

The Iron Port

Winter 2018



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Thank You Members!

On behalf of the Lake County Historical Society Board of Directors I would like to thank all of our members for showing support to the Society. It is truly through the generosity of your donations that we can continue our mission to preserve and present the history of Lake County. As 2018 has come to a close, I reflect back on my first 8 months as Society Manager.

2018 brought new programming to the Historical Society. Heritage Days was celebrated with a presentation on Whiskey Row July 7th by Todd Lindahl. It drew a crowd so large in the Depot main gallery that the outside benches had to be pulled inside to make seating available to the 30+ people in the audience. September 29th the 3M Visiting Wizards performed a cryogenics demonstration at Emmanuel Lutheran Church Hall. Frozen marshmallows were eaten by audience members and Jeff and Chuck had a great time demonstrating the effects of liquid nitrogen on various forms of matter.

The annual membership dinner had a great turnout with over 65 people in attendance October 9th. Hosted at the American Legion Post #109, dinner was served by members of the Two Harbors High School Football Team. After dinner, retired DNR Biologist Bill Berg gave an intriguing presentation highlighting Roosevelt's ill-fated reintroduction of woodland caribou and history of caribou populations in the region.

December 14th and 15th the Society celebrated the holidays with an open house at the Depot Museum and specialty tours of the historic keepers quarters at the lighthouse. A successful event, we saw over 100 people at the Depot Museum and 25 on the specialty tour. This was the first time since the mid 1990s that the Bed and Breakfast portion of the property were open for tours. The Society could not have pulled off the successful event without our local sponsors: Anderson's Greenhouse, Arrowhead Transit, and Louise's Place. With increased admissions to all historic sites in 2018, the Society will continue to expand programming throughout the year in 2019 at all 3 historic sites. Stay connected via our Facebook and Page for upcoming updates!

As we ring in 2019, the Society has a busy year in store. Lake County Historical Society was awarded a Legacy grant of \$75,270 to inventory its 3D collections. The project is funded through the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants Program through the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. Funds will go to hire 2 workers and supplies to complete an inventory of the Society's over 10,000 3D artifacts.

Donations like yours helps the Society to continue to preserve and share the heritage of Lake County, a mission it has been fulfilling for almost 95 years. Thank you for your continued support!

Ellen Lynch
Society Manager
Lake County Historical Society

Two Harbors home to First NFL Training Camp



08.11.33F Entrance to Horace Johnson Field c. 1930

Ole Haugsrud purchased the Duluth Kelleys for \$1,001 in 1925. The team had been sponsored since 1923 by the Kelley Hardware Store in Superior Wisconsin. He contracted Ernie Nevers, All-American football star and St. Louis Browns pitcher. For a base salary of \$15,000 and a 10% cut in ticket sales, Nevers' Eskimos was born.

To get his team into shape, Eskimo coach Dewey Scanlon designed a 3 week intensive training program. Hosted in Two Harbors, this would be the first training camp for the National Football League. The team practiced on Horace Johnson Field above the high school and took rooms at the Agate Bay Hotel. The group took its meals at American Legion

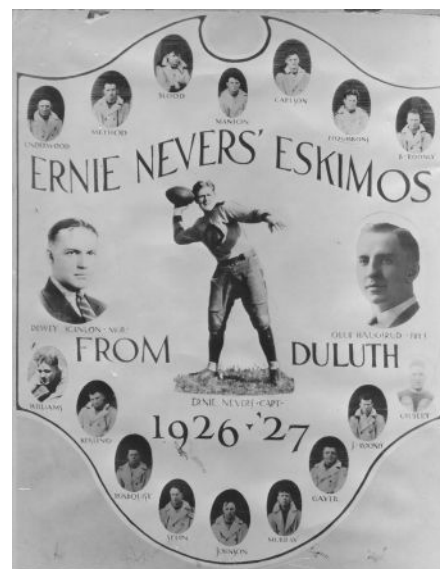
Post 109, then located in the hotel's basement. According to a front page article September 9th in the Iron Port "with one exception, all members of the squad are tall and rangy, lone exception is Paul Fitzgibbons who is short and compactly built...tipping the scales at 170 pounds."

Training kicked off in a steady drizzle the morning of September 7th, 1926. Ernie Nevers arrived the following Monday by train. The group stuck to a highly regimented schedule starting with a 3 mile run or hike followed by breakfast at the Legion Hall. All taking place before 8:30 drills on Horace Johnson field. An early lunch at 11:00AM was followed by afternoon drills from 1:30-5PM and after dinner, the group would sit down to review play strategies and diagrams.

So went the 3 week training camp in Two Harbors. During the first Saturday the team was in town, a dance was hosted at Legion Post 109 giving the players an introduction to local two harborites on September 10th.

Following the Eskimos only home game at Wade Stadium in Duluth, the team launched into an intense 117 day, 17,000 mile road trip playing 29 games: 15 exhibition and 14

regular games. Besides Nevers, each player agreed to be paid \$50 per loss, \$60 per tie, and \$75 per win. Since the team pulled in more money than expected, Haugsrud compensated each player by paying \$75 per game. The 1927 season saw little change to the lineup, Nevers was elevated to coach and the Eskimos still called Duluth home. During the 1927 season, the Eskimos only won one game, prompting Haugsrud to sell the team back to the National Football League.



