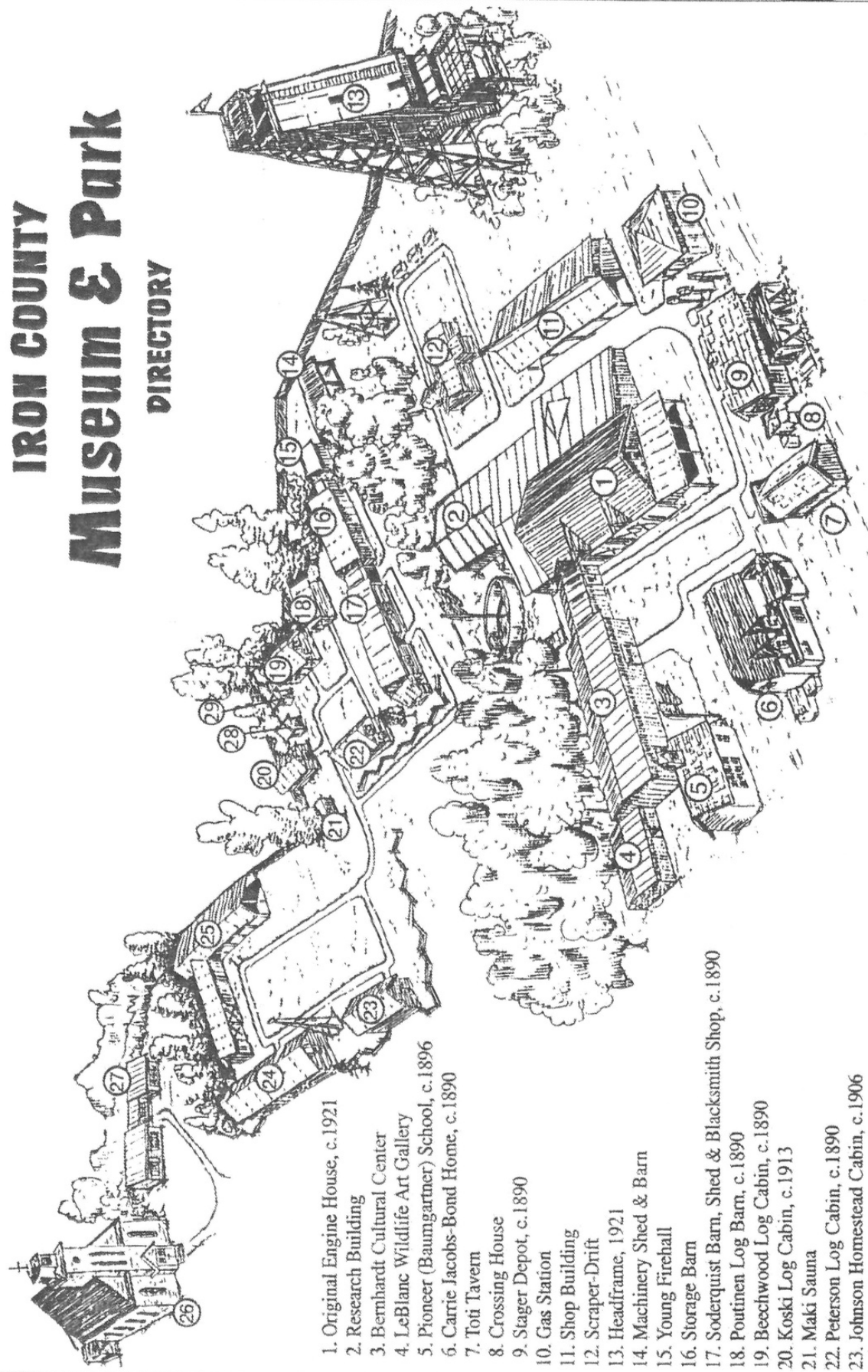


IRON COUNTY Museum & Park DIRECTORY



1. Original Engine House, c.1921
2. Research Building
3. Bernhardt Cultural Center
4. LeBlanc Wildlife Art Gallery
5. Pioneer (Baumgartner) School, c.1896
6. Carrie Jacobs-Bond Home, c.1890
7. Toti Tavern
8. Crossing House
9. Stager Depot, c.1890
10. Gas Station
11. Shop Building
12. Scraper-Drift
13. Headframe, 1921
14. Machinery Shed & Barn
15. Young Firehall
16. Storage Barn
17. Soderquist Barn, Shed & Blacksmith Shop, c.1890
18. Poutinen Log Barn, c.1890
19. Beechwood Log Cabin, c.1890
20. Koski Log Cabin, c.1913
21. Maki Sauna
22. Peterson Log Cabin, c.1890
23. Johnson Homestead Cabin, c.1906
24. Sharrard Logging Camp, c.1920
25. Shingle Mill Barn & Sleigh Shed
26. St. Mary's Church, c.1912
27. Giovanelli Home & Studio Art Gallery

