



Painesdale Mine & Shaft, Inc.

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Newsletter—Spring, 2014

Anheuser-Busch Uses Shafthouse for Photo Shoot



This winter, Anheuser-Busch visited our shafthouse to hold a photo shoot to promote their new beer, Busch Signature Copper Lager. The Copper Lager was released in February and is being sold in 12 Midwestern states, including Michigan.

Free Tours

Now that the snow is gone, we will be offering free tours by appointment. Call (906) 231-5542 to tour the Shafthouse, Hoist House, and Captain's Office.

Restoration Update

We are looking forward to spring when we can resume our restorations of the Shafthouse and Captain's Office. We were not able to get as much done as we would have liked last summer with all the events going on, such as the commemoration of the 1913 Strike.

This year, we plan to have some more of the windows replaced on the Shafthouse. We have previously replaced the lower level windows, matching the new windows to the existing windows. We will also be looking in to making the Captain's Office handicap accessible while maintaining the historical integrity of the building.

Become A Member/Donations

Name: _____

Email: _____

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\$10.00 \$100.00 \$ _____

Yearly Membership Lifetime Membership Other Donation

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Painesdale Mine & Shaft, Inc.

PO Box 332 Painesdale, MI 49955



The Putrich Family

by Joe Putrich



The Putrich-Tijan Grave Marker at the Calumet Cemetery

*Excerpted with permission from **Spoon River Country: The Immigrant Story**, a compilation of stories from families in our part of Illinois including descendants of Armenians, British, Croatians, Germans, Irish, Italians, and Scandinavians.*

My grandfather, Joseph Matthew Putrich, born in Yugoslavia (Croatia) on March 19, 1880, came to this country in 1905, arriving at Painesdale, Michigan. He was a miner in the copper mines, working in Champion Mine Shaft #4, which still stands in Painesdale. My grandmother, Antonia Grubisich, born in Croatia on June 13, 1884, came to Painesdale in 1907. They were married July 13, 1907 in that city. All eight of their children were born in Painesdale, and all are now deceased. By August of 1913, five of the children had been born, including my father, Fabian Joseph Putrich, born on January 20, 1913. They were renting a small company-owned house in Seeberville and had taken in ten boarders, all men from Croatia who were working in the copper mines. Some of them were relatives of the family.

At this time, there was an ongoing mine strike, and on August 14, 1913 two of the boarders had gone to a neighboring town to pick up their strike benefits. They returned via a trail that crossed mine property and were told by a guard to "Halt". They kept going. A posse was formed, and they went to the Putrich home to arrest the boarders who had "trespassed". Several of the boarders were outside bowling ninepins in the yard, and during the fracas, one of the boarders threw a ninepin, hitting one of the "deputies". In turn, he fired his

gun, killing my grandfather's brother (Steve). He then was joined by the others who shot into the home, killing my grandfather's nephew (Alois). The baby (my father) received powder burns while he was held in his mother's arms. He still had the scar on his forehead as an adult.

Supposedly, these murders were the turning point of the strike. The immigrants had not really wanted to strike because they thought they had it better than in their home countries. However, now that two of their own had been killed, the community joined the strike efforts. The funeral of the two men killed was attended by over 5000 people. At the trial that followed, four of the guards were found guilty of manslaughter, one deputy was acquitted, one escaped on bail, and one was not charged as he left the scene before shots were fired. Grandmother testified at trial that the only weapons in the house were the spoons the boarders held in their hands while eating their meal.

The family moved to St. David, Illinois, in March of 1917 when the last born, Silvia, was only three weeks old. Grandfather was a coal miner in the area, and they raised their children in St. David. After my parents' divorce, I lived with my father at my grandparents' home in St. David for a time. The only talk I remember about their living in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan was that my father had been grazed by a bullet while in his mother's arms during a strike in 1913 and that they had moved to Illinois because of the violence.

After my father's death in 1991, my wife and I traveled to Michigan to see where he had been born and where the family first came to this country. By being told while there that the Putrich family was mentioned in the book *Rebels on the Range*, we bought it and

started our research of Putrich family history. During that trip we were able to purchase original copies of the Calumet News and the Daily Mining Gazette newspapers, containing articles about the 1913 strike and 1914 trial. Since then we have taken all our family to see the area, including the site where the house stood and the mineshaft where my grandfather worked. Before her death in 1991, Aunt Mary, the eldest child, shared her memories of her first eight years in Seeberville with us. We also met and shared current family information with Professor Alison K. Hoagland of Michigan Tech University. In May of 2006, she came to St. David and gave a presentation concerning the family and was invited by the present owners of the Putrich St. David home to visit it. She also researched at the Lewistown Courthouse and was able to establish that the Putrich family paid cash for their home here, having saved some of the proceeds from using the company-owned house in Michigan as income producing property in addition to Grandfather's wages while working 1 1/2 miles underground in a copper mine. The Canton Daily Ledger covered her visit and the family history in a front page article in the June 6, 2006 edition, stating the Putrich family now regards her as a cousin due to the interest she has shown and information she shared about their family from her research.

