



April 1971



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The "BULL SHEET"

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ROUTE MARCH TO CALUMET

Our 1971 Reunion Committee, headed up by 1st Sgt John L. "Jack" Calcaterra (Co A NG's), Association Vice-president, and Capt Henry P. "Hank" Ilenich (CO Co A NG's), Association President, has given the BULL SHEET staff its go-ahead to roll the presses. Their battle plan is roughed out and the dozen or so committee volunteers are now busily engaged in finalizing the many, many details that are so important to the success of every bivouac. Its a big, demanding assignment. The Snortin' Bull salute to the members of the present committee and all those who served in a like capacity in years past. The Official Statement of Lineage of the 107th Engineers commences with this entry: "Organized as the Calumet Light Guard and mustered into State service 8 August 1881 at Calumet, Michigan." A simple statement but the whole reason why we commemorate the 90th anniversary of this event in Calumet this coming August. Truly, more historical 107th background is vested in the Calumet-Copper Country area than any other throughout all eras in its 90 years of existence. Instead of going into space consuming details here we are giving you the complete 107th Lineage on the mimeographed third sheet. We are certain you will find it informative and interesting. So, the route is marked and all convoys will proceed for rendezvous at Calumet on August 20th - for this movement, however, HQ will waive the 15-miles-in-the-hour pace. You may set your own - just so long as you show up on the designated date!

- - CRITIQUE - -

This is an "analysis of the situation" as it presently exists; not a statement of official Association policy. A BULL SHEET summation of the facts if you will - at the risk your writer will be an ex-editor come next newsletter time. Anyway and frankly, the Association has not done a particularly effective job promoting, stimulating and securing memberships from our active

and ex-Guardsmen. Nor has it made any real, concerted efforts to do so feeling, perhaps neglectfully, a good voluntary response would be forthcoming through the return of reunion notices and/or via reunion participation. And this has been true to a significant degree aided in no small way by some real helpful, non-solicited missionary efforts by a number of dedicated Guardsmen. Also, The BULL SHEET staff has been quietly stewing about how to most effectively distribute the newsletter, reunion notices, etc. to active Guardsmen. To explain. When the Association was organized way back in 1961 an individual address and record card was set up for every Guardsman (from Company rosters) with the firm belief this mailing file could be routinely updated periodically. We were promptly convinced such a plan was impracticable, virtually impossible to maintain and economically unsound equated to Association income. After this plan was necessarily abandoned, active record cards were then kept, maintained and set up only for those who paid dues, attended reunion(s) or otherwise checked in to HQ in one way or another - in other words through any means whereby HQ received an address and an expression of personal interest. Once in the file these addressees have received all mailings at their home address - unless later removed due to an unreported change in address or through failure to respond over a prolonged period of time thus indicating lack of interest. Bulk distributions of BULL SHEETS and reunion notices have since been made to all companies as the medium for reaching the balance of the troops. This brief explanation will answer the inquiries raised as to why some Guardsmen receive mail and some do not. Further prompting this statement, are the frequently heard inquiries concerning Association membership - "how come no one has asked me to pay dues and how do I go about acquiring membership?" Your officials are much encouraged to hear such questions and indications of interest because the long-range future of the Association lies in the Guards/ex-Guards group. Lets face

it, the WWI and WWII ranks, as substantial as they now stand, have only one direction to go - smaller and smaller! We encourage, want and most emphatically need all the support and encouragement we can get from the Guards. The return of a Reunion Notice by mail (or forwarded on through your Company HQ) will suffice for getting you placed on the active mailing list - maybe accompanied by some dues if you happen to have a couple of spare bucks for a good cause. If not, don't let that deter you because your expression of interest is first and foremost. We'll wring the dues out of you later. Keep in mind the youngest, rawest Guard recruit is just as eligible to Association participation as the oldest, most grizzled World War I doughboy. And equally as welcome! The BS staff hopes this statement will clarify the situation as it now exists, explain away any misconceptions - and most importantly, stimulate more and renewed interest and participation in our 107th ENGINEER ASSOCIATION.