28. Irvine Playhouse
29. Outhouse

Publication by
Marcia Bernhardt
(Second Edition)

Map illustrations by Jerry White

We tell it like it was at the IRON COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM



Museum Guide

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How We Got Here: Museum Timeline

1962-68

- Museum Society established. ('62)
- Caspian Mine site deeded to County for a museum ('63)
- Museum opens with first exhibits ('68)

1970-77

- Peterson Mining Hall added to the Engine House ('70)
- Brule Cabin added ('71)
- Beechwood Homestead c. 1890 moved to the grounds ('72)
- Stager Depot added ('72)
- Johnson Homestead and Sharrard Lumber Camp - the last standing in Iron County - brought in ('73)
- Soderquist Barns moved from Bates Township ('76)



1978-87

- Carrie Jacobs-Bond home moved from Iron River ('78)
- Kline House assembled as a barn ('83)
- The "Shops" added ('85)
- Puotinen log barn circa 1900 joins the homestead area ('87)



1988-99

- Baumgartner Pioneer School moved to the grounds ('88)
- St. Mary's Church built in 1911 is moved from Gaastra ('89)
- Maki Sauna added to log cabin collection ('89)
- Leblanc Gallery built ('90)
- Mining Memorial Hall built ('95)
- Red Barn & shed added ('98)
- Brandon Giovanelli Gallery & Studio added ('99)



2000+

- Toti's Tavern moved from the Virgil location ('03)
- Young Firehall brought in ('04)
- Museum Research Center opens ('05)
- Rock & Mineral exhibit built ('21)



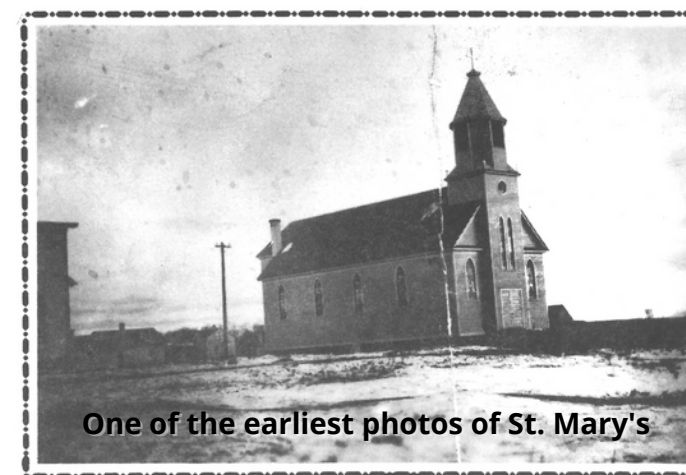
St. Mary's Catholic Church

This church was built in 1911 and was originally located in Gaastra. It celebrated 75 years of worship in 1987, closed in 1988 and was moved to the Museum grounds in 1989.

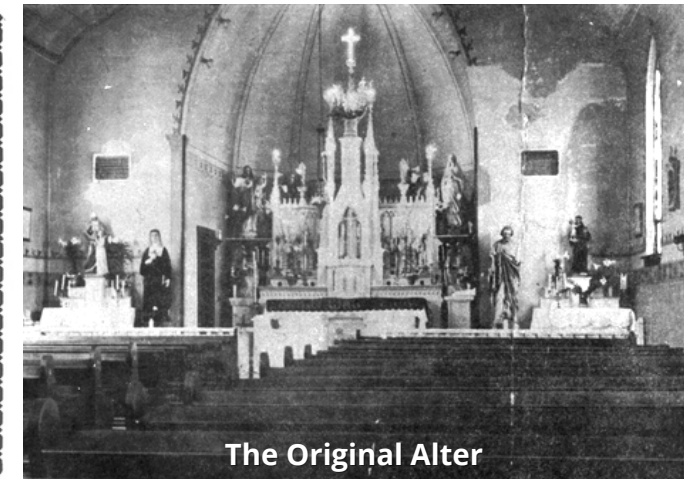
When the Gaastra area was first settled, a priest, Father James Lenhardt, from St. Agnes Church in Iron River would have to make the journey to what was then called Palatka to dispense sacraments to the Catholics of that area who were predominantly French, Italian and Polish.

