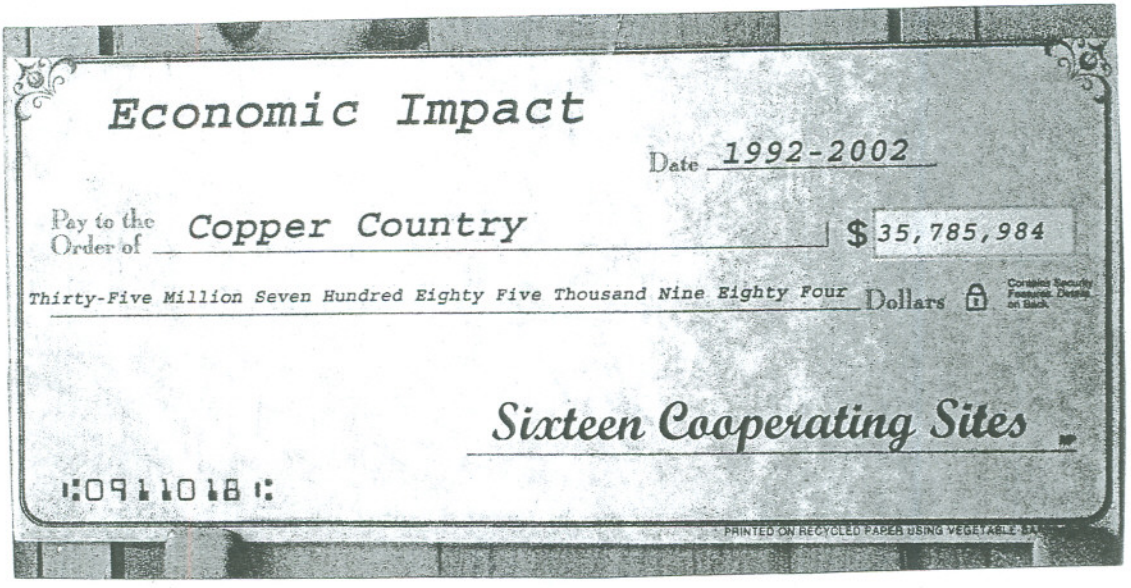

Saturday/Sunday
Nov. 30/Dec. 1, 2002

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Park sites super

To the editor:

This Thanksgiving season, I give thanks for the 16 cooperating sites of the Keweenaw National Historical Park that have collaborated to begin telling the copper story. I discovered during the recent 10-year anniversary of the park, that in the past decade these sites have invested $35.8 million in developing history, arts, and cultural tourism of our area.

This amount does not include infrastructure grants for sewers and water. It does not include township and village restoration of sidewalks, street lights, etc.

This figure represents the expenditures of 16 checkbooks, such as the Keweenaw Heritage Center, the Hanka Homestead, the Seaman Mineral Museum, the Delaware Mine, Coppertown USA, the Calumet Theatre, the Quincy Hoist, the Laurium Manor, Fort Wilkins and the like. From 1992 through 2002, the non-federal side of this park has had a tremendous economic impact on this corner of the state!

Add to the above figure the federal appropriations and you see that this park packs a wallop. Thanks to Superintendent Frank Fiala for his support of this unique collaborative-type of park.

I'm proud to be a part of this park and its impact upon history, arts, culture and tourism. I am proud of the historical restoration projects being undertaken by individuals, businesses, and villages. This holiday season I invite the residents of the peninsula to rejoice with me over the partnership nature of developing the Keweenaw National Historical Park.

REV. R. V. LANGSETH
Park Operating Commission
Calumet

Dreams don't die

Keweenaw National Park takes a giant step forward, but a leader in the local park movement notes that this is only the beginning...

By Pastor R.V. Langseth
Guest columnist

A national park: What does it mean? It means that we are recognized for the outstanding contribution the Keweenaw has made in the past. What happened here impacted the development of America and it also means we are invited to take another step in our ongoing contribution to the nation's future.

What does it mean to become a national park? Listen to what the U.S. Congress says:

"1a-1. National park system: administration; declaration of findings and purpose.

Congress declares that the national park system, which began with establishment of Yellowstone National Park in 1872, has since grown to include superlative natural, historic and recreation areas in every major region of the United States, its territories and island possessions; that these areas, though distinct in character, are united through their inter-related purposes and resources into one national park system as cumulative expressions of a single national heritage; that individually and collectively, these areas derive increased national dignity and recognition of their superb environmental quality through their inclusion jointly with each other in one national park system preserved and managed for the benefit and inspiration of all the people of the United States; and that it is the purpose of this Act to include all areas in the System and to clarify the authorities applicable to the system. (Pub. L.91-383, 1, Aug. 18, 1970, Stat. 825)" — From U.S. Code 16-18, page 3,468.

