



B'nai Abraham Museum and Cultural Center

Museum/Offices

**St. Louis County
Historical Society**
506 West Michigan St.
Duluth, MN 55802
Ph: 218-733-7586
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history@thehistorypeople.org
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Archives

Kathryn A. Martin Library
Archives and Special Collections
Library Annex 202
416 Library Drive
Duluth, MN 55812
218-726-8526

Affiliates

Ely-Winton Historical Society
1900 East Camp Street
Ely, MN 55731
218-365-3226

Hibbing Historical Society & Museum

Memorial Building
400 East 23rd Street
Hibbing, MN 55746
218-263-8522

Minnesota Museum Of Mining

701 West Lake Street
Chisholm, MN 55719
218-254-5543

Sisu Heritage, Inc.

P.O. Box 127
Embarrass, MN 55732
218-984-3048

Tower-Soudan Historical Society

404 Pine Street
P.O. Box 465
Tower, MN 55790
218-753-5021

Virginia Area Historical Society

P.O. Box 736
800 9th Avenue North
Virginia, MN 55792
218-741-1136

By Marilyn J. Chiat

Editor's note: This was originally written for the MN Preservation Alliance.

Twenty year ago, people driving past a red brick building located on the east corner of 5th Street and 4th Avenue North in Virginia, Minnesota, either ignored it, or viewed it as yet another abandoned piece of property.

Perhaps some recalled that it was a synagogue, B'nai Abraham, erected by the city's once populous Jewish community, but few knew that when it was dedicated in 1910, the local newspaper hailed it as the "the most beautiful church (sic) on the Iron Range." Over the ensuing years, the synagogue's congregants experienced the same ups and downs as others on the Range. As opportunities dwindled their children moved away, and while they aged in place, their numbers too diminished to the point where they could no longer maintain their beautiful building.

However, its historic and architectural importance did not go unnoticed, and in the 1980s it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, the only synagogue in Minnesota to be so honored. It was at this time that students from the University of Minnesota began to travel to the Range to record the history of its Jewish community. They were surprised to find such an impressive and historic synagogue in what to them was an unlikely location.

Soon word of the building and its endangered condition spread, and in 2004 a group of individuals whose families were either members of the congregation, or were interested in the preservation of historic structures, visited

Virginia. While there they spoke to community members regarding the possible preservation of the building and its reuse by the city as a museum and a cultural center, preserving the history of the Range's Jewish community. The response was positive, and included interest by the Virginia Historical Society in participating in the effort.

Thus a not-for-profit organization, The Friends of B'nai Abraham, was founded. A team of preservationists visited the building, found it to be structurally sound, but in need of complete restoration.



Courtesy of Friends of B'nai Abraham

Plans were drawn, and the Friends began a fund-raising effort. Thanks to Legacy funding from the MN Legislature administered by the State Historic Preservation Office and donations from other foundations and hundreds of individuals, the dream of preserving, restoring and reusing this historic building has been realized.

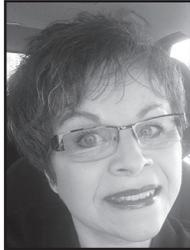
Virginia has received national attention for being home to an important model, illustrating how historic houses of worship can be thoughtfully preserved and reused, and continue to serve as visual evidence of the diverse people who settled in our nation. Out of what may have been viewed as a lemon, a derelict building became lemonade, a beautifully restored edifice that is now used by Virginians and their Range neighbors for a variety of events -- music, lectures, meetings, exhibits; the possibilities are endless.

Virginia has every reason to be proud that it is home to one of Minnesota's most important historic houses of worship, a building that may no longer serve its original function, but once again beautifies the east corner of 5th Street and 4th Avenue North, and welcomes all to enter its doors.

MESSAGE *from the* DIRECTOR

JoAnne Coombe
Executive Director

We have exciting news for the Society's Annual Remembrance Dinner this year. Scheduled for November 15, it will be a day that is filled with events, programs, and concludes with a gala dinner.



JoAnne Coombe

Retired General Richard I. Neal, U.S. Marine Corps, will facilitate a leadership seminar based on his experiences in the military. The leadership seminar will take place in the newly renovated 300-seat Duluth Playhouse, which is located on the third floor of the St. Louis County Heritage & Arts Center (the Depot).

After the seminar, General Neal will be available to sign

copies of his book, *What Now, Lieutenant?: Leadership Forged from Events in Vietnam, Desert Storm, and Beyond*. The book has been selected for inclusion on the Commandant's Reading List, which is a list of books that Marines are recommended and often required to read. They are meant to help Marines develop their personal and professional character.

In addition, Tim Cortes, a Duluth artist, will be available to sell and sign his stunning limited edition print depicting the five northern Minnesota veterans who received the Medal of Honor: Dale Eugene Wayrynen, Henry A. Courtney, Jr., Oscar Frederick Nelson, Donald Eugene Rudolph, and Michael "Mike" Colalillo.

The 15th Annual Remembrance Dinner will honor all northeastern Minnesota Medal of Honor recipients. General Neal will be the

keynote speaker, with a focus on Major Courtney and his leadership qualities. Alan Anderson, PhD, a military historian from the Twin Cities, will join him at the podium. Anderson will speak about the leadership of the four other Medal of Honor recipients.

The dinner will be prepared by the Arrowhead Professional Chefs Association and served to guests by the Air Force ROTC, located on the University of Minnesota Duluth campus. The Veterans Memorial Hall Advisory Committee will host this celebration, accompanied by the Duluth Honor Guard, veterans and their families.

For more information, please contact our Veterans Memorial Hall Program Assistant, Jay Hagen, at 218-733-7500, or jay@thehistorypeople.org.

Contributors to this issue:

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Virginia Area Historical Society

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The Society wishes to thank the Depot Foundation for its ongoing support.

MUSEUM NEWS & EVENTS

Note: Events and exhibits are held at the St. Louis County Heritage & Arts Center (the Depot), Duluth, MN, unless noted otherwise.

Upcoming Events

Antique Appraisals

Third Wednesday of the month January – November; Noon – 3 p.m.
September 18, 2019 - Great Hall
October 16, 2019 - Great Hall
November 20, 2019 - Great Hall

Erie Mining Co. Book Signing/Book Festival

To be announced in Duluth and Hoyt Lakes; expected fall 2019

Lunch with the History People

Ruth Maney Room, Noon – 1 PM

September 19, 2019, Tim Cochrane: Gichi Bitobig, Grand Marais: Early Accounts of the Anishinaabeg and the North Shore Fur Trade

October 17, 2019, Anthony Lueck: “The State Line along the St. Louis River”

History in a Pint

at Carmody Irish Pub & Brewing (dates tentative)

Contact Jay Hagen for presentation information at jay@thehistorypeople.org or 218-733-7500.

Collete Travel Project Launch

September 24, 2019
4 p.m. The Great Hall of the Depot
506 W. Michigan Street

While at the Depot, be sure you check out...