I would not be here to write this story if the bullet that grazed the baby's (my father's) forehead while being held in my grandmother's arms on August 14, 1913 had taken a slightly different and tragic path. Thankfully, my father's branch of the Putrich family tree goes forward through me and my children and grandchildren. May we live our lives well and to the fullest, so future generations will continue to have a history of which to be proud.



What You Are Telling Us By Anton J. Pintar



We often receive comments from our members on their family ties to Painesdale, Copper Range, the Champion Shafthouses and the Range Towns. We share these as memorials to the many everyday people who built, lived in, worked in, and died in the towns of Painesdale, Atlantic Mine, South Range, Baltic, Trimountain and Toivola. If you have comments to make, please send them to us and we will put them in future Newsletters.

"My [grandmother, Sylvia Viola Takkinen Johnson] was born in South Range and lived mostly in Atlantic Mine. ... She was 92 on March 28, 2010. Her father Kulle Takkinen was a miner in Quincy and her grandfather Culle Pakisjarvi in Calumet."
Liisa Allison, Maryville, MI

"I have been well aware of the Italian Hall disaster of Christmas Eve 1913. It has been on my mind for a long time. Many years ago the Detroit Free Press published an article in their paper and had the names of the people that perished. I had three uncles who died that night, young boys under 12, who attended the event that night. The other Uncle Axel, who I knew, lived in Tapiola but worked mainly in Detroit to raise the family. He survived, but initially they thought he had also passed. My father Armas was born two years later in October 1915 in Wolverine, MI."
Thomas Heikkinen, Jackson, MI

"Enclosed is a donation to help with restoring the Painesdale Mine Shaft. My husband and I had the opportunity to visit in June and greatly appreciate the tour and the pay stubs from my great-grandfather, Dominic Feira. ... Thank you again for the tour and all of your hard work."
Melissa Chichester, Auburn, MI

"My uncle and aunt, the George Wolf's, are my relatives. Their children were Joe, Mary, John, Blash, and Rose."
Milan C. Wolf, Gladstone, MI

"It is with sadness that I inform you that my mother, Margaret L. Rudd, passed away on September 10, 2011."
James M. Rudd, Vineland, NJ

"Enclosed please find my check ... to cover the cost of two cookbooks plus mailing. We are originally from Michigan and have spent some wonderful times in the UP. We now winter in Houston but summer in the Traverse City Area. Good luck in the restoration. We'll look forward to seeing it."
Jeanne Sitter, Houston, TX

"Glad to see the Captain's Office restored. The Painesdale Mine Shaft brings back memories. As a ten year old kid back in the 30's, I spent time in there waiting for the Captain to allow my Dad to put cedar lagging for roof support on the skip for shoring in the mine at various levels. I would help load the lagging on the skip. The Mine Captain would drop the skip to about the 90th level where we would drop off material at different levels until empty. Always enjoyed these Saturday morning rides. Thanks for the memories."
(Paraphrase of two submissions)
David C. Meyers, Holiday, FL

"I assume it [cookbook] will contain a pasty recipe. We occasionally have some here. My wife makes them from my Grandmother's recipe. Would you believe we have a Pasty Shop just a couple of miles from our house here in Orange County, CA. My grandfather

and one or two of my uncles worked the Painesdale mine. They lived in Baltic."
Fred Sterk, Cypress, CA

"In 1938 & 1939 I worked in the Painesdale mine and went down into my working places to 46 and 48 level using No. 4 Shaft to get there. Your program on 'Suomi Kutsuu' ['Finland Calling'] brought back a lot of memories."
John R. Lahti, Appleton, WI

"I enjoyed the interview with Carl [Pellonpaa] and Catherine [Lewis] this morning on 'Finland Calling'. This is a very nice fund raiser. I'm sure it is a big job you are taking on. Best of Luck on your project. Thank you."
Betty Wiemer, Bessemer, MI

"My father and grandfather both worked in the mines during WWII. My father later worked in the rock house for several years and his last job, until he passed away, was a hoisting engineer. He passed away July 3, 1976 at the age of 61 yrs. young. ... [My mother] enjoyed Spring and Fall. ... We drove her up there; her crocuses and daffodils would be just beginning in our yard at 155 Highland St. in Painesdale. She would enjoy the early Fall brilliance up there. ... She passed away on April 18, 1986. ... My mother and father were Mathius (Matt) & Helen Korpi. My grandparents were Matt & Helmi (Pearl) Korpinen and they lived near Evergreen St."
Janet Korpi Hackbardt, Tipp City, OH, Class of 1957



WHAT YOU ARE TELLING US Cont.

