IRON COUNTY, MICHIGAN

The Western Terminus of the Menominee Iron Range – Part 1

Compiled by William John Cummings
2012
Iron County was established in September, 1885, having been severed from Marquette County’s Ely Township, established in 1871, and a small portion along the Brule River was taken from Menominee County. The southwest portion of Marquette County was originally Ely Township, but when Baraga County was formed in 1875, the land now forming Iron County was placed in the new Township of Republic. In 1882 Crystal Falls Township and Iron River Township were formed after petitions were made to the Marquette County Board of Supervisors for representation. Pat E. Dunn, of Crystal Falls, and Daniel J. Lay, of Iron River Township, took their respective seats on the Marquette County Board of Supervisors on May 29, 1882. Economic development was primarily based on the mining and logging industries and was enriched by the diverse ethnic mixture of its people.

When Iron County was formed five townships were created: Iron River, Crystal Falls, Felch, Bates and Mastodon.

Crystal Falls serves as the county seat. In 1890, the population of Iron County was 4,432. The county has a total area of 1,211.02 square miles of which 1,166.36 square miles is land and 44.67 square miles is water.

TOWNSHIPS

- **Atkinson Township**, established in October, 1892, from Iron River Township; lands returned to Iron River Township when Atkinson Township was dissolved in 1906
- **Bates Township**, one of original five townships in 1885
- **Crystal Falls Township**, May 29, 1882; one of the original five townships in 1885
- **Felch Township**, one of the original five townships in 1885; became part of Dickinson County in 1891
- **Hematite Township**, established in 1891 when Felch Township went to Dickinson County – Amasa
- **Hemlock Township**, established in 1892; name changed to Atkinson Township
- **Iron River Township**, established May 29, 1882; one of the original five townships in 1885
- **Mansfield Township**, established in 1891 when Dickinson County was formed – Michigamme River
- **Mastodon Township**, one of original five townships in 1885 – Alpha
- **Stambaugh Township**, established June 14, 1886, set apart from Iron River Township – Stambaugh (merged with Iron River July 1, 2000, Caspian, Gaastra, Elmwood/Elmwood Siding
MAPS OF WEST AND EAST IRON COUNTY

Iron County - West Michigan

Iron County - East Michigan

Not all logging or mine lines shown.

Click to enlarge.
EXPANSION OF MENOMINEE RANGE RAILROAD – 1

We have credible information, that the survey for the extension of the railroad from Florence, further west, will be commenced in a very short time. The survey will probably follow a westerly course to section 24, 40-17, and then deflect northward.

THE C. & N.W. Ry., [sic] have concluded to begin a preliminary survey from this place immediately. It was contemplated to commence surveying after the snow has disappeared, but orders have been received this week to begin right off. It will probably take all summer to establish the most feasible route to Crystal Falls and also to Iron River. Operations may be commenced on the road bed as early as next spring. The country is a rough one to run through, and a great deal of care will have to be exercised in the selection of the most economical route.
EXPANSION OF MENOMINEE RANGE RAILROAD – 2

A preliminary railroad survey was commenced by the C. & N.W. Ry company, on Monday, from Florence, northwesterly across the Brule river.

TWO engineering parties are engaged in running preliminary railway lines under the charge of S.H. Selden, Esq., between this point [Florence] and Crystal Falls on the Paint River. One corps of 12 men will work from the north end of the line, and another corps will work from this end. Crystal Falls are [sic – is] about 15 miles a little west of north from Florence.
EXPANSION OF MENOMINEE RANGE RAILROAD – 3

The surveying force of the extension of the C. & N.W. Ry, [sic] is being largely augmented by the arrival of men on the force. The intention of the management now is to run two preliminary lines. One to Iron River and one up the Paint. Owing to the nature of the country through which it is proposed, by this company to build roads, it is presumable that the surveys will occupy the entire season.

A VERY interesting communication will be found from our special correspondent at “Camp Wild Cat,” on the C. & N.W. R’y survey. It is written in a fresh, vivacious style and gives a true and vivid picture of woods life. We are promised a succession of them.
PERSONAL.

– Geo. Runkel and family moved into their new residence on Monday last.

– Our old friend Duncan McMillan, is with the C. & N.W. Ry Co’s survey. At present he is within wading distance of the beautiful lake that was named in his honor.

