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Who Saves History?

By: Ken Buehler

Dr. Henry Jones said it best in the movie *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* when the man in the Panama hat reclaimed his “property” from young Jones’ pocket on the rolling deck of a tramp freighter. “That belongs in a Museum!” screamed a bloodied Indiana Jones after literally being beaten out of *The Cross of Coronado*.

Saving some of the larger pieces of history from former Erie Mining Company taconite operation in Hoyt Lakes was not quite that cinematic. But it took people with vision and a sense of history to make sure important relics from the Iron Range were preserved with a purpose.

This ongoing effort certainly includes everyone who worked on, and donated to, the current Erie Mining Company book and history exhibit developed by the St. Louis County Historical Society, and on its inaugural display in the Lake Superior Railroad Museum.

It also includes Clyde Keith who was Erie’s General Manager in 1975 when he began the progression of company history to the Railroad Museum with the donation of their 1957 Pontiac Chieftain station wagon turned Fairmont *Hy-Rail*. The vehicle is a hybrid *highway and rail* inspection platform used on the company’s 74-mile mainline between Hoyt Lakes and Taconite Harbor. The forest legend concerning the saving of this artifact is that Keith took some serious criticism

for “giving away” a company asset to the Museum, which in 1975, was more dream than reality.

In 1992 Doug Buehl, and other Erie vintage employees, saw to it that the Baldwin-Lima-Hamilton S12 locomotive #7243 made its way to the Museum. Erie purchased four of these 1200 hp switch engines in 1957. What makes this one

special is that after Baldwin shipped this final unit out of their plant in Eddystone, Pennsylvania, they turned out the lights, locked the doors and called it quits after 125 years of steam and diesel engine production. The last engine built by one of America’s most historic engine manufacturers was saved from the torch.

For railfans the Erie Mining Company’s mainline held the distinction of being the last working railroad to use vintage F units, sometimes called Covered Wagons, to haul long trains of taconite pellets from the plant to the



PHOTO COURTESY TIM SCHANDEL, LAKE SUPERIOR RAILROAD MUSEUM
Kent Rengo, Ken Buehler, Barney Olsen - LSRM Board Member, James Tretheway - Cleveland Cliffs and Brian Murphy - NSRR President on September 21, 2002. Murphy is handing over the F9A #4211 reverser, the keys if you will, to Engineer Rengo after the dedication ceremony.

company dock on Lake Superior. Right up to closing the plant, these classic locomotives were an anomaly in American railroading, leftovers from the era of the

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

By JoAnne Coombe
Executive Director

Donors to the Erie Mining History Project were thanked by the Society and a team of former Erie employees at a gala reception unveiling a traveling exhibit showcasing the history of the Erie Mining Company. The exhibit was preceded by over 135 oral history interviews of former employees and leaders in the taconite mining industry. After the March 6th reception the exhibit will remain on display in the Lake Superior Railroad Museum through April 13, 2018. The exhibit then starts its travels throughout the area, starting with the Hoyt Lakes Municipal Building, and is available to organizations for public display by emailing kathleen@thehistorypeople.org or calling 218.733.7586.

Thanks to the generosity of donors and grantors, including the State of Minnesota, a definitive history of the company and Minnesota's taconite industry will be published this fall. Over 2,700 Minnesota schools and Arrowhead regional libraries will receive complementary books and new curriculum will be available through the Iron Mining Association of Minnesota. A fixed exhibit is planned for the St. Louis County Heritage & Arts Center (the Depot) detail-



ing the past, present and future of mining in northeastern Minnesota. A multi-perspective advisory committee, comprised of subject matter experts, will guide the Erie Mining History Project Team as they expand the mining industry story told through the art of exhibit design. The total cost for all phases of the educational project will exceed \$500,000 when the fixed exhibit budget, including an array of children's interactive experiences, is finalized. Society Treasurer Ron Hein serves as Project Manager for all phases of the project, working closely with the Society's Executive Director and a team of volunteers. Thanks also to exhibit designer Gary Lundstrom of Great Lake Design, and to Barbara Sommer,

the traveling exhibit's content developer.

The Society's American Indian Advisory Committee supported the efforts of Society staff in over \$20,000 in improvements to the Lake Superior Ojibwe Gallery, located on the fourth floor of the Depot. Curator Samantha Tubbs and Society Vice President Michele Hakala-Beeksma, an enrolled member of the Grand Portage Band of Ojibwe, partnered to ensure new exhibit text will accurately portray the story of the Ojibwe. The gallery is home to world class artworks created by artist Eastman Johnson when he visited the Head of the Lakes in 1856-1857.

Visitors to the newly reinstalled gallery, opening the evening of the Society's 96th Annual Meeting on April 24 will see more Ojibwe artifacts displayed with the art. A grant from the Depot Foundation will fund Ojibwe guides prepared by tribal elders to share their cultural knowledge with children and adults.

The Erie Mining History Project and the Lake Superior Ojibwe Gallery Project are two examples of the many projects now underway. On behalf of the staff of the Society, thank you to our Members, donors, grantors, board members and volunteers! Your combined support is the key to our success.

(Top) Erie Mining Project team in front of Erie Mining Traveling Exhibit.

(Below) Jingle Dress donated for display in the Ojibwe Gallery by Michele Hakala-Beeksma.

WHAT ARE ROOTPRINTS?

By Paul Gregersen

You might notice a few differences to the St. Louis County Historical Society Newsletter. Along with the changing season, we've decided to green things up a bit. Like the roots of a tree provide hydration to its branches and leaves, the purpose of Rootprints is to provide you important information regarding the SLCHS with the goal of sprouting continuous growth. Flourishing for years to come.

History is made up of deep roots which allow us to recognize the importance of the past. Learn from our ancestors and reach for the sky. Onward and upward. With a strong foundation holding us in place.

Each member of the society plays a part in the discovery, preservation, and dissemination of knowledge about the history and prehistory of St. Louis County and the State of Minnesota. We are the roots of the

organization. The knowledge we share is the fruit of our labor.

