

New Sign Recognizes History of US-2, Built on Native American Trail

By Karen Gould

US-2 through the Upper Peninsula follows an old Indian trail, and so a new sign recognizing the historical and cultural significance of the highway has been installed at Telescope Park, seven miles west of St. Ignace and was dedicated Monday, July 31. The history of the road and its importance to cultural and economic development in the Upper Peninsula is written in English on one side of the sign and in Anishinaabemowin/Ojibwa on the other.

"The first land surveys, completed in the 1840s, indicate that there was an Indian trail, later a coach road, running from St. Ignace to Gros Cap along the path which US-2 presently occupies," states the sign. "Further west, surveyors recorded Native American trails following rivers and streams from the coast north into the interior of the U.P. This allowed the early inhabitants of the peninsula to walk or canoe south to the coast, then travel both east and west. This served as an informal, but important, corridor for transportation and commerce for the indigenous peo-

ple of Michigan."

Tribal language instructors Rhonda Hopkins and Nancy Debassige wrote the translation.

The dedication was attended by representatives from the Sault Ste.

Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and the Michigan Department of Transportation.

"It's important to recognize the role that US-2 has played in our state's history, and the use of this

route by native peoples before recorded history," said John Batchelder, manager of MDOT's Newberry Transportation Service Center.

Mr. Batchelder said the Sault and Green Bay Stagecoach Trail ran parallel to Lake Michigan from St. Ignace to Green Bay, Wisconsin and minor trails that branched off from the Sault and Green Bay Trail have become county roads.

"To honor Anishinaabek Ojibwa people in this way, I think is very important," said Cecil

Pavlat, cultural repatriation specialist for the tribe, the bilingual sign. "Language is so important to us. It's a part of who we are and it reminds us of where we came from."

Tribal Chairman Aaron Payment agreed.

"We've been here forever and it is a very moving thing when others recognize that and they reach out to us. As a tribal member, I humbly appreciate that," said Mr. Payment.

The transportation department identified the project as part of its

2005 centennial celebration and is part of a more "holistic approach to transportation," said Mr. Batchelder. The department now is working in what can be considered nontraditional areas, including non-motorized trail development, aviation projects under its Bureau of Aeronautics, and marine transportation, like the construction work on the State Dock at British Landing on Mackinac Island.

Money for the US-2 sign came from federal Transportation Enhancement funds.



The US-2 multicultural sign dedication ceremony began with a traditional song honoring the occasion by Cecil Pavlat (left) and Josh Homminga.



Representatives from the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and officials from the Michigan Department of Transportation dedicated the historical marker at Telescope Park on US-2. Participants include (from left) Unit 1 Representative Dennis McKelvie, Unit 1 Representative Joe Eitrem, translator Rhonda Hopkins, Unit 3 Representative Fred Paquin, translator Nancy Debassige, Nemin Matrisous of the cultural division, Tribal Chairman Aaron Payment, drummer Josh Homminga, Unit 3 Representative Keith Massaway, Cultural Repatriation Specialist Cecil Pavlat, MDOT Communications Representative James Lake, MDOT Manager John Batchelder, and Unit 1 Representative Cathy Abramson.

Resale Shop To Open in St. Ignace August 21

St. Ignace Area Hope will open a resale store at 250 Ferry Lane, in the building recently occupied by Tech-Optics, Monday, August 21. The St. Ignace Food Pantry will also move from 109 McCann Street to the Ferry Lane building. The charity is collecting donations of used clothing, towels, sheets, housewares, and toys at the store this week, Wednesday, August 9, Thursday, August 10, and Friday, August 11, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday, August 12, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Marcy Kammers will manage the operation and about 20 volun-

teers have committed to working at the store, which will be called the Hope Chest Resale Shop, said Deacon Tom McClelland of St. Ignace Loyola Catholic Church. All workers will be volunteers. The store is being freshly painted and carpeted to prepare for its opening, he said.

The food pantry is open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., with the exception of Friday, August 11, and Friday, August 18, when the pantry will be closed.

St. Ignace Area Hope is a collaborative charity formed this spring by local churches to open a store to offer low cost used clothing and household goods. Project Hope will also help match people to appropriate programs of human services agencies like Community Action Agency, Department of Human Services, Diane Pepler Center, Crisis Pregnancy Center, Catholic Social Services, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Salvation Army, and Goodwill.

County Gives \$10,000 to Path Project

By Karen Gould

The proposed North Huron Scenic Pathway has received \$10,000 from the Mackinac County Board of Commissioners to help fund an engineering and feasibility study. The study is estimated to cost between \$25,000 and \$28,000 for a biking and hiking pathway that will span eight communities in Mackinac and Chippewa counties.

Commissioners agreed to support the trail study at their meeting Thursday, July 27, following a request from Deb Evashevski, chair of the trail steering committee and director of the St. Ignace Downtown Development Authority, and Michelle Walk, facilitator for the committee and Mackinac County Extension director. They plan to make a similar pitch to Chippewa County commissioners.

Clark Township also will provide some funding, said Ms. Walk. The proposed 70 mile pathway from St. Ignace to DeTour Village could boost tourism and provide recreational activities. It will cross the townships of St. Ignace, Marquette, Clark, Raber, and DeTour.

Commissioners made their contribution to the engineering study with the stipulation that they receive representation on the steering committee, but with all commission seats up for re-election this year, they took note that an appointment to that committee likely will be made in January.

Ms. Walk said the study will identify the best location for the trail based on soil erosion and environmental factors. The report also will provide details on the path's composition, including base and surface material that would work with the area's climate, and an estimate for construction and maintenance costs would be a part of the study. The trail will cross public and private land.