Generations of Service in the Veterans Memorial Hall, on the third floor in the Great Hall

Medal of Honor Row in the Veterans Memorial Hall

The Immigrant Waiting Room, on the second floor

Eli's Farm Children's Interactive on the second floor

The Lake Superior Ojibwe Gallery, including a children's interactive exhibit, on the fourth floor

American Indian Photo Exhibit by Ivy Vainio, in the stairway near the Ojibwe Gallery

Priley Woodcarving Collecton in the Fesler Gallery, on the third floor

Melheim Woodcarving in the Fesler Gallery, on the third floor

Hill of Three Waters in the Small Fesler Gallery, on the third floor

Depot Square in the Lake Superior Railroad Museum, on the ground floor

A County Built on Iron on the second floor

J.C. Ryan History Room, on the third floor

Old Country Memories artwork by Albin Zaverl, in the hallway just off of the Fesler Gallery

Albin Zaverl Art Installation, in the Depot Board Room, on the fourth floor

History of the Depot and the Great Hall, on the third floor near the information desk

Crossroads of the Continent: The History of St. Louis County from 1856 to present, on the second floor

Tiffany Windows, on loan from the City of Duluth, at the third-floor Depot entry

Statue of Albert Woolson, the Last Civil War Union Soldier, in the Depot Garden

While out and about, check out the SLCHS statues and traveling exhibits:

Statue of David Wheat, Vietnam Veteran, at the Duluth International Airport

Statue of Joseph P. Gomer, World War II Tuskegee Airman, at the Duluth International Airport

Women in the Military, at the Tower Soudan Historical Society

Ojibwe Faces, at the Tower Soudan Historical Society

WPA and the New Deal, at the Virginia Courthouse

Albert Woolson, Last Civil War Soldier, at the James L. Oberstar Terminal in the Duluth International Airport

Return to the River at the Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center

Desert Medics at the 477th Medical Company in Canal Park

The Plan, The People, The Promise and Perspectives: The History of the Erie Mining Company at the Minnesota Discovery Center in Chisholm

Interested in borrowing a traveling exhibit?

The St. Louis County Historical Society has 16 exhibits that may be borrowed, either by organizations or by businesses, for varying length of time. Call 218-733-7586 to learn more. Or, find us at www.thehistorypeople.org

Remembering State High School Baseball Tournaments at Duluth, and the great St. Louis County teams who played there

by **Anthony Bush**

Duluth, predicted I. T. Simley, could become the high school baseball capital of the state, as Minneapolis is for basketball and St. Paul is for hockey.

Those words were spoken at Duluth's Spalding Hotel on August 23, 1949. Simley, then the superintendent of schools for South St. Paul, spoke at

the banquet to commence the third-annual Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) state baseball tournament.

Simley had good reason to believe in Duluth's baseball future as he

looked toward the second half of the century. Wade Stadium— called Duluth All-Sports Municipal Stadium until 1954 —opened in 1941. The city had hosted the District 26 and Region 7 tournaments since their 1947 inception.

Duluth Denfeld represented Region 7 in the first state tournament, played at the University of Minnesota Duluth, in August 1947. The Hunters finished in fourth place.

Chisholm won the state championship at Glencoe in August of 1948, after capturing District 28 and Region 7 titles.

Chisholm repeated as District 28 champions in 1949. In District 26, Duluth Central upset two-time defending champion Denfeld for the Trojans' first district title. Forest Lake, representing District 25, also won its first crown, and Eveleth rounded out

the four-team Region 7 tournament by winning its third consecutive District 27 title (the Golden Bears won their district for the first eight years of tournament play, 1947-54).

A rainy August 17 in Duluth caused the Region 7 tournament to be postponed until the 18th. In the opening game, Eveleth scored two runs in the bottom of the seventh inning to defeat Central, 6-5. Losing



This photo, made in 1940 by L. Perry Gallagher, Jr., shows Athletic Park still standing left of the newly constructed All Sports Stadium, later renamed Wade Stadium in honor of Frank Wade. (Image: University of Minnesota Duluth Kathryn A. Martin Library Archives and Special Collections)

pitcher Norm Kragseth—a DECC Athletic Hall of Fame member— went on to play football, basketball and golf for Northwestern University before becoming the first NFL official from Minnesota.

Central Coach John Swain would have to wait until 1951 for a region title, which turned out to be the only time the Trojans advanced to the state tournament.

Forest Lake pitcher Lyle Hurd tossed six innings for his 11th straight win as the team, then known as the Lakers, defeated Chisholm, 8-4, in the second game.

Hurd was back on the mound against Eveleth in the evening's championship game. While Don Voce tossed a complete game against Central, Golden Bears Coach Jack Malevich turned to John Mayasich to pitch the title game. Forest Lake rallied for four runs in the bottom of the seventh to send the game into an extra frame. With a reliever in for Hurd, Eveleth scored three runs on three errors in the top of the eighth and Mayasich threw a scoreless final inning for a 9-6 win in a game that featured 12

errors. Golden Bears shortstop Willard Ikola batted 3-for-5 with four runs and second baseman Johnny Matchefts was 3-for-4 with two runs. Eveleth punched its ticket for a return trip to Duluth to represent Region 7 in the state tournament.

Following the banquet on the 23rd, the state quarterfinals took up all afternoon and evening of August 24.

In the first game, Wheaton (Region 6), beat Austin (Region 1), 4-3, on a game-ending two-run double by Arnold Rudi.

Minneapolis Edison (Region 5) smothered Westbrook (Region 2), 10-0, in the second game. Edison's Ned Dregger batted 5-for-5 with a double and a triple, and Walter Dziedzic banded out two triples.

St. Paul Washington (Region 4) defeated Springfield (Region 3), 16-12, in a sloppily-played third game. The teams combined for 18 errors.

In the day's final game, Voce pitched a five-hitter with 10 strikeouts and batted 4-for-4 as the Golden Bears defeated Bemidji (Region 8), 9-4. Mayasich hit a triple and Matchefts circled the bases on an inside-the-park home run.

On August 25, Springfield bounced back to defeat Bemidji, 4-3, in the consolation round. The appropriately named Bemidji catcher, Max Hirt, suffered a broken ankle in the fourth inning and was taken to St. Luke's Hospital. Austin downed Westbrook, 11-3, in the next consolation game.

Edison advanced through the semifinals by defeating Wheaton, 12-8. Frank Rog gave Edison a 6-2 lead with a grand slam in the third inning. Wheaton scored three runs in the top of the seventh before reliever Jerry Cloutier struck out the side to end the game.

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Eveleth again played the night game, this time against Washington. The approximately 1,000 fans in attendance witnessed a pitchers' duel between Mayasich and Lyle Lackner. Washington scored single runs in the first and third innings to win, 2-0. Mayasich allowed five hits with six strikeouts. Lackner threw a four-hit shutout with 11 strikeouts.

