



Painesdale Mine & Shaft, Inc.

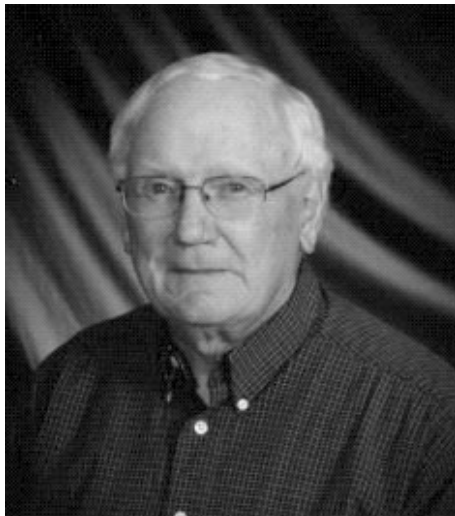
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Newsletter–Fall, 2017

Joe Putrich By Anton J. Pintar



November 27, 1937 to June 24, 2017

The following article is based on Joe Putrich's obituary, a chapter that he wrote for the book Spoon River Country: The Immigrant Story (a compilation of stories from families in the coal mining area of Illinois; Peoria-Pekin-Canton area), and the book Rebels on the Range by Arthur W. Thurner on the 1913-14 Copper Miners Strike.

Joe Putrich never lived in Painesdale and yet his life was connected to Painesdale forever.

Background

Joseph Matthew and Antonia Grubisich Putrich, Joe's grandparents, were born in Yugoslavia (Croatia) on March 19, 1880 and June 13, 1884, respectively. Joseph came to this country in 1905, arriving in Painesdale to work as a miner in the Champion #4 copper mine owned by the Copper Range Company; Antonia came to Painesdale in 1907. They were married July 13, 1907 in Painesdale. All eight of their children were born there. By August of 1913, five of the children had been born, including Fabian Joseph Putrich, Joe's father, born on January 20, 1913. The Putrich's were renting a small company-owned house in Seeberville (a subdivision of Painesdale) near the Champion #4 Shafthouse. They had taken in ten boarders,

all men from Croatia who were working in the copper mines. Some of them were relatives of the family.

On July 23, 1913 the Western Federation of Miners union declared a strike against all of the copper mines in the Copper Country (Houghton, Keweenaw, and Ontonagon Counties). On August 14, 1913 five of the boarders had gone to South Range to pick up their strike benefits. On returning to Painesdale, two of them took a short cut that crossed mine property and were told by a watchman to stop. They kept going. Copper Range employed Waddell men as deputized security guards. They formed a posse and went to the Putrich house 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". This started a barrage of gunshots by the Waddell men into the yard and into the house. Steve Putrich, 40 years old, Joe's grandfather's brother, was killed as was Alois Tijan, 18 years old, Joe's grandfather's nephew. The baby, Joe's father, Fabian, was grazed by a bullet while he was held in his mother's arms. He still had the scar on his forehead as an adult.

The Putrich family moved to St. David, Illinois, in March of 1917 because of the violence. Joe's grandfather worked in a coal mine near St. David. They raised their children in St. David.

Joe Putrich has commented: "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." His wife, Elaine, has stated often "If Joe's father had died as a baby, I would never have met Joe and could never have married him, and I wouldn't have had this most blessed life that we had together for almost 58 years."



Continued on page 2...

Joe Putrich Continued

After his fathers' death in 1991, Joe and his wife, Elaine, traveled to Painesdale to see where his father had been born and where the family first came to this country. Since then they have taken all of their family to see the area, including the site where the Putrich boarding house once stood and the Champion #4 Shafthouse where his grandfather worked. In 2004 the Putrich family had headstones for Steve Putrich and Alois Tijan put on their graves in the Calumet Cemetery. Joe and Elaine have visited Painesdale many times and became Lifetime Members of PM&S.

Obituary

Joe Charles Putrich, 79, of WeeMaTuk, passed away into eternal life in heaven at 3:15 AM on Saturday, June 24, 2017 at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria. He was born on November 27, 1937 in Canton, the son of Fabian "Dobby" and Lois (Lightle) Putrich. He married the love of his life, Elaine Howard, on July 5, 1959, at the First Christian Church in Canton. She survives.

Also surviving are his three children, JoEllen (Charlie) Albertson of Warsaw, Indiana; Ty (Gina Szpak) Putrich of Vicksburg, Michigan; Tad (Barb) Putrich of Canton; seven grandchildren, Amy (Fritz) VanStraten, Cory and Chelsy Albertson, Lauren and Chase Putrich, and Matt and Megan Putrich; two great-grandchildren, Keegan Geurts and Drake VanStraten. Also surviving is one sister, Shirley Young of Canton. Joe was preceded in death by his parents, stepfather Kenneth Sherman, and stepmother Evelyn Putrich.