Column continued on next page

percent of the nation's copper. Tell them Calumet & Hecla was the all-time king which produced singlehandedly 50 percent of all the copper mined in the peninsula. Tell them the copper rush came before the California gold rush. Tell them that more wealth was created by Keweenaw's copper than by California's gold.

Tell them our copper lit America's streets. Our copper moved America down its streets in electric trolley cars. Our copper carried messages across the land by telegraph and telephone. Our copper carried the energizing current that fueled the Industrial Revolution. Tell them we were America's silicon chip of the 19th century!

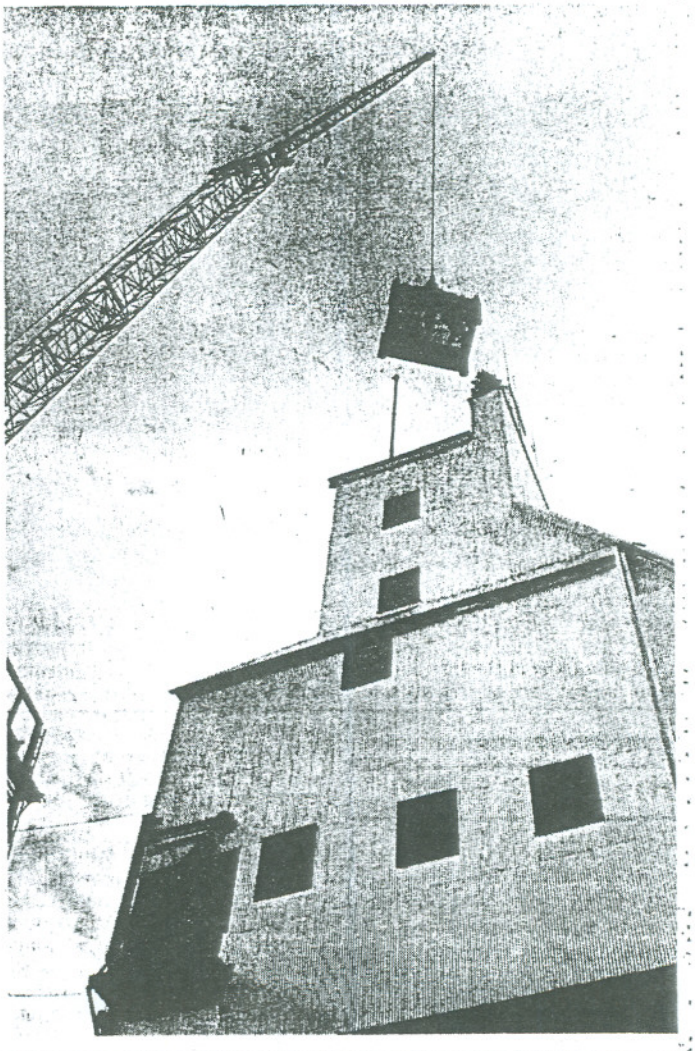
And tell them about the seven themes this park will have:

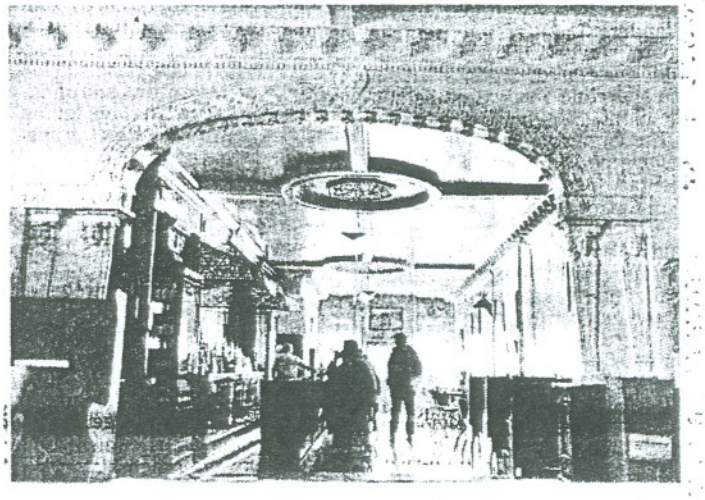
- ☐ **Geology and aboriginal mining**
- ☐ **Technology and hard rock innovations**
- ☐ **Corporate paternalism and labor history**
- ☐ **Investment capital and U.S. industrialization**
- ☐ **Immigration and 30 ethnic groupings**
- ☐ **Architecture and corporate community planning**
- ☐ **Social/religious and political impacts**

Besides lifting our own self-respect, we are also to be an inspiration to others..."to all the people of the United States."

