Bill Jamerson to speak on Civilian Conservation Corps

You are invited to a joint CCHS and Bayliss Public Library event Thursday, December 13, at 6:30 p.m., at the Library. Bill Jamerson, of Escanaba, will give a multi-media presentation on the Civilian Conservation Corps. His program will include a short clip from his PBS film, Camp Forgotten, some original songs he performs with his guitar, and a discussion about his new novel, Big Shoulders. The adult historical novel follows a year in the life of a seventeen-year-old youth from Hamtramck who enlists in the CCC in 1937. He joins 200 other young men in a work camp near Racine in the eastern Upper Peninsula. Heavily researched, the book is based on a true story and contains humor and suspense. The Civilian Conservation Corps was a federal work program created by President Franklin Roosevelt in the heart of the Great Depression. During its ten-year run from 1933-1942, over eighty camps in Michigan housed nearly 90,000 young men between the ages of 17 and 21. They planted millions of trees, fought forest fires, and built state parks and county roads. The camps not only revitalized Michigan’s natural resources but also transformed the boys into men by teaching them discipline and work skills.

Bill Jamerson is an award-winning PBS filmmaker who wrote and produced eleven films during the 1990s. In 2000, Bill wrote a dozen original songs about the CCC, which he performs at schools, libraries, and CCC reunions. At his December 13 talk, he will discuss his research methods, the people on whom Big Shoulders is based, and read excerpts from his book. Sault Ste. Marie resident and CCHS member Peter Gianauro was an advisor on the book that will be available for purchase and signing that night. The program is free and open to the public. It will begin with a brief CCHS general meeting. Bayliss Public Library is located at 541 Library Drive. For more information about the program, please call the historical society at 635-7082 or the library at 632-9331. You may learn more about the book by visiting www.bjjamerson.com.

December 15 and 16

Our Gift Shop is ready for the holidays, so stop by 115 Ashmun Street Tuesdays through Saturdays, from 1-5 p.m. You are invited to join us for holiday cheer on Saturday, December 15, and Sunday, December 16. Open by appointment, the rest of December, January, and February. Call Karen at 635-0971.

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C. Ernest Kemp Mineral Resources Museum

Bernie Arbic and Mary M. June, on behal of CCHS, contributed historical information for article "C. Ernest Kemp Mineral Resources Museum at Lake Superior State University that opened in October. The display focuses on the role that geology and mineral resources have played in the cultural history of Sault Ste. Marie and the Lake Superior District. The museum is open upon request, by visiting the Science Office in Crawford Hall, or by calling 635-2267, 635-2158, or 632-9537.

Great Michigan Read

CCHS and Bayliss Public Library are co-sponsoring events associated with the first statewide Great Michigan Read in 2008. Ernest Hemingway’s Nick Adams Stories are the focus of this year’s celebration. Events are being planned by 130 organizations throughout the state of Michigan. From April 4-21, 2008, CCHS will be hosting the traveling exhibit “Up North with the Hemingways” at 115 Ashmun Street.

Autumn Concert & Tea

In November about 85 people were treated to a tea and concert performed by Dave Stanaway and Susan Ashdow at our new building. New songs were featured as well as old favorites. President Nancy Steinhaus and Marie Carter sang the coffee and tea. Food and drink were supplied by Bernie & Colleen Arbic, Susan & John Ashdow, Marie Carter, Don Cooper, Susan James, Mary M. June, Margaret & Bob Money, Karen Sabatine, and Nancy Steinhaus. The winners of theaffle drawings for gift baskets were Al Hallow and Ann Ware. The silent auction winner was M.D. Bennett. Thank you to the many people who made the event a success, including Roland Akre, Bernie Arbic, Susan & John Ashdow, Roger Blanchard, Marie Carter, Ginny & Gil Cymbalist, Leanne & Gary Deuman, Jack DeWeese, Susan James, Mary M. June, Karen Sabatine, Dave & Jessica Stanaway, and Nancy & Dallas Steinhaus, who assisted with preparations.

Sault Ste. Marie Fire Hall Centennial

CCHS displays Fighting Fires in Sault Ste. Marie. From Horse to Harness, the Fire Hall Centennial Centennial Exhibit is open at Lake Superior State University’s library through December. Bernie Arbic’s companion book is available for $6.00 through CCHS’s Gift Shop or by mail order (plus MI sales tax and $4.00 for shipping and handling). Copies of the book are also on sale at the Alberta House Gift Shop on Ferris Street.

Tea Photos Available

Thank you to Bernie Arbic, many area historic photographs from CCHS collections are available for purchase from the Gift Shop for $10.00 each. You will find views of the old Sault High, ships at the Soo Locks, historic churches, the Ashumun Bridge, a World War II barrage balloon, and the World War II Drum and Bugle Corps, among others. Other photos are available to special order. Next time you are at Applebees Restaurant, make sure to look for photos on display there from CCHS’s collection.