Enshrined in a place of honor in the Arlington Memorial Cemetery Amphitheater is this plaque honoring the 32nd "Red Arrow" Division. At a ceremony held near The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier last Dec. 2nd the plaque was presented and accepted in the memory of all former members of the Division, both living

and dead, and for the 32nd Division Veteran Association. Emblazoned on the plaque is the Division's nickname "Les Terribles" (The Terrors) given by the French in WWI and the battles in which it fought during World Wars I and II.

BUDDY VOLUNTEERS TAKE ONE PACE FORWARD

The Executive Committee gave the reunion gang authorization to proceed with the preparation and printing of a program book for this years reunion-in special commemoration of the 107th's 90th year since organization. Also, for the first time, to include in the program through subscription a so-called Buddy Section whereby each individual subscribing thereto will be listed by name, nickname, present address and identifying unit. The Execs feel that, at least for this year, everyone should have an opportunity to participate in some special way other than actual reunion attendance- some way whereby every "mine layer" can tangibly lend his support

to the occasion and at the same time convey a personal greeting to old buddies. Somewhat reluctantly, we ask a minimum of \$2.00 for each listing in order to cover printing and mailing costs and maybe even return a wee profit to our ever anemic treasury. In this way the reunion committee is not forced to the distasteful task of begging ads from local merchants in order to meet program book expenses as was done back in 1964 when the 4th annual was held in Calumet. Frankly, we just don't have the guts to approach them again this, the second, time around. The committee promises to do their best to work up a printed program that will be interesting to you and a nice souvenir of the momentous occasion. We are confident the alphabetical Buddy Roster will be a long one combining WWI, WWII, post-NG vets and present day Guardsmen. Whether you are or are not a dues paying member makes no difference insofar as this promotion is concerned - participation is our main objective. Everyone listed in the Buddy pages will be mailed a copy of the complete program after the reunion - those present for the reunion will of course get theirs at Calumet. Although we would be sandbagging not to admit hope & expectation of making a tuppence or so over and above expenses, we certainly don't want to create the impression down in the ranks that we are doing so simply to gouge you out of a couple of hard-earned bucks. Responses & participation of all kinds are needed to promote the Association & its activities. If we could operate on enthusiasm alone we'd be all set but unfortunately cold economic factors dictates, "no way". So, buddy-up, Buddy!

107th NG's PARTICIPATE IN INAUGURAL

The mention of Combat Engrs. immediately brings to mind fatigues and work-hard, dirty, dangerous work - not pomp & ceremony, spit & polish, dress parades and the like. But pomp, ceremony and the works was the order of the day to the 107 NG Bn for its important role in the inauguration ceremonies for Mich. Gov. William G. Milliken on 20 March. Major committee assignments involving the military portion of the inaugural held in Marquette were: flyover & general military participation, Capt Edwin J. Jachimski (Hq); vet's organizations, CWO Francis J. Menza (Hq); honor guard Capt Ronald E. Datema (CO Hq Co) & SFC William D. Sheldon (Hq Co); Guard commander, 1st Lt Dennis Heikkala (Hq Co); ammunition & howitzer salute, Capt Thomas E. Doman (CO Co B); equip. & transportation, military, CWO Donald L. DeRoche (Hq), The 28 man honor and color guard contingents made up of H&HC personnel was reviewed by the Gov. accompanied by Lt Col Richard L. Pascoe, Bn CO. The ever resourceful "ditch diggers" even manned the pieces and fired the howitzer salute. Trained gunners - no problem! Co B (Ironwood) had them as a one time part of the 182d Arty.



Happy to report that HQ engineered a much desired service judging from the number of orders for the 8" x 10" Victor Bridge picture. Orders for same will continue to be accepted for a couple more months. As a follow up before laying the Victor Bridge to rest for the present, we feature above a small pic of the 254's claim to combat engineering fame plus the construction details of the bridge as subsequently written up in official Army records (see Sheet #3). (With grateful recognition to "Bing" Boberg (H&S 254 & retiree of post-war 107th NG) for this poop.)

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HAGMAN, Sr., Arthur A. (Co A WWI), Mohawk, Mich.
 KUJANEN, Karl G. (WWI), Ishpeming, Michigan
 LEAVITT, Ashley C. (Co A WWI), Flint, Michigan
 McHARDY, James (Co A WWI), Calumet, Michigan
 PELLOW, Ralph J. (Co B 254), Ishpeming, Michigan
 SKEENS, Carl R. (522), Princeton, West Virginia
 STEVENSON, Russell S. (H&S 107), Detroit, Mich.
 UITTO, Werner (WWI), Dodgeville, Michigan
 WILCZYNAKI, Elmer A. (Co C 254), Pittsburgh, Pa.

