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# John Erm Collection on Camp Sidnaw MS-1036

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country  
Historical Collections

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Houghton 49931

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URL: <http://www.lib.mtu.edu/mtuarchives/>

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## Summary Information

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|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Repository:</b>               | Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections |
| <b>Creator:</b>                  | Erm, John  |
| <b>Title:</b>                    | John Erm collection on Camp Sidnaw   |
| <b>ID:</b>                       | MS-1036  |
| <b>Date [inclusive]:</b>         | 1935-2022  |
| <b>Physical Description:</b>     | 0.19 cubic feet 1 manuscript box and 1 oversize folder                               |
| <b>Language of the Material:</b> | English .  |
| <b>Mixed Materials [box]:</b>    | 1  |
| <b>Mixed Materials [folder]:</b> | 1  |
| <b>Abstract:</b>                 | Collection, 1935-2022, of material related to Camp Sidnaw.                           |

### Preferred Citation

MS-1036, John Erm Collection on Camp Sidnaw, Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections, Houghton, MI.

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## Biographical Note

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John Joseph Erm was born to Stephen Erm and Anna Mary Jochmann on June 27, 1917 in Ironwood, Michigan. Following high school Erm worked at several Civilian Conservation Corps camps including Camp Sidnaw and Camp Bonifas in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Erm served in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II under the 77th Bomb Squadron, 462 Bombing group until he was discharged in 1945. Following the war Erm and his wife, Mary, moved from Chicago to Ironwood where he worked as a miner in the Penokee Mine and Montreal Mine until his death in February 15, 1962.

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## Historical Note

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One of the most extensive fires to occur on Isle Royale began in July of 1936 near the Siskiwit Bay logging camp. The U.S. Fire Service, U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard, and the Civilian Conservation Corps, totalling over 1,800 firefighters, worked to contain the fire. By the time the fire was extinguished in mid September, over 27,000 acres of forest was destroyed, but the blaze did result in the construction of three fire towers spanning the island.

Camp Sidnaw was established as a Civilian Conservation Corps camp in 1935 near Sidnaw, Michigan in Houghton County. Once used by the United States' Army's 10th Mountain Division as a training site for their ski troops, the camp was later repurposed as a prisoner of war (POW) camp during World War II in 1944, eventually housing around 250 German prisoners through April 1946. Following the war, the camp was purchased by Bill Hutula who converted some of the old buildings for his sawmilling business.

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## Scope and Contents

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Collection, 1935-2022, of material related to Camp Sidnaw. Included are original photographs and copyprints of views of Camp Sidnaw's buildings and barracks; along with images of CCC workers conducting everyday activities and snowshoeing. Also included are images from the CCC camps on Isle Royale and Camp Bonifas (Gogebic County), seaplanes, and the steamer "Sequoia," docked in Houghton, Michigan. The collection also includes three Civilian Conservation Corps workbooks containing notes by John Erm.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Civil Service
- Ships
- Training-ships -- Michigan
- Gogebic County (Mich.)
- Isle Royale (Mich.)
- Sidnaw (Mich.)
- Photographs
- Publications
- Civilian Conservation Corps (U.S.)

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## Collection Inventory

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| Title/Description  | Instances |          |
|--|-----------|----------|
| Company 3603 C.C.C. Camp Sidnaw F33 (Michigan), Sidnaw, Michigan | folder 1  |          |
| Gateways to forestry, booklets I, II, and IV, Undated            | box 1     | folder 1 |
| Photographs, Camp Bonifas, 1938-1939, 2018                       | box 1     | folder 2 |
| Photographs, Camp Sidnaw, 1935-1936, 2018                        | box 1     | folder 3 |
| Photographs, CCC work, 1935-1936, 2018                           | box 1     | folder 4 |
| Photographs, Isle Royale, 1935-1936, 2018                        | box 1     | folder 5 |

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|   |       |          |
|---|-------|----------|
| Photographs, Sequoia, 1936, 2018                              | box 1 | folder 6 |
| Where fire has ravaged the forests of Isle Royale, 1936, 2022 | box 1 | folder 7 |

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