



Knife River Heritage & Cultural Center

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May 2023

By Paul von Goertz - KRHCC Board Member

FIVE NEW EXHIBITS PRESENT KR'S COMMERCIAL FISHING HISTORY - OFFER INSIGHT INTO TOWN'S CHARACTER.



“Not to be ‘lost at sea.’ Caught in a late November gale in 1939, Larsmont fisherman Isak Jacobson could not row home against it. He tied his skiff to his net marker and wrapped his arms around it. His body could then be found. Carl Erickson in CRUSADER II found Isak in his sinking skiff, chopped him free of ice, thawed him out by his stove, and brought him safely home. Painting by David Gilsvik. Prints will be available. See story inside page 5.

It’s apparent as the KRHCC evolves that its historical and educational messages will need to be through a self-guided walking tour comprised of outdoor interpretive displays.

As a small town we just don’t have the volunteers to serve as docents of the depot, CRUSADER II, and site seven days a week. Instead, we will rely on nine 24” x 35” interpretive displays to present Knife River’s (KR) history and give insight into the character of its people.

In 2021 we installed a set of four displays just west of the depot to give a quick overview of KR. The four covered: Early indigenous Americans and copper mining • Logging • Railroading • Commercial fishing.

This spring we will add a second set of interpretive displays to expand on what KR is most known - commercial fishing. The five displays will be mounted on the viewing deck that offers a peek into the interior of CRUSADER II. The boat, viewing deck and displays will be covered by an open shelter that will be built this fall.

To describe KR's commercial fishing history and give insight into the character of its people in four displays, each limited to about 300 words, was a challenge.

- Display #1 - The Indigenous presence in Knife River.
- Display #2 - KR's Norwegian heritage and its influence on the town.
- Display #3 - CRUSADER II, the exhibit's featured attraction.
- Display #4 - The resourcefulness of commercial fishermen working in an industry that could barely support a family.

As newsletter writer I was chosen to create the text and find photos for the display. I can't say I wrote the displays. It was more like collecting bits of information from many sources and weaving it all together to form an historically accurate narrative in four parts (four displays). And, we hoped, that as a person reads through all four, they would get a sense of the town's character and values.

First stop was Todd Lindahl, the KRHCC's historian and state-wide recognized archeologist. Todd was invaluable for his knowledge of commercial fishing from early Indigenous times through the lamprey invasion in the early 1950s that all but wiped Superior's population of Lake Trout.

Indigenous people were a great help in writing display #1.

I would not attempt to write the message of the Indigenous presence in KR without significant input from Indigenous people. For that, Mary and I traveled to Grand Portage, MN last fall. A tribal elder from the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa shared with me what had been passed on orally from his elders. The time period was when early Indigenous people fished the lake and its tributaries, through the partnership formed between Indigenous peoples and the British, and later the American Fur Company.

The office of Tribal Historic Preservation of the Fond du Lac Band in Fond du Lac, MN, was very helpful in understanding Indigenous culture and how their values towards what nature provides differ from non-Indigenous peoples.

A final perspective on the Indigenous presence along the North Shore was from Timothy Cochrane. Tim is a former superintendent of Grand Portage National Monument in Grand Portage. He has worked as a folklorist, oral historian, and ranger on Isle Royale. He also co-authored with Hawk Tolson one of my favorite books, *"A Good Boat Speaks for Itself – Isle Royale Fishermen and Their Boats."*

Displays #2, #3 and #4 relied on local knowledge.

These displays were comprised of oral and written history by Knife River's founding families and their second and third generations. Newspaper clippings from scrapbooks were also a good source of information.

Bob Hill, age 93, son of Hjelmer Hill, one of the three Hill boat-building brothers, visited the KRHCC last fall along with his nephew, Doug Hill, and together filled in some of the blanks about how CRUSADER II was built. Bob helped build boats similar as a nine-year old. Because of his small size, he was given the job of clinching nails in confined areas.

