

Introduction

My immediate family and the grandchildren have endured my story telling for years. Tales of the Island were interesting to them and to friends alike. I have endeavored to describe in little word pictures, life as it was there in the mid 20's. South Manitou is a beautiful place and much more has been written about it in Myron Vent's book entitled, *South Manitou Island - From Pioneer Community to National Park*. It is rich in historical lore.

When I was stationed there, able crews manned the Lighthouse and Coast Guard Station. Several farms were still being tilled. The little schoolhouse was attended by the Island children and taught by a full-time teacher. The Post-Office was stationed in the little store. We were a close knit small community and visitors were few and far between. Nearly half a century has elapsed since I was a member of the South Manitou Island Coast Guard crew, but dear to my memory are the days I spent there.

The Island has changed now. Gone are the Lighthouse and Coast Guard crews. The farmlands no longer exist. Many of those I knew now lie peacefully in the little Island Cemetery. But the surf still pounds on her rock strewn shore as it did those years ago, and summer breezes ever caress the beautiful woodlands. Hopefully, it will ever remain that way for all to enjoy.
