

**MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION MUSEUM
CORNISH PUMPING ENGINE & MINING MUSEUM
WWII GLIDER & MILITARY MUSEUM
WINTER NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2021**

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 members year after year is essential to our future success. Attendance during the 2021 season was our best on record with 3,934 visitors. Hopefully 2022 will be even greater.

At the “Dry Museum Project”: Under the leadership of Foundation Vice President Jim Hartwell drywall was installed on the exterior walls of new museum in 2019. Refinements of the layout and professional architectural drawings of the proposed museum were completed by Coleman Engineering Company in early 2020.

In October 2020 a contract was signed with Carey Construction to rough in the the south room display area (33’ x 43’) and the north room display area (33’ x 43’) in preparation for the installation of electrical wiring and applying drywall.

In late January and early February Carey Construction erected the framework for the room-type displays. The north display area is visible in the photograph in the left column and another section the same size forms the south displays area. A ceiling and insulation was also installed by Carey Construction in the late winter.



Guy Forstrom moved L.M. Hansen's granite hitching post from the old museum lawn to the front of the new museum. Hansen had a two livery stables on South

Stephenson Avenue in downtown Iron Mountain. Note the iron ring at the top of the carved granite "log" where reins could be tied.



Guy Forstrom and Jim Hartwell worked at moving and installing fixtures and stocking the shelves in the Cracker Barrel General Store. Jim also installed the post office window and mail boxes. Note the butcher block and meat rack at the right, and the scales, cheese cutter, sewing accessories display, wrapping paper and the scale for nails on the marble countertops.

Midway Electric installed wiring throughout the newly-constructed framework. Sheetrock and pressed board, as well as rough-sawn pine boards from the livery stable and other areas in the old museum, were applied to some walls and

ceilings. LED lighting fixtures have been installed throughout this portion of the new museum. All exhibit rooms in this section can be entered by doorways. A few displays will have slide-by glass panels to facilitate access for cleaning and adding items.



Guy Forstrom moved the contents of the blacksmith shop from the old museum to its new home with help from Jim Hartwell and some members of the Kingsford High School football team. The hood above the area was particularly challenging. Guy was responsible for designing this display. Rough-sawn pine boards from the livery stable were again used for the walls.



Edie Gazza donated this one-horse open sleigh which had been restored by her late husband Roland Gazza. Dating from the late 1800s to the early 1900s, this cutter seated two occupants and was manufactured by the F.A. Babcock & Sons, Ambesbury, Massachusetts. It will be featured with other horse-drawn vehicles in the livery stable area of the new museum.

In addition to the photographs contained in this newsletter, the trading post display and the moonshine still and wine-making display have been completed.