The need for a fifth display.

During the process of gathering information for the displays we came to the realization that women were not receiving proper recognition. One reason was that commercial fishing is a male-dominated occupation. We could not find a single photo in our archives of a woman actively engaged in commercial fishing. Furthermore, we could not even find a quote from, or photo of, a woman in a newspaper clipping where the subject was commercial fishing.

However, every north shore community had "fishing families." The whole family was engaged at some level. Certainly, at times women were in boats helping their husbands set and lift nets, but with the dangers inherent with commercial fishing, and with consideration for small children at home, it was generally accepted parents should not be in the same boat.

But, women were actively involved with the shore side aspect of fishing by helping dress and salt fish, mend nets, boat maintenance, and tend the fish shacks that sold fish to those traveling Highway 61.

During winter months the children of fishing families helped repair and maintain nets and in other ways prepare for the upcoming fishing season. Jim "Squeak" Hanson remembers how he and his brother, Ken, helped their dad preserve cedar net floats (also called "corks") during the winter months. Each float had to be cut from the net and dipped in a hot and smelly preservative made of pine tar, kerosene and linseed oil. Then retied to the net.

It could be said women were the "glue" that kept fishing families strong - and the community together. Credit for what would become the Knife River Rec Council could be given to Edna Liberty, who along with husband Joe, owned the Liberty Store, later Emily's Eatery. Local children would skate on the river next to the store. Edna would bring them hot cocoa and cookies.

Edna and Joe decided KR children should not be skating on river ice and the dangers that go with it but should have a skating rink. A meeting of parents was held, later to become the Knife Rice Rec Council (KRRC), with four of the eight board members women.

First order of business was to create a skating rink at the current site of the Oden Alreck Field. Second item was how to fund it and that was a fish cake dinner. Men provided and dressed the herring, and women, for the most part, made the cakes and side dishes. Fish cake dinners have since provided some level of funding for all of KR's ball courts for people of all ages, access to the agate beach, and hiking trails along the maple ridge. All are open and free to the public.

The 5th interpretive display recognizes the important role women have played in developing the character of a small town and giving balance to the influence of the male-dominated occupations of rail roading, logging and commercial fishing.

The five displays are in the final stages of construction in Pennsylvania and should be installed on the viewing deck of CRUSADER II by the end of June.

Many people contributed to the creation of the displays.

Those who contributed to the text:

- Todd Lindahl – Historian and archeologist
- Tim Cochrane, Former superintendent, Grand Portage National Monument in Grand Portage
- William Blackwell – Tribal elder Grand Port Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- Office of Fond du Lac Tribal Historic Preservation
- Minnesota DNR reports
- Mike Ojard
- Robert Hill
- Randy Ellestad

Those who contributed photos:

- Randy Ellestad
- Kay Wieme Struve
- James Storms
- Dennis Ojard (Kenneth Ojard photos)
- Jared Wick
- Robin Whaley
- Douglas Hill
- Carol Carlson
- Paul von Goertz
- University of Minnesota Duluth Archives, NE Minnesota Historical Collection
- KRHCC archives

DISPLAYS FEATURE WORKS OF TWO LOCAL ARTISTS

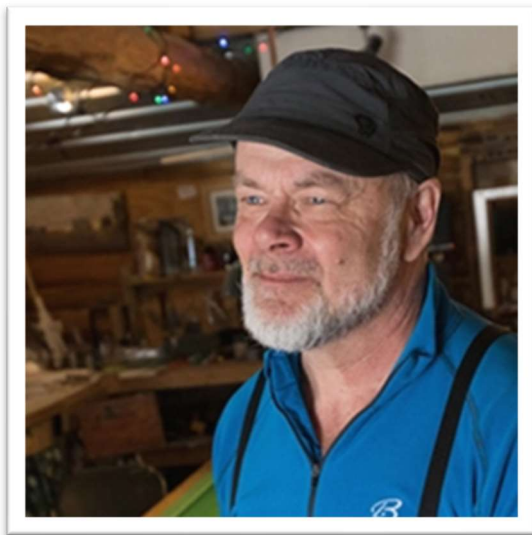
The KRHCC is very pleased to have the paintings of two very gifted local artists in our interpretive displays.

