

# Painesdale Mine & Shaft, Inc.

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Newsletter–Spring, 2022

## Honoring the Memory of Jim Katalin, 1<sup>st</sup> President of PM&S

By Barbara Manninen, President

May has been designated as National Preservation Month by The National Register of Historic Places as “a high-five to everyone doing the great work of saving places – in ways big and small – and inspiring others to do the same.” It is on the shoulders of these forward thinking people, that we at Painesdale Mine and Shaft, Inc. are continuing the preservation of the Champion #4 mineshaft and related buildings.

So, taking a cue from this preservation promotion, I'd like to highlight the founders of the Painesdale Mine & Shaft, Inc. for their hard work and dedication, while putting a focus on James Katalin, the first President of the Painesdale Mine and Shaft. With the closing of the last standing mineshaft in Painesdale, MI in 1967, the Copper Range's Champion #4 faced the prospect of its final demolition when the installation of surface pumps in 1994 were completed for the pumping of the potable water from an aquifer in the mine to the local communities. The Champion #4 mineshaft was considered primordial to the existence of Painesdale, as a monument and icon, to those with memories of growing up in the community. The thought of losing this structure “to progress” was too much to bear. Too many local buildings were demolished already, i.e the Sarah Sargent Paine Memorial Library, the Opera House, the Finnish Hall, the water tank, and other community structures. A committee was formed through the Copper Range Historical Society in the summer of 1993 to seek ways to save the #4 shaft house, called the SOS (Save Our Shafthouse).

The members of the CRHS (Copper Range Historical Society), who were originally in charge of saving the shafthouse, assessed the situation of the mineshaft and, after discussing the costs and liability of saving the mineshaft, came to much disagreement as to whether this could be done. The members of the SOS committee, formed in the summer of 1993 and part of the CRHS, felt strongly that there should be input from the people in the community and let the people

decide whether to save the shaft house. The members of the SOS felt it was feasible. A public meeting was held July 6, 1993 at the Range Lounge in South Range. The objectives of the meeting included preserving the mineshaft (2 years to do so) and to identify other buildings, existing and non-existing. 23 persons were in attendance. Fred and Benita Cole were commended at this meeting for their work resulting in Painesdale being placed on the Michigan Historical Register in 1993. Another public meeting was held September 22, 1993 at Jeffers High School for local input and update on progress.

Several more meetings occurred over the two years, resulting in the separation of the SOS Committee from the CRHS in July 1995 and the acquiring of the mineshaft on October 25, 1995. A meeting of the SOS committee occurred with legal counsel on August 23, 1995 with the name tentatively changed to Painesdale Mine and Shaft, Inc. and officers tentatively identified for application for nonprofit incorporation. The first Painesdale Mine and Shaft, Inc. board meeting was held on September 19, 1995 with Jim Katalin reporting that the legal papers were received from the State of Michigan, making the Painesdale Mine and Shaft, Inc. an official non-profit corporation. Election of officers at this meeting were: Jim Katalin (President); Kaz Pindral (Vice President); Debra Pindral (Secretary/Treasurer); Fred Cole (3 year Trustee); Bill Cowling (2 year Trustee); and Janet Gregorich (1 year Trustee). Jim Katalin served as President from 1995 through 1999, then as Trustee until his passing in 2005.

Throughout the several years involved in saving the Champion #4 mineshaft, Jim Katalin's name comes up most prominently. A graduate of Jeffers High School Class of 1961, he served 2 years in the US Army stationed in Germany, worked a couple of years underground in the Champion mine in Painesdale, worked in the White Pine Mine, and then at Camp Kitwen after attending school for certification in



Continued on page 2

## Jim Katalin *Continued*

water treatment. He was an active member of the South Range Lion's Club and the Snowmobile Club. As someone who knew Jim put it, "Jim wasn't just a member of an organization, he was an ACTIVE member. He sold more raffle tickets than anyone else. You couldn't say no to Jim." He put his heart and soul into saving the mineshaft. He was willing to put his own money into fixing the roof of the Copper Range Pay Office to save it, but that wasn't to be. The committee felt saving the mineshaft was a financial challenge enough. Jim also hoped to purchase the closed Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Painesdale to make a museum or community center in Painesdale. That wasn't to be either.

Jim was honored on May 4, 1998 in a ceremony in the rotunda of the state capitol in Lansing, by being awarded the Governor John B. Swainson Award for Outstanding Government Service as a public employee who makes a significant contribution to preserving Michigan History out of his normal job responsibilities. Presenting the award to Jim was Governor Engler.