In a recent issue of the Smithsonian Magazine, a scientist argues that trees are far more alert, social, sophisticated—and even intelligent—than previously thought. Forest trees have evolved to live in cooperative relationships, maintained by communication and a collective intelligence similar to an insect colony. Connected to each other through underground fungal networks via the roots. Trees share water and nutrients through these networks, and use them to communicate. They send distress signals about drought, disease and insect attacks. Other trees alter their behavior when they receive these messages.

SLCHS Rootprints will continue to do the same for our members. Hopefully without the insect attacks.

Events

96th Annual Meeting of the Members of the Society and Annual Dinner:

April 24, 2018, in the Great Hall of the St. Louis County Heritage & Arts Center (the Depot) **Celebrating Collections, An Evening Reception with Tours of Exhibits**

Antique Appraisals-Third Wednesday of the month from January – November, Noon – 3 PM

Register in-person by 2:30 PM, free, limit: two items per person

April 18, 2018 – Great Hall

May 16, 2018 – rotunda

June 20, 2018 – rotunda

July 18, 2018 – rotunda

August 15, 2018 – Great Hall

September 19, 2018 – rotunda

October 17, 2018 – Great Hall

November 21, 2018 – Great Hall

Lunch with the History People – Ruth Maney Room, Noon – 1 PM

Free, seating: first-come, first-served

May 17, 2018, Michele Hakala-Beeksma: "1854 Treat Authority"

June 21, 2018, Robert Pearson: The Life and Times of the Vermilion Club

July 19, 2018, Ron Hein: Evolution of United States Military armor

August 16, 2018, Chad Lewis: "UFO Minnesota - Watch the Sky"

September 20, 2018, Elizabeth Dorsey

Hatle: The Ku Klux Klan in Minnesota

October 18, 2018, Barb Sommer: "The Fires of 1918 in Duluth"

Veterans Memorial Hall Program Events

VMH 5K Fun Run/Walk: May 19, 2018, at 9 AM, at The Other Place Bar & Grill

Exhibits

St. Louis County Historical Society Exhibits (located at SLCHS unless specified otherwise)

Generations of Service/VMH Gallery

Priley Woodcarving Collection/Fesler Gallery

Art Installation/Depot Board Room

Ballet Exhibit/Small Fesler Gallery

Old Country Memories Artwork/Fesler Gallery

Erie Mining Exhibit/Railroad Museum (to April 13, 2018)

SLCHS Permanent & Long-Term Exhibits

County Built on Iron/2nd floor

Depot Square/Lake Superior Railroad Museum, ground floor

J.C. Ryan Forest History Photographs with 4 paintings by Dale Lyons/3rd floor

History of the Depot Great Hall/Great Hall

Crossroads of the Continent: The History of St. Louis County–1856 to Date/2nd floor

Eli's Farm/2nd floor

The Immigrant Waiting Room/2nd floor

Lake Superior Ojibwe Gallery/4th floor
April 27, 2018

Ivy Vainio American Indian Photo Exhibit/stairway installation on April 27, 2018

Melheim/Woodcarving/Fesler Gallery

SLCHS Statues to Veterans

David Wheat/Vietnam, Duluth International Airport

Joseph P. Gomer/World War II, Duluth International Airport

Albert Woolson/Civil War, Depot Garden

Traveling Exhibits

Case exhibit/Hibbing Courthouse

Case exhibit/Virginia Courthouse

Albert Woolson/James L. Oberstar Terminal at Duluth International Airport

Return to the River/Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center

Desert Medics/47th Medical Company, Park Point



Dorothy Arnold

Before 'Joe DiMaggio Done It Again' there was a tomboy from Duluth

By Anthony Bush

Sometime after World War II, Woody Guthrie wrote a song called "Joe DiMaggio Done It Again." Praising DiMaggio's baseball exploits, the title also could refer to the fact that when "Joltin' Joe" married Marilyn Monroe in 1954, it was his second marriage to a glamorous blonde actress.

DiMaggio married Duluthian Dorothy Arnold on November 19, 1939, in his hometown of San Francisco. With 30,000 onlookers gathered on the streets of North Beach and newsreel cameras rolling, the storybook wedding captured the nation's attention.

Dorothy Arnoldine Olson was born on November 21, 1917, the third of five daughters of V. Arnold and Clara (née Kolbak) Olson. Her father, born in Superior, won the Duluth city ski-jumping championship in 1910 and worked as a conductor for the Northern Pacific railroad. Clara hailed from Duluth.

Dorothy first went on stage as a teenager during amateur nights at Duluth's Lyric Theater, which led to her taking lessons from the Geraldine Butler School of Dance. Billed with Dorothy Tetzman as "Dot and Dot (With a Little Bit of Dash)" the girls performed song-and-dance routines in Duluth and the surrounding area.

Dorothy graduated from Denfeld High School in 1935. Allowed to take her final exams early, she left home that spring to join the Band Box Revue out of Chicago. She adopted her stage name around that time.

Moving on to New York, she attended the Paramount School of Acting. "Between classes, she worked at NBC as a [radio] staff singer, posed for shots in magazine stories, modeled for ladies wear in ads, modeled clothes, and was in short-subject films," wrote Joyce M. Hadley in her biography of her sister, "Dorothy Arnold: Joe DiMaggio's First Wife."

In 1937, she appeared on the cover of True Romances magazine and met DiMaggio while working as an extra on the set of "Manhattan Merry-Go-Round." DiMaggio had a few speaking lines in the film that featured musicians Cab Calloway, Louis Prima, and Gene Autry.



Then it was off to Hollywood, as she signed a contract with Universal Studios. She appeared in four films in 1938, the first of which was called "The Storm." A comparison to actress Heddy Lamarr ensued in Erskine Johnson's gossip column.

