

# Views

The Newsletter of the  
**Friends of the Van Pelt Library**  
Michigan Tech University  
1400 Townsend Drive, Houghton, MI 49931  
*October 2007 Volume 12, Number 2*

## *Friends Annual Membership Meeting 1 November 2007- “Explosives in UP” Topic of Presentation*

Mark your calendars: The *Friends Annual Membership Meeting* will take place Thursday 1 November 2007 from 4-5:30 in the Van Pelt Library Archives. All members and the public are welcome to attend.

The speaker for the annual meeting will be Bill Haller, who will speak on “*High Explosives Manufacturing in Houghton County, 1886 – 1960.*”

Between 1868 and 1960, nineteen manufacturers of explosives have been identified in Upper Peninsula Michigan, often in remote regions. A classic example of this infrastructure is a rapidly decaying “time capsule” on a remote 1815 acre tract at Senter, Michigan; a location virtually unknown outside the area.

On this site each year from 1910 to 1960, Atlas Powder Company produced millions of pounds of dynamite. Disappearing from our view are both the structures and the oral histories from remaining workers. Four years of research by Haller has produced the book titled “*ATLAS POWDER Senter, Michigan 1910 – 1960*”. Haller will summarize his research at the meeting.

The business meeting of the Friends will precede the talk. Nominated for Board membership/officer positions are:

Open, Chairman  
Don Durfee, Vice Chairman  
Terry Reynolds, Treasurer  
Amy Hughes, Secretary  
Mary Marchaterre, Board member  
Karen Hubbard, Board member  
Faith Morrison, Board member

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

## *2007 Friends Book Sale Breaks All Records*

Submitted by Terry Reynolds

The Annual Friends Book Sale, held 12-13 April 2007 in the Memorial Union Ballroom, set a new record for receipts. Between membership renewals and book sales, the event netted over \$3000 for use in Library improvement projects. Proceeds exceeded those of last year’s sale by over 50%, and even exceeded the previous best year (\$2700 in 2001) by a substantial amount.

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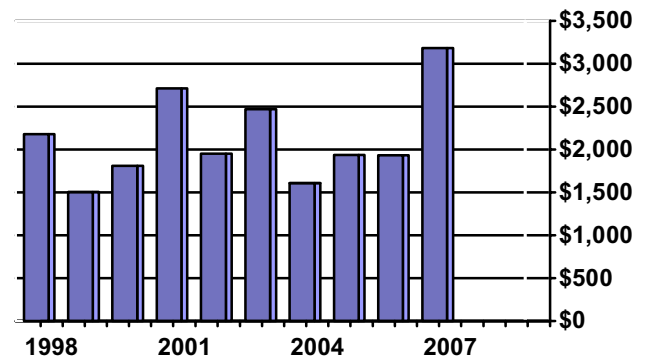


Figure 1: Proceeds from Friends Book Sale since 1998

As usual, the success of the sale depended on the hard work of Friends in classifying, pricing, and boxing the thousands of books donated and the help of our co-sponsoring student groups, Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society and the Society of Intellectual Sisters, on the days of the sale. We also very gratefully acknowledge the assistance of MTU's Facilities Management Department, who helped move the books to and from storage, and the MTU Recycling Group, who helped us properly dispose of dated and damaged items.

Mark your calendars for the 2008 Book Sale: the main sale will be Friday, 4 April 2008, with the Member-only Pre-Sale Thursday evening, 3 April. Book donations may be dropped in the collection box in the entry of the Van Pelt Library or at the Circulation Desk. Larger donations will be picked up – call or email Dana Richter (487-2149 or [drrichte@mtu.edu](mailto:drrichte@mtu.edu)) to arrange for pick-up.

## *Continued Growth of the Library Art Collection*

Submitted by Patricia Van Pelt

This summer it was a pleasure to add Joe Kirkish to our roster of local artists and to add photography to the variety of art media represented in the Library collection. As a professor at Michigan Tech for 42 years, teaching communication courses, Joe discovered “that even the technically oriented student needed nourishment for the other side of the brain.” We purchased two photographs.