Jim also had family who worked in the mine. His father John was a hoist operator. And he had a grandfather who was killed in the mine.

A big thank you to Jim for everything he did, and put, into saving Champion #4 from the acetylene torches that were ready to go to work and take down "the historic and cultural pride of place" of Painesdale.

## 1913 Strike's Impact on the Number of Mining Employees

The July 1913 Copper Country Strike had an enormous impact of the operations of the Champion Mine. Through a remarkable set of circumstances, the ledger that recorded the payroll in the months immediately after the strike began (August - November, 1913) was recovered. This ledger provides a wealth of information about the companies efforts to resume copper production.

Volunteers at PM&S have gone through the tedious process of transcribing the names found in this ledger. We were also able to transcribe August and September, 1914 for comparison. Unfortunately most of the other pages of this ledger have been damaged beyond recovery.

We currently do not have any records from before the strike. However, the table below shows the number of employees working at both the Champion Mine and at the Champion Mill site in Freda during the strike.

If you would like to see the complete archive from the 1913/1914 ledger please go to our website at [www.painesdalemine.com](http://www.painesdalemine.com) and click the Resources tab at the top of the page.

Month	# of Workers Employed
August 1913	403
September 1913	423
October 1913	377
November 1913	606
August 1914	1533
September 1914	1494

**STRIKE!**

**Stay Away**  
from the Copper Mines of Michigan.

Fifteen Thousand Miners are Striking for Higher Wages, Shorter Hours and Better Working Conditions.

**DON'T BE A SCAB!**

Wages are low, the labor required excessive, hours long.  
No real man will come to the Copper District until a settlement is made.

Men hired for Michigan points are hired to SCAB.

**STAY AWAY!**

By order of WESTERN FEDERATION OF MINERS.  
TYOMIES PRINT HANCOCK, MICH.

Year	Pounds of Copper
1912	37,584,647
1913	24,852,026
1914	19,953,854
1915	37,035,642



## Upcoming Projects By Michael Prast, Secretary

This year is shaping up to be one of the busiest in our organization's history with multiple projects in every building; some small, some big.

In the Captain's Office, we are working to upgrade the two back rooms of the building to expand our display and document storage space. In the first room there used to be a safe, a furnace, and some old PM&S materials. The safe, as you might recall from a previous newsletter, has been moved to the Hoist House and the furnace and materials have been removed. This opens up the opportunity to have more displays of our many historic documents. The floor has some swelling that needs to be flattened, the back door to the building needs a small ramp to be officially ADA compliant, the walls repainted, and some wall sheeting redone. The other room will be used for document storage and needs the floor replaced. It used to have a toilet and shower but those have been removed as they were a later addition and not in good condition.

For the Hoist House, we are planning to repair some of the windows. Many are missing panes and need some sash repair. This project will run over the course of a couple years but we are hoping to begin this year so the building can be sealed up more and the objects inside preserved.

The Shafthouse has the biggest projects of the year. The main goal is to expand tour access to the upper levels of the building to offer the unique experience of seeing how the millions of tons of rock were brought up and processed before being loaded onto trains for Freda or a poor rock pile. The first step is to have the roof looked over and the holes sealed up. Because it is old metal, and some of it reused metal, there are



places that are leaking and deteriorating the interior structure. The second step is to repair the upper level walkways. They are mostly all intact but need some work done to be safe for general tours. As with any structural repair job in an existing structure, it will be expensive. The project is looking to be upwards of \$50k and while we have a good amount of that, we are still looking for donations for it. There will also be the ongoing archiving of our physical objects in the building to have photos and records of them. Donations of Champion or Copper Range mining objects are also welcomed to expand our story telling.

As for the grounds, it will be mostly standard yard maintenance. In addition, we are planning to add a couple interpretive signs to the site to help inform people about the history even when someone isn't there to give tours.

As always, if you would like to help physically or monetarily, please let us know! We are all volunteers so everything goes back to the mine site.

## Tour Season Approaches

The 2022 tour season is quickly approaching. We are anticipating another busy season this summer. We will once again be hosting open hours on Saturdays from noon until 4:00 beginning June 04 and running to the end of Color Season (approximately October 1).

We continue to offer tours by appointment. Because of the limited number of volunteers available to give tours, we encourage those who wish to arrange an appointment to do so as soon as possible.

Are you planning a family reunion in the Copper County area for next summer? Are you looking for a fun activity to keep everyone busy? If so, consider arranging a tour of the Champion as a family activity. If you are interested in arranging a tour please contact us at [painesdalemine@gmail.com](mailto:painesdalemine@gmail.com) or you can call (906) 275-8102.