In the third and final day's action on August 26, Austin captured the consolation championship with a 3-2 win against Springfield, and Cy Weiser tossed a one-hit shutout in the third-place game as Wheaton beat Eveleth, 2-0. Voce allowed just five hits in taking the loss. Matchefts singled in the third inning for Eveleth's lone hit.

The state championship game, a nine-inning affair, had more than 1,300 in attendance. Edison beat Washington, 6-3. Winning pitcher Dick Dank tossed all nine innings and had 11 strikeouts compared to just one walk and nine hits allowed. Edison cranked out 11 hits, including two doubles and three triples. The game featured 11 errors.

Among the tournament's participants, Bemidji's Irv St. John became a star athlete at Bemidji State, where he played baseball, basketball (he set BSU's career scoring record) and track. After his service in the Korean War, he became a long-time teacher, athletic director and boys basketball coach at Duluth East High School. His Greyhounds played in five state tournaments and his career coaching record stands at 364-132. A 1979 inductee of the BSU Athletics Hall of Fame, St. John died in 2015.

Edison's Dziejdzic became an influential Minneapolis politician. His service in the Korean War interrupted his baseball career for the Brooklyn Dodgers' farm system (1951-52, 1955). He became a teacher and then a police officer. According to the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, "He served on the Minneapolis City Council for 22 years

and was a Park Board member... for 12 years."

Dziejdzic died in 2018 but his children carry on his legacy. Two are firefighters. His daughter, Kari Dziejdzic, is a Minnesota state senator. His son, Joe Dziejdzic, earned the 1990 Minnesota Mr. Hockey Award as an Edison player. He then played for the Gophers and the Pittsburgh Penguins, and now runs a youth hockey training center in Minneapolis.

On the subject of hockey, Eveleth's 1949 baseball roster is a veritable "Who's Who" of hockey greats. Their accomplishments could fill an entire *Rootprints* newsletter. Coach Malevich (1906-1996), an Eveleth native, also enjoyed a superlative career in athletics (in 1929, he became the first Catholic University football player to earn All-America honorable mention) and community involvement. His life story could also fill pages.

The state tournament marked the peak of Duluth's role in high school baseball. Perhaps the adjustment of the MSHSL baseball season from summer to spring in 1950 dictated the change.

After three years in Duluth, the Region 7 tournament moved to Chisholm in 1950 and Pine City in '51. It settled in Hinckley, which hosted the semifinals and championship games every year from 1952-66, and at least the championship game through 1975, after which the MSHSL split baseball into two classes.

Duluth did not host another Region



Coach John Swain is shown briefing his Duluth Central batters in preparation for the Region 7 tournament Wednesday. From left to right, in the picture, are Ron Behning, pitcher; Stan Henrickson, catcher; Swain; Ted Bartholdi, pitcher; Bill Schadewald, catcher.—(News-Tribune sportshot.)

7 tournament game until 1969, when Central defeated Ely in the semifinals at Wade Stadium. The next regional championship game played in Duluth came in 1976, when Proctor defeated Denfeld in the first Region 7AA title game.

Despite having a paid attendance of 3,757, beating the two previous tournaments at Glencoe (2,287) and Minneapolis (1,060), Duluth did not remain as the site of the state tournament. The 1950 tournament at Detroit Lakes—won by Denfeld—only drew 1,468 fans.

Duluth did get a taste of the state tournament one other time, as two quarterfinals games of the 1978 tournament were played inside Wade's brick walls: In Class AA, Grand Rapids—en route to a state championship—advanced by downing Columbia Heights, and Greenway defeated Perham in Class A action. Both games were broadcasted for the local television audience.

News to note at the St. Louis County Historical Society

• St. Louis County Historical Society presents a new travel opportunity

Join us in the Depot's Great Hall on Tuesday, September 24, to learn about traveling to Washington D.C. through Collette Travel, Inc.

Between April 16 and 21, 2020, you can tour the U.S. Capitol Building, World War II Memorial, Smithsonian Institution, Arlington National Cemetery, Washington National Cathedral and other must-see attractions. You'll also enjoy candlelight dinner and international cuisine from local restaurants.

These travel packages include meals, hotels and airfare, and still give you time to also explore Washington D.C. independently. You'll want to attend this presentation to find out how to do all of this for an incredible price.

• Save the date for this year's Remembrance Dinner

We have officially set a date for our Remembrance Dinner, and this year, we have added an afternoon event. On November 15, retired four-star Gen. Richard I. Neal will give an afternoon talk about his career and experiences.

Neal was in the U.S. Marines during the Vietnam War. In 1970, he served as an Infantry Battalion Advisor to the Vietnamese Marine Corps. Throughout his career, he served in various commanding positions.

Neal was ultimately promoted to Deputy Commander in Chief in 1994, and Assistant Commander of the Marine Corps in 1996 — the same year he received his four-star rank. He retired in 1998.

Neal, who wrote the 2017 book, *"What Now, Lieutenant?"* has been awarded several honors, including the The Silver Star Medal with Gold Star, the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, among others. Neal's

experiences in war and throughout his career will move you, and his is a story you don't want to miss.

That night, join us for dinner, where you hear from Neal and Alan Anderson, Ph.D, lawyer and military scholar from the Twin Cities.

This year's dinner theme is appropriately centered on the Medal of Honor, five of which were awarded to Northern Minnesota residents. The event will take place in the Great Hall. Social hour is at 5, dinner at 6 and the program is at 7pm. Call 218-733-7586 to make a reservation.

• Norwegian Parliament Member visits Duluth, learns about ancestry

Per Olaf Lundteigen, a member of the Norwegian Parliament, spent his Fourth of July celebrating America's Independence Day. Lundteigen came to town to learn about his great-grandfather, who lived and worked in the Twin Ports area. Lundteigen lives in Buskerud County, Norway, and first ran for Parliament in 1993. He is a member of the Centre Party.

Lundteigen told the *Duluth News Tribune* that his great-grandfather came to America in 1882, and lived in the Twin Ports area from 1885 to 1902. He first worked as a lumberjack and later in area sawmills.

Kathleen Cargill, member of the Twin Ports Geological Society, spent the months ahead of Lundteigen's trip helping him research his area roots. At a Fourth of July lunch at JJ Astor, SLCHS Board Member Neill Atkins presented Lundteigen with that research and a gift bag from the Historical Society.

On his trip, Lundteigen met a 91-year-old distant relative who lives on Park Point. He also visited a building in modern-day Lincoln Park that was once a boarding house for lumber jacks, and of course, took in the Fourth of July

celebration and fireworks.

Lundteigen told the newspaper he also wanted to get a feel for American politics. He said Norwegian politicians closely follow issues such as the United States' relationship with China, as well as the divide between America's Democrat and Republican parties.

Veterans Memorial Hall receives donation

In early April, Rotary of Cloquet donated \$3,000 to St. Louis County Historical Society's Veterans Memorial Hall. Julie Rothmeier, president of Strategic Wealth Partners of Cloquet, presented the check to John Marshall (pictured left) and John Werner (middle), as well as members of the Veterans Memorial Hall Advisory Committee. Funds will be used for general operations.