Dorothy notched seven acting credits and two uncredited parts in Hollywood features in 1939. Her first significant role was in "The House of Fear." She also starred in the 12-part serial, "The Phantom Creeps," with Béla Lugosi. On a seemingly unstoppable roll, she recalled her beginnings

in a Paul Harrison's "Harrison in Hollywood" syndicated column in the spring of 1939:

"As a kid in Duluth, I was an awful tomboy – always playing baseball and football with the sandlot boys. But that was only until I got to be 13 and decided to be a singer and dancer. By the time I was 15, I [had] looked [like I was] 22 and was doing torch songs in nightclubs...I went into vaudeville with a song and dance specialty... and the next season went east, where I tried a little theater work, and stock, and tried to crash Broadway. I almost starved, and sometimes I sang with cheap dance orchestras. Ever since then I've been a sucker for hard-luck stories; whenever anybody mentions 'landlord,' I reach for my purse."

(Above) Duluthian, Dorothy Arnold

(Page 5 Above) Wedding day, November 19, 1939. Dorothy Arnold and Joe DiMaggio in San Francisco

(Page 5 below) Dorothy with her son, Joe DiMaggio Jr. The child was born October 20, 1941

The year ended with her most prominent role yet—Joe DiMaggio's bride. Since she had met DiMaggio, the arc of her life zipped like a Bob Feller fastball. After the wedding, it moved like a Tommy Bridges curveball.

Dorothy quit acting. A product of his times, DiMaggio expected his wife to be at home.

The couple came to the Midwest in January of 1941. In Duluth, DiMaggio visited the All-Sports Municipal Stadium (called Wade Stadium since 1954), still under construction at the time. They then traveled to Northfield, Minnesota, where her sister Leone's husband, Duluth-native Orville Dahl, taught English and was Dean of Men at St. Olaf College (he later became the first president of California Lutheran University). Their final stop, Rice Lake, Wisconsin, is where Dorothy's sister, Joyce, and her husband, Les Hadley (from Virginia, Minnesota), lived.

The stay in Wisconsin exposed the peaks and valleys of the relationship.

DiMaggio left the gathering at the Hadley residence without saying a word, disquieted by the attention Dorothy gave to Les's boss and coworker who stopped by to visit. Les discovered Joe down the street in a tavern and convinced him to return.

Olson family lore has it that Joe DiMaggio Jr., born on October 23, 1941, was conceived in Rice Lake, within the paper-thin walls of the Hadleys' apartment.

If Dorothy thought that having a baby would smooth out the rocky marriage—Joe, emotionally unavailable, spent most evenings away from their upper Manhattan home—it had the opposite effect. Perhaps Dorothy had the best insight as to what Paul Simon meant by "Where have you gone, Joe DiMaggio?"

They separated in 1942 but reconciled. Another separation occurred in 1943. Joe's military service during WWII delayed the inevitable, and they divorced in 1944.

They resumed an on-again-off-again relationship that turned off in 1946 when Dorothy married George C. Schubert in Baltimore, Maryland.

The Schuberts lived a life of "dining, dancing, and fabulous parties" at the Waldorf Astoria New York, according to Hadley. Schubert, a stock-broker, took over Dorothy's finances. By the time they divorced in 1950, Dorothy had lost

everything except DiMaggio's \$150-per-month child support. She unsuccessfully sued to have it raised to \$650 in 1951.

She tried acting again and appeared on a television episode of "The Lone Wolf" in 1954. In 1957, her credits included one

episode each of TV's "The Adventures of Jim Bowie" and "Dragnet," and the film "Lizzie." Her final screen role was in a 1958 film called "Fräulein."

Although acting parts eluded her in the 1950s and 1960s, she found success in the night-club circuit.

Dorothy married Ralph Peck (Peckovich) in Reno, Nevada, in 1970. Peck played football for Arizona State and received a Purple Heart while serving in the Navy during WWII. The couple owned and operated Charcoal Charlie's, a restaurant in Cathedral City, California, for 14 years. Dorothy provided the entertainment by singing and



dancing. She also kept the business's books.

After spearheading a successful grassroots movement to halt the construction of a road in her neighborhood, Dorothy was elected president of the Cathedral City Chamber of Commerce in 1973. She held the position for two years.

Dorothy, raised as a Presbyterian, converted to Catholicism to marry DiMaggio, and eventually believed in the teachings of Christian Science. When she fell ill in 1984—some sources cite pancreatic cancer—she requested that Peck take her to the Gerson Therapy Center in Tijuana, Mexico. Dorothy died in Tijuana at age 66 on November 13, 1984, after a two-week stay. Cremated in San Diego, the Pacific Ocean became her final resting place.

In 1992, the crematory company settled a class-action suit in which it was alleged to have committed several improprieties in its operations from 1981-1991. Because no family members saw the body, Hadley had her doubts as to the actual whereabouts of her sister's remains. Peck died in his native Arizona in 2007.

Joe DiMaggio died on March 8, 1999. Marilyn Monroe's death in 1962 profoundly affected him; he never remarried. Joe Jr. died five months after his father. Estranged from both of his parents, the younger DiMaggio struggled with drug abuse and homelessness for the last 20 years of his life. He was 57.

Hadley, last living Olson sister, appeared on the PBS documentary series "American Experience" when it dedicated an episode to the life of DiMaggio in 2000. She died in Illinois in 2016.



Adopt an Object

By Samantha Tubbs

The Society's *Adopt an Object* campaign has launched. This campaign seeks supplemental funding for five items specifically chosen from Society collections that require specialized treatment, care, preservation, or restoration. The following items are available for adoption now:

- Ojibwe Birch Bark Canoe (\$4,000 required)
- Hunter and Hounds at Rest*, n.d. by Peter Lund (\$5,450 required)
- Walkure Doll, c. 1905 (\$200 required)
- Ojibwe Cradleboard (\$150 required)
- Large Ghost Sailboat Moving Towards Rocks*, 1891 by Peter Lund (\$2,180 required)

Each item represents different parts of St. Louis County history. The birch bark canoe and cradleboard speak to the Ojibwe community. Preservation and restoration of these will continue shared histories and maintain cultural awareness. The canoe has decorative fish at the bow and stern. The cradleboard was donated by the Grand Portage Band of the Ojibwe.

The two paintings by Peter Lund speak to the area's landscape as a whole. His primary focus was marine centric, but he highlighted hunting trips and the logging industry also. He hailed from Denmark and arrived in the area in 1846. He called Minneapolis and Duluth his home for many years before moving to New York City.

