

Preserving the Past
THE HIBBING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

2018 - 3rd Quarter

Special Edition

Happy 125th Birthday Hibbing!

We're looking forward to the future, while celebrating the past!

The town of Hibbing was officially incorporated on August 15, 1893. Frank Hibbing and the spirited early pioneers nurtured the village through its infancy. These shoemakers, teachers, butchers, grocers, politicians, miners, seamstresses, and bartenders shared their talents and bonded together with the common goal of building a great community – a community that continues to prosper today. In this edition of our newsletter, we'll highlight the rich history of 6 businesses that have operated for over a century in Hibbing.



Sunrise Bakery

A baker by trade, Giulio Forti emigrated from Rome to Hibbing hoping to secure a mining job. At age 47, however, he found mining to be too taxing and returned to his roots. In 1913, along with his bride-to-be, Virginia Ricci, he purchased a bakery from Frank Allegrezza in North Hibbing, and Sunrise Bakery was born. The first century of baking began humbly, with handmade goods and horse-drawn carriages.

Giulio and Virginia had four children (Vincent, Santi, Geno, and Ada) who all worked in the family business in some capacity. When the town moved in the early 1920s, the bakery moved with it - to Park Addition where it would remain for the better part of the century. Vincent learned to bake alongside his father, and modernized the bakery in the 1940s. Vincent married Anna Maras and had six children. His daughters Linda and Virginia worked in the store for decades, bringing national recognition to the hometown bakery. Ginny worked in the store from approximately 1960 to 2017, when she retired.

Vincent's son, Tom, learned to bake from him before starting his own deli, Sunrise Deli, and pasta business, Sunrise Creative Gourmet, with his wife Mary Lou. Tom Forti's son, Tom, has continued the family's food legacy in his own direction. In 2012 he opened Sunrise Market & Cafe in St. Paul, MN (now named the Iron Ranger) which provides a selection of authentic Iron Range foods from Sunrise Bakery and Sunrise Creative Gourmet, and is also a full service bar and restaurant.

Vincent also taught the baker's trade to his grandson, Paul Forti, who has carried the tradition forward for the last twenty-five years. In 2017, Ginny officially transitioned the family business to Paul, who owns it today with his wife, Hannah. Sometime this year, the fourth-generation Fortis will move the bakery from its location on Third Avenue to the old Binster's/Amelia's building at 2601 First Avenue. The new location will allow Sunrise to continue providing breads that are made from scratch, while expanding its deli and adding espresso and coffee.

Sunrise Bakery has grown from its original brick oven to a regional and national distributor of hand-crafted breads and baked goods. Over a century later, they are still baking Giulio's Italian Bread.

Shubat Transportation Co.

Charles Shubat was a jack of all trades, who held numerous jobs before he started the longest running transportation company in Hibbing. A Yugoslavian immigrant, Charles arrived in Canada with his uncle at the age of 13. He came to Hibbing in 1900, and in 1901, he crossed paths with another century business founder (W.C. Barrett) as a livery driver.

Whether it was an interest in transporting people and things, or simply his desire to once again do something new, Charles purchased a 5 passenger car in 1913, and began the bus business a year later. Their first bus was a Ford 8 Passenger, which carried travelers between North Hibbing, old Kerr, Carson Lake, Leetonia, and Morton. The fare was 25 cents.

The first bus depot was next to the Merchants and Miners Bank on 3rd Avenue and Pine Street in North Hibbing. Charles' brother, Mike, joined the business in 1914, and the company bought 3 more buses in the next 5 years. When the town moved, Shubat moved the depot to South Hibbing in the First National Bank Building on Third Avenue, and stored the buses in the Ford Motor Garage. The depot then moved to the Sons of Italy building (1928-1964), and a garage on the Beltline (2903 East Beltline), before moving to their current location (618 West 41st Street).



In 1975, Charles sold the Shubat Transportation Company and retired at the age of 90.

Through the years, Shubat Transportation has expanded and updated its fleet of buses to meet the demands of today's travelers. Amenities that were unheard of when the business began, such as on-board restrooms, climate control, DVD players, and 110v outlets, have become standard. In addition to private charter across Minnesota and the United States, Shubat Transportation Company currently provides bus transportation for several area school districts, and operates the transit system for the city of Hibbing.