Something for the kids, and educational to boot

By **Tammy Bain and Rachel McNeil**
Administrative Assistant

W e all know the children who run down the Depot's halls are excited for the Train Museum. The St. Louis County Historical Society's history museum offers some interactive and fun opportunities -- specifically inside the Storyteller's Corner at the Ojibwe Gallery, and at Eli's Farm.

Storyteller's Corner, inside the Ojibwe Gallery

Since re-opening in the spring of 2018, the Lake Superior Ojibwe Gallery has served as an excellent source of information on the rich history and culture of Lake Superior's Ojibwe population, both past and present.

In addition to various text panels and artifacts, the Lake Superior Ojibwe Gallery features a small nook known as the "Storyteller's Corner." Here, visitors — especially children and families — are encouraged to explore a life-sized replica of a museum-safe wigwam. This was a traditional type of dwelling that Ojibwe people once inhabited, and was made of birch bark.

In the wigwam are various interactive elements geared towards children, including three small faceless dolls in wooden cradleboards, as well as toy-sized birch bark canoes and pieces of authentic birch bark.

The Storyteller's Corner also includes several children's books pertaining to Ojibwe history, culture, and traditional stories. The space serves to introduce children to the vast importance of storytelling in the Ojibwe culture. Stories can be told upon request by gallery docents and special guests.

But the Ojibwe Gallery isn't just for children. Informative text, cultural artifacts and supplemental learning guides allow visitors of all ages to immerse themselves in the exhibit. Here, they gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for the Ojibwe people who call St. Louis County home.

Eli's Farm

Eli's Farm is an adorable way to watch kids simulate their own farm experience. It is based on Eli Wirtanen, who like so many of those who settled here was born in 1870 in Finland.

During the 19th Century, Finland's population more than doubled. Many Finnish people were losing land, and the population surge meant a stark possibility of even more land shortage, food shortage, and material shortage. As the Russian empire placed restrictive policies on Finnish people, many sought other places to live, including the United States.

Wirtanen first settled in Canada to live with his brother, David. When David died, Wirtanen moved to the United States and in 1904, began homesteading 40 acres of land in Markham, Minnesota, just north of Duluth. Thus began the very real "Eli's Farm."

During the 20th Century, Minnesota had the second-largest population of Finnish immigrants in the United States. Within Minnesota, St. Louis County had the largest population of people and out of all of Minnesota, Duluth had the most Finnish immigrants who were born in Finland. Between 1900 and 1910, more than 2,000 Finnish immigrants moved here.

Wirtanen worked as a logger, which meant he had almost everything he needed to live off his own land — including the wood to build his home. Never marrying or having kids, Wirtanen did not have the further complications that come with more mouths to feed. It was not uncommon to be an unmarried Finnish immigrant. At the turn of the 19th Century, for every four males living on the Mesabi Range, there was just one female.

In the museum's version of Eli's Farm, children will see a photo of Wirtanen and see how tall he stood — which is just why he was known as a "little" old man. Another replica that children will find at the museum's version of Eli's Farm is a sauna. Like other Finnish immigrants and pioneers, Wirtanen kept a sense of craftsmanship and culture. A sauna was an important part of Finnish life.

By 1905, three quarters of Finnish immigrants in Minnesota lived in

Northeastern Minnesota, and most who lived in rural areas lived on farmsteads near each other. Wirtanen lived near the Pekkarinen family, who employed him.

In the mid-1950s, Wirtanen grew ill, and moved in with the Pekkarinens who took care of him. At age 87 in 1957, Wirtanen died.

The Pekkarinens first inherited Eli's Farm. Hoping to keep it preserved, Gladys Pekkarinen sold the property for \$3,000 to the St. Louis County Historical Society in 1974.

However, as the years went on and the farm's structures fell apart, the Historical Society could not afford to maintain the homestead. In 2000, Eli's Farm went up for sale again. Gladys wanted to buy back the property, but no one person could afford the cost.

The "Friends of Wirtanen Farm," a group of people with one goal in mind, purchased Eli's Farm in 2000. Today you can tour the real farm for free. The farm is also home to festivals, celebrations and other gatherings.



Eli Wirtanen was known as a little old man, and his exact height can be seen in this photo taken at the St. Louis County Historical Society's history museum.

LUNCH WITH THE HISTORY PEOPLE NEWS

by **Julie Bolos**,
Manager of Administrative Services

Pam Brunfelt is well-known on the Iron Range. Her

presentations rivet listeners. She engages the audience with passion and knowledge. Pam has presented for our “Lunch with the History People” program three times, and I was excited to hear her fourth presentation entitled, *At the Center of It All: Women on the Iron Range*.

Regardless of your personal views, Pam broadens your perspective of life and the labor industry on the Iron Range. Men have always been a known part of the mining, labor and

politics, so their place in history is well-documented. Occasionally, a story of an Iron Range woman has been told in a movie or a publication, but primarily the influence of the women has not

been fully recognized.

In her lecture, Pam explained the critical function of women and their contributions to establishing the Iron Range.

According to Pam, “All

of the stories are vitally important, but so is the pivotal role that women played in developing the Iron Range -- in supporting their husbands and sons as they struck their workplaces in a vain attempt to win economic justice, and in creating the

rich, cultural life that all Iron Rangers treasure.”

The public is invited to attend Pam’s talk and our other upcoming 2019 presentations!

- September 19, 2019, Tim Cochrane: *Gichi Bitobig, Grand Marais: Early Accounts of the Anishinaabeg and the North Shore Fur Trade*
- October 17, 2019, Anthony Lueck: *The State Line along the St. Louis River*

Lectures are held from noon to 1 pm at The Depot in Duluth. Ask the service desk where to go, as renovations are currently being completed. The event is free and open to the public, but seating is limited to first-come, first-served.

Watch for detailed posts on our website at www.thehistorypeople.org and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/stlouiscountyhistoricalsociety/.



Photo provided by Pam Brunfelt.

Cook exhibit extended its stay a little longer

By **Tammy Bain**
Administrative Assistant

Visitors at the Depot had a little more time to take in Duluth scenes depicted in John Michael Cook’s artwork this summer.

Cook’s exhibit, *Effete du Lac (Lake Effect)*, stayed on display in the Great Hall through the end of July. In more than 70 large-scale paintings, Cook depicted life on the shores of Lake Superior and in the town of Duluth. He shows Duluth life through images of seagulls, lighthouses, ships, the harbor,

Duluth’s sky scene and other scenes, from everyday life to local businesses.

Many of Cook’s paintings, such as “*Oh, Duluth*” and “*Three Guiding Lights*,” depict life in Duluth and on Lake Superior through bright color. He also displays images such as “*The Band Plays On*,” and “*East End Rain*.”

Other paintings by Cook, such as “*Central Clock Tower*” and “*Headwind*” paint these scenes in black-and-white ink.

