



IXL Historical Museum • June, 2004

Preserving Hermansville's History



Museum Goes Online



You can find the new IXL Museum website at:

www.hermansville.com

C.J.L. Meyer would be proud to know that his legacy is now accessible to the entire world! The new website features a variety of Museum related pages including the IXL Store where a variety of books and such offered by the Museum can be purchased. Other pages include Town History, Museum information, Pictures, Membership information, Tour info and more. The website was built by Mediapro Development in Hermansville and is part of the hermansville.com website owned by the Township and Economic Development Corp. of Hermansville. The new website can be accessed by going to www.hermansville.com and clicking on the Museum icon.

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Museum takes on Building Project

Plans have begun for a new building project. The Museum has started the planning stages for a new warehouse style building which will be used to store a variety of artifacts currently being stored elsewhere. Estimated cost of the project is in the

neighborhood of \$30,000. The building will be constructed near the Museum complex location. Although the project is still in the early planning stages, efforts have been made to raise some of the initial funds necessary to get the project off the

ground. A generous \$5,000 grant obtained from the Han- naville Indian Community marks the first funds to be raised for the project. Anyone interested in assisting financially or with labor should contact the Museum.

Hermansville History

- *The first sawmill #1 was built in 1879 and burned in 1891.*
- *Boarding house #1 was torn down in Fond du Lac and shipped by rail to Hermansville in 1880.*
- *First store built on the corner of First and Park in 1880.*

Museum Update

Dear Friends -

Some changes are being made. Ever since the Office of the Wisconsin Land & Lumber Company was established as a Museum, Rose Schultz has been in charge of writing our bi-annual newsletters, and what a wonderful job she has done! However, it is now time for us to come to her aid and take over that responsibility, although Rose is now being asked to take part in the process by writing her autobiography. Another significant change is the appointment of Brian Whittens as a member of the Board of Directors to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Chad Knodl last spring. Brian has established his own business in Hermansville, called MediaPro, and he will be working with Judy Meintz on our newsletters. Our plans are to e-mail as many of these as possible. This will be a big saving, both in printing and postage.

I am happy to report that our caboosie is being restored, all the outside work has been done and the inside should be completed before we open for the season. We are so thankful to have the expertise of Eugene Arduin. He has spent many hours on this project and has done a wonderful job.

The warehouse windows have all been reworked and painted by Eugene. We were able to hire a contractor to complete the removal of siding, down to the original, and this building will be painted when the weather permits this spring.

Over the past few years much has been done. The company house moved to the complex and refurbished, the carriage house painted, the caboosie reworked, the main museum building painted and re-roofed. We are indeed proud of what has been accomplished.

Last fall we received a grant of \$5,000 from the Hannahville Indian Community. This is to be used for a metal building we want to construct to display the large amount of machinery that is stored at various places throughout the community. This will be a big addition to our property and we are again applying to Hannahville for additional money for this project.

If you will be in the area this summer, we hope you will stop in and check everything out. I am certain you will be pleasantly surprised.

Thank you all for your support. We are such a small group and this could not have been accomplished without our dedicated membership.

Lorraine Lungerhausen
Secretary

Up From the Ashes

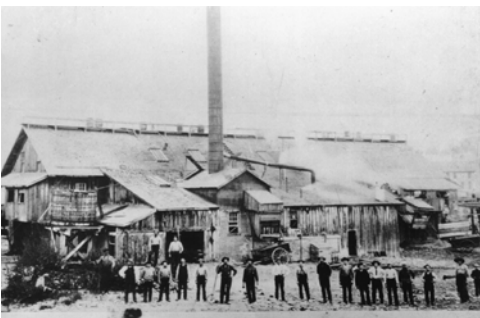
On May 10, 2004, Ken Kirschner, of Ken's Excavating, Powers, Michigan, was checking out a large "sink hole" which had appeared in the driveway to the Anne Louise Lungerhausen residence. Upon excavating he discovered old stumps, a great deal of ash and other debris and an large safe, minus the door. This old safe was removed before filling in the hole and taken to the IXL Historical Museum property.



According to records this was the location of the first store, meat market, ice house and the Ebert residence in Hermansville and was destroyed by fire on September 17, 1886. This is recorded as the first fire in Hermansville.

Part of the store goods were saved and moved into an old building occupied by a Boarding House, where the store was kept until the Main Street store building was completed in 1888.

Hermansville's First Mill



Mill #1

Construction of this mill began on January 10, 1879 and was rushed through so that logs could be sawed by February 19, 1879. The mill was not completely finished until July of '79. The first car load of shingles made in Hermansville was shipped on May 26, 1879. It did not take so long to build mills in those days as it does now. The cost of the mill as charged on the books was \$3,487.31. Records do not indicate that the lumber

and machinery were charged on the books, as in those days it was not customary to charge the plant for lumber which it was manufacturing. The machinery was brought from one of Mr. Meyer's mills which was dismantled in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. This mill was destroyed by fire on Friday night, December 4, 1891. The night is still remembered for the worst storm that ever visited Hermansville.

A Glimpse of the Past



Hermansville's Lower Saloon. Pictured are August Kohen (left) and Otto Bartl (right) with Bartl children. Bartender unknown.



The First Street/Linden Street Corner Saloon, part of the Early Block about 1905.



Hermansville Depot. This was the first depot built around 1879 and located across the tracks from the present Museum. The depot was in service until 1889 when a new one was built (for \$3500).



The Commercial Hotel was constructed in 1894 and was located in the Earle Block. The hotel burned on January 24, 1920. This photo was taken from an old postcard.



The "Pioneer" was the first engine on the Hermansville Western Railroad. Due to its small size the engine was called "The Dinky".



February 1st, 1982. The famous picture of "the largest load" taken on a bright sunny Sunday afternoon.

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We're on the web!
www.hermansville.com

Preserving Hermansville's history with the help and generous support of people like you!

Know your Hermansville History

If you really would like to understand the history of Hermansville and the IXL Flooring industry you should consider picking up a copy of the book "Hermansville From the Beginning".

The book is available for purchase for \$25 at the Museum and can be ordered via the website or by contacting the Museum by mail.

The book was written in great part by Charles M. Case, Mr. Meyer's personal secretary in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin who came to Hermansville when the town was established.

The book contains a wealth of historic information about Hermansville, Blaney Park, steam locomotives and logging camps as well as many town notables.

Your support is needed.

An IXL Museum **Membership** is a great way to help support this wonderful building, Hermansville and its legacy. There are many expenses involved with the upkeep and operation of such an important piece of our history.

Membership includes a card to visit the Museum and a subscription to the IXL Newsletter.

Through the years we have received a large amount of support from the local community as well as from others outside the area. It is your generous support that has helped to make the IXL Historical Museum the beautiful and important landmark that it is today and helps to keep it that way. Your support is so greatly appreciated, not only by the Museum, but by all who visit.

For Membership information please visit our website or contact the Museum by mail.

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