Early settlers, including Douwe Gaastra, gave generously to construct their own church and St. Mary's was built at a cost of \$3,500. It was Father Lenhardt that laid the cornerstone and donated the stained glass window that remains today in the back of the church.

In August of 1912, the church was officially dedicated by Bishop Frederick Eis as St. Mary's of Palatka. The community was renamed Gaastra in 1919 when it was incorporated as a village.



One of the earliest photos of St. Mary's



The Original Alter

Log Cabins & Logging Camp

The state of Michigan is the only state that has a specific day to celebrate log cabin history. The last Sunday in June is "Log Cabin Day," and came about "to commemorate log cabins and the important role they played in this state's earliest days," according to the legislature's joint proclamation in 1987.

The museum is home to 17 of these beautiful log structures, which is more than any other place in Michigan! In fact, in 2014, primarily because of the work of Betty Petroski, we became the designated "Log Cabin Capital of Michigan!"

One of the highlights is the Sharrard Logging Camp, which has a unique display of antique saws! Our maintenance team carefully cleaned and shined each one and made a custom display shelf, giving a more authentic feel to the dining hall - or "cook house" as the loggers would've called it!

There are several logging exhibits and so many treasures from the logging era in the archives. One of those treasures is a book called "In Their Own Words: Lumberjacks and Their Stories" and the following is an excerpt from that book:

"In the old days of the tall timber and the dark woods, no true lumberjack went by his baptized name. He came to camp and signed on by a nickname, earned and given in the woods and the camps...

Wherever they went, they took their nicknames and stories with them. Enough of them actually stuck around long enough to become legends in the north woods.

There was Carl "Cast Iron" Ringdahl, and he would go the whole winter wearing nothing but a shirt and pair of pants. 30 below, didn't matter. The man was a regular cast iron furnace.

Jack Pine Bob played piano with his mittens on. And he was darned good, too. Then there was Johnny-On-The-Spot McDonald. A timber cruiser - hellava cruiser - but a cocky fellow, always getting into fights. But he was only about 5'3 so he couldn't hit you from the floor so he'd jump up on a bench and beat up on your head. And every time you swung at him, he'd jump to another spot.

Gooseneck Hanson was an outstanding lumberjack and had a neck about that of a goose...no, a swan, maybe. He was a great lumberjack and a really good drunkard.

Another guy you wouldn't want to mess with Matt Strom. We called him Timber Beast because he was a highpowered producer. He sawed at full speed and they couldn't find anyone to keep up with him..."

Collections of stories like these are available to copy in the archives as well as photos and other local history. Ask a staff member for assistance. Donations for archival research are appreciated.



Site History: The Caspian Mine

The iron ore industry was one of the primary economic drivers for this area for nearly 100 years. At one time, there were 78 mines in operation in Iron County with the last (Sherwood Mine) closing in 1978. This museum complex, which now has 25 buildings and more than 100 exhibits, was formerly the site of the Caspian Mine.

Opened by the Verona Mining Company, the Caspian Mine shipped 6,623,320 tons of ore between 1903-1937. The headframe (pictured left) stands over a flooded mine shaft that plunges 539 feet deep and is the oldest of its kind still standing in Michigan! All the buildings, except for the engine house and headframe, were moved to this site.

The Michigan Concourse

Begin your tour in the Michigan Concourse to see the first chartings of Iron County territory. The map display shows the surveying of the Wisconsin-Upper Michigan boundary line in 1840 - a shockingly precise map considering the technology of the time.

On the wall opposite, under the kitchen window, notice the surveyor chain. Maps and other equipment in the display case date to the 1870 period and were brought here by an early Iron County settler, William Selden (M-189/Selden road is named for him).