Cook, a Hibbing-area resident, has said he wants his artwork to show the “wonder” people feel when they

experience Duluth.

“When French Voyageurs came to Lake Superior they spoke of how living near and on the waters of the great shimmering silver wonder affected their very soul, changed how they lived in this world. They called it Effete du Lac,” he has said.

Cook’s blog lists his experiences working with movies and special effects, as well as with Disney and Muppets. However, he calls painting his “first passion.”

Prohibition in Lakeside lasts well into 21st century

By Rachel McNeil
Museum Assistant

Given Duluth's modern reputation as a hub of local craft breweries and pub-like restaurants, it is hard to believe that until as recently as three years ago one of the city's most well-known neighborhoods had yet to embrace the liquor boom to any degree. The Lakeside neighborhood, in fact, went nearly 125 years without producing or selling a single drop of alcohol.

While seemingly outdated, Lakeside's unique status as Duluth's last dry neighborhood was actually endorsed by the Lakeside community members for more than a century. Many credited local legend, Myrtle Marshall, for spearheading the movement to uphold the traditional morals and values of the east end neighborhood.

Originally known as the Village of Lakeside, the neighborhood was initially a community of primarily wealthy English and German Protestants, who migrated to the area in hopes of capitalizing on Duluth's economic success in the late 1800s. By settling east of the city, wealthy residents hoped to maintain their distance from the unskilled immigrants who flocked to the region for job opportunities in the shipping and manufacturing industries.

By 1889, Lakeside was annexed by Duluth, leading to feelings of unease amongst community members who feared that becoming a part of the city would mean that they would fall into the same moral disarray as other parts of town – some of which at the time were likened to red light districts, or neighborhoods known for brothels, strip clubs and other immoral

businesses.

To maintain their moral high ground, in 1891 Lakeside community members demanded the implementation of laws that prohibited the production and sale of all liquor in their neighborhood.

They eventually pushed for the entire city of Duluth to adopt similar prohibition laws by 1916, nearly four years before prohibition laws were implemented nationwide.

Although the prohibition of liquor may seem to be rather antiquated - especially in a city like Duluth where the production and sale of liquor

has become such a celebrated and successful market - such laws were considered to be common sense more than a century ago. During this time, liquor was believed to be the root of societal evil.

For this reason, the majority of Lakeside residents continued to support the liquor ban well after prohibition was repealed.

Myrtle Marshall, a highly respected and engaged Lakeside resident, is often credited with spearheading the movement to maintain prohibition in the Lakeside neighborhood in the 1970s, when many remaining prohibition laws were being repealed in Duluth. The daughter of Marshall Hardware store owner Lyman Marshall, Myrtle garnered the praise and respect of the community through her active engagement with countless local organizations and passion projects, even earning the title

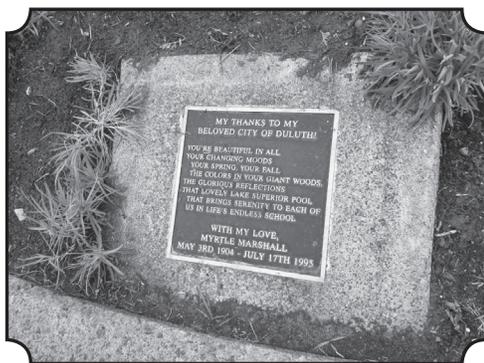
of Duluth's Woman of the Year in 1963. In 1973 Marshall argued before the City Council that the prohibition laws were "a sacred trust that should not be violated," she ultimately convinced the City Council that upholding the ban would be in the best interest of the Lakeside community. Marshall's outspoken stance on prohibition in Lakeside would remain steadfast amongst community members for the next four decades.

Following the boom of Duluth's liquor industry in the 21st Century, however, the support of the liquor ban in Lakeside began to waver. These laws had become archaic and outdated, especially amongst younger populations. In fact, a 2015 referendum to lift the ban showed that 53% of Lakeside residents and 67% of Duluth residents were in favor of doing away with the ban. This ultimately led local Senator Roger Reinert to finally push for a repeal of the ban in 2016.

With the ban no longer in place, many Lakeside restaurants and businesses have since capitalized on the booming liquor industry in Duluth. However,

some restrictions remain in place: The neighborhood is only zoned for residential use, and any establishments producing or selling liquor must be at least 400 feet from any churches

or schools. While some community members worry that the presence of liquor in the neighborhood may be detrimental, many believe that the restrictions will help Lakeside maintain the strong sense of character and morals that people like Marshall fought to uphold, while still allowing the neighborhood to evolve and grow into the 21st Century.



Courtesy St. Louis County Historical Society Archives



Courtesy Marshall Hardware

NEWS FROM OUR AFFILIATES

Summer is winding down, but our affiliate museum hours of operation are in full swing. Be sure to stop by and check out our member museums during their summer hours.

Ely-Winston Historical Society

Through August, the Ely-Winston Historical Society's museum will be open on Saturdays in addition to its usual Tuesday-Friday schedule. The museum is open from noon to 4 p.m.

On June 11, EWHS held its annual meeting. Pam Brunfelt presented her program, *Visions and Realities*, about what it means to be an Iron Ranger. Brunfelt, a historian who taught at Vermilion Community College in Ely until this year, explored the history of the people on the Iron Range through different themes: continuity and change, extraction and exploitation, distrust, hope, foresight and loyalty.

Brunfelt's research focus has been Minnesota's Iron Ranges — with special emphases on the Cuyuna Iron Range — and on political history. She's also researched the Great Depression and how The New Deal affected Minnesota.

The Ely-Winston Historical Society is also excited to host a visiting professor from Slovenia named Matjaj Klemencic, who has been doing research at the museum for his book about Slovenians in Ely. The EWHS hopes to see the book published by the end of the year.

Hibbing Historical Society & Museum

Hibbing Historical Society's hours are the same year-round: Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

In May, the Hull Rust Mine View opened, and will stay open daily through September, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. It offers a view of one of the



Courtesy of Hibbing Historical Society



world's largest open pit mines, more than 8 miles long and 3 miles wide. Children may climb on equipment in a nearby park.

Hibbing had a very successful Third Annual Burger Bash on June 13, at Palmer's Tavern. The northern Minnesota weather was perfect, and at a venue where people could either go inside or outside, most people stayed outside.

Hibbing will celebrate its 126th birthday on August 27, on the front lawn of Hibbing City Hall. The celebration will feature cake, punch and two new inductees into the Hall of Service.

Sisu Heritage, Inc.

The Nelimark Homestead Museum is now open Thursday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through the end of September.

National Sauna Day was celebrated on June 8, with food, games, demonstrations, and traveling saunas

on display. Sisu also celebrated Whirled Muse in Concert on June 2, at the Embarrass Finnish Apostolic Lutheran Church that Sisu Heritage, Inc. acquired two years ago.

On September 8, Sisu will celebrate its Community Night Out from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. The event will feature live music, food and community. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets for seating.

