

**MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION MUSEUM
CORNISH PUMPING ENGINE & MINING MUSEUM
WWII GLIDER & MILITARY MUSEUM
WINTER NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2018**

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 in 2018.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2018 AND PLANS FOR 2019



Members of C Company, 401st Glider Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, presented the Foundation with a framed T-shirt complete with glider pilot wings. President Bill Cummings, Vice-President Jim Hartwell and Trustee Roger Scott are pictured at the right.

On Sunday, August 12, the Foundation hosted its third annual open house from noon to 4 p.m. Uniformed members of the

World War II Historical Reenactment Society from Green Bay, Wisconsin, representing C Company, 401st Glider

Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, pitched their tents near the World War II Glider & Military Museum on Saturday, August 11, and displayed their equipment for visitors during Sunday's Open House. C Company will return for the 2019 open house tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 29 with even more members and equipment on display.

At the Menominee Range Historical Museum: This summer a special exhibit featured items from the estate of David and Henrietta Cavaiani, including Henrietta's 1952 wedding dress and David's military uniform.

At the Cornish Pumping Engine & Mining Museum: A variety of laboratory equipment and a display of several lightbulbs with "Stolen from O.M.C." (Oliver Mining Company) was added in the main pump room, showing analytical aspects of iron mining.

In June Clyde Unger began constructing a working replica to show how the connecting rods and high and low pressure cylinders operated the Cornish Pumping Engine. Hopefully this new exhibit will be installed for the 2019 season.

At the WWII Glider & Military Museum: Two new military-related exhibits were installed at the WWII Glider & Military Museum prior to opening for the season.

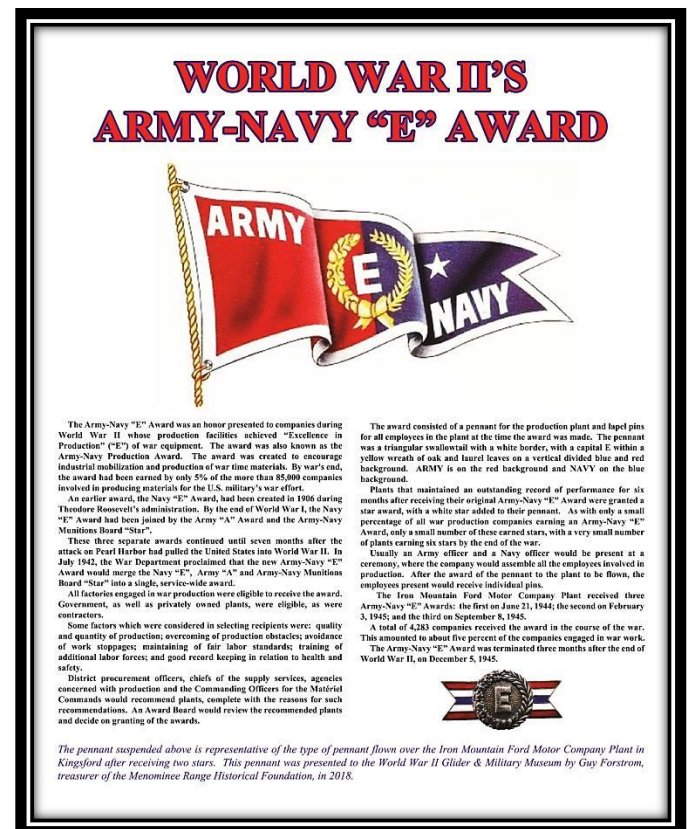
In January, Foundation Treasurer Guy Forstrom donated an original Army-Navy "E" for Excellence Award Flag with two white stars, indicating that the award had been won three times. This flag would have been the same as the flag flown over the Iron Mountain Ford Motor Company Plant in Kingsford.

The first "E" Award was presented on June 21, 1944, just fifteen days after D-Day,

the Allied invasion of Normandy in Operation Overlord which was the largest seaborne invasion in history. Some 3,937 glider troops landed in Normandy on June 6, many transported by gliders manufactured here. Two additional awards were received – one on February 3, 1945, and another on September 8, 1945. A star was added for each of these later awards.

