

THE WHISTLE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE IRONWOOD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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GOGEBIC'S GRAND LADY



EVELYN BEDORE

Evelyn Bedore's life spanned nearly all of the 20th Century and part of the 21st, being born September 29, 1900 in Nash (Bayfield County), Wisconsin and dying at the age of 107 on January 29, 2008. She was a true pioneer of the Northwoods, bold and ground-breaking in so many ways. In 1918, during WW1, she drove a gravel truck for the Ashland County Highway Department. That same year she married Clifford Bedore. The couple moved to Ironwood in 1923, initially residing in Jessieville Location. Evelyn served the community in many ways. She was an active member of the Church of the Transfiguration, The Ironwood Woman's Club, and the Telephone Pioneers of America. She was on the advisory board to establish Ironwood Junior College, now Gogebic Community College. In the 1930s she helped initiate a nutrition program for Newport school children. Before the senior citizen nutrition program, she served many special meals to residents of Pioneer Park.

Preparation of food became her calling. In the Ironwood Daily Globe of Feb. 2, 2000 she recalled how she got started on her catering business. She was asked in 1937 by the Newport Mining Company to take in five boarders. By this time she and Clifford had moved to a house on Curry Street. She recalled it was a time when mining was threatened by strikes and violence was a possibility. The mine brought in a police patrol and she was asked to board some of the miners. She figured into her costs food for ten people, five for her family and five boarders, plus ten percent for labor. Fifty years later, she terminated her catering, but not before she gained acclaim as a master of the art of cooking. She remembered catering to many mother and daughter banquets, weddings, birthdays and funerals. She recalled often having four or five funerals in a day, each with their specific menu. The standard menu in the early days was potato salad, jello, ham and turkey or sausage, buns, cakes, cookies and beverages.



WOMEN'S CLUB LUNCHEON 1934

The Ironwood Woman's Club held a special place in her heart. She joined in 1927 at the request of Mrs. Norman Thomas and immediately became involved in many of the endeavors which were hallmarks of the club, that is, social welfare, health, and school programs. By that time the club had new digs in the Ironwood Memorial building. The quarters were given to them by the city because of the club's contribution to the planning and construction of the Memorial Building (1922).

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KEEPING HISTORY ALIVE & WELL

BY IAHS PRESIDENT - GARY HARRINGTON

Ray Maurin, IAHS founder and museum curator, would be pleased. This summer will go down as a time when history and remembrance of history reigned, highlighted by the Smithsonian Exhibit, "The Way We Worked" and the U.P. History conference, co-hosted by the Historical Society of Michigan and the Ironwood Area Historical Society. Visitors got a good look at Ironwood and came away impressed. Larry Wagenaar, Executive Director, Historical Society of Michigan, had this to say, "On behalf of the Board of Trustees and membership of the Historical Society of Michigan (HSM), I would like to express our deep collective thanks for the outstanding 66th Annual Upper Peninsula History Conference. It was an outstanding success and we heard many, many positive comments and remarks about the meeting, our hosts, sites we visited and the Ironwood community."



NEW DEPOT PARK SIGN
CONSTRUCTED BY TOM BERQUIST

We can't thank the HSM enough for choosing Ironwood to host such an epic historical event. LLWright was the venue for most of the conference. Visitors were in awe of the magnificence of the facility, comparing it to so many school buildings throughout Michigan that no longer stand. There are too many people to thank for all they did to contribute to the success of the event. Special thanks, however, must go to Supt. Tim Kolesar for opening the school's doors to the 150 or so conference visitors who moved from classroom to classroom for the multitude of programs. The library was shown off in all its vintage glory as the site for opening ceremonies.