Tower-Soudan Historical Society

The Tower-Soudan Historical Society's museum officially opened for the season over Memorial Day weekend, and will be open seven days a week, 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., and 6 p.m.



Courtesy Tower-Soudan Historical Society

on Fridays through Labor Day. While in town, visitors can tour attractions like the depot and trains.

The Society also began its restoration of its historic fire hall, which is the oldest building north of Duluth. The Fire Hall, located at 504 Main Street in Tower, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The total project cost is expected at about \$550,000.

So far the TSHS has stripped down windows and doors and repainted them. Crews are now working on the back area of the fire hall. The TSHS plans to apply for a grant that would

NEWS FROM OUR AFFILIATES

help with masonry.

While the TSHS has landed many grant funds, community support is a requirement of those requests. After the restoration project is complete, the TSHS plans to open the fire hall for community events, and display the 1891 horse-drawn Ahrens steam pumper *James Tippet* and other historical memorabilia. If you'd like to donate, either as a one-time donor or to make a multi-year pledge, contact Linda Folstad, at tshssecretary@gmail.com; or call 218-753-5021.

Tours of the Soudan Underground Mine, part of the Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park, opened for the season over Memorial Day weekend. New this summer is a Walking Drift Tour offered on Wednesday mornings, which focuses on the geology of the mine, as well as the tools and methods used in mineral exploration, according to the *Hometown Focus* website.

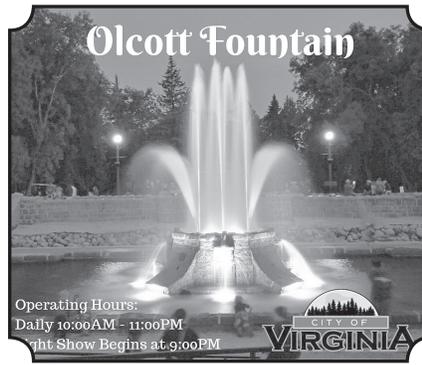
Also new this summer is *Secrets of the Deep: Science Tour*. One-half of the daily tour explains a physics lab's studies at the mine, which focused on neutrinos and dark matter that concluded two years ago. The second half of the tour focuses on current research at the lab, such as how scientists can use microbes found in the water to clean water, create energy and fight white noise syndrome, according to *Hometown Focus*. White noise syndrome is a fungus known to affect the bat population.

The new tours join the park's daily historic mine tour through September and on weekends in October.

Virginia Area Historical Society

As of May 1, Virginia Area Historical Society's Heritage Museum is open from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m., Wednesday to Saturday, through September 30.

On June 13, VAHS celebrated the



Courtesy of the City of Virginia

dedication of the restored Olcott Park Fountain. The museum stayed open late for the event, and the first 50 children who visited the museum and Olcott Park Greenhouse received a prize. The event featured live performances, presentations and food vendors.

The Fountain offers a beautiful water feature, and offers a light show. It is open and operating from 10 a.m. until 11 p.m., daily. The light show begins at 9 p.m.

The Society is also looking forward to a new railroad exhibit, which will include historic artifacts from logging and mining.

Minnesota Museum of Mining

As of Memorial Day, the Minnesota Museum of Mining is open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Saturday, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays, through Mid-September.

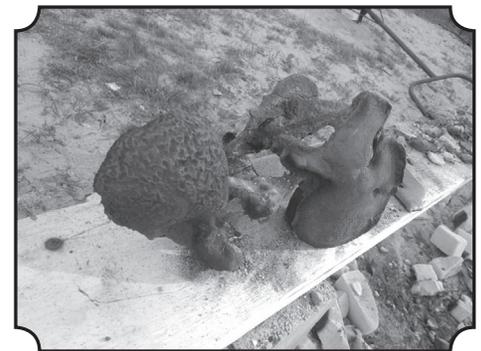
On June 7 and 8, the museum, located in Chisolm, hosted its Annual Iron Pour. The event was hosted in conjunction with Igneous Metal Arts, and the MacRostie Art Center in Grand Rapids. At the event, old cast-iron radiators are melted in a coke-fired blast furnace. The melted down cast irons were then poured into different

molds (see photo).

Athena LaTocha, an artist in residence, did some free pouring, in which she poured the melted-down cast iron directly into the sand instead of molds. Her creations were on display at the MacRostie Art Center through the end of July, in an exhibit called, *Mesabi*.

The museum also hosted a "camporall" May 17-19, which brought less-than-pleasant weather, but about 800 paying Boy Scouts.

As summer continues, the museum looks forward to its Relay for Life event, on September 7 from 6 p.m. until midnight; and Kiwanis Kids Day, September 12 from 4 until 7 p.m.



Courtesy of Minnesota Museum of Mining



Harårbete A Study of Table-made Hairwork Jewelry – A Call for Information

By Karen Keenan,

Scandinavian Folk Arts & Culture in the Upper Midwest Fellow with the American Scandinavian Foundation

This may be a familiar experience. While looking at family archives, something catches the eye. Perhaps it is a hand-written letter from a grandmother or grandfather, a black and white picture of family from the “old country,” a book, or some other object. The mind, heart, or both is drawn to a particular item. A sense of curiosity emerges and questions surface. What is this? Where did it come from? Who kept this and why? Curiosity builds and a new experience into history begins.

My journey began when Mother moved from her much-beloved house to an assisted living community. Our family packed and sorted the contents of her house when an item drew my attention - an unread translated book from Swedish to English entitled, *A Journey to England*, by Edith Unnerstad (1961). I learned how skilled women from my grandfather’s home traveled from Våmhus, a village in the Province of Dalarna, Sweden, to London, to make and sell human hair jewelry created on a table loom. This form of jewelry was popular during the Victorian Era in Scandinavia and Europe.

While I found this story interesting, I did not follow curiosity’s path any further until a year ago, when I came across a reference to Unnerstad’s book in a typed note from an aunt. In it, she explained why Unnerstad’s book was given to us in the mid-1960s by Grandfather’s sister, in hopes that one of the family’s American descendents might be interested in learning the art of making jewelry from human hair. I was amazed. I found pictures of relatives who had been hairworkers. I ordered Unnerstad’s *A Journey with Grandmother* (1961). I was hooked. I wanted to learn about what my ancestors experienced as hairworkers who traveled to Europe and Russia to make hairwork jewelry

for clients, including Queen Victoria, and I wanted to learn to make hair jewelry.

Thanks to a fellowship from the Folk Arts in the Midwest Program of the American Scandinavian Foundation in New York, I traveled to Våmhus in November 2018 to apprentice with Johanna Svensson, a master hairworker. For more than two weeks I learned the art of making this jewelry and its origins. While hairwork fell out of favor in the early 1900s, the hairworkers of Våmhus have kept this almost extinct folk art alive for

over 200 years. Today this village is known for the handwork traditions of basket making, weaving, and harårbete (hairwork).