Additional displays in this portion of the new museum include a Native American

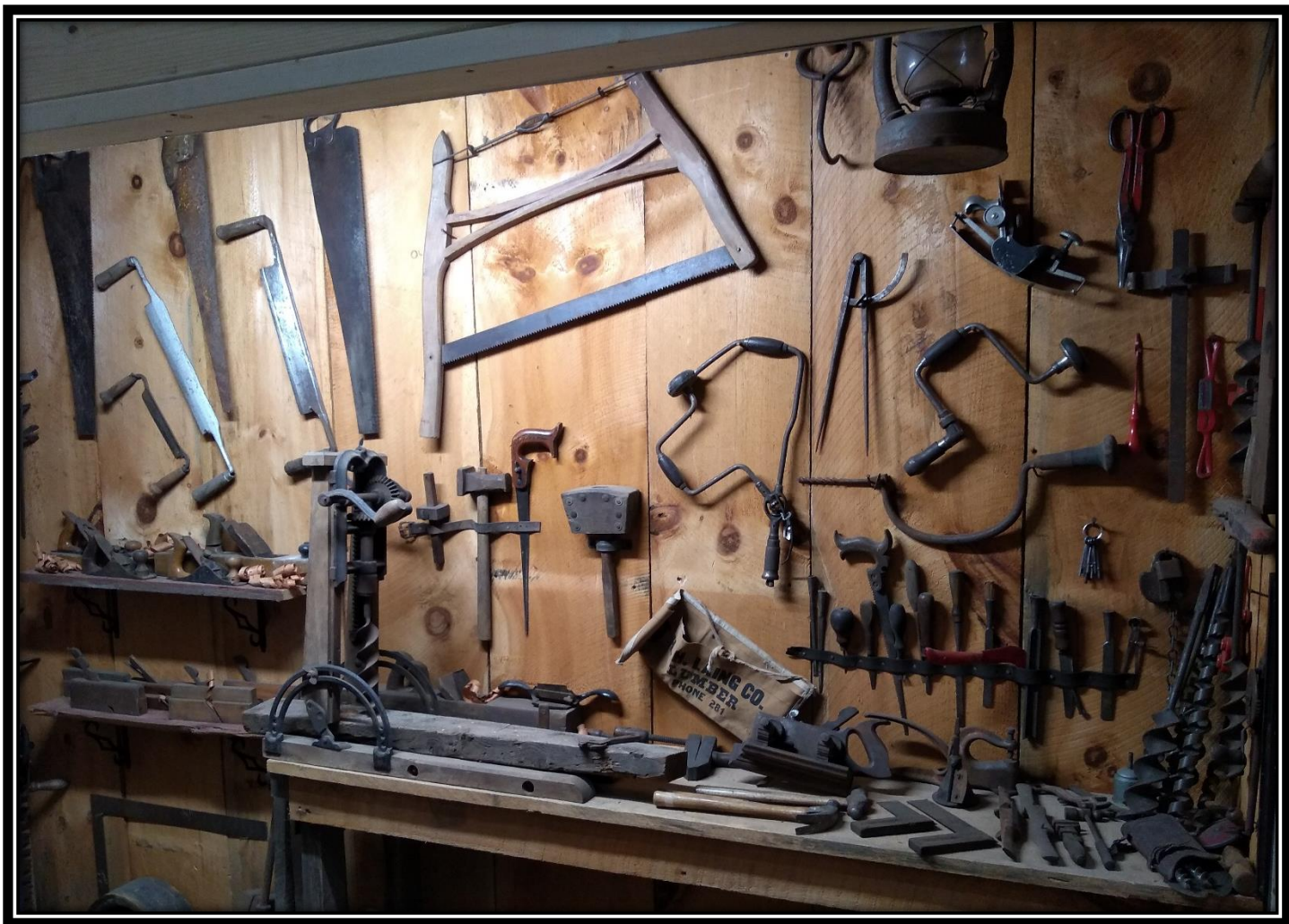
collection, an Ojibwe wigwam, a doctor's office, dentist's office, optometrist's office, drug store, real estate office, Edison Institute exhibit, dress shop, jewelry shop, Izzo's Shoe Hospital, Pine Mountain Ski Jump, Victorian parlor and kitchen, musical instruments, kitchen appliances and more. The main display area will house the school room, livery stable, firearms collection and a special exhibit area.

D & L Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning installed one of the three heaters which will allow work to continue during the winter months.

Progress has continued on this project due to a number of generous donations during the past year. Hopefully additional funding will be forthcoming to allow work to move forward. Each major new display costs about \$1,000 to build and decorate.



Jim Hartwell installed rough-sawn pine boards from the old livery stable in the new barn display and put the display items in place. Guy Forstrom moved most of these items from the old museum. The light-colored sidesaddle closest to the wall belonged to Minnie (Flaherty) Kingsford, wife of Edward G. Kingsford and first cousin of Henry Ford. Note the flynet hanging on the wall behind the saddles.



Jim Hartwell installed a wide variety of tools in the carpenter's shop previously displayed in the old museum. Rough-sawn pine boards from the livery stable were again used for the walls.

