



Making Kelleys Island History Everybody's Business

Kelleys Island Historical Association

Volume 3, Issue 1

Winter, 2006

Rosella (Elfers) Beatty diary excerpts

Rosella's Diary (1948) was given to **Ila (Beatty) (Himmelein) Dick's** daughter **Jeri (Himmelein) (Dick) Yoest** by her **Grandmother Rosella (Elfers) Beatty**.

Rosella was born June 15, 1903 and passed from this life in May, 1985. She was raised on Kelleys Island, the daughter of **Rose Moross** and **Walter Elfers**. Rosella took piano lessons as a young girl, about age 12, traveling by ferry by herself with her music. After twelve lessons she decided she had an ear for



music and stopped her lessons. Rosella played piano for silent movies at the Casino and dances and masquerades at the Town Hall. She also played the organ at St. Michael's Church for forty years. She served on the Kelleys Island School Board and she was the first woman to be elected to Kelleys Island Village Council.

Rosella married **Henry "Henny" T. Beatty**. Their children were **Wayne, Ila, Gerry, Ronny, and Mary Ellen**. In addition, they had three children who died in infancy.

Through reading Rosella's daily entries, you can get a pretty good sense of what life was like on Kelleys Island for a wife and mother in 1948. We are *Continued Pg. 2 and throughout*

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Ila Dick, Russ Matso & Mike

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Education

Claudia Brown & Mike Feyedelem

President's message

Winter is still upon us. This year has been a time to step back, catch one's breath, and get ready to start again this spring. Winter set in early and with a vengeance, but

Adam (Elfers) had the building basically weather tight, so we were set for the winter. Several small items from the first phase still need to be

completed, but they will wait until spring. I was in the building the other day to check on it and everything was snug and dry.

Planning for the next phase has begun. Work will commence in the spring, as money allows. At this point, we will proceed on a step by step basis. We will keep all of you informed of our progress.

**Historically Speaking,
Michael Feyedelem
President**

Rosella's Diary, cont.

reprinting the entries here through the generosity of **Jeri Yoest**. Biographical information was written with the consultation of Rosella's daughters **Ila Dick** and **Gerry Bickley**. Rosella's home was the 2nd home behind the West home on Huntington Lane. In 1948 there were 500-600 year-'round residents on Kelleys. Explanatory notes added to the Diary entries are in []. Occasionally there is a word that Jeri was unsure of while transcribing, this is noted with (?).

Jeri writes - Here's what Gramma had to say about 1948:

The Diary Begins

Thursday, January 1, 1948

Rain, sleet. Temp: 33 degrees. Wind N.E. - strong. 2 P.M. Wind very strong. Sea worse than ever experienced. Waves washing planks off dock - had to tie down catwalk. All small docks under water. Coal pile washing off front store dock. **Koster's Dock** under. First meeting of new Council. 11 p.m. Wind dying down. **Wayne, Ronny and Rosella** spent evening at home. [sons Wayne and Ronny]

Friday, January 2

Storm abated. Dock damage confined to loss of 2 planks and 2 cross ties. **Mary Ellen** flew home with **Sonny** 8:00 A.M. Gerry arrived with **Hinde** (3 passengers) at 2 P.M. **Henny** made Commodore at Yacht Club. Meeting held at Conkle's'. Mary Ellen and I attended picture show - had treats with Irma Cockle's after show. Very slippery out. Lake full of floating broken-up ice. Temp. 30. M.E. (*Mary Ellen*) and I visited Aunt Jessie and saw Betty's baby. [daughters Gerry & Mary Ellen, Sonny Elfers, Hinde is a plane pilot]

Saturday, January 3

Temp. 30 degrees. Very slippery. Wayne left via Hinde at 2 P.M. Got home from party held for new mayor - **Paul Beltz** at 12:30 A.M. Party a success. Cards, dancing and lunch.

