

**MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION MUSEUM
CORNISH PUMPING ENGINE & MINING MUSEUM
WWII GLIDER & MILITARY MUSEUM
ANNUAL NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2, 2014**

By Kathleen Fayas

Dear Museum Friends,

The Menominee Range Historical Foundation Board of Governors sends along Season's Greetings, wishing you a blessed holiday season and a healthy and peaceful New Year. Continuing support and donations from our faithful membership, year after year, has made for the successful operation of our three facilities enabling us to meet our dreams and goals.

The Board of Governors must again ask for your help to fulfill the 2015 museum budget. Open seasonally from June through early October, your assistance is essential in order to maintain and operate all three museum sites – the Historical Museum, Cornish Pumping Engine & Mining Museum and the World War II Glider & Military Museum in addition to the “dry” building. The budget on the reverse side indicates just how limited funds are to meet our 2015 budget.

Saving the Foundation a lot of money, volunteers are crucial to us and those from the Iron Mountain-Kingsford Women's Club assure that the Historical Museum remains open. Many other individuals offer their valuable time during the week at the WWII Glider & Military Museum. The admissions desk and gift shop at the Cornish Pumping Engine & Mining Museum are staffed by one full-time employee and one part-time employee and two volunteers weekly.

Our museums are impressive and each year we strive for new and interesting exhibits. In 2014 new displays of John Tyler Jones, the Ardis Furnace and the Ford Motor Company in Kingsford, as well as a special display of early 1900-1940 bridal gowns were featured at the Historical Museum.

The Cornish Pumping Engine & Mining Museum fortunately received a major gift of \$19,825 from the 100+ Women Who Care group, enabling the installation of a new pumping system and updated electrical service to help control the continuing water problem there.

This summer the Board became aware of a moisture problem in the World War II Glider & Military Museum that would soon lead to deterioration of the glider itself and other displays. To correct this, a boiler system, fans and Thermo-pane Insulated Windows have been installed. The project, though costly, will provide the heat necessary during the coldest months to prevent excessive humidity.

Donations of any size for any of the museums will be very much appreciated. Please remember that we need your help to assure the preservation of this area's history and the continuation of museum operations. Make your check out to "Museums," P.O. Box 237, Iron Mountain, MI 49801. Please call Secretary/Treasurer Kathie Fayas at (906) 774-2827 with any questions.

It is time again for our annual update to the museum membership concerning new developments at our three museums over the past year. The Menominee Range Historical Foundation is especially grateful for your continuing financial support which is absolutely essential to successfully maintain our three seasonal facilities from June through mid-October. Your help is needed, whether you choose to support the Menominee Range Historical Foundation Museum, the Cornish Pumping Engine & Mining Museum, or the WWII Glider & Military Museum, or any combination thereof.

Joe Warren continues as president of the Foundation with Bill Cummings serving as vice-president and Kathie Fayas as secretary-treasurer. Other board members are Pam Edens, Guy Forstrom, Greg Harper, Bob Johnson, Rob Koerschner, Clark Lebo, Jan Reynolds and Roger Scott. Countless hours of service are contributed by these individuals for the operation of the museums.

The Foundation Board is extremely thankful for all contributions received, including several major donations, which have made it possible to achieve many of our 2013 goals.

At the WWII Glider & Military Museum: Mainly through the efforts of Clyde Unger, we will see completion of the glider area with the installation of gravel and imitation grass this season. Unger has also designed and constructed a simulated 4'x10' gas station with a gas pump (refurbished by Guy Forstrom) to be used in an exhibit featuring the 1930's Ford dump truck and Ford car. This was made possible through the financial support of two sources, both greatly interested in the history of this area. The suspension of the Piper Cub and Heiserman airplanes from the museum ceiling beams will soon become a reality. We also have accepted the donation of a working model of a Civil War cannon. In addition, the Foundation Board has received an offer by the City of Kingsford to display the Ford Plant fire truck through a seven-year lease agreement.

At the Cornish Pumping Engine & Mining Museum: We are again experiencing a water problem with the sump pump freezing this winter and ice covering a large area of the lower level concrete floor and in the pit of the pumping engine. The preservation of this significant historical artifact is vital. The Foundation Board will be working with professionals to search for a solution and to see what direction needs to be taken.

At the Menominee Range Historical Museum: This museum will show off two new cases in the lower level. One will feature the Ford Motor Company's plant in Kingsford and the other will feature the Ardis Furnace, located on the North Side, and John Tyler Jones, whose original mansion still stands on Grand Boulevard on the North Side. Both displays will be comprised mainly of historic photographs, some dating back to the late 1890's.

A Master Plan covering the next ten to twenty years for all museum facilities is now being developed. The “long-range” plan will offer guide lines for projects to be undertaken as funds became available. It is the responsibility of the Foundation Board to oversee the proper safety of all collections acquired since the three museums opened.

In mid-June, the Foundation will be hosting the third annual free day for all veterans from the Oscar G. Johnson Medical Center and any other area veterans at the WWII Glider and Military Museum. This is a rewarding experience because our military veterans have given so deeply without asking for or receiving special recognition. This museum has been built in their honor.

Coming from the archives of the Menominee Range Historical Museum and dating back to the 1920's and 1930's, a wonderful collection of beautiful old and delicate wedding gowns will make up the special display this year. Clothing is not displayed often or for any extended period, so it is important to visit the museum this season. The Cornish Pump Museum will be presenting a major pictorial display on Kingsford's Ford Plant you won't want to miss.

The Foundation appreciates each and every contribution received, but it is impossible to list all donors' names. Annual donations come from individuals, businesses, anonymous benefactors, the Iron Mountain-Kingsford Women's Club, the Iron Mountain-Kingsford Kiwanis Club, TADCA, the First National Bank & Trust, the Dickinson County Board of Commissioners and WE Matching Funds.

Friends of the Museum, our auxiliary group, continues to offer financial support to the WWII Glider & Military Museum. Many fund-raisers are held each year, including rummage sales. If you have good useable items to donate, call Janet Reynolds at 774-5212 to arrange for drop off at the dry. Members are Janet Reynolds, president/treasurer; Greta Betti, vice-president; Julie Eutizzi, secretary; Julie Badini, Dee Ebertsch, Kathie Fayas, Bonnie Hyde, Barbara Lefebvre, Shirley Mande, Darlene Orler, Jackie Rosen and Kay Villa.

Beginning her twenty-first year, Dianne Chiapusio continues to serve as museum manager, always doing an exceptional job in a wide range of responsibilities. The Foundation Board definitely appreciates all of the time given by our volunteers and others whose interest and support will help to make 2014 another successful season at the museums.

Our membership list is dwindling, so we are especially grateful for your continued support. Please encourage others to become members and support our museums. A membership form is available on our website or can be mailed out by calling (906) 774-4276 or (906) 774-1086.

MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION BOARD OF GOVERNORS

VISIT US AT: <http://menomineerangehistoricalfoundation.org>