At the Cornish Pumping Engine & Mining Museum: During the spring a new exhibit – Logging & Lumbering on the Eastern Menominee Range – was installed in the mining museum's former audiovisual room which hadn't been used in recent years.

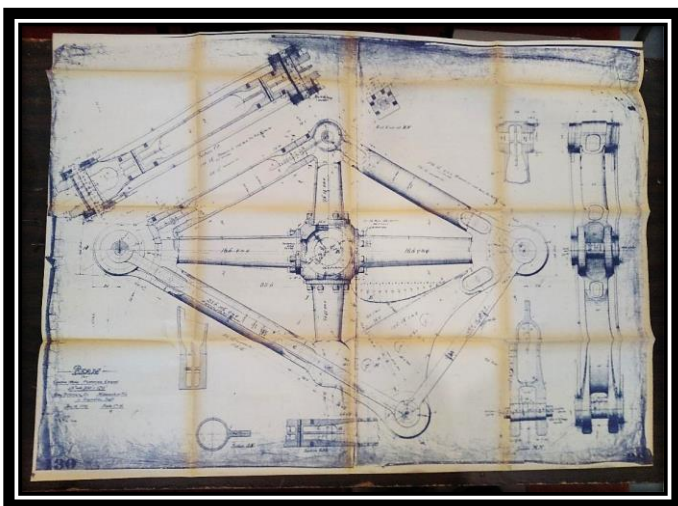
Jim Hartwell built several new cabinets to house items formerly displayed in the downtown museum, as well as additional items from the Foundation's collections.

Baker Sign Company fabricated four 4' x 8' major logging and lumbering photograph displays designed and captioned by Bill Cummings, many of which came from his personal collection.

Cummings also authored a new 82-page book – *History of the Von Platen-Fox Lumber Company, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan 1910-1943* – which is available for \$10 with an additional fee of \$5 for shipping. Some 37 photographs, including five panoramic views, help tell the history of the Von Platen-Fox Lumber Company's operations in Iron Mountain and the western Upper Peninsula. The company played a major role in local and Upper Peninsula logging and lumbering history. Genealogical information on the Godfrey Von Platen and Myrton J. Fox families is also included.



A new display – “Logging and Lumbering on the Eastern Menominee Range” – was installed in the mining museum where an audio-visual room was previously located. Designed by Bill Cummings, Jim Hartwell constructed four cases to house artifacts and another case in the left foreground contains an amazing collection of stamping hammers from various logging concerns. Two antique chainsaws and a bandsaw blade are under two cases. A history with photographs of the Von Platen-Fox Lumber Company occupies most of the wall at the right.



In early February 2020 Ernie Darrow, chief engineer of the New England Wireless and Steam Museum, contacted the Foundation telling us their collection contained the original blueprints of the Chapin Mine Engine (Cornish Pumping Engine). Their board voted to sell us the original 52 sheets of prints the money used to digitize these historic 1889 blueprints.

The blueprints arrived in July and are carefully housed in the archives. A display of copies of some of them is a future project.



In April 2021 Marsha McGregor donated this 1946 Ford Sportsman “Woodie” Convertible which is proudly displayed in the World War II Glider & Military Museum. The vehicle was a part of Marsha and her late husband Barrett’s antique car collection and other memorabilia pertaining to the vehicle, including a rare large 1946 dealership poster was also included. The maple and mahogany wooden bodies for the Sportsman convertibles were produced at the Iron Mountain Ford Motor Company Plant in Kingsford from 1946 to 1948. Marsha passed away on July 24, 2021.

At the WWII Glider & Military Museum: In April Marcia McGregor contacted Bill Cummings to say she would like to donate the 1946 Ford Sportsman “Woodie” Convertible, a part of the automobile collection belonging to her and her late husband Barrett.

The idea for the “convertible woodies” introduced in 1946 actually originated with a little Model A beach wagon Ford chief stylist E.T. “Bob” Gregorie designed and had built in 1944 at the request of young Henry Ford II

for his Long Island summer home. It was something like a combination station wagon and convertible, with a wood body, folding top, and comfortable leather seats.