He worked at International Harvester (Navistar) in Canton, IL, Memphis, TN, and Waukesha, WI for over 38 years before retiring, and was currently working for Buell's Marine in Canton. Joe graduated from Lewistown High School in 1956, and was a member of South Park United Methodist Church in Canton, where he was actively involved. He was a former Putman Township trustee and supervisor. Joe also enjoyed supporting his children and grandchildren at their school, extracurricular, and sporting activities, and was a member of the Canton Booster Club. Joe enjoyed golfing, fishing, hunting, and being a Green Bay Packers' fan. Most importantly, Joe loved being with his family and friends and enjoying life. Joe served as a Corporal in the United States Army reserves.

Funeral services were held at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, June 28, 2017 at Sedgwick Funeral Homes & Crematory in Canton, where visitation was from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM on Tuesday, June 27, 2017. Rev. Rick Atchley officiated. Burial was at Hyatt Cemetery in WeeMaTuk, where military honors were conducted. Memorials can be made

to South Park United Methodist Church or to Painesdale Mine & Shaft, Inc., Painesdale, MI for the preservation of the Champion Mine #4 where his grandfather worked after coming to America from Croatia.

Commentary

Painesdale Mine & Shaft, Inc. expresses its deepest sympathy to Joe's wife, Elaine, and to other family members. We have created a Joe Putrich Memorial Fund and have received \$1,750 from Joe and Elaine's relatives and friends. This fund is being used as a match for a Keweenaw Heritage Grant to repair the Champion #4 Shafthouse. We sincerely thank Joe and Elaine for including us in the obituary.

Own A Piece of Copper Range History

Are you interested in owning a piece of Copper Range history? Over this past summer efforts were made to tidy up the shafthouse. In the process, a cache of copper ore was found in one of the rock bins. This copper came straight from the Champion #4 mine and never made it out of the rockhouse.

There is a limited amount of this copper. It will be offered to our members for a donation, and all proceeds will be used toward maintaining our buildings. Each piece will come with a Certificate of Authenticity stating its origin.

If you would like more information, please email Vince Kanthak at vrkanthak@gmail.com.

New Lifetime Members

The following became Lifetime Members of PM&S since May:

- Samuel Bagnieski
- Charles & Beverly Baxter
- Donna & Thomas Cole
- Jane L. Dykowski
- Kim Alison Hoagland
- Donald & Barbara Horack
- Charles D. Lawton, Jr.
- Robert A. Learmont
- Joseph Pintar
- Lou Ellen Putrich
- Lloyd Recore, Sr. Memory by Ursula Recore

The complete list of Lifetime Members will appear in the next newsletter.



Joe Charles Putrich Memorial Contributors to Painesdale Mine & Shaft, Inc.

Charlie & JoEllen Albertson, Warsaw, IN
 Fred & Joyce Andrews, Galesburg, IL
 Eric & Jyl Barnard, Canton, IL
 Gary & Susan Barnhart, Canton, IL
 Terry & Sherry Beam, Cuba, IL
 Rick & Jeannie Birkey, Canton, IL
 Doug & Gayle Blodgett, Cuba, IL
 Aaron, Julie & Brijet Blout,
 Prairie City, IL
 Bob & JoAnn Cascioli,
 Oconomowoc, WI
 Kent & Donna Charlesworth, Cuba, IL
 Dale & Maralyn Cleer, Hanna City, IL
 Mark & Terrah Cornell, Cuba, IL
 Vinnie Cufaude, Canton, IL
 Judith & Donald Cully, Athens, IL
 Dave & Bobbie Davis, Canton, IL
 Winnie Wilson & Wayne Demott,
 Cuba, IL
 Greg & Susan Derry, Cuba, IL
 Bill & Sharon Dodds, Cuba, IL
 Steve & Debbie Doty, Cuba, IL
 Nancy Elson, Canton, IL
 Wes & Judy Evans, Canton, IL
 John & Becky Eyman, Canton, IL
 Rick & Beth Fahnestock, Cuba, IL
 Rusty Spellich & Thershea Fillingham,
 Canton, IL
 Dave & Ardith Ford, Cuba, IL

