

Memorial to area miners planned for Pioneer complex

Making a presentation to the Ely City Council on behalf of Ely Greenstone Public Art, each council member was given a folder containing the 1998 Master Plan for the Pioneer Mine Complex and a Greenstone report from the art show held in early August this year.

The report outlined seven items which the city should address in the Miners Dry to make it more appealing to future renters. Included were the leveling of the floor, a new surface and some electrical work.

On behalf of Greenstone, Trudy Staubitz asked for "the city's permission to erect the memorial on mine property and to assist as needed with the project. At this time we would like your go ahead to continue our planning."

Staubitz cited five reasons for the

memorial:

1. The memorial will be a tribute to the men who died in the five mines in the Ely area. These mines provided the ore that was made into steel during the industrial revolution and helped the America to be strong during two world wars.

2. There is no other memorial to miners in Ely. The memorial will remind residents of Ely of these men and will help to give a historical perspective to the youth of Ely.

3. The memorial will provide tourists to Ely with an opportunity to learn about the impact of these miners on our country and the world.

4. The memorial is a public work of art.

5. The memorial affects recreational users because it serves as a reminder to those who walk the Trezona Trail or use Miners Lake

of what took place here and how the landscape has evolved.

Ely Greenstone also has some concerns about the Pioneer Mine complex. A recent tour initiated by Greenstone noted that "The Captain's Dry is in danger of being lost to vandalism and neglect."

Some interest in stabilizing the Captain's Dry has been expressed by a small group and a goal of \$1,500,000 for that purpose is being considered.

The City Council gave the go ahead for Greenstone "to create a memorial to the miners who died here and whose work contributed to the success of industry during World War II."



MEMORIAL TO MINERS to be cast in bronze was displayed by sculptor Mike Sinesio. As part of the memorial, the names of the 213 known miners who perished in Ely mines would be listed. The council agreed to let Ely Greenstone Public Art move ahead with the project.

Miners Memorial fund drive begins Ely Greenstone Public Art dedicates initial \$500 for project



THE FIRST \$500 toward the funding of the Miners Memorial to be placed at the Pioneer Mine site has been initiated by Ely Greenstone Public Art. Opening the dedicated account for the memorial at Ely Area Credit Union with manager Mark Krekelberg was Greenstone member Claire Taylor. The Greenstone board has started a fund raising campaign for the project which will include a bronze sculpture of a miner. Photo by Anne Swenson

To honor the men who gave their lives to extract the needed iron ore to build America in time of peace and time of war, a Miners Memorial is being planned for the historic Pioneer Mine site.

Ely Greenstone Public Art kicked off the fundraising efforts by donating \$500 toward the project in a dedicated account at the Ely Area Credit Union. As a 501-C3 federally recognized charity, any donations received toward the project will be tax deductible.

According to Judy Fredrickson, treasurer of Ely Greenstone, "This dedicated fund indicates our commitment to see this project through. We're excited about sculptor Mike Sinesio's concept and look forward to its development."

"The Pioneer Mine site has attracted interest through the years and Greenstone enjoyed using the Miners Dry building this summer for our Art Show."

Donation forms which allow individuals to memorialize a family member are now

available from Greenstone members, the Ely Echo and other places around town. A form is also being printed in this newspaper.

While the form suggests donations from \$25 to \$5,000, Greenstone member Claire Taylor said, "Any amount is welcome and if a classroom wants to take it on as a project, nickles and dimes will be appreciated as well."

When the design for the memorial is completed, engineers will be required to create the plan for the foundation of the structure. A bronze sculpture of a miner will be an integral part of the piece when completed.

Greenstone has received permission from the City of Ely to place the memorial at the Pioneer Mine site.

Thus far 213 names of men who died in the Ely area mines have been found and over \$6,800 has been raised as of April, 2010.

How the list of miners names from Ely evolved

This is raw country. Explored late in the 1850s for the value it might generate in terms of ore and lumber.

It was a country plagued by bugs, harsh weather and no roads, but, to men and women seeking a life better than the one they left in the Old Country, it was a place of dreams to be fulfilled.

The 213 names of miners who died in the Ely area mines resound with the difficulties faced when language and the nuances of pronunciation altered names in this new country. The mine inspector was likely to give the name of the deceased as what it sounded like when spoken. Some men were not able to write their own name. A newspaper of the time might offer another spelling and the family might give yet another version of the name.