In display #2 “The Scandinavian Influence on Commercial Fishing,” we feature a Howard “Bud” Sivertson painting.

Bud lived in Knife River for several years and was instrumental in acquiring additional land needed to build the Knife River Marina. He has been referred to as “The Norman Rockwell of the North Shore.” The painting is used with the permission of Sivertson Galleries in Grand Marais and Duluth.

Photo: Howard “Bud” Sivertson

Photo credit: Sivertson Galleries Grand Marais and Duluth



David Gilsvik’s work can be seen in display #3 “CRUSADER II is Knife River’s tie to Norwegian royalty.” David (photo left) is from Two Harbors and paints landscapes with a free-flowing style infused with color and emotion, expressing his love for the place he calls home. For the last twenty years he has focused on oil paintings of the north woods - long paddler, hiker, hunter, and naturalist, Dave paints what he knows. The painting is used with David’s permission.

Photo credit: Sivertson Galleries Grand Marais and Duluth

THE FIVE DISPLAYS AND THEIR SPONSORS


Each display including shipping and labor to install will cost about \$2,400. The IRRR awarded a grant to the KRHCC that covered half the cost under a 1:1 match program. The sponsor for each display provided the match. Thank you sponsors!

Display #1: "The Indigenous presence in Knife River."


THE INDIGENOUS PRESENCE IN KNIFE RIVER

The Ojibwe and their earlier stewards have always traversed and fished the area now known as Knife River. Fish were a reliable source of protein. Various canoe types were used, including dugout and eventually birch bark. They were sealed with heated bear grease, spruce tree pitch, and charcoal.

OJIBWE PEOPLE CRAFTING A BIRCH BARK CANOE NEAR ELY, MN.
Photo: Paul B. Gaylord - Courtesy University of Minnesota Duluth Archives, NE Minnesota Historical Collection



REPLICATED BIRCH BARK CANOE.
Photo credit: Jared Wicks




Knife River was a fertile fishing ground and the sandy beach a good place to land a canoe without damage by sharp rocks. The Ojibwe named the area "Mookomaani-ziiibi," eventually becoming the English "Knife River."

For both lake and river fishing, netting and spearing continue to be used by Indigenous people. Nets are traditionally made from basswood inner bark and fibers from spruce tree roots. Net floats are made of dried cedar and weights of notched rocks. Smoked fish can be stored in sewn birch bark containers and preserved through generations of Ojibwe knowledge and methods such as adding maple sugar.

The French and later the British regarded the Ojibwe as trading partners for furs and provisions. This partnership played an important role in the international economy among Indigenous peoples, European Americans, and Europeans.

Eventually, the American Fur Company (AFC) would replace the British as the fur trade gradually declined.




In 1834, the AFC realized fishing was more profitable than furs. Salt and barrel-making skills enabled its workers to preserve big catches, allowing fish to be sold on a larger scale.

The AFC established a fish collection station on the east side of the Knife River in 1837. Like other stations, it had at least one trader and a carpenter with laborers to make skiffs for the Ojibwe, who did the fishing. The AFC also provided nets. In exchange for their labor, the Ojibwe received cash, salt, flour, traps, guns, and other necessities. It was a good partnership.


Both Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples shared the activity of fishing. However, Ojibwe people value their relationships to the land by regarding plants, animals, and other-than-human-beings as relatives, in contrast to "resources." Non-Indigenous people emphasized commerce and capitalism.

The man near the birch bark canoe may be Ojibwe.


Photo: Paul B. Gaylord - Courtesy University of Minnesota Duluth Archives, NE Minnesota Historical Collection.



