

Park center dedicated in Hart's honor

GLENN AKBOR — Heartfelt tribute was paid to Michigan's retiring Sen. Philip A. Hart, known as the "conscience of the Senate," as the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Park Visitors Center was dedicated in his name Friday.

National Park Service officials along with Sen. Robert P. Griffin and a number of representatives of various notables honored Hart, who is credited with having worked long and hard to establish the National Lakeshore.

Some 60 persons attended the ceremony and following reception at the center.

Griffin told the group that his colleague on the other side of the aisle was "a fine man" who had a genuine feeling for people and that there were many regrets that Hart had his political career cut short by cancer. He passed on testimonials from other Senate and U.S. House of Representatives members of Hart's work and character.

Hart aide Dudley Buffs conveyed Hart's greetings and noted that there were two achievements in his career that the Senator was especially proud of. One was the passage of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the other was the establishment of the National Lakeshore.

Carl Johnson, member of the state Natural Resources Commission and member of the National Lakeshore Advisory Committee, read a letter from Gov. William G. Milliken honoring Hart and commending those concerned for naming the visitors center for the Senator.

Sen. Griffin introduced the legislation naming the center and the bill was passed by Congress Oct. 8.

Among others attending was Park Superintendent J. A. Martinek who, following the speaker's comments, led the group outside the center where a sign was unveiled. The sign reads: Philip A. Hart Visitors Center Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior.

Martinek also noted a plaque which marked two white birch trees adjacent to the center in honor of the Senator. The bronze plaque was donated by the Michigan Press Corps.

Griffin said he and Hart experienced many political differences in their Senate careers, but added, "we never had a personal difference."

"The relationship between us has been among the best of any pair of senators from any state," Griffin said.

"This has been a pleasant relationship for the two of us, and it has been a good relationship for the state of Michigan."

Gov. William G. Milliken wanted to set aside Friday, Hart's 84th birthday, as a day for Michigan to honor Hart.

But the retiring senator, who is suffering from cancer, requested that no formal tributes take place.

Griffin said Hart's work in the Senate "has touched the lives of every American," whether in Civil Rights, conservation, anti-trust or the issues of war and peace.

Hart has earned an undisputed place as "the conscience of the Senate," Griffin said.

Griffin paid tribute to Hart's family, which has gathered by his bedside in recent weeks as he continues his battle with cancer.

He said one of Hart's closest friends in the Senate is Bob Dole, of Kansas, one of the most conservative members.

Hart, Dole and Daniel Inoué of Hawaii met during conference in an army hospital following World War II.

"He has always been able to keep his own convictions from being crushed over with dictatorial or blowhard self-righteousness," the Traverse City native said of Hart.



Sen. Robert Griffin reads retiring Sen. Philip Hart at the dedication of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Park Visitors Center Friday. The center was dedicated in Hart's name (Dana Craig photo).

Jobs top priority in Carter's plans

PLAIN, Ga. (UPI) — Jimmy Carter has placed job-creating programs at the top of his list of priorities to stimulate a sagging economy, plus a tax cut if necessary.

Barring some dramatic turnaround in the economy, it appears Carter will ask Congress for \$5 billion or more in jobs programs and \$10 billion or more in tax cuts.

But despite increasing pressure, Carter continued to keep his options open during a two-day trip to Washington, saying, "The size of an economic stimulus, if it is needed, still remains to be decided."

Carter returned to Plains Friday night after meeting Thursday and Friday with hundreds of members of Congress, business leaders, staff members planning his transition to power and possible Cabinet appointees.

Carter had no public activities planned today. He said he was hoping to complete by Christmas.

His last stop before leaving Washington was at the Pentagon where he said in a sidewalk press conference that he still feels \$5 billion to \$7 billion could be cut from the Pentagon budget and that jobs would come before tax cuts in his list of priorities.

"My first priority is toward jobs," Carter said. "If the amount of stimulus is more than the jobs can implement, I

will make up the difference from taxes."

The statement was the first clear indication of Carter's thinking on how the sluggish economy should be stimulated. It came after word started coming from his camp, including budget director Thomas B. Lance, hinting at a tax cut as a top priority. Carter appeared to be attempting to correct that impression while at the same time returning to his dominant campaign theme of creating jobs.

Carter essentially has two options. He can create jobs, which means that otherwise unproductive persons are added to the work force, paying taxes instead of collecting unemployment or welfare. The other option is to decrease taxes, thus pumping money into the economy to be spent or saved.

Carter continued reports that his staff has recommended a tax cut of \$15 billion "among other options." A group of major business executives met with Carter Thursday and recommended a \$23 billion program including \$15 billion in tax cuts, \$5 billion in investment incentives and \$3 billion in job-creating programs.