The Walkure Doll, which is 3 feet tall, was a gift to the donor's daughter in 1905 prior to their immigration to the area. Originally it was used as a display for children's clothes. Founded in 1895 in Germany, the Kley and Hahn Doll Manufacturing Company produced many porcelain dolls and bath beauties including the Walkure Series.

Adoption tiers and associated perks can be found below:

| Up to \$100.00 | \$101.00-\$499.00 | \$500.00 & above |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fact Sheet of Adopted Object | Fact Sheet of Adopted Object | Fact Sheet of Adopted Object |
| Social Media Shout Out | Social Media Shout Out | Social Media Shout Out |
| Invitation to Conservation Night | Adopted Object Notepad Invitation to Conservation Night | Adopted Object Notepad Name displayed with artifact Invitation to Conservation Night |

It is important to note that 100% of any donation will go towards the object adopted. If an influx of donations is encountered, the Society will reach out to individuals regarding use of extra funds. It is our hope that, upon the successful completion of this campaign, we can showcase items never before seen from the Society's collections.

To donate, please access www.thehistorypeople.org, or schedule a visit with Collections Manager/Exhibits Curator, Samantha M. Tubbs samantha@thehistorypeople.org. 218.576.3114





LUNCH WITH THE HISTORY PEOPLE

By Julie Bolos

History is happening every moment, but if no one captures the details, history is lost. An author may record an event or document the story of someone's life in a book, but if no one reads that book, the history is not shared. Those facts so diligently summarized are eventually forgotten.

Lunch with the History People is about sharing history. Our speakers' backgrounds vary as much as their subjects do, but each has a passion for history. Each presentation discloses another facet of the past just waiting to be revealed and remembered.

The 2018 season will include a diverse selection of topics. Every season we strive to schedule themes that intrigue and educate our audiences. One of our popular speakers from previous years is researcher and author Chad Lewis. Over the years he has presented on ghosts, gangsters, mysterious creatures and bizarre burial beliefs! On August 16, 2018, Chad will be back with his presentation called *UFO Min-*



Chad Lewis returns August 16, 2018 for Lunch with the History People to discuss Minnesota UFO Sightings.

nesota - Watch the Sky. According to Chad, "Minnesota has a rich history of UFO and alien encounters. Each year hundreds of people witness something in the sky that they can't explain."

Chad will recount stories of people who say they actually have seen aliens! We hope that you will join us and discover the thrilling tales of these close encounters throughout Minnesota. For those who want to learn more, Chad will have his books for sale at the presentation.

The lunch series runs from May through October. Lectures are held on the third Thursday of the month from noon to 1 PM in the Ruth Maney Room on the first floor of St. Louis County Heritage & Arts Center (the Depot) in Duluth, Minnesota. Each event is free and open to the public, but seating is limited and first-come, first-served. To learn more about our presentations, please visit our website at <https://www.thehistorypeople.org/news-and-resources> and our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/stlouiscountyhistoricalssociety>.

Genealogy News

By Kathleen Cargill

The St. Louis County Historical Society will host its second workshop entitled *Basic Genealogy: How to Create a Working Binder* on Thursday, July 12, 2018 (10 AM to 12:30 PM) in the Ruth Maney Room on the ground floor of the Depot. Attendees will learn how to search for, understand and sort through historical and family documents to create an easy-to-read binder. *A Toolkit for Beginners* – free to attendees – will include local, state and national resources as well as tips for successful genealogy research. The workshop is free and open to the public. Kathleen Cargill, an anthropologist, is the workshop leader and an experienced teacher of basic genealogy. Jay Hagen, VMH Assistant, will present information on Fold3, a military genealogy database. Seating is limited, so if you would like to be included in the July workshop, please contact the Society at 733.7586 to reserve a place. Refreshments are always served.





LET'S BREAK BREAD TOGETHER

By Pippi Mayfield

Amazing things happen around the dinner table. For years, families and friends have come together to have some of their best conversations over a hotdish - or whatever is for supper! Conversations about their day at work. Conversations about what happened at school. Conversations about the how things have changed over the years. Bottom line is food brings people together. And we at the St. Louis County Historical Society are no different.

The Society hopes to collect and archive many of the lost narratives – the lost voices – from the Vietnam War era for its oral history collection - but not before hosting multiple events throughout the county, thanking veterans and their families for their service over a meal.

Last fall, the Society received a Minnesota Humanities Center grant that will focus on *Minnesota Remembers Vietnam*. With the award, the Society plans to host six community events, asking those affected by the war to share a meal, share in discussion, and ultimately, share their individual oral histories with the Society for its Veterans Memorial Hall Program archives.

While each event will have a different focus, each is open to everyone and all focus on the Vietnam War. The purpose of each event is to reach the absent narratives surrounding the conflict. Some of those narratives the Society has identified are women (whether it's nurses, Gold Star Mothers, or wives, sisters and mothers who waited at home for their soldiers to return), American Indians, Hmong, African Americans, and Iron Range residents.

Before sharing a meal, a small portion of the Ken Burns PBS *The Vietnam War* documentary will be shown. It will be followed by facilitated conversations and each person at table will be encouraged to share her/his experiences. Events have been scheduled at the American Legion in May and October, and at Hibbing Memorial Hall in October. Counselors will be on site at each location. The events are free.

A key component will be the time for discussion, which will likely include both group discussion and small discussions around the dinner tables. These discussions are meant to encourage healing, fellowship and connection to others affected by the Vietnam War. None of the discussions will be videotaped or photographed out of respect for those in attendance.

Through these events, the Society hopes to gather contact information from those in attendance who are willing to record their oral histories at a later time. Our goal through the Veterans Memorial Hall Program is to gather all veterans' stories - regardless of conflict, branch or years served - from those with significant ties to St. Louis County. Once recorded, these

individual histories are transcribed and archived in the Albert J. Amatuzio Research Center at the historic Depot building where the Society is located, and posted online at vets-hall.org (with permission) for future generations to have for research purposes. Thousands of stories already exist on the website, and hundreds of oral histories are logged in the archives. The goal is to gather thousands more over time.