### Greeters Needed

We are looking for volunteers to help out with our Saturday tours. Having someone as a greeter helps the guides focus on giving tours. A deep knowledge of the Champion is not required. Only a willingness to meet and greet is required.

If interested, please contact us at [painesdalemine@gmail.com](mailto:painesdalemine@gmail.com) or you can call (906) 275-8102.



# Digital Archiving Project By Vince Kanthak, Treasurer

For the past two winters the Painesdale Mine & Shaft along with the Copper Range Historical Society have been involved in a project to digitize many of the old abandoned paper records that were salvaged from the Champion Mine Office building in the years after it was abandoned in 1967. These documents were recovered by several independent groups of volunteers who became concerned when they saw the mine office building deteriorating and exposing thousands of historic documents to the weather.

The Champion Mine Office (later called the Pay Office) was abandoned along with thousands of paper records that were stored in its fire vault. These documents include payroll ledgers, blueprints and written reports on a wide range of topics related to the Copper Range Company.

In the 1990's a group of local Painesdale citizens joined together with Michigan Tech student volunteers and hauled many of the documents to other locations for safer storage. At the time, these documents were soaking wet and very moldy. Some of the documents were dried out and put on display during the 1998 Jeffers Class Reunion. Some of these documents then found their way to the attic of the CRHS Museum and the buildings at the Champion #4 for long term storage.

In 2007 the Mine Office had deteriorated to the point



where it was considered a danger to the public. At that time the Board of Directors at Painesdale Mine & Shaft requested that the National Park Service assist in recovering those remaining documents that might still be salvaged.

			16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
101	Venke	Chopp	Teamster	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	13 1/2
102	Fred	Paper	"	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	13
103	Henry	Hart	"	/	/	/	/	0	1	0	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	11 1/2
104	Albert	Gouchey	"	/	/	2	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	15
105	Peter	Limbach	"	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	13
106	Harry C	Jeffery	"	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	13
107	Henry	Hart Jr	Cann Boss	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	13
108	Charles	Ryan	" Helper	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	2	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	15
109	Rufus	Parsons	"	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	0	/	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
110	Fred	Hart	"	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	/	/	/	/	/	5
111	Patrick	Moore	Night Watch	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	15
112	Frank J	Beiswanger	Foreman	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	13
113	Michael	Mc Carran	Surf Labourer	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	1	1	1	1	1	12 1/2
114	John	Beckus Sr.	Mason	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	13
115	James	Vallino	Surf Labourer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
116	John	Beckus Jr.	"	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	13
117	Mikki	Ylkinen	"	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
118	Thomas	Budley	Mason	/	0	0	0	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	10
119	Ignace	Obeso	Surf Labourer	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	13
120	Fred	Rader	"	0	0	0	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	10
121	William	Proctor	"	0	0	1/2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1/2
122	Louis	Chamberlain	"	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9 1/2
123	Michael	Hagan	"	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	13
124	Frank	Wilczynski	"	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
125	Carl	Siedelt	"	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5

The NPS agreed to help and sent workers to the Mine Office to assist. Before anything could be done it was necessary to reinforce the stairways to provide safe access to the building. A small cache of water-damaged documents were recovered at this time. The find of greatest interest was the Payroll and Time Book for 1913-1914. This ledger records the payroll expenses that were paid out by the company during the months immediately after the start of the 1913 Strike. This ledger was soaking wet and moldy at the time of its recovery. The NPS took this ledger and processed it through a Wei T'o machine. This device freezes and dries a document to return it to a stable condition. Earlier this winter volunteers from PM&S retrieved the 1913 Ledger for the purpose of digitizing it.

Another cache of saved documents was found in the possession of Adams Township. We are uncertain of the exact route by which these documents found their way to the Township Office. It has been reported that a cache of documents was seen in the attic of the High School. It is believed that these documents were moved by unknown persons to the Township Offices for storage. This cache produced a total of 1,260 scanned documents to add to the Copper Range Company Collection. The range of topics is incredible! One of the real finds is the set of blueprints for the Champion #4 shaft house.

If any of our readers know more precisely where this cache of documents came from please let us know.

Basement Vault. Photo courtesy of the National Park Service, Keweenaw National Historical Park.



# Digital Archiving Continued

Last October, volunteers approached the Adams Township Board and requested permission to scan the 8 bankers boxes of CRC documents in its possession. The Board granted permission and these documents have been scanned. As a result of these efforts thousands of documents have been digitized and are now available to the public at no cost.