THE C. & N.W. Ry Co’s engineers camp southwest of Duncan McMillan’s Lake, is in a charming situation. After being burnt out they located their camping ground at the south west corner of the northwest quarter of sec. 5, 42-32, near which a sparkling stream of the purest water runs. Our gifted friend, L.A. McNeil[,] has been making a sketch of it.
The contract for the extension of the railroad to Crystal Falls, has been let to George Runkel and others. Mr. Runkel is superintendent, and commenced on Monday to push the road with his usual energy. About 60 men are now working on it.

THE railroad operations towards Crystal Falls is [sic – are] being pushed forward with energy under the management of George Runkel, the contractor. Already a camp is established about 10 miles from here. George W. Bowes, the “walking boss,” is making things hum under his supervision.
EXPANSION OF MENOMINEE RANGE RAILROAD – 6

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin, Volume I, Number 28 [Saturday, July 9, 1881], page 3, column 3

BETWEEN 300 and 400 men are at work on the line of the railroad to Crystal Falls. The grading is now being pushed simultaneously along a distance of about ten miles from here. Mr. Geo. Runkel, with his characteristic energy[,] intends if there is such a thing in the books, to have the railroad completed to the mines, so that ore can be shipped from them early in October. All aboard for Crystal Falls.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin, Volume I, Number 30 [Saturday, July 23, 1881], page 3, column 3

THE Crystal Falls railroad is being shoved along as fast as possible. This is a very unfavorable season of the year for energetic operations, yet work is being prosecuted simultaneously along the line, for thirteen miles.
AND still they come. One hundred and six men to work on the Crystal Falls extension arrived on Wednesday. Mr. Runkel is bound to have the road completed to the Falls by October first, if such a thing is possible.

560 men are employed on the Crystal Falls extension of the railroad. It is the intention of the contractors to have 700 men at work by the end of this month.

FIFTY more men arrived on Wednesday to work on the railroad extension. Notwithstanding this, the contractors are hiring all the men and teams that offer, so come along as there is plenty of work.
THE work on the Crystal Falls extension of the railroad, has so far, encountered very little rock. Sand and gravel has been found in the cuts, with – in rare cases – a few boulders. Some of the deepest cuts are in sand all the way.

GEORGE W. BOWES, the old “walking boss” on the Crystal Falls railroad extension, who was prostrated by the heat, a short time ago, is not getting along as satisfactorily as he would wish. He is still weak and not yet able for active duty.

THE new rails on the Crystal Falls extension are being strung along at a rapid rate and are being spiked into place as fast as roadmaster [sic – Roadmaster] Sutherland can do it.
EXPANSION OF MENOMINEE RANGE RAILROAD – 9

GEO. RUNKEL & CO., the contractors on the Crystal Falls railroad extension[,] are pushing the work along as fast as it is possible for men and teams to do it. On Wednesday they received 40 men from Madison, also a span of mules and 12 new wagons. The teams and drivers were sent by C.J.L. Meyers, of Hermansville.

PETER ROONEY was fatally poisoned at camp 2, on the Crystal Falls railroad, in Marquette county, Mich., about eight miles from here, on Thursday. It appears that a bottle of whisky and aconite had been prepared for horse medicine, and Rooney and some others partook of it, supposing it to be plain whisky. The others recovered, but Rooney having taken a larger quantity, died before a physician could reach him. His remains were brought here for burial.
TWO car loads of laborers arrived on Thursday last, to work on the Crystal Falls extension. This road is bound to be completed by the middle of October, if men and money can do it. This addition will make a force of 800 men. The bridge across the Brule river is being pushed along with all possible speed. When this is completed, two weeks of fair weather will see the iron laid to the Falls.

