

# *Preserving the Past*

## THE HIBBING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

*2015 - 3rd Quarter*

### Salute to Service

The Hibbing Historical Society's annual Spring Fundraiser, a "Salute to Service," was held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015 at the Androy/Elks. The tables were decorated in red, white and blue, and each place setting included a box of Cracker Jacks, with a sailor pictured on the front.

This event honored Hibbing's many military contributions from the Spanish-American War through the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The historical society's collection of military artifacts is quite large, and Curator Erica Larson created several wonderful displays which were on view throughout the room. In addition, a traveling exhibit on loan from the St. Louis County Historical Society featured photographs of homeless veterans.

President, Leonard Hirsch, welcomed nearly 100 guests, before turning the microphone over to Treasurer Mary Keyes, who led the program. The Mid-Range Honor Guard presented the colors, and members of the Hibbing High School Band serenaded the attendees with a selection of patriotic songs and marches. The Elks' chef cooked up a tasty buffet.

Servicemen and women were recognized, and board member Linda Suihkonen shared facts and information about Hibbing's military history. Curator, Erica Larson, then showed a short video featuring a World War II veteran whose universal message resonated with the audience.

Member, June Hendrickson, helped hand out the door prizes.

The winners of a very successful Silent Auction were announced at the conclusion of the evening. A portion of the Silent Auction profits were donated to both the Mid-Range Honor Guard and the Disabled American Veterans organization.



## **Happy Birthday!**

Hibbing will be 122 years old this year! You are cordially invited to attend Hibbing's birthday party. This event has grown to be a highlight of the summer for our Town and our Historical Society. It will be held at 6:30 pm, on Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup> on the grounds of City Hall. In case of rain, it will be held in the lower level of the Memorial building.

This year's honorees are:

**Isabel Thouin**, long-time and influential Children's Librarian at the Hibbing Public Library, and  
**Willard Whitman**, heroic member of the US Navy Submarine Corp

The Hibbing City Band, under the direction of Julie Tarnowski Sandstede, will perform prior to the program. Please bring a lawn chair or blanket as a limited number of chairs will be available.

Cake and lemonade will be served.

## **Mark Your Calendar!**

Upcoming events include:

August 11<sup>th</sup>: Hibbing's Birthday Party  
October 24<sup>th</sup>: Annual Fall Meeting / A Taste of Italy  
December 11<sup>th</sup>: Victorian Christmas Open House

## **Surprise!**

At the Annual Fundraising dinner, Roger Saccoman asked if he could have a couple of minutes to speak to the group. It came as a complete surprise to everyone when he said he was pleased to announce that the Hibbing Historical Society had been presented with the Hibbing Foundation Outstanding Non-Profit Organization Award for 2015! Along with a beautiful plaque, he presented President, Leonard Hirsch, with a check for \$5,000 to be used as needed by the Society. We are honored and grateful to receive this most generous award.

The plaque will be placed in the Museum for all to see, while the money will be used to help replace our aging computers and improve their networking capability.

Thank you to the Hibbing Foundation and all who made this award possible!



## Outreach

This year the Society began a new outreach program designed for 3rd and 4th graders in the area. Society volunteer Linda Suihkonen, a retired Librarian, visited third and fourth grade classrooms in the Hibbing school district in April and May. She shared a brief history of our town with the students and then read, "The Town That Moved", to the students. The historical society purchased a classroom set of these books with memorial funds generously given in honor of Rose Zygmanski, so the students were able to follow along. Students were then able to view historic photos of some of the actual buildings and houses being moved using a CD compiled by Curator, Erica. A variety of artifacts, including ice tongs, a mining helmet, and spinning toy top were then shared with the students. They most enjoyed the top and many, having seen the movie, Frozen, were able to identify the ice tongs. Overall, Ms. Suihkonen visited seven classrooms (over 150 students) in three of Hibbing's public and parochial schools.

Many of the classrooms then made an end of the year field trip to the Museum. These visits included a brief guided tour, independent exploring by students, and a scavenger hunt, where they were asked to locate 10 objects or pieces of information from the displays. During these visits, 170 students, including a class that made the trip from Virginia, had the chance to visit the museum and explore Hibbing's history. For many of the classes, these field trips were a culmination of classroom studies, as the program coincides with Minnesota State curriculum for these grades.