The public can access these un-curated documents by going to [www.painesdalemineshaft.com](http://www.painesdalemineshaft.com) and clicking on the Resources tab at the top of the page.

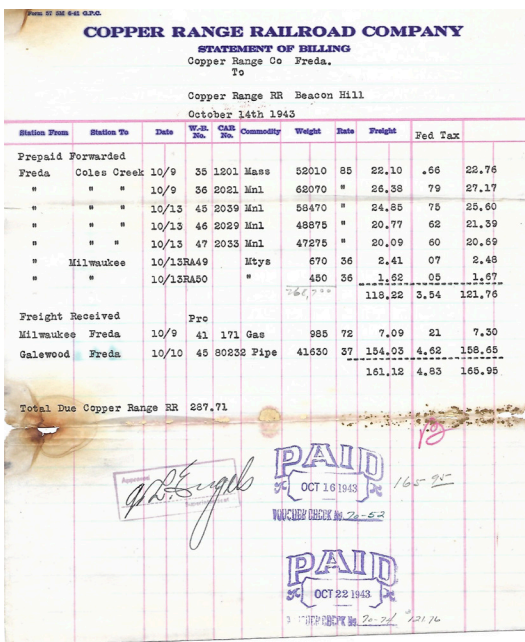
## A Call For Memories!

We are always looking to learn more about the personal experiences of those who worked in and around Champion Mine. Whether in the mine, on the surface, or in the community, we are looking for people to send in stories about working and living in the community. We welcome second hand stories passed down through the family from past generations. Send us a letter or email and we will include it in our expanding archive.

## No Free Shipping

A successful mining company like the Copper Range Company must keep meticulous records of its expenses. One of the documents found in CRC digital archives records the expense incurred when shipping ore from Painesdale to Freda for milling. To the right is a table that reflects those costs for one week in October 1943.

Shipping Date	# RR Cars	Weight (Tons)	Material	Freight Cost	Tax
Freight Cost to Ship Ore from Painesdale to the Champion Mill in Freda					
Fri, Oct 8, 1943	17	935	Ore	\$196	\$5.89
Sat, Oct 9, 1943	26	1430	Ore	\$300	\$9.01
Mon, Oct 11, 1943	23	1265	Ore	\$265	\$7.97
Tue, Oct 12, 1943	20	1100	Ore	\$231	\$6.93
Wed, Oct 13, 1943	21	1155	Ore	\$242	\$7.28
Thu, Oct 14, 1943	27	1485	Ore	\$311	\$9.36
Fri, Oct 15, 1943	23	1264	Ore	\$265	\$7.97
Freight Cost to Ship Concentrate from Freda to Cole's Creek Smelter					
Sat, Oct 9, 1943	1	26	Mass Copper	\$22	\$0.66
Sat, Oct 9, 1943	1	26	Mineral/Fines	\$26	\$0.79
Wed, Oct 13, 1943	1	29	Mineral/Fines	\$25	\$0.75
Wed, Oct 13, 1943	1	24	Mineral/Fines	\$21	\$0.62
Wed, Oct 13, 1943	1	24	Mineral/Fines	\$20	\$0.60



Painesdale Mine and Shaft



# Hoist House Bricks

By Michael Prast, Secretary

There is not a lot of work that can be done at the Champion site during the winter due to the snow. However, this past winter, a board member was snowshoeing around the site and noticed something not normally able to be seen. The snow drifts around the Hoist House allowed the member to get up higher along the walls than are normally accessible. Some worker initials were actually found to be carved in the bricks surrounding one of the openings. Many of them have dates accompanying them, most from the early 1900s. There are at least 40 bricks with some kind of marking. They are around what used to be a doorway and must have been a place people working in the hoist house early on left their mark. While we have not been able to pin down any name-initials combination yet, I am sure the connection is out there. Especially since we have 3 sets of ledgers from different dates scanned with quite a wide range of names to compare. If you find a connection, let us know! It is just another reminder that even winter can bring adventure and discoveries.

To see more images of these bricks, scan the QR code.



## New to Our Gift Shop



The volunteers at PM&S are regularly looking for new and distinctive items to make available in our Gift Shop. This season we have three new items that are unique to our organization.

The first item is a set of four note cards (with

envelopes and blank inside) that have old photographs of the Champion and Baltic mines. These photos came from the Copper Range Historical Society's collection. One set of four different mine photo cards is available for \$5.00.

The second and third items are single note cards that display original artwork related to the Champion Shaft House.

The first of these two note cards has a black and white line art image of the Champion #4 shaft house. It was drawn in 2008 by Bill Beery for use as his family's annual Christmas card.

