

Down Memory Lane

10 YEARS AGO · JULY 12, 1999

It smashed through the region like a runaway boulder, leaving in its wake thousands of acres of destroyed and wounded wilderness. It trapped hundreds of people inside the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, injuring many. It dropped trees on roofs, cars and tents, and blasted electrical and telephone lines to the ground, leaving most of the Gunflint Trail area in darkness.

According to the National Weather Service, the Fourth of July storm hit Cook County between 12:50 and 1:40 on Sunday afternoon. It brought with it winds that ranged between 80 and 100 miles per hour.

The Grand Marais City Council heard some welcome news at their recent meeting.

Members of the John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon's board of directors were in attendance to inform the city that the 2000 marathon would finish in the city.

Also, Grand Marais will be the starting point for a 30-mile race for younger mushers, who will begin their competition on Coast Guard Point.

20 YEARS AGO · JULY 10, 1989

Soon work begins on upgrading sections of the Pincushion Mountain ski trail system into hiking trails.

The Forest Service has challenged the North Superior Ski and Run Club to raise \$4,000 to be matched by \$4,000 from the Forest Service.

The monies will be used to install culverts, ditching and bridges on seven miles of trail.

The main hiking trail will start at the Grand Marais Scenic Overlook off the Gunflint Trail and continue to the Devil Track Canyon, and follow the canyon edge to Pincushion Mountain's summit.

Minnesota's state walleye record nearly fell last week when Bob Bruininks of Minneapolis landed a 17-pound, 6 ounce fish on Loon Lake on July 4. The current record is a 17-pound, 8-ounce walleye that was caught by Leroy Chiovitte of Hermantown from Cook County's Seagull River.

50 YEARS AGO · JULY 9, 1959

A fawn was rescued from the harbor Thursday. Rick Thomson and Stanton Ose saw the deer, and by maneuvering Rick's speedboat beyond the deer, headed it toward shore.

It had been seen earlier by John Larson, 96, who spotted it near Ralph Jackson's residence.

A new News-Herald record was set this week with a press run of 1,720 papers.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness Prince Philip, of Great Britain, on tour of Canada, will arrive today for a visit at the Canadian Lakehead.

It is expected that a number of people from this area will be there to see the royal couple. From Fort William, the royal party will continue westward to the Canadian West Coast, and also fly northward into the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

With the annual Fisherman's Picnic a mere month away, the tempo of ticket selling and making of arrangements by various committees has been stepped up considerably.

The top prize, which is being dangled before the general public, is now on display in the downtown area. It is the 14-foot fiberglass Runabout Hiawatha boat, sleek of line and tempting in every department, and "real class" as boats run.

With this will be given away a trailer, with which to carry the boat to a favorite lake.

The retail value of the prize is close to \$800.

Penny Drowley, 2, was judged the "nicest little lady" in the July 4 Baby Show.

The show was held at Leng's Theater, and emceed by Leonard Sobanja.

90 YEARS AGO · JULY 9, 1919

The people of Grand Marais were witnesses to a most beautiful but destructive spectacle when the steamer Liberty and part of the dock burst into flames as if by magic last Sunday evening.

At first it seemed as if the whole dock was on fire. Every line of the burning boat could be plainly seen outlined in tongues of flames and the red rafters of the burning fish house on the dock were vividly outlined against the rocks.

It was a calm night, the moon was up above the white lighthouse, and the whole panorama with the burning Liberty in the foreground was reflected in the water. After a time the rope attaching the steamer to its moorings burnt and the boat drifted out in the harbor toward the old mill, where it burned all night and most of the next day, until now nothing remains of the once-beautiful ship but the burned-out boilers and a mass of scrap iron.

Nobody was hurt, but the captain and one of the crew both lost their shoes.

The cause of the fire has not been determined.

J.C. Murphy has opened a general store in the Stubstad building on Broadway. He received a shipment of stock on the Sunday boat and is equipping his store with a refrigerator and will be ready to handle meats by next week.

Duty and honor

Some of the things we Americans do out of a sense of duty seem pretty tedious, like driving to a Tofte town board meeting in the pitch dark of a 25-degree-below-zero January night. Some of those things, we later realize, transform themselves into things we feel honored to have done.

Don't get me wrong; even on the worst of nights, I am rewarded for making the trip from Grand Marais to Tofte. Scandinavian hospitality still rules, with cookies and drinks waiting for those who show up to see the township through another month.

