

Rainesdale Mine & Shaft, Inc.

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Newsletter - Spring, 2024

Winter Projects By Michael Prast, President



This winter brought more work done in service of the Champion Mine. Due to individual donations and grants we have been able to expand more of our upper levels access. Last year we spent the better part of winter working on the upper levels to get them safe for visitors with repairing structure and adding barriers. This exposure has been widely popular and is the only of its type in the Keweenaw. During that time we had accomplished getting up to the rock crusher floor landing. While we have been able to show off a lot from this vantage, we wanted more. This past winter we worked on stabilizing the north end of the rock crusher floor. This involved adding safety barriers, repairing steel, and replacing decking. The largest surprise we had was, upon removing the decking, discovering that the steel beams supporting the winch used to lift the drop hammer (a large piece of metal used to break up large rock) was completely rotting away. Without attention, it wouldn't last too much longer without falling through the floor. The multi-ton winch was lifted off its supports and slid onto the newly replaced decking. This allowed the contractors to replace the steel and decking and then slide the winch back into place. Safe and sound. The access path now takes visitors to all sides of the rock crushers and right up close to the drop hammer

(which weighs at least 3,000 lbs). You can also see the double doors where materials were brought in and out of the high points of the rock house.

We also worked on a small locker room on the floor. It previously housed the electric motor that ran the jaw crushers after they phased out the steam engine. Given that there are metal lockers in there it must have been used a locker room for the rock house workers. This led to some of them writing on the walls of the room during the work day. When we first visited the upper levels before opening it to the public we discovered handwriting on the walls. Now that we have tours up there, we want to show it off, but safely. So we worked to clean out the room, remove some tar paper that had been covering some of the writing, and put up a protective barrier. That way people can get close but we don't have to worry about the delicate pencil getting touched and worn away. We are also going to be installing a UV protection screen over a window that is in the room to protect the writing from fading in sunlight now that we have it uncovered.

All of this construction work has been in conjunction with our other ongoing projects including scanning historic Copper Range ledgers and developing a welcome kiosk and more interpretive signs for our site. Come by and see our new additions! I guarantee you'll see something new, even if you were just here last year.



The Digital Archivist By Vince Kanthak

The life of a retired person living winters in the UP requires planning. Winters can be long and dark, so a hobby is recommended. For the past four years I have made it my winter hobby to digitize paper documents that belonged to the Copper Range Company. These documents were recovered from the Mine Office building (aka the Pay Office) before it was demolished in 2007.

My scanning hobby started four years ago with documents from the collections of Painesdale Mine & Shaft and The Copper Range Historical Society. Next came a collection of 1,250 documents in the possession of Adams Township. Last winter had me scanning 22 years of company payroll ledgers. This winter my primary focus has been on a set of volumes containing Copper Range Company's Corporate financial records. These volumes record the financial transactions of the company to a relatively detailed level.

The first two volumes were titled Transfer Ledger on the covers. Each of these volumes was 16" thick, with 2,250 loose double sided pages bound with posts and weighing 35 pounds each. These ledgers cover the years 1907 to 1950. In the Transfer Ledgers, expenses are divided into accounts with each account related to the nature of the expense. The years 1907-1928 were bound into one volume. The years 1929-1950 were bound into a second volume.

It is easy to find interesting tidbits in these first two volumes since the account names identify the nature of the transactions. One account of interest records the payments to Waddell-Mahon for "security services" during the 1913 strike (\$8,847, Sept-December 1913). Each transaction entry has a folio number recorded as part of its entry. These folio numbers refer to the page numbers found in the second set of two volumes.

The second set of volumes are labeled "Journal Transfer" on the covers. They record transactions by date from 1928-1960. Each page is stamped with a page number. This page number refers back to an entry in a corresponding Transfer Ledger. This correlation can be seen in the overlap years (1928-1950) of the two sets.