Mining and logging would become the primary draws to the area from the 1840's to the 1920's. Iron ore was discovered in Stambaugh in 1851. By 1875, prospectors were taking numerous excursions here and it was John Armstrong who is credited with discovering the first marketable ores near the falls of the Paint River, which later became the Crystal Falls mine.



Logging camps were also prevalent over northern Michigan and the U.P. and it's estimated that by 1900, Michigan produced an astonishing 170,000,000,000 board feet of lumber - enough to cover the entire state in 1-inch pine boards with wood to spare.

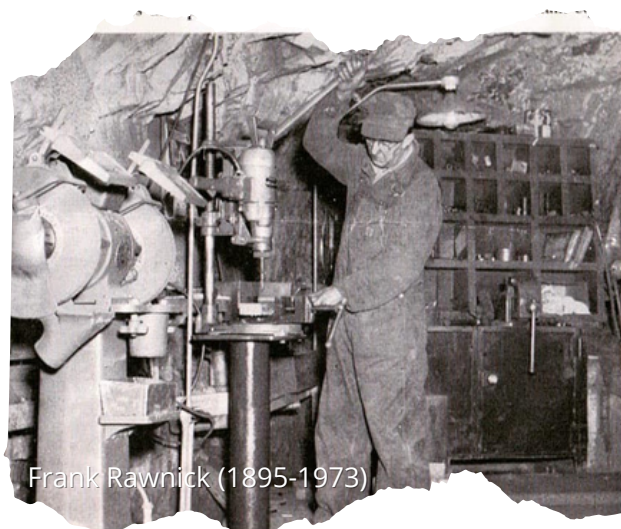


Heritage Hall

Heritage Hall is currently undergoing some changes, but it was originally added to the museum in 1975. Be sure to look up to see cultural depictions from the countries whose immigrants made up our Iron County melting pot. There were 39 predominant nationalities.

The Native American exhibit holds artifacts that were traded to Nels Fisher, an early merchant. The birch canoe was owned by Chief Edwards, the last Indian Chief of the area. The little statues you see were made by Lundin Kudo, a talented ceramic artist from Stambaugh whose work was featured in "Fine Art Ceramics" magazine.

The works of other local artists are also on display including unique wood furniture sculpted by Frank Rawnick, a miner with a knack for carving (See below).

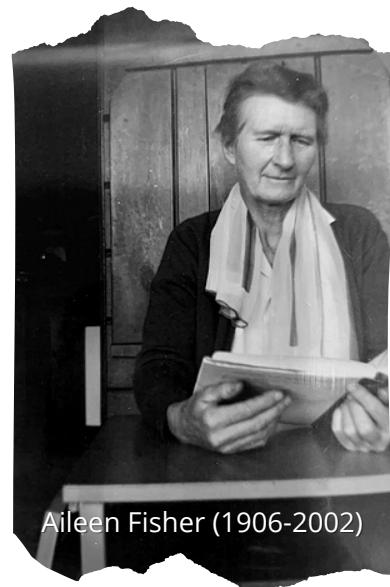


Frank Rawnick (1895-1973)

Don't miss the display of driftwood collected by author, Aileen Fisher. She called it "Found Art" and this selection was formerly displayed at the University of Colorado.

Fisher was a renowned poet and author, publishing more than 100 writings in her lifetime. She was born in Iron River and drew much of her inspiration from her life here. "We always had cats and dogs to play with - I have written so many verses about them—and we had horses that knew how to twitch their skin to scare off flies, and cows that knew how to turn

green grass into white milk & yellow cream, and chickens that were experts at making eggs," said Fisher. "Yes, ideas for poems lie all around us, in the everyday things we see and do and think and feel and remember, as well as in unusual sights and happenings. Poems are waiting to be discovered, yours for the taking. Who knows? Perhaps you are living a poem right now which some day you will put down on paper."



Aileen Fisher (1906-2002)



Also featured in Heritage Hall are photographs of early Iron County settlers, mining dioramas and other historical artifacts. Be on the look out for new exhibits in this location soon.

Toti's Tavern

Toti's Tavern was constructed in 1912 and is considered an important link to the area's past as it's one of the last remaining structures reminiscent of a bygone era when the Virgil Location was a hub of activity with a grocery store, barbershop, bakery and clothing store.