Assembling names from two extant lists of deceased Ely miners brought these name

problems to the fore.

Ann Stewart-Uehling had done a careful job of reading and recording mine deaths from early Ely newspapers - The Ely Times, Iron Home and Ely Miner. Her earliest record was of Swedish miner John Ogreen or Ogren's death on January 31, 1889 and it was the first death reported at the Chandler Mine. The last death she recorded before she was drawn away to other duties was from the Ely Miner on the death of Austrian John Nemitz or Nemeck on June 23, 1925 at the Pioneer Mine.

Europe was being remolded due to wars and treaties, so what was Austria at one time might well be Yugoslavia at another time.

Another list which has been unearthed has deaths up to 1966, with the last entry that of Arvo Walli at the Pioneer Mine.

There's still research to be done. Families will also

know of names of deceased from Ely mines to be included on the Miners Memorial. Ely Greenstone has established a dedicated fund for this purpose and has permission from the City of Ely to go ahead with the project.

If you have information about miners who died here, please stop by the Ely Echo and let Anne Swenson know. Greenstone would like to include them.

If you would like to honor a miner who survived his time at one of the area mines, that can also be included.

And if you're wondering why Ely Greenstone - a group of people who were not born here - would care about Ely's past, it's simple. We're proud of the fortitude and achievements made by hearty souls who sought to make a better life for themselves, their families and America.

Ely miners who died research is completed

The list below is a compilation of 213 known names of miners who died in one of the Ely mines. The mines included are: Chandler, Lucky Boy, McComber, Pioneer, Savoy, Section 30, Sibley and Zenith.

These are the names which were verified through death records, mining reports and newspapers. During the research period over the past two years, it was found that the spelling varied for some names. The dates of death also tended to vary. It is expected that the final memorial will carry only the year of death.

These are the names which will be used in the Miners Memorial sponsored by Ely Greenstone Public Art. The memorial will be placed on the Pioneer Mine historical site. This location has

been approved by the City of Ely, owners of the property which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Donations are still being accepted for the Miners Memorial. At the present time close to \$5,000 is in the account. It is expected that the memorial may cost over \$100,000 when completed.

People may designate on the donation form the person or persons they wish to remember. A list of miners who survived and were remembered by donation will be available at the mine site when the project is completed.

Persons who wish to comment on the list or the project should contact 2010 Greenstone chairman Anne Swenson at the Ely Echo office.



Ely Greenstone Public Art

2647 Van Vac Road, Ely MN 55731

Ely Greenstone Public Art is a federally recognized 501-C3 charity
Board members: Bill Defenbaugh, Judy Fredrickson, Muffin Nelson, Mike Sinesio, Trudy Staubitz, Anne Swenson, Claire Taylor.

HONORING ELY'S MINING HISTORY

Miners Memorial Sculpture

My donation choice:

- \$25
- \$50
- \$100
- \$250
- \$500
- \$1,000
- \$5,000
- Other amount \$ _____



In Memory of: _____

Please indicate: **D** = Died in Mine or **S** = Survived mine work

Make checks payable to: **Greenstone Miners Memorial**
(Fund at Ely Area Credit Union)

Or mail to: Ely Greenstone, 2647 Van Vac Rd, Ely MN 55731

Credit Card # _____

Card Expires ____/____ Card 3-Digit # (on back of card) _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Tax deductible receipt needed? Yes No