A year later, Ford Motor Company President Henry Ford II decided that to get a post-war jump on the competition he needed an exciting car that would get people talking and coming into the showrooms. He liked the idea of a sporty wood convertible like his fun Model A beach wagon.

Once the design was set, a prototype was built at Iron Mountain by fitting on the wood and using as many stock parts as possible. After approval was given to begin producing both Ford and Mercury Sportsman convertibles, the bodies were built on a line at the Iron Mountain plant alongside the station wagons.

that the Ford Sportsman Convertible was in limited production here. Customized at about one for every twenty-five station wagon units built on the parallel main line at the Iron Mountain plant, the Sportsman assembly line is pictured here. [Guy Forstrom]



The Sportsman was much like any other 1946-1948 Ford, except that standard equipment included hydraulic window lifts, leather upholstery and dual visor vanity mirrors.

Despite its high price, \$494 more than the \$1,488 Super Deluxe ragtop (a 33 percent premium at a total cost of \$1,982), the Sportsman was a fair success.

The high price and required high maintenance of the Ford Sportsman held production to just 1,209 units for 1946, 2,250 for 1947, plus 28 for 1948. This 1946 Ford Sportsman Convertible's production number was 210.

In the January 17, 1946 edition of The Iron Mountain News, mention was first made



This 1942 World War II vintage Harley-Davidson motorcycle was donated to the World War II Glider & Military Museum as a gift from Friends of the Museum in mid-November 2021. Guy Forstrom found the motorcycle on-line, negotiated the purchase on behalf of the Friends of the Museum and drove to pick up the motorcycle in western Wisconsin.

At the Menominee Range Historical Museum: The museum housed in the Carnegie Public Library was not open this season, as a committee from the Foundation Board worked at evaluating, packing and moving exhibits from the downtown museum to the new museum. Guy Forstrom and Jim Hartwell also salvaged most of the rough-sawn lumber in the stable and other areas for use in the new displays in the dry museum.

Promotional Committee Activities: The core Promotional Committee formed in 2018 consists of Mikki Hall, chairperson, Seth Anderson and Lucy Joyce, Ashley Ellis, Mick Gayan, Keith and Jayna Huotari, Michael Johns and Kasey Webber.

Through their efforts considerable work has been done on social media to make it easier to connect with the Foundation's website (menomineemuseum.com). Virtual tours of the Menominee Range Historical Museum and the World War II Glider & Military Museum are available on the website.

The Promotional Committee again was in charge of the Fourth of July Parade. Dolly Cook, retired Dickinson County clerk, was the Grand Marshall. The committee's diligence, organization and hard work made the parade an extremely successful event.

Members of the Menominee Range Historical Foundation Board of Directors: Bill Cummings, president and historian; Jim Hartwell, vice-president; Mikki Hall, secretary and Promotions Committee chairwoman; Guy Forstrom, treasurer; Pam Edens, Jayna Huotari, Keith Huotari, Bob

Johnson, Dave Pelto and Roger Scott, trustees, constitute the current Board.



Former Foundation Secretary Kathie Fayas and Friends of the Museum President Jan Reynolds showed some of the items sold at the Oak Island Fundraiser in June 2019.

Kathie Fayas, the Foundation's longest-serving Board member, was secretary from September 11, 1975, until June 5, 2020, and continued as a trustee until submitting her resignation, together with that of Jan Reynolds, on June 9, 2021. Jan served as a trustee from August 30, 2004, and remains president of the Friends of the Museum, a position she has held for many years. Both contributed of their time and talents significantly over the years, and raising funds for many projects, including the World War II Glider & Military Museum. They wish to remain as honorary members, receiving the minutes.

Jayna Huotari filled one of the trustee vacancies on June 5, 2021.