MESSRS. RUNKEL & CO., the Crystal Falls railroad contractors, have sold out their warehouse at this place to the Menominee River Lumber Co., and have removed their headquarters, for the present, to the south side of, and close to, the Brule river.
CRYSTAL FALLS is beginning to feel the coming boom and life that the advent of a rail road always brings to a new town. The railroad grade is already visible from the town, and work is, notwithstanding the unfavorable weather, being prosecuted with vigor. For the purpose of completing the road as rapidly as possible, work has been suspended at the mines and saw mill and the men put on the road. 300 men will be kept at work all winter completing the different branch lines in the vicinity of the Falls. For their accommodation, a two-story hotel, 36x60, is being built at Crystal Falls. The piles are all driven for the Brule bridge, and it is expected that trains will cross in about ten days. The grade is now ready for the ties and rails, eight miles beyond the river. Mr. Geo. Runkel is building a residence in town, and business looks very promising. It is safe to presume that the entire track will be completed to Crystal Falls early in December.
EXPANSION OF MENOMINEE RANGE RAILROAD – 12

WE hear it rumored that the iron will be laid into Crystal Falls, by the 15th inst. [sic – of this month] Hope so.

THE Crystal Falls railroad is almost completed, and the inhabitants of the Crystal city, are exceedingly jubilant thereat. Next summer will see a wonderfull [sic – wonderful] change in the place, and the half a dozen mines which will be in operation, within a radius of a mile, will give it an impetus, the like of which was never before seen in the country. Inside of a year, we should not be surprised to see one or two blast furnaces in operation. The proprietors of the town Col. J.H. Howe and George Runkle [sic – Runkel] are live, energetic men and intend to assist its growth by every means, in their power.
EXPANSION OF MENOMINEE RANGE RAILROAD – 13

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin, Volume II, Number 8 [Saturday, February 18, 1882], page 3, column 2

WE learn from good authority that the road will be completed to Crystal Falls by the 25th inst. [sic – of this month] The grading is all finished.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin, Volume II, Number 10 [Saturday, March 4, 1882], page 3, column 3

THE railroad is into the Falls, and the Crystalizers are exceedingly glad thereat. Business is spring up with a spring boom and the “good times a coming” are on hand sure. Business houses are dotting the town site and everything augurs well for the coming season, which will be one of great activity. By next winter Crystal Falls will have grown so fast that it will hardly be certain of its own identity. They are a wide awake set of business men who are taking hold there and if they don’t make things get right up and hum, they are willing to take a back seat in the gallery.
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Bates Township, organized in September, 1885, was one of original five townships when Iron County was formed that year. Townships included were T42, R34; T43, R34; T44, R34, N ½ of T44, R35; T45, R35 and T46, R35.

- **BATES**
- **EARLE**, Iron County: With the development of the Rogers Mine, Dr. George Washington Earle, director of the Wisconsin Land & Lumber Company, from 1889, platted and recorded the village of Earle on his lands in Bates Township in September, 1913, but the project failed and was abandoned.
- **MAPLETON**, Iron County: Mapleton, a farming community and the seat of Bates Township government, was located in an area of dense maple forests. Storekeeper **Michael Krick** became its first postmaster on July 26, 1910.
- **ROGERS**, Iron County: The Rogers-Brown Mining Company developed the Rogers Mine in about 1912 and built homes for the miners and their families. The village is also referred to as the Rogers Location or simply as the Rogers.
CRYSTAL FALLS TOWNSHIP

- **CITY OF CRYSTAL FALLS**
- **KELSO JUNCTION**, Iron County: Kelso Junction is believed to have been named for C.E. Kelso, of Manistique, a lumber and railroad company executive.
- **MONONGAHELA**, Iron County: Monongahela was a mining location, its name reflecting the interests of Pittsburg iron industrialists in the area.

Crystal Falls Township was formed May 29, 1882, when the land was still a part of Marquette County.
CRYSTAL FALLS TOWNSHIP

CRYSTAL FALLS, Iron County: Crystal Falls was located in Marquette County when founded in 1880 by George Runkel, Samuel D. Hollister and William Morrison. The village was platted for Mr. Runkel and James H. Howe by John Pumpelly in 1881, named by Mr. Runkel from the crystal beauty of the falls (Crystal Falls) on the Paint River running by it. His daughter, Julia Runkel, became the first postmaster on September 28, 1881. Iron County was set off in 1884 (but not organized until 1885), and Henry C. Kimball became the first postmaster with the office in Iron County on July 1, 1884. Crystal Falls, the county seat, was incorporated as a village in 1889 and as a city in 1899.
ORGANIZATION OF CRYSTAL FALLS IRON COMPANY

The Crystal Falls Iron company has organized under the laws of the State of Michigan, and the articles of incorporation have been filed with the Secretary at Lansing. The following are the names of the officers:

N.K. Fairbank, Chicago, President.