Kingsford's Iron Mountain Ford Motor Company plant employees were also presented with a pin, commemorating their dedication, skill and productivity at these award ceremonies.

A sign by the Baker Sign Company describing the significance of the award and its history is included in the display, funded by the Friends of the Museum.



A 24" x 30" sign by the Baker Sign Company describing the significance of the award and its history was included in the

display, funded by the Friends of the Museum.

A 4' x 6' sign honoring Sgt. Oscar G. Johnson, Medal of Honor winner from Foster City, Dickinson County, Michigan, was also installed by the Baker Sign Company. The Dickinson County Community Foundation provided partial funding for this project.

The Oscar G. Johnson Veterans Administration Hospital in Iron Mountain was named in his honor on October 1, 2008.



In March four 4' x 4' glass-sided display cabinets were given to the Foundation by Kingsford High School, where they formerly held trophies.

One of these cases now holds a display tracing the history of charcoal locally, including Ford Charcoal Briquettes and

Kingsford Charcoal Briquettes exhibiting items from Guy Forstrom's personal collection. Plans are to use these cases for special exhibits. Jim Hartwell installed casters on the cases to facilitate moving them.

The Sixth Annual Veteran's Free Day which began shortly after the WWII Glider & Military Museum opened in 2011, was held on June 25. All veterans are invited to visit free of charge. Veterans from the Oscar G. Johnson Veterans Hospital are among those who come each year.

Museum Tours Expanded: The Foundation's Mission Statement reads: *The Menominee Range Historical Foundation is dedicated to the perpetuation and preservation of the history of the Menominee Iron Range and the use of that history and our museums to further educate the general public.*

In accordance with the Mission Statement, Fourth Grade Tours have been conducted for more than 25 years. Area schools are afforded the opportunity to bring fourth graders to visit the Menominee Range Historical Museum on scheduled tours in May.

Prompted by a grant opportunity offered by the Kiwanis Club, the Board decided to initiate tours of the Cornish Pumping Engine & Mining Museum and the WWII Glider & Military Museum for eighth graders in mid-September.

Bill Cummings contacted Dickinson County's four public school districts. Only Kingsford Middle School took advantage of this opportunity, and five tours of between 20-25 students each were given on September 10 and 11. The students were enthusiastic about learning more of our area's history. The Eighth Grade Tour program will continue in the fall of 2019.



Over 100 Kingsford Middle School students from Mike Cross's eighth grade history classes toured the Cornish Pumping Engine & Mining Museum and the WWII Glider & Military Museum on September 10 and 11, initiating the Foundation's new Eighth Grade Tour Program. Foundation President Bill Cummings served as a guide for these tours.

In addition, tours of the two museums were given to the Bay West Leadership Academy on October 9 and the Civil Air Patrol Cadets on October 11.

An increasing number of tour groups visited the museums this season.

Tour groups are welcomed and guided tours can be scheduled. For groups of 10 or more, a reduced admission fee is charged. Groups range from professional tour companies to local civic, religious and other groups. Family and class reunion groups are also welcome.

Special events can be scheduled by businesses also. On August 5, 2015 Boss Snowplow held a reception at the Cornish Pumping Engine & Mining Museum and the WWII Glider & Military Museum complex from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. to celebrate the company's 30th Anniversary Distributor Event. A tent was set up on the grounds and

the Chippewa Club catered the event, serving a buffet from inside the Glider Museum.

A reception catered by the Chippewa Club was held at the WWII Glider & Military Museum on June 21 from 5 to 7 p.m. for participants and patrons of the Pine Mountain Museum Festival.

As a part of Lake Shore's 160th Anniversary Celebration, about 125 members toured the Cornish Pumping Engine & Mining Museum on July 26 from 4 to 6 p.m.

