand-burn farm wagon. Inside was an ice cutter for two persons. Nearby were two sheds for hauling timber.

One of the most unique buildings in the settlement was a seven-sided log stockade, found in appearance, with a narrow entrance leading to a large room. Leading out from the inner room were seven bedrooms, all identical in dimensions. A brick chimney was suspended from the roof by iron supports, indicating that dwellers in the seven rooms had depended upon the central heating plant for warmth on winter nights.

Most of the buildings on High Island were constructed by King Ben's followers. A half century ago the Indians resided there, and

Birmingham Folk Get Shoe Stamp Aug. 1; More Shoes Available

A new shoe stamp, available August 1, means Birmingham residents will be able to have a new pair of shoes—if they can find the size and kind they want.

The new shoe ration stamp that OPA announced would become valid August 1, 1945, will be Airplane Stamp No. 4 in War Relocation Book No. 3, the agency said. Airplane stamp Nos. 1, 2 and 3 are good indefinitely, OPA added. The new stamp was validated November 1, 1944. OPA pointed out that the intervals between validation of stamps depend on the available supply of shoes.

That the supply of shoes for civilians will be increased is indicated in the downward trend in the production of Army combat boots. The War Department announced that production of Army combat boots will be reduced in September from 2,100,000 to 1,500,000 pairs and that of Army service shoes will be lowered from 700,000 to 500,000 pairs during the same period. The decreased schedule will be maintained throughout the fourth quarter of 1945. Announcement at that time of the reduction in Army footwear needs will provide a wide foot-cloth surplus which will be shoe ration stamps will be available for increased civilian production.

What You Think Customers... Have You Much to Say? ... I'm Sure You'll Like to See Us!

Customers... Have You Much to Say? ... I'm Sure You'll Like to See Us! ... We'll Remember April!

NOTICE TO PUBLIC SALE OF LAND

Industrial Site—City of Birmingham

Sealed bids will be received by Charles M. Ziegler, State Highway Commissioner, until 11:00 A. M. Central War Time, Tuesday, August 14, 1945 at the Redford District Office of the State Highway Department, 17405 Lahser Road, Detroit 19, Michigan, for the sale for cash or terms of the following described property:

LOT 1 ASSESSOR'S PLAT NO. 28, BEING A REPLAT OF PART OF LOT 169 OF BIRMINGHAM GARDENS AND PLAT OF PART OF NEW SECTION 31, T2N, R1E, CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, CONTAINING 3.474 ACRES MORE OR LESS.

Certified check or money order in the amount of \$100.00 made payable to Charles M. Ziegler, State Highway Commissioner, must accompany each bid. Do not send cash.

Sealed bids should be plainly marked: "Bid 68-28." Mail or deliver all bids to:

Michigan State Highway Department
17405 Lahser Road
Detroit 19, Michigan
(P. O. Box 38—Redford Branch)

Right is reserved to reject any or all bids and to waive defects.
For further information call Redford 3500.

CHARLES M. ZIEGLER
State Highway Commissioner
Detroit, Michigan

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Lathrup Townsite News

By LILLIAN DIEDERICH

Concerning travelers: Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Cline, and daughter Barbara, and Connie Quayle spent last week at a cottage on the St. Clair river, near Algonac, where the fish really bite, according to Mr. Cline, who brought home some nice specimens to prove it.

Mrs. Guy Peppiat and daughter Ann, are at Lake Orion, to acquire that brownish trout appearance from sunning near the water.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Herrick, have been the occupants of steamer chairs aboard the Richey on sailing down the St. Lawrence-Saguenay. They are home now.

Frankie Diederich arrived home Monday, after spending six weeks, as the guest of young Tommie France of Leavitt, formerly of the Townsite. And for the record, they swam and dined together daily and many a friendly battle between them in all that time!

Mrs. William Waddell and daughter Esther, will be leaving the Townsite in a few days to live in Birmingham, where they have purchased a house on Vinewood avenue. Bob Waddell, 18, is

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