

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

\$15 Individual \$25 Family
 \$50 Business /Professional
 \$40 Friend \$200 Benefactor
 \$100 Sponsor \$500 Patron

A newsletter is sent to members four times year.
 Members are invited to attend quarterly meet-
 ings held in January, April, July, and October.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Membership Category: _____

Donations and Memorials: _____

Please make checks payable to MLAHS and send
 to: MLAHS, P.O. Box 235, Moose Lake, MN
55767.....



Elm Avenue, Moose Lake, in the 1930s

Brochure updated: 2013

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Moose Lake Area History: Vol. 1

Dave Anderson

Moose Lake Area History: Vol. II

Compiled by Centennial Committee,
 Ethel Hedman, coordinator

***Kettle River, Automba, Kalevala, and
 Surrounding Area History*** — includes

stories of 1918 Fires — Edwin Manni

***The Fires of Autumn: The Cloquet-Moose
 Lake Disaster of 1918***

Francis Carroll and Franklin Raiter

Fury of the Flames, A Pictorial

***Automba: A Study of a Finnish Timber
 Boomtown*** — Dan Reed

***Fire Beast - Carol Illikanen Pippo-Lambert
 Newspaper Headlines***

1918 Fire Stories — includes stories,
 photos, victim list, & excerpts on
 rebuilding/ reconstruction of the area.
 Compiled by M.L.A.H.S. for the 85th
 anniversary of the fires.

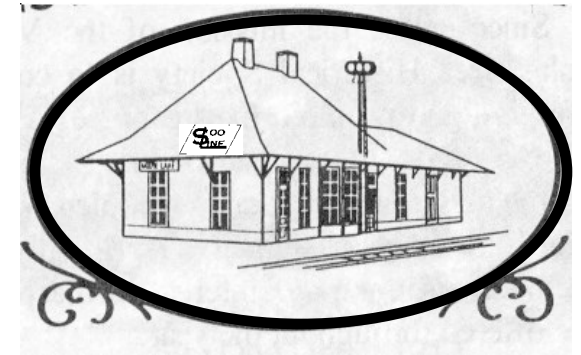
***Kettle River, MN "Co-op Town U.S.A."
 A Look at the Past 100 Years—***

Betty Lehet

Fire Storm , The Great Fires of 1918 —

*Carlton County Historical Society
 Christine Skalko and Marlene Wisuri*

*Moose Lake Depot and
 Fires of 1918 Museum*



900 Folz Boulevard

(on Highways 27 & 73, 3/10 mile west
 of the downtown stoplights)

**Depot Hours: Memorial Day Week-
 end through Labor Day Tue.—Sat.**

10 a.m.—4 p.m.

Sundays, 12 p.m.—4 p.m.

After Labor Day— Fri.—Sun.

Hours as above.

*Admission charged for non-members
 The Depot Museum closes for the season
 the First Sunday after the
 Fire Commemoration*

**MOOSE LAKE AREA
 HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

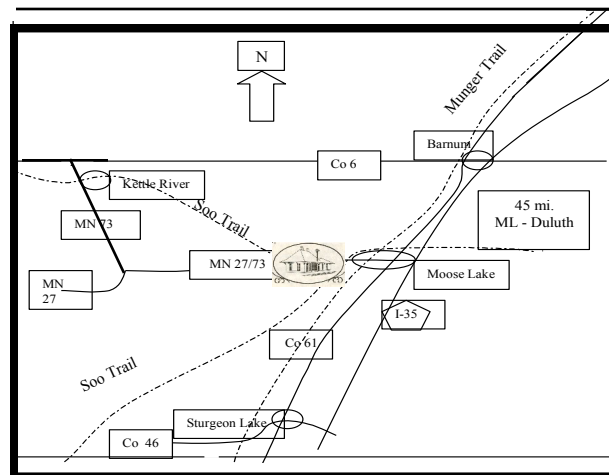
P.O. Box 235

Moose Lake, MN 55767

(218) 485-4234 (seasonal)

www.mooselakeareahistory.com

Email — MLareahistory@gmail.com



The 1918 Fire

Moose Lake Depot and Fires of 1918 Museum

Moose Lake Area Historical Society



1918 Fire Monument
Moose Lake

On October 12, 1918, many small fires in northeastern Minnesota converged to produce a massive firestorm, sweeping through an area from Sturgeon Lake to the northern fringes of Duluth. In its path were the communities of Lawler, Automba, Kettle River, Moose Lake, and Cloquet.

Hot dry weather had prevailed for months. On this October day, extremely high winds fanned many small fires, some of which had been set by sparks from trains. The result of the massive inferno remains one of the largest natural disasters in Minnesota and the nation.

The area affected involved five north-eastern Minnesota counties, destroying 250,000 acres of forest land. 52,000 people were displaced or injured and at least 450 people were killed in the blaze. Property damage was valued at over \$73 million.

The Moose Lake–Kettle River area was the center of the death and destruction. Of the 453 persons killed, over one-half of them perished within 10 miles of Kettle River. Moose Lake became the headquarters for the relief effort which followed. A 27-foot granite monument to the 1918 Fire is located north of Moose Lake on County Road 61, on the site of a mass grave. Another fire memorial plaque is located in Kettle River.



The Moose Lake Area Historical Society operates the Moose Lake Depot and Fires of 1918 Museum in the former Soo Line Railroad Depot. Built in 1907, this was one of the few buildings to survive the fire. At the museum, a room is devoted to displays and information about this historical event. A commemoration of the event is held each October.

In the Depot museum, are a variety of displays relating to the local area along with information on the railroad and railroad artifacts.

An archive of local history is located at the museum. Information includes a large collection of photographs, video tapes, cemetery records, and family and local history files. Limited research is available.

The Moose Lake Depot and Museum is located on the Soo Line bypass of the Willard Munger State Trail. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



1918 Fire Survivors, Moose Lake

The mission of the Moose Lake Area Historical Society is to collect, preserve and promote the history of Moose Lake and the surrounding areas.

Established in 1969, the Moose Lake Area Historical Society has evolved to become a leader and contributor to events and activities of the community. Members have worked to maintain the Soo Line Depot.

The Fires of 1918 building also includes the Soo Line Event Center which is available for rentals for reunions, weddings, birthday parties, meetings and seminars.

The facility features such displays as...

- 1918 Fire stories, maps, artifacts, and pictures
- Soo Line Railroad (1907— 1990)
- Soo Line Station Master's office
- Northern Pacific Railroad/Great Northern Railroad (1870—1978)
- Logging industry of the area
- Nemadji Pottery display
- Collection of Indian artifacts
- Moose Lake State Hospital/Moose Lake Regional Treatment Center (1938-1995)
- Agates (more information available on geological formations in the area and state at Agate Interpretive Center, Moose Lake State Park, just east of I-35 at Highway 73 — Exit 214)

A gift shop is operated within the depot museum. A picnic area nearby offers a resting place for visitors.

Besides the 1918 Fire Commemoration in October, the historical society sponsors a variety of events, all open to the public. These events include "Veterans Remembered" on Memorial Day, Antique Appraisals and Quarterly meetings that include programs on local history.