Promotional Committee Formed:

With unanimous support, Mikki Hall, the Foundation's newest Board member, offered to form the Promotional Committee. The initial meeting, held in August, included seven members: Mikki Hall, Mick Gayan, Seth Anderson, Michael Johns, Lucy Joyce, Keith Huotari and Jayna Huotari.

The group is updating some on-line sites and links to the museums. Included in these contact points are Facebook, Trip Advisor and Google, making them more informative and accessible to potential visitors with updated, mobile-friendly experiences.

A membership drive and other fund raisers for capital improvements are contemplated.

Seth Anderson and Michael Johns, of Mountain Media Works, have volunteered their time to build a new, mobile-responsive, user-friendly website for the Foundation.

Adrian Wilcox, Treasurer Guy Forstrom's stepson, who lives in Florida, used a new 3D process to scan 360 degree views of the WWII Glider & Military Museum and the Menominee Range Historical Museum while visiting in May. Next spring Wilcox will make a similar scan of the Cornish Pumping Engine & Mining Museum using a different camera which can accommodate the pump's height.

Plans are underway by the Promotional Committee to see how these scans could be transferred to the website and used by people unable to visit our museums personally for a fee. The scans are also very valuable for insurance purposes.

At the "Dry Museum Project" – Phase 2: Last summer and fall the new archives room was built in the dry building and the archival material from the Carnegie Public Library was moved to the new facility which is fireproof, climate-controlled and provides easy access to these materials. A manager's office was also constructed. A storage area above the archives room and manager's office fills another need.

Through the extreme generosity of Pat Negro, Joe Negro and a couple formerly residing in the area who choose to remain anonymous, the Foundation received

funding for this important project – Phase 1 of the Dry Museum Project. Their monetary gifts have assured the proper storage and protection of the archival materials which document the history of our area for future generations.

The Menominee Range Historical Foundation plans to move the museum from the Carnegie Public Library building to the dry building near the Cornish Pumping Engine & Mining Museum as funding permits. This is a long range goal which will be achieved incrementally. Having all three facilities on one campus would be a distinct advantage.

The Foundation does not own the Carnegie Public Library building. The building is owned by the Iron Mountain School District, but the Foundation has use of the building as long as the building is used as a museum and maintained.

The Carnegie Public Library building is not handicapped-friendly, has inadequate restroom facilities, will soon need a new roof and the furnaces will need to be replaced. Built in 1902, the building is not energy efficient. Also parking is very limited at this site.

The Board feels working toward moving the museum to the "dry building" would make better sense than further investing in the Carnegie Public Library building.

The dry building is owned by the Foundation, is handicapped-friendly with no steps to climb, already has modern bathroom facilities, has a spacious interior and space for parking is readily available.

A committee, consisting of Joe Warren, Jim Hartwell, Bill Cummings and Manager Dianne Castelaz-Chiapusio, was appointed in February to make preliminary allocations of space to convert the dry building into a museum.



The “C” Ludington Shaft of Chapin Mine Dry Building, pictured here in December, 1911, now houses the archives and manager’s office and is the future site of the Menominee Range Historical Museum.

Work began on “C” Ludington Shaft of the Chapin Mine on May 6, 1903. The work of sinking the shaft was completed in early December, 1908, reaching a depth of 1,522 feet. On Monday, July 27, 1908 the first ore was hoisted through the Oliver Iron Mining Company’s new shaft.

An article in the August 11, 1910 edition of the Iron Mountain Press announced that work had begun on the new sanitary dry house at “C” Ludington Shaft at an estimated cost of \$12,000. Constructed of sandstone and steel, making it fireproof, the new structure measured 140 feet by 64 feet and was designed to contain 660 steel lockers for the miners’ clothing and also was “equipped with shower baths and enameled wash fixtures.” This was, in effect, the locker room for the miners.