The Virgil location was a tight-knit, predominantly Italian community and Toti's was a social center. It sponsored ball teams and community get-togethers, and residents recalled that it was the meeting place for first generation men who gathered to play cards and smoke their Toscano cigars. The bar also offered a bocce court and summer evenings saw the outdoors lights on so people could play.

Toti's was opened by Joseph Toti and it was later run by his twin boys, Ronald and Donald. When the two went off to war it was kept up by a family friend until they returned. The bar closed in the 1980's and it was moved to the museum grounds where it was restored in 2003. Note the unique tin walls and ceilings and long mahogany bar.

The Stager Depot

The Stager Depot, currently sitting still and serene on our Museum grounds, was once a bustling railroad station filled daily with passengers coming to Iron County. The Stager depot, originally located near Stager Lake in Crystal Falls, was in operation all the way up to 1960's, and over the years the majority of immigrants coming to settle in Iron County, passed through it on their way to the various communities here.

Also staged in this exhibit are artifacts from local airports and helicopter propellers made by Rudy Enstrom from Crystal Falls. He started his career as a mechanic in the mines but always dreamed of building helicopters. He started constructing them in 1957 and built 6 prototypes before he made one that was able to fly.



Soon enough, the investors were able to recruit a number of experienced aviation designers and the company was formed as the R.J. Enstrom Co. in 1959. Over the decades, Enstrom's business would succeed around the globe.

In April 1965, the FAA issued the type certificate for Enstrom's first helicopter, the F28, and deliveries commenced soon thereafter from his Upper Peninsula factory.

Famous Iron County Artists

One snowy day, in 1894, Frank was pushed playfully by a child in a snowball fight, and he slipped and fell, striking his head on the frozen ground. According to Carrie, his last words to her were "My darling, this is death. But, oh, how I want to live". Perhaps the silver lining in this tragedy was it became the catalyst for Carrie's success.

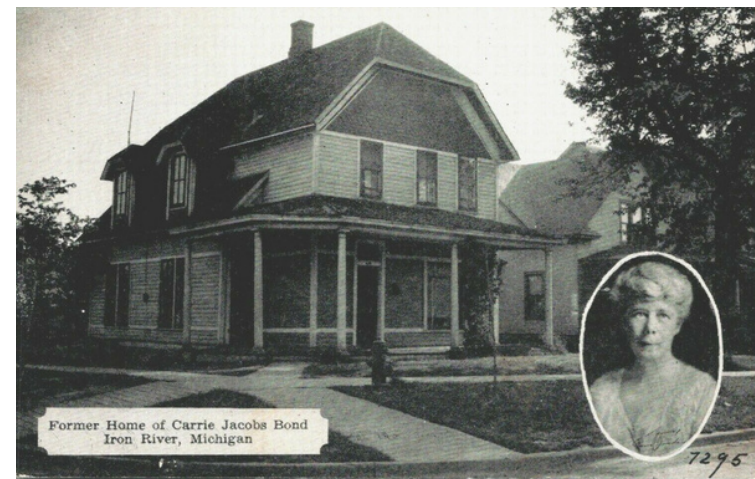
The money Carrie inherited (\$4,000) was not enough for her and her son, so she moved to Chicago, bought a house and rented the rooms. She continued writing songs, and eventually started a company composing and printing music. She went on to sell millions of copies of her songs, the most famous of which include "I Love You Truly," "Just Awearin' for You," and "A Perfect Day."



Carrie Jacobs-Bond became a household name as the most successful female composer of the era. She performed at the White House in 1907. "A Perfect Day" became the soundtrack for the Allied Forces in WWI selling 8 million copies.

Many of Carrie's compositions reflect the hardships she endured in her life: her impoverished childhood, the deaths of her father, second husband, and son, who ended his own life in 1928 while listening to "A Perfect Day" when he found out he was dying of cancer.

Carrie died at the age of 84 in 1946. Her mausoleum is inscribed with a tribute from President Herbert Hoover that reads, "Beloved composer of I Love You Truly, Just A Wearyin' For You, A Perfect Day and a hundred other heart songs that express the love, the longings, sadness and gladness of people everywhere...truly folk music of the world...she was America's gallant lady of song."



The entire first floor of this home has been remodeled to look authentically like the early 1900's and features beautiful artifacts from the Jacobs-Bond estate.