Not all of the dates and details of these events have been set, so please check the Society's website (www.thehistorypeople.org) and Facebook page (facebook.com/stlouiscountyhistorical-society), local media or call the Society's office, 218.733.7586, for more updates.



*Veterans Memorial Hall
Annual 5K Fun Run/Walk!*

*May 19, 2018
Race starts at 9 a.m. (0900)*

To Register....

Online:
www.tempotickets.com/vmh5krun

In person:
St. Louis County Historical Society
506 W. Michigan Street
Duluth, MN 55802

\$25 Registration Fee
Includes t-shirt and refreshments

Direct questions to John Werner, Veterans
Memorial Hall Advisory Committee Member
218.343.8849 or werner@smail.com

**VETERANS
MEMORIAL
HALL** Historical Society

Proceeds benefit Veterans Memorial Hall

VETERANS HONOR THE FALLEN

By Kathleen Cargill

On December 7, 2017, the Veterans Memorial Hall Program hosted its 13th Annual Remembrance Dinner in the St. Louis County Heritage & Arts Center. The theme of this heartfelt presentation was *Finding Loren: Preserving the Legacy of 1st Lt. Loren E. Hintz*. Hans Wronka, grandson of Loren Hintz spoke eloquently about the honor of repatriating his grandfather's remains to the United States 71 years after his death during the Italian Campaign of World War II.

Wronka told the story of his epic journey to locate the downed aircraft, working with a team of Italian WWII aviation enthusiasts and archaeologists (Archeologi dell'Aria) to decipher military records and maps to confidently identify the crash site. Wronka displayed historical artifacts relevant to the story of his grandfather, a true American hero. More information about the incredible work done by these dedicated aviation archaeologists may be found on warbirdsnews.com, or at <https://www.facebook.com/archeologidellaria>.

This year local businesses and industries were asked to sponsor the event by choosing military aircraft levels: P-40 Warhawk; B-17 Flying Fortress; B-26 Marauder; or the P-47 Thunderbolt.. In addition, the following were Corporate Sponsors for this annual fundraiser: Cirrus Aircraft; Kraus-Anderson Construction Company; Campbell Lumber and Supply; Military Order of The Purple Heart of the USA; Cremation Society of Minnesota; Dougherty Funeral Home; and At Home Living. Annual supporters of the event are St. Louis County and the Depot Foundation.

The Arrowhead Professional Chefs Association prepared the meal and the ROTC cadets from the University of Minnesota, Duluth, prepared the tables, served the meal and cleaned up afterwards. Thank you to each!!



Hans Wronka presented 'Finding Loren: Preserving the Legacy of 1st Lt. Loren E. Hintz at the 13th Annual Vetrens Memorial Hall Remembrance Dinner.

Presentation of the Mike Colalillo Medal of Honor Scholarship.

The family of Hibbing native/Duluth resident Mike Colalillo presented a check for \$1500 to honoree Antonio Davis, a student at the University of Minnesota, Duluth. In his research paper entitled *One Veteran's Story: Joseph Gomer, WWII Pilot, Tuskegee Airman*, Davis paid tribute to a Duluth man's contribution to American history through his service as an Army Air Force Pilot. Major Gomer's memorial statue resides in the James Oberstar Terminal at the Duluth International Airport. Davis' paper will be made available on the VMH website and in the Society's Albert J. Amatuzio Research Center at the Depot. A moving tribute to Joseph Gomer by his daughter Phyllis Gomer Douglass may be found at josephgomer.com.

Society Creating Traveling Exhibit Centered on Marine's Remains Found Decades After War

By Pippi Mayfield

World War II Marine Sgt. James Joseph Hubert was killed in action during the Battle of Tarawa. His death is listed as November 21, 1943. Specific circumstances of his death were unknown, other than he was killed by a gunshot to the chest. His family finally was able to put him to rest at Calvary Cemetery in July, 2017. His remains were not found in any of the known burial locations on Tarawa after the war so he was declared "non-recoverable."

In 2011 though, History Flight, a non-government agency, searched for and located an unmarked burial trench on the Island of Betio. In July of 2015, History Flight turned over to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) custody of 35 sets of Marine remains, and one set was matched to Hubert's DNA in 2016.

History Flight, located in Marathon, Florida, is dedicated to finding, recovering and repatriating America's war dead to American soil. Over the last ten years History Flight has sent over 100 search and recovery teams all over the world to locate loss sites of missing servicemen and to recover them. History Flight deployed cutting-edge, multi-disciplinary remote-sensing methodologies to find MIA loss sites where more than 500 American servicemen are still missing.

St. Louis County Historical Society dedicated volunteer Carl Huber

recorded hours of interviews with Hubert family members, of the funeral service and of History Flight's presentation about returning Hubert's remains to his family. Sgt. Hubert was born in Duluth, Minnesota to Mary Harriet (Arseneau) Hubert and Wallace Leon Hubert on August 12, 1921. He had a younger sister: Elizabeth Jane and a baby sister, Mary Kay Hubert (Hagen). He attended St. Michaels (Lakeside) and Denfeld High School in Duluth and worked a variety of jobs, including the Northern Cold Storage Co., where his father was employed. In his job applications, he described himself as a "laborer." After his freshman year he joined the Duluth Naval Reserve and then resigned to join the Marines. See a complete tribute to honor him at <http://jamesjosephhubert.com>.

In the fall, the Society received a grant through the Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation to transcribe those interviews of family members, and to create a traveling exhibit telling the fascinating story of James Hubert. The exhibit will open summer, 2018, in the Depot and then be housed for an extended period of time in the Duluth International Airport within the James L. Oberstar Terminal, where thousands of travelers will read this piece of history every year. After that, the exhibit will be available for other organizations to display. Organizations interested in borrowing the exhibit may call the Society's main number at 218.733.7586 for more information. For more information on History Flight, see their website www.historyflight.com.

NEWS FROM OUR AFFILIATES



Ely-Winton Historical Society

By Margaret Sweet

During the winter at the Ely-Winton Historical Society, life has slowed. This allowed us to fine tune old exhibits and plan for new ones.