Col. J.H. Howe, Chicago, Vice President.

F.H. Head, of the Elk Rapids Iron Works, Secretary and Treasurer.

Geo. Runkel, Esq[. ] – who is one of the directors – is Superintendent.

Work will be prosecuted vigorously on the company’s valuable mining property in the vicinity of Crystal Falls. A car load of horses were shipped up this week for work at the mines. A town will be laid out on the n.e. ¼ of sec. 29, 43-32, in a suitable location. The machinery for a saw mill is also on the way, and will be put in operation as early as possible. The timber in the vicinity is hard wood [sic – hardwood] and pine, and the land well adapted for farming purposes. The Paint river, close by, will furnish a series of fine water powers, for manufacturing purposes. There is some talk of a furnace to be erected at a future date.
The services of Dr. H.C. Kimball, a brother of Dr. L.J. Kimball, of Norway, and a first-class physician and surgeon, have been secured by the Crystal Falls Iron Co., and also by the Union Iron and Steel Co., whose mines are adjacent. The selection is an excellent one, and all who meet the doctor will find him a genial, social gentleman. We copy the following from the Enterprise, published at Colon, Michigan, where the doctor formerly resided:

"Dr. H.C. Kimball started for the Lake Superior region this week, with a view of locating in that section in the practice of medicine. He graduated at Detroit medical college a number of years ago, and was a student at the University of Ann Arbor. We can assure the people there that the acquisition will be one that they may feel justly proud of with the long and large experience he has had for years in the science and practice of medicine, and while here the doctor acquired a reputation second to none in the healing art, especially in surgery. He has been a resident in this place eleven years and in that time has gained the confidence of our people as being a successful practitioner. He has also been a useful and active member of the several secret societies, holding the highest official positions in each, taking a prominent part in those bodies grand and subordinate; his labors have been fraught with success and credit to himself; his many friends will miss him very much."
THE village of “Crystal Falls” has been platted and lots are now ready for sale. The location is a beautiful one and land is such, that future years, will see the adjacent country bloom and blossom as the rose. “Gather ye roses while ye may,” or in other words, secure a town lot when you can.

The Crystal Falls Iron Company have [sic – has] been shipping a Blandy saw mill, this week, to their new town of Crystal Falls. It will be put in operation as soon as possible to supply the want of lumber. The town will grow rapidly as soon as material can be furnished. The location and soil is good all around it, and before the snow flies four or five mines will be in operation in the immediate vicinity.
MR. WILLIAM DOUCET, an enterprising young merchant, is putting up his stakes in the new city of Crystal Falls. He will carry a large general stock and will undoubtedly build up a large trade. As the railroad will be in by next October, there will be – as there was in Florence – a large influx of people and a great many wants to supply.

THE Main Bros., [sic] have started a daily stage line from Florence to Crystal Falls, leaving the Florence House and Main’s Livery stable at 1 o’clock p.m., arriving at Crystal Falls at 4 o’cl’k p.m. Returning the stage leaves Crystal Falls at 7 o’clock, a.M. [sic – a.m.], arriving in Florence at 10 o’clock, a.m. This is a great convenience to the many who are daily going to that point, and it is to be hoped that the enterprising managers will meet with success in their venture.
THE Crystal Falls Iron Company have [sic – has] completed the platting of their new town of Crystall [sic – Crystal] Falls. We expect to go up in a few days to select our corner lot and will then report.
THE VILLAGE OF CRYSTAL FALLS, on the N.E. ¼ of Section 29, Township 43, Range 32, Marquette county, Michigan, has been laid out by the Crystal Falls Iron company, and lots are now offered for sale at low prices and on reasonable terms. The village derives its name from the Falls of [the] Paint River near which it is situated. There is a water power of over 2,000 horse-power, suitable for manufacturing purposes, on which the company intends soon to erect a fifty ton smelting furnace, affording employment to several hundred mechanics and laborers. The village is located on high ground, which insures its freedom from malarial influences, and is surrounded by an extensive maple forest which affords abundant hardwood timber for manufacturing purposes, and material for charcoal for many years to come. The soil is of excellent quality, and when the timber is cleared off, will produce large crops of all kinds of grain and vegetables suitable to this region. The Paint River traverses the largest pinery of any stream in the Northern Peninsula, and Crystal Falls will undoubtedly soon become a prominent lumbering point.
The company have [sic – has] already a saw mill, shingle and planing mill in operation so that lumber for building purposes can be had at once, and at reasonable rates. The village is also situated in the center of a large and rapidly improving iron district. Three mines in the immediate vicinity are already taking out ore for shipment this fall, and the present explorations indicate that at least four more mines owned by wealthy mining companies will begin shipping early next season. About Oct. 1st, 1881, the Chicago & Northwestern Railway will be completed to Crystal Falls, which will most likely be its terminus for some time to come. Merchants, mechanics, miners, laborers, hotel keepers, and all classes of people will find here a splendid friend for enterprise, and only need to make a personal examination of the region to become convinced of its numerous advantages.