It is more difficult sussing out useful information from this second set of volumes but doing so can reveal many interesting bits of information. One of the trends that can be seen over time is the CRC's

Subdivision	Sec.	Town Range
Entire	16	54 34
"	29	" "
"	32	" "
"	34	54 35
"	34	55 35
NW of NE4	35	55 35
Entire	31	53 36
"	15	53 37

Most of these trees were harvested along M26 between Toivola and Atlantic Mine.

increased dependence on the income from forest products. Starting in the 1940's, the company kept very detailed records of its timber sales to private contractors. A record of particular interest appears in December 1944. In this month the Company sold 160 Yule Trees to individual company employees for 10¢ each (see image above).

Another interesting fact is that starting in July 1929 the mining company began construction of the new hoist house for Shaft #4. This hoist house is located on the other side of the railroad trestle and served Shaft #4 during the years when it reached its deepest level. (4,800 feet). This building cost a total of \$22,346.26 to construct. It now sits in ruins.

Four other smaller ledgers that were scanned:

Day Book 1926-1932: A listing of names and the wages earned. These names do not appear in our CRC payroll lists so it could be a record of the wages paid to private contractors.

Journal D 1911-1916: Similar to the Transfer Journals. Each page is numbered sequentially and entries are by date.

Voucher-Cash Record 1956-1957: A record of cash receipts and disbursements.

Supplies Charge Record 1945-1947: A record requests for materials from the company's central warehouse. These requests were made by various departments within the Copper Range Company.

Use the QR code to access these Journals or go to our website, painesdalemin shaft.com and click the resources tab.



Photo Collection



These 13 photographs will soon be on display in our Captain's Office.

This past fall, PM&S received a \$500 donation from one of our members with the understanding that it would be used to purchase a collection of framed (reproduced) historic photographs for display in our Captain's Office. These new photographs will add to our ability to tell the story of the Champion Mine. Thank you to our many donors who help us turn ideas into realities. We would also like to thank Michigan Tech Archives, UW-Milwaukee and Lake State Archives for the rights to use images from their collections.

Digital Payments

Over the past year we have noticed an uptick in the number of visitors who would like to use digital payment apps. In order to address this trend, we are now able to accept payments via Venmo, a payment platform for mobile devices. We will also be able to take payments directly through PayPal accounts. Donations using Venmo and PayPal mobile apps require respective accounts and a mobile device with the app installed. We will continue to use the donate button located on our website. This button allows you to donate using any major credit card. While the cash transfer is processed by PayPal, no PayPal account is required to use this service.

Of course, we will continue to accept payments using cash and checks.



venmo



PayPal



Wanted!

Oral Histories

We feel that it is important to save first hand accounts of history whenever possible. We have been slowly starting to perform oral histories from people that worked in the mine or on the Champion or Freda sites. If you or someone you know would be interested in participating, please let us know.

Photos

Over the past year we have been collecting some historic photographs for display. Do you have any old photographs of our buildings, inside or out, that you would be willing to share? Send us a scanned copy and we'll add it to our interpretation of the site.

Volunteers

Are you interested in joining an exciting organization that is actively preserving the history of Copper Country? We need your help! If you are interested in joining our team, call us at (906) 369-5358 (leave a message) or send us an email at painesdalemine@gmail.com.

T-Shirts

A navy blue T-shirt featuring a large logo on the back and small logo on the front. Available in small, medium, large, XL, and XXL. \$20.00



Two Immigrants' Journey to the Copper Range Mine in Painesdale

By John Blom

CHAMPION COPPER COMPANY									
NAME OF ACCOUNT <i>Friedrich Dickhut</i>					ACCOUNT NO. <i>2292</i>				
NEWBORN PRINTING COMPANY 20421					SHEET NO.				
DATE	MEMO	FOLIO	DEBITS	DATE	MEMO	FOLIO	CREDITS		
1923	Expenses incurred in Germany on his arrival Kupfer Messingwerk Co. of Germany Ocean fare Railroad fare Cash advance by Steamship Company		5136. 102.50 371.00 500.	1924	Collector		2800. 3600. 3600. 3600. 3600. 2000. 2500. 1500.		
	Incidental expense incurred en route from Germany Head tax advance to wife at Germany Cash advance at Painesdale		325. 500. 77.51 300.00		Sept. Balance		5272.		
			31472				31472		

The following is information from the files on two emigrants: Friedrich Dickhut, from Germany, and Mr. Arthur M. Penprase of Cornwall, United Kingdom in December 1923.