Sunday, January 4

Took down Xmas tree and crib this afternoon (Sunday). Needs for tree for next year: set of birds - 1 doz. large ornaments - 2 doz. hooks for ornaments - String of lights for crib trees. A wet snow covered the ground and trees. Temp. 32. No wind. Went to 8:00 Mass. Gerry and **Lyle** left via Hinde at 2:30. Snowing. Took a ride along Pond road to see ice piled high on beach - Nothing like it before. **Helen and Paul Brown** came over in the evening. Ronny broke window in back porch. [daughter Gerry and her future husband **Lyle Bickley**]

Monday, January 5

Washed. Hung clothes outside - did not dry - calm - temp. 32. Will attend first school board meeting at 8:00 P.M. Henny attended athletics meeting.

Tuesday, January 6

Fresh wet snow. Temp 32. Cleared at noon. Airplane came at 11:00 A.M. Henny went to Fire Dept. meeting.

Wednesday, January 7

Beautiful clear day. Calm. Temp 18. 8:00 A.M. Going to Sandusky with Sonny at 4:00 P.M. Sonny wasn't over so went with Hinde. Spent the evening with **Madeline** and Mom. Ben brought news about twine shanty burning down - False!

Thursday, January 8

Temp 32. Clear. Met Henny at **Dr. Wilson's**. Went shopping - lunched with the girls. Returned at 3:30 P.M. with **Dietrich** in the Stinson. Spent evening at home. Tired! [Dietrich is a plane pilot and Stinson is a plane]

Friday, January 9

Temp 38. Partly cloudy. Went to Altar Society meeting in Church. **Mrs. Lesh** (?) resigned - taking care of altar. At 8:15 went to birthday party for **Paul Beltz**. **Chick and Kathryn, Vi, ME, Henny and I.** (43 years old.) [Frank "Chick" and Kathryn **Hamilton, Vi Haig**]

Saturday, January 10

Temp. 15. Old ice moved out. Clear. Henny cutting tree on church lot. Completed Income Tax return. Staying at home tonight. **Mary Marshky** taking charge of care of altar.

Sunday, January 11

Sonny and **Toot** left via plane. At 2 P.M. had income tax completed at **Cockle's**. **Carl and Irene** called from Sandusky. [Tootie **Elfers**]

Monday, January 12

Temp. 22. Partly cloudy. Washed - hung part outdoors. Sun shone brightly for a while. Received letter from **Jane Schlesselman** concerning gift shop. Henny gone to Firemen meeting (social).

Tuesday, January 13

Mrs. Barstock (?) died at 8:45 A.M. Found dead in bed.

Wednesday, January 14

Very cold - clear - 8 degrees. Went to School Board meeting - increased salary of custodian to \$175 a month and clerk to \$200 a year. Went to Vi's after. **Carrie's** birthday. [**Carrie May**]

Thursday, January 15

Cold. 8 above - ice conditions getting good. Went up to **Barstock's** 9 P.M. Down town till 10 P.M. Had vegetable soup at **Lizzie's**. **Charley** got back from hospital. Still don't know what's wrong with him. [Lizzie and **Charley Martin**]

Friday, January 16

2 degrees above. Clear - some wind. Went to show at 8 P.M. South of Pango-Pango. **Norbert and Don McK.** went fishing - 7 fish - first day for fishing. [McK is **McKillips**]

Saturday, January 17

12 degrees. Snowing. Getting Ronnie's ice boat ready. Went to Confession, and card party given by men's club. Made \$70. **Max Perrucheon** won radio. Called Ila and Gerry. Wayne in Sandusky.

Sunday, January 18

5 degrees above. Clear. 15 shanties out. **Ollie and Durkett** got best lifts. D - 25 fish, Ollie - 60#. Gerry called from Cedar Point - skating. Henny getting our shanty ready. [Ollie **Schlesselman, George Durkett**]

Monday, January 19

10 above. Very windy. Ice moved out back north - ice in bay only. Paul Brown caught 12 fish: 2 - 4#, 1 - 5#. Talked to Gerry and Ila. Party for **Ginny** at **Lynn Brown's**. [**Mary Virginia "Ginny" Lange**]

Tuesday, January 20

Henny and Paul Beltz went to see about civic affairs. Went with Hinde - 3 passengers. **Jakie** 3rd passenger. [**Jakie Martin**]

It's time to renew your membership

What an exciting time to be a member of the Kelleys Island Historical Association! Our new museum is finally built and while there is lots to do before it's filled and completely open, you won't want to miss being a part of this exciting new phase of our organization!