Buildings for business and residence purposes are now going up at a rapid rate, several hundred people are already busily employed, and from present indications Crystal Falls must become a thriving and populous city in the near future. A daily stage line is now running from Florence, and tracklaying from Florence to Crystal Falls is progressing at a rapid rate.

For further particulars call on or address, GEO. RUNKEL, Sup’t of Crystal Falls Iron Co., Florence, Wis., or S.D. HOLLISTER, at Crystal Falls.
A VERY sad and fatal accident occurred at the village of Crystal Falls on Sunday last. Three men entered a canoe for the purpose of crossing the river. When about half way over the canoe for some reason became unmanageable and drifted over the falls. Before reaching the falls one of the men jumped out and got safely to shore. The other two went over with the canoe and were drowned. Their names are Henry Anderson and August Gilbert.

OUR latest advices from Crystal Falls, Thursday afternoon, are to the effect that the bodies of the two men drowned by going over the falls in a canoe have not yet been recovered. A thorough search was made for the bodies at the time, but no signs of them were to be found. The search has been continued from time to time since, and giant powder has been exploded in the vain hope that the concussion would bring the bodies to the surface. It is more than probable that the strong current has carried them down the river, and if they are ever found it will be miles below the falls.
NEW HOTEL AT CRYSTAL FALLS

The new hotel at Crystal Falls, now in course of erection, will be, when completed, the largest building on the range.

– George Runkel of Crystal Falls, dropped in to see us again, on Wednesday last. He reports everything in a state of great activity in the coming city. Expects the passenger train in by the first of April. Thinks that the Brier Hill Iron and Coal company have 3,000,000 tons of ore that they know of. Says that the biggest hotel in the country is being erected at the town.
CRYSTAL FALLS IS A GROWING TOWN – 1

This village is situated about 15 miles, nearly north from Florence, and close to the falls of that name, on the Paint River, in Marquette County, Michigan. Within a radius of two miles are located three or four mines. One of them, belonging to the Brier Hill Iron and Coal Co. of Youngstown, Ohio, will most likely develope [sic – develop] into the largest mine of the region. The land in the vicinity is hilly and rolling, covered principally with splendid hard wood [sic – hardwood] timber, interspersed with magnificent pines. Beautiful lakes dot the country everywhere and the intermediate ground, is threaded with crystal streams of the purest water and filled with speckled trout and other fish. The land is abundantly supplied with water, which sometimes break [sic – breaks] out in springs form the hill sides [sic – hillsides].

The town was laid out last fall and is owned by the Crystal Falls Iron Company and is now under the management of James H. Elmore, the superintendent.
The location is very fine for a town, as the ground slopes all the way from the southern and western part to the river. Further towards the southwest the ground becomes more level. The buildings, at present, are principally confined to superior [sic – Superior] avenue – the main street – which runs directly west from the depot.

Nearly on the summit of the hill, on the corner of Superior avenue and Fourth street, D.C. Lockwood is erecting a large three story hotel, with a front of 58 feet on the south side and 46 feet on the east. It is in a very fine and commanding location and from the upper part a view of twenty miles over hill, valley and stream, can be obtained. He expects to have it finished in June, but will be prepared to administer to the wants of his guests very soon.