Expenses incurred for Mr. Dickhut from Hamburg, Germany as per Hirsch Kupfer and Messingwerk Company's invoices were steamship fare, railroad fare, a cash advance, a cash advance by the steamship company, an incidental expense incurred en route from Germany, a head tax, an advance to his wife in Germany, and a cash advance to him in Painesdale. The total cost

incurred was \$314.72. Mr. Dickhut paid back that amount to the Copper Range Company in monthly payments of between \$15.00 and \$36.00.

In December 1924, the steamship fare for his wife, Mrs. Dickhut, was \$102, and the same amount for his children. Railroad fare for his wife and children totaled \$38.48 from Montreal to Houghton. The wife's head tax was \$8.00. An advance of \$10.00 was given to her in Hamburg, Germany by the Cunard (Line) Co. A furniture account totaling \$290.55 was listed. (This was probably given once she arrived in Painesdale.)

Mr. Arthur M. Penprase, a miner from Cornwall, England, received support from The Miners Unemployment Relief Commission, Cornwall, England. The Relief Commission was set up by the government to assist individuals in their relocation. He departed Southampton for Montreal and Quebec on the Minnedosa, a Canadian Pacific steamship. The transportation cost to "Soo," Michigan was \$155.38, with a head tax of \$8.00. Transportation from Soo to Houghton was \$9.02 and from Houghton to Painesdale was \$0.50. The total cost was \$172.90. He and other emigrants may have also had to pay a small luggage fee, as some records indicate a charge for transfer of luggage at Houghton.

The Painesdale Mine & Shaft, Inc. recovered an extensive collection of records from the Copper Range Company. One set of records is about emigrants who left their home country to work for Copper Range Mine in Painesdale. The records were of men and their families that arrived during the period of 1923 to 1926.

After World War I, Germany experienced a period of very high inflation, which appears to be a main cause for emigration, hopefully allowing men to find a new job and life in the Copper Country of Michigan.

During the mid-1800s, a potato famine occurred in Cornwall, England, and the price of copper and tin fell, causing many copper and tin mines to close. Cornish miners had a reputation for being some of the best miners, and many left their homes for more prosperous mine sites in the U.S., Canada, Australia, and South Africa. Another reason for leaving had to do with religious differences with the Church of England.

Recovered files show a list of 51 men who emigrated from Germany and 39 from Cornwall, England. Many of the departing emigrants arrived in Halifax, Montreal or Quebec, Canada. From Canada, they traveled by train to Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, then on to Houghton, and finally by bus to Painesdale.



L.L. Hubbard

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. The following is an excerpt from one of these letters.

Houghton, Mich., Sunday Nov 26, '99

Matters are progressing well at the mine. We are putting up larger boilers at E and expect a small compressor soon for the same shaft. All four shafts are now connected by air pipes, and thus far our single compressor has given us nearly all the power we needed. At D, the shaft is down 39 feet and we have begun to timber it, but must wait some days now, till timber comes. This shaft is producing very good rock. At E we are down 44 feet and shall this week begin to timber. B is down 10 feet or more and at present looks richer than any of the others. This week a small hoist will be placed there and in a week or ten days the old boiler from E will go there too, and in its turn after the others it will be timbered. Then we shall have four shafts in commission. We are getting our roads into condition to be good after the "break-up", the sawmill boiler is here, the dually houses are finished, the diamond drill is buzzing and all is lovely at the mine.

Railroad Trestle



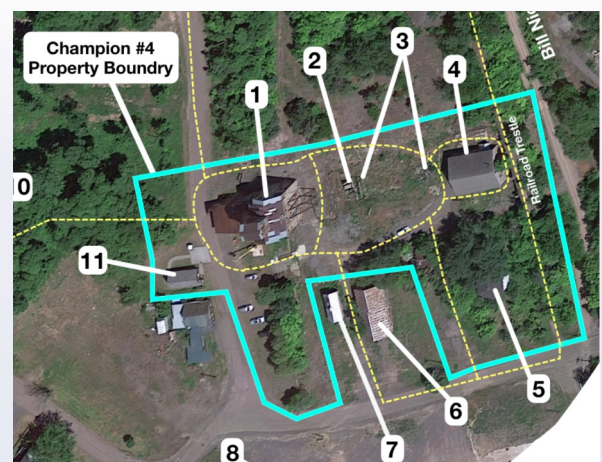
This coming summer we hope to clear away some of the vegetation growing along the way.

