

**MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION MUSEUM  
CORNISH PUMPING ENGINE & MINING MUSEUM  
WWII GLIDER & MILITARY MUSEUM  
WINTER NEWSLETTER  
DECEMBER 2016**

Dear Museum Friends,

The Menominee Range Historical Foundation Board of Governors wishes you and your family 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 many of our dreams and goals.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2016 AND PLANS FOR 2017**

The Foundation Board is extremely thankful for all contributions received, including several major donations, which have made it possible to achieve many of our 2016 goals.

New signs were erected at U.S. 2 and Kent Street and M-95 North and U.S. 2 East.

On Sunday, August 14, the Foundation hosted an open house from noon to 4 p.m. which was well attended. The Board has decided to have an Annual Museum Heritage Day to promote the museums and encourage area residents who may not be familiar with them to attend.

**At the Menominee Range Historical Museum:** This summer a special exhibit featured John Lane Buell, the founder of Quinnesec, and his wife, Ruth Belle Buell. Recent acquisitions of Mrs. Buell's nightgown, mourning skirt, jacket and veil, as well as other items were displayed together with the Buell Victorian wire garden settee and a walnut parlor table from their home. Many enlarged photographs of the Buells and Quinnesec completed the exhibit.

**At the Cornish Pumping Engine & Mining Museum:** The sixteen exhibit cases in the Pump Room of the Cornish Pumping Engine & Mining Museum were thoroughly revamped to tell the story of the Menominee Iron Range by Foundation Historian Bill Cummings. Manager Dianne Castelaz-Chiapusio gave each case a new coat of paint and Jim Hartwell replaced the upper and lower plastic guide strips holding the moveable glass doors in position.

Cases tell the story of the Menominee Iron Range as follows: 1 – The Early Development of the Menominee Iron Range; 2 – Dr. Nelson Powell Hulst, Father of the Menominee Iron Range, and Lewis Young Whitehead, early explorer; 3 –Waucedah, Loretto and Vulcan Mines; 4 – Norway Mines; 5 – Quinnesec and Felch Mountain Range Mines; 6 – Iron Mountain's Chapin Mine; 7 – "D" Shaft of the Chapin Mine, first home of the Cornish Pump; 8 – "C" Ludington Shaft of the Chapin Mine, current home of the Cornish Pump; 9 – Iron Mountain's Hamilton and Ludington Mines; 10 – Iron Mountain's Pewabic Mine; 11 – Other Iron Mountain Mines; 12 – John Tyler Jones and the Ardis Furnace; 13 –Florence and Commonwealth Mines; 14 – Iron County Mines; 15 – The Life of a Miner; 16 – Miner's Clothing.

Copies of historic photographs from the Foundation's extensive collection, as well as Cummings' personal collection, many never before exhibited, visually tell the Menominee Iron Range story with informative captions. Listings of mines in each area, complete with location and shipping record, are included in each case.

Mining artifacts such as miners' candlesticks, "teapot" lamps, carbide lamps and other lighting devices used by the miners, numbered identification tags carried by the miners and more are displayed and explained. Contemporary accounts of numerous mining accidents are also included in these exhibits. LED lighting will illuminate these cases for better visibility.

The Iron Mountain Ford Motor Company Plant in Kingsford which opened during mid-season last summer is also featured in the Mining Museum. Dozens of photographs tell the story of the Ford era, including glider production. The 110-page book "Iron Mountain Ford Motor Company Plant, Kingsford, Michigan 1920-1951" by Cummings went on sale in the spring. All proceeds from book sales go to the Foundation to maintain its collections.

The cast iron bell which called students to class in the Hulst School, named in honor of Dr. Nelson Powell Hulst and donated to the Foundation by Ron Marini last fall, was moved to the Pump Room and information regarding the school and photographs were added to this display.

During the week of November 13, new carpeting was installed in the Cornish Pump Gift Shop, a project jointly funded by the Friends of the Museum and the Foundation. Dianne also painted the two restrooms prior to this date, and drop ceilings were installed by Jim Hartwell. Then new vinyl flooring was installed at the same time the carpeting was installed. Several Board members, Dianne, Clyde Unger and Bill Falk moved all of the items into the Pump Room while the carpet was laid, and these items have now been placed back in the Gift Shop. A restored railroad baggage car which had been in storage at the dry was moved to the gift shop to be used to display items for sale.

