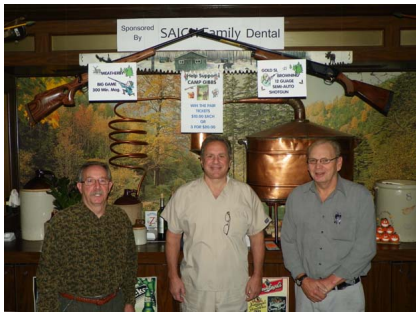

Getting ready for the upcoming Camp Gibbs Banquet are, from left, Greg Stebbins, Camp Gibbs Council president; Dr. Fred Saigh, sponsor of the ‘Win the Pair’ raffle drawing, and Jim Duda, banquet coordinator. The firearms to be raffled can be seen above the old still at Zippidy Duda’s in downtown Iron River. They are, left, a Weatherby thumbhole stock 300 Win.Mag, and right, a Browning Gold SL 12 gauge semiauto. (Stebbins photo) __PUBLIC__

IRON RIVER—The annual Camp Gibbs Banquet will be Saturday, Nov. 17.

Social hour starts at 6 p.m. and dinner will be served at 8.

There will be opportunities to win at least 10 guns, plus high end hand crafted furniture, lamps and many other prizes.

“And ladies, it’s not all boy toys. They always have items up for raffle and silent auctions for sportswomen,” said a spokesperson.

Banquet dinner will feature barbeque ribs, sirloin tips, shrimp Alfredo, side dishes, salad and dessert.

Banquet and ‘Win the Pair’ tickets are on sale at Zippidy Duda’s restaurant in downtown Iron River or call Jim Duda at 265-6193. They are also available through Greg and Sheree Stebbins at 906-367-0681.

Camp Gibbs Recreation Area is a property that was purchased by the U.S. from the Michigan Mineral Land Company in 1934.

In 1935, Camp Gibbs was established as a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp. Nineteen buildings were constructed consisting of barracks, kitchen, shower room, bakery, garages and storage for the CCC workers.

It is a unique example of vernacular American architecture of the period. The materials and methods of construction represent a time when frugality was critical to the survival of society.

In the 1940s, the state of Michigan Social Welfare Commission used the camp to house indigent people from all over the state.

Camp Gibbs is considered an important structure of historical significance and has the honor of being designated as part of the Heritage Trail of Iron County.

Camp Gibbs is currently home to a public archery club that boasts indoor and outdoor ranges, a shotgun club that hosts trap shooting in season, a public outdoor rifle and pistol range, an indoor pistol range.

All money raised at the banquet is used for building and grounds improvements, to keep and preserve the most complete CCC camp still in existence east of the Mississippi. Camp Gibbs is located 7.3 miles north of U.S. 2 on Gibbs City Road.

Dinner tickets are $25 and each ticket will be eligible for door prizes. “Win the Pair” raffle tickets are $10 each or three for $20. The drawing will be held Nov. 17 at the banquet, but you do not

need to be present to win.

“Come and share in the camaraderie with hunters from all walks of life. We are looking forward to seeing new and old friends at our one and only fundraiser of the year,” said the spokesperson.