Individual or donor group name _____

213 names found for Miners Memorial

Check variations, some Ely names have changed spellings over time

MINERS NAMES	DEATH DATE	MINE NAME			
Aarjala, Otto (Hamala)	1900, April 8	PIONEER	Mihelich, John	1893, Jun 26	CHANDLER
Anderson, Andrew	1889, July 23	CHANDLER	Milkovich, Joe	1928, May 19	SIBLEY
Anderson, Matt	1894, May 24	CHANDLER	Miller, Oscar	1916, Sep 15	MCCOMBER
Anderson, Otto	1893, June 12	CHANDLER	Moisala, Sakris	1892, Oct 31	CHANDLER
Antonelli, Mariano	1900, Nov 7	CHANDLER	Moroni, Frank	1894, Feb 5	CHANDLER
Antonsich, Frank	1914, Nov 9	SIBLEY	Morowitz, Peter (Morvitz)	1896, Jul 8	PIONEER
Antonsich, Fred (Antznic)	1914, Nov 9	SIBLEY	Morrelli, Augustino	1896, Jul 27	PIONEER
Antonsich, John	1911, Jan 31	PIONEER	Movrin, John	1948, Jan 20	PIONEER
Beckstram, Leander	1911, Mar 30	PIONEER	Mrak, Frank	1922, Aug 15	PIONEER
Belaj, Frank	1893, Jan 20	CHANDLER	Muckovich, John	1901, Sep 14	PIONEER
Benko Jr, Frank	1946, May 24	ZENITH	Muhvich, John (Markovich)	1913, Sep 6	SIBLEY
Benzo, Giuseppe	1918, Jan 10	ZENITH	Mukovic, Matt (Mokovich)	1896, Apr 14	CHANDLER
Boiz, John (Bojc)	1895, JUN 18	CHANDLER	Nappa, Sr, Charles	1927, Jul 21	PIONEER
Bojc, John	1891, Nov 7	CHANDLER	Nemec, John (Nemitz)	1925, Jun 23	PIONEER
Boje, Frank	1890, Oct 29	CHANDLER	Nick, Tom	1917, Feb 19	SECTION 30
Bottish, Marcus	1890, Oct 29	CHANDLER	Niemi, Toivo (Nieminen?)	1916, May 31	PIONEER
Brimson, George (Bridson)	1920, Mar 17	SIBLEY	Novak, Michael	1922, Sep 21	PIONEER
Buterac, Eli	1921, Jan 20	ZENITH	Ogreen, John (Ogren)	1889, Jan 31	CHANDLER
Caimi, Carlo	1920, Jan 8	ZENITH	Oinonen, Gideon	1914, Nov 9	SIBLEY
Carlson, Nickelai (Juhntson)	1904, Jul 7	PIONEER	OJala, Alex	1917, Jan 28	CHANDLER
Cencic, Vide	1944, Nov 6	PIONEER	Ollanketa, Heikki	1907, Aug 6	PIONEER
Chimgar, Frank	1907, Feb 20	ZENITH	Oman, Edward	1896, Sep 2	CHANDLER
Christopher, John Peter	1922, Feb 16	ZENITH	Oppel Jr., William H.	1918, Apr 5	SECTION 30
Colombo, Ferdinand	1899, Sep 20	PIONEER	Ordshkovich, John	1911, Apr 27	ZENITH
Creskovich, John	1911, Apr 27	ZENITH	Oreskovich, Frank	1922, May 8	ZENITH
Dianavic, Frank	1903, May 2	PIONEER	Oreskovich, Steve	1918, Sep 6	SECTION 30
Drobnik, John	1924, Dec 10	PIONEER	Ornell, John	1889, OCT 17	CHANDLER
Elliot, E. B	1899, Jun 21	ZENITH	Pahkama, John	1920, Aug 28	ZENITH
Erickson, John	1889, Apr 4	CHANDLER	Paksh, Anton	1902, Aug 10	SAVOY
Erickson, Victor	1896, Jun 25	PIONEER	Palisic, John	1901, Mar 5	CHANDLER
Evanoff, Nick	1938, Oct 11	SIBLEY	Pallan, Nick	1902, Nov 30	PIONEER
Floridan, George	1914, Nov 9	SIBLEY	Peshel, Joseph	1945, Jan 8	PIONEER
Fusca, Emanuelle	1927, Feb 2	PIONEER	Petric, Josef (Petric)	1920, Aug 10	PIONEER