While in Våmhus my instructor asked: “Of the hundreds of women who immigrated to the United States from Våmhus and knew the art of making hair jewelry, did they continue to do so in America?” Since the answer might reside in the collections and stories of those who saved these items in their family or group archives, I searched locally first.

At the St. Louis County Historical Society I shared the context of my study and asked about hairworkers in the Arrowhead Region from Scandinavia, especially the Province of Dalarna in Sweden. The staff suggested that I write this article for *Rootprints*, to seek participation from the Society’s members to inform my research question.

The picture of my mother’s brooch made in Våmhus is an example of table-made hair jewelry. She wore this brooch with her Våmhus traditional dress. It is typical of jewelry made in Våmhus to not contain any metal ornaments or findings. The village artisans could not afford silver or gold findings. The lower portion of the brooch has three free-moving pieces made by wrapping hair around hand-made wooden beads. If someone reading this article has a jewelry artifact with such beads, it may be a piece made by hairworkers from this village.

Many immigrants from Sweden settled in

the Midwest, and in Minnesota specifically. There may be many examples of hairwork jewelry in collections across the Arrowhead Region. I am seeking the public’s help to inform the question: Of the hundreds of women who immigrated to the United States from Scandinavia (Våmhus, Dalarna, in particular) and knew the art of making hair jewelry, did they continue to do so in America?

Whether or not these items are ornamented with metal or wooden beads, if you have this type of jewelry in your family or group (museum, history or cultural center, or other entity) archives, are you willing to participate in this study? If so, please send pictures of and any stories about this item or items, along with a description of it (length, color, type-earrings, necklace, armband, watch fob, etc.).

If you have or know about hairwork jewelry (earrings, watch chains, necklaces, armbands, brooches, etc.), and would like to participate in this project, please respond to these questions:

1. Describe the dimensions, color, condition, and, if possible, send a picture (digital or otherwise) of the item/s.
2. Who made the jewelry? Note: the woman’s family names may be helpful.
3. What is the story you know about this jewelry?
4. What area of Scandinavia (country, region or province, city or village) were your relatives from?

Please send information to Karen Keenan at 1343 Brainerd Avenue, Duluth, 55911 or lakewoodhairwork@gmail.com.

The goal of this research is a publication about immigrant hairworkers of mid-west America. Your contribution will be acknowledged in the publication. The final outcome will be shared with hairworkers in Våmhus, Sweden.

Interested to know more about hairwork?

On Sunday, October 6 from 2-3pm at Duluth’s Nordic Center (23 N. Lake Avenue), I will talk about Table-made Hairwork. The public is welcome to attend.

On Thursdays, October 10, 17, 24 and 31, there will be a series of classes in making hair jewelry at the Nordic Center for five individuals. Watch for registration information on Facebook or <https://www.nordiccenterduluth.org>.



Great Grandmother Karin Martis (L) with finished items and the braiding table with bobbins.

Remembering the history and future of vision loss advocacy

By **Tammy Bain**

Administrative Assistant

A summer exhibit in the Great Hall of the Depot celebrated the Lighthouse Center for Vision Loss' 100th anniversary, and the services it continues to offer.

The Lighthouse Center for Vision Loss — known commonly as the Lighthouse for the Blind — shared its exhibit's story, timeline and successes through the end of July.

They kicked off the exhibit with a reception in the Great Hall on June 27. Leaders with the Lighthouse honored the St. Louis County Historical Society and its Curator, Charley Langowski, for the help staff and interns offered in installing the exhibit.

The Duluth Lighthouse for the Blind was established in 1919 as a workshop and social center for people with vision loss. While the primary goal was once

to help people with vision loss find jobs, some raised concerns that the jobs did not allow them to reach their full potential. In part because of this, social services and rehabilitation efforts were developed in the 1960s and 1970s, according to the exhibit's text offered by the Lighthouse Center for Vision Loss.

The Lighthouse once offered people a small salary for working in its workshop. Production stopped in 1999, but the Lighthouse's services have widened, and goals have changed based on the views of what people with vision loss can and should achieve in society.

The exhibit celebrates its earliest pioneers and success stories. Bertha Hanford served as the Lighthouse for the Blind's first executive director. Hanford herself became blind from glaucoma, yet went on to study at University of Minnesota Duluth. Her friends and father read her high school lessons to her, and in 1914, she began working

as the State and County Agent for a state agency created by the Minnesota Legislature.

Hanford taught typing at a local library and basket weaving at the YMCA before she became executive secretary for Lighthouse for the Blind. She also established a broom factory in Chisholm for men who had become blinded by mining accidents.

Though Hanford left the Lighthouse in 1920, she continued to work for a state agency, and met Hellen Keller through her work. The second executive director, Robert Pistel, seriously focused on rehabilitation and social services.

Other notable names include Clinton Russell, "an excellent golf player — who happened to be blind. In 1938 and 1941, Russell is credited with winning high-profile golf tournaments and donating proceeds to the Lighthouse.

History in a Pint

Since January 2018, there have been eight History in a Pint lecture programs at Carmody Irish Pub and Brewing. This is a lecture series hosted by St. Louis County Historical Society and its Veterans Memorial Hall program. The purpose of this program is to pursue the Society's mission of the collection, preservation and education of history of St. Louis County.

The series introduces a guest speaker (a veteran or a veteran's loved one, scholar or historian) to talk about a historical event or figure from, or affecting, the Northeast Minnesota veteran community and/or St. Louis County area. As the title suggests the site of the lecture is always a fine local establishment that serves adult beverages and soft drinks.

The 2019 History in a Pint season got off to a great start with, "Saving Pilot Bush," Navy EM Marvin Zeman's story from the USS *Finback* submarine and

their historic rescue of aviator George H. W. Bush. Next we heard USMC Bob Johnson speak about his harrowing and chilling (literally and figuratively) experiences in the Korean War as a member of the "Frozen Chosin" or "Chosin Few," as they were referred to after the war.

In July, we heard from:

- Official Naval photographer Pat Shaw. He documented the historic recoveries of Apollo 11 & 12 from his ship the aircraft carrier *USS Hornet*. This is the next "History in a Pint" presentation is slated for July 23rd at 5:30p at Carmody Irish Pub & Brewing; the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing.

Other possible topics to be presented this year include A Duluthian who's great (X) grandfather rowed the boat across the Delaware with Washington.

All times and dates are to be

determined, but are typically on the third Tuesday of each alternating month. "History in a Pint" was first introduced in 2012 with its initial speaker, long-time Duluthian Joe Gomer, one of the famed Tuskegee Airmen. Since then, dozens of topics have been covered. As a side light, the Society is currently working on a Joe Gomer memorial and educational project that is currently addressing fundraising measures.

The History in a Pint program is loosely based on the MPR recurring series "Policy in a Pint".

For more information, contact Jay Hagen, 218-733-7500, or jay@thehistorypeople.org.