The town is well supplied with business houses and saloons. Among those are noticeable William Doucet’s large building, on the south side, which he uses for a store, saloon, and public hall. Johnny Dern has also a barber’s chair in here, which will probably soon be removed to the new barber shop, which will be built on the other side of the street, by Joseph Laev. J.L. Kimball & Co. have their drug store nearly completed and in [a] short time will have it filled with a large and complete stock of goods. The doctor, H.C. [sic – H.C. Kimball] is one of the pioneers of the region and has built up a large and successful practice.
A.J. Harding has a fine hotel near the depot ground and is doing an excellent business. Half way up the hill J.E. Kelley, formerly of Commonwealth, has a wet goods dispensary [saloon]. Our old friend Joseph Laev, of Oconto, has just opened up the “Boston Clothing Store,” which contains one of the fullest, neatest and best arranged stocks of goods in the country. Just above him, D.T. Adams, formerly of Iron Mountain, is erecting a music hall 24x80, which he expects to occupy as early as possible. There is also a hardware store opening by Bannerman of Iron Mountain, and a meat market. Leopold and Runkel intend soon to erect a large store building on Superior avenue, into which they will move the business which they now carry on in the store near the saw mill.

Quite a number of dwelling houses have been built among the splendid forest of hardwood timber, which in a few years will give way to gardens and ornamental grounds as the land is of excellent quality. The company have [sic] a saw, shingle and planing mill close by the town site and are well supplied with a fine stock of logs. They manufacture both pine and hardwood lumber.

The ground for the depot is being cleared off, leveled, and the building will be in place the coming month.
As soon as regular trains commence to run an immense quantity of building material will be shipped in and buildings will go up with a rush. At present the difficulty of obtaining material to finish them with, is a great drawback to completion.

J.H. Elmore is at present in Marquette trying to obtain a separate township organization, which is very much needed, and in fact indispensable [sic – indispensable] to the government of the place. THE MINING NEWS hopes that he will succeed.
CRYSTAL FALLS IS A GROWING TOWN

CRYSTAL Falls is growing rapidly. New buildings are dotting the unbroken forest in all directions, and the almost ceaseless sound of the hammer and saw is heard all over the land. The Lockwood House, is getting into shape as fast as men and material can do it and “mine host” Lockwood has all that he can very well attend to. Runkel & Leopold’s store is nearly completed. David T. Adams’ free opening, on Saturday was a grand success. W.B. Carland, the architect and builder has his hands full of business and is working a large crew of men. Dr. H.C. Kimball has just gone into partnership with Dr. J.M. Mead and Crystal Falls has now a firm of practitioners, whose equal would be hard to find in this country. Will Doucet is still doing a rushing business and is perfectly satisfied with it. Improvements are contemplated forthwith upon our main street which will make it a tip top thoroughfare, something which is very much needed.
CRystal Falls is a growing town

A REGULAR passenger train is now run between here and Crystal Falls.

THE main street of Crystal Falls is being put in shape so that mud scows and flat boats will no longer be a necessity.
Crystal Falls is a growing town.

From our Special Correspondent.

Town election this week.

Doucet & Adams are bound to have the finest sample rooms on the range.

Dr. W.J. Spencer, the range dentist[,] has been with us the past week.

Fire gave C.F. a close call, last Thursday, but perseverance and plenty of water saved it.

The first preaching in Crystal Falls, was held in Doucets [sic – Doucet's] new hall, last Sabbath. The Rev. Lourey officiating.

The saw mill is now under the supervision of S.D. Hollister, Jr., and is giving better satisfaction than any time before since it started.
CRYSTAL FALLS IS A GROWING TOWN – 1

Crystal Falls.
(From our Special Correspondent.)

Ours is going to be the town of this magnificent iron range and don’t you try to forget it. We have got six mines found within a mile or two and plenty more between, just aching to be brought into daylight. The inference is that the entire bottom after we get deep enough is a solid body of iron the bottom of which runs down close enough to the center of gravity to be ready to cast into pigs. The presumption is that when all the mines – now existing and prospective – shall be in operation that the future city of the Falls will contain 15 or 20,000 inhabitants.