Gerdovik, George	1901, Nov 8	ZENITH	Peuha, William	1930, Sep 18	ZENITH
Glinseck, Joseph	1955, Sep 30	PIONEER	Pietikaninen, Abraham	1913, May 9	LUCKY BOY
Globinick, John	1902, May 9	PIONEER	Pietro, Tolero	1892, Aug 2	CHANDLER
Gorce, Matt	1909, Oct 12	SIBLEY	Pogoreiz, Anton	1913, May 10	SECTION 30
Gorse, Louis	1910, Apr 16	ZENITH	Poost, John	1889	CHANDLER
Gribbon, Chas	1896, Mar 20	CHANDLER	Preatto, Prijatolj, Andrew	1906, Feb 14	CHANDLER
Habitch, John (Hobich)	1903, Jul 9	SAVOY	Prijatelj, Frank (Krijakly)	1900, Jun 6	CHANDLER
Hakola, John	1891, May 12	CHANDLER	Prishil, John	1890, Dec 30	PIONEER
Hanala, Matt (Hanula)	1889, Jun 13	CHANDLER	Pusari, John	1956, Oct 15	ZENITH
Hannan, Ole	1889, Jun 19	CHANDLER	Quick, John	1896, Apr 30	ZENITH
Hanson, Louis	1889, Jun 22	CHANDLER	Ranta, Otto	1947, Nov 14	PIONEER
Haycock, George (Hervok)	1896, Jun 25	PIONEER	Renikka, John	1914, Sep 23	SECTION 30
Heitalahti , Oscar	1924, Mar 24	PIONEER	Rintimaki, John	1901, Oct 7	CHANDLER
Hobich, Matt	1907, Jul 10	SAVOY	Robertson, Ernest T	1946, Sep 6	PIONEER
Homer, John (Humar)	1914, Nov 9	SIBLEY	Rock, Louis	1922, Jun 17	PIONEER
Hubar, Josef (Hubat)	1913, Aug 9	ZENITH	Rom, Casper	1918, Jan 4	CHANDLER
Hufta, Matt (Hukta)	1906, Dec 9	PIONEER	Romer, Joseph	1914, NOV 9	SIBLEY
Indihar, Frank	1918, Jan 23	SECTION 30	Rova, Isaac	1898, Dec 20	PIONEER
Inic, Leopold (Ivic)	1900, Jan 10	CHANDLER	Rozman, George	1930, Jul 19	SIBLEY
Jardi, Carl	1918, Jul 15	SECTION 30	Rus, John	1908, Sep 4	PIONEER
Jaskala, Harvey	1909, Dec 24	PIONEER	Salmi, Matti	1903, Apr 2	PIONEER
Johnson, Anton	1892, Jan 14	ZENITH	Sankovitch, Joe	1911, Jul 8	SECTION 30
Johnson, Herman	1896, Mar 30	PIONEER	Schustar, Anton	1907, Aug 9	???
Johnson, Peter	1917, Jun 30	SECTION 30	Scufsa, Joseph	1914, Nov 9	SIBLEY
Jokela, Matt	1901, Jan 14	PIONEER	Selarovich, Vasar	1918, Aug 10	PIONEER
Jylha, Jacob	1904, Mar 20	ZENITH	Silvola, Ade E	1959, Aug 19	ZENITH
Kajute, Erik	1900, Oct 24	CHANDLER	Simoncoc, Stephen	1902, Oct 31	PIONEER
Kangas, John	1916, Apr 15	CHANDLER	Simonich, John	1930, Apr 8	SIBLEY
Kauppi, Jacob	1901, Nov 5	PIONEER	Simonich, Mike (Simonick)	1902, Dec 14	SAVOY
Klanfar, Luke	1948 Sep 20	ZENITH	Sjostrom, Isaac	1896, Jun 26	PIONEER
Klobuchar, John	1942, Dec 10	CHANDLER	Skorrich, Ignatz (Glowich)	1899, Sep 5	PIONEER
Knous, John	1899, Mar 22	CHANDLER	Skraba, John	1936, Aug 18	ZENITH
Koloski, John (Lahomacky)	1901, Dec 23	PIONEER	Skrejano, John	1910, Sep 6	ZENITH
Konel, George	1899, Oct 14	CHANDLER	Slobodnick, Matt	1891, Nov 5	CHANDLER
Korvilla, Sakri (Gus Erickson)	1907, May 20	PIONEER	Smrekar, Joseph	1900, Feb 5	SAVOY
Kosa, Joseph	1906, April 28	SAVOY	Solumi, Elias (Salmi)	1901, Nov 20	CHANDLER
Kosier, John (Kichenor)	1901, Jul 8	SAVOY	St. Claire, W. H.	1911, Nov 7	SECTION 30