Board members Keith and Jayna Huotari conducted a highly successful cemetery walk on July 24 and again on July 25, introducing participants to many people from all walks of life who contributed significantly to the community or had an unusual story to be told.

Museum Manager Dianne Castelaz-Chiapusio: Beginning her twenty-ninth year, Dianne continues to serve as museum manager, faithfully and capably undertaking 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. Please consider donating some time during the summer season in this manner. Meeting and greeting visitors is very rewarding.

Foundation to Host 2022 Upper Peninsula Historical Conference: The 72nd Annual Upper Peninsula History Conference will be held in Iron Mountain on June 24-26. Hopefully many local residents will attend this event.

Any individual or group wishing to participate in sponsoring the conference should contact the museum to details. Such funding helps to keep the costs down for attendees.

Funding Needs: The Foundation again needs your help in realizing its 2022 museum goals. Your continued support is most appreciated, especially due to the museums being closed last season and opening a little later this season.

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.

Annual donations come from individuals, businesses, anonymous benefactors, the Iron Mountain-Kingsford Women's Club, TADCA, the First National Bank & Trust, the Red Oak Foundation and WE Matching Funds. A number of generous grants have also been received from the Dickinson Area Community Foundation and the Henry Family 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 are always very much appreciated. Make your check out to "Museums," P.O. Box 237, Iron Mountain, MI 49801.

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

VISIT US AT: menomineemuseum.com



MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

MEMBERSHIP FORM

The Menominee Range Historical Foundation and its three museums – Menominee Range Historical Museum, Cornish Pumping Engine & Mining Museum, World War II Glider & Military Museum – is a 501(c) 3 organization dependent upon donations, grants, membership dues and earned income to provide its annual operating costs. Individuals and groups help support the Foundation as follows:

- Life Membership (\$200):** Membership provides admission for life for two adults from the same household and their children (ages 0-17 years) and a 1” x 3” brass plaque with up to three short lines of text installed at the **Cornish Pumping Engine & Mining Museum**. The plaque may include the name, city and state of the life member.
- Memorial (\$50):** \$50 is required for the initial plaque set-up. Additional names may be added as other memorial donations are received. The plaque may include “In Memory of _____, City and State, by (donor’s name)”. The plaques are installed at the **Cornish Pumping Engine & Mining Museum**.
- Glider/Military Museum Memorial Plaque (\$50):** Plaque installed at the **World War II Glider & Military Museum** with up to seven short lines of text and may be installed in either the **General Section** (may include name of person honored, reason honored, name of donor) or the **Special Military Section** (may include name, war, rank, where served, medals, etc.).
- Heritage Club (\$2,500):** Dues paid for life for two adults from the same household and their children (ages 0-17 years) and a bronze 2” x 8” plaque with of up to five short lines of information. The plaque may include name, city and state, and additional information.
- General Donations:**
 - \$_____ Dry Museum Project
(new home for Menominee Range Historical Museum)
 - General Maintenance } \$_____ Historical/Cornish Pump & Mining Museums
 - \$_____ World War II Glider & Military Museum

Please check the appropriate item/s and send a check payable to the Menominee Range Historical Foundation at PO Box 237, Iron Mountain, MI 49801. For additional information or assistance please call (906) 828-1822.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Thank you for your support to help preserve our heritage.

Additional Support

- I would like to volunteer at the museums – please call (906) 828-1822.
- I would like to donate to the Perpetuation Fund in my Trust or Will – please call (906) 828-1822.
- I would like to donate to help sponsor the 2022 72nd Annual Upper Peninsula History Conference being hosted by the Menominee Range Historical Foundation.

Menominee Range Historical Foundation
P.O. Box 237
Iron Mountain, MI 49801



This photograph, taken in about 1900-1910 at the Michael Kenny farm at Hylas, Breen Township, documents the use of oxen in logging operations in Dickinson County. Oxen were used as “horsepower” in many of the camps in the early days. [Beatrice Blomquist]