



# Painesdale Mine & Shaft, Inc.

Sherri Brandt President  
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Debra Pindral Secretary  
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## Painesdale DVD

Do you know a history buff? Someone that loves the history of the Copper Country copper mining age? Re-live the experiences of some that worked at Champion #4 through the recollections of men that worked there. Have you always wondered what went on inside of the shaft house? Take a tour from top to bottom of Champion #4. Wander through the streets of Painesdale. For a donation of \$20 (plus shipping and handling if mailed) this DVD would make a great gift for loved ones that have ties to the area or an interest in Copper Country mining. For members only, we will give you access to special features on the DVD. If you are interested, please contact us.

Newsletter–March, 2009

## A word from our president

Sherri Brandt, President

It has been just over a year since we reorganized, and we are moving forward with the SOS (Save Our Shafthouse) project. We have been giving tours and have a DVD that gives you a chance to take a tour from your own living room. In this newsletter we are showing what we have planned and what is happening with the donations we receive. We are also in need of volunteers to help with a display we would like to get together for the Sarah Sargeant Paine Library in Painesdale. If you have any stories, photos, or any ideas we are happy to receive them. We are looking at a display of Painesdale, Baltic, and Trimountain.

The float will be at the Dee Stadium again this year, which runs from the end of May until September, along with a display for Painesdale itself. If you are in the area I highly suggest you go and view the displays. Please give yourself enough time to view all the displays; it is a many hour tour.

If you are interested in joining us, we meet every third Wednesday of the month, in the Captain's office in Painesdale for the summer months, and in the Baltic Hall in the cooler months at 6:30 pm.

## Volunteers needed!

Do you have extra time on your hands? Even an hour or two a week? Well, we have something to fill those extra hours. We need volunteers to help sort and mount pictures from the glory days gone by. Do you know the history of Champion #4 shaft house? We would love to see you at our meetings. We meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month during the warmer months at the Captain's office next to the shaft house. During the colder months we meet at the Adams Township office in Baltic.

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## Successful fundraiser

Randy Kessler, one of Kevin's best friends/co-workers, recently put together a fundraiser bike ride in memory of Kevin. All donations went directly towards the restoration of Champion #4. I know Kevin would be proud of this event. The following list comprises the donations received by Painesdale Mine & Shaft, Inc. as a result of this event.

Barbara Bock	\$25.00
Mark & Inga Kessler	\$25.00
Lisa & Todd Cazallis	\$50.00
Stuart & Ruby Selesky	\$100.00
James & Amy McCollough	\$25.00
Maryann & K.C. Dettmer	\$50.00
Linda Helfmann	\$20.00
Michael & Kikuko McCandlish	\$50.00
Gary & Mary Kessler	\$50.00
Richard W. Smith	\$100.00
James & Mary Beaton	\$100.00
Len Cech	\$20.00
Kathy Huang	\$100.00
Jud McDonnell	\$20.00
Philip Rogers	\$40.00
Alan & Amy Ham	\$25.00
Daniel & David Kessler	\$100.00
Total	\$900.00

Painesdale Mine & Shaft, Inc. as always; is very grateful for any contributions that we receive. Every contribution brings us one step closer to the realization of saving our shaft.

## Tribute to Kevin Musser...

# A friend greatly missed

Debbie Pindral, Secretary of the Board



—Thank you so much Kevin. You are greatly missed.—

With this newsletter, Painesdale Mine & Shaft, Inc. would like to pay tribute to Kevin Musser. Sadly, Kevin left us too soon. His untimely death on September 4, 2007 left a great void in our lives.

From the time the Phase I restoration sign was proudly fastened to Champion #4 shaft house, to the day he died, Kevin was one of our biggest supporters. I remember my first contact with Kevin. It was the day I opened the letter Kevin wrote to the PO Box listed on the sign. He was ecstatic that someone was undertaking the restoration and wanted to know how he could help. He inquired if it was possible to get inside to take pictures of the shaft house so that he could build a model of Champion #4 for his Copper Range Railroad. I gave him a tour and he was hooked! Thus began my ten year friendship with Kevin. The hundreds of miles he lived from Champion #4 shaft house was only a minor hindrance. He visited the Copper Country almost every year and stopped to visit even if it was for only a few minutes. Kevin and his wife Diana drove up to work with us at one of the fundraiser spaghetti dinners, and then turned around and drove back downstate. Kevin wasn't just interested in the restoration of Champion #4; he had passion for the Copper Country as a whole, its history and beauty. It was his greatest dream to someday live here.

Kevin built and maintained a website for Painesdale Mine & Shaft. He linked it directly to his website and was diligent about keeping it updated to keep people informed on the Champion project. His website, [copperrange.org](http://copperrange.org) is filled with his knowledge and historical pictures. Kevin's passion was the Copper Country; he truly enjoyed sharing his knowledge with anyone that inquired. His website is preserved as a permanent archive reference, in memory of Kevin E. Musser.



## Later this year

As Painesdale Mine & Shaft Inc., goes forward, we are continuing our efforts to grow and promote our organization.

We have recently started work on a new website and brochure in an effort to better publicize and promote our organization. Both the website and brochure will speak of the history of the shaft house, the need to save it, and what you can do to help. The website will also be a great way to advertise upcoming events.

Look for some events coming up this summer, as the Jeffers High School celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## Our mailing list

We realize that not everyone has the internet, and since our website is not yet completed, we often rely on mailing lists to get the word out about our events. If you would like to be notified when we hold an event, such as a pancake breakfast or open house at the shaft house, please contact us and we will put you on our mailing or email list.

