

Preserving the Past

THE HIBBING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

2017 - 2nd Quarter

Upcoming Events! Please mark your calendars for...

Friday, May 5th: Spring Fundraiser at the Androy (see insert)

Thursday, June 15th: Summer Burger Bash at Palmer's

Tuesday, August 8th: Hibbing's Birthday Party on the grounds of City Hall

Saturday, October 21st: Annual Membership Meeting at the Memorial Building

Friday, December 8th: Christmas Open House at the Museum

Every Penny Counts!

Amazon Smile

Do you like to shop on Amazon? We do! Did you know that AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets you enjoy the same shopping experience as amazon.com but with a benefit to the Hibbing Historical Society?

When you shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), simply select the Hibbing Historical Society as the charity of your choice and the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of your eligible Amazon purchases to the Society. If you already have an Amazon account, all of your information, including password, will be at AmazonSmile. Simply list it as a "Favorite" for easy access.

The Historical Society registered with the foundation last Fall. Our small test of this program garnered over \$20 for our organization. That may seem like a small amount but these donations add up. And—it doesn't cost YOU a thing.

Happy Shopping!

Burger Bash

The Hibbing Historical Society is already looking ahead to the lazy days of Summer! Palmer's Tavern will be graciously hosting a Burger Basket fundraiser for us on June 15th from 4 to 7pm. Tickets will be available from board members and at the museum prior to the event. You may also buy your tickets at the door. Cost is \$8 and take-outs are available. Come on out for a nice evening of good food and camaraderie. Hope to see you there!

Tribute to Service

The museum recently received an email from Marion Margraf (nee' Silliman). She and her husband visited the WASP (Women AirForce Service Pilots) WWII Museum in Sweetwater, Texas, last summer. That experience left them more aware of how remarkable these pilots were, as a group and individually. Marion had noticed in one of our newsletters a photo depicting a groundbreaking and a reference to Jean Taylor along with the single sentence, "She became famous as a pilot in WWII." Marion surmised that Ms. Taylor could only have been a WASP! She then kindly forwarded a link to Jean Taylor's 2007 obituary which included a photo of her in the classic silk scarf and leather pilot's jacket. The jacket insignia is the figure "Fifinella", the WASP mascot as rendered by Disney Studios.



Below, a condensation of Jean Taylor's obituary as it appeared in The Seattle Times:

Jean was born on April 3, 1916, in Hibbing, Minnesota, daughter of Frances and William Taylor. Jean graduated from Hibbing High School and from the University of Michigan School of Interior Design. After working in design studios in Minneapolis, she had the opportunity to take flying lessons, which completely changed her life. She was recruited by the Women AirForce Service Pilots (WASP) and spent a year and a half ferrying planes for the Army in the United States. The WASP disbanded in 1944 and Jean returned to Hibbing. In 1946, Jean and her mother drove west to Seattle to visit relatives. Jean remained in Seattle, where she met her husband-to-be, Bill Howard. They became engaged in 1948 and were married in Hibbing on February 5, 1949. She is survived by her husband, Bill, of 58 years and her two sons.

Marion's email and the full obituary of Jean Taylor are on file at the Hibbing Historical Society's museum. We thank Marion for bringing this story to our attention.

Invitation

The St. Louis County Historical Society invites you to help celebrate its 95th Annual Meeting of Membership on April 25, 2017.

The evening begins at 5:00pm with a social hour, during which you may view the Slovenian Exhibit depicting the immigration and cultural impact of Slovenians in Minnesota, along with several Father Baraga/Father Buh artifacts. The 6:00pm dinner, prepared by Duluth Grill Catering, will reflect the ethnic food of Slovenia. The program will be presented at 7:00pm.

Please RSVP no later than Friday, April 21. Email kathleen@thehistorypeople.org or call 218-733-7586. Cost is \$34. Cash bar. Questions? Call Mary Keyes at 262-5206.

Leave a Legacy

Many of you have contributed to our operating fund in the past, simply by becoming a member. Others have helped by becoming a Sponsor when memberships are renewed. Still others have made a direct contribution, or a donation honoring the memory of a loved one. We appreciate each and every donation as they fund the many needs of the Society as we share Hibbing's rich history with the rest of the world.

In addition to contributing to our operating fund, please consider leaving a legacy by directing your donations to our endowment fund. Your donations will be added to the principle of this fund and generate interest for the Hibbing Historical Society. You can do the same by including the endowment fund in your estate planning, thus allowing the Society to continue its mission. If you have questions on how to do this, please contact us at the museum. Our accountant, Joe Keyes, will be happy to assist you.

April Showers Bring May Flowers

Once again we ask your help with a "mystery photo". Can you identify the gals and/or the event pictured here? This is just one of the many unlabelled photos acquired by the museum over the years.



Board Member Spotlight

Fiorita (nee: Christiano) Ricci was born and raised in nearby Gilbert where her father owned and operated Christiano's Grocery Store. She graduated from Gilbert High School and then attended Virginia Jr. College.

During World War II, Fio went to live and work in Detroit, Michigan, where a cousin lived. Fio is our own "Rosie the Riveter". She worked for Warner's spending two and a half years working on the wings of the Vought F4U Corsair fighter aircraft. Fio enjoyed the experience of living in a big city and meeting a diversity of people.

When the war ended, Fio returned to the Iron Range. One night, she attended a party with friends in Hibbing. It was there that she met Joe, the man who was to become her husband of nearly 50 years. He was a combat engineer during World War II and then worked for the DuPont company in his hometown of Hibbing. Making their home in Hibbing, Fio and Joe raised five children, two boys and three girls.

Fio could run circles around the rest of us board members! In addition to raising a large family, she was on the State Board of Mental Health for many years. She is still very active in her church, Blessed Sacrament, where she uses her cooking expertise in the kitchen. She and some of the other women there belong to a quilting group hosted at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

Fio has always liked volunteering and we are fortunate to have her on our board!



Contact Info

The Hibbing Historical Society Museum is open year round,
10:00 am to 2:00 pm (Tuesday - Friday)
or anytime by appointment.

Admission is free!

Memorial Building (Lower Level)
400 East 23rd Street
Hibbing, Minnesota 55746
218-263-8522

eMail: hibbinghistory@mchsi.com

Website: hibbinghistory.com

www.facebook.com/HibbingHistoricalSociety/