Last year we wrote a grant to U.S. Bank Community Grants and used the \$500 we received to purchase a picture rail system for our museum. Vermilion Community College maintenance workers installed the system for us and now we can display our Carl Gawboy paintings in a more professional manner.

The last two exhibits put in place were *The Sauna* which features a Finnish boy enjoying his sauna. The benches, stove,

and various implements used are all original, including the rugs on the floor. Even the paneling on the walls has come from an old sauna. This exhibit is one of our permanent displays.

Another exhibit which has drawn considerable attention is the *Sewing Room*, circa 1910. The Singer sewing machine, while refinished, looks exactly as it would have when brand new. It actually works very well. The mannequin at the sewing machine is dressed



The Sewing Room exhibit at the Ely-Winton Historical Society in authentic antique clothing.

Our winter hours are Tuesday through Friday, 12 noon to 4 p.m. We look forward to our summer schedule when Saturday is added. Summer hours will begin right after Memorial Day.

Hibbing Historical Society & Museum

'Life on a Mining Location'

By Erica Larson Zubich

The article below was edited from a series of essays donated to the Hibbing Historical Society by Hibbing Parks and Recreation. To read its original format, please visit our new Locations database at hibbinghistory.com/locations. If you have lived in a mining location and have not filled out our Locations Survey yet, please contact us! These first-hand anecdotes are irreplaceable as a way of preserving the histories of these small towns.

Before the days of rapid transportation, living on the Iron Range was often decentralized. Numerous small communities lay scattered over the countryside, with clusters of homes established immediately adjacent to the mine.

As additional homes were built and the population increased, each of these minute communities developed in its own way. From ex-Hibbingites, Mrs. John Maney and her daughter, Patricia Kolu, we glean an insight of a typical, fascinating cross-section of the iron ranges known as Webb Location.

The Webb was situated on the northern edge of the Big Pit, only three quarters of a mile from North Hibbing as the crow flies, but 2.8 miles away by public road, winding around the giant man-made canyon. Mrs. Maney, widow of Captain Jack Maney, superintendent of the Webb for over thirty years, had lived much of her life on locations, beginning on the western Mesabi, moving to the Shenango near Chisholm, and finally to the Webb. Her daughter, Patricia, spent her entire pre-college life as a "Webb Location kid."



Newly completed Locations Exhibit at the Hibbing Historical Society Museum.

The Webb community was comprised of a cluster of houses constructed, owned, and maintained by the Shenango Furnace Company near the Webb Mine shaft. Most structures were similar, though the homes assigned to higher ranking employees were somewhat larger and equipped with more conveniences.

The company was conscious of the location dwellers' welfare. A location school was provided for elementary students grades one through four, while children from the Laura, Pool, Morris, and Nelson communities shared this facility. Older children were bussed to schools in Hibbing Village. In the winter, the company flooded and maintained an outdoor skating rink for children and elders; family skating was commonplace. Christmas was a memorable event featuring a giant outdoor Christmas tree trimmed with colored lights around which stood virtually the whole population singing Christmas carols. Small gifts were presented to the children by a local Santa Claus.

Life in the mining locations carried many nostalgic memories and residents regretted the ultimate movement of both the miners and their homes to the more formalized mining villages and cities.

Minnesota Museum of Mining

By Matthew Marolt

Visitors to The Minnesota Museum of Mining have the rare opportunity to climb aboard historic equipment used to mine the Mesabi Range's rich iron ore. Visitors begin at the unique stone castle constructed in 1933. Browse the Gift Shop and view the first of many displays of mining history inside the Castle. Then move outside to tour the displays located around the beautiful Museum grounds. Climb aboard mining trucks, see the 1907 steam locomotive, and tour replicas of an underground mine and mining town!

The Minnesota Museum of Mining is the only museum of its kind in the country. It is dedicated to preserving the history of the Iron Mining Industry in Minnesota and telling the story of the women and men who made a life working on the Iron Range. It illustrates the life of ordinary people, mostly immigrant families, from the earliest years of European settlement and mining in Chisholm. School groups from around the state come to the museum to learn about mining from past to present, and are guided through the displays by museum volunteers. The museum sends packets of information, including a curriculum guide for use in teaching the history of mining in northern Minnesota, to elementary teachers in Northeastern Minnesota.

Located in Chisholm, the Museum is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day, Monday through Saturday 9 AM to 5PM, and on Sundays 1 PM to 5 PM. Please call for group reservations and/or tours.

Sisu Heritage Inc.

By Marlin Bjornrud

Sisu Heritage, Inc. located in Embarrass will host its annual "National Sauna Day" on Saturday, June 2. The celebration will take place on the grounds of the Nelmark Homestead Museum and Gift Shop at the corner of Highway 21 and East Salo Road. From 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., visitors can spend time shopping, browsing the exhibits, and visiting with friends in the Nelmark Museum. Outside, all the log buildings on the property will be open, and visitors might even be able to take a sauna! A line-up of mobile saunas will be on site to tour, as seen in the photo. We are looking for saunas to have on display



Sisu Heritage Inc. in Embarrass is hosting its annual National Sauna Day celebration Saturday June 2. A line-up of mobile saunas will be on site for tours. If you are interested in displaying your mobile sauna, contact Marlin Bjornrud 218 984 3012

during the day. If you have one that you could bring and set up, please contact Marlin Bjornrud - 218.984.3012. Also, food will be served most of the day and there will be music, a boot-throwing competition, and much more. Come to Embarrass and celebrate the sauna with us! See our website: sisuheritage.org.

Tower-Soudan Historical Society

By Douglas Workman

A major accomplishment is the creation of Tower-Soudan Historical Society's *Cemetery-on-Line* program. Volunteers Jayne Sundeen and Karen Officer have spent countless hours setting up and entering data for on-line access to locate burial sites at Lakeview Cemetery. This information is on the TSHS website (www.towersoudanhs.org) and accessed by clicking "Cemetery Records." This brings up a search page for burial information. Enter the first few letters of a person's last name and press "search" to bring up a comprehensive list of burials with last names beginning with those letters. Basic information includes birth year, death date, burial date, cemetery and location; newer entries will show street name as well as burial site numbers. Two other projects in progress include collecting life stories/oral histories of local residents, adding a model train display in the Depot Museum, and restoring the historic fire hall.