Tom & Dana Ford, Lewistown, IL
 Vance & Laurel Franciscovich, Cuba, IL
 Jack & Fran Gibbs, Canton, IL
 Frank & Allie Goudy, Cuba, IL
 Phil Grgurich, Canton, IL
 John Hardy, Cuba, IL
 Mike Harmon, Cuba, IL
 Al & Sandy Harper, Lewistown, IL
 Stu & Michaeline Harrison, Canton, IL
 Alison Kim Hoagland, Houghton, MI
 Larry & Donna Hudson, Canton, IL
 Pat & Susan Huston, Roseville, IL
 Mike & Patti Joachim, Cuba, IL
 Carl & Kimberly Jockish,
 Sunrise Beach, MO
 Jeff & Jayne Johnson, Cuba, IL
 Bill & Judy Kemper, Cuba, IL
 Terry & Briana Kessler, Warsaw, IN
 Larry & Bonnie Krulac, Cuba, IL
 Bill & Mary Lou Kuchan, Canton, IL
 Max & Lucille Latimer, Cuba, IL
 John & Ruth Loebach, Cuba, IL
 Bill & Sue Maurice, Canton, IL
 Frank & Janet Mavetz, Canton, IL
 Jim & Dee Maynard, Cuba, IL
 John & Bobbie McCarthy, Canton, IL
 Lynn Collins & Jeff McCoy, Canton, IL
 Brad & Evelyn Oaks, Cuba, IL
 Fred & Sharon Odendahl, Cuba, IL

Kent & Dena Ogden, Cuba, IL
 Gail Olson, Canton, IL
 Sherry Grgurich & Jerry Padawan,
 Canton, IL
 Bob & Barb Pavley, Canton, IL
 Anton Pintar, South Range, MI
 Rich & Bridget Pletz, Canton, IL
 Mike & Jeannie Prane, Canton, IL
 Elaine Putrich, Cuba, IL
 Jan & Eric, Josh & Brandy Putrich,
 Kathy Donath, Farmington, IL
 Lou Ellen Putrich, Peoria, IL
 Jack & Colleen Rades, Cuba, IL
 Barry & Debra Sayles, Waukesha, WI
 Virginia Schenk, Canton, IL
 Don & Nancy Schneider, Canton, IL
 Barbara Sinclair, Cuba, IL
 Gary & Kandy Slack, Cuba, IL
 Bud & Bert Smith, Smithfield, IL
 Dale St. Clair, Canton, IL
 Leta Stufflebeam, Lewistown, IL
 Unknown
 Jack & Joanne Waughtel, Cuba, IL
 Randy Widger, Canton, IL
 Steve & Carrol Widger, Canton, IL
 Larry & Donna Wilson, Canton, IL
 Tom Zaborac, Canton, IL

Materials Car Lowered

Safety of the shaft house, over the years, has been an ongoing concern. Until this fall, the materials car, estimated as weighing 2-3 tons, was still suspended from the gantry in the shaft house. Hanging by a heavy duty iron link chain, it was a possible safety hazard due to deterioration of the supporting gantry structure over the years of non-use and exposure to the forces of nature/weather/moisture. The Houghton County Mine Inspector recommended alleviating this concern by either building a supporting structure underneath the car, or letting it down to reside on its back in the shaft house on a support made from pressure treated timbers. Proceeding with further work planned in the shaft house, depended first on the alleviation of the materials car safety problem. After carefully considering all suggestions and options for this project, it was decided that the best decision for safety and preservation was to lower the car.



Before



After



What You Are Telling Us By Anton J. Pintar, Treasurer

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.

"I would like one of the Mining Moose. I'm sure this will cover the cost plus shipping. If any left over put in fund. Thank You. Really enjoy the Newsletter. Thanks again."

Marcia Miller, Lamar, CO

"Mavis M. Anderson of Grass Lake, Michigan, age 90, passed away at home March 26, 2017. She was born in Hayti, South Dakota, the daughter of Matt and Jenny (Kinnunen) Holappa, She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Raymond and Marvin Holappa; and two grandchildren. Mavis is survived by her husband of 60 years, William; children Soren (Monica), Leif, Carl (Theresa Gallas), Norris (Debbie) Anderson and Jenny (Patrick) Kalahar; six grandchildren; sister, Violet Pertile; and several nieces and nephews.

"Mavis grew up in the U.P. and met the love of her life, Bill, and were married in 1956. Mavis and Bill had moved to Seattle and Pasco, Washington before landing in Grass Lake. It was in Grass Lake where Mavis and Bill raised their five children and retired. Mavis was a great cook and enjoyed collecting and selling antiques. Mavis will be remembered for her wonderful smile, tender heart and always enjoying to be with children and neighbors. She was a loving wife, mother and grandmother."

Excerpt from Obituary for Mavis Holappa Anderson, Lifetime Member of PM&S, Grass Lake, MI.