The Indigenous presence in Knife River would lead to a summer village on Granite Point at the west entry to the Knife River Marina. An elder in 1879 said he had been born in the village eighty to ninety years earlier.



AN OJIBWE VILLAGE ON THE BANKS OF THE ST. LOUIS RIVER LIKE WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN ON GRANITE POINT.
Photo: Paul B. Gaylord - Courtesy University of Minnesota Duluth Archives, NE Minnesota Historical Collection.



Ojibwe people like the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa continue to exercise their retained treaty rights to fish on the North Shore.

OJIBWE LODGES AT BEAVER BAY, MN, CIRCA 1870.
Photo credit: R. F. Childs, Gleanings of Lake Superior Series New York Public Library.

The KRHCC gratefully appreciates William Blackwell, Grand Portage Band elder, and the Fond du Lac Tribal Historic Preservation Office for their help in developing the content of this display.

With appreciation for the preservation of Knife River's history, from those who first fished its waters through its immigrant founding families - An anonymous donor

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Sponsor: Anonymous donor

With appreciation for the preservation of Knife River's history, from those who first fished its waters through its immigrant founding families.

Display #2: "CRUSADER II is Knife River's tie to Norwegian royalty."

CRUSADER II IS KNIFE RIVER'S TIE TO NORWEGIAN ROYALTY.

CRUSADER II is the most famous fish tug on the North Shore. It was built by the Hill family of boat builders in Larsmont, MN, for Carl Erickson of Knife River in 1939. It is 35' long and made of white pine over sturdy oak ribs.

CRUSADER II UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT THE HILL FAMILY BOATYARD. MORE THAN 2000 BOATS WERE BUILT, FROM SMALL FISHING BOATS TO 50' POWER BOATS, DURING THE EARLY 1900s TO LATE 1980s. ALL WERE FROM ORIGINAL DESIGNS.

Photo: Randy A. Ellestad Collection

In the same year, Crown Prince Olav of Norway visited Minnesota and asked to see the influence of Scandinavian-Americans on the North Shore. Knife River was chosen.

A planned fishing trip was cancelled by bad weather. It was then suggested the prince christen CRUSADER II, which had just been completed. He did so with these words "I name you CRUSADER II. May luck and safe journeys be yours wherever you may be." The prince left with a lake trout presented by Carl Erickson.

A PLANNED FISHING TRIP WAS CANCELLED BY BAD WEATHER, BUT THE PRINCE STILL LEFT WITH A LAKE TROUT PRESENTED BY CARL ERICKSON.

Photo: KRHCC archives

This display made possible with the financial support of the grandchildren of Carl and Rosiena Erickson, commercial fishing family.

Painting: David Gilcock

In later years Carl used CRUSADER II for charter fishing. After his death in 1957, the boat went through several owners before being acquired by the Lake County Historical Society in 1994. The boat was displayed on Lighthouse Point in Two Harbors until 2016 when the society acknowledged it could not properly care for it. It was then gifted back to its hometown where it is now showcased.

CRUSADER II BEING PREPARED FOR ITS RETURN TO KNIFE RIVER.

Photo: Paul von Goertz

CARL ERICKSON WITH A FINE CATCH. LARGE DOORS ON EACH SIDE OF THE BOAT ALLOWED NETS TO BE BROUGHT IN, THE CATCH REMOVED, AND RESET IN A CONTINUOUS EFFORT. THE ENCLOSED DESIGN AND COAL STOVE ALLOWED FISHING INTO WINTER MONTHS.

Photo: Randy A. Ellestad Collection

In late November 1939, Carl headed out in a gale to find his good friend, Isak Jacobson, who was missing. He found Isak in his sinking skiff tied to a net buoy, and Isak tied to the net marker, encased in ice. Carl chopped him free and thawed him out next to CRUSADER II's coal stove. Isak would not be "lost at sea."

