

# IC Museum receives state award

MARQUETTE—On June 18, the Iron County Historical Museum and Erik Nordberg received the Historical Society of Michigan's top awards for the preservation of Upper Peninsula history at the 62nd annual Upper Peninsula History Conference.

The museum received the Superior Award, which was established in 2006 to honor historical societies, museums and other historical organizations in the U.P. for their efforts to advance U.P. history.

The museum, founded in 1962 and opened in 1968, has grown from two buildings to a campus of 26 over the years.

It consists of the main building and six outdoor complexes devoted respectively to logging, homesteading, mining, transportation, Victoriana and art, each composed of buildings moved to the area depicting the theme.

The main building, the original engine house, has had six additions: the Peterson Mining Hall, the Mining Memorial Gallery, Heritage Hall, the Archives, the Cultural Center and the LeBlanc Wildlife Art Gallery. It contains over 100 exhibits.



**Harold Bernhardt (center) accepts the Superior Award on behalf of the Iron County Museum at the June meeting of the Historical Society of Michigan held June 18. Also pictured Richard Wienar (right), president of the State Historical Society, and Robert Myers, master of ceremonies and member of the State Board. (Ladd photo)**

The head frame, built in 1920, is the oldest remaining in Iron County and is recorded on the National List of Historic Places.

The museum also has extensive archives frequently used by individual families, historians and researchers. It contains nearly 60,000 obituaries, over 12,000 photographs, nearly 8,000 maps, records from many organizations and about 400 oral histories.

Located in Caspian, the museum has been identified as the largest local museum in the Upper Peninsula, where it is effectively preserving and sharing Iron County heritage and culture with present and future generations.

The organization is an asset to the entire state, as noted in its selection for the Superior Award.

Nordberg, a university archivist and the head of archives at Michigan Technological University, was

awarded the Charles Follo Award, which is presented each year to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the preservation and promotion of Upper Peninsula history.

The award was established in 1979 to honor the memory of Charles Follo, an Escanaba teacher who promoted and helped advance historical understanding of Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

The Superior Award and the Charles Follo Award are presented each year at the Historical Society of Michigan's Upper Peninsula History Conference. The society will present its annual State History Awards at the 2011 State History Conference, scheduled for Sept. 23-25 in Traverse City.

For more information about the society's awards, visit [www.hsmichigan.org](http://www.hsmichigan.org) or call (517) 324-1828.