Please bookmark the website and check it out regularly. The TSHS Board would like suggestions from the community on what would be meaningful. There is already a wealth of information on the website. You may find something near and dear to you and we welcome your involvement.

Tower-Soudan Historical Society is updating its 2018 membership records. Annual dues (\$10 for individual/\$20 for family) provide steady funding for projects and programs.

Members receive 10% off in the Depot Gift Shop (open Memorial Day through September). Please mail dues to TSHS, P.O. Box 465, Tower MN 55790, and include member's name, mailing address, phone and email.

2018 TSHS Board members are President Doug Workman, Vice-President Nancy Larson, Secretary Linda Folstad, Treasurer Diane Meehan, Cookie Bonicatto, Barb Burgess, Corrine Hill, Pauly Housenga, Desirae Larson, and Mary Shedd. The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, May 9, 10:00 AM, at Sulu's.

Interested members are welcome to attend.

AFFILIATES ...Continued

Virginia Area Historical Society Heritage Museum

By Mary Erickson

With the retirement of Betty Pond as the Heritage Museum office manager, our focus has been to find and train a replacement for the Virginia Area Historical Society. We were fortunate to acquire Mary Peterson and Jill Aubin, who will share the position. They both bring knowledge and experience that will be of value to the organization.

At our February meeting we honored Betty Pond for her 20 years of service to the VAHS. Over 60 people attended. Betty presented a slide show which shared stories about the Historical Society and featured people with whom she met and worked. We have a copy of her presentation which contains a valuable history of VAHS members and volunteers.

For our January meeting Chris Holmes, teacher and VAHS board member, presented a program on the School Forest. He brought his fifth grade class with him and the students talked about their own experiences at the School Forest during a week study session held in September. Along with science and nature, they explored footprints of farm buildings and evidence of lumbering. This was an opportunity for them to experience first-hand evidence of early settlers on the Iron Range.



Greg Gaut with Betty Pond who has dedicated 20 years of service to the Virginia Area Historical Society

...Who Saves History? From Page One

1950s Streamliners.

When LTV walked away, and Cliffs Erie took over, the surplus engines were parked. Through the primary efforts of Jim Scott, along with MP Johnson, Bruce Gerlock and James Tretheway, Sr. VP Business Development for Cleveland Cliffs, two of the mighty 1750 hp EMDs made their way to the Museum (F9A #4211 and F9B #4222).

The occasion of their preservation was the last fan trip on the 74-mile Erie Mainline in 2002 with our partners, the *Friends of #261*, and over 40 volunteers from the Railroad Museum. Together we put on a special excursion using these engines and joined predecessors like Clyde Keith and others, as the people who saved history.

The history of Erie Mining, like the story of the Iron Range itself, is not about the abundant red earth, the machines that claimed it, the trains that hauled it, or the things of steel it became. It's about the people who powered the mining industry with their dreams of a better way of life. Their hard work, over more than a century, through good times and bad, can be seen in the huge gaping pits towered over by mountains of tailings and in the buildings and machinery that dwarf other industries.

These are objects that belong in a Museum saved here to remember the people and preserve stories of those who worked the Mesabi Range.



By Rachel McNeill

I am an undergraduate student at the University of Minnesota Duluth pursuing my B.A. degree in American Indian Studies as well as a Museum Studies Certificate. As part of my Museum Studies program, I am currently participating in an internship at the St. Louis County Historical Society. While the main purpose of my internship is to develop and refine my understanding of the overall purpose, function, and operations of a museum, I also am gaining first-hand experience in the management of collections, curation, and museum education through participation in a number of small- and large-scale projects at the Society.

One project is the development of an educational guide for the Society's newly renovated Lake Superior Ojibwe Gallery. The guide will feature sections covering the history and culture of the Lake Superior Ojibwe people, and will serve as an educational tool for both gallery docents and educators to learn more about the Gallery's artifacts and informative displays. The guide will provide a well-rounded understanding of the broader historical and cultural significance of the Ojibwe people in St. Louis County and in the surrounding region. I am excited and motivated by the prospect of completing the guide and seeing it used by others who share a common passion for understanding and an appreciation of the rich history and culture of such an important community within our region's past, present, and future.

A Tale of Two Swords

By Hailey Eidenschink

In preparing for the Society's collections inventory project this past month, we happened upon a Confederate sword. It clearly had seen battle and it sparked our curiosity, so we decided to dig through our records to re-discover the story behind the artifact. While looking through the archives, we discovered the Confederate sword had been donated along with a Union sword used by a Duluth man during the Civil War.

Captain John H. Gray was born and lived near Springfield, Illinois, and in October, 1861, he raised the Co. C 39th Illinois Volunteers to serve in the Civil War. This Regiment was sent to the Eastern Theater immediately to serve under General George B. McClellan in the Peninsular Campaign. As the Union Army marched on Richmond, Virginia, a skirmish broke out in which Capt. Gray forced the surrender of a Confederate officer and relieved him of his sword.

After the war Capt. Gray moved to Minnesota, first to Morristown, and later settling in Duluth. According to family stories, he managed a dairy farm in the Kenwood neighborhood. When a cow became ill, Capt. Gray sent his son to fetch the veterinarian. The boy set off but failed to find the vet and instead met a stranger who claimed to know about the care of cattle. The boy took the stranger back to his father's farm. When the stranger treated the cow, he introduced himself as Major O'Brien and he was invited to stay for dinner.

During conversation both men learned each had served in the Civil War. Comparing anecdotes, the men discovered they

had served in the same campaign -- it was Major O'Brien who had surrendered his sword to Capt. Gray at the battle outside Richmond!

