

HOPKINSON HISTORICAL MARKET

PLATFORM CONCEPT

PHASE #2

10/22/05 MEW



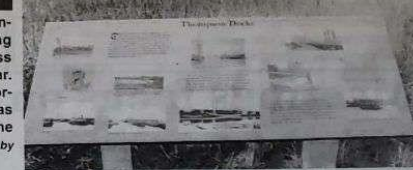
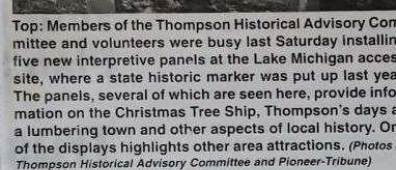
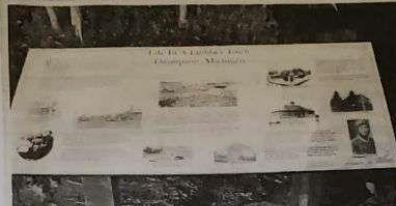
# Pioneer Tribune

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Top: Members of the Thompson Historical Advisory Committee and volunteers were busy last Saturday installing five new interpretive panels at the Lake Michigan access site, where a state historic marker was put up last year. The panels, several of which are seen here, provide information on the Christmas Tree Ship, Thompson's days as a lumbering town and other aspects of local history. One of the displays highlights other area attractions. (Photos by Thompson Historical Advisory Committee and Pioneer-Tribune)

## Interpretive displays now in place at Thompson's historic marker site

One year after dedicating a new historic marker, the Thompson Historical Advisory Committee has taken the next big step to develop the public access site on Lake Michigan.

Last weekend, a crew of volunteers installed five new interpretive panels at the site off US-2. The all-weather plaques cover various aspects of the area's history and provide additional information for visitors.

The project was the latest for the small township group, which worked for several years to secure an official state historic marker highlighting the township's history and commemorating Thompson as the last port of call for the famed, ill-fated vessel known as the Christmas Tree Ship.

At the ceremony unveiling the marker last October, committee members discussed other plans for the lakefront access site, including the addition of more historic information, walking trails and perhaps a boardwalk to provide access to natural marshy areas along the shore.

Each of the new plaques covers a specific area of interest, with old photographs and detailed text.

They include a panel providing more information on the Christmas Tree Ship—the schooner Rouse Simmons that sailed from Thompson in November 1912, carrying a load of trees for Chicago, and sank in a Lake Michigan gale. Research and layout for that panel was done by Township Clerk and commit-

tee member Laurie Jasmin.

The other panels include one on the old Thompson docks, researched by Deanna Fish; the Delta Lumber Company mill that once stood in Thompson, researched by Meg Wnuk; a panel discussing life in a lumber town, researched by Pam Zorn; and a panel guiding visitors to other attractions in Schoolcraft County, developed by Carla Cheuvront. The sites highlighted are taken from the county's official circle tour, created several years ago by the local tourism subcommittee.

Special assistance for the panel project was provided by Theresa Grattan, who works for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources at Tahquamenon Falls State Park.

The panels were manufactured by Genesis Graphics of Escanaba, while Jim's Welding handled the leg assemblies.

Working on the installation last Saturday were Laurie Jasmin, Wayne Stanley, Meg Wnuk, Jody Wnuk, Pam Zorn and Don Zorn.

The committee's next project is a presentation of "The Christmas Schooner," a family-oriented musical based on the story of the Rouse Simmons. The show will be staged by a team from Gwinn High School, which will present its acclaimed production of the play.

The musical is slated for two performances on Dec. 12 at the Frederickson Auditorium. More details on the show will be announced soon.