You can also read about dozens of other exemplary local women in the book "Women of Iron County" available for purchase in the gift shop. Much of the information gathered here came from Women of Iron County, the archives, and "Carrie Jacobs-Bond: America's First Great Woman Popular Song Composer."

Heritage Hall also features the work of Mary Lundin, also known by her pseudonym "Lundin Kudo." She was a talented sculptor & painter with Stambaugh roots.

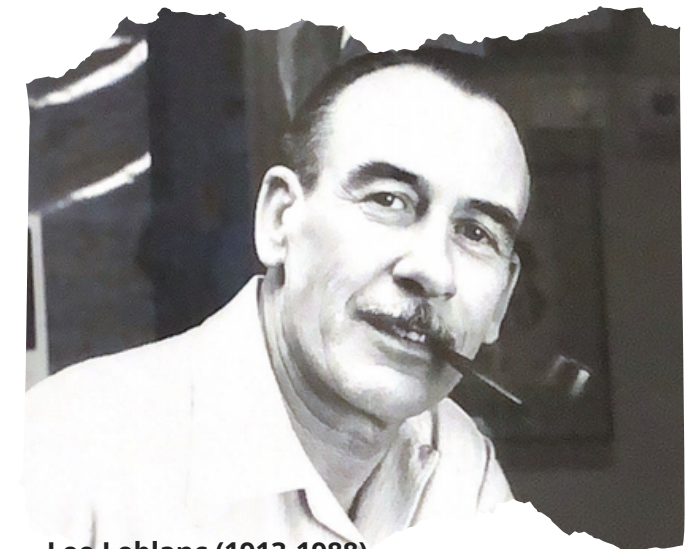
Lundin Kudo was featured in "Fine Art Ceramics" magazine and rated one of the top 10 ceramic artists in the United States. She received commissions to do sculptures for the Palm Beach International Airport and Disney World's Swan Hotel, but she never lost her love for Iron County.



Lundin Kudo (1947-2006)

Several pieces of her work are on display here in Heritage Hall and near the Cultural Center: "Rachel & Izzy" (pictured right) and statues of several Native Americans including Chief, George McGeshick, and his wife Mary (who was the great granddaughter of Chief John Edwards & Pentoga that met early Iron County settlers).

The Museum has extensive collections of the works of Lee LeBlanc (Building 4) and Brandon Giovanelli (Building 27). There are special brochures about these artists in their respective galleries.



Lee Leblanc (1913-1988)

Lee Leblanc graduated from Iron River High School in 1931 and went east to study art. He moved to Hollywood to do freelance work, beginning his motion picture career as an animator for Looney Tunes and Merrie Melodies. He retired in 1962 and moved back to the Iron River area where his career moved into wildlife art.

The Brandon Giovanelli Studio & Gallery is the former residence of L. Brandon Giovanelli, one of the most talented artists in Iron County history. His home was one of his many "canvases" and he created works of art on his ceilings and walls. The details are incredible with low ceilings that allow every guest to easily observe the delicate beauty of his creations.



Brandon Giovanelli (1937-1994)

Peterson Mining Hall

The Mining Hall has been named for Harry & Cecelia Peterson whose generous contributions allowed for this expansion of the museum. Harry was an engineer in the Caspian mine and designed the first underground ventilation system!

The mining exhibits are under renovation, but here you will see many exhibits from early life in Iron County as well as a brand new Rock & Mineral Exhibit (also under construction).

Jewelry Store

The equipment in this display was donated by the Nick Jacobs family, several of whom were early jewelers.

Fire Alarm System

Displayed here are two different pieces of an early fire alarm system. They are made by the Gamewell Fire Alarm Telegraph company and transmitted signals via telegraph. The large bell piece, on the left, would be placed in a fire house or other important town building.

When a fire was detected somewhere in town, a person would go to a call box and follow the directions (styles changed over the years). The call box would have a number assigned to it and the number would be transmitted to the large bell. The fire alarm would ring the bell the number of times that corresponded to the call box number and that is how the firemen would know what part of town the fire was in.

The bell call would be repeated until the call box was reset. The item on the right is a code wheel box or fire alarm transmitter. These wheels would have notches in them that corresponded to call box numbers and the wheel could be placed on the mechanism and then when the handle was cranked the number of notches would be transmitted to a central station.

Both items were very helpful in being able to share the location of a fire quicker than just an older standard of ringing a town bell. The use of the telegraph allowed firefighters to accurately pinpoint where in the town a fire was which improved response time which indeed led to less damage to property and saved lives.