That causes me to tremble.

Oral history files tell us our forbearers trembled, even cried, when they came to this wilderness. But with simple dignity, honesty and integrity they developed a world-class peninsula.





What does it mean to become a national park? It means that we are superlative! It means we are historic! It means we are distinct! It means we are inter-related! It means we are a resource to the nation! It means we are to be an inspiration to all the people of the United States!

It also means we are to participate both in preserving what is here and in determining what shall be our ongoing contribution to the inspiration of America.

We need to be inspired in our own selves first! When news arrived that the bill had passed the Senate it made me bow down in awe, in silence and in thanksgiving to God for the wonder of this place. It seems that the Scriptures spoken to a people of long ago are spoken freshly to us:

"The Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs...out of whose hills you can dig copper...beware lest you say in your heart, 'my power and might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth;" — Deuteronomy, Chapter 8.

With the autumn outdoors available for walking, and the doors of our sanctuaries open for entering, I invite you to join in expressing praise to God and to look around you and see a beautiful peninsula.

Be inspired! We have been inducted into history's hall of fame. There are only 30 other such parks in America, and we are one of them!

Rekindle this sense of healthy pride. Gather your children and grandkids for dinner this week. Tell them about your coming to this area. Get out the old photo albums. Dig out Grandma's diary describing her immigration.

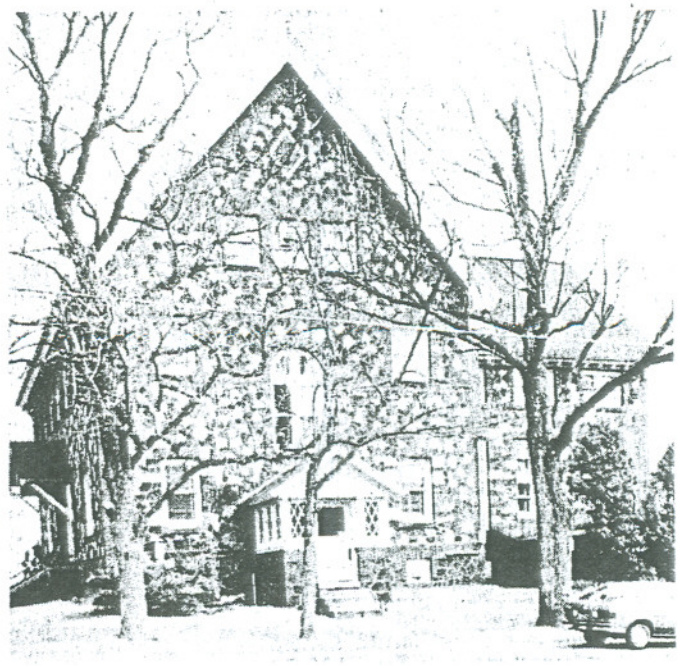
As the little ones sit in your lap, relate to them that the Keweenaw is the finest example for telling the story of copper in all of America. Tell them the Calumet Unit is the only unit in the entire park system that includes an entire living village. Tell them Quincy was king during the Civil War era when Copper Country mines produced 90

Back to previous page, Column 2.

The future requires these same qualities to discipline us from becoming a "honky-tonk" and propel us into renewing a world-class peninsula that contributes to our country. New commitment is urged. New faces and new energy are essential in the advisory committee. Fresh efforts are required to facilitate the concept of a 90-mile "copper trail" through the Copper Country. Leadership is a necessity for coordinating private, corporate, state and federal funding and community planning.

Our nation has been a beacon to the world because it has relied upon government to be by, for and of the people. We are now stewards of the past and the bearers of the future. May we, like our founding fathers who wrote the Declaration of Independence, and who settled this peninsula, say: "For the support of this declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor."

What is the national park? It is another step in the ongoing contribution to America for which the Keweenaw has become famous.



Pastor R.V. Langseth of Faith Lutheran Church of Calumet has been a staunch and vigilant backer in the movement to establish Keweenaw National Historic Park.