*Terpsichore*, (the Muse of Dancing), makes us look more closely at a simple leaf, and *Composition with Tire* takes our perception beyond these ordinary objects.

Edith Marshall was born in Iron River, Michigan, and now lives in Hancock. She has painted all her life, transforming images and ideas into a wide variety of work. *Intrinsic Forces*, mixed water media, 2005, hangs on the first floor above the DVD players. Edith Marshall writes, “What might

be or what could be what has been or will never be, translate to my creative impulse a unifying thread.”

With the purchase of Clyde Mikkola's 6<sup>th</sup> *Street Calumet*, a watercolor painted this year, we see a familiar place with new eyes. Clyde is also an historian and educator and has participated in many enriching activities. His sense of historical continuity informs this representation.

Information about all the Library Art can be found in the Art Collection Binder. It includes several of the Monographs in the series **Artists of the Keweenaw**, published by the Vertin Gallery, Calumet. It is available at the Library reference desk on the second floor.

## *MTU Archives Announces Research Travel Awards*

The Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections is accepting applications for its annual research support awards for the 2008 calendar year. Financial support for the travel award program is provided by the Friends of the Van Pelt Library. The travel grant program continues to increase awareness of the Archives' collections and encourages the use of some less familiar resources by helping to bring researchers from outside the area into the Archives. Within the Archives' manuscript collections are an abundant array of resources revealing the region's rich history.

Past recipients of the travel grant have examined topics ranging from 19<sup>th</sup> century representations of landscape and place on the Gogebic Iron Range, to the transformation of former mining districts into vacation and tourist destinations after World War II. The Archives has sponsored visiting scholars from throughout the United States and as far away as Sweden and England. Among the presentations given by last year's recipients was a well-attended talk by linguist Kathryn Remlinger on dialect and

identity. Grants of up to \$750 have been bestowed in past years. The grant amounts for the upcoming cycle have not yet been determined.

The MTU Archives is a department of the J.R. Van Pelt Library. Located on the Garden Level of the new Library facility, the Archives is a place where members of the campus community and the general public can learn more about local and regional history, and the people and events of the past.

The deadline for applications for the 2008 MTU Archives Research Travel Awards program is 21 January 2008.

For more information about the MTU Archives, its collections and hours, or to request an application, contact the Archives at [copper@mtu.edu](mailto:copper@mtu.edu) or call 487-2505.

## ***Econo Foods “Computers for Kids” Program Starts Up***

Submitted by Mary Marchaterre

Time to collect your receipts from Econo to benefit the Van Pelt Library at MTU. Through its *Computers for Kids* program, Econo Foods donates to the Friends one percent of the sum of all Econo receipts collected. These funds are used to pay for computer systems in the library. In 2006-07, the Friends of the Van Pelt Library collected Econo receipts that totaled \$33,552.38. As a result, Econo Foods donated \$355.23 to the Friends.

Many thanks to those who participated last year, and a big "keep it up" to all collecting receipts for 2006-07. Want to help? Please collect your receipts from Econo Foods and send them to us or drop them in the collection box at the circulation desk of the Library. Econo will accept receipts dated end of August 2007, through the beginning of June 2008. Please send your receipts by intercampus mail to

either Mary Marchaterre (Admin 209) or Faith Morrison (Chemical Engineering - 304A Chem Sci). Want to help more? Put out a collection box in your area and encourage your coworkers to bring in their receipts for our library. There are drop boxes in the Chemical Engineering office (203 Chem Sci), the Chemistry office (607 Chem Sci), at the Library circulation desk, in the coffee room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Admin building, and in the basement of the EERC. Every little bit helps.

## ***Friends Blankets Available!***

The beautiful MTU blanket is available once again from the Friends of the Van Pelt Library (<http://www.chem.mtu.edu/~fmorriso/fvpl/blanket.htm>). The 4 ft by 5 ft cotton blanket in blue and white features historic buildings from the Michigan Tech campus (design shown at right) and sells for \$65 plus tax and shipping. Email [treynold@mtu.edu](mailto:treynold@mtu.edu) to order your blanket. All proceeds benefit the Van Pelt Library.