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Sponsor: Bob and Sheryl Entzion

This display made possible with the financial support of the grandchildren of Carl and Rosiena Erickson, commercial fishing family.


Display #3: "The Scandinavian influence of commercial fishing."

THE SCANDINAVIAN INFLUENCE ON COMMERCIAL FISHING.

Commercial fishing on Lake Superior exploded when a wave of Scandinavians arrived in the late 1800s, followed by the arrival of railroads in 1870. Many were fishermen recruited by the A. Booth & Sons Packing Co. of Chicago, wholesale dealers of fish.

FROM 1902 UNTIL ITS DEMISE ON A ROCK OFF ISLE ROYALE IN 1928, THE BOOTH PACKET FREIGHTER AMERICA MADE WHISTLE STOPS ALONG THE NORTH SHORE FROM DULUTH TO WHAT IS NOW THUNDER BAY TO PICK UP FISH. IT ALSO CARRIED PASSENGERS, FREIGHT AND MAIL.


Artist: Howard Sivertson.
Used with permission of Sivertson Galleries in Grand Marais and Duluth.



While Knife River contributed to this harvest, the village was enjoying boom times in logging and railroading with the arrival of the Alger-Smith Lumber Company in 1898.


WHEN THE COMPANY CEASED OPERATION IN 1919, MANY RETURNED TO COMMERCIAL FISHING AND BUILT THEIR OWN BOATS, RELYING ON SKILLS PASSED THROUGH THEIR SCANDINAVIAN ANCESTORS.

Photo: Douglas Hill



With a labor force, railroads and later refrigerated railroad cars, fish could be harvested in quantity and sold to distant markets.


Photo: James Storms



In 1947 Knife River's resourceful Scandinavians formed a cooperative to dig a harbor at the site of what is now the Knife River Marina, doing much of the work themselves.


The harbor opened in the early 1950s, but soon trout populations dwindled due to predatory saltwater lamprey eels. By the late 1950s lake trout fishing had all but collapsed. But, through lamprey control, the end of mining waste rock discharged into the lake, and careful fish management, stocks of lake trout can now support a modest commercial fishing industry as well as sport fishing. Herring boats continue to fish out of the Knife River Marina.

Photo: KRHCC archives



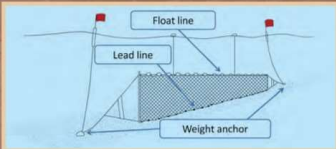
By the early 1890s, 78% of the nation's herring came from Lake Superior.

Photo: James Storms



HERRING NETS TODAY ARE 250' LONG AND 14' DEEP, SET 25' BENEATH THE SURFACE. ANCHORED AT EACH END, FLOATS AND MARKERS ARE PLACED AT INTERVALS AT THE TOP AND WEIGHTS ALONG THE BOTTOM OF THE NETS.

Image: Public Domain.



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This display made possible with the financial support of the Skadberg family in honor of Gunny and John Skadberg, brothers from Eigerøy, Norway, who fished the waters of Knife River and Isle Royale.

Sponsor: Skadberg family

This display made possible with the financial support of the Skadberg family in honor of Gunny and John Skadberg, brothers from Eigerøy, Norway, who fished the waters of Knife River and Isle Royale.

Display #4: "Commercial fishing demanded being resourceful."

COMMERCIAL FISHING DEMANDED BEING RESOURCEFUL.



HANS PEDERSON,
COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN
Photo: Kenneth Ojard

Commercial fishing was barely a sustainable living. Fishermen had to rely on themselves and each other to find ways to build docks, skids to launch and retrieve boats up to 35 feet, fish through the ice, and harvest ice to preserve fish through warm months. One's degree of resourcefulness was a true gift.

Docks were made from wooden cribs that were sunk, filled with rocks and capped with concrete. Skids were made from railroad rails with a boat cradle that could be winched up and down with a gas or electric motor, sometimes cobbled with a car gear box.