In 1950 both Captain John Gray's sword and the sword of Major O'Brien were donated to The St. Louis County Historical Society by Gray's granddaughter. It has been difficult to determine how much of this tale may be family folklore, so the Society is seeking the public's help. If you have any information or documents regarding Captain John Gray, Major O'Brien, or their descendants, please contact the Society's curatorial staff at collections@thehistorypeople.org or 218.733.7582.

The Confederate sword has a simple lightly curved steel blade with the maker's mark "AMES" printed onto it. The grip is wrapped with thin and delicate strips of leather. There is decorative craftsmanship on the handle. There are many nicks and points of contact on the blade.

The Union sword has a long-curved steel blade with faint floral etchings on both sides and "E PLURI-BUS UNUM" on one side and "US" on the opposite. The brass handguard is solid around the blade with a floral cut-out pattern along one edge. The brass pommel has a tiered top with a floral design running around the hilt. In addition, there are several points of contact on the blade.



Society Has an Active Traveling Exhibits Program

By Kathleen Cargill

The St. Louis County Historical Society offers a variety of traveling exhibits to any interested business or organization. Loan times may vary from as short as two weeks to as long as 3 years. All exhibits offer an educational experience related to the history of St. Louis County, Minnesota. Some stories include Lake County and Cook County as well. The current exhibit offerings are listed below. For more information please contact Society offices: 218.733.7586 or via email: kathleen@thehistorypeople.org.

Local and County History Themes: Marshall Wells Hardware in the early 20th Century or choose Return to the River: The history of the St. Louis River. Or choose the most recent exhibit The Plan, The People, The Promise and Perspectives: The History of the Erie Mining Company as shown in the photo below from the March 6, 2018, unveiling ceremony.

Fine Art and Photographs: Albin Zaverl Art: Old Country Memories or choose the William F. Roleff Forest History Photography.

American Indian Themes: Ojibwe Faces and Stories: reproductions of the Society's entire Eastman Johnson collection.

Immigrant Themes: Children of the Finnish Homesteads: Growing up in Northern Minnesota, 1900-1945 or Finns of Western Lake Superior or Preserving the Old Country: The Experiences of Croatians, Serbians and Slovenians in St. Louis County or choose To America with Love: Journey of a Young Woman from Southern Italy to Northeast Minnesota.

Military Themes: 500 Days: 125th Field Artillery Photographs. WWII or The 18 – Civil War Exhibit or Albert Woolson - the Last Civil War Soldier or choose Desert Medics. The 477th Medical Company in Desert Storm/Desert Shield and choose Salute to Servicewomen: Women in the United States Military. And, this recent exhibit Never Forgotten: Man Behind the Medal. The Life of Medal of Honor Recipient Henry A. Courtney, Jr.



One of several Traveling Exhibits the St. Louis County Historical Society provides to organizations and businesses.



POPULAR PROGRAMS **OLD AND NEW!**

By Jay Hagen

HISTORY IN A PINT

This popular program will be hosted by Veterans Memorial Hall at a Duluth pub/bar where a veteran, or a veteran's story, is presented about her/his experiences serving in the military. The focus will be on patriotism and country by providing the audience with real insight into a veteran's background - what she/he lived through and what were the lessons learned. Adults of legal drinking age are welcome to attend and ask questions. Attendance is free and open to the public; beverages must be purchased separately. The topics will vary and a schedule of times and locations will be released soon. See the Veterans Memorial website - www.vets-hall.org - for the latest schedule. There is a collaborative effort in the works with the Bong Veterans Historical Center, Superior, to provide a wider range of stories and broader coverage for the region. Jay Hagen will speak about his Uncle James J. Hubert, KIA in World War II, on Tuesday, April 17 at Carmody Irish Pub & Brewery.

HISTORY IN A HALF-PINT

This new program is in the works and modeled after the History in a Pint Program, but this time, the audience will be local school children hosted at the historic Depot! Children will learn about a local hero! The focus will be on patriotism and country and will leave out any graphic imagery that would be unsuitable for the age group (half-pints). Half-pints of milk will be served!

Contact Veterans Memorial Hall Program Assistant, Jay Hagen at .218.733.7500 or jay@thehistorypeople.org.

**VETERANS
MEMORIAL
HALL**



96th Annual Meeting of the Members of the Society

Includes the Board of Governors Election and a Gala Reception

Celebrating Collections for Nearly a Century!

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

5:00 PM Reception & Gallery Tours

6:00 PM Meeting & Elections

6:30 PM Gallery Tours

See new Galleries & Exhibits & Selected Artifacts in Guided Tours. Available for Members Only!

Buffet at the reception will include Italian inspired hors d'oeuvres
Presented for your enjoyment by Valentini's Vincino Lago of Duluth

Cash bar available by the Historic Union Depot Corporation.

St. Louis County Heritage & Arts Center - The Depot's Great Hall
506 West Michigan Street - Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Membership dues must be current and postmarked or received in the Society's office by the end of the business day on Tues., April 10, 2018 to be eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting, per the Society's Bylaws.

There is no charge for this event.

Please RSVP by Friday, April 20, 2018

Mail the RSVP slip to SLCHS, 506 W. Michigan Street, Duluth 55802
or call 218-733-7586 or email kathleen@thehistorypeople.org.

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**St. Louis County Historical Society
Membership Promotion**

Receive membership appreciation coupons for these local attractions
when you purchase a new or renewing membership in
the St. Louis County Historical Society.



Give a Society Membership to someone who lives far from home!

A number of newsletters are sent to out-of-town members. Makes sense – they are separated from their roots and want to stay connected. Connection is cheap - only \$.58 a week for Individuals! That's only \$.38 a week for New Individual Memberships!

Join the St. Louis County Historical Society

Mail your check and completed form to SLCHS, 506 W. Michigan St., Duluth, Minnesota 55802.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Children's Names (if applicable) _____

Membership Levels Educator, veteran, affiliate member or student - new member only - \$20 individual or \$40 family

Individual \$30 Supporter \$75 Benefactor \$250-\$499 Governors' Circle \$1,000 and over

Family \$50 Cornerstone \$125-\$249 Patron \$500-\$999

Check Here if Gift/Donation

Check enclosed in the amount of _____

Thank You For Your Support!