

Barnes-Hecker Remembrance

Commemorating the 90th Anniversary of the Barnes-Hecker Mine Disaster of November 3, 1926

OCTOBER 19 & 20 • 7PM

“Miners Died and Widows Cried: Death in the Iron Ore Mines”

Ernie Ronn Hall, 1206 Baldwin Avenue, Negaunee

Presenter: Jim Paquette, Marquette Regional History Center

The Barnes-Hecker Tragedy affected the entire community of Ishpeming and its surrounding neighborhoods. It was the worst single tragedy, but only one of many in which hundreds upon hundreds of iron ore miners were lost in mine accidents on the Marquette Iron Range. You will be moved by this presentation that provides both historic context and personal insight into one family that exemplifies every family that was affected by the untimely death of a family in our area's iron ore mines.

NOVEMBER 2 • 7PM

Remembering the Barnes-Hecker Tragedy

Marquette Regional History Center, 145 W. Spring St., Marquette

Presenter: Tom Friggens, author of No Tears in Heaven, and retired director of the Michigan Iron Industry Museum

Tom Friggens will recount some of the compelling human stories of November 3, 1926; a day that began as any other day at Barnes-Hecker Mine. . . until the lights went out underground, and a rush of air told the miners something was terribly wrong. Only one man escaped from the torrent of water, mud and debris that flooded through the mine. Fifty-one men were lost and 41 remain entombed at Barnes-Hecker. This program is offered as a collaboration of the Marquette Regional History Center and the Michigan Iron Industry Museum. A \$5 donation is suggested.

OCTOBER 31 • 10 PM & NOVEMBER 1 • 2 PM

“Barnes-Hecker: Memories of Misfortune”

Broadcast on WNMU PublicTV13

This 45-minute documentary will air on WNMU Public TV13, with interviews preceding and following the 45-minute program. The documentary recounts the loss of 51 men in the Barnes-Hecker Mine Disaster of 1926. Interviews with the first generation of descendants provide insight into the personal aspects of the tragedy.

NOVEMBER 3, 2016

Barnes-Hecker Remembrance Day

The Cities of Ishpeming, Negaunee and Marquette; the Marquette County Board; and Townships of Ely and Ishpeming are declaring November 3 as Barnes-Hecker Remembrance Day.

NOVEMBER 3 • 11:20 AM

Ring of Church Bells

Several churches in Marquette County will toll their bells 51 times, beginning at 11:20 am, to mark the time when the lights went out in the Barnes-Hecker Mine . . . and tragedy ensued.

NOVEMBER 3 • 7PM

Ecumenical Memorial Service

Bethel Lutheran Church, 333 East Ridge Street, Ishpeming

For the first time since Memorial Day 1927, a community-wide ecumenical memorial service will convene to commemorate the legacy of Barnes-Hecker. Faith leaders will offer brief meditations and music to remember and honor the lives of the 51 men who were lost, and to emphasize the hope and courage of the 42 surviving widows and 132 minor children. The service will include the reading of names of the 51 men and the chiming of bells.

NOVEMBER 5 • 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

“Barnes-Hecker: Memories of Misfortune”

Michigan Iron Industry Museum, 73 Forge Road, Negaunee

This 45-minute documentary, produced by WNMU Public TV13, will be shown continuously in the auditorium, and refreshments will be served. The documentary recounts the loss of 51 men in the Barnes-Hecker Mine Disaster of 1926. Interviews with the first generation of descendants provide insight into the men, their families, and the widows who raised the 132 minor children who lost their fathers.

NOVEMBER 5 • 6-8 PM

Candlelight Vigil of Hope

Cliffs Shaft Mine Museum, corner of Lakeshore Dr. & Euclid St., Ishpeming

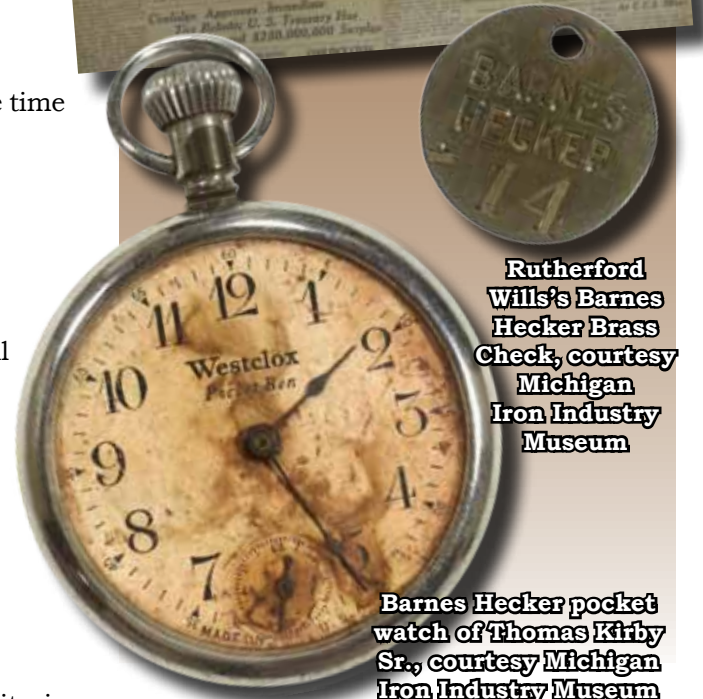
As the closing event for the remembrance, the Cliffs Shaft Mine Museum will host an open house for those who wish to stop by, share conversations, and join in this vigil of remembrance and hope. The building is not heated, and the cold reminds us of family members who stood out in the cold at the Barnes-Hecker Mine waiting for word of the fate of their loved ones. Refreshments will be served.



Barnes-Hecker Mine circa 1919



Mining Journal, Rush Work at Flooded Mine Nov 6 1926, courtesy Michigan Iron Industry Museum



Rutherford Wills's Barnes Hecker Brass Check, courtesy Michigan Iron Industry Museum

Barnes Hecker pocket watch of Thomas Kirby Sr., courtesy Michigan Iron Industry Museum

Barnes-Hecker Remembrance events are presented as a collaborative effort of the descendants of Barnes-Hecker, local historians, the Michigan Iron Industry Museum, the Marquette Regional History Center, Cliffs Shaft Mine Museum, Ely Township, the historical societies of Ishpeming and Negaunee, Cliffs Natural Resources and United Steel Workers locals 4950 and 4974.