

Rainesdale Mine & Shaft, Inc.

Michael Prast
Vince Kanthak
Vince Kanthak
Barbara Manninen

President
Vice President
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Secretary

Trustees—
Janet Gregorich
Catherine Lewis
Kurt Stevens

(906) 275-8102
www.painesdalemineshaft.com
painesdalemine@gmail.com
PO Box 332 Painesdale, MI 49955

Newsletter–Fall, 2022

President's Report for the 2022 Annual Meeting

By Barbara Manninen, Outgoing President

Thank you to all our supporters, who believe in the continuing value of the preservation and restoration of the iconic Copper Range shaft house, Champion No. 4, and associated buildings, the Hoist House and Captain's Office. And, who believe in the importance of the preservation and archiving of the Copper Range documents and work records that flesh out the story of copper mining, as well as the details of life in the company town of Painesdale, that provided the mainly immigrant miners with housing, education, and the opportunity to move forward in America. By digitizing these records, they are made available to everyone, everywhere in the world, online.

The solemnity of visiting the Champion No. 4 and viewing of the darkened interior of the shaft house, basically as it was left when the mine closed in September 1967, our visitors are stunned by the impressive nearly vertical north and south rails, that provided the access to the workings underground, with the empty man car left in place on the south rail, now frozen in time, at rest on the capped hole/shaft leading into the depths of the mine 56 levels below, ~ 5,600 feet deep. The power of place is experienced, and imaginations are stirred, by the information and stories provided by the volunteers who enjoy conducting the tours, and from the expertise and memories of the visitors who have intimate knowledge of the mine, having worked in the mine at some time in the past. The stories shared on each tour continue to add to the cultural legacy of the Copper Range Mining Company and its impact on local history.

We have continued to meet monthly, on the 4th Tuesday of each month, except for the month of

December. Covid is still something to consider, so we meet virtually by Zoom from October through May, starting in June with hybrid/face-to-face meetings outside the shaft house, utilizing a hot-spot to accommodate members unable to participate in person, to attend by phone.

Tours were given free of charge, starting the first weekend in June and continuing through the color season in October, on Saturdays, from noon to 4:00 PM. Arrangements for special tours were also accommodated by calling in advance.

We have an active Facebook site and maintain our webpage online. Through the resources link on our webpage, archived documents and records are available for research and enjoyment. We keep an ad in the Keweenaw Convention and Visitors Bureau brochure. Our rack cards with pertinent information are distributed throughout the other museums and mine sites in the area.

Our funding continues from matching grants through the Keweenaw National Historic Park Advisory Commission, the Leuthold Family Foundation, and generous private donations, memorials, spontaneous donations, memberships, and suggested donations for items in the gift shop. We are enrolled in the Tadych's Marketplace register receipts program and Amazon Smile for non-profits. Donations may be made through PayPal online using QR codes displayed in the gift shop and on our outdoor donation tube.

The Northland Consortium is no longer together. UPLINK, the arm of the organization formed to archive documents digitally for preservation of the



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President's Report Continued

documents of the little museums, is now formally in charge of conducting this business. We continue our cooperative efforts with UpLink.

Three interpretive signs have been made for self-guidance and are installed on the cement pad left from the demolition of the old chlorination building. For this pad, Michael Prast has made a wooden bench for visitors to sit and rest and enjoy the ambience of the improved views of the PM&S grounds and landscaping.

Again, as in the past, a big thank you to the all-volunteer board: Barbara Manninen (President), Catherine Lewis (Vice President), Michael Prast (Secretary), Vince Kanthak (Treasurer). Trustees: Kurt Stevens, Janet Gregorich, and Sherri Lewis. Volunteers Scott See and John Blom. The Copper Range Historical Society, the KNHP, the contractors, and other interested persons who have helped along the way. It has been team work and good will. Everyone with their shoulders to the wheel.

Captain's Office Refresh

Thanks to the generosity of our patrons, this Winter we are planning to refresh the interior of the Captain's Office.

We will start by having Keweenaw Power & Light come in and replace the outdated knob & tube wiring. Next we will have Dale Johns Contracting deep clean and paint the interior. We have found patches of the original "Copper Range Green" paint to color match for the new paint. Members who grew up in the area will probably recognize this particular shade of green. We will finish off by replacing or refurbishing the ceiling light fixtures.

We hope that this work will be completed by the start of the 2023 Season.

Skips Lifted in the Champion Mine

A profitable mining operation requires meticulous record keeping. A trove of paper records found at the Champion consists of the tally sheets used in the rock house to record the number of skips lifted.