/Daily Mining Gazette

HERITAGE TREASURED — Photos from top right, Quincy Shafthouse, Schute's Bar, old Calumet Public Library. Above, column author Robert Langseth at the dedication of the Italian Hall.

Davis, Levin and Langseth testify for nat'l park plan

By TIMOTHY K. MALOY
Gazette Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Michigan Sen. Carl Levin urged the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands to take quick action on his bill to create the Keweenaw National Historical Park.

A similar bill working its way through the House is sponsored by the Upper Peninsula's Rep. Bob Davis.

Levin said a park encompassing the land of the former Calumet & Hecla and the Quincy copper mines would "bring new attention to an area of the country that is richly deserving of such recognition."

"Within the park, there will be a special Calumet Historic Preservation District to address the special needs of the community," Levin said. "The legislation provides that any purchases of property must be done on a willing seller basis."

Davis testified on the importance of the legislation.

"I cannot emphasize enough the importance of passing this bill as quickly as possible," said Davis. "The resources in the Peninsula tell a story of mining and change which had a profound impact on industry, labor, technology, and ethnicity in our country. While local residents understand and appreciate this rich history, it is little known elsewhere in the nation."

Davis stressed the urgency of preserving sites.

"We have reached a critical point in our efforts to save crucial resources in the Keweenaw Peninsula," said Davis. "These resources are important to our nation's industrial, economic and labor history. As the days pass, so do our opportunities to rescue buildings which are rapidly deteriorating because of age and damage from the weather. At this point, we can still save them."

Davis also invited the senators and their staffs to visit the Keweenaw.

The only local person to testify at the hearing was Rev. Robert V. Langseth, chairman of CLK Foresight's Park Committee. He was not available for comment today.

The federal budget for fiscal year 1993 proposed spending $1.85 million to help establish the park, but Congress must still act on the proposal as well as free up money appropriated last year.

Last year the Congress appropriated $1.4 million for Keweenaw planning and emergency preservation of historical buildings.

That money, however, still requires spending authorization on Capitol Hill pending an Environmental Protection Agency completion of a pollution study at the Torch Lake Superfund site.

Levin said that studies of the site indicate "a safe and desirable National Park can be created."

The Daily Mining Gazette
Friday, March 27, 1992

Letters Gazette 8 April 92

Park committee appreciated

To the editor:

I'm as proud as punch of the National Park Committee for its work in preparing for the recent hearing before the U.S. Senate sub-committee.

As early as October 1990 a "promotional task force" began developing a colorful piece on the national significance of the area. It went through several drafts before being printed in December '91 so as to be ready for this hearing.

The committee's decision to send a three person delegation was a wise one. It demonstrated strong local support for the park. But it also made use of differing expertise. Mr. Burt Boyum used his background to interpret the EPA testimony. And Ms. Sue Cone, with her skills, interpreted the National Park Service testimony as it related to the Calumet area. The Calumet landmark is more difficult to interpret than the Quincy landmark because of the multiple landowners and village intricacies. Both Burt and Sue were most helpful.

Further, the committee preparations that went into the 37 page booklet were well received. In addition to the five maps and beautiful photo collections, the catalog of pertinent quotations and endorsements received in the past five years regarding national significance, state participation and scholarly documentation were applauded for Sen. Bumpers, stated, "You made things easy for us by assembling the material into one packet."

I want to say also that the process of developing this park is what I believe to be Democracy at its best. This process has involved school children writing letters, young and old working their feet off at fish boils, local, regional, state and federal government officials coordinating their energies and a group of volunteers who have kept their hands on the pulse-beat for this extended period of time.

This process has not gone unnoticed. Mr. James Ridenour, director of the National Park Service testified, "To not tap into this enthusiastic interest would, in our view, be unwise."

The park movement, thus far, has indeed been a project of, by and for the people. I trust the final legislative outcome will be as responsive to the people of the Copper Country as the process of development has been.

And personally, I want to express my gratitude to the people who phoned, supported and prayed for me and my presentation. It went well. Senator Levin's staff person, Mr. Chris Miller, commented, "That's one testimony Sen. Bumpers will remember."

Thanks to all.

PASTOR R.V. LANGSETH
Chairman

The Daily Mining Gazette, Tuesday, April 21, 1992

12 April 92

Nat'l park threatened

Approval may be delayed

By Gazette staff and
The Associated Press

CALUMET (AP) — Local supporters of the proposed Keweenaw National Historic Park feel a spat between the Bush administration and Congress over spending priorities may not mean the end of the park.