IRON RIVER FIRE DEPT—CA 1925
L-R: Robert Solberg, Frank Dahl, Jake Kinsman, Henry Perry, Severt Karvala, Wayne Karvala, Robert Saxon, Albert Baehr, Howard Hoar, Alfred Malberg, John W. Anderson, Russell Hoar, Ollie Knutson, William Cook, Ernest Champion, Clarence (Pop) Larson, Albert Hanson, Ben Ratagick, Elmer Andree, Charles Wunder, Peter Walraven, Reinhold Erickson, Anton Ratagick, Harry Duff.



Stambaugh F.D. Ford Fire Engine ca. 1948
Converted into water truck for Young's Golf course and now on display in the Firehall building.



Iron River F.D. ca.1910 (Genesee St)

Carrie Jacobs-Bond House



One of the most famous women from Iron County is Carrie Jacobs-Bond, deemed the “Mother of America” in 1921. She was arguably the first great woman song composer in the United States.

Carrie Minetta Jacobs was born on August 11th, 1862 to Hannibal Jacobs, a family doctor, and his wife Mary. The family lived in Janesville, Wisconsin and the country was still in the beginning years of the Civil War. We do not know much about Carrie’s early life, only that times were hard. The economic depression that followed the end of the war in 1865 led her father to financial ruin and he took his own life when Carrie was just eight years old. Carrie found solace from life’s turmoil in music, teaching herself to play the piano by ear. Later she took lessons and started writing music as a hobby.

When she was 14 years old, Carrie met a young man named Frank L. Bond. He was the son of an affluent doctor and he quickly captured her heart. When Frank went to medical school, eventually moving with his father to the Upper Peninsula, he left Carrie in Janesville with a broken heart. She looked for comfort in the arms of Edward J. Smith and when she found out she was pregnant, the two married in December of 1880. She bore a son whom they named Fredrick and the couple moved to Chicago shortly thereafter. While Carrie loved her son, her marriage to Ed was tumultuous and he divorced her in 1888.

Carrie never forgot her first love, Frank, and had been secretly keeping in touch with him through letters. She even visited him during the troubled years of her marriage, telling her husband she was visiting the U.P. to “paint.” Upon her divorce at age twenty-six, Carrie took her son and traveled to the mining town of Iron River where Frank was working as physician and co-owned a mine with his father. Carrie and Frank immediately rekindled their relationship and were married in June of 1889.

Carrie spent only seven years of her life in Iron County, but she frequently said they were the happiest years of her life. She and Frank enjoyed the outdoors together and she grew to love the community, often accompanying her husband on patient visits and distributing food to the needy. She taught piano lessons, played the organ on Sundays for two local churches, composed music, and even painted ceramics. She also began to publish her music at that time, spending six weeks in Chicago where she sold her compositions and was well-received.

Life was good and Carrie was happy. But “to everything there is a season”, and that happy season ended.

Baumgartner Pioneer School

This one room school was built in 1896 and is the oldest school building still standing in Iron County. At one time there were more than 60 such schools here! The Pioneer School later became the Pioneer Mission Covenant Church – part of that history is visible in the administrative office of the exhibit.

It was moved to the museum grounds from the Baumgartner Location in Iron River in August of 1988. It has since been restored and furnished to its original design as a school.

The development of the school districts in Iron County began around 1881 when Iron County was still part of Ely Township of Marquette County. The communities were growing rapidly around the prosperous mining operations in the Iron River and Stambaugh areas. These pioneers were of many nationalities, but the largest single group were Scandinavians.

Among these Scandinavians were Andrew G. Stromberg, Charles and Frank Erickson, and Gust Abrahamson who divided up a section of land near Iron River between themselves. It was in this area where the Pioneer School was built. Stromberg personally notified all the settlers in the area that a school organization meeting would be held at his home. It was decided that the new school was to be erected on the southwest corner of land donated by Abrahamson. Miss Maude Moses was hired to teach for three months at a salary of \$45 per month. The classes were to be held at the Stromberg cabin until the school could be built.



The school was constructed for the sum of \$348. Additionally, the school bell cost \$20, the front platform was \$17 and a privy was constructed for \$15.