Please send a copy of the membership application in the newsletter or just send a note with your check. Be a part of this final push to making the new museum a reality. The building is up, the stonemason is finished, doors and windows are installed and everything was locked up before winter set in.

Spring is almost here and we have to finish the interior and equip the exhibition

area, gift shop, and the storage/office area. We plan to have some exhibits in the new museum space this summer.

If you are on Kelleys Island for more than a day this summer, please plan on stopping in and finding out how you can get more involved. Volunteers are always needed. The gift shop and the home tour (which promises to be even better than last year's) are run completely by volunteers, as are all of our events.

The Art Show and the Butterfly Festival are our other two events coming back this year, and we are planning on additional fund raisers. Bring your ideas for new events and feel the pride of

working with us to see them come to fruition.

This is your museum and the Board (also all volunteer) cannot do it without your contributions, both financial and as worker-volunteers. Be involved in how the island you love is portrayed. The Kelleys Island Historical Association is the keeper of its history. Lend us a hand. And remember that members get 10% off at the gift shop every day.

Memberships should be sent to KIHA, P.O. Box 328, Kelleys Island, OH 43438.

Rosella's Diary, cont.

Wednesday, January 21

Temp. 24 degrees. Very windy - blew ice out north and south passage. Visited **Aunt Jessie** while Henny attended special council meeting. Martins start to build dock.

Thursday, January 22

Temp. 20. Henny home with cold. 6 o'clock dinner at **Lizzie's for Ginny**. Had plenty of good food and good time. Ice boating good - ice like glass on south shore.

Friday, January 23

Temp. 3 degrees below zero. Beautiful clear day. Henny getting minnows. Durkett had six fish. P-In-B getting as high as 40 boxes @ \$.28/lb.

Saturday, January 24

The worst day of the winter - N. E. snow blizzard. Ginny's wedding - she was a beautiful bride in white **Katie** in matching blue. Music ok in church. Dinner at Rock Haven. Reception at house in afternoon. **Logie and Catherine** up for lunch after reception - found car wouldn't run on coal oil. [Logie & Catherine **Bickley**]

Sunday, January 25

4 below. Clear. Anniversary (20) party for **Hooks and Henrietta** - success. [Hooks & Henrietta **Seeholzer**]

Monday, January 26

Temp 5 above. Henny got ready to go to Cleve. with **Haig** to Yacht Club meeting - changed plans last minute - didn't feel good. [**Frank Haig**]

Tuesday, January 27

Temp. 6 above. Henny set up shanty - mile out north. Fished two hours - no bites. I baked cake and divided for **Mrs. Suhr** (?) and **Mrs. Schoewe**. Mrs. Suhr in very poor health. Mrs. Schoewe average for age.

Wednesday, January 28

Temp. 3 below. Went fishing at 7 A.M. I caught 5 in A.M. - left at 1 P.M. Henny came out at 4 P.M. and caught seven.

Thursday, January 29

Temp. 4 below. Went fishing at 1 o'clock - caught 3 nice ones -

1 - 3 1/2#. Stayed until 6 P.M.

Friday, January 30

Temp. zero. Went fishing in A.M. Henny and I caught 12. Northeast gale. Driving out on ice with truck. Very rough.

Saturday, January 31

Temp. zero. Wind N.E. hard. Stayed until 1 P.M.