Behind all the successes are IAHS members, the board of directors and museum guides. Thanks to all who keep the IAHS fires stoked. Come join us! Talk with our board members—Pres. Gary Harrington, Vice Pres. Sandy Sharp, Treasurer, Dan Berlin, and Mark Aho, Eero Haukkala, Russ Maynard or guides, Mark Aho, Betsy Slabaugh, Russ Maynard, Sue Murphy, Ron Trethewey, and Gary Harrington. Consider becoming a guide who greets visitors from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

REMINDERS—Visit the Memorial Building. There are still a few photos to be adopted. The Ironwood History Room upstairs awaits the historically curious. More traveling historical exhibits hosted by the IAHS and Carnegie Library will be periodically displayed. Tour the Depot Museum and check out the new exhibits, books in the Museum Store, and consider purchasing a commemorative brick for \$100. The bricks and memberships are our primary sources of income (a re-roofing project is in our near future). Explore Ironwood's history. It's fascinating.

GOUDIE SISTERS REMEMBERED FONDLY



JEAN GOUDIE

Most of us can recall teachers who set standards of excellence for themselves and their students and molded and strengthened lives for the young people they taught.

Students at LLWright from 1906 - 1950 were fortunate to have been taught and mentored by Janet and Jean Goudie. Janet Goudie was born in England in 1882 and came to Ironwood with her parents when she was a child. She attended local schools and graduated from LLW. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and her master's from Columbia University. She began her teaching career in 1906, teaching Latin, algebra and English, and was junior class advisor. She died in 1970.

Jean Goudie was born in Ironwood in 1887. She graduated in 1909 from the University of Michigan, having earned her bachelor's degree. She studied further at the University of Chicago and the University of Colorado. After teaching eighth

grade at Central School, she began her tenure at LLW in 1910. She taught English and was dean of girls from 1927 - 1943. She died in 1976.

The sisters lived with their parents in a large house at 636 Ayer St., next door to LLW. Their father, James Goudie, was city engineer.

Among many honors garnered by the sisters, were consecutive dedications to them of the Hematite yearbook by the classes of 1951 and 1952. They were remembered, not only as teachers, but also as friends.

An Ironwood Daily Globe editorial written at the time of their retirement reiterated what their students through the years have expressed, stating, "Few school systems have ever been blessed with two teachers of such great ability, wisdom, and interest in the youth of the community."



JANET GOUDIE

Evelyn Bedore - cont'd. from page 1

In 1935 the club had the largest membership in the state. One of the projects she was most proud of was the Memorial Building's renovation in the mid 1980s. Among other areas rehabilitated, were the stained glass windows. She said she and Mrs. Frances Nichols led fund-raising efforts for the over one million dollar project.

Evelyn had a passion for the club's on-going effort to conduct a

clothing drive for the Bay Cliff Health Camp for children. In fact, in the year 2000, she stated, that was about the only big cause the Women's Club was still active in.

Ironwood and environs of the 20th Century and today would not have been the same without the contributions of Mrs. Evelyn Bedore.



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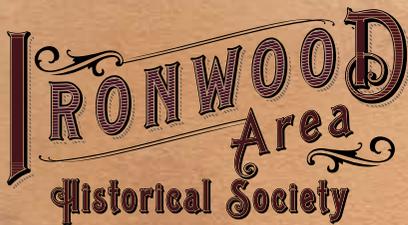
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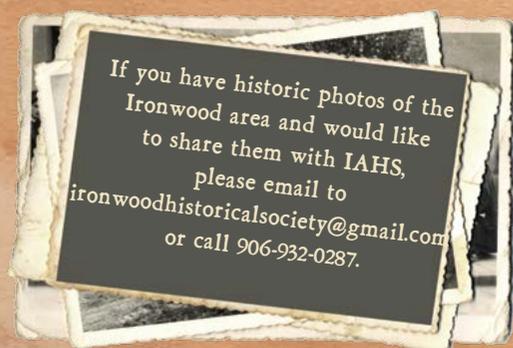
MAKING HISTORY MATTER



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IAHS memberships are now on the calendar year schedule. Become a member or renew now for 2016.



If you have historic photos of the Ironwood area and would like to share them with IAHS, please email to ironwoodhistoricalsociety@gmail.com or call 906-932-0287.



WHAT'S YOUR STORY? Discover your family history ~ start your family tree ~ who knows what hidden family secrets you might uncover. Gogebic Range Genealogical Society www.gogebicroots.org

"It is not that I belong to the past, but the past that belongs to me."

Mary Antin 1881 - 1949