

# Painesdale Mine & Shaft, Inc.

Sherri Brandt President  
Catherine Lewis Vice President  
Anton Pintar Treasurer  
Jennifer Luukkonen Secretary

Trustees–  
Debie Pindral  
Janet Gregorich  
Darrin Luukkonen

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Newsletter–January, 2010



## New Website

Catherine Lewis, Vice President

We are excited to announce that our new website is up and running. On the home page, you will find an updated posting of upcoming events and meetings. There is also information on our restoration efforts, and shaft house history. In addition, you can download past newsletters and yearly treasurer's reports. A downloadable membership form is also available. There is also a gift shop page, where you can view all the products we have available for donation. There, you will find a downloadable form you can fill out and send to us to order a product. Other features of the website include more ways you can help, information on tours, links, and contact information.  
[www.PainesdaleMineShaft.com](http://www.PainesdaleMineShaft.com)

## New Email

In addition to our new website, we also have a new email address. Of course, we will continue to use our postal mailing list. However, for smaller announcements, it may be easier and less costly for us to send out an email. If you would like to be added to our email list, please send an email to:  
[painesdalemineshaft@yahoo.com](mailto:painesdalemineshaft@yahoo.com)

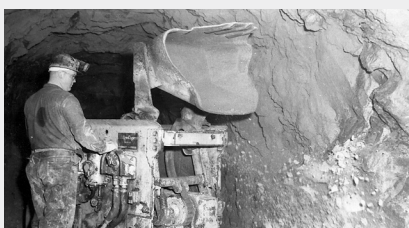
## Mailing List

PM&S has expanded its mailing list by merging our original list with the mailing lists from the Copper Range Historical Society (CRHS) and the Jeffers High School Alumni Association (JHSAA). This was facilitated by the Sarah Sargeant Paine Historical Research Center (SSPHRC).

We now have approximately 2,100 names in our mailing list. We welcome the newcomers to our Newsletter. We hope you appreciate receiving our Newsletter. If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, contact us by email at [painesdalemineshaft@yahoo.com](mailto:painesdalemineshaft@yahoo.com) or send us a postcard.

We thank the CRHS, JHSAA, and SSPHRC for their cooperation.

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# Meet our board members



On September 23, 2009 the annual election of officers for Painesdale Mine and Shaft Inc., took place with 4 officers in attendance and 3 absent. There were a few changes to the board:

Rex Carlson will still be a big part of PM&S as he is the person most readily available for tours. We do want to continue our work of restoring the mineshaft and have hopes of it being completed quickly.

## President

Sherri Brandt

My name is Sherri Brandt and I have been the President of Painesdale Mine & Shaft, Inc. since September of 2006. I am 51 years old. I was born and raised in the area and graduated from Jeffer's High School, class of 1976. I have a son, Josh who is 25 years old. I live in Donken, and have been employed as a cage clerk at the Ojibwa Casino Resort in Baraga for six years. I have 4 sisters, two of which are on the board and no brothers (well, brothers-in-law).

My interests are in the local history, and I want to see that it remains of interest to people. I have a lot of books on mining in the area, even though history was a subject I didn't like in school. We have an area rich in history and we need to preserve it. I enjoy hiking and exploring the area, and reading books of the years past, how life was, and how they survived.

During the past few years, I have met

a lot of interesting people through the tours and open houses we have had, and I hope to meet many more. I hope with more people getting involved we are able to restore the shaft house and give tours more often. Being where we are, we have a short time to give tours and the ability to share what history Champion #4 has.

## Vice President

Catherine Lewis

My name is Catherine Lewis. I was elected Vice President of Painesdale Mine and Shaft, Inc. in September. I originally became involved in the organization last year to help with some graphic design for a newsletter and to create the new website.

I am a graduate of Houghton High School. I also graduated from Michigan Tech with a degree in Scientific and Technical Communication (focusing on graphic design).

I knew a few of my relatives had worked in the mine, but I didn't realize how many. Every time I look through the old records we have at the Captain's office, I find more relatives that worked in the mine (I am currently up to 8 or 9).

My family has been a part of the Painesdale mine at every stage of its operation. When the mine was running, my great-great grandfather worked in the Copper Range office.

My great grandfather worked in the mine as a drift minner. My grandfather worked for the mine later when they were doing open pit mining at the end of Forest Street and also worked in the blacksmith shop. My great grandfather worked in the #4 shaft as a pump man when the water department used the mine, and now I am working to restore it.



## Treasurer

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Anton Pintar

I became a PM&S lifetime member shortly after PM&S was incorporated; in 1999. I served on the Painesdale Centennial committee and helped to plan the centennial activities. I am also a lifetime member of the Copper Range Historical Society and became a trustee of CRHS in 2005.

