



# Two Harbors Iron Port



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE  
LAKE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NOT QUITE READY FOR VALHALLA

BY MEL SANDO

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For a few of you this story may be a walk down memory lane, but in the interest of all our members please allow me to start at the beginning. I apologize for any inaccuracies in this story, our records have gaps in the timeline.



Reuben Hill with the Crusader II prior to its restoration

Resting along the shore of Agate Bay sits a lonely boat named the Crusader II. With its bow pointed toward its home port of Knife River the Crusader II is one of the few artifacts that remain as a testament to the once vibrant commercial fishing village on the shores of Agate Bay. It was built in 1939 by Reuben and Helmer Hill for Carl Erickson and christened in Knife River by the reigning Crown Prince of Norway during his visit to the North Shore. Although in need of some fresh paint the Crusader II still wears the coat of arms of the royal family of Norway.

The Hill family had a long history of master boat building on the North Shore. Reuben, who worked as a carpenter for the Duluth Missabe & Iron Range Railroad, learned boat building from his father Charles. With his

Great Lakes.

family, Reuben continued to build quality craft by hand late into the 20th century. The 35-foot fishing boat is an excellent example of the herring tugs that worked these waters for decades. Its deep V hull and heavy teak and oak construction made it a very stable craft in rough weather. The enclosed design allowed fishermen to fish well into the winter until the lake froze over. The design of two large side doors allowed fishermen to bring nets in, remove the catch, and reset set the nets in a continuous effort. Commercial fishing was a large part of the North Shore economy until the invasion of the sea lamprey nearly destroyed the fish populations on the

In August of 1983 the boats last owner donated the Crusader II to the Two Harbors Area Development Corporation for use as a tourist attraction. Upon accepting the donation the THADC would assume responsibility for the boat storage in the Knife River Marina. This came to \$200.00 per year and prompted the THADC to offer the Crusader II to the Lake County Historical Society in 1985. On April 9<sup>th</sup> 1987 the Society accepted the donation and began plans to move the vessel from Knife River to Two Harbors.

Just getting it into the historic waterfront district of Two Harbors was a challenge as the DM&IR underpass on Hwy 61 was too low. Eventually the

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Society would get the Crusader II next to the Depot by bringing it through the railroad yards. The Crusader II would sit next to the Depot as discussions took place about how best to proceed with the restoration. The Sons of Norway recognizing the historic significance of the ship that was christened by a Norwegian Monarch solicited bids to restore the ship as it sat near the Depot. In 1987 a bid was awarded to Charlotte Fisketti to restore the ship for \$2600. A final display location had yet to be secured.

It is important to remember at this time the Society owned no property, and only had recently secured a five year lease to open the Light Station as a museum. There must have been a lot of discussion for the Society has plans in our archives that feature parking lots and access roads to the light station engineered by the Lake County Highway Department. Included is a letter from the State Historic Preservation Officer encouraging the Society to locate the Crusader II in a location that would not detract from the views of the Light Station which had been placed on the National Historic Register in 1981. To the best of my knowledge, it appears that the plans to relocate the boat on light house point were delayed while the DNR completed renovation of the public boat launch.



Coat of Arms  
Crown of Norway

In 1989 the Commercial State Bank of Two Harbors (now the Lake Bank) was celebrating its centennial. In honor of its one hundredth year the bank chose to donate \$5000.00 to the Society for the relocation and further restoration of the Crusader II on Light-house Point. Finally in May of 1990 a small plot of land outside the Light Station known as the Falk Lease Land was secured for the Crusader II display. The boat was relocated late in 1990(?) and some further restoration work was completed by Larry Ronning and Ray Widen. Finally on Sunday July 14<sup>th</sup> 1991 a rededication ceremony was held for the Crusader II on Light House Point. The celebration featured presentations delivered by the past International Director of the Sons of Norway, historians, and also included a tree planting of the Norway pine that stands next to the display.