This table displays the running records kept in the rock houses at Shaft houses #3 and #4 for the 6 day work week beginning November 15, 1937. These

documents record the number of skips of poor rock and copper rock hoisted during the week. Given 2 ten hour shifts per day and an average of 130 skips of rock per day, this means the hoist was lifting a skip every 9 minutes. This is excluding the lifts required to move men and material. No wonder the company provided the hoist engineer with his own personal toilet.

| | Champion Shaft #3 | | | Champion Shaft #4 | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| | Poor Rock | Copper Rock | Total Skips Lifted | Poor Rock | Copper Rock | Total Skips Lifted |
| Mon, Nov 15, 1937 | 11 | 106 | 117 | 57 | 82 | 139 |
| Tue, Nov 16, 1937 | 11 | 139 | 150 | 65 | 82 | 147 |
| Wed, Nov 17, 1937 | 11 | 123 | 134 | 58 | 72 | 130 |
| Thu, Nov 18, 1937 | 13 | 131 | 144 | 56 | 68 | 124 |
| Fri, Nov 19, 1937 | 4 | 148 | 152 | 56 | 66 | 122 |
| Sat, Nov 20, 1937 | 9 | 77 | 86 | 49 | 69 | 118 |
| Skips Lifted Weeks Total | 59 | 724 | 783 | 341 | 439 | 780 |
| Skips Lifted Daily Average | 10 | 121 | 131 | 57 | 73 | 130 |

Below is a list of the men working in the rock houses during the week of November 15, 1934:

Ed Givens, John Andrews, Basilio Bianchi, Dante Bianchi, Edward Chaput, Joseph DeForge, Vivian Fredlund, Gino Neri, Charles Ozanich, Oscar Pellosmaa, Vincent Pizza, John Sechon, Albert Turcotte, and Chester Verran.

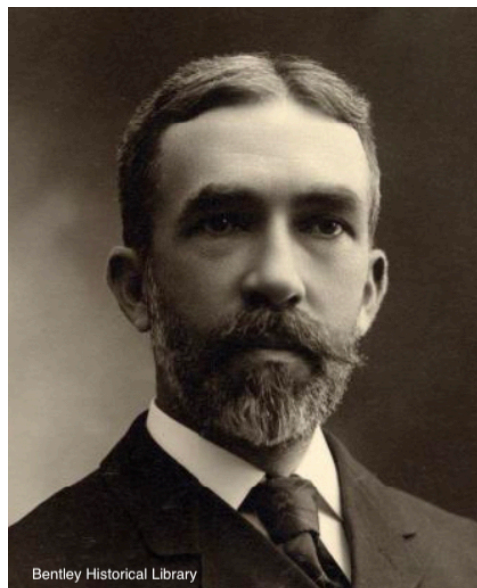


L.L. Hubbard Goes To Ontonagon

Lucius Lee Hubbard was in charge of early exploration for the Copper Range Company. He is credited with discovering the southern extension of the Baltic Lode. This lode later became the Champion Mine.

During the years 1891-1901 Dr. Hubbard worked and lived in the Houghton area while his wife and children remained in Boston. Hubbard exchanged near weekly letters to his wife Francis from January 1891 to April 1901. Over one hundred of these letters remain and are part of the document collection found at the Copper Range Historical Society. Below is an excerpt from one of these letters.

Travel in the UP could be difficult in the late 1800's. In this letter, Dr. Hubbard relates some of the challenges to the traveler when he had to go overland from Houghton to Ontonagon.



Houghton, Mich., Oct. 6 1893

My very dear wife:

Tuesday morning I breakfasted with Mr. Chadbourne at 6:30, and immediately thereafter we left here in a two horse "rig" for Ontonagon – 50 miles! The day was cloudy and it was not until about 5 o'clock that the clouds "rolled by," and the sun came out to give promise of fairer weather. The road was quite rough and rather muddy, but it lay through forests of maple whose autumn colors, although not always of the most brilliant, made the scenery very pretty. Now and then a small lakelet set in a rim of tall pines lay on either side of our road, and seemed to recall my usual autumn visitations in dear old Maine. Mr. C. had a shotgun with him and as a matter of precaution (?) [sic] against bears (!!) [sic] I took Charlotte's little gun with me. The partridges were, however, not as uninitiated as the Maine birds

far away in the north, and I soon concluded to let Mr. C. do all the shooting, the understanding being that I might do my part, when the game came to the table. Mr. C. seemed to enjoy the excitement, and lost only one bird, the driver and I being interested spectators and advisors. We brought back nearly a dozen birds, and tonight is the feast.

The long drive was quite tiring, but I had often wanted to see the country, and this seemed a good opportunity to do so at a moderate expense. We returned last night, just in time to escape a heavy rain. Dr. Lane is ready to go to Isle Royale again, but is waiting for the rain to cease, and for the tug to come back from Torch Lake. I may run down to Chicago for a few days, partly on Survey business, and partly to see a little more of the fair.