Sunday, February 1

Temp. 3 above. Clear and no wind. Mary Ellen and I went out after Mass. I caught 3 small ones. Came in at 1 P.M. Tubby, Ronny and Paul made first trip of the season to Lakeside. Erne walked across. [Karl "Tubby" Beatty]

Monday, February 2

Temp. 10 above. Clear and no wind. Washed - hung out. Scrubbed cellar - doing all my cleaning so I can go fishing early tomorrow.

Tuesday, February 3

Temp. 10 degrees. Cars crossing. Not many fish. [cars crossing are crossing the ice on the lake]

Wednesday, February 4

Temp. 10 degrees.

Thursday, February

Temp. 10 degrees. Still crossing. Fished in afternoon. Caught six small ones.

Friday, February 6

Temp. 10 degrees. Fished in A.M. Not biting. Gerry came home at 6 P.M. on plane.

Saturday, February 7

Temp. 6 degrees above. fished from 7 A.M. until 6 P.M. Caught 10 legal size pickerel - weighed 13#. Ila came home at 6 P.M. with Tubby.

Sunday, February 8

Temp. 6. Did not fish today. Biting good. Mary had 13 after Church. Ila left with Roy and Bessie.

Monday, February 9

Temp. 0. Beautiful calm sunny day. Washed in A.M. Hung out. Going fishing at 1 P.M.

Rosella's Diary, cont.

Tuesday, February 10

Crossed in Pontiac - first and only trip. Good crossing - stopped to see Gerry at M & M. Vi and Don had flat tire - lost them. They didn't get home till 6 P.M.



Saturday, February 14

Fished today - had 25 nice fish - sold them to Oboe for \$7. **Allen McKillips** lost his car thru ice. [photo]

Sunday, February 15

Fished after Mass. Got nine pins. Moved up west.

Monday, February 16

Warm today - moved down east - caught 20 fish - 15 weighed 15#. Best fishing of the year. Came in at noon thru water. Temp. 40 degrees. Washed and ironed after I got home.

Tuesday, February 17

Temp. 50 degrees. No fishing. **Henny** brought the shanty in.

Wednesday, February 18

Temp. 50 degrees. No fishing.

Thursday, February 19

Ice still intact. Weather report 15 degrees for tonight. High S to SW winds.

Friday, February 20

Temp. 12 degrees. Gale winds from W to SW. Ice gone south of island. In from Ditchy Point to **Bickleys**. Bill Brown over for supper. [Ditchy Point is on the south shore of Kelleys Island]

Saturday, February 21

Temp 15 degrees. Fished in am. Had 3-5#, **Wayne, Marion** and **Gerry** came at 2 pm. Went to card party. Couldn't keep my eyes open. Men made \$81. [Wayne and Gerry are Rosella's children, Marion is Wayne's future wife]

Sunday, February 22

Wayne went fishing before Mass -

Marion went after. He had 10 - made \$3. Whole lot of ice cracked up from Northeaster. Nearly lost some oars. Fish were biting. Temp. 30 degrees. Wind out of NE. **Haig** caught 5 pickerel - 7# after 10:30 am. Girls didn't get home. [Frank Haig]

Monday, February 23

Temperature 20 degrees. Washed and ironed. Marion and Wayne left at 2 P.M. Gerry left at 9 A.M. with **Lizzie M.** on the Stinson taking off on ice. [Lizzie Martin]

Tuesday, February 24

Temperature 30 degrees. South wind. **Jakie, Francie** and **Franky P.** fishing off north. At 2 P.M. **Vi** and I pulled my shanty out and stayed out till 6 o'clock. I got 6 and Vi got 5. I got \$2.10 for mine. Nice fish. Bit around 6 P.M. when current let up. [Jakie Martin, Francie **Betzenheimer**, Franky **Pohorance**, Vi **Haig**]

Wednesday, February 25

Temperature 38 degrees. Very foggy. No plane today. Jakie, Francie and **Bill B.** fished north west on ice cakes. Didn't get many. Vi fished in bay from 11 o'clock on. Had 30 perch and 1 pickerel. Ila called - estimate from Peterson Lumber Co. for house \$30,000. **Bill Brown** over for supper.