Excerpts from some of John Blom's emails on his Mining Fatalities Project (see below):

"I've been doing some research on deaths in Adams Township from 1897 – 1942. I've looked through more than 700 records so far and have found quite a few deaths that occurred in mines of Painesdale, Trimountain, Baltic and Atlantic Mine." October 14-2017

"I have finished listing mine deaths that occurred between 1897 and 1920 from the Michigan web site <http://seekingmichigan.contentdm.oclc.org/> for Adams Township.

"Because of misspelled names, and some other issues, perhaps as people look over this they may be able to add corrections or other changes.

"There were approximately 2,200 death files for Adams Township. Approximately half were women so I only needed to review the men.

"In a few days, I will begin reviewing the death certificates for 1921-1942. The web site lists names through the 1950's but beginning in 1942, the death certificates on the site do not list job, birth, or specific death location There are 900 files, so I suspect I will be reviewing about 450." October 21, 2017

"I've searched death records of 3,100 persons, though I could quickly eliminate about half, knowing that women were not miners.

"A few times I was not sure of the death location. An example, a person lived in Baltic but the doctor or coroner was from Trimountain, causing uncertainty whether the person died in the Baltic or Trimountain mine. Most times the coroner did state which mine the person died in.

"I also noted an interesting issue, some of these young miners, though not necessarily at work, committed suicide. I wonder with such a bleak environment, being single, and away from their family in Europe, that caused them to give up.

"As an aside, you may be aware of the Old Hancock Catholic Cemetery (sometimes referred to as St. Joseph's) and the Old Hancock Protestant Cemetery. Those cemeteries were plowed over and churches were constructed over them. The land was then blessed and consecrated.

"I found that the Protestants had very poor records of deaths and burials, the Catholics were a bit better but still concerning to me. I have three great uncles and a great aunt buried in the protestant cemetery. So, I searched death records and found hundreds of names of persons buried in both the Protestant and Catholic cemetery that they did not have records for. I compiled a list and have given the list to the Lutheran church in Hancock and am just about finished with the list for the Catholic church and presented it this summer. The Protestant cemetery list is on the Hancock City website. My proud moment was when I convinced the Lutheran Church to place a monument to signify that the land contains hundreds of buried individuals. I have/will give the lists to Michigan Tech and Finlandia.

"I enjoy doing this kind of research in my retirement, so if you have any thoughts about other areas that affect the Range town area, please let me know." October 22, 2017

John Blom, Ringwood, OK



Mining Fatalities in Adams Township

John Blom, native of Painesdale, current resident of Ringwood, OK and Lifetime Member of PM&S, has compiled a list of those who died in the copper mines of Adams Township - Atlantic Mines, Baltic Mines, Trimountain Mines, and Champion Mines (Painesdale and Globe). He reviewed 3,100 death certificates for Adams Township from 1897 to 1943. He obtained the name (first and last), date of death, age, job, country of origin, cause of death (accident) and location of the accident. His information was supplemented using Houghton County Mine Inspector's Reports for 1890-1914 and 1930, and information provided by visitors to our Captain's Office.

The current list contains 277 names. There are some gaps in our information with some missing or questionable information. One problem encountered is the spelling of names; many of the death certificates are hand written, which often made them hard to read. Sometimes, the Death Certificates and Mine Inspector's Reports have two different spellings or the Mine Inspector gives two different spellings in the same report. Occasionally, the

actual cause of the accident is not given. Tentatively, we have added the four miners who were murdered during the 1913-14 Copper Miners Strike, three miners who were residents of Adams Township but died in other copper mines, and those who committed suicide in the mine.

The goal of PM&S, ever since its creation, is to prepare a plaque/wall that honors residents of Adams Township who died in the copper mines. We hope to recruit a student to review all of the Mine Inspector's Reports at the Michigan Tech Archives to obtain additional information.

For those of you not on the PM&S email list, pdf files (one in order of date of accident and another in alphabetical order of last name) are posted at our website, www.PainesdaleMineShaft.com. If you know of a relative or family friend who died in one of the Adams Township Mines, please check these files and send any corrections or missing information by email to ajpintar@charter.net or by US Mail to PM&S, PO Box 332, Painesdale, MI 49955.

Become A Member/Donations

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

\$10.00
Yearly Membership

\$100.00
Lifetime Membership

\$ _____
Other Donation

Please make checks payable to:
Painesdale Mine & Shaft, Inc.
PO Box 332 Painesdale, MI 49955

Mining Moose Fundraiser




Meet Morris the Mining Moose! He is 9 inches tall and is wearing one of our navy hoodies printed with our logo. He is also ready for work in the mine with his hardhat with headlamp. He is available for a \$20 donation and can be ordered by contacting us (please include shipping if you need him mailed to you). He would make a great Christmas present!





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