Photo: Randy A. Ellestad Collection



Photo: Kenneth Ojard

Net houses and fish cleaning stations were nearby. All were in jeopardy from being destroyed by the lake's violent storms.

This display made possible with the financial support of Dennis and Georgia Ojard in memory and honor of the commercial fishing families of Knife River and the North Shore.

WINTER FISHING PRESENTED CHALLENGES AND BENEFITS.



Photo: Kay Wieme Struve

Harbor ice could be cleared with dynamite (not recommended). The charge was tied to a weighted stick (seen flying through the air) so it could be pushed under the ice. A rope was tied to it so it could be reused.



Photo: Kay Wieme Struve



Photo: Randy A. Ellestad Collection

Ice needed to preserve fish into the summer months was harvested with a gas-powered sawmill blade attached to a car frame fitted with runners. Several of these contraptions rest on the lake bottom.

Fishing through the ice was accomplished by pulling a net between two holes using a spring-loaded board with studded "feet" that could be "walked" on the underside of the ice by pulling on a rope.

A clever device sold nationwide was a deep-diving trolling plate invented by "Dutch" Coolidge. It could dive deep in seconds and then reverse itself and surface when a fish hit the spoon attached to it. While no longer made, the design of the Coolidge "Trollo-Plane" is still used in deep trolling.



Image: KRHCC archives

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Sponsor: Dennis and Georgia Ojard

This display made possible with the financial support of Dennis and Georgia Ojard in memory and honor of the commercial fishing families of Knife River and the North Shore.

Display #5: "Commercial fishing provided fresh fish for a nation and shaped the character of a small town."

COMMERCIAL FISHING PROVIDED FRESH FISH FOR A NATION AND SHAPED THE CHARACTER OF A SMALL TOWN.

Once reliable roads were in place, fish could be sold to travelers, both fresh and smoked. Indigenous people were the first to smoke fish to preserve it. Those living near Knife River could flavor theirs with maple sugar from trees along the ridge above Knife River.

Legend has it that Davy Lewis, a Great Lakes sailor, brought the art of smoking fish to Knife River using an old recipe handed down from his Scottish ancestors.

SMOKEHOUSE SMOKING RACK.
Photo: James Storms



Soon Highway 61 was dotted with smoked fish stands. Knife River still is considered by many to be the "Smoked Fish Capital of the North Shore."

Fishcakes were a popular variation on the usual way of preparing herring. Ground herring, onions, eggs and milk were mixed with secret spices and then lightly fried. The recipe does not exist in written form. It is passed down orally generation to generation.



Photo: Randy A. Ellestad Collection

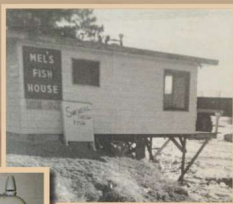


Photo: Kay Wieme Struve

FISHCAKE DINNERS WERE A LOT OF WORK.

The church's Ladies Aid was up at sunrise grinding, beating and pounding herring into cakes - and making all the side dishes. Fishermen donated the herring.



Photo: Kenneth Ojard

Townpeople of all ages would pitch in and work together to serve those for whom a Knife River fishcake dinner was a widely anticipated event. For those who didn't care for fishcakes, meatballs were served.



Photo: Dawn Aune, Lake County News Chronicle

FISHCAKES AS SEED MONEY

Proceeds from fishcake dinners helped build the town - and its character. Dinners helped establish the Knife River Lutheran Church in 1927 and launch the Knife River Rec Council in 1953.

The council provides ball courts for people all ages and access to Knife River's most scenic areas - the agate beach and woodland hiking trails that lead to deep river gorges and a panoramic overlook of Lake Superior.



Photo: Robin Whaley

This display made possible by the Bugge family in memory of Peter Bugge who arrived from Norway in 1907, sons Palmer, Melvin, Lawrence, Wesley and son-in-law Albert Wieme, all who were commercial fishermen out of Knife River.