This April, during one of the weeks when icy roads didn't threaten to jeopardize my life and I didn't feel like it was bedtime when I left for the meeting, business went on as usual despite the fact that Tom Muntean, one of Tofte's three supervisors, was out of town.

At that meeting, County Assessor Mary Black discussed property taxes, Dave Rude talked about the speed bump in the park that never flattened out like speed bumps are supposed to do because it's just too cold by the lake, and Jerry Gervais suggested making an entranceway to the lakeside boardwalk out of an arch-shaped piece of cedar that can sometimes be found in the woods.

Thank goodness for Robert's Rule of Order, which kept the peace as usual as D.C. Olsen and board chair Paul James voted to put taconite aid in its own savings account and granted Sawbill Canoe Outfitters a 3.2 license to sell beer. Annual appointments were made, with Rich Nelson voted in as fire chief and Louise Trachta as rescue chief for yet another year, perhaps because they really want the jobs, perhaps because they feel a sense of duty.

Every vote began with Paul James saying, "Do I have a motion...?" Either DC or Paul would make the motion, to which Paul would ask, "Do I have a second?" One or the other would second the motion, and Paul would call for a vote. "All those in favor say aye." Two ayes every time. "Nayes, same sign?" No nayes.

America in action.

Toward the end of the meeting, the board had to decide who would have the duty and the honor of being board chair for the next year. Should we make Tom the chair? Paul asked. Oh, what would he say about that when he gets back to town? someone else wondered. He'd never show up at town hall if we did that to him, Jerry said. Laughter. After deciding that Tom would probably be happiest if Paul continued on as chair, the board voted Paul in once again.

Covering local government has helped me understand how America works. Until I covered county board meetings, school board meetings, and West End township meetings, I listened to people's opinions but didn't often form my own. Writing the news with integrity requires that I try to understand and communicate both sides of an issue. I sometimes form an opinion, but not always.

State and national politics elude me, however. I have my opinions about national politics but I often feel hesitant



those who prove to me that they understand both sides of an issue even if they stand firmly on one side of it.

I don't feel comfortable arguing many of the decisions being made by our Congressmen, Senators, governor, and President because the amount of information I believe I would need to keep up with in order to take a stand is overwhelming.

I see where it all begins, however, when I go to Tofte (or Schroeder or Lutsen) town board meetings. I suspect that things sometimes get done a little better on the small scale. I have seen over 8% of the population of Schroeder attend a town board meeting (11 people in all!). I have seen town supervisors or caring citizens report that a problem that came up sometime during the month (such as, say, a tree falling over the entrance to the cemetery) is no longer a problem because they did the work and took care of it.

I sang with a group of people at a 4th of July pro-

gram in Harbor Park this year. I had trouble, though, because I kept getting all choked up singing about my country, "sweet land of liberty," "land where my fathers died," "the land of the free and the home of the brave."

To get to where we are today, people sacrificed their comfort, their security, and their lives. Not everyone has had a fair shake in this country. A lot of bad things have been done to people throughout its history. I am better off, and freer, than many people in this world, however, and I am privileged to be here.

The April night I trudged, duty-bound, to the Tofte meeting I was given more than cookies. I saw one of the tiniest sectors of America functioning with fairness and dignity. On my way home, the moon came up right in the middle of the horizon over Lake Superior - red. It was an honor.

THIS AND THAT



Jane Howard

to say anything when I'm in a group of people and the subject comes up.

Many people who share their opinions throw out what they presume to be facts without substantiating the information upon which they are basing those "facts." I am willing to debate principles, but I don't like debating assumptions. Did they read a quote of their elected official taking a stand on this topic? Did they watch their elected official making a speech? Did they read the bill to which they refer?

The people whose arguments I take most stock in are



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SALON

Saturday, July 11 --- 5:00 p.m.



Minnesota Poet LouAnn Shepard Muhm reads from *Breaking the Glass* and discusses poetry.

Cracking the Literary Mystery Writing Workshop:

July 13 - July 17

Led by Erin Hart

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Friday, July 17 --- 7:00 p.m.


Readings by Erin Hart and the *Literary Mystery writing workshop* participants at Drury Lane Books.

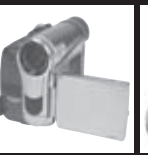



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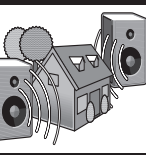
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