President Bush in March proposed cutting $5.7 billion in spending that Congress had approved — including two Seawolf submarines with a price tag of almost $3 billion.

The House Appropriations Committee accepted some of Bush's cuts, but decided to retain money for one Seawolf. It also proposed other cuts that the president didn't request. Among them: $1 million set aside for emergency restoration and $375,000 for planning the Keweenaw National Historical Park in Calumet and Hancock.

Aides to Rep. Bob Davis, R-Gaylord, and Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., said the park was caught in a crossfire between the administration and Congress, with both sides accusing the other of "pork-barrel" spending. They said their bosses would try to retain the funding.

"That area is in dire need of these preservation dollars, and it's frightening to think that the money might not be available because of party politics," Davis aide Laurie Bink told the Marquette Mining Journal.

CLK Foresight Park Committee Chairman Rev. R.V. Langseth said he hopes the proposed cuts will not pass.

"I'm trusting Sen. Levin and his colleagues will be able to twist some arms to keep the money ..." said Langseth.

Calumet Village Comptroller Sue Cone agreed.

"I don't think it'll be the end," said Cone. "I'm sure Congressman Davis and Senator Levin will work to keep it in the appropriations."

But some of those debating the park's worthiness are not Democratic or Republican partisans.

The non-profit National Parks and Conservation Association doesn't want the Keweenaw park funded until it is established as a part of the national park system, lobbyist Bruce Craig said.

"There's no question of the national significance of the story that would be told," he said. "The question is whether the Keweenaw park would be the best site for telling the story of mining and labor."

Langseth said that if the money is taken away it will not necessarily mean the death of the dream.

"The difference between authorization and stabilization are the key issues," said Langseth.

Langseth said establishment has two parts, the first is authorizing the park, then getting the funding.

Cone said the park could still be authorized even if the money is lost this year.

"I don't think that (losing the funding) could stop that (authorization) at all," said Cone.

Langseth said the park could still be authorized, but that it may be delayed.

Questions also have been raised about the area's safety.

The proposed national park sits within a Superfund site of lead, chromium, mercury and arsenic left over from a century of copper mining and processing.

The Environmental Protection Agency told Congress last month a risk assessment was two-thirds complete but there was no indication the site was too dangerous for a park.

The Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands has conducted a hearing on legislation to formally establish the Keweenaw park, and the bill awaits full committee action. A House subcommittee hearing is expected in May.

"If we don't save these resources, no one will know what it was like to live there," Bink said. "The first mineral rush in the nation wasn't in California and it wasn't for gold — it was in the Upper Peninsula's Copper Country."

Keweenaw copper helped the Union win the Civil War and transmitted the first telephone messages. More than 11 billion pounds of copper were extracted from the Lake Copper District, with the Calumet and Hecla Mining Company producing almost half.

"The strike of 1913 was a turning point for America's labor movement," Bink said. "And there's a lot of social history in the Keweenaw — a dozen different ethnic groups."

Park supporters don't expect it to restore the wealth and culture of Calumet's heyday. But they say it would bring tourists and jobs.

"We applaud economic development, but truly, that is secondary," said Tom Tikkanen, a member of the Keweenaw Park Committee. "It's going to preserve our history."

The National Park Service favors establishing the park but opposes the pending legislation and is pushing an alternate version, said Bill Fink, superintendent of Isle Royale National Park.

Under the park service bill, the Keweenaw park probably would be smaller than in the version supported by Levin and Davis.

There would be less money for improvements on private property and land acquisition through condemnation would be allowed. The bill also would take administrative powers away from a proposed Keweenaw Historic Preservation Commission, limiting the locally driven commission to an advisory role.

The Davis bill would prohibit condemnation. And it would allow the local commission to administer $15 million in federal funds for loans and grants to property owners in the historic preservation district.

April 22
1992

The Daily Mining Gazette

Brian McMillan - Publisher and General Manager

g Editor
Page 4, ing Manager
The Daily Mining Gazette, anager

Catherine I. O'Connell - Office manager
Donald R. Tervo - Production Manager

Wednesday, April 22, 1992 y Mining Gazette Established 1858
Daily Established 1858

Editorial

Stop petty politics

Political games in Washington, D.C., are endangering the proposed Keweenaw National Historical Park.

In March, President Bush proposed cutting $5.7 billion in spending that Congress had approved including two Seawolf submarines with a price tag of almost $3 billion.