Security State Bank

The brainchild of H.P. Reed, Security State Bank received its Certificate of Incorporation on January 17, 1911 and opened its doors for business on Third Avenue in North Hibbing on February 9, 1911. A sign of the times, the original bank was a unique institution and a testament to its name. The bullet-proof teller cages were turn-tables in which the customer placed his deposit. The teller would swing the turn-table around and handle the deposit so there was no opening at any time for the use of a gun in a robbery. Each cage was also equipped with a 38 caliber pistol.

In 1927, Security State Bank moved to a new facility in South Hibbing at 401 E. Howard Street. In 1929, a young man named Norman Welo joined the organization. He rose up through the ranks over time, and was elected president in 1966. Norman then served as Chairman of the Board until his passing in 1999 - a banking contribution spanning 70 years.

In 1974, ground was broken for the present location at 701 E. Howard Street. To preserve some of its own history, the bank moved the vault door of the original safe deposit area to the new location. The vault door weighed 9960 pounds and took a total of 18 hours to move to the new bank, where it is still in operation.

Throughout the 1980s and 90s several renovation projects added office space, an insurance complex, and investment center; in 2006, a major interior remodel was undertaken, enhancing security and privacy. The Security State Bank Foundation was created in 1996 to assist non-profit organizations with their financial needs using profits from the bank. The Foundation has since donated over \$250,000 to various community organizations, including the Hibbing Historical Society. The bank now employs 25 people, provides state of the art services like mobile banking, and continues to adapt to the security and privacy challenges required in the internet age.



Aubin Photography Studio

Paul Aubin, Sr. came to North Hibbing in 1903 and began working for local photographer, Carl Thiel. By 1907, Aubin had started his own studio, and in 1909 bought out Thiel, Dahl, and other studios in the area. He began recording the history of Hibbing through his photographs, documenting major happenings in the developing village and mining industry, as well as the famed moving of the town. The original studio was moved from North Hibbing in 1921 and placed at 1801 3rd Avenue in South Hibbing.

Paul Aubin, Jr. was born on July 22, 1928, and started working with his father when he was just nine years old. Paul, Jr. and his brother ran a courier service from Grand Rapids to Virginia (and all the towns in between). Customers would leave their film at their local drug store, and the Aubins would pick it up from each store, bring the film back to the studio in Hibbing, develop the film, process and print the pictures, and deliver them all back to the drug stores the next day – sometimes staying up into the early morning hours to get it all completed.



Paul Aubin Sr. left the business - which included the portrait studio, a camera shop, and photo finishing - to his son in 1971 and passed away a year later. Paul Jr. put in an estimated 71 years before he closed the studio in December 2009. He continued to sell prints out of his home until he passed away in 2014 at the age of 86. The studio only had two owners and was in business for 102 years.

After the passing of Paul Jr., the Aubin family was undecided as to what to do with the incredible amount of photos the studio had amassed. In 2016, the Hibbing Historical Society became the gracious recipient of this collection. So far, 2,000 of these images have been digitized and cataloged. Watch for more details on this in our Fall newsletter.

Hibbing Daily Tribune

The first newspapers in town, the Hibbing News and the Hibbing Sentinel, rolled off their crude presses in early 1894. The Hibbing News was founded by C.A. Smith, who was already publishing the Mountain Iron Manitou at the time. In 1889, Mr. Smith sold The Hibbing News to Claude M. Atkinson, who changed the name of the paper to the Mesaba Ore and Hibbing News in 1902. In 1899, a third Hibbing paper was started, The Hibbing Tribune. Newspaper stories at the time were typewritten, edited and passed along to typesetters. The Linotype machines banged out lead lines of type (hence the name) which were cast into plates for printing, and then melted down and recycled.

In 1909, the Hibbing Tribune became a daily paper – said to be the first daily on the Iron Range. In January 1920, the Mesaba Ore and Hibbing News also became a daily publication, under the name of The Hibbing Daily News. The Tribune and the Daily News were rivals until 1927 when they consolidated to become The Hibbing Daily Tribune – a name that would stick. The paper had two buildings: Commercial printing at 407 Howard Street, and the newspaper office at 213 Howard. In 1954, The Tribune moved to its current location on First Avenue.