The school, originally known as District No. 3 School, was later called the Baumgartner school in reference to the community that developed there. About 1910, the school was referred to as the Pioneer School to distinguish it from the newly constructed Edison School in the same district.

War Memorial

The diorama portrays a trench scene from World War I. The water-cooled machine gun is a captured German gun and was donated by the city of Caspian.

The second case contains memorabilia and artifacts from the Civil War on. Some of the items that can be seen here are the Civil War cap, a pencil rendering of barracks life from WWI, a piece of a propeller from an Army plane that crashed into the Porcupine Mountains during the WWII period, a paratrooper parachute, newspaper headlines, a unit patch display, and facsimiles of the peace treaties from WWII.

There were approximately 2,200 men from Iron County who fought in World War I and/or World War II. Of those who served in WWII, 111 of them died in combat.



Group of World War II soldiers from Iron County.

Back Row:
Sy Fiorani,
Harry Pociopa,
____ Johns,
Frank Ballon,
John Caine

Front Row:
Bernard Kondro, Louis
Rizzarda, Herman Taitsch,
Oscar Norkoli



The Wine Rebellion Cellar

This display is representative of the February 25th, 1920 event called the Wine Rebellion. One month into the National Prohibition Act, federal agents packing 600 rounds of ammunition descended upon the city of Iron River to seize eight barrels of red wine. National headlines declared Iron River was defying the U.S. government with its "liquor" production. As the drama played out for 14 days, this rebellious community captivated the nation.

In the early decades of the 1900s, Iron River was a full-tilt iron mining town, and the promise of jobs had, since 1851 when iron was discovered there, attracted hundreds of miners - many of Italian descent. By the time Prohibition laws passed in 1920, a strong Italian community, along with its heritage of home winemaking, was thriving here.

Iron River merchant John Scalcucci, and his brothers Stephen and Joseph, owned a grocery store that catered to Italian miners and their families. The three-story building, which John bought in 1914, had a basement that stored the family's grape press and wine barrels and a third-floor apartment. From the first floor, the Scalcucci family sold staples like bread, cheese and their homemade Chianti-style wine.

Miners often swung by the grocery store for food and drinks for the workday. Wine was often the beverage of choice, since miners knew the quality of the wine, which was much better than the water as this was before public water systems.

They were undeterred by the prohibition laws and when the government caught wind of their operation, Internal Revenue agents, supported by national guardsmen, were sent to Iron River from Chicago to seize "without due process of law" barrels of wine from their Virgil location cellar. Martin McDonough, a local attorney, fought and won the case. Nationwide reports showcased McDonough's heroic defiance and stand in the rebellion. On February 28, Michigan dropped its investigation into the Iron River Rebellion, and McDonough was hailed a hero.

The exhibit here contains several barrels from the Caesar Vantaggi estate, a large barrel from the Dukes D'Abruzzi lodge, grape presses and an apple press. Several crates for presses are stored above the exhibit. You will also note a commercial wood still and a homemade still constructed from a copper boiler.



Oberg's Saloon

The saloon you see next to the wine cellar has been developed from bits and pieces of Iron County businesses. The back bar mirror was taken from the Dascola Barber Shop in Caspian. The standing bar has a middle panel which was once the front of the Gibbs City Post Office (c. 1915). The large red dice were taken from the Alpha Hotel about 1930 by a fireman when the building burned. The table along with the jug and beer pitcher is from the Boyington Hotel and the chairs are from Tri-City Drugstore in Stambaugh.

The Engine House

As you make your way out of the mining hall and into the brick building known as the Engine House, you will see replicas of shops & storefronts that give you snapshots of life in early Iron County history. The Engine House is the only building (besides the headframe) left standing from the Caspian mine. Here you will see:

- Molly Pryne's Dress Shop
- The Carpenter's Shop
- MacDonell's Blacksmith Shop
- The Beechwood Mercantile Store
- The Barber Shop
- Dr. Vilas' Drugstore & Dental Office
- The Pioneer Home
- The Operating Room
- The Chapel
- The Dugout Canoe Collection
- "Coming Out of the Wood" carvings by Unto Jarvi and Charles Dzarnowski
- Lumbering Hall and The Monigal Minatures Logging Camp:

The diorama of a logging camp is the largest of it's kind in the world built by William Monigal who spent 8 years carving the model figures after he was injured in a saw mill accident.