Anyone who has recently donated to PM&S will recognize this image as the one used on our "Thank You" notes. These cards are available in packs of 5 cards for \$5.00.

The second item is a note card with an image that is found on a set of three posters that we have available in our Gift Shop. It has a great view of the Champion shaft house from the south side. It was drawn by Peter Schierloh during the early years of Painesdale Mine & Shaft. These note cards are available individually for \$1 each or in packs of 6 cards for \$5.00.

These cards and other items are available in-person in our Gift Shop or by ordering them online.

We ship using the US Postal Service. We will make every attempt to combine orders and minimize the cost of shipping. We estimate the cost to ship a single pack of 4 or 5 cards will be \$1.50.

For more information on these items please check out our web site at [www.painesdalemineshaft.com](http://www.painesdalemineshaft.com) and click on the GIFT SHOP Tab at the top of the page.

If you are interested in acquiring some of these wonderful pieces of artwork please contact us via email at: [painesdalemine@gmail.com](mailto:painesdalemine@gmail.com)



# Thank You Donors (May 2021-April 2022)

## Patron Level

- Fred Sterk
- John and Marcia Blom
- George Hackbardt
- Carolyn Haines
- Bruce Feuerstein
- Ward Cole
- Vince and Retta Kanthak

## New Life Membership

- Jeremy Jordan
- Donald Valentino
- Eric Murray
- Scott Chapman
- Joe Morgan
- Matt Portfleet
- Tiffany Asakaw
- Daniel Harmon

## Renewed Life Membership

- Ruth Katalin
- Frank Rugani
- Stanley Laurila
- Joyce Laru Swan
- Jim Enright
- Stephen Moss

## New Yearly Membership

- Wayne Stordahl
- Tara Rabideau
- Steve Rosswurm
- Teresa Savastano
- Bill Manderfield
- Daniel Harmon
- Dale Wuokko
- Ed Cowling
- Steve and Pamela Hecht

## Renewed Yearly Membership

- Deborah Frontiera
- John Beckius
- Scott Paavo
- Donna Laux
- Otto Dickow
- Bonnie Wolff
- Andrea Mickalich - Maggard
- Jean Pemberton
- Sandra Mickalich-Mahr
- Blair Orr
- Bonnie Wolf
- Anita Pakkala
- Charles and JoEllen (Putrich) Albertson
- Richard McCrate
- James & Laurie Raffaelli
- Diane Neuman
- Roy Isaacson
- Grace Parolini
- Mildred Maki

## Memorials

- Gail Armstrong: In memory of David F. Cole
- Geraldine Hutchinson: In memory of Wendel Angove
- Mary Taddeucci: In memory of Angeline Taddeucci Golec
- Sue, Danelle and Rick Feira: In memory of Dominic C. Feira
- Sharon Bryant: In memory of Job M. Bryant
- George Hackbardt : In memory of Janet Harkbardt and Matt Korpi
- Olivia Kokko Allen: In memory of Erick Karna
- George Hackbardt : In memory of Janet Harkbardt and Matt Korpi
- Janet Kokko: In memory of Angie Taddeucci Golec
- William and Nancy Gaggioli: In memory of Harry Williams
- Fred & Sally Dickinson: In honor of Scott F. See
- Ursula Record: In memory of Lloyd Record Sr.
- Robert Ruikka: In memory of uncle Peter Belttari. who was killed in a mine explosion.
- Martin Pintar: In memory of George Pintar

A special thanks goes out to the Keweenaw National Historical Park and the Leuthold Foundation for thier very generous financial support for our restoration projects.

## Contributions

- Amazon Smile
- Donna Laux
- Sandra A. Mahr
- Susan Maijala
- Mitzi (Mary Ann) Johnson
- Marilyn Laru (Maltz)
- Peggy Letvenow
- David & Kathryn Louks
- Katie Tormala
- Nanette Schulte
- Susan Maijala
- Judy Albee
- Anthony & Kay Briski
- John and Laura Russell

## Become a member and support our efforts to preserve the Champion #4 Shaft Rock House.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Yearly Member \$10    \_\_\_ Patron \$1,000

\_\_\_ Life Member \$100    \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Donations can be sent to:  
Painesdale Mine & Shaft PO Box 332 Painesdale, MI 49955

You can also donate digitally. This QR Code will direct your mobile device to our website's donation page.



Email us at [painesdalemine@gmail.com](mailto:painesdalemine@gmail.com), check out our Facebook page, or find our website at [www.painesdalemineshaft.com](http://www.painesdalemineshaft.com)