The House Appropriations Committee accepted some of Bush's cuts, but decided to retain money for one submarine. It also proposed other cuts that the president didn't request. Among them are the $1 million set aside for emergency restoration and $375,000 for planning the park.

The park is caught in a crossfire between the administration and Congress, with both sides accusing the other of pork barrel spending.

Although $1 million is a lot of money, it's a trifling amount compared to the price of one submarine — and with the Cold War over, it's hard to imagine why even one new submarine is needed.

The Keweenaw was the site of the first great mineral rush in the country and the site of the turning point for America's labor movement. More than 11 billion pounds of copper were extracted from the area. In essence, copper from the Keweenaw fueled our nation's industrial revolution and touched everyone's life. Imagine what the country would have done without copper pennies.

It's sad to think that such a valuable part of our nation's history is in jeopardy because politicians insist on playing games. Many structures in the proposed park have already been lost and many others are deteriorating rapidly.

If copper in the Keweenaw had never existed, the United States would be far different from what it now is. These politicians owe a tremendous debt to our area — one that we should not let them get away with not paying.

Most of the money from this copper went elsewhere and even a few million for planning and restoration is a small price to pay. Imagine paying for 11 billion pounds of copper at current prices and you begin to get a picture of what's involved.

We believe that both sides have a responsibility to put aside their differences on this "petty" issue and restore the funding.

Even 10 times the funding would be an inadequate pay back.

The Daily Mining Gazette

30 June 92

Tuesday
June 30, 1992

Park hearing: local reps to testify today

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Members of the area committee working toward establishing Keweenaw National Historical Park will testify in the nation's capitol today.

The way was cleared for progress on legislation needed to establish the park when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency indicated that the landmark districts in Quincy and Calumet areas pose no health threat.

CLK Foresight Inc., a major mover and shaker in the local pro-park contingent, said the EPA's determination was essential because in September 1989 congressmen Bruce Vento and Dale Bumpers issued a joint letter that in essence said no action on the park would move forward without the agency's evaluation of the landmarks.

Robert Langseth, National Park Committee chairman, says park efforts had been on hold but can now move forward.

U.S. Rep. Bob Davis, R-Gaylord, who has said establishing the park is one of his main priorities before he leaves office, arranged for the hearing before the Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks and Forests.

In addition to Langseth, three other area representatives will be on hand. Sue Cone, Calumet Village comptroller, will coordinate visual charts. Tom Tikkanen will speak on the national significance of the Calumet landmark and Burt Boyum, president of the Quincy Mine Hoist Association, will speak on the national significance of the Quincy landmark.

A Crucial Series of Meetings !!!

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Depot at Laurium Street • P.O. Box 523 • Calumet, Michigan 49913
Robert V. Langseth, Pastor Office: 337-2400, Home 337-1783
Robert C. Fisher, Pastor Office: 337-2400, Home 337-1712

2 July 92

Mr. Chris Miller FAX 202-224-1388

Re: Natl. Park and Mr. Dave Given

1. Sorry we missed you in Washington. Hope you are feeling better.

2. On Monday, 29 June , Myself, Tom Tikkanen, & Sue Cone met with Mr. Gerry Tays and Mr. John _____(Planner) Room 3211 Main Interior Building, 18th & C St. N.W. Phone202-208-5681

   a. The purpose was to find out the rationale for Calumet being such a minor portion of the proposed park. This was based on your sharing with us that the NPS wanted 121 acreas at Quincy plus $19.9M at Quincy but only 4 acreas and $5.2M at Calumet.
   It was further based on your comment after Phoning Given from Calumet that the NPS has had its face focused on Quincy but that they may need to take a fresh look at Calumet

   b. We took with us a map of Torch Lake and its isolation away from both landmarks...(that was a help for them to visualize and they expressed relief at the findings of the EPA), A map of the industrial core of structures at Calumet showing each building and the good walking tour available for the structures and the nearness of the village...(they were suprized), and a chart of the holistic nature of the park...(which was a eyeopener to them).

   c. It was a excellent session from 10-10:55 a.m.
      1. They expressed great suprize at the resources available. From reading the reports they assumed that everything was torn down and little left for authentic interpretation.
      2. They affirmed that neither congress nor the NPS desires micro-management directives in the legislation.
      3. They accented that the key elements for our purposes is to make sure the PURPOSES AND FINDINGS section contains the material necessary for a holistic park. If the law is ever brought to court it will be these sections that will be determinative.
      4. They directed us back to Dave Given. They rely upon what the Mid-West office says, and if there is a need to take a fresh look at the Calumet resources the time is now and the person is Given.

   d. At 4p.m. we also met with Sandy Scott. Burt Boyum had joined us by this time. He affirmed to Sandy that Calumet needs a fair shake

3. Therefore we are asking you to arrange a meeting with Given . We would like it if he could come to Calumet. I will phone you yet today regarding this.