“At this time I would like to claim myself as one of Painesdale High School’s oldest graduates. I was Anna Stimac, Class of 1932. If there are any other 1932 graduates around somewhere, please respond. I would love to hear from you. . . . [I was] married to John Lasio, Class of 1930, now deceased.”
Ann Lasio, Calumet, MI

“My grandfather, William Benney, worked at the Painesdale mine. He came from Cornwall, England. My father, Robert Trevarrow, also came from Cornwall and was a blacksmith at the Painesdale mine. I wish you the best of luck in your restoration efforts.”
Elizabeth Trevarrow Mallett, Gladwin, MI

“Thank you for your newsletter. My parents grew up in Painesdale – Fred C. Cole and Benita Hall Cole.”
Gail Armstrong, Lake Orion, MI

New Board Member

Hi, my name is Phyllis Lanctot (Niemi) I’m originally from Toivola Mi., but have lived in Painesdale Mi for the past 23 years. For the past eight years I’ve been employed at the Painesdale post office. I’ve always been interested in the history of the copper country, my heritage, and excited to be involved with the Painesdale Mine Shaft. The hardships endured by our ancestor’s pulls at ones heart strings. My wish is to keep the legacy alive and in doing so, being an active board member.

PM&S lifetime members

Dale & Kathryn Sechan Adler
(by Sherry, Chris & Glenn)*
Anita Andreini Ahearn
Lt. Col. Howard I. & Irma Alan
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Corinne Chaput Coombe
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Ted Kokko Memory
Rueben Kovala

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Julia Pintar MacMillan (dec)
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Yalmer & Pearl Mattila (dec)
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Robert & Sandra Rantamaki
Pintar
Thomas Pintar
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Rosenburg
Bessie Stevens Roy (dec)
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Frank & Jackie Russo
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Peter Schierich
Carl & Marlene Hovey Sechan
Stuart & Ruby Selesky
Joseph Sergey
Greg & Kelly Shea
Clarence Sibilsky
Jack E. Siirila
John Siller
William & Jean Simila
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Aerie #1122, South Range
Eagles

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Sterk Memory
Helen & Laurence Stevens
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Milan C. Wolf*
Bonnie Wolff
Steven & Joy Yambor
Geoffrey Yandl
Arnold David Ypparila

* New Life Member
** Inadvertently Omitted from
Previous Lists



Commemoration of 1913 Strike

This fall, we held our commemoration of the 1913 Strike. It was a successful event, with about 80 people attending. The event started in the Albert Paine United Methodist Church in Painesdale, with speakers Michigan State Representative Scott Dianda and author and historian Gary Kaunonen. The South Range VFW Ranger Post #6165 volunteered their time to provide a Presentation of the Colors. Minister Mary Laub provided the Invocation and Benediction. After the speeches there were some refreshments in the church basement, as well as tours of the Shafthouse, Captain's Office, and Hoist House.

We would like to thank Gary Kaunonen, Scott Dianda, The Albert Paine United Methodist Church, and the South Range VFW for their time and help with this event.



2013 Treasurer's Report

2012 Cash Balance		24,618.96	
Income		Expenditures	
Contributions	8,610.00	UPPCO - electricity	1,317.64
Memberships & contributions	1,140.00	Memberships, conferences, advertising, outreach	817.36
Contributions - hoodies, sweatshirts, T-shirts, etc.	390.00	Newsletter - printing & postage	688.50
Memory of Ralph Raffaelli	135.00	Cookbook - printing & postage	1,088.85
Contributions DVD	0.00	Postage	27.58
Cookbook ads	0.00	Building restoration	550.00
Contributions - cookbook	1,324.00	Website	61.64
Electricity reimbursement - Adams Township	616.80	Hoodies, sweatshirts, T-shirts, etc.	569.55
Interest (bank service charge)	36.63	Hannula Agency - insurance renewal	2,475.00
Total	12,252.43	Total	7,596.12
2013 Cash Balance		29,275.27	