VETERANS MEMORIAL HALL NEWS

Maybe it's time to share your story

By **Pippi Mayfield**

Veterans Memorial Hall Assistant

The Veterans Memorial Hall Oral History Program began years ago as a quest to gather St. Louis County veterans' stories. Staff and volunteers of the Veterans Memorial Hall have worked diligently to record and transcribe those stories to keep them for generations to come.

Veterans have agreed to share their stories for a variety of reasons – to leave a legacy, leave the story for their children or to help with research purposes. The men and women of the military have powerful, funny, humbling, amazing stories to tell, and we welcome them all.

Below are two excerpts from oral histories that have been recorded and are now in our Albert J. Amatuzio Research Center.

David Kern has a unique story: He was a part of the Army ski team in Alaska, in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Dan Hartman, former Veterans Memorial Hall Program Director and Recruitment Director of Glensheen Mansion: *So, basic is over. Where did they send you right after that?*

David Kern: *Right after basic, I came home for two weeks and then I went up to Anchorage, Alaska, which is the training base at Fort Richardson for the U.S. Biathlon Team. I was Department of Army Sports, detached through the U.S. Biathlon Team, which is part of USARAL Alaska.*

Dan Hartman: *So I'm going to ask the obvious question here: Why is it important for the military to have a sports team? What was the purpose of it?*

David Kern: *Back then, the military supported several sports. I know they had their own basketball teams that would go around and play people. I know they had baseball teams, they had bands, they had... a pentathlon team... those types of sports were all supported by the military.*

Dan Hartman: *And what do you think the purpose of that was?*

David Kern: *Competition, representation... It's something that they had done for years, and so they continued it.*

In the second excerpt, veteran Julien Berntson talks about receiving news that he was going home from Malaybalay in 1945, where he was serving in the Army after being drafted in World War II.

Pippi Mayfield: *So tell me about when you found out you were coming home, then. Were you...? I'm assuming you were pretty happy to hear you were coming home.*

Julien Berntson: *Oh, everybody was happy. We came home as a unit. We got on a boat; the Barnett was the name of it. It was an attack transport. We waited from August until about the first of December for this darn boat. There was always a boat coming, you know. But finally it came. It was a fairly new boat. We got in there, climbed on board. I had a cot; it was in kind of the bow of the ship. That's alright. We didn't care what it was like; it was heading the right direction. [laughs]*

Coming home, we left there about the first of December and we got into San Francisco on the 17th of December. The Pacific was pretty rough. We ate standing up, kind of cafeteria style. And you had to hang onto your tray because if you didn't, it might slide because the boat would rock. But that was alright – we didn't care. Heading in the right direction.

We got into San Francisco and everything was jammed up. We stayed on the boat a couple days before we could get off. The boat finally went up the river... What is it, the Sacramento River that goes up there? [San Joaquin River] – up to Camp Stoneman, I believe, or something like that. We got off that darn boat. I think we got some different clothes, too, at the time. But then we got on a train; it was a troop train. We had wheels on the train and it moved right along. Up the Feather River Canyon... Of course, we left in the evening, so it was dark and we didn't see anything. We got up on top of the mountains... We went through their regular route. Christmas day I think we spent traveling in Nebraska. Got into Camp McCoy (Wisconsin). I got discharged on the 27th.

To any veterans willing to share their stories: Please contact the Historical Society at 218-733-7500. To read the rest of David Kern, Julien Berntson and other veterans' stories, visit vets-hall.org. Click on "Submit/Research History" at the top of the page, and then on that page click on "Begin Your Story Submission and Research Here."

VETERANS MEMORIAL HALL NEWS

USS *Duluth* Bell on display in VMH

By **Tammy Bain**
Administrative Assistant

The bell that served on the USS *Duluth* arrived to Veterans Memorial Hall in June, and just in time for the USS *Duluth*'s Crewmembers' reunion.

The bell is often and appropriately called "The Ship's Bell." It served on USS *Duluth* LPD-6, which was in service from 1965-2005.

On June 15, JoAnne Coombe, Executive Director of the St. Louis County Historical Society, was on hand as crewmembers of the USS *Duluth*

unveiled the bell in VMH during their reunion. The USS *Duluth* was named for the city.

The bell remains on display in Veterans Memorial Hall, on loan to the Historical Society from the Naval History and Heritage Command Center. The conservation of the bell was completed by the Midwest Art Conservation Center, and funded by the **Duluth Depot Foundation**.

The bell symbolizes the ship and its crew, its history, heritage and accomplishments — most notably *Operation Frequent Wind*, the final phase of the evacuation at the end of the Vietnam

War. Bells have a long history both in naval and merchant fleets. They have been used to signal, keep time and sound alarms.

Children of crewmembers are often baptized inside a Navy ship's bell that was turned upside down. The tradition dates back to the British Royal Navy. Some names of children who were baptized inside the USS *Duluth*'s bell remain engraved there today.

The USS *Duluth* Reunion also consisted of a flag-raising at City Hall using a flag that served on the ship.

The ship's anchor can also be found along the Duluth Lakewalk.

Hopeful, nostalgic and new

This summer the St. Louis County Historical Society welcomed its newest intern, Kaci Warneke.

Originally from Ramsey, Minnesota, Warneke is entering her senior year at University of Minnesota Duluth. She is an anthropology major and biology minor, and is currently completing a museum studies certificate as well.

She began interning for the Society in June, and has spent her time cataloging paintings and Veterans Memorial Hall archives.

Warneke first met the Society's Curator Charley Langowski while interviewing her for a class. Langowski mentioned that the internship application was open, "so I applied," Warneke said.

Now, working with Langowski is Warneke's favorite part about her

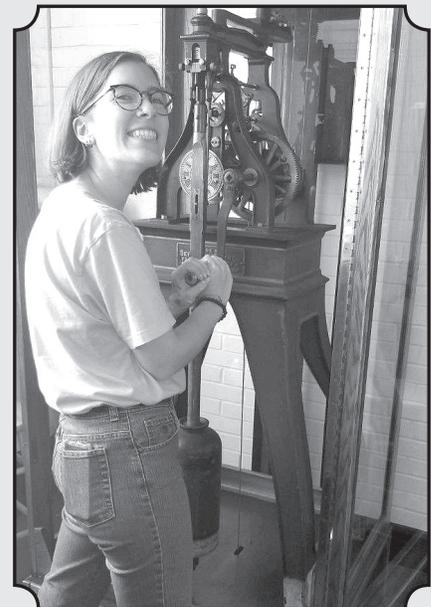
position.

"I enjoy working with Charley and Hailey," Warneke said about Langowski and Hailey Eidschink, Collections Assistant. "I feel like they're very knowledgeable, and I feel like I'm learning a lot."

Warneke said she also enjoys the museum atmosphere. When she's not working at the Society, Warneke can be found both at home and outdoors.

"I have many, many houseplants, and I enjoy taking care of them," she said.

Warneke also enjoys painting and hiking, the latter of which may help her in her future plans. After college, she hopes to join the Conservation Corps, a program within AmeriCorps.



Kaci Warneke



A publication of the



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