Through the years, The Tribune became more automated as technology advanced. The wire news came out on a printed, or hard copy, and on tape which could be fed into the Linotypes. Eventually the process incorporated computers, which could be used for both typesetting and photographs.

In 1998, The Hibbing Daily Tribune formed a website, and eventually, an online “E-edition” of the paper. The online subscription is an option in addition to the print version of the newspaper. Last year, the Hibbing Daily Tribune had 4,800 print subscribers, and 140 paid online subscribers, with the Tribune website being viewed almost 4 million times.



Barrett's Livery and Undertaking / Dougherty Funeral Home

Seated in a shay drawn by one "hoss" which clopped over rutty roads leading to the infant village of Hibbing, Mr. W. C. Barrett arrived here from Mt. Iron in the Fall of 1893. He was accompanied by his wife, the former Mary E. Hurley.

One of the earliest businessmen of this city, Barrett opened a livery stable on the corner of Second and North Streets in 1893. Then, in 1895, he added the undertaking business and had three horse-drawn hearses—one gray, one black and a small white one for infants. Barrett had the first telephone in Hibbing, confirmed by the Mesaba Telephone Directory dated October 1904. Callers just had to tell the operator to ring "number one".

The Barrett Livery at one time had over 100 horses which were loaned out to businesses, loggers and mining companies. Barrett, known as "Billy" to his friends, also delivered ice to Hibbing's earliest pioneers. Twenty families were customers for this first refrigeration service.

In 1909, Thomas R. Dougherty joined W. C. Barrett Livery and Undertaking. A fire destroyed the Livery barn and many of the horses in 1914. When W.C. Barrett retired, Dougherty entered into partnership with Barrett's son, Russell. In 1921, when all of Hibbing was on the move to the south to make way for mining operations, the firm relocated to 1925 Fifth Avenue East, across from the Immaculate Conception Church. In 1925, T. R. Dougherty purchased the Barrett interest, and the Dougherty Funeral Home moved to its current location of 2615 First Avenue.

The present building, the former Morton Mine office in the Kerr Location, was moved to its location in South Hibbing in 1934. Included in the historical society's collection is an invoice from the T. R. Dougherty Funeral Home dated October 24, 1935. A list of services provided were: a casket, embalming, barber-work, hair-dressing, washing and dressing the remains, folding chairs, catafalque, prayer rail, candles, candelabrum, door badge, gloves, hearse, pallbearers coach, transportation and flower delivery for a total cost of \$180.

In 1956, T. R. Dougherty's sons, John and Joe purchased the business from their father. Just three years later, a fire burned out the inside of the funeral home, which was then repaired, expanded and remodeled. The building was further remodeled in 1974.

Today, the funeral home is owned by T. R. Dougherty's grandsons, Patrick Dougherty and Christopher Dougherty, both licensed funeral directors. Chris's son, Brennan, is the fourth generation to follow the family tradition at Dougherty's in Hibbing. They are joined by Jeffrey Douville, also a licensed funeral director and a grandson of W. C. Barrett.



We salute these businesses for their dedication to our community! Look for our expanded versions of these articles with more images and information in the "Years of Yore" column in the Hibbing Daily Tribune.

Compiled by Erica Larson Zubich and Linda Suihkonen, with information from Hannah (Casey) Forti, www.sunrisebakery.com, *Italian Voices* by Mary Ellen Mancini-Batinich, Letter by Mrs. Charles Shubat to the Hibbing Historical Society (1977), Dustin Davidson, www.shubat.com/homepage.html, *Yugoslavian Teenager Starts Bus Company* by Jack Lynch (2006), www.ssbhibbing.com, Mark Gardeski, Pam (Aubin) Angen, *A Photo Essay of an Iron Mining Community* by Lorraine DeMillo (1982), Interview with Paul Aubin, Jr. (April 30, 2011), *The Hibbing Tribune Now and Then* (1933), "The Daily Tribune" Informational Plaque, Jeff Douville, www.doughertyofhibbing.com

Shubat image courtesy Shubat Transportation Company. Security State Bank image courtesy Patsy Reed. All other images courtesy Hibbing Historical Society: Aubin Photograph Studio Collection.

