

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION NEWS – SPRING 2016

[www.menomineerangehistoricalfoundation.org](http://www.menomineerangehistoricalfoundation.org)

Beginning Monday, June 6, our three museums will be open for the season to area residents and tourists alike. Hopefully you and your family will find time to visit the museums over the summer and encourage others from the area and visitors to see the outstanding displays located in each museum.

## **SIGNAGE PROJECTS**

Through a grant from the Dickinson County Area Community Foundation and the generosity of Duane and Sue Tirschel, Bill and Margaret Trudell and TADCA, the double-sided billboard on the east side of U.S. 2 at Kent Street has been redone at a total cost of \$8,098.76 which reflected a \$500 donation from the total bill by Baker Sign Company. Two smaller signs, one east of Iron Mountain on U.S. 2 and one on M-95, have also been updated to make them more visible. The cost for these two signs was \$1,058.12 with funding provided by donations. Our signage projects are now completed. Hopefully these attractive signs will result in increased awareness of tourists and residents and more paid admissions.

## **WEBSITE**

For the past several years the Foundation has maintained a website which continues to prove helpful in tourists finding us. The website has been updated to enable people to use their cellphone to find us through Google. The site is readily accessible by searching on line using any of the museum names or by using the address located at the top of this page.

## **MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

Beginning Tuesday, June 7, the Menominee Range Historical Museum, located in the former Carnegie Public Library building at 300 East Ludington Street, will be open Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. during the summer. Members of the Iron Mountain-Kingsford Women's Club volunteer to keep this museum open, and additional help is always needed and welcomed.

Manager Dianne Castelaz-Chiapusio has made a special display featuring items belonging to John Lane Buell, Quinnesec's founder, and Mrs. Belle

Buell, his wife, which will be featured this season. The Buell's elaborate Victorian wire garden settee and walnut parlor table will be exhibited together with some of Mrs. Buell's clothing, photographs and other items donated by the Jake Menghini Museum last fall.

During the week of May 9 fourth grade school tours will be held.

Last summer several Board members cleaned out the fenced area on the west side of the museum and the weeds will be killed as they emerge to provide a more presentable view.

## **CORNISH PUMPING ENGINE & MINING MUSEUM**

Beginning Monday, June 6, the Cornish Pumping Engine & Mining Museum, located at 300 Kent Street, will be open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. Hours are modified in September and October.

In October 2015 a larger exhaust fan was installed by Jim Hartwell and Guy Forstrom on the west end of the Mining Museum to help reduce interior temperatures during the summer months. At times the museum had to be closed due to high temperatures. A timer was added so cool night air could be sucked in while the museum was closed. The cost for the project was about \$1,000.

In December 2015 Kleiman Pump & Well Drilling moved the automated submersible water pump installed in the fall of 2014 to the north wall of the Cornish Pumping Engine Museum so the water would not run into the slots in the pit, and a sewage ejector was also installed to prevent the sump pump from freezing. The project cost of \$747.92 was covered by funds remaining from the 100+ Women Who Care donation received in May, 2014.

In October, 2015, Ron Marini, a resident of Iron Mountain's North Side, donated the bell which hung in the tower of the Nelson P. Hulst High School on Madison Avenue from 1892 to 1949. The bell will be the focal point of a new display which will include information on Dr. Nelson Powell Hulst, one of the most influential early mining men to explore, discover and develop mines

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on the Menominee Iron Range, as well as the Hulst School itself with historic photographs.

### WORLD WAR II GLIDER & MILITARY MUSEUM

Beginning Monday, June 6, the World War II Glider & Military Museum, located at 302 Kent Street, will be open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. Hours are modified in September and October.

During the winter, Trustee Jim Hartwell installed LED lighting in all of the cases housing the uniforms and other military memorabilia for better visibility, and also installed track lighting around the walls to better illuminate the displays on dark days. The LED lighting will also save tremendously on electrical bills. The project cost was \$4,015.05 with all labor donated by Hartwell.

The 4-foot by 24-foot Vietnam Wall from the float Gary Sparpana, a Kingsford Vietnam veteran, built last summer in tribute to the fallen servicemen from Dickinson, Delta, Iron, Menominee, Marinette and Florence counties who gave their lives during the Vietnam War was mounted on the north wall over the audiovisual room and restrooms late last fall by Guy Forstrom and Sparpana. A full-sized display of a Vietnam soldier is being fabricated to compliment the Vietnam Wall by Clyde Unger.

Two six-page “books,” each page measuring 23” x 38” and containing a dozen captioned historic stereoview photographs, are now on permanent display. The Spanish American War (1898) “book” includes views taken by William Rezin, a member of Iron Mountain’s Company E, and views from William J. Cummings’ personal collection. The World War I (1914-1918) views are also from Cummings’ the personal collection. Additional information and photographs for each “book” is contained on the “cover,” “inside cover” and page seven. Researched and designed by Cummings and Clyde Unger, the Baker Sign Company fabricated this display.