Thursday, February 26:

Temperature 34 degrees. Fished in Bay in afternoon till 3:30. Walked across Bay to North Dock. Caught one 1-1/4# pickerel and small one. Ice getting soft.

Friday, February 27

Temperature 28 degrees. Ice stiffened up. Went fishing in Bay at 7:30 A.M. 10 shanties out. Perch biting like crazy - can't catch them. Got 15 small ones and one pickerel 1#. Came in at 12 P.M. Ice started to move out north. Went to show and Stations. Gerry called at 7:30 P.M. [Stations of the Cross]

Saturday and Sunday February 28, 29

Temperature 40 degrees. Barometer 2 pts. below 29. Wind blowing ice down the lake. Solid ice back north from Villa to North Dock. [Villa is the Catholic Camp which is the present day Baptist Camp Patmos]

Monday, March 1

Temperature 28 degrees. Washed, ironed and scrubbed Church. Vi and Haig fished and got 15# in the Bay. [Vi Haig and her husband Frank Haig]

Tuesday, March 2

Temperature 26 degrees. Snowing and sleeting and raining. No plane up to 1 PM. Was going fishing but decided not to due to strong N.E. winds. (Later entry): Bill Brown got 15 fish in Bay. Henny at Fireman's meeting.

Wednesday, March 3

Temperature 24 degrees. Lake full of ice again. Finished my rug. Had bad news from Wayne- decides to quit school. Henny to meeting at **R. Brown's** with Council. Got home at 1 A.M. [Roland Brown]

Thursday, March 4

Temperature 20 degrees. N. E. gale. Lake full of ice. Was going fishing but too cold. Pontiac had flat tire so Haig took kids to school.

Friday, March 5

Temperature 5 degrees.. Lake full of ice. Bill and Paul went fishing & crack opened and they had a little difficult crossing. Fish were biting. They had a 4 #er and 3 others. Lost several. N.E. strong winds. [Bill and Paul Brown]

Saturday, March 6

Red Cross Card Party. 5 tables. Went to Lenten Services Ila, Gerry and Wayne talked over phone. Wayne decides to stay in school

Sunday, March 7

Fished after 8 o'clock Mass (fished) in Bay. Got 3 pickerel. Went to **Beltz's** in evening.

Monday, March 8

Temperature 28 degrees. Washed and ironed. Caught minnows after supper - loads of them.

Tuesday, March 9

Temperature 24 degrees. Went fishing early - got the best catch of the day - 7-13#. One near 5#er. Came in at 1 PM. Did my work. Went out again at 4 PM. Stayed till 6 o'clock - no bites. **Sonny** took my fish. Henny tarred. Lake still full of ice. Looks like fishing won't get underway by 15th. [Sonny Elfers]

Wednesday, March 10

Temp 24. Fished till noon. Got 1# pickerel and small perch.

Thursday, March 11

Temp 20. Snow blizzard. NE to N winds. (Strong.)

Friday, March 12

Temp 6 above. Went fishing after I took kids to school. Henny had 7 when I got

2006 Calendar

Historical Home Tour

Saturday, July 8

Art Show

Saturday, Aug. 5

Butterfly Festival

Saturday, Sept. 9

The KIHA Board meets on the third Thursday of the month at 4:45 p.m. in the office behind the Old Stone Church. If you have anything that you would like the Board to know or discuss, please contact President Mike Feyedelem, or another Board member before a Board meeting, or write to the Kelleys Island Historical Association; P. O. Box 328, Kelleys Island, OH 43438.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please address them to a Board Member or to the President.

Thanksgiving boutique



Once again volunteers boxed up gift shop items and took them to the Town Hall to participate in the Chamber of Commerce Holiday Bazaar which is held the Friday and Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend.

Sharon Brunell McIntire and Claudia Brown transported the items and also clerked at the Bazaar along with Jacquie Kranyak.

The Bazaar brought in \$626.14 with no expense to the Historical Association.