Last summer, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources granted PM&S a 10 year lease to use the Copper Range Railroad trestle that is adjacent to our property. This trestle was built by the Copper Range Railroad (c.1903) and was known as the Painesdale Branch. It has sat abandoned for the past 50 years with only an occasional traveler taking "the scenic route" paralleling the Bill Nicholls ORV Trail.

We are in the process of incorporating this trestle into our site plan. The lease will allow us to remove vegetation along the trestle's way and to maintain it as a walking path. Because of this lease, we will be able to restrict access by motorized traffic. Given the narrow width of the trestle's way, this restriction will improve the safety of pedestrians walking the trail.

Site Map

We have published an Earth View map of the Champion #4 site. Included are the walking trails that we made last year. Also marked are walking routes that visit nearby mine related points of interest. Scan the QR code to access the full version of the map.



Half a Century on the South Range

Last summer, PM&S acquired a 100,000 gallon water tank with its protective hexagonal building. This water tank once served as the starting point for all water flowing to area communities and their water utilities.



In his unpublished book "Half a Century on the South Range", Harry T. Mercer relates the story of how this tank came to be located in its current location. You can download the full book from our digital archives by using this QR code.

"About 1937 the towns of Houghton and Hancock began looking for ways to increase their water supplies. Since the Copper Range Company was wasting some 1,400 gallons per minute of perfectly good water, a project was put through to supply these towns from Painesdale. A 9-mile pipeline was built connecting with the Houghton system at the west end of the town and across Portage Lake to Hancock. Connection was made with the 14 inch pipe from the larger third level pump, and the old 100,000 gallon tank was moved over from Trimountain and installed on the line near number 4 shaft to act as a storage and equalizer. From there the water runs by gravity to the Portage Lake towns which started using the water in 1938. Large meters at Houghton and Hancock measure the supply."

Member Memories By Susan Kokko Uren

My grandfather, Erkki (Erick) Karna, was killed (cave in) in the Painesdale Mine in December of 1929. My mother, Irene, was 5 at the time. She said it was a bleak Christmas that year. She remembers hiding under the kitchen table as neighbors came to call. My grandfather's casket was laid in the living room. The Karna family was able to remain in the company house after his death because the two oldest sons of Erkki had already quit school in order to supplement the family income. After all, it was company housing and if you didn't work for the mining company, you couldn't live in a company house. Rent was one dollar for each room in the house, per month. My grandmother was pregnant with their 9th child when he passed. Their son, Paavo, was born three months later in March 1930. They had a small shed/barn in the back yard. It had burned to the ground with their cow in it, a month before my grandfather was killed. A bleak Christmas indeed!

I'd also like to thank you for your help in getting a piece of copper from the Painesdale mine to take to Italy this past summer. Wesley Karna, son of Erkki, was killed in action in 1944 in Italy, at the age of 22. In June of 2022, the Karna family had been notified that a history enthusiast in Italy had found (with his metal detector), Wesley's military canteen with the name KARNA scratched into the bottom of it. They tracked the family

down, and my son, Brad Uren, and I went to Italy to tour the area and the Gotica Tuscana WWII museum there, near Ponzalla. The copper we brought there was a little piece of the Copper Country and the mine that Wesley, his father, and brothers worked in, as a thank you to them for their efforts to locate Wesley's family. It meant a great deal to the remaining Karna family. Thank you for making that possible.



Erkki & Ida Karna on the 4th of July. Probably the last one taken of him before he was killed.



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- In Memory of Janet (Korpi) Hackbrandt & Matt Korpi By George Hackbrandt
- In Memory of Captain John Broan by JoAnn Aldrich Haven
- In Memory of Eino and Lempy Sten by their Family

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- Keweenaw Tourism Council (DBA Visit Keweenaw)
- Leuthold Family Foundation
- Keweenaw National Historical Park
- Keweenaw Area Community Foundation

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Address: _____

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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.