Kosola, John Emil	1954, Dec 24	ZENITH	Stark, Peter	1904, Jun 15	???
Kovach, John	1937, June 4	PIONEER	Steffens, Alden L	1952, Jun 6	ZENITH
Kozeliever, Lorenz	1901, Apr 4	SAVOY	Sterila, Matt	1901, Aug 16	PIONEER
Kramar, Anton	1937, Jun 4	PIONEER	Sterk, Peter	1903, Aug3	SIBLEY
Kramer, Frank (Cramer)	1896, Jun 25	PIONEER	Sterlick, Rudolph	1902, Dec 6	ZENITH
Kuhar, Frank	1953, Oct 10	PIONEER	Sternot, Frank (Starmat)	1895, Oct 1	PIONEER
Kumppulainen, Ed (Kumpalonen)	1918, Jan 8	CHANDLER	Strucklen, Matt	1902, Jan 6	SIBLEY
Kunnari, Elias	1903, APR 21	ZENITH	Stukel, Matt	1929, Feb 20	PIONEER
Kure, Peter	1895, May 17	CHANDLER	Stupetz, Ferdinand (Stuptza)	1902, May 10	SIBLEY
Kuzma, Leopold	1927, Jun 3	SIBLEY	Stupico, Leopold	1922, Jan 19	PIONEER
Latva, John	1934, Jun 20	PIONEER	Stustrom, Isaac (Sjastrom)	1896, Jun 26	PIONEER
Lauritz, Stephen	1906, Dec 21	SIBLEY	Thumer, Alexander	1895, Mar 14	CHANDLER
Lenovich, Vasa	1918, Aug 10	CHANDLER	Tikkanen	1915, Jan 17	SECTION 30
Lindbeck, John J.	1912, Jan 25	SECTION 30	Tolonen, Sylvester	1908, Jan 19	PIONEER
Llias, Chas (Leas)	1902, Oct 9	CHANDLER	Tomach, Anton Jr.	1895, May 8	CHANDLER
Lukavetz, Frank	1907, Oct. 26	PIONEER	Tuoppala, Levi	1903, Jun 14	PIONEER
Luoma, John	1900, May 10	PIONEER	Uasijarvi, Sakris	1894, Dec 5	CHANDLER
Luper, Joseph	1890, Dec 30	PIONEER	Unknown	1894, Feb 9	CHANDLER
Mackovitz, Paul (Muckovitz)	1902, DEC 7	PIONEER	Unknown	1902, Apr 4	SAVOY
Magnuson, Nels	1897, OCT 23	CHANDLER	Unknown	1893, Sep 2	CHANDLER
Majerle, George	1889, Nov 19	CHANDLER	Unknown	1908, Jan 18	PIONEER
Makauc, Paul	1895, Dec 7	PIONEER	Verrant, John	1901, Jul 30	SAVOY
Maki, Jacob or Jack	1903, Jan 31	PIONEER	Vesel, Luke	1899, Feb 10	PIONEER
Maki, John	1913, May 9	ANDERSON	Vukelich, John	1922, Aug 19	ZENITH
Maki, Ralph	1960, Mar 4	PIONEER	Vuksinic, John	1906, Jan 11	SAVOY
Makki, John	1892, Feb 26	CHANDLER	Walli Arvo M	1966, Mar 15	PIONEER
Malarich, Anton	1921, Jan 27	ZENITH	Warra, Peter	1903, Aug 8	PIONEER
Malich, John	1916, Aug17	ZENITH	Westerholm, John	1900, Mar 19	PIONEER
Manteggio, John	1906, Jul 26	SAVOY	Wiiki, Wm.	1926, Sep 23	ZENITH
Martinen, August (Martiner)	1918, Aug 9	PIONEER	Wiljanen, William	1914, Aug 20	SECTION 30
Mattila, John (Mattala)	1917, Mar 27	CHANDLER	Witri, Emil	1926, Dec 6	ZENITH
Mautz, Frank	1894, Jun 6	CHANDLER	Yerns, John	1919, Apr 7	SECTION 30
Mayanpa, Matt	1905, May 3	PIONEER	Zelesnik, John (Gelesnik)	1907, Jan 11	SIBLEY
Mellund, Ole	1905, Jan 18	ZENITH	Zgonc, John	1956, Jan 15	ZENITH
Mertel, Michael (Martel)	1913, Apr 22	PIONEER	Zgonc, John (Sjonce)	1906, Jun 22	PIONEER
Metsapelto, Henry	1942, Feb 12	PIONEER	Zupancic, George	1921, Nov 5	PIONEER
			Zupec, Anton	1927, Sep 16	PIONEER