Carter spent an hour more than had been planned at the Pentagon, where he had lunch with Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In the afternoon he had briefings on the military command system

Police link island to porno ring

By MARILYN WRIGHT
Record-Eagle staff writer
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TRAVERSE CITY — North Fox Island, the lush, 800-plus-acre hideaway off Grand Traverse Bay owned by millionaire Francis D. Sheldon, is believed by police to have been the site of alleged criminal sexual conduct involving young boys.

Furthermore, investigators believe Sheldon may be linked to a national chain of pornographic activity which took place at various locations including North Fox Island and a boy's camp in Tennessee.

The allegations reportedly involve various crimes, including sodomy, oral sex and filming of various homosexual acts.

Sgt. Joel Gorzin, of the St. Clair State Police post, said an arrest warrant has been issued for Sheldon, a land developer and sole owner of the thickly forested Leelanau County island preserve, on a charge of criminal sexual conduct.

That charge, involving a 14-year-old boy, evolved from an incident that occurred in Port Huron, not on Fox Island, Gorzin said.

However, based on allegations from

downstate youths, additional warrants are expected in Leelanau County, Traverse City State Police said Friday.

"We are essentially assisting St. Clair authorities," Sgt. Don Chappell said, "but we do expect to go to the Leelanau prosecutors and seek additional warrants."

Chappell said preliminary investigation has not revealed any involvement by Traverse City area youths. "Most of the boys were transported from downstate," he said.

St. Clair police said a warrant also has been issued for a New York man, Dyer Grossman, on a charge of criminal sexual conduct. Like the Sheldon warrant, the charge stems from an alleged Port Huron incident involving a young boy, Gorzin said.

He also indicated further arrests are expected early next week.

Both Grossman and Sheldon are still at large. The New York man is believed to be in California, police said, but Sheldon's whereabouts are unknown.

The Record-Eagle learned last week that telephone service at Sheldon's Ann Arbor residence, 750 Greenhill Road, had been disconnected "within the last couple of days" and service had been transferred to another city. Police said that the home has since been sold.

There also was no answer at Sheldon's business offices located in the Bull Building in Detroit.

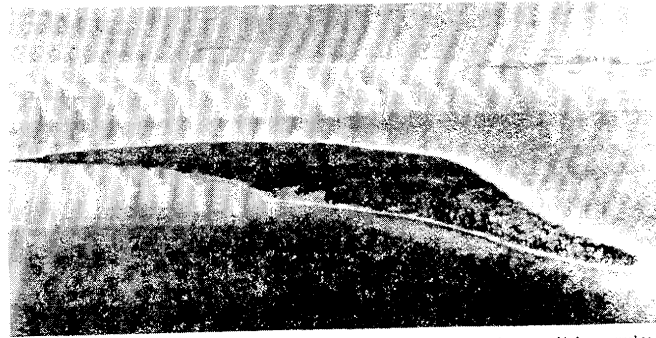
The 48-year-old millionaire also is the reported owner of a ski lodge in Aspen, Colo. He gained statewide attention in 1974 when he and a partner drafted plans to dam the Monroe Creek, near Charlevoix, and build 1,300 vacation homes around the 400-acre lake that would result. Those plans were scuttled by citizens' lawsuits and the project was never developed because of changing economic conditions and the death of his partner.

St. Clair authorities first began looking into Sheldon's activities following the arrest of Gerald Richards, a Port Huron physical fitness teacher, allegedly involved in procuring young boys for homosexual purposes and in filming those activities.

The ex-lecher pleaded guilty to a charge of criminal sexual conduct last July and is now serving a two-year term in Jackson Prison.

It was Richards who identified Sheldon and Grossman. Photographs and films found in Richards' possession at the time of his arrest also led police to raid a boys farm in Alto, Tenn. last month, after authorities there recognized a couple of "actors" in the films, Gorzin said.

Operated by an ordained Episcopalian priest, the farm was chartered as a private rehabilitative



North Fox Island, an 800-plus-acre hideaway off Grand Traverse Bay, is believed by police to have been the site of alleged criminal sexual conduct and, police believe, may be linked to a national network of pornographic homosexual activity. (Detroit Free Press file photo).

home for teenage boys, but Pikeville District Attorney William Pope charged that it was actually a national center for homosexual pornography.

The priest, Rev. But Vermilye Jr., was indicted by a Franklin County, Tenn. grand jury on 16 counts of criminal sexual conduct.

According to an affidavit filed by the Tennessee district attorney's office with Circuit Court Judge Paul Swafford, Vermilye "encourages, aids and abets acts of sodomy and sodomy between students of the boys farm, and films and photographs said acts."