Permanent Donor Plaques

When the new museum building is open, we will be installing permanent plaques to commemorate annual donations to the museum. If you give \$100 or more a year, or if \$100 or more dollars are given in your name, your name will be engraved on a brass plate on a donations plaque denoted by gift level.

Some of those to be added for 2005 include: **Marjorie "Sally" Riedy, Lydia Bechtel, Madeleine and Roger Williams, Dr. Ramie Dick, and Ivan T. Lange.**

We will be working this year to add previous years' donor names also onto brass plates. A memorial to Kelleys Island Historical Association is a good way to remember someone.

The brass plate Patron Level is for donations from \$100-\$499. Other levels include: Benefactor (\$500 to \$999), Founder (\$1,000 to \$2,499), and for donations over \$2,500 the Board will create a special recognition.

Treasurer's report

General Fund :
\$30,283.37
Checking Account :
\$ 8,283.19



Total \$38,566.56

Donations made at the gift shop jar totaled \$719.12 in 2005.

Memorials & Donations



This beautiful articulated doll was donated to the Kelleys Island Historical Association by **Mary Lou (Kosbab) Wieland** in memory of her mother, **Eveline (McKillips) (Kosbab) Tanner.**

Russell and Bea Matso for Robert Allensworth
Lyle and Gerry Bickley for Jack Betzenheimer
Anne Sennish for Dr. Ramie Dick
Claudia Brown to honor Sally Riedy's generosity to KIHA in 2005
Paul and Lois Brown for Ginger Stephan

Rosella's Diary, concludes for this issue...

there - had the biggest catch of the year by 4 PM. 33 pickerel - 65 1/2#. Made \$22.93. **Durkett** had 78#. Only 5 shanties out. [George Durkett]

Saturday, March 13

Temp 10. Beautiful clear day. Went fishing at 6:30. Rare anchor ice on lines - hooks-chased fish away. Got 4 pickerel 8 1/2# - one 4#er. Many shanties out - disappointed fishermen. Came in at 11 AM - did my work - went back out at 4 PM. Did not stay. Gerry came with **Hinde** on ice at 3:30 PM. [Gerry came with Hinde, a pilot, in a plane that landed on the lake ice]

Sunday, March 14

Temp 24. Went fishing at 1 PM. Got 1 pickerel and 5 perch - inside. Gerry left with **Dietrich** at 5 PM off Koster's.

[plane pilot was Dietrich & they took off on lake ice]

Monday, March 15

Temp 42 - windy. Went fishing at 7 A.M. No fish! I moved inside & got 4 perch. End of fishing for 1948. **Rita and Alvie** have a baby girl. [**Rita and Alvie Betzenheimer**, and baby girl is **Terry Betzenheimer**]

This concludes the first excerpts from Rosella (Elfers) Beatty's Diary. We expect to print more in upcoming issues. Please let us know if you enjoyed reading them. Thank you Jeri for sharing them with us!

© Jeri Yoest

**MAKING KELLEYS ISLAND HISTORY
EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS**

Kelleys Island Historical Association
P.O. Box 328
Kelleys Island, OH 43438

A 501(C)3 organization.
All contributions are tax
deductible.

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Kelleys Island Historical Association

We're on the web!
kelleyslandhistorical.org

*All stories and photographs in this issue by
Claudia Brown.*

**Kelleys Island Historical Association
P. O. Box 328
Kelleys Island, Ohio 43438**

Membership Application

Name: _____

Summer address: (from / / to / /) **P.O. Box** _____

Street: _____

City: _____ **State:** ____ **Zip:** _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____ - _____

Winter address: P. O. Box _____

Street: _____

City: _____ **State:** ____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ - _____

- Individual Membership (annual) \$10.00
- also check here for 2 or more Individual memberships but just one newsletter sent to one address
- Family Membership (annual) \$25.00
- Patron Membership (annual) \$100.00
- Life Membership \$500.00
- (office use only below this line -----)
- Paid:** \$ _____
- Received by:** _____