R. V. Langseth

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH SERVING THE HUB OF KEWEENAWS MINING DISTRICT

over

1. Summary of the May 29 Caucus with representatives of Quincy, and Calumet.
Washington informs us that their proposal is the following for acquisition and development:

Calumet	Quincy	Purpose
$1.2M	$1.8M	Land purchases
$4.2M (un-named)	6.7M Shaft/Hoist	Development
	4.6M Blacksmith	Development
	6.85M Smelter	Stabalize
4 Acreas	121 Acreas	Land Purchase

Levin's office phoned Omaha to inquire of the rationale. The response was that their face has always been toward Quincy. They did agree to language interpreting Calumet better.

2. At the June 30 hearing in Washington the NPS spokesperson was asked what properties were being considered and reiterated the Smelter, Blacksmith and Shaft/Hoist; with pieces of Alternative #3 & # 5.

3. In the new draft of the bill by the NPS the two planks within the Calumet platform are gone, namely $15M for downtown stabalization and a management commission.
We now have documentation that Calumet's concerns have been well founded! The NPS would have given Quincy the moose and Calumet the droppings.

4. The graph describing a holistic park had a major, positive impact upon those we visited in Washington. It is time now for our committee to join hands and hearts in pushing for legislation that provides the best possible park, namely a holistic park!

Sincerely,
R. V. Langsetto

P.S. The recording secretary, who puts the stuff into the Congressional Record, wanted to check the correct spelling. She gave what I consider to be a high compliment: "Your booklet and testimony is the most common sense organization I've seen in a long time."



PEN PAL — Rep. Bob Davis displays the pen President George Bush used to sign the park bill. The pen will be framed and exhibited at the park.

Park backers party hearty

By ROGER KOMULA
Gazette writer

CALUMET — The Keweenaw National Historic Park officially was welcomed Sunday at ceremonies at the Calumet Theatre and Miscowaubik Club.

On Tuesday, President George Bush signed the bill creating the park, which will commemorate the Keweenaw's copper mining district.

The area was the site of the nation's first mining rush, which began in the mid-1800s.

Bush signed the bill without fanfare along with as many as 50 other bills. Because Congress had recessed for the year, the president had 10 days to sign the bill once it reached his desk, or it would have died. Saturday would have been the deadline.

Park backers labored through many false alarms for more than five years before meeting with success. The bill was the fifth piece of legislation on the park introduced to Congress. Various factors, such as environmental and cost studies, kept that legislation from being passed.

Guests of honor were Sen. Carl Levin, D-Detroit, and Rep. Bob Davis, R-Gaylord, who were joined by the National Park Service's Midwest Region Director Don Castleberry and Al Hutchings, chief of planning for the NPS's midwest region.

Hundreds of people attended both events. A ceremony and welcome took place in the theater, followed by a reception in the ballroom, followed by a "Park Day Dinner" at the Miscowaubik Club.

Rev. R.V. Langseth served as master of ceremonies and thanked the hundreds of people who have been instrumental in the park's formation.

Langseth, chairman of the C-L-K Foresight Park Committee, also gave a brief history of the area and outlined the political process that led to the bill being signed.

Davis presented organizers with the pen President Bush used to sign the bill. Levin presented organizers with copies of some of the bill's pages. Those items will be displayed at the park.

Appropriations are the next steps for the park. Davis said language in the recently passed Interior Appropriations Bill included $20 million that park planners may be able to get a piece of.

Monday
November 2, 1992

Hooray, Hooray, we're a park today



Ruth MacFarlane photos

Neither rain, nor snow, nor power outages could dim the enthusiasm of pupils at Morrison Elementary in Calumet, which staged a parade Monday in honor of the newly designated Keweenaw National Historic Park.

Nov 6, 1992

Nothing rained on this parade

Observations from Ontonagon



By Ruth MacFarlane

Calumet awoke to a snow storm and a power outage Monday morning. At 9:30 a.m., controlled chaos reigns in the offices at Calumet's M.M. Morrison School.