The village – the nucleus of the city – is rushing along as usual. Numerous buildings are going up in all directions. A. Uren & Co. have just opened up a fine meat and vegetable market, which will be kept up in first class style. The Lockwood House is getting nearer towards a state of completion every day and still the guests insist upon the popular proprietor D.C. Lockwood taking care of them whether or no. He takes them all in and the indications are, judging from the way the public talk, that the house will be crowded from cellar to garret, when completed.
O.C. Hagar & Johnson, have opened the Scandinavian Hotel at a convenient distance from the depot. Rooney & Urquhart have just opened up a liquid dispensatory, called “The Palace Saloon.” J.L. Kimball & Co. are receiving a large stock of medicines, drugs, notions, &c. &c. Bower and Carlin will open up another drug store as soon as the building can be prepared, in which the “phiz” of the soda fountain will be heard. Tearney Bro. & Russel have their elegant sample rooms in running order and their is certainly no reason for a man going dry in town unless he can’t swallow. Leopold & Runkel’s store is nearly completed and it will be a regular gorgeous sunflower, when finished.

Gradin on Superior St. is progressing with a large force of men and we will soon have a street to feel proud of. The passenger train is now running regularly, which is a great accommodation. Services are now held by Rev. Mr. Lowne every Sunday, in Doucet’s hall. General business is improving every day and we feel it in our bones that in a very few years, we shall be out of the woods.

CRYSTAL FALLS.
A Presbyterian social was held at the residence of Mrs. Geo. W. Runkel on Tuesday evening. It was a very pleasant and sociable affair. By the way we almost forgot to say that a new organ has been purchased for the use of the church and that a building will be erected as early as possible. It is thus that religion and morality keep pace with civilization.

Richard J. Hayes, of Florence, has purchased John Blossingham’s building, nearly opposite the Lockwood House and will place a stock of general merchandise in it in a short time. Leopold and Runkel have just moved into their fine new building on the north side of Superior avenue. The post office is also removed to the same building which is a great convenience to our people as they now do not have to travel half a mile to get their mail. It is efficiently managed by Miss Julia Runkel. The Lockwood House has provided itself with a large new safe, for the convenience of its patrons. This fine hotel keeps up with the march of improvement.
Rooney and Urquahart are doing a fine business. D.T. Adams[,] one of our new justices of the peace, has a fine billiard hall and sample room, with offices overhead.

Howard Brooks is the name of the brand new ticket agent and telegraph operator at our model railroad depot. The railroad spur is built to the Crystal Falls mine and the stock pile is disappearing at a rapid rate.

We expect that fully 100 more buildings will be erected before the close of the summer, in the village. Dix – not the general – but David, is doing a fine business in counteracting the proverbial dryness of this region, by distributing mysterious, but solid looking kegs, of something, branded “Blatz” Milwaukee. We have religious services and Sunday school once a week, if not more often. “Cedar Castle” is finished and is quite an imposing structure.

CRYSTAL FALLS.
Crystal Falls.
(From our Special Correspondent.)

The fine new Opera Hall of William Doucet was opened last night, by a grand ball – the first in the young city – [sic]. The spacious room was crowded by votaries of the terpsichorean art from all portions of the range. Space forbids us to give their names, but each one declared that it was the best ball of the season.

F.B. Johnson, the jeweler, has moved into his commodious new building east of Dr. Kimball. Carlin and Bowers expect to be able to open up their new drug store, in about a week week [sic] or ten days. Tearney Bros. & Russell are doing a fine business in the wet grocery [saloon] ine [sic – line]. The Lockwood House still continues to be crowded and if business keeps up in that way he will have to enlarge right off, if not sooner.

The contract has been let for grading the streets and work will be pushed right along. Crystal Falls will soon have some of the finest thoroughfares in the country.
The railroad track is about finished to the Brier Hill mine and just as soon as it is in shape to be used, a heavy plant of machinery will be shipped up and placed in position. The company intend [sic – intends] to rush business for all it is worth and will ship a large amount of ore yet this season.

The bodies of the two Scandinavians Henry Anderson and August Gilbert who were drowned in the Paint River last fall, were both found within a distance of two miles below the falls. They were buried here.
Crystal Falls Cullings.
(Special Correspondence.)