The “Dry Museum Project” is now underway in this historic 108-year-old structure. Work continues on the general store. As funding becomes available, plans are to continue with Phase 2 in 2019, encompassing (1) construction of the interior perimeter walls, (2) heating, ventilation and gas piping, (3) LED lighting and other electrical needs, and (4) construction of a cement handicapped ramp for the east end emergency exit. The estimated cost total for these four items is \$31,382.

By March the committee had met three times. Hartwell did an impressive job of drawing a floor plan to scale which indicated there would be enough display areas and cases to hold most items now on exhibit at the downtown museum. Cases will remain similar in size with some even being larger. The tentative floorplan for Phase 2 of the Dry Museum Project was approved by the Board at its March meeting.

Hartwell met with Dickinson Homes prior to the April Board meeting to review the floor plan which was approved with one

exception. Three exits are required, and two of the exits on the plan will need a ramp to meet ADA requirements.

In April Hartwell started preparing the storage area above the archives room and manager's office for use.

Sometime in May Hartwell with the help of his son David worked on the general store display which is similar to the Cracker Barrel Store located in the lobby of the downtown museum. The new general store display will be deeper with more shelving and room for the post office boxes.



The beginnings of the new museum at the “dry building” have begun with the general store. Vice-President Jim Hartwell and Manager Dianne Castelaz-Chiapusio posed in the store entrance. The shelving will permit easily visible displays and the majority of the items currently on display in the Cracker Barrel general store downtown will be accommodated, including the butcher block and meat rack, counters, the brass cash register, a couple of scales used to weigh food items, the hand-cranked wall telephone and the wood stove.

Hartwell installed a grid to support ceiling tiles which replicate an old-fashioned tin ceiling. Guy Forstrom donated two lighting fixtures from the old Quinnesec School which will light this display. Hartwell also built shelving units against the three walls to display “merchandise” in the new general store. Additional storage above the general store adjoins the storage area above the archives room and manager’s office.

As funding becomes available, the Foundation plans to move forward on Phase 2 of this project in 2019 which includes: (1) construction of perimeter walls inside the museum area; (2) heating, ventilation and gas piping; (3) LED lighting and other electrical needs; (4) construction of a cement handicapped ramp for the east end emergency exit.

The cost for materials to build 194.5 lineal feet of outside perimeter walls inside the museum area is estimated at \$4,185.34. A new, smaller insulated garage door will be installed and modifications made to the exterior wall.

D & L Plumbing, Heating & A/C has provided a quote for all equipment necessary for venting and gas piping to include materials and labor to install three 75,000 Atmosphere vent heaters at a cost of \$12,485 or to furnish materials and labor to install three sealed combustion Modines at a cost of \$15,655.

The cost for materials for LED lighting and other electrical needs for the general museum area and displays is estimated at \$6,542.19. This does not include labor.

A handicapped ramp will have to be built at the east end of the building for one of the emergency exit doors, and is estimated to cost around \$5,000, including cement, railings, etc.

The estimated cost total for these four items is \$31,382. This does not include labor.

Hartwell’s considerable professional experience and willingness to volunteer his time and expertise has saved the Foundation a substantial amount of money. He is willing to continue with this part of the project and more if funds are available.

The Friends of the Museum have finished liquidating their rummage sale items so space for the proposed museum will be available in the dry building.

Members of the Menominee Range Historical Foundation Board of Directors:

At the January meeting of the Board, Joe Warren announced he was stepping down as president. Bill Cummings, who had been vice-president, was elected president and historian; Jim Hartwell was elected vice-president. Other Board members are: Kathie Fayas, secretary; Guy Forstrom, treasurer; Pam Edens, Mikki Hall (elected as a new trustee in May), Jim Hartwell, Bob Johnson, Dave Pelto, Jan Reynolds and Roger Scott, trustees.

Museum Manager Dianne Castelaz-Chiapusio: Beginning her twenty-sixth year, Dianne continues to serve as museum manager, covering a wide range of responsibilities.

Volunteers Keep the Museums Open: Volunteers are crucial to our museums, for without them the Board could not afford to staff the three sites and operate for the number of hours open during the season.

