

Copper country

Expert talks to local students

BY PAT MURPHY

STAFF PHOTO BY ELIZABETH CARVER

Here's a road less traveled: From the back of a garbage truck, to the computer lab and then into the copper country of Michigan's Upper Peninsula — with side trips to Lanigan Elementary and other Farmington-area schools.

Lawrence J. Molloy, an instructor at Oakland Community College, has taken that route. He's also written *Copper Country Road Trips*, a guide for foraging into the history of the UP's Keweenaw County.

He recently talked about Copper Country to Paul Bargarbi's class at Lanigan Elementary. And at the urging of his daughter Colleen Brinker, a teacher at Farmington's Flanders Elementary, Molloy has taken his knowledge of the Copper Country to other elementary schools in the area.

He emphasizes a hands-on, multifaceted approach to copper and its influence on development of the Upper Peninsula and the families whose fortunes were linked to the semiprecious ore.

At Lanigan Elementary, for example, fourth-graders Rachel Niemann and Craig McDougall donned miners' caps, while classmates Megan Lyles, Lauren Nash and Donald Kozio simulated the use of sledge hammers.

Molloy's journey — from a garbage truck to Copper Country to Farmington area schools — is a story with numerous

twists and turns. Perhaps the most profound twist came in the late 1960s, when Molloy, then an elementary science teacher, was working his summer job, collecting garbage in Macomb County.

He applied for, and received, a National Science Foundation grant to study computers.

What he learned was eye-opening and life-altering, Molloy recalled. "I learned how computers can breathe life into a classroom."

Molloy immersed himself in computers — reading about them, taking classes (some at Wayne State University where he obtained a master's degree) and attending seminars. "Computers were just taking off," he said, "and I was lucky enough to be riding the crest of the wave."

Jobs opened up. He worked in computer-assisted instruction with the Wayne and Washtenaw intermediate school districts, and he was an analyst with the Michigan Occupational Information System. In the 1970s, he became an adjunct, or part-time, professor of computer science at OCC.

When a full-time job opened up, Molloy said he literally jumped at the opportunity to get back into the classroom. "I missed the interaction with students," said Molloy, who now teaches full-time at OCC's Royal Oak campus.

Molloy's interest in the Upper Peninsula's Copper Country, started to develop when he was

a youngster. "My parents took the family to Copper Country," he said. "And I took my family there."

As a teenager — and later with wife Nancy, daughter Colleen and sons Shawn and Brian — Molloy explored old cemeteries and sought out old mining operations. Many of them were mentioned in old books, he said, but not marked on current maps.

Molloy discovered a kindred spirit in Henry Hobart, who in the 1860s taught school at the Cliff Mine north of Calumet. Hobart also wrote a diary, *Copper Country Journal*.

"It presents a stark contrast to life as we know it," observed Molloy.

Using slides depicting turn-of-the-century work conditions, Molloy notes how miners had no safety glasses, no hard hats and no breathing masks. "No wonder mining was so dangerous," he said.

One point of contrast usually brings howls from female students, Molloy said. "I tell youngsters how women were not allowed in the mines... they were considered bad luck."

Molloy has become something of an expert on Copper Country. During summers, for example, he sometimes conducts tours in conjunction with Michigan Technological University at Houghton. He's also working on a second publication — a tour book of the Quincy Mine near Hancock.

Classical, sacred music highlight concert

A Touch of Classical, an evening of classical and sacred song, will be presented by Northville Christian Assembly at 7 p.m. April 29, in the main auditorium of the church located at 41355 Six Mile Road, one mile west of Haggerty in Northville.

Guest artists are soprano Gayle Royko Heuser from Laguna Niguel, Calif., and Patty Masri-Fletcher, principal harpist

of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. She is a graduate of the Juilliard School of Music in New York City and has studied with many of the world's leading harpists.

Tickets are priced at \$10 and may be purchased at the church's bookstore or by calling the church at (248) 348-9030. Gourmet desserts and beverages will be sold at the post-concert "Bravissimo Bistro."



Miner consideration: Larry Molloy wears the head-gear from the White Pine Mine that closed in 1996. He's been speaking to Farmington school kids about copper.

Spring brings dangers for young drivers

The greatest danger facing young drivers during the upcoming prom and graduation season may be sitting right next to them — fellow passengers.

According to a summary of recent research conducted by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), "the presence of passengers strongly increases crash risk for teenage drivers; the more passengers the greater the risk." In one particular study, said IIHS, the presence of just one passenger almost doubled the

fatal crash risk compared with driving alone.

"We're not suggesting that young drivers travel alone on prom night," said Richard Miller, manager of Community Safety for AAA Michigan. "What we are suggesting is that young drivers are easily distracted by passengers, are more likely to engage in risk-taking behaviors, and should therefore focus on safe driving skills."

Prom Season Safety Tips:
■ Set ground rules with teens before an event.

■ Never allow minors to have access to alcohol.

■ Recognize the signs of alcohol and/or drug use.

■ Verify with other parents that alcohol will not be served at their parties.

■ Make a family pledge not to drink on prom night.

■ Establish a time when teens are expected home.

■ Urge teens never to ride with anyone who has been drinking.

■ Focus on driving: The more passengers, the greater the distraction.

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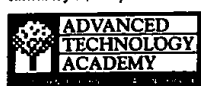
You've always known she was headed for Lawrence Tech... Who thought it would be in 11th grade?

If your 11th or 12th grader has a career goal in engineering, computer science or management, he or she can begin courses now that will provide a jump start on a college degree — while still in high school.

Advanced Technology Academy, an innovative public charter school, opened on the campus of Lawrence Technological University in Southfield, this fall. The academy is designed to blend the last two years of high school with the first two years of college, with students earning up to a year of advanced college placement while obtaining a high school diploma.

Students at ATA have access to experienced instructors, high tech facilities and all university resources, including the library, computer and science labs, the field house and dining facilities.

Tuition is free, but space is limited.



Enrollment Open House
Registration for Fall 2001

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