The phone is ringing off the hook.

"Hello, this is Joyce, filling in for Judy. Can I help you?...No, the parade has been canceled. We're having it inside here at 10."

Parents, kids and teachers come in and out with problems.

First-grader Adam Holmstrom's father brings a plastic bag containing his son's costume and departs to find the room.

An anxious child calls home, full of a child-sized problem. Voices crackle over an intercom.

Judy comes in. "It's too late to activate the afternoon bus schedule. There will be no afternoon bus pick-up for kindergarten. I have to go tell the teachers. They'll love it."

Out in the hallway, kids in costumes, carrying signs and banners, are lined up left and right.

Down two flights of steps is the gym — white-painted walls and ceiling, red floor. Children file by in classes. There is a cacophony of voices. Signs bob and waver: 'PRESERVE OUR RED METAL HERITAGE,' '200 SWEDES LANDED IN HOUGHTON,' 'ITALIAN HALL FIRE 1913,' 'HIP, HIP, HOORAY, WE'RE A PARK TODAY.'

Many, not all, are in old-fashioned costumes or carrying props that reflect diverse concepts of the old days here: Miner's hats and buckets, long dresses, a boy carrying a chainsaw, an Indian head-dress, Cornish pasties, a wheel-chair powered tram car.

"Your attention please. This is a practice. You'll get to do it again in 15 minutes."

To piano and drum music, the children sing the national anthem, wobbling a bit around the key but full of enthusiasm.

Kindergartners first, the kids file out for the parade around the school (and a bathroom break).

This parade celebrates the forming of Keweenaw National Historic Park. It was to have marched down Fifth Street, but the nasty weather took care of that.

Parents trickle in and stand awaiting the return of the parade. A pair of boots takes a toddler out the door...his mother retrieves him.

Here come the dignitaries. Don Casselberry, director of the Midwest region of the National Park Service; Al Hutchins, also of NPS; Bill Fink, superintendent of Isle Royale National Park, who will be our 'man on the spot,'; Laurie Bink from U.S. Rep. Bob Davis' office; Calumet Village Comptroller Sue Cone and Rev. R.V. Langseth, chairman of CLK Foresight's park committee.

Piano and drum strike up a lively march, the Notre Dame Fight Song. Here they come, the children with costumes, flags, banners, gradually filling half the gym. One set of banner-bearers tries to straddle a pillar and has to untangle.

'THE MELTING POT BUBBLES OVER,' '1667, FATHER CLAUDE ALLOUEZ,' 'WELCOME TO OUR HISTORICAL PARK,' 'SAY YA TO DA PARK,' NATIONAL PARK OUR FUTURE.'

In the front row, banners bear the flags of many nations, represented here in the children. A sign, 'KEWEENAW — A PATCHWORK OF NATIONS.'

We all sing "The Star Spangled Banner." The dignitaries speak briefly.

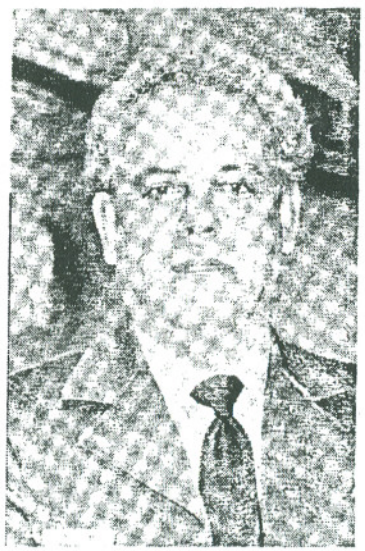
"You're going to have a chance to grow up in a national park. By the time you're 16, some of you will work for us," Casselberry tells the children.

Hutchins tells them they've made this trip "the best I ever had in the Park Service," then paraphrases the Notre Dame Fight Song, "What though the odds be great or small, Old Calumet will win over all."

Pastor Langseth praises the children. "You're terrific! What great costumes, what great enthusiasm!" And then, his victory cry, oft-heard since the park proposal became a reality — "YA-HOO!"

Piano and drums again. It's over — but it's just beginning.

Gazette correspondent and columnist Ruth MacFarlane normally covers happenings in Ontonagon County. The freelance writer happened to stop by the Calumet School while on another assignment, discovered the parade and wanted to share this story with Gazette readers.



Isle Royale National Park Superintendent Bill Fink, our local connection to the National Park Service, was one of several dignitaries on hand for the gala parade.