From the sad duty of TAPS we sorrowfully report further on the loss of one of our Directors and staunchest members whose departure strikes deeply into the heart of the Association - that of Ralph J. Pellow on 3/16/71 at the age of 51. In addition to his official office he served on many reunion committees and was a registrant at every one of the 9 reunions - brief mention indeed of his many contributions given faithfully and enthusiastically from the time of organization. Ralph was stricken with a heart attack immediately following completion of an initiation ritual at the Elk's Club for which he was exalted ruler. He was a railroad foreman and a 4½ year 107-112-254 veteran. Surviving are his wife, Betty, 2 daughters, 2 sons, father and one grandchild. You'll be missed ol' buddy!

"Hi Guys: I'm sending for the picture of that Victor Bridge - although the memory of that cold water sure is enough. Also some extra for dues with the hope some day to make the reunion before I'm too damn old to enjoy myself. As to belonging to the Association, I'm mighty proud of it. Also sending you a newspaper article to prove that some of the old gang are still trying." The boys of 3rd Plt, Co A 254 will recollect Frederick P. "Fred" Anton who presently hails from Lawrence, Mass. The clipping referred to is captioned "Fred Anton- Man of the Year" in which he is portrayed holding a plaque reading: The Pontiac Club, Inc. Annual Award is hereby presented to Frederick Peter Anton in recognition of his outstanding contributions, deeds and efforts so charitably and unselfishly given by him in the interest of the betterment of youth, humanity and mankind - October 31, 1970." The newspaper article is a heart-warming commentary to Fred's numerous contributions to his community and veteran's organizations. Sorry that we just don't have the space to run this fine tribute to a true Snortin' Buller in its entirety. However, we'll be happy to borrow it out upon request....."Enclosed is order for picture of the Rhine River bridge. I have a couple snaps of it myself only taken from the east side showing the 9th Armored Division crossing. I took these on Mar. 23, 1945 - one day after the 112th Engr. Bn. crossed it. Sorry to inform you that Russ Stevenson, heavy equipment operator with H&S in Beauregard and Livingston, died in July here in Detroit." Signed by Elmer H. Borrusch (H&S 107 & 112)- with following P.S. "Gene Hamlin (H&S 107-112) and Nason F. Smith (Co A & H&S 107, H&S 112, 1121) also send their regards."a Del-An Construction Company check was tender for dues to Aug. 1977 and a bridge picture from Geno C. Cicero (Co A 254) out of Roselle, Ill.....and another first-time short but welcome note from Perfecto "Pete" M. Baldazo, Austin, Texas accompanying his order for bridge picture: "Enjoy your BULL SHEET very much - my outfit was Co C 254th Combat Engineers".....one guess who is buzzing around the State performing the duties of Department Commander of the Michigan Veterans of World War I - who else but our 'ol perpetual motion man Oral J. "Moose" LaCombe (Co C WWI)... short but oh how sweet was this ice-breaker note from (Lt) Dominick V. Rubeo: Enclosed is my check for 4 years dues and a photo of the Victor Bridge. Sorry I am late checking in but I have been pretty busy building a house. I'll see that it won't happen again." The equally brief "Rubeo" sign-off was plenty of identification because Dom was a well known personality throughout the 254 as its Bn Motor Maint Off. The house referred to is in New Wilmington, Pa.....I am pleased to be