Twenty three years later the Crusader II is in need of some major restoration work. The boat

needs to have the frame work around the side hatches, the forward windows and window frames rebuilt. These repairs will only have a lasting value if we can also build a canopy over the boat like the 3 Spot and Mallet displays. A lot of people put a great deal of time and money into getting the Crusader II on display in Agate Bay. The Society needs to honor and continue that effort.

However, in order for the Society to move forward with any future restoration work we must first secure access to the property the ship occupies. In 2013 the City of Two Harbors acquired the land formerly known as the Falk Lease land. It is the hope of the Society that a partnership agreement can be worked out with the City to guarantee access to the Crusader II well into the future. The Society has assumed the maintenance of that property since I started working here in 2007.

On a final note the question of the Crusader II's fate has been asked since the threat of further development on the point has been present. One I found interesting was from 2000; the Canal Park Business Association wanted to buy it and turn it into a vending booth selling fried fish in Canal Park. Makes me wonder if Torgy's Fish Shack could be set up in the Crusader II?

## What's new at the Depot Museum

This winter we are going to go through the Depot Museum upgrading and fixing up our current exhibits. When I first started working on exhibits in the winter of 2008 our budgets were limited to 1 to 300 dollars. Over the past few years the lack of money often forced us to use cheap materials and printing options on our exhibits. I am going through and upgrading a few of these items that have not held up very well since the installation.

Thanks to a donation from American Legion Post #109 the newest addition this year will be replacing the old Veterans Room Cabinet with a new case that matches the ones the Family of June Johnson donated and provides better security for the artifacts.

After three winters of working on it I am going to finish the model Logging Railroad this year. The model will be supported with new interpretative panels. In addition I ordered new acrylic case covers for all the models and the Lake County Topographical display that Todd Lindahl and Louise Thureen made a few years ago. I hope to have all this in place for Winter Frolic on February 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

# Projects List and Volunteer Opportunities

## Small scale project list

### Duluth & Iron Range Depot

- Depot Lighting; Continue doing test installations on the LED motion sensor lighting, we have not tested ceiling mounted sensors or revised the ac outlets.
- Depot Windows; This project is in progress, Old World Windows has until August of next year to complete the project in the MNHS Grant timeline.
- Depot interior glass for upstairs; We started replacing glass in the hallway office windows. This really improves the light and restores the building to original décor.
- Depot Exterior;
  - Painting
  - We have repair work to be completed around the freight doors on the north side.
- Wagon and sleigh; We need to finish these exhibits and install the interpretive panel (already designed) in the 3 Spot Display group.
- Museum Upgrades;
  - See story in this issue
- Disaster plan; LCHS should have a disaster plan created



### Two Harbors Light Station

- Landscaping the entrance to the site; Our first priorities next spring. The City of TH now owns the land so we can work on the entrance.
- Light Station Patio; This will include the repair of the Water Babies Fountain and a fire pit. I believe this will enhance our guests experience at the B&B.
- Benches; I would like to purchase some industrial (metal or PVC) benches for the viewing platform. Wood benches from Menards just don't survive long out on the point. (THIS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR A MEMORIAL BENCH)
- AKQ Ramp; This just needs some serious TLC.
- The LENS; I think my hinge needs to get a little squeakier!
- Perishable goods B&B; Get the B&B upgraded to commercial linens and supplies. Start shopping for new quilts and bed spreads. (Donations?)

### General Maintenance and Projects

- At B&B; refinish floors and walls.
- Reprinting of the TH 100 years book; Jon Anderson holds the copyright to this book and has given us permission to reprint. This is a requested volume and I believe it might make a good fundraiser for us during Heritage Days.
- Upgrade historical markers; I want to ask the CTH if I can make them permanent. I also need to clean them up before next season.
- Historic Waterfront Business District signage on Agate trail (City of TH); Install and further support the Marker Project, the Walking Tour Brochure and the Historic Waterfront Business District signs.
- Take advantage of volunteer programs at the schools and AEOA. I need to create a task list with necessary skill sets for the people implementing these programs.