Another disastrous conflagration occurred in our village about noon last Sunday. The buildings occupied by the Diamond Drill and Charles Henry and the barn and carriage house of Dr. Kimball were totally destroyed and the drug store of J.L. Kimball & Son narrowly escaped a similar fate. The fire originated from some unknown cause in the building occupied by Charles Henry. Mr. Henry was engaged in his shop, preparing a coffin for a lumberman who was killed in the woods by a falling tree Saturday, when he saw the flames just breaking through the roof, with considerable headway. The alarm was given and a valiant effort was made to quench the fiery monster, but the building was soon in ashes. Most of the stock was saved. The building was valued at $1,700, and was insured for about $450. The office of the Diamond Drill, published by Claude M. Atkinson, was also devoured by the insatiate fiend. The stock, machinery and type were nearly all saved, however, with but little damage. The building was valued at $500. The barn and carriage house of Dr. Kimball were also consumed, there being no insurance on either structure. The drug store of Dr. J.K. Kimball & Son was damaged to the extent of $100 or more but not completely consumed. The sprinkler system was on, but all the water was used up by the time the alarm was given and the fire was discovered.
The barn and carriage house of Dr. Kimball were also consumed, there being no insurance on either structure. The drug store of Dr. J.K. Kimball & Son was damaged to the extend of $100 or more but was fully insured. It was a very close call for this building. By the liberal application of snow and a meager supply of water from neighboring wells, the fire was kept somewhat in check until teams returned from the river with water, after the arrival of which the flames were soon extinguished. Dr. Kimball’s household furniture, which was fully insured, was removed, but was badly injured by rough handling. The stock and fixtures of the drug store were greatly damaged, owing to the haste incident to their removal. It is estimated that the loss will reach $1500, the insurance on the stock and fixtures having expired shortly before the fire. It is very fortunate that the fire was extinguished before it extended further.
Runkel/Parks House, Crystal Falls, Iron County, Michigan, ca. 1890-1910 This sepia-toned photograph is identified on the back as the “Old Runkel House, Crystal Falls, Mich.” [WJC Photo]
People identified on the back of the photograph included Mr. & Mrs. Parks, Ruby Rowley (wearing her apron), Aunt Mattie (standing) and Edna Parks (name crossed out and Ione Hollister written in ink above) in the hammock.
This postcard view, identified as Bird’s Eye View, Crystal Falls, Mich., was postmarked March 14, 1907. The view was published by Tom Jones. This is an undivided back postcard, and the white space on the picture side was where messages legally had to be written. [WJC Photo]
This detail of the previous postcard, a printed halftone photograph of a Bird’s Eye View, Crystal Falls, Mich., shows the Paint River in the foreground with the iron bridge crossing the river. The Iron County Court House is visible at the top of Superior Avenue. Superior Avenue was the business street of the community. [WJC Photo]
Another postcard Bird’s Eye View of Crystal Falls, Mich., postmarked May 22, 1907, is a little closer and provides more detail. Again, the message had to be written on the front, as the reverse was reserved for the address only. [WJC Photo]
This detail of the previous postcard view – Bird’s Eye View of Crystal Falls, Mich. – provides a clear view of the iron bride crossing the Paint River at the foot of Superior Avenue. Note that a farmer is about to cross the bridge with a wagon full of hay, and that there are cows on the bridge. The Iron County Court House stands tall at the top of Superior Avenue, and many businesses are visible lining the main business thoroughfare. [WJC Photo]
Still another postcard – identified as Birds-Eye View, Crystal Falls, Mich. No. 12, 1908 (detail) – was taken from a slightly different angle, showing the Iron County Court House at the top of Superior Avenue, but also showing buildings to the north and to the south of Superior Avenue. The large building to the left of center on the horizon appears to be a school. Note the little farms along the banks of the Paint River. [WJC Photo]
Another postcard, again a Birds Eye View, Crystal Falls, Mich., No. 16, 1908 (detail) shows a yet-unidentified mine with the shaft housing and tramways clearly visible in the foreground and a large stockpile of iron ore at the right. [WJC Photo]
This unused postcard, dating to about 1928, is identified as “Bird’s Eye View, Crystal Falls, Mich.” Note the Iron County Court House is visible at the upper right, located at the head of Superior Avenue. [WJC Photo]
This unused postcard view, dating between 1950 and 1960, shows the “Municipal Golf Course, Crystal Falls, Mich.