### THE DRY AND ARCHIVES CONCERNS

The safety and preservation of the archives (bound newspaper volumes, documents, research materials and original photographs) housed upstairs

in the 114-year-old Carnegie Library building, now the Menominee Range Historical Museum, continue to be a major concern of the Board.

The collection is extensive, and we are bursting at the seams. Maintaining proper temperature and humidity levels in a building is expensive and almost impossible.

The Board is working to move the archives to the dry building, modifying an area for proper storage, better accessibility throughout the year and better safeguards against fire. The Menominee Range Historical Museum exhibits would not be affected if the archives were moved to the dry, and Dianne and future managers would have a better office and work area.

President Joe Warren, Treasurer Guy Forstrom and Trustees Jim Hartwell and Dave Pelto have researched and formulated initial plans which hopefully will become a reality in the near future. The estimated cost of the project is \$70,000.

The dry, an historic structure itself, is the large sandstone building across from the Cornish Pumping Engine & Mining Museum. Erected as the “locker room” for miners working from the C Ludington Shaft of the Chapin Mine in 1910, the 103’ by 65’ structure included 660 steel lockers, showers and other accommodations, and was constructed at a cost of \$12,000. It remains structurally sound.

### MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES

In the spring of 2015 an idea evolved regarding a column called “Menominee Range Memories” with a goal of sharing historical information over a wide variety of topics to preserve our heritage and allow all of us to learn more about those who explored, developed, lived, worked and worshipped here before us.

*The Daily News* graciously agreed to publish a synopsis of each column along with an historic photograph helping to tell the story on a biweekly basis which began in January.

The full story – “the rest of the story” – with expanded information and additional photographs is available on the Dickinson County Library’s website ([www.dcl-lib.org](http://www.dcl-lib.org)) under the Local History and Genealogy tab. The large format makes

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reading easy and the columns can be printed if a hard copy is desired. Foundation Historian Cummings researches and writes the columns.

### FORD PLANT BOOK PUBLISHED

A 110-page book titled *Iron Mountain Ford Motor Company Plant, Kingsford, Michigan 1920-1951* by William J. Cummings will be available for purchase at the gift shop for \$15.00 in early June. Prepublication sales are now underway. Featuring more than 75 photographs from the museum's collection, as well from personal collections of Guy Forstrom, Cummings and others, the Ford Plant story from beginning to end is told with a major section devoted to the CG-4A glider production here. All profits from the sale of the book will go toward the enhancement and development of museum displays.

### FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM

Over the past 18 years the Friends of the Museum have raised over \$132,500 through rummage sales held in the dry building throughout the summer and early fall, as well as sponsoring antique and craft shows and other activities to help fund and expand museum exhibits. If you have good useable items to donate, call Janet Reynolds at 774-5212 to arrange for drop off at the dry.

### DONATIONS

Without the generous monetary donations to the Foundation made throughout the year by individuals, through local grants and occasionally bequests in wills, the museums would not be able to operate. While our admissions have increased over the years, expenses have also risen.

Last October the Foundation learned that the estate of Robert Spencer would be donating funds designated to help purchase a Ford Woodie for permanent display in the museum.

This spring we received a sizeable donation from an individual who wishes to remain anonymous with no stipulations for the Board of Governors to use at its discretion.

Gifts of any size are much appreciated to allow the Foundation to maintain and enhance its facilities and displays.

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS CHANGES

Guy Forstrom was recently elected treasurer of the Menominee Range Historical Foundation. Kathie Fayas had capably served as treasurer for 36 years, and is glad to have another Board member take over those responsibilities. She still serves as secretary, a position she has held for 44 years.

Board members include: Joe Warren, president; Bill Cummings, vice-president and historian; Kathie Fayas, secretary; Guy Forstrom, treasurer; Pam Edens, Jim Hartwell, Bob Johnson, Dave Pelto, Jan Reynolds and Roger Scott, trustees.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Without volunteers it would be financially impossible for these museums to remain open. With each passing year finding people willing to devote hours at the museums becomes increasingly difficult. Your support and assistance is needed at the World War II Glider & Military Museum (4-hour shifts for morning or afternoon), the Cornish Pumping Engine & Mining Museum (4-hour shift Monday morning) and the Menominee Range Historical Museum (4-hour shifts Tuesday through Friday). Call Dianne at 774-4276 to volunteer.

### THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

Our membership list is dwindling, so we are especially grateful for your continued support which is absolutely essential to successfully maintain our three seasonal facilities, open from June through mid-October. Basic maintenance and utility expenses continue throughout the year. Please encourage others to become members and support our museums.

If you need to renew your membership, a form is enclosed with this newsletter. Membership forms are also available on our website.

Any additional assistance you can provide to help us preserve our area's rich heritage is always appreciated.

*Menominee Range Historical Foundation  
Board of Governors*