00.3699 Ernie Nevers' Eskimos poster 1926

Toboggan Slide a Hit With Youths

Article in Lake County Chronicle, December 29th 1927

Lined in continuous formation waiting for a chance to ride down the new toboggan slide built by the Duluth and Iron Range Employees Association, the kiddies and grown-ups of the city had a wonderful time during the past week.

The new slide is provide with every precaution for safety and Peter Larson has been stationed there to see that the youngsters keep within the bounds of safety, but still there are some who insist on throwing snowballs and other sort

of sport which may endanger the coasters.

The distance of 3 city blocks is made down the slide in just 20 seconds according to Leland Clapper, who figures this makes a speed of approximately 80 miles per hour and to throw a snowball at someone going at that rate of speed is positively dangerous says Mayor Brickley. Mr. Larson has been instructed to take any persons into custody who violates any of the rules of safety and has orders to bar

the slide who doesn't obey his orders. The association has built the slide for the enjoyment of the public and Mayor Brickley insists that no one, by means of foolish pranks, will be permitted to jeopardize the safety of another. Mr. Larson has 2 youths in custody Friday and would have taken them to lockup had it not been that they promised faithfully never to violate any rule of safety at the slid in the future.

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92.33.01: Toboggan slide at South Avenue in Two Harbors MN between 1937-40

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Tammy Fitzpatrick



I would like to take a moment to recognize the outgoing board members of 2018: Mitch Costley, Harold Ek, and Ronald Svee. Costley and Ek have served the Lake County Historical Society for over 10 years and Svee has served LCHS for 8 years. They have contributed many hours to preserving the history of Lake County.

Collection Connection



00.3575A: 1917 championship football team on Horace Johnson Field. Stein is holding the game ball.

Bill Stein played in 38 league games in the National football League for 7 seasons. Before Stein played football on the national stage, he was an athlete at Two Harbors High School. Playing both basketball and football, he was an all-around athlete. The 1917 Agate yearbook states his nickname was "Rocky Mountain Bill"...gives you a truer impression of his action on the football field than would an actual glimpse at his stature. He scarcely ever tried a line buck without making his yards." Stein was on the 1917 championship Two Harbors High School team and graduated in 1918. He went on to

attend Superior Normal School.

He began his professional career with the Duluth-Kelleys in 1923. The team was relatively successful, but due to the short playing season only competed in 16 games from 1923-1926. When Ole Haugsrud purchased the franchise, he turned the team into a traveling one, lengthening the season to 16 games.

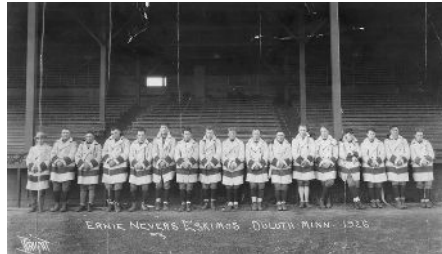
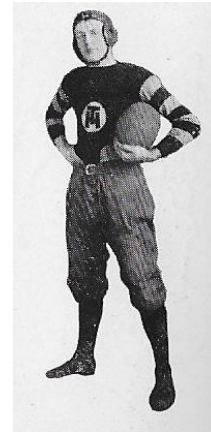


Image of Nevers' Eskimos in warm up jackets courtesy of Pro Football Hall of Fame. Stein X from left.

From 1926 to 1927 he played with Nevers' Eskimos as a guard, center, halfback, and tackle. Paid \$90 per game, his salary was slightly higher than the standard rate of \$75 per game. As the team did not

travel with an entourage, each member took on a responsibility. Stein was in charge of ensuring the team equipment and uniforms got to each game.

In 1928 he played with Ernie Nevers in the Chicago Cardinals franchise. Retiring from professional football in 1929 he returned to Two Harbors and ran the club-room at American Legion Post 109. He also worked as a salesman for Superior's Saratoga Liquor Store.



Above Left: Bill Stein football picture Two Harbors Agate, 1917; Above Right: close up of 00.3699 Ernie Nevers' Eskimos poster 1926



The Depot is open every Saturday from 11 to 4 pm. All other sites are open for group tours by special arrangement. Reservations must be made at least 1 week in advance.

Thank you to our Depot Open House and Lighthouse holiday tour sponsors:

Anderson's Greenhouse & Florist



Your ride.



Images clockwise from Top right: 15.35.01A Santa in front of Two Harbors Depot; 00.708- Lederle family and lighthouse c. 1892; 00.3215 lighthouse and barn c. 1893

**LAKE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AND
LIGHTHOUSE BED AND BREAKFAST**

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The mission of Lake County Historical Society is to preserve the history of Lake County, Minnesota through the study and interpretation of artifacts, documents, and photographs that tell the story of our past and present culture.



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