I was born in Painesdale in June of 1940. I grew up on the west end of Baltic Street. At the time Champion Mine #2 was already a pile of rubble but Champion Mines #1, #3, and #4 were still operating. Within a year or so, many people, including most of our neighbors, moved away to find jobs. I saw house after house being torn down with only foundations remaining.

I graduated from Jeffers High School in 1958; attended Michigan Tech (Michigan College of Mining and Technology at that time) graduating in 1962 with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering and then did graduate work at Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, receiving my Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering in 1968. I taught Chemical Engineering at Michigan Tech for 36 years and am now retired. I was Houghton County Commissioner from District 3 (Adams Township, City of Hancock, and Quincy Township).

I am married and have four sons, one daughter, and seven grandchildren.

## Secretary

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Jennifer Luukkonen

My name is Jennifer Luukkonen. I live in Toivola, Michigan with my husband Darrin and my daughter Kristin. I have been involved with Painesdale Mine and Shaft for several years. I volunteered at the spaghetti dinners, helping in the kitchen and distributing bake sale items. I am in my second year as board trustee. I have learned a lot about the local history and how passionate people are about it. As secretary on the board for Painesdale Mine and Shaft, I hope that passion continues in people to help save Champion #4.

## Trustees

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Debbie Pindral

Debbie Pindral has been involved with PM&S from the inception through ten plus years of fundraising, on site tours, and publicizing efforts. She also currently serves as a trustee on the Board for the Township of Adams.

Debbie graduated from Jeffers High School and has lived in Painesdale since 1975. Her husband Chester, and their two sons, Adam and Devin, have also been active in PM&S activities. Debbie served as co-chair on the Painesdale Centennial committee. She is employed by the Western U.P. Health Dept. in Hancock, and currently serves as the Treasurer for MI AFSCME Local 3626. In her spare time, Debbie enjoys family activities such as camping and four-wheeling, and enjoys working to protect and preserve such an important piece of local history, Champion #4 shaft house.

Darrin Luukkonen

Over 10 years ago, a group of us met to discuss how we can save the shaft house in Painesdale. My dad Rudy Gregorich, and myself became part of that group. Since it is the only shaft house south of the bridge, we all believed it was worth saving. I am a native of Painesdale, graduating from Jeffers High School, attended Suomi College (now Finlandia University) and Northern Michigan University. I have worked in the Copper Country my entire working career. The last 28 years for the County of Houghton, and for 25 years of that I was the County Treasurer. I am on the board because I believe that the shaft is worth saving. The hoist house is ours because of my dad's efforts. I am also on the board in honor of him. We all have to do our part to save this part of Painesdale history.

Janet Gregorich

Over 10 years ago, a group of us met to discuss how we can save the shaft house in Painesdale. My dad Rudy Gregorich, and myself became part of that group. Since it is the only shaft house south of the bridge, we all believed it was worth saving. I am a native of Painesdale, graduating from Jeffers High School, attended Suomi College (now Finlandia University) and Northern Michigan University. I have worked in the Copper Country my entire working career. The last 28 years for the County of Houghton, and for 25 years of that I was the County Treasurer. I am on the board because I believe that the shaft is worth saving. The hoist house is ours because of my dad's efforts. I am also on the board in honor of him. We all have to do our part to save this part of Painesdale history.



# Save our shaft house

Anton J. Pintar, Treasurer

For the benefit of newcomers to our Newsletter, parts of this article repeat some of the items in our March Newsletter.

Painesdale Mine and Shaft, Inc. (PM&S) is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. Our primary purpose is the preservation and restoration of the Copper Range Champion #4 Shaft-house, the only remaining shafthouse south of the Portage Canal. During Phases I and II, the missing corrugated sheet metal on the outside of the shafthouse was replaced.

Sometime in the late 1990s the main waterline from Painesdale to Hancock burst somewhere in the vicinity of Champion #4. As a result, the middle columns of the shafthouse settled 8-12 inches. This is obvious if you look at the sheet metal on the side of the shafthouse; the sheet metal pieces no longer line up. Also, cross beams on each side of the interior

of the shafthouse have buckled. The cement cap in the mineshaft is intact but the cement "apron" around the cap is broken up. The water from the broken waterline 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 do a settlement study. Baseline elevation data were taken in October, 2008; elevation data were then taken in April, 2009 (6 months) and in October, 2009 (one year). The changes in elevations are less than 0.01 feet (0.1 inches). It appears that the shafthouse has stabilized. Another set of elevation data will be taken in October, 2010 (two years) in order to verify this.

Next spring, cement foam will be injected into the crevices of the broken "apron" around the cap of the mine-

shaft. This would minimize any future washing of overburden into the mineshaft. The Range Lions Club has volunteered to provide the labor to help with this.

The long range plans of PM&S for the shafthouse are to restore the windows to their original condition, remove the "junk" from the interior of the shafthouse, re-level the floor in the shafthouse with gravel or sand, and restore the interior of the shafthouse to its original condition.