Townships will be expected to help provide the funds to complete the trail and grant options also are being explored, explained Ms. Walk. Once the study is complete, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the

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Pride of Baltimore II Coming to St. Ignace

To Offer Tour, Sail Labor Day Weekend

The *Pride of Baltimore II*, a reproduction topsail schooner, will be at St. Ignace Labor Day weekend to offer deck tours, a reception, and a Labor Day sail under the Mackinac Bridge, said David Swope of St. Ignace Hospitality Growth. The ship will be at the Arnold Line dock, as it is too large to use the city marina.

A reproduction of an 1812-era clipper ship, the *Pride II* calls the Chesapeake Bay region home and is owned by the citizens of Maryland. The ship sails the globe to provide an educational platform about the maritime sciences and promote Maryland trade and tourism. Commissioned in 1988, she is a sailing memorial to her predecessor, the original *Pride of Baltimore*, which was the first Baltimore clipper built in 150 years when she was crafted in 1777. The original *Pride of Baltimore* sailed more than 150,000 nautical miles before she was struck by a freak squall and sunk off the coast of Puerto Rico in 1986.

Pride of Baltimore II has made visits this summer to Bay City's Tall Ship Celebration and tall ship festivals at Green Bay and Chicago.

Pride of Baltimore II will arrive at St. Ignace Friday evening, and offer \$5 deck tours September 1 through 3.

A cocktail and hors d'oeuvres reception with deck tour will be offered Sunday from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., featuring entertainment by Mike Ridley. Tickets cost \$50 per person. Proceeds from the reception will go toward bringing future tall ships to the city through St. Ignace Hospitality Growth.

The ship will also take passengers under the Mackinac Bridge during the annual Bridge Walk, Mr. Swope said. The five-hour cruise departs at 9 a.m. and will include lunch for \$100. The cruise is limited to 34.

St. Ignace Hospitality Growth has developed a five-year plan to bring tall ships to St. Ignace, Mr. Swope said. The group hosted the schooner *Roseway* at St. Ignace last summer. *Roseway*, built in 1925, is a National



The *Pride of Baltimore II*, a reproduction of an 1812-era clipper ship, will offer tours at St. Ignace Labor Day weekend. (Photograph courtesy of *Pride, Inc.*)

Historic Landmark and the main educational platform for the World Ocean School of Camden, Maine.

"People are very interested in these ships, and we are working on bringing more tall ships here, starting with another ship, maybe two, for next summer," Mr. Swope said. "We're going to take baby steps to make this happen. It's very expensive to bring them here, but we want to build a program so that these crews know they have a port to come into."

The Sunday reception is the only tall ship event of the weekend that raise funds for the local group, Mr. Swope pointed out. All other activities will be used to pay *Pride, Inc.*, the nonprofit

organization that owns the *Pride of Baltimore II*, for the ship's visit. Special arrangements were made with the ship's owners for this visit, with a goal of building exposure for the idea at St. Ignace, Mr. Swope said. He noted that *Pride Inc.* usually charges between \$5,000 and \$8,000 per day for its attendance at events.

"We would really appreciate local support of the Sunday reception," he said.

Sponsors of the *Pride of Baltimore II*'s visit are St. Ignace Hospitality Growth, the Chamber of Commerce, Visitors Bureau, and Arnold Transit.

Tickets to the Labor Day events are available from the Chamber of Commerce.

Ironworkers To Show Prowess at Mackinaw City This Weekend

By Paul Gingras

Thirty-eight years after the Mackinac Bridge was dedicated, ironworker J.C. Stilwell of Mackinaw City still lives nearby and celebrates what he calls "an awesome job done by a rough, good-natured bunch of people."

Mr. Stilwell began the International Ironworker Festival in 1981, and the event continues Friday, August 11, through Sunday, August 13, at the Mackinaw City Recreation Center behind the high school.

The public is invited, he said, but only skilled ironworkers can participate in competitions such as spud throws, rivet throws, rod tying, knot tying, and column climbing.

There will be games for families and children, and the Ramblin Band from Manistee will provide an evening of music and dancing Friday.

Saturday morning, ironworkers will parade from Mackinaw City State Dock, through the intersection of Nicolet Street and Central Avenue, and end at the bridge. Working and retired champion ironworkers will ride on floats, where they will demonstrate a variety of industrial skills.

"A lot of old-timers can still drive rivets," Mr. Stilwell said proudly.

He keeps in contact with hundreds of bridge workers and has fond memories of his bridge-building days, such as a day in 1956 when he and Curly Olsen of Petoskey raced on foot from St. Ignace to Mackinaw City.

Regarding the Ironworkers Festival, he said, "I enjoy it very much. It's like a big family."

Some 11,000 laborers, including ironworkers, joined forces to build the Mackinac Bridge.

Locals on the Bay, Bayside Live Evashevski, Ramblers To Play This Week



"Banjo Jim Foerch and "Bear" Berends of Blue Water Ramblers

Emily Evashevski of St. Ignace will be featured in a Locals on the Bay concert Wednesday, August 9, at 7 p.m. at St. Ignace Marina.

Also at the marina, Blue Water Ramblers will perform Thursday, August 10, at 7 p.m. at Bayside Live! The band's repertoire comes from their Michigan life experiences and the history of the Great Lakes region. It includes lake shanties, lumbermen ballads, Michigan humor, love songs, gospel music, and civil rights and protest songs from the '60s. "Banjo Jim" Foerch and R.H. "Bear" Berends have been playing throughout Michigan and the Midwest for more than 30 years.

Both concerts are free of charge.

Magician To Perform at Library Wed.

Gordon the Magician will perform for children Wednesday, August 9, at 7 p.m. at St. Ignace Public Library. The magic show is free of charge.

A used book sale is planned at the library Saturday, September 2, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.