**Thank You!**

to everyone that has already renewed your membership.



REMEMBER THE  
DEPOT MUSEUM AND GIFT  
SHOP IS OPEN SATURDAYS  
FROM 11 AM TO 4 PM

## WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

We would like to welcome our  
newest Board  
Members to the Lake County  
Historical Society

Mike Fitzpatrick, THHS  
Jerry Hostetter, THFCU  
Dan Larson, North Shore Steel

## Projects on the Horizon

### Depot Basement Drain Tile

Excavation around the Depot to alleviate water coming into the subbasement; Last estimate we received (Nov 2012) was for \$12,000 to excavate the east and north walls, seal block and mortar with a membrane, and install drain tile.

### Depot Chairlift Installation

Installation of a chairlift between the first and second floors of the Depot; I viewed this as a prerequisite for the archive and library. I don't believe we need to proceed in that order any more. This project required extensive engineering and design. Engineering and design was estimated at \$16,000 and the hardware was \$25,000, with additional contracting cost for installation to be determined. All design installations must meet Secretary of the Interior Standards (SHPO).

### Archive and Research Center

The creation of a public archive and research area in the Depot; Over the past few years we have moved forward with this project in small steps; rearranging our rental customers to maximize our space, repair and remodeling of several office spaces, and the purchase of the computer equipment to begin creating our data base. We still need a large format scanner / printer.

### Two Harbors Light Station Maintenance

We will need to have some tuck pointing and a paint job at the Light Station in 6 years. (Last done in 2000)

July 31st 2014 marks the 130 Anniversary of the first shipment of ore from the Vermilion Range. Would anyone like to help us with some form of recognition or celebration?

## Judge William E. Scott Archives and Research Library

At our December 2013 Board Meeting I requested and it was approved that our future archives and research library be named in honor of Judge William E. Scott. William E. Scott (1890-1962) was an attorney and Judge of the Lake County Probate Court for 25 years, but he is best remembered for his passion

for the history of the North Shore. He was simply "Bill" to those that knew him and

starting in 1927 for over three decades was the Secretary for the Lake County Historical Society. In the early years Bill was the Historical Society, and the County let him keep a small room in the Courthouse where he stored his collection of artifacts, photos, and manuscripts. His most famous published work is *The Wreck of the Lafayette* which remains one of the best accounts of the Storm of 1905 and the rescue efforts to save the stranded sailors. At the time of his death Bill was working on a history of John Beargrease but didn't have time to finish it. He had a great affection for the history of Native Peoples and was made an honorary chief, Chief Brown Beaver (Osawa-amick), by the Indian Council at Grand Portage in August of 1942. For many years Bill dreamed of a museum in Two Harbors and finally in 1960 the DM&IR donated space in the Depot (currently our gift shop) for his museum. I believe it is only fitting that our research and archival spaces bear his name.



## Acquisitions

The following people have donated to the permanent collection. We would like to thank them for their generosity.

Bill Hermanson	Clarine Northey	Bob & Shirley Munson	John Harrison	James & Judith Harris
Richard Ojard	Norma Smith	Jane Anderson	Alma Carlson	Tim Tumberg
Joyce Korpi	Gordon Hommes	Jane Hoseth-Delong	Kathleen Kipley	Ed & Coral McMahan-
Robert Sellman	Todd Lindahl	John Rutford	Bonifacio Fuentes	
Getrude Freeman	Kathy Glen	Grace Zemlin	Sheryl Celestino	David Cooley
The Family of Harry Hoganson		Jackie Gordon	Two Harbors Public Library	
Beverly Truscott	Keith Larson			