© Knife River Heritage & Cultural Center 2023

Sponsor: Bugge family

This display made possible by the Bugge family in memory of Peter Bugge who arrived from Norway in 1907, sons Palmer, Melvin, Lawrence, Wesley and son-in-law Albert Wieme, all who were commercial fishermen out of Knife River.

CRUSADER II RESTORATION IS BLESSED WITH EXPERIENCE AND TALENT



Larry Ronning



Doug Hill

Photo credits: Paul von Goertz

Restoration of CRUSADER II finally began on Monday, May 8, when the NE winds finally dropped below 20 mph and rain reduced to a drizzle. Project manager, Larry Ronning, a third generation boatwright from KR, called a meeting of those who had expressed interest in learning hands-on boat restoration from a boatwright. Five responded to his invitation.

Larry is the perfect project manager with an impressive resume. He was the lead on the restoration of Viking ship LEIF ERIKSON in 1991 and CRUSADER II in 1990 after the fish tug had been rescued from a corner of the KR Marina boneyard by the Lake County Historical Society and brought to Lighthouse Point in Two Harbors. Larry also replaced all the exterior woodwork on the EDNA G. in 1984 and 2010.

In between these restorations Larry built several small sailing and pulling boats, including a classic Mackinaw. I also credit Larry for repairing my 31' lapstrake Norwegian motorsailer and saving STAR, an iconic KR gas boat that was headed for the burn pile and that I now proudly own.

By a stroke of good fortune, I was at the KRHCC depot last fall preparing it for Julebyen when two inquisitive gentlemen arrived. They introduced themselves as Bob

and Doug Hill. They said that they were members of the Hill family of boat builders of Larsmont here to visit family. The Hills had built CRUSADER II in 1939. I later learned Bob (age 93) was the son of Hjelmer Hill, one of the Hill boat-building brothers. Doug Hill (age 56) was Hjelmer Hill's grandson.

I peppered the two about how CRUSADER II was built, and materials used, and history of the Hill family that built boats up to 50.' It was a very insightful visit.

About a week or so later Doug called me and said he was a retired firefighter/EMT and would like to help with the rebuild of CRUSADER II. He offered to spend the summer of 2023 doing just that! Yes!!!

For credentials, other than being a Hill, he built his first boat when he was about 19 under the tutelage of his grandfather, Hjelmer. It was a 16' 5" round bottom strip-planked boat. He's been working on boats ever since.

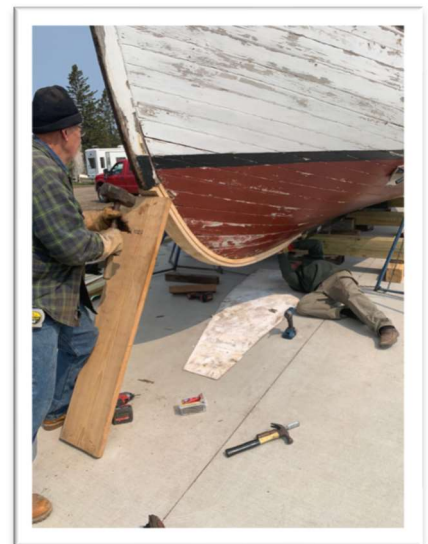
Doug's been trained in, or has worked at, auto mechanics, heating and a/c repair, firefighting/EMT, welding, electrical, machinist, home builder, heavy-duty equipment operator, and over-the-road trucker. Any surprise his "workshop" measures 30' x 80' and is complete with two car lifts?

Doug was born in Minneapolis and moved with his parents and two sisters at a young age to Florida. He and his wife, Anita, live in central Florida where they built their home. Doug is living in a 5th wheel at the KR Campground for the summer, just steps from CRUSADER II.

