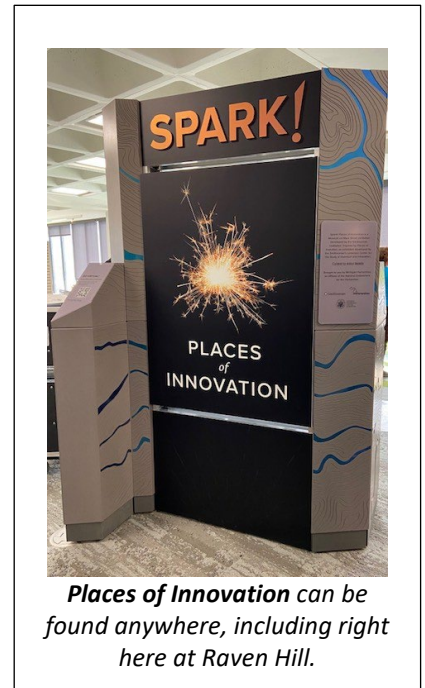


WHERE **SCIENCE****HISTORY****AND****ART** CONNECT

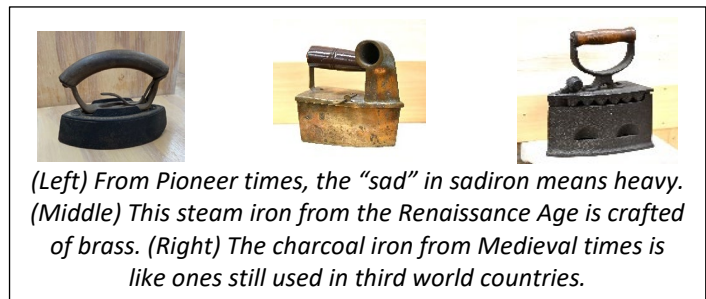
To: Raven Hill friends
From: Cheri
Date: September 9, 2023
Re: *Places of Innovation*

The Smithsonian **Spark! Places of Innovation in Rural America** exhibition is inspired by an exhibit from the National Museum of American History. **Spark!** features “small towns that have big ideas for creating a better today and a more hopeful tomorrow.” **Spark! Places of Innovation** includes “stories from over 30 rural communities across the nation that reveal the dynamic relationship between place and creativity. For every community, there is a unique combination of history, resources, leadership, collaboration and opportunity that resulted in invention and innovation—socially, artistically, technologically or culturally.” The Smithsonian exhibit will be on display at Raven Hill Discovery Center until Saturday, October 7. We hope that you will stop and take some time to peruse it.



Long, after **Spark!** has moved on to the next host site, however, Raven Hill’s Evolving Technology Building will remain, revealing more about “the dynamic relationship between place and creativity”, this time from communities around the world and throughout time from the Stone Age to the Information Age. Raven Hill’s Evolving Technology Building explores the past few thousand years of

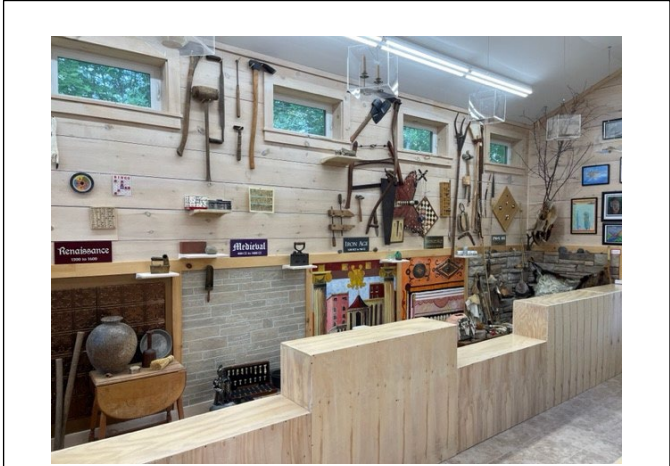
history from the appearance of man to our own digital age. Visual timelines show how the world’s greatest innovations and inventions have changed our lives. Packed with authentic artifacts and reproductions, the ET building is an exciting and intriguing history of many things found in our daily lives.





Since its opening in 2015, the ET Building has featured many advances in the technology from the Neolithic or Stone Age to the modern Information Age. The very nature of the ET Building is meant to display the chronology of man’s innovations—expanding visitors’ view of technology to include past advances and inspiring visitors to imagine inventions & innovations yet to come.

In 2014, Charlie Dyer spoke in support of Raven Hill’s innovative experiences. Charlie, a college freshman, brought a friend to tour. He promptly sent Raven Hill a letter. “My recent visit makes me want to emphasize the importance of Raven Hill to the local community. Northern Michigan does not have the level of academic enrichment opportunities as found in the museums, schools and science centers of urban areas. Raven Hill provides children and families alike a place for scientific exploration that is incredibly valuable for developing minds. Whether sparking an interest in science or providing a day of fun while exploring the exhibits, Raven Hill is a priceless asset to the Northern Michigan community.”



Inside the ET Building, actual artifacts and replicas are positioned to show, when something was first invented or appeared and then how it has changed, since its introduction to human life. As an example, irons seem like a relatively modern invention, but even the Egyptians ironed their clothing. They ironed to make sure their clothing was dry and didn’t mold or mildew or attract maggots. They did not iron to look nice! Irons appear in each ET time period from Egyptian times to today.



Behind the ET Building, sixteen time periods mirror the inside displays and show highlights of more technology—clothing, shelter, transportation, roadways and energy—from the Stone Age to the Information Age.



What: Come join us for a mouthwatering journey through time as we explore the fascinating evolution of food from ancient civilizations to modern times.
 Plus, spend time strolling through the Smithsonian’s **Spark! Places of Innovation** exhibit to see patents relating to the kitchen, such as the ice cream maker and more - as you sample “innovative” foods from the past.

When: Saturday, September 23 from 5pm to 8pm

Where: Raven Hill Discovery Center

How: \$50 per person. Register at:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/253749847616685>

You can also call 231.536.3369 or email info@miravenhill.org to make reservations.



Summer hours are in effect through Saturday, October 7, 2023, when the Smithsonian closes. We are open weekdays from 10am to 4pm, Saturdays from noon to 4pm on and Sundays from 2pm to 4pm. Email info@miravenhill.org or call us at 231.536.3369 to make appointments for other times, including major holidays.

Cheri