All of these things cost money. We pay \$2,600 per year for insurance, the settlement study will cost \$2,500, and the cement foam will cost approximately \$500. PM&S needs your contribution so that we can meet our goal of preserving and restoring the Champion #4 Shafthouse. I thank you in advance for your contributions whether they are small or large.

## Become a member

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

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

\$10.00     
  \$100.00     
  \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Yearly Membership      Lifetime Membership      Other Donation

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

Please make checks payable to: Painesdale Mine & Shaft, Inc.



# Lifetime Members



This is the list of our current lifetime members. If your name is not on the list, and you are a lifetime member, please let us know. If you are not a lifetime member, and you would like to become one, please fill out the membership form on the previous page and send it to us.

Ambrosiani Foundation  
Mavis Anderson  
William Andrews Memory  
James & Mary Beaton  
Kurt Berge  
Sal Bianchi (deceased)  
William & Elizabeth Buhrmaster  
Annette & Steve Butina  
Kayden John Carlton  
Sarah M. Carlton  
Katherine L. Cocciarella  
Fred & Benita Cole  
Glen & Erin Cole  
Fred Cole Memory  
Henry Combellack Memory  
Ann M. Pintar Cote (deceased)  
William & Julie Cowling (deceased)  
Alex DeForge  
Mary Gibbs Deloria  
Carl & Jane Dragovich  
DSS & A Div., SLHTS  
Mayme E. Frantti  
Dan & Dee Frost  
Debbie Gagnon  
Carol Genutis  
Anita J. Gerich  
Mary Gregorich (deceased)  
Thomas Gregorich Memory  
Philip R. Haensgen  
Carolyn Haines  
Herbert & Mary Hall Memory  
Jane Hall  
Audrey Coombe Herbison  
Francis Goodell Hoffman  
Bennie & Corinne Holm  
Christian Holombo  
Kathy Huang  
Max Ingersoll  
Philip Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Julio  
Shirley Rinkinen Jutila  
Philip D. Kangas  
Sharon Karppinen  
John & Ann Katalin (deceased)

Conrad Kauppila  
Gust Kenny Memory  
Daniel & James Kessler  
Randy & Linda Kessler  
Reino Keto  
Peter Kinnunen Memory  
Rueben Kovala  
David J. Krause  
Edith Kuopus  
Kathryn Land  
Roger & Wanda Larson  
Craig C. Lazzeri  
R. D. Learmont  
Steven C. Leuthold Foundation  
Duffy & Bill Liddicoat  
Wilma Lindberg  
Julia Pintar MacMillan  
James & Barbara Manderfield  
Diadama B. Mason (deceased)  
Yalmer & Pearl Mattila (deceased)  
Albert J. Mickus (deceased)  
Isabel Middendorf  
Midnight Pocatello Yardmasters  
Diana Musser  
Robert & Carolyn Musser  
Kevin Musser Memory  
Peter & Mary Nelli  
Dale & Linda Nicholls  
Northern Hardwoods  
Paul & Joyce Ollila  
Mrs. William A. Paine  
Dennis & Karen Palmer  
George Parrish  
Harold Pellosmaa (deceased)  
Frank & Margaret Perlich  
John J. Perlich  
Christine & Dennis Perry  
Darryl & Marcelline A. Perry  
Mr. & Mrs. Rodney K. Pertile  
Arlene Peterson  
Douglas Peterson  
Lillian Mary Hall Pinch Memory  
Debbie & Chester Pindral  
Marilyn F. Pinkerton

Anton J. Pintar  
Robert & Sandra Pintar  
Post #1291 Portage VFW  
Joe & Elaine Putrich  
Range Lions Club  
Donald J. Richards  
Bessie Stevens Roy  
Frank & Jackie Russo  
Robert A. Ruth  
Peter Schierich  
Carl & Marlene Sechan  
Stuart & Ruby Selesky  
Joseph Sergey  
Clarence Sibilsky  
Jack E. Siirila  
John Siller  
William & Jean Simila  
Richard W. Smith  
Aerie #1122, S Range Eagles  
Larry M. Southwick  
Fred & Gen Spehar  
Jim & Mary Steinen  
Bernard R. Sterk  
Paul V. Sterk  
Gladys Rowe Stimac  
Melvin & Carol Suokas  
Jack & Margot Taratuta  
Frank L. & Rose Marie Taucher  
Dorothy & Walter Tervo  
Paul Tesanovich  
George Alan Ulch, MD  
UP Engineers & Architects  
Emily Vettori  
William E. Vettori  
Norma Vezzetti (deceased)  
Harold & Evelyn Vincent  
William & Jeanne Vincent, Jr  
John F. Wahlers  
Elaine Wildman  
Francis & Carol Willmes  
William R. & Karen L. Winter  
Irene Kangas Woldring  
Bonnie Wolff  
Steven & Joy Yambor



# Painesdale Mine & Shaft, Inc.