Lucius

Member Memories

Marilyn Laru - August 2022

How I wish I could go back up there again and go to the hoist house where my dad, Herb Maitz, worked for many years before his retirement. He started working for Copper Range at age 14 as an "oiler" at the Trimountain mine. I remember as a little girl going to visit him at the old steam hoist. Was that building behind the existing hoist? Like under some railroad tracks?

When he worked Sundays I remember Mom making the Sunday dinner, wrapping the casserole in newspaper and bringing it to dad at work. I was fascinated with the signals ringing, then watching the big drum with the cables start to move.

In later years I remember hot summer days when Dick and I would go to the shaft house and sit on a timber and wait for the skips to come up. We could feel the rumble on our feet for a long time before the skip appeared. Then we would go to the hoist house to see if my dad left anything in his lunch pail.

Such memories of a simpler life. This must have been in the late 40's or early 50's as Dick graduated in 1951 and me in 1953.

Roof Repair

Another project this summer was the first step in opening the upper levels. REJ looked over the entire roof and sealed up as many leaks and openings as they could. This was accomplished with a smaller man lift for the lower parts and a 135 foot one for the very top. Preventing further weather from getting into the SH will ensure the work we do on the walkways will last long into the future.

Bruce Groeneveld - December 2020

Happy End of Year Greetings. Enclosed is a donation in memory of my mother, Doris Groeneveld (Hanzi). Mom passed away this August 20th, 2020 at the age of 95. She loved the Copper Country and her employer Copper Range. She was employed in the 1940s as a stenographer at the Copper Range Mine office in Painesdale. She loved her job and worked for William P. Nicholls, her boss, and President Schacht and all the staff of the mine office. She enjoyed being a part of the team.

Thank You YouthWork



The Board of Directors would like to give a shout out to YouthWork Industries and the National Park Service. On Wednesday, July 27 they sent a work crew of 5 to help out around the Champion #4. The crew provided us with 8 hours of hard labor.

Their efforts made a huge impact on the appearance of the site's grounds. The foggy day began with the crew filling in the many gouges that were created by the 135' man-lift that had been working on the shaft house roof earlier in the season.

Several hours were spent under the shaft house rock bins. Over time the rails that held the ore cars being loaded for a trip to the mill in Freda had become buried under 12" of rock. Over the past few years our volunteers were able to expose only a few feet of the rails to the light of day. This crew was able to uncover substantially more of the rails.

This exposure will add significantly to the visual experience when our visitors see the area under the rock bins.



Document Donation

In October PM&S was contacted by Matt Portfleet (our neighbor and owner of the Adventure Mine) to let us know that he had acquired a cache of old Copper Range Company ledgers from Richard Whiteman. These ledgers were recovered from the Mine Office in Painesdale during its years of abandonment. Some of these volumes will make interesting additions to our digital archives of CRC documents.

We encourage others who also acquired old CRC documents to contact us. Perhaps they can also be added to our public domain collection.



Join Our Meetings

The Board of Directors would like to invite interested people to join our monthly Board meetings.

For the months of October thru June we will be meeting via Zoom. Meetings are held at 6:30 pm Eastern Time on the fourth Tuesday of the month. No meeting is held in December.

If you are interested in knowing more, send us an email (painesdalemine@gmail.com) and we will add you to the invitation list. Below is a schedule for the first 6 meetings in 2023.

- January 24
- February 28
- March 28
- April 25
- May 23
- June 27

Special Thanks

The Board would like to give a special thanks to the Keweenaw National Historical Park, The Leuthold Family Foundation and our many generous patrons whose financial support have made all of our preservation projects possible.

Donate/Become a Member

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Yearly Member \$10 Patron \$1000
 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.

Check out our Facebook page.

Or you can find our web site at www.painesdalemineshaft.com



Mathew Laru Obituary

We strive to provide our supporters with insights into what life and sometimes death was like at the Champion Mine. Among the documents that were rescued from the Mine Office in Painesdale were the Workman's Compensation reports on the death of Matt Laru, a miner. He died at age 38 at 8:45 A.M. on October 14th 1921. Matt fell 90 feet down a chute on the 9th Level in Shaft #1. The tragedy was witnessed by Peter Hartikka, a fellow miner.

Matt was transported by ambulance to the Trimountian Hospital where Dr. W.K. West declared him dead at 6:30 P.M. His injuries were significant and ranged from head to foot.

At the time of his death, Matt Laru's average weekly wage was \$18.90. As a result of this weekly rate, his

widow Hilma and children were entitled to compensation of \$11.34 per week for a period of 300 weeks. These payments began October 21, 1921 and continued until July 22, 1927 with a total of \$3,402 being paid to her.