Building Issues

CCHS completed various major projects this year: two roof projects, a new third-floor wall thanks to the City of Sault Ste. Marie’s TIFA II funds, a new fire door, a rear handicap-accessible ramp, some façade painting, and interior clean-up and decorating. It has been a productive year (see President Nancy Steinhaus’s enclosed letter). Special thanks go to building supervisor Jack DeWeese.

Water Street Historic Block

Bishop Baraga Hall II

For two days in September, the Baraga House on Water Street was open for viewing in honor of Baraga Days. Our thanks to the many volunteers who made the event possible. A tarp will protect the roof over the winter. Steve Ball has volunteered to work on the door over the winter. A great deal of work is needed to turn the house into a museum. Funding is being sought. If you would like to donate funds to the project, send a contribution to Bishop Baraga House Fund, c/o City of Sault Ste. Marie, 325 Court Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

The Kemp Industrial Museum, along with the Johnston Home and the Schoolcraft Agency Office, will reopen in the summer of 2008. Charlotte and Bud Johnson are refurbishing the Kalamosahe house, heating and cook stoves from the Johnston Home over the winter. The Schoolcraft House is finally receiving a new roof; preparators for a replacement cedar shingled roof are underway, and may be completed before winter.

Jane Johnston Schoolcraft

Word is getting out about the Johnston literary figure, Jane Johnston Schoolcraft, through Dr. Robert Dale Parker’s book, The Sound the Stars Make, published by Whitecap Books in 1999. Two students from Schoolcraft College, a house in L'Arche, who are studying her work in a class there, visited the Sault in November and were given special permission to view the Johnston House and take photos of the Water Street Historic Block. Dr. Parker’s book is available through the CCHS Gift Shop for $34.95 (plus tax and shipping).

“Dinner with the Johnstons”

Planning is underway for the 2008 Johnston Dinner at Lake Superior State University’s Cader Center. The dates will be announced soon.

EUPHC

The tall meeting of the EUP Historical Conservancy took place at the CCHS in October; Judi Engle, director of the Fort de Buade Museum in Sault Ste. Ignace, was the guest speaker and she told of the formation of her museum. Our thanks to the following for their food and drink donations: Cup of the Day, Leanne Barnes Denman, Annegret Goehring, Susan James, Mary M. June, Janice Russell, Karen Sabatine, Nancy Steinhaus, and Tony Stackpole. The spring meeting is expected to take place at the S. Ignace Museum.

The Soo Theatre Project

Call 632-1938 for information on upcoming events and classes.

Bayliss Public Library Author Events

Dec. 13 - Bill Jamerson, author of the historical novel Big Shoulders, about area Civilian Conservation Corps camps, will talk, sing, and show a portion of his film (co-sponsored with the Chippewa County Historical Society).

Jan. 19 - “Bayliss Reads—Nick Adams Stories Read-a-thon”

Upcoming CCHS Events:

April 19 - Talk by Michael Federospil on the “Up North with the Hemingways” exhibit.

July 19 - CCHS reception honoring Sharon MacLaren, Bernie Arbic, and Dr. Tom Robinson during their 50th Sault High Reunion Weekend.

Chase Osborn’s Home

CCHS’s home, the News Building, was built by Chase Osborn in 1889, the same year as his home at 718 Cedar Street. This home has recently been turned into the William Richards House Bed & Breakfast and is open for tours. Call Linda Carriag at 248-6612 or 235-5547 or visit www.wrichardshouse.com for more information.

Mary M. June, Karen Sabatine, Nancy Steinhaus, and Tony Stackpole

**CCHS Wish List**

- Copy paper & colored paper
- Vacuum cleaner bags
- Paper towels & toilet paper
- Paper towels & toilet paper
- Readers for January 19 “Bayliss Reads—Nick Adams Stories Read-a-thon”
- Volunteers for 2008 Gift Shop
- Volunteers during April 4-21 Hemingway display
- Quilters for Hemingway “Up North” Challenge Quilt Contest

CCHS Board Members

Nancy Steinhaus, President

Mary M. June, Vice President, Membership and Fundraising

Susan James, Vice President, Programs and Publications

Bernie Arbic, Treasurer

Virginia Cymbalist, Secretary

Roger Blanchard, Don Cooper, Leanne Barnes Denman, Jack DeWeese, Robert Money, Patty Olsen, Janet Russell, Karen Sabatine, Anthony Stackpole, Alex Strobehn

The Great Michigan Read is presented by the Michigan Humanities Council, the state chapter of the National Endowment for the Humanities.