### Benefactor (\$1,000 or More)

Lake County  
Family of D. James Jumer  
3M Corporation

### PATRON (\$250 TO \$999)

NorthShore Mining  
Sandvik, Kenneth

### Membership Categories

Individual	\$20 _____
Family	\$30 _____
Business/ Friend	\$55 _____
Sponsor	\$100 _____
Patron	\$250 _____
Lifetime	\$600 _____
Benefactor	\$1000 _____

Your Membership Benefits include:  
Free Passes to the Museums  
10% off gift shop merchandise  
10% off stays at the B&B  
Invites to Open Houses  
Newsletter

### SPONSORS (\$100 TO \$249)

Costley Law Firm	Co-Op Light & Power	Hanson, John & Luann
Hostetter, Jerry & Sandie	Two Harbors Credit Union	

### FRIEND (\$55)

Burke Consulting, LLC	Clark, Gloria & Willard	Events & Marketing Specialists
Northey, Lyle	Spurbeck, Carol	

### FAMILIES (\$30)

Bailey, Marji & Mike	Battaglia, David & Jeanne	Engman, Elmer
Erickson, Beverly & Kenneth	Fitzpatrick, Mike	Hartley, Phil
Helgeson, Richard	Kragseth, Glen	Lane, Sula & Doug
Leon, Kay	Lillegaard, Margaret	Lorntsen, Art & Therese
Lund, Elizabeth & Sander	Mancini, Nancy & Hoops, Mike	
McGilligan & Tom Koehler	Mesna, Jack & Jacqueline	Moe, Carl & Dorothy
Moen, Morrie & Elaine	Munson, Robert & Shirley	Nelson, Judy & Stanley
Sigel, Dick & Susan	Thureen, Louise & Ron	Zastera, Ann
Widen, Jim & Julie	Widen, Ray	

### Individual/Senior/Student (\$20)

Aery, Gary	Anderson, Alan	Anderson, Jim	Berg, Bill	Bjorum, Bob
Bjorum, Richard	Gunsolus, Joan	Hanson, Roy		Helgeson, Richard
Himes, Ruth	Hoseth, Mabel	Johnson, Betty		Johnson, Daryl
Johnson, Emmert	Johnson, Lenore	Martell, Judith		Wahlberg, Ruth
Zastera, Jody				

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

EXPERIENCE HISTORY

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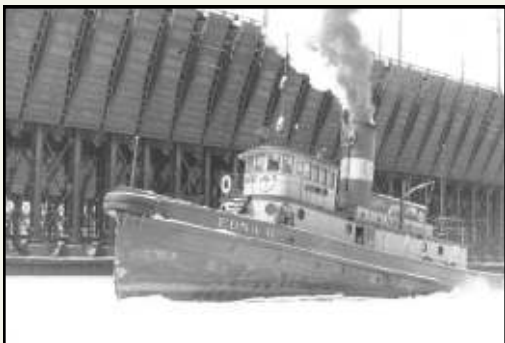
Place  
Stamp  
here

## Edna G Commission Report

I missed the first commission meeting on January 14th. I know that shortly we will be making recommendations to the City of TH to solicit bids for the preventative maintenance on the hull and for the sealing and painting that needs to be done. We still have open seats on the commission. If you would like to volunteer please contact Mayor Bolen, he has to nominate candidates. If you would like to volunteer on the Tug you need to provide your contact info to City Hall as well, for insurance purposes.



I would like to comment on one of the challenges the Society faces with managing the tour operations for the City. We had to close the tug tours last year due simply to staff shortages. This happens particularly after Labor Day when we lose the student staff. In the past I have worked the tug when needed but the Board of Directors would rather I be in the office. Giving tours on the tug is a physical job and it can be freezing cold and hot as blazes in the same day. However if you are interested in helping us fill this gap please contact the Historical Society.



-MJS

### DID YOU KNOW?

Commercial Fishing began in the late 1880's with the coming of the Swedish and Norwegian immigrants

In 1944, one of the first HMOs in the United States was created in Lake County to serve railroad employees