Positive feedback was received from both students and teachers! An enthusiastic letter of support can be read on the reverse of this page.



# *Lincoln Elementary School*

Robert Bestul, Principal

1114 East 23rd Street

Hibbing, MN 55746-1968

(218) 262-1089 FAX (218) 262-4810

June 2, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to share my support of the Hibbing Historic Society's school outreach program. My class was visited by a very knowledgeable and enthusiastic speaker who showed many artifacts that have helped shape the beautiful town of Hibbing. She presented the artifacts in a way that captivated my students and sustained their attention throughout the program. My students had many questions, and they were all answered in a very professional, interesting way.

The project goals are well-aligned with our Minnesota State Social Studies Standards. The following standards were extensively covered during both our field trip to the Hibbing Historical Museum and when the guest speaker came to our classroom: Minnesota Social Studies Standard 3.3.3.6.1, which states geographic factors influence the distribution, functions, growth and patterns of cities and human settlements; Minnesota State Standard 3.4.1.1.1, which states historians generally construct chronological narratives to characterize eras and explain past events and change over time; and Minnesota State Standard 3.4.1.2.1, which states historical inquiry is a process in which multiple sources and different kinds of historical evidence are analyzed to draw conclusions about how and why things happened in the past. The guest speaker showed the students many artifacts that reflected the time period when Hibbing was founded, and when it was moved. She shared a deep knowledge of how life was during that time period. She also read the book, The Town That Moved, and shared numerous photos and artifacts to further deepen my students' knowledge of Hibbing.

In closing, I support the Hibbing Historical Society's programs, because they are a crucial component in educating our youth about the history of Hibbing. The collection at the museum is also an invaluable resource that benefits numerous people.

Sincerely,



Jolene Etter  
Elementary Educator  
Lincoln Elementary School

## **Memory Lane**

This is your chance to take a trip down memory lane ---- or at least do some decluttering!

Hibbing High School band Director Amy Peloquin Dahl, would like to create a display case featuring the history and highlights of the Hibbing High School Band. Do you have anything to share? Amy is interested in information about past directors, trips taken by the band, and anything else of interest. She would love to have some vintage photos and perhaps some small artifacts. If you are sitting on such a treasure trove and would like to share, please contact:

Amy Dahl at: [amydahl@hibbing.k12.mn.us](mailto:amydahl@hibbing.k12.mn.us) or Linda Suihkonen at: [lindshui@uslink.net](mailto:lindshui@uslink.net)

Curator, Erica, is interested in adding to the Museum's collection of Polk City Directories. If you have one (or more) to donate, please call the museum at 218-263-8522

## **Mystery Photo**

No one was able to identify either the woman or the young Girl Scout pictured in the last newsletter. Several people thought Patty Miller might be in the photo , but when asked Patty said it was not her.

Can anyone tell us about this photo? We are trying to identify as many people as possible and would love to know specifics about the activity or event. Please contact the museum if you have something to share about the picture.





## **Office Spotlight**

Vice-President, Roberta Schloesser, is a life-long resident of Hibbing. She was born at the Hibbing General Hospital. At age four, her family moved to South Hibbing, house and all! Roberta remembers a tree being cut from the front yard so that the house could be moved to its present location.

Roberta began her education by spending 4 days at the old Washington School before transferring to the Assumption School. She then attended the new Lincoln School and was a 1967 graduate of Hibbing High School. Roberta worked as a Dental Assistant in Hibbing for 13 years before continuing her education. She received BA degrees in both History and American Indian Studies. She then spent 16 years as the Indian Education Coordinator for the Hibbing School District where she worked with the district's Native American students and educated the public on Native American history. Roberta retired in 2013.

Roberta has a long history with our organization. She served as Director for 5 years, assisting in the Museum's move to its present location. Currently, she volunteers at the Museum one day a week, serves as Membership Chairperson and enthusiastically helps plan Historical Society events.



An avid reader and crafter, Roberta also likes to walk for exercise. She is an historian at heart. While she admits to being no Paul Aubin, Roberta continues to document Hibbing with her camera. Her photographs can often be seen on the Hibbing Trivia and Lore website, as well as on Beautiful Photos of the Mesabi Iron Range.

## **From the Collection**

We hope you enjoy these photographs from the 1946 Hibbing Parade!