NOTE: Our current mailing list recently had to be reconstructed. If you were on our mailing list, but did not receive this newsletter through the mail, your address may have been lost. Please contact us so we can put you back on the list. We apologize for any inconvenience.

# Save our shaft house

Anton J. Pintar, Treasurer

When Painesdale Mine & Shaft, Inc. (PM&S) was first formed, its primary objective was to preserve and restore the Copper Range Champion #4 shaft house, the only remaining shaft house on the south range. Early in our existence, the missing sheet metal on the outside of the shaft house was replaced. Since that time very little has been done to preserve and restore the shaft house. Our dwindling funds were being spent primarily on insurance (approximately \$2500 per year) and on electricity for the Captain's office and the hoist building.

Sometime in the late 1990s the main water line from Painesdale to Hancock burst somewhere in the vicinity of Champion #4. As a result, the middle columns of the shaft house settled 8–12 inches. This is obvious if you look at the sheet metal on the side of the shaft house; the sheet metal pieces no longer line up. Also, cross beams on each side of the interior of the shaft house have buckled. Recently, we had George Kiiskila of UP Engineers and Architects look at the shaft house. The cement cap in the mineshaft is intact but the cement "apron" around the cap is broken up. According to George Kiiskila, the water from the broken water line, and perhaps rain water runoff, washed overburden from underneath the cap into the mineshaft. As a result, the center columns settled. PM&S has contracted with UP Engineers and Architects to take baseline elevation data in the shaft house, take elevation data every six months next year, and then once a year after that. The cost of this study is \$900 for the initial setup and \$500 for each set of data after that for a total cost of \$2,400 for the first two years. This will allow us to determine if the settlement of the shaft house has stabilized. The results of this settlement study would dictate the future course of action.

As a stop gap measure, Murray Gillis, Houghton County Inspector of Mines, has suggested injecting cement foam into the crevices of the broken "apron" around the cap of the mineshaft. This would minimize any future washing of overburden into the mineshaft. The cost would be approximately \$500 for material but would require volunteer labor from somewhere. An extraneous issue noted by Murray Gillis is subsidence of the ground along a line from what used to be Champion #1 to Champion #4.

Mike Mattila of Mattila Contracting has suggested a floating concrete pad for the shaft house but no cost estimate was given. A safety issue has been identified inside the shaft house. A "man car skip" weighing 3–5 tons is suspended from a single chain supported by an old, deteriorating wooden beam. Mike Mattila estimated a cost of \$2,500 for lowering the skip and resting it horizontally on the ground.

Once the above issues are corrected, the long range plans of PM&S for the shaft house are to restore the windows to their original condition, clean up the interior of the shaft house, and restore the interior of the shaft house to its original condition.

The thrust of this article is to demonstrate the need for contributions to PM&S so that we can meet our goal of preserving and restoring Champion #4 shaft house. I thank you in advance for your contributions whether they are small or large.



# Please help

maintain and restore  
our shaft house

Please make checks payable to:  
PM&S, Inc.

Send to:  
Painesdale Mine & Shaft Inc.  
PO Box 332  
Painesdale, MI 49955

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\$10.00 Yearly Membership

\$100.00 Lifetime Membership

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other Donation

# Treasurer's report 07

## 2007 Summery

### Checking account

2006 Balance	338.48
<b>Income</b>	
Contributions	2,032.00
Contributions—mugs, sweatshirts, etc.	175.05
Memberships & contributions	1,225.00
Memory of Kevin Musser	1,533.00
Transfer from savings	1,000.00
Electricity reimbursement—Adams Township	810.79
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,775.84</b>

### Expenditures

UPPCO—electricity	845.81
Membership fees	70.00
Newsletter—copying, mailing labels, tabs, and postage	762.88
Postage	21.70
Laminating and supplies	194.26
Video production—Mike Forgrave	400.00
Flowers	63.00
Hannula Agency—insurance renewal	2,604.00
Lawn mowing	30.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,991.65</b>

**2007 Balance** **\$2,122.67**

### Savings account

2006 Balance	10,035.19
<b>Deposits</b>	
Interest	158.49
<b>Total</b>	<b>158.49</b>

### Withdrawals

Transfer to checking	1,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>

**2007 Balance** **\$9,193.68**

**2007 Total cash on hand** **\$11,316.35**



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our shaft house

Please make checks payable to:  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\$10.00 Yearly Membership

\$100.00 Lifetime Membership

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other Donation

# Treasurer's report 08

## 2008 Summery

### Checking account

2007 Balance	2,122.67
<b>Income</b>	
Contributions	225.00
Contributions–mugs, sweatshirts, etc.	251.00
Memberships & contributions	200.00
Kevin Musser memorial "Ride for the Range"	800.00
Transfer from savings	1,500.00
Electricity reimbursement–Adams Township	455.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,431.10</b>

### Expenditures

UPPCO–electricity	837.74
Membership and conference fees & travel to conferences	170.00
Newsletter–copying, mailing labels, tabs, and postage	15.00
Postage	19.23
Float	122.85
TV/DVD player & accessories	148.72
Hannula Agency–insurance renewal	2,596.00
UP Engineers & Architects–shaft house settlement study	900.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,809.54</b>

**2008 Balance** \$744.23

### Savings account

2007 Balance	9,193.68
<b>Deposits</b>	
Interest	94.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>94.60</b>

### Withdrawals

Transfer to checking	1,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,500.00</b>

**2008 Balance** \$7,788.28

**2008 Total cash on hand** \$8,532.51





# Painesdale Mine & Shaft, Inc.

Newsletter-March, 2009