



THE MINING Journal



The Upper Peninsula's Largest Daily Newspaper

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Calumet disaster examined



STEVE LEHTO

Researched tragic 1913 event

MARQUETTE — Peter White Public Library in Marquette will host Steve Lehto, author of "Death's Door: The Truth Behind Michigan's Largest Mass Murder," at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 19, in the community room.

Lehto will speak and sign copies of his book, which will be available for purchase.

On Christmas Eve 1913, more than six dozen people were crushed to death as they scrambled to flee the Italian Hall in Calumet. Someone had cried "Fire!" at the top of the stairs that led to the meeting hall on the building's second floor. There was no fire.

The entire event was over in a flash, but the tragedy would scar the psyche of the region for decades. Was the call of "Fire!" a tragic error or a calculated action designed to cause chaos? The book "is the true account of the tragedy that struck a Michigan copper mining town during a time when a bitter struggle raged between the striking workers and the mining companies. This haunting story continues to be an unsolved mystery today. Lehto conducts all the research to bring to life the most accurate account of what songwriter Woody Guthrie called the '1913



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Massacre'."

Lehto is an adjunct professor of consumer protection and trial practice at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. He is also the author of several other books. His grandfather, "Pops" Lehto, was dean of Suomi College for many years, and his father taught briefly at Hancock High School.

Lehto's visit is part of "Michigan Notable Authors on Tour," organized by the Library of Michigan. For more information, call the library at 228-9510.

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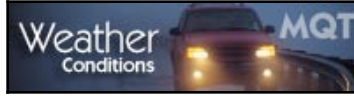




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