Following the raid, Tennessee authorities took several juveniles into protective custody and seized Vermilye's records, including a list of "more than 270 active sponsors" of the farm, investigators said.

Sources close to the investigation revealed that Sheldon's name appeared on that list.

St. Clair police are investigating allegations of similar crimes which are alleged to have been perpetrated on North Fox Island under the guise of Brother Paul's Children's Mission.

Brother Paul's, once a part of the Church of the New Revelation, a Delaware corporation, was incorporated in Michigan on June 18, 1975, with headquarters registered in Port Huron.

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Decision due on police contract

TRAVERSE CITY — A decision was expected to be handed down by 3 p.m. today to put an end to a seven-month-old contract dispute between police and the city administration.

State labor arbitrator David Keefe told representatives of Teamsters Local 214, which represents city police, and the city that he is willing to hand down a bench decision today to end the dispute.

At press time this morning, City Manager Lawrence C. Savage and Teamsters Local President Joseph Valenti said the two bargaining groups had narrowed the contract dispute from 40 to 14 issues during the two-day compulsory arbitration period, which began Friday morning.

Both sides were expected to present their last and best offers shortly after noon today. Keefe was then to hand down a decision.

Inside the Record-Eagle

Cloudy with snow flurries tonight. Cold with lows to 5-10. Cloudy Sunday with highs in the mid-20s. Complete weather details on Page 2.

Mancelon teachers drop a labor charge suit, leaving Superintendent Michael Murch "out in the cold." Page 3.

Grand Traverse County courthouse clock is working again, thanks to a volunteer. Page 5.

An arsenal "big enough for an army" is buried by a paramilitary group. Page 6.

The Traverse City Trojans scored the last 15 points of the game Friday night to beat Muskegon Catholic Central in their LMCA opener. Page 12.

For the first time in four years, the Kalkaska Blue Blazars beat St. Francis ... and they did it Friday night with their potent guard tandem. Page 12.

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The Record-Eagle ski school will begin again soon, now's the time to register. Page 17.

Two found innocent of kidnaping heir

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (UPI) — Jurors decided very quickly the kidnaping of Samuel Bronfman II was a hoax, partly because the evidence was weak and the Seagram liquor heir's testimony appeared "too well rehearsed," two panel members said.

"I think that he planned the whole operation," juror Amelia Driscot said after the verdict was delivered Friday.

"The first vote we took was 8-2 for acquittal on the kidnap charges."

But the 23-year-old Bronfman said: "I'm just mad that there's been a miscarriage of justice. I was stunned and shocked."

Acquitted on kidnap charges were Mel Patrick Lynch, 38, a New York City fireman who claimed to be Bronfman's

homosexual lover, and Dominic Byrne, 54, a limousine operator who said he was forced by Lynch to participate in the plot, which he thought was real.

Mrs. Driscot said the kidnap case was quickly resolved and the panel spent most of 21 hours — stretched over four days — deciding to convict Lynch and Byrne of extorting \$2.5 million from Bronfman's father, Seagram Co. Chairman Edgar Bronfman. They also were acquitted of weapons charges.

In four days on the witness stand, Bronfman denied ever knowing Lynch prior to his disappearance.

But juror William Link, asked about Bronfman's testimony, said, "It was too well rehearsed."

"When he faced the jury and the prosecutor, he would sometimes break

down," Link said, "but when the judge asked him to repeat it, he would turn to the judge and say it calmly."

Then there was the physical evidence — the knotted venetian-blind cords and the adhesive-tape mask that Bronfman said had bound his wrists and covered his eyes.

"The ropes tell apart in the jury room and the blindfold had a flap over the front," Link said. "I was planning a real kidnaping. I'd use one piece of string tape."

Mrs. Driscot said the jury agreed with Lynch that young Bronfman forced him into the "phony hoax" to bilk money from his father.

Neither the nor Link would comment on Lynch's homosexual accusations. At his news conference later,

Bronfman denied charges that he is a homosexual, saying that his wife of 10 months, Mexican, has family and thousands of great friends — know the truth and what people who don't know me believe doesn't bother me."

State Supreme Court Justice George Bushnell set Jan. 6 for sentencing of the defendants, who were continued hold without bail. Prosecutor Geoffrey Orlando said he would ask for the maximum 15-year sentence.

Bronfman disappeared on Aug. 8, 1975, from his mother's estate in Purchase, N.Y. He was rescued nine days later, bound and blindfolded, in Lynch's apartment by police and FBI agents, who were led by Byrne.

The ransom was recovered the same day.

Frank Sheldon, missing millionaire sought by police on criminal sexual conduct charges, is shown strolling along the beach of North Fox Island in this Detroit Free Press file photo.