According to the Doctor's report, Matt Laru spoke English and was born in Finland. He left behind a wife (Hilma age 38) and 8 children ranging in age from 2 to 16 years old. Matt Laru's sons went on to work at the Champion Mine. Four of his sons Andrew, Charles, Edward and Reino are listed as underground workers in our 1940 payroll ledgers.

Andrew Laru died of a heart attack at the age of 54 on February 12, 1962 while working at the Champion Mine.

Shaft House & Hoist House Work

We have some very exciting projects planned for the Champion this winter. In addition to the work on the Captain's Office mentioned elsewhere, we will be having our contractor come in to repair and replace the broken windows and sashes in the hoist house. With new glass in the windows the natural lighting will allow our visitors a much better view of the hoist and its controllers. The repaired windows will also keep the weather out of the hoist house.

We have also been waiting for cold weather to arrive in the UP so work can begin on planned shaft house repairs. A crew will be coming in to perform work that will ultimately allow us to safely open the upper levels of the shaft house to the public. This restoration effort will focus on repairing damaged (or missing) underlying steel, wood decking and a couple of sketchy stairways.

The hoist house windows and the shaft house structural work is being performed by REJ Contracting in Lake Linden, MI and it is being supervised by Fire Tower Engineered Timber in Calumet, MI. The work is being paid for by the very generous donations of our supporters.

Middle School Visit



On October 3rd the Champion had a very interesting group of visitors. Ms. Andress from Jeffers brought her 7th grade class for a tour. For many of the students this was their first visit to the Champion. It was fun to see so many interested people being introduced to such an important part of our community's history.



Thank You Donors

The PM&S Board of Directors would like to send out a heartfelt thank you to those supporters who have contributed financially to our preservation efforts. The funds received as a result of this summer's tours, membership, memorials, and a variety of other sources helps us keep the lights on and the insurance paid.

New Annual

- Sharon & Jim Tronti
- Todd Taskila
- Donna Karuonen
- Lillian Moffatt
- Jackson Lynn Paavo
- Isaac William Paavo
- Andrew Michael Paavo
- Greg William Paavo
- Dale Wuokko
- Ed Cowling
- Steve & Pamela Hecht
- Garrett Stark
- Steve & Diane Giese
- Bill Manderfield

Renew Annual

- Jean & John Pemberton
- Charles and JoEllen (Putrich) Albertson
- Diane Neuman
- Sandra Mahr
- Linda Manninen Adams
- Sandra Mickalich-Mahr
- Marilyn (Maltz) Laru
- Roy Isaacson

- Grace Parolini
- Mildred Maki
- Wayne Stordahl
- Deborah Frontiera
- Blair & Robin Orr
- Bonnie Wolf
- Anita Pakkala
- Richard McCrate
- James & Laurie Raffaelli
- Barbara Manninen
- Teressa Savastano
- Donald Mattson

New Life

- Matt Portfleet
- Daniel Harmon
- Joe Morgan
- Garrett Stark
- Charles & Sandra Craibe
- Forest Hazel

Renew Life

- Jim Enright
- Stephen Moss
- Harold Wilson
- Steve Rosswurm
- Jay & Patty Dunstan
- Harvey Barkley
- Chris Paine

Patron

- Carolyn Haines
- Jim Ollila
- Vince & Retta Kanthak
- Bruce Feuerstein
- John & Marcia Blom

Renew Patron

- George Hackbardt

General Donations

- Bruce Groeneveld
- JoEllen Albertson
- Nanette Schulte
- Susan Maijala
- Judy Albee
- Anthony & Kay Briski
- John and Laura Russell
- Anonymous Donor
- Forest Hazel
- Anonymous Donor

In Memory Of

- Janet Kokko - In memory of Angie Taddeucci Golec
- William and Nancy Gaggioli - In memory of Harry Williams
- Ursula Record - In memory of Lloyd Record Sr.
- Robert Ruikka - In memory of Uncle Peter Beltari. Killed in a mine explosion.
- Martin Pintar - In memory of George Pintar
- Denise Carne Morgan - In memory of Josiah Carne
- Bob Steinen - In memory of John Beckius
- Ruth Katalin - In memory of Jim Katalin
- George Hackbardt - In Memory of Janet (Korpi) & Matt Korpi

In Honor Of

- Fred & Sally Dickinson - In Honor of Scott F. See

Moose and Cookbooks!



We would like to remind our followers that our Gift Shop has a wide range of items available. These include:

- **The Painesdale Mine & Shaft Cookbook.** Our cookbook is filled with recipes, including ethnic recipes and stories of life in the range towns.
- **Morris the Mining Moose**

For a complete list of our many unique gift items please check our website at www.painesdalemineshaft.com and click the Gift Shop tab at the top.

