

THE #6 LOCOMOTIVE IS HERE!

While the Quincy Mining Company fought so hard to create the Quincy and Torch Lake (Q&TL) Railroad in the 1880s, it was only natural that the Quincy Mine Hoist Association (Q.M.H.A.) would have to fight to reclaim the Q&TL #6 engine from the New Jersey Museum of Transportation. The No. 6 locomotive was constructed in 1912 by the Baldwin Locomotive Works of Philadelphia, PA. This locomotive was the largest locomotive the mining company ever purchased, weighing in at 56 tons.

The Quincy locomotives operated as long as copper was produced at the Quincy Mine. The mine closed down periodically during the Great Depression and the locomotives were placed in the roundhouse, but maintenance on

the locomotives was lacking. The mine reopened its doors in 1937 and the mining company used the locomotives once again to transport copper ore from Quincy Hill to the stamp mill, located alongside the Portage Canal. However, the locomotives were not to be used for much longer. The railroad's destiny was interconnected with the prosperity of the mining company. At the close of the Second World War copper prices decreased dramatically and copper mining at the Quincy Mine was no longer feasible. In September of 1945, the locomotives were parked inside of the enginehouse where they sat for over thirty years.

In 1958, the Q.M.H.A. was established with the intention to "restore and preserve the mining lore of the Michigan Copper Country." Over time, the Q.M.H.A. was able to restore not only the 1918 hoist building, but they were also able to clear out the enginehouse of its locomotives. The No.1 and the No. 5 locomotives were put on display behind the 1918 hoist while the No. 3 locomotive was sent to the Huckleberry Railroad in Flint, Michi-



gan. The No. 6 locomotive was taken to the New Jersey Museum of Transportation with the intention that it would be restored to working order. The plans to restore the No. 6 locomotive fell through and the locomotive sat at Allaire State Park until July 2009.

The No. 6 locomotive was brought back to the Keeweenaw in July of 2009, but a lot of effort was put into acquiring the ownership rights for the engine. In 2008, the title was officially transferred to the Q.M.H.A. Today, the No. 6 locomotive is on display at the roundhouse. There are continuing efforts being made to transport the smokestack and cab from New Jersey in addition to restoring the No. 6 locomotive.