Volunteers 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. An employee covers this museum on Saturdays and Sundays. Several Board members also staff this museum weekly or bi-weekly.

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 volunteer weekly, who works Monday mornings from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., allowing the manager to perform other duties.

Staffing the Menominee Range Historical Museum has been increasingly difficult. This past year Pam Edens and Shirley Nelson, members of the Iron Mountain-Kingsford Women's Club, worked on Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. New volunteers Keith and Jayna Houtari kept the museum open on Saturdays during the same hours.

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: The Friends of the Museum group continues to offer financial support to all three museums. Two antique/craft shows and a raffle will be sponsored during 2019.

Members are Janet Reynolds, president/treasurer; Greta Betti, vice-president; Julie Eutizzi, secretary; Diane Carlson, Susan Cobb, Dee Ebertsch, Kathie Fayas, Darlene Orler, Jackie Rosen and Kay Villa.

Four New Publications Offered: Four new historical books and booklets were published in 2018, including: *The Prohibition Era on the Eastern Menominee Iron Range* by William J. Cummings (214 pages – spiral bound) \$20.00 + \$1.20 tax = \$21.20; *Kingsford Fuel: A History of the Charcoal Briquette* by Guy Forstrom (16 pages) \$3.50 + \$.21 tax = \$3.71; *Sgt. Godfrey Johnson, Jr. – World War II Medal*

of Honor Recipient from Dickinson County, Michigan by William J. Cummings (46 pages – spiral bound) \$8.00 + \$.48 tax = \$8.48; and *Willie Dickinson Is Missing! The Unsolved 1881 Kidnapping of 5-Year-Old Mining Superintendent's Son in Commonwealth, Wisconsin* by William J. Cummings (32 pages – spiral bound) \$7.00 + \$.42 tax = \$7.42. Shipping costs are additional. All proceeds go to the Menominee Range Historical Foundation. Contact Dianne at the Archives (906) 828-1822 for further details.

“Menominee Range Memories” Columns Promote Area History and Raise Awareness of Our Heritage: Foundation Historian Cummings began writing a series of articles called “Menominee Range Memories” in December, 2015 to share historical information over a wide variety of topics to help 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 article along with an historic photograph helping to tell the story.

The expanded story – “the rest of the story” – with additional photographs and other illustrations for all columns is available on the Dickinson County Library's website (www.dcl-lib.org) under the Local History and Genealogy tab where it can be read and/or printed by the reader if a hard copy is desired.

Also available on the Local History and Genealogy tab are 16 Power Point presentations showing various aspects of local history through photographs and information. Another section contains a large collection of captioned historic photographs.

All of these files are available at no cost and help provide insight into the rich heritage of the Menominee Iron Range which the Menominee Range Historical Foundation promotes.

Michigan History Alliance Conference Held on October 25 and Plans for 2021 Michigan History Conference:

On August 7, Bill Cummings, Jim Hartwell and Dianne Castelaz-Chiapusio met with representatives from the Historical Society of Michigan. The Foundation agreed to host the Michigan History Alliance meeting and workshop on October 25. Dan Spegel, of the Michigan History Center, spoke about Michigan's Heritage Trail Project during the morning meeting. The afternoon workshop titled "Taming the Chaos & Clutter: Collection Management for Small Museums" was presented by Robert Myers, Director of Education Programs and Events, Historical Society of Michigan.

The Foundation has agreed to host the 2021 Michigan History Conference from June 25 to June 26.

Funding Needs: The Foundation again needs your help in realizing its 2019 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 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, TADCA, the First National Bank & Trust and WE Matching Funds. A number of grants have also been received from the Dickinson Area Community Foundation.

The Menominee Range Historical Foundation is funded only through admission fees, gift shop sales, memberships, donations, bequests and occasionally grants. No tax dollars from city, county, state or national sources are received.

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.

***SEASONS GREETINGS FROM
THE MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION
BOARD OF GOVERNORS***

VISIT US AT: menomineemuseum.com