able to get a picture of the Victor Bridge. I can still remember the time and circumstances when it was built with exceptional clarity. Keep up the good work. I am still hoping to make a reunion one of these years." Co B 254 was the old unit of Albert A. "Al" Tomassetti, Anchorage, Kentucky.....an address for Francis Hlinak as sent in by Richard "Dick" Schiesl (Co B 254) touched off a flurry of record searching particularly after Fran in turn sent in addresses for Alvin Steffel and Clifford Vlies - a puzzled inquiry to Fran cleared up the situation, to-wit: "Thanks for the BULL SHEET which gave me a better picture of what your organization is about. The two names I sent you were with me in the 234th Engrs. until we joined the 254 in June '45 at the same time many of the 254 were transferred to the 234 via the point system. I left the 254 in France in Nov. '45. As we of the 234th were in your Bn. for such a short time, I do not know if it would be right to join your group. As far as I know the 234th has no organization for reunion purposes." All three are Wisconsin boys whose service in Co A 254, however, brief, certainly makes them members of the gang and more than welcome to Association participation. In addition to the close relationship between the two outfits brought about by the wholesale inter-battalion transfers after the war, one other noteworthy, and relatively unknown, tie existed - the ETO Bn CO of the 234th Engr C Bn was none other than Lt Col Philip C. Satterthwaite - the same "Capt" Satterthwaite of Hq 107 all the way from the 1936 Detroit 107th Guards to Newquay, England from whence he was transferred out for bigger and better things and a command of his own. Phil's present home station is Birmingham, Mich.....as a refresher to those fading memories the point system above mentioned was the plan whereby long-time overseas-combat vets (high pointers) were transferred into outfits slated for Stateside duty and the low-pointers (85 points or less - correct?) into outfits scheduled for continued overseas service- or, as between the 234 & 254, the high-point vets of both Bns combined forces in the 234 - and home! The low-pointers, unhappily and enviously, likewise joined forces in the 254. Scuttlebutt had the 254 going to the Far East pronto, but fortunately VJ Day squelched that possibility. Anyone recollect just how points were determined - the values assigned for each month of service, overseas time, dependents, wounds, awards, etc.?a helluva time sorting out our Hewitts between the Soo and Lansing, Mich. but finally got Arthur Hewitt (Co B 107) and Lyle J. Hewitt (Co B 107-522) pinned down to Soo addresses and Lawrence C. Hewitt (Hq Co WWI) to one in Lansing. Fortunately William Hewitt (Co C 107) was positively located in Detroit thereby not compound-

ing the problem further.....another happy chain of events as ignited by Felix E. Dudkiewicz (H&S 254) now of Green Bay, Wis. who sent in addresses on 3 missing H&S'ers: John N. Swenson, Clyde E. Jones and William A. Martin. From Bill promptly: "Don't remember you but you probably weren't one of my drinking buddies. Felix and I exchange cards, and Walter "Wally" Flath (H&S 254-Detroit) and I correspond once a year. Saw lots of familiar names in the BS - also something about "Amy" Metro (H&S 254) who was a good squeeze box man but a hell of a cook. Enclosed are my dues and if I can make it might see you at this years reunion. Am a millwright for Kaiser Aluminum, Spokane, Wash. and have been for 25 years." And an immediate response out of Davenport, Iowa, from John: "May have some addresses after I get the rest of the BULL SHEETS. Have often wondered about the old gang." An understatement because John sent in three hot ones for: William A. Deisenroth (Co A 254), Rock Island, Ill.; Harold Lundquist (522), Davenport, Iowa; and Dean Mishler (Co C 254). Dean then kept the string intact with this reply to our inquiry: "Yes, I am the Mishler you are seeking - not from Mich. but from Woodstock, Ill. Was with the 254th and became a POW on 17 Dec 44, liberated 10 Apr 45 and arrived in U.S.A. 6 May 45." Needless to say, Dean was forwarded our "get acquainted" mailing straight away. Real hopeful we can keep your string going, Felix - and how are you fixed for extra Green Bay Packer tickets?.....our files contain some odd addresses one being 113-C-Iroquois St. in Laurium, Mi. - but nothing puzzling about the dues checks that come in regularly from Charles J. Niemi (Co A WWI) immediately after each spring mailing. Another Co A WWI doughboy equally as prompt is Fred L. Thomas out of Detroit. Both joined the 107th at Calumet back in '17 and left the outfit at Camp Custer....."Time to report in to Headquarters with new Dearborn, Mich. address after selling our home in Detroit. Sure a shame that we couldn't have had the reunion scheduled for Detroit. I'm sending a check to take care of membership so now you owe me instead of me owing you. Do you have the address of Pelto? I believe he was Co A transferred to H&S in Louisiana where we worked together in Water Supply." This note and inquiry from Walter J. Kierczak who was promptly sent the Houghton, Michigan address of Veikko Pelto - the only Pelto in our records who so far as we can ascertain eventually ended up touring the ETO with H&S 112th.... parallel military careers for Charles L. Bernier, William J. Bjunes & Charles M. Kabke all serving the Association faithfully out of Soo, Mich. beginning with the Soo Co B in 1940 - La. & North Ireland with the 107th & then the Africa-Italian campaigns with the 522. 1971 password- CALUMET!

OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF LINEAGE OF THE 107th ENGINEERS
(as compiled by CWO Leonard L. Lorge, Hq 107th NG's)

Organized as the Calumet Light Guard and mustered into State service 8 Aug. 1881 at Calumet, Michigan.

Assigned to various infantry regiments until 28 May 1906; served as Company D, 34th Michigan Volunteer Infantry in Cuba during War with Spain.

Converted and redesignated 28 May 1906 as Company A Michigan Engineer Corps.

Mustered in June 1916 for Mexican Border Service; mustered out March 1917.

Expanded and redesignated 1st Engineer Battalion, Michigan National Guard in 1917; drafted into Federal service 5 August 1917 from Houghton, Michigan.

Reorganized 23 Sept. 1917 as 1st Battalion, 107th Engineer Regiment, and assigned to 32d Division; demobilized 25-28 May 1919, at Camp Custer, Michigan.

Reconstituted 26 April 1937 as 1st Battalion, 107th Engineer Regiment, 32d Division with elements located in the Upper Peninsula.

Expanded 29 December 1939 and redesignated 107th Engineer Regiment. (Units and home stations were: Band, Sault Ste. Marie; Headquarters and Hq & Serv Co, Detroit; Medical Detachment, Calumet; Company A, Escanaba; Company B, Sault Ste. Marie; Company C, Detroit; Company D, Marquette; Company E, Calumet; Company F, Calumet).

Inducted into Federal service 15 October 1940 (to Camp Beauregard, La.)

Regiment (less 2nd Battalion) redesignated 107th Engineer Battalion, 32d Inf. Division, 16 January 1942 (2nd Bn redesignated 2nd Battalion, 131st Engineer Regiment; subsequently redesignated 1279th Engineer Combat Battalion, separate lineage).

Relieved from assignment to 32d Infantry Division and inactivated 1 June 42 in North Ireland (personnel and equipment transferred to 2d Battalion, 112th Engineer Regiment, concurrently constituted and activated, and subsequently redesignated 254th Engineer Combat Battalion).

107th Engineer Combat Battalion and 254th Engineer Combat Battalion consolidated, reorganized and Federally recognized 10 Dec. 46 as 107th Engineer Combat Bn. with Headquarters at Ishpeming, Mich; assigned to 46th Infantry Div. Reorganized and redesignated 15 March 1959 as 107th Engineer Battalion (Infantry Division) an element of the 46th Infantry Division.

ANNEX

2nd Battalion, 112th Engineer Regiment constituted and activated 1 June 42 in North Ireland by the transfer of personnel and equipment of 107th Engineer Combat Battalion.

Redesignated 19 August 1943 as 254th Engineer Combat Battalion.

Inactivated 22 December 1945 at Camp Myles Standish, Massachusetts.

Consolidated with 107th Engineer Combat Battalion, 2 December 1946.

RHINE RIVER CROSSING (VICTOR BRIDGE, V CORPS, FIRST U. S. ARMY)

Information from ST 5-260-1B Military River Crossing Equipment
(The Engineer School - U. S. Army, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, March 1955)

Location - Honnigen

Type - Standard M-2 Steel Treadway Class 40

Length - 1368 feet

Troops - 254 Engineer C Battalion
994 Engineer Treadway Bridge Company
998 Engineer Treadway Bridge Company
Detachment, 990 Engineer Treadway Bridge Company
Detachment, 508 Engineer Light Ponton Company
Detachment, LCVP Unit No. 1, U. S. Navy

River state, Cologne - 22 inches above mean; river bed - gravel

Number of Floating Spans - 112

Number of Trestle Spans - 2 (landing bay)

Number of Hinge Spans - none

Construction method - from both banks; single float rafts placed with power utility boats

