



Selections from the Keweenaw

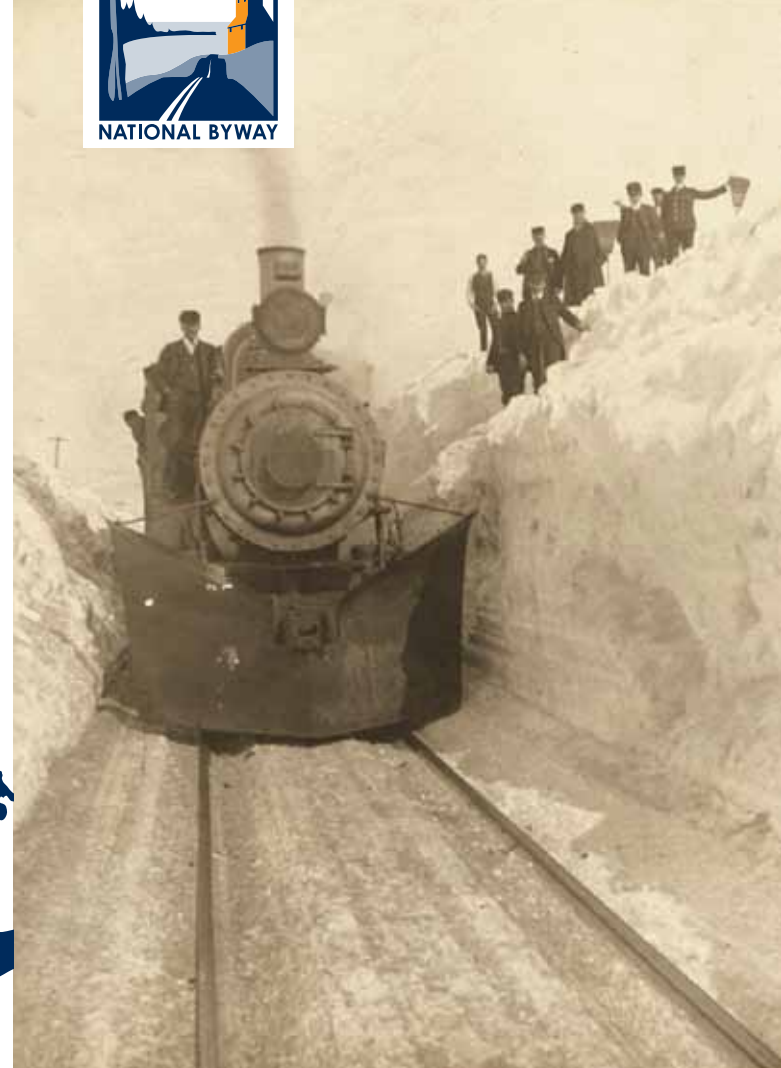
Stories are passed down from generation to generation and become interwoven in the cultural fabric of our communities. Some are shrouded in myth and others represent the truth, but whatever their accuracy they are a reflection of the area they come from. In the Keweenaw—a place that has a rich history, rugged landscape, and diverse peoples—these local stories are a reflection of this distinct interconnectedness.

KEWEENAW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
keweenaw.org
906.482.5240

COPPER HARBOR IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
copperharbor.org
906.289.4274

KEWEENAW CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU
keweenaw.info
906.337.4579

KEWEENAW NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
nps.gov/kewe
906.483.3176



Snowdrift on the Copper Range Railroad
Photo Courtesy Wm. John Jack Foster Collection

CONTINUE EXPLORING AT
coppercountrytrail.org



Italian Hall Funeral Procession
Photo Courtesy of Michigan Tech Archives



Italian Hall on the day after the tragedy
Photo Courtesy of NPS/Keweenaw NHP Archives



A TRAGIC EVENT

The year 1913 marked a tumultuous time in the Copper Country. The Western Federation of Miners was fighting for workers' rights, and the mining companies were fighting back. The general feeling was one of uncertainty, struggle and hardship. To raise spirits, the union's Women's Auxiliary hosted a Christmas Eve party for strikers and their families at the Italian Hall building in Calumet. During the party, an unidentified individual falsely yelled "Fire!" and chaos erupted. People rushed to the exit, and during the stampede 73 people—most of them children—were crushed to death. The Italian Hall building was demolished in the 1980s, but visitors today can pay their respects to those who lost their lives that fateful night at the Italian Hall Site. *(Seventh Street, Calumet)*

A HOMETOWN HERO

George Gipp was a natural born athlete. He was big, strong and talented on many fields. Born in Laurium in 1895, his athletic prowess eventually sent him to Notre Dame where he became one of college football's greatest all-around players. His future seemed bright, but an unfortunate run-in with pneumonia would bring it to a screeching halt. Shortly before he died at the age of 25, legend has it that he passed some now famous words along to his football coach. To inspire his fellow players on the field, he asked they be told to, "win just one for the Gipper." These words are now synonymous with his name and are kept alive today at the Gipp Memorial. *(Tamarack Street, Laurium)*



Ronald Reagan as George Gipp in Knute Rockne, All American. Photo Courtesy of The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation & Library



Winter in Red Jacket (now Calumet), 1899
Photo Courtesy of Wm. John Jack Foster Collection



Moving snow
Photo Courtesy of Michigan Tech Archives

WINTER WONDERLAND

Once the snowflakes begin to fall, there is no stopping them in the Keweenaw. The combination of cold weather and the Peninsula being surrounded by Lake Superior makes for snow depths of legendary proportions. Historically, a horse drawn roller would "pank" or pack down the snow on streets so people could get around. The all-time snow record is 390.4 inches in the winter of 1978-79! Be sure to stop at the snow thermometer on your visit to see how you size up to the Keweenaw's legendary winters. *(US-41, North of Mohawk)*