Boat building/restoration is very labor intensive. The KRHCC is nothing less than thrilled to have Doug commit his skills - and summer - to join with Larry and other volunteers to restore CRUSADER II. An interesting fact is that both Larry and Doug are descended from North Shore boat building families and are now working together to restore an iconic KR boat! How fortunate are we!

Image right: Larry and Doug making a bend.

Steam-bending wood requires two or more sets of hands to complete the bend before the wood cools in 2-3 minutes.



You don't have to have the experience or the skills of a Larry or Doug to be part of the CRUSADER II legacy. We need volunteers who like to work with their hands to power sand, pull nails, open and caulk seams, paint and help with clean up. Larry is usually onsite Monday mornings to plan the week's activities. Stop by!

Look for CRUSADER II to be completely restored by end of October!

CHAMBER HONORS CL&P LINEMEN IN "BREAKFAST FOR HEROES."

Mary and I attended the Lake County Chamber's annual "Breakfast for Heroes" May 2 at the American Legion. Our son, Christian, is a sheriff's deputy in charge of investigation, and we wanted to show our support for him as well as all county first responders. The breakfast is open to the public for the cost of the meal.

Many thanks to the American Legion Post for hosting the event and the many Legion volunteers who prepared and served the breakfast (very good!)

During the breakfast, all first responders were recognized including CL&P linemen. We had not expected to see linemen recognized, but how appropriate to be included as heroes!

My sister and brother-in-law live in Hunter's Park in Duluth. Several times last winter she called to see if we had power when they did not. When I said we did I was really giving testimony to the reliable service we get from CL&P and fast response when lines are down.

Chamber CEO Janelle Jones said the chamber began inviting linemen to the Heroes Breakfast several years ago. "We had been hit with a tremendous number of storms in Lake County. These men sacrifice a lot with their dedication to their jobs making sure the entire county is safe - responding to calls in adverse conditions day or night. Obviously, they are worthy of recognition and praise for their role in our community, which otherwise might not be recognized."

In response to the Heroes Breakfast recognition, Joel Janorschke, CL&P CEO said "We are honored to have our linemen recognized as local heroes by the Lake County Chamber of Commerce. Our linemen are a dedicated group of individuals that work during some of the most challenging weather conditions through all hours of the day because they are committed to powering our community."

Many thanks to the Lake County Chamber for recognizing CL&P linemen as among the county's first responders.



Besides Hero recognition, the KRHCC would like to recognize CL&P's support for the KRHCC. In 2019 a community flagpole was placed at the KRHCC, later to be joined by the Two Harbors American Legion's memorial to Lake County veterans. CL&P did a masterful job of lifting and setting the pole at no cost. And "while you're here" they lifted and set our restored 30' high railroad order-board pole. Thank you CL&P!

Photo: CL&P volunteered crews to lift and place the Knife River community flagpole on the KRHCC site in 2019.

Photo: Paul von Goertz

EMAILS WE LIKE TO RECEIVE:

"We often make a day of driving along the north shore, stopping for smoked fish at Kendall's and stopping for candy at Great! Lakes Candy Store, then make our way to Two Harbors for a beer at Castle Danger. We've also attended the Julebyen celebration on a number of occasions and enjoy that event. Knife River seems like a nice community, and we enjoy visiting when we're out for a drive. We're sending a contribution in the mail today.

"Mona" – Lake Minnetonka, MN

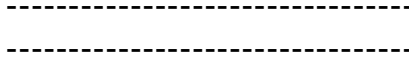
APRIL DONATIONS, MEMORIALS, HONORARIUMS AND SPONSORSHIPS

Sponsorships:

- Anonymous – Fishing Exhibit interpretive display
- Skadberg family – Fishing Exhibit interpretive display
- Bugge family - Fishing Exhibit interpretive display

Memorials:

In memory of David Olin: Memorials from Scott and Sharon Shelerud, Steven and Cynthia Betzler, and Marilyn and Dick Story.



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