Burger Bash

A huge “Thank You!” to Sandy Rohwer and staff for allowing us to host our second successful Burger Bash at Palmer’s on Thursday, June 14th. The weather was perfect! Nearly 150 people showed up to support the Historical Society. Burger baskets included freshly grilled burgers, coleslaw, chips, pickle spears and chocolate chip cookies. Raffle prizes included a private wine class, a Minnesota Mule basket, a Minnesota Vikings package, an overnight stay at Fortune Bay, and a deck box filled with assorted beverages and snacks.

This event would not have been possible without donations from Lowe’s, Super One, Walmart, Total Wine and More, Sunny Hill, and Starkovich Distributors, along with several society members and friends. KUDOS to the Board Members who stepped up to work the burger basket station.

It was a fun-filled evening of camaraderie. Aaah—the benefits of living in a small town!



Spring Fundraiser

Over one hundred members and guests attended the annual Spring Fundraiser at the Androy on Friday, May 4th, as rock and roll music played in the background. This year’s theme was “Lost in the ‘50s Tonight”. Curator Erica Larson Zubich displayed many of the museum’s artifacts depicting this fun and innovative decade, from maps and diagrams of local bomb shelters to Hibbing High School memorabilia and a vintage kitchen table and utensils. Ben Castagneri loaned a 1955 Studebaker pedal car for the evening. Lisa Rosati shared a photo display featuring her brother, Greg, who danced in the movie version of “Grease”.

Thanks to Lisa’s generosity, we were also able to have some film reels of Hibbing in the 1950s digitized. These movie clips were shown while board member and volunteer, Linda Suihkonen, shared some fun and fascinating facts from the decade.

This year’s silent auction was our most successful ever, thanks to many generous donors and bidders. Thanks to everyone who supported us in any way.



Information Wanted

After our Movers and Shakers Spotlight on Andrew “Bus Andy” Anderson earlier this year, we received a few calls questioning information that was written. Did you know there were two Andrew G. Andersons in Hibbing around that time? We would appreciate any information on “Bus Andy” or “Tire Shop Andy” so we can write a correction article later this year.

Calendar

Wednesday, August 8th—HIBBING BIRTHDAY PARTY: Please join us for Hibbing's 125th birthday at 6:30 p.m. on the lawn of the City Hall. One of the inductees to the Hall of Service and Achievement is Hubert Franklin Dear who, among his many claims to fame, is considered to be one of the "fathers" of aviation on the Iron Range. The other is musician, composer and director Hemming Hautala, a charter member of a newly reorganized City Band built on the original 1896 band. Our City Band will perform one of Hautala's compositions. Cake and punch will be served. Some chairs will be available, but you may want to bring your own.

NOTE: In the event of rain, this program will be moved to the dining room at the Hibbing Memorial Building.

Saturday, October 20th: Annual Membership Meeting and Luncheon at the Memorial Building

Friday, December 14th: Christmas Open House at the Museum

Help!

The museum is in need of a volunteer on Thursdays from 10 am until 2 pm. This is mainly an opportunity to "meet and greet" our visitors. Our curator is always on site, so knowledge of Hibbing's history is NOT required. Don't want to commit to every Thursday? Try volunteering one Thursday a month. Please contact Erica at the museum (263-8522) if you are interested in helping out. Thank you!

Ornament Collection

As many of you know, the historical society did not offer a new ornament for sale last year. Happily, Frank Hibbing was selected to be the subject of this year's new ornament as our city celebrates its 125th birthday! Ornaments are \$16 and are available at the museum.

Mia Culpa!

We must apologize for making Mike Hukka 11 years older than he really is. Mike graduated from Hibbing High School in 1977, not 1966 as was written in the "Spotlight" column earlier this year.



Mystery Photo

Thanks to Dee Dee Fredrickson, Bing Timmerman, Joe Seeba and Mary Jean McHale for helping us identify the members of the Sammy's Pizza softball team from the 1970's.

Front row L-R: John Arthurs, Steve Opacich, Gary Krampotich, Steve Perunovich, Glenn Graber

Back row L-R: Tom Graber, Mark Senger, Mike Nelson, Gary Fairchild, Ron Graber, Tim Marsh