Anchorage - 100 pound anchor per section; guy lines to quarter points of bridge; bridle lines to 1-1/4" wire cable supported on 7 anchored floats; downstream anchor every 4th section

Equipment Used - 3 motorized cranes; 2 power utility boats; 2 LCVP's;
2 D-7 dozers; 1 R-4 dozer

Times - Start construction - 220800 A March 1945
Finish construction - 222000 A March 1945

Comments - construction started during daylight; no smoke was used; arrival of bridge equipage delayed construction 2 hours; no enemy interference

Traffic - average of 2,060 units daily during first week after opening

Additional comments: old photo identifies the four soldiers near sign as men from the 2nd Plt Co B 254 (responsible for installation of upstream cable)

Standing - Ashton P. St. Romain, New Orleans, La.
Stephen Rutkowski, then from Philadelphia, Pa. now unlocated
but reported to be in the regular army

Sitting - Paul R. Cummings, Jackson, Mich.
Robert B. Puckett, then of Morganton, N.C.; now unlocated
(Company Commander - Capt Ames T. Minor, Bethlehem, Conn.)
(Platoon Commander - 1st Lt Theodore R. Benning, Atlanta, Ga.)
(Platoon Leader - S/Sgt Donald M. "Duke" Duquette, Negaunee, Mich.)

1. I _____ be present for the 90th Anniversary Reunion of the 107th
(will or will not)
Engineer Association in Calumet, Michigan, August 20, 21 & 22, 1971.
2. Reserve _____ places for me for the banquet Saturday evening, August 21st.
3. My wife is interested in participating in the following special ladies only events tentatively planned for Sat. afternoon, Aug. 21st: (check items appli.)
 _____ Ladies luncheon (while the troops are chowing up at the armory)
 _____ Scenic bus tour of the famed Keweenaw Peninsula (approximately 3 hours on Sat. afternoon while the troops are engaged doing "their thing" at the armory)
4. Yes, sir! List me in the Buddy Section of the Printed Program and identify me therein as a member of _____ for which I enclose \$ _____.
 _____ Company _____ Bn/Regt
 (minimum of \$2.00 please). List me by name, nickname and address printed below. (All "volunteers" will receive a mailed copy of the Program at their address below printed unless picked up in person at the Reunion).
5. My dues in the amount of \$ _____ for _____ years membership are enclosed. (Dues are \$2.00 annually).

Name/nickname _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Clip and retain this section for future reference & aid for making reservations

<u>Name of Unit</u>	<u>Mailing Address</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
Bridge Motel	103 Bridge St., Houghton 49931	482-4530
Gateway Motel (AAA)*	US-41, Houghton 49931	482-3511
Downtowner Motel*	110 Sheldon St., Houghton 49931	482-4421
College Motel *	1308 College Ave., Houghton 49931	482-2202
Douglas House <u>Hotel</u>	Sheldon St., Houghton 49931	482-2000
Copper Crown Motel*	235 Hancock St., Hancock 49930 (Western)	482-6111
Elms Motel	335 6th St., Calumet 49913	337-2620
Vic's Cabins (house-keeping & overnight)	US-41, Calumet 49913 (2 miles N on US-41)	337-3703
Wonderland Motel & Cabins	M-26, Laurium 49914 (1 mile SW of Laurium)	337-4511
Northgate Motel	US-41, Calumet 49913	337-1000
Superior Motel	341 Hecla St., Laurium 49914	337-1104
Whispering Pines Motel	US-41, Calumet 49913 (6 miles S of Calumet)	482-5887
White House Motel	US-41, Mohawk 49950 (6 mi. N of Calumet)	337-3010
Dakota Heights Motel	M-26, Houghton 49931	482-1350
Holiday Motel	US-41, Houghton 49931	482-5525
Vacationaland Motel	US-41, Houghton 49931	482-5351

*Indicates units with highest rates; all phone numbers have a 906 Area Code.
 Distances from Calumet; Houghton, 12 miles; Hancock, 11 miles; Mohawk, 5 miles; Laurium, 1 mile.

Reunion dates; Aug. 20, 21, 22, 1971, 107th Engr. Armory in Calumet, Michigan
 Official mailing address: 107th Engineer Association, P.O. Box A, Ishpeming, Michigan 49849 (Ed Vickstrom, Secretary)