**At the WWII Glider & Military Museum:** At the World War II Glider & Military Museum LED lighting in all cases was installed by to provide better viewing of the collection of uniforms and other artifacts prior to opening the museum for the season.

A multi-paged oversized "book" telling about the Spanish American War and another telling about World War I form an exhibit just completed by Cummings with the help of Clyde Unger, the Foundation's exhibit fabrication expert. Enlarged period photographs of Iron Mountain's Company E, 34th Regiment, Michigan Volunteers taken in 1898 by Will Rezin, a member of the company, are featured in a portion of the Spanish American War exhibit, together with enlarged stereoviews of the war from 1898 and 1899. Stereoviews of World War I tell the story of training and a variety of military situations in France and elsewhere from 1917-1918 during our participation in The Great War. The stereoviews are from Cummings' personal collection. Baker Sign Company fabricated the large pages of photographs with captions.

Late last summer Unger designed and fabricated an exhibit featuring a mortar with a Marine loading a shell into a World War II/Korean War era M1 81mm mortar. The mortar was donated by the family of George Twardzik, Jr., of Vulcan.

Also new this year is the memorial wall built by Gary Sparpana used to promote the AVTT Traveling Vietnam Wall displayed at the Quinnesec Cemetery last summer. The float won first place in the 2015 Fourth of July parade. Donated to the Foundation by Sparpana last fall, this tribute recognizes the fallen servicemen from Dickinson, Delta, Iron, Menominee, Marinette and Florence counties who gave their lives during the Vietnam War, containing 49 names.

Another new exhibit designed and fabricated by Unger depicts a scene from the Vietnam era as a soldier makes his way through a rice paddy with the view of a helicopter landing in the background. Funds for this exhibit were donated by the AVTT Traveling Wall Committee.

In late June, a 1939 Ford V-8 DeLuxe "Woodie" Station Wagon, built at the Iron Mountain Ford Motor Company Plant in Kingsford was placed on exhibit in the World War II Glider & Military Museum. The late Robert Spencer, an antique car enthusiast from Breitung Township, decided it would be fitting for the Foundation to have a Ford "Woodie Wagon" to display due to the manufacturing ties to our area. He enlisted Randy Hallman, of Randy Hallman Specialty Cars, to help him find "a representative example of the wagon." Sadly Robert Spencer died before he could see his wish completed, but he made provisions in his will to provide funds for the Foundation to purchase a "Woodie." Foundation Treasurer Guy Forstrom, also an old car buff and a friend of Hallman's, was aware of Spencer's wishes. When funds from the Spencer Estate were received this past spring, the Foundation Board commissioned Forstrom to find a car.

Hallman told his friend and fellow automobile enthusiast Alan Egelseer, of Spread Eagle, Wisconsin, about the Foundation's search for a "Woodie," asking that he pass along any news of one available for sale. Forstrom was acquainted with Egelseer as well, and knew he had numerous contacts among classic car hobbyists, plus a vast knowledge of the history of the Woodie Wagons that were built here. After some careful consideration, Egelseer called Hallman and offered his 1939 Ford DeLuxe Woodie Wagon, which he had owned for 25 years.

Spencer's bequest, combined with Alan and Carol Egelseer's generous donation of the rest of the vehicle's value to the Foundation, enabled the Foundation to own and display one of the finest examples of an original Ford wood-bodied station wagon in the country.

This 1939 Ford Wagon has 100 percent of the wood it had when it left the Kingsford plant. It has its original glass, rubber floor mats and running boards. This car has won the prestigious Dearborn Award from the Early Ford V-8 Club of America, scoring 950 out of a possible 1,000 points in judging for correctness.

Clyde Unger installed a rubber hose with bell, typical of those used in full-service gasoline stations, during the summer. Clyde also was looking for an early soda pop cooler typical of those used in the 1940's or earlier. Randy Hallman had a Coca-Cola cooler needing some restoration work, and donated it to the Foundation. Clyde used his astounding skills to completely restore this classic Coca-Cola cooler which now stands in front of the gasoline station at the World War II Glider & Military Museum.

In October, Nick and Jeana Simon donated their Shay replica 1929 Ford Model A roadster, built in 1980, to the Foundation. Now on display at the World War II Glider & Military Museum, the vehicle may be used in parades to promote the museums in the future.

The centennial celebration of the United States' involvement in "the Great War" will begin in 2017. A special permanent World War I wall display, hopefully partially funded by a grant through the Dickinson Area Community Foundation, will be installed if monies are available.

**At the Chapin Mine C Ludington Shaft Dry:** Lighting was replaced in the dry building by Trustee Hartwell to improve visibility in the area where the Friends of the Museum hold their rummage sales.

**Long Range Plan Essential to Maintain Museums:** The Foundation Board is working at developing a comprehensive long range plan to assure the growth of the museums for this and future generations. This 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.

The safety and preservation of the archives now housed in the 114-year-old former Carnegie Library continue to be a major concern of the Board. Antiquated wiring in a building constructed of highly combustible material could result in the tragic loss of the area's most highly prized historical items entrusted to the museum by donations over the decades.

The current archive repository, located upstairs is "bursting at the seams." Access to staff or researchers is difficult due to a steep, narrow stairway. Size also limits available space for an organized office area and research for staff and historians. Adequate temperature and humidity controls are unable to be maintained there for sensitive original photographs, bound newspaper volumes, documents, genealogical and other research materials.

The Board plans to construct a new barrier-free area to house archives and a year-round office space in the dry building. Trustee Dave Pelto, together with President Joe Warren and others, has developed a plan for the west end of the structure which would include the already constructed restrooms, an office area where the kitchen was located and a large temperature and humidity controlled fireproof archive storage room in the southwest corner. Trustee Hartwell, the master electrician at Dickinson Homes, Inc., for 36 years, has laid out the proposed storage room and office space after carefully noting the space taken by the current collection with the help of Manager Dianne Castelaz-Chiapusio. He has outlined the electrical components needed, as well as the heating and air conditioning system.

Costs are still being determined, but the new archive area could become a reality for about \$75,000. Limited funds are available to initiate this project, but additional monies will be needed for its completion. Proper preservation of the archival materials is one of the most basic needs facing any museum, for those materials are the key elements of an area's history. Pat Negro and Ron Christensen generously gave a considerable donation to help get this project off the ground.

**Members of the Menominee Range Historical Foundation Board of Directors:** Joe Warren continues as president of the Foundation with Bill Cummings serving as vice-president and historian, Kathie Fayas as secretary and Guy Forstrom as treasurer. Other board members are Pam Edens, Jim Hartwell, Bob Johnson, Dave Pelto, Jan Reynolds and Roger Scott. Board members generously donate their time and talents by securing bids for projects, preparing

agendas and minutes, preparing the monthly treasurer's report, writing thank you letters and developing spread sheets to show expenses and revenues, as well as working on projects sometimes requiring physical labor or specialized expertise.

**Museum Manager Dianne Castelaz-Chiapusio:** Beginning her twenty-third year, Dianne continues to serve as museum manager, always doing an exceptional job covering a wide range of responsibilities. She is our employee scheduler, volunteer coordinator, bookkeeper, merchandise purchaser, acquisitions contact, tour organizer, custodian, painter...and "all other duties as assigned."

**Volunteers Keep the Museums Open:** Volunteers are crucial to the museums, for without them the Board could not afford to staff the three sites and operate for the number of hours per season. Members from the Iron Mountain-Kingsford Women's Club staff the Historical Museum from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. several weekdays. Other individuals staff the WWII Glider & Military Museum, working from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. 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 one volunteers weekly, who works Monday mornings from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., allowing the manager to perform other duties.

Volunteers are always needed, including individuals willing to occasionally substitute. Please consider contributing time to assist the museums' operations in this manner.

**Friends of the Museum Raise Funds for Numerous Projects:** Friends of the Museum continues to offer financial support to the WWII Glider & Military Museum. Members are Janet Reynolds, president/treasurer; Greta Betti, vice-president; Julie Eutizzi, secretary; Julie Badini, Susan Cobb, Dee Ebertsch, Kathie Fayas, Bonnie Hyde, Darlene Orlor and Jackie Rosen.

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.

**Funding Needs:** The Board of Governors again needs your help in realizing its 2017 museum goals. As our membership list grows shorter with each passing year, your continued support is most appreciated. Please help us to encourage others to become members and support our museums. A membership form is included on the back of this sheet for your consideration and is also available on our website, noted at the bottom of this page.

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 and WE Matching Funds. Grants have also been received from the Dickinson Area Community Foundation.

Donations of any size for any of the museums are always very much appreciated. Make your check out to "Museums," P.O. Box 237, Iron Mountain, MI 49801. Please call Secretary Kathie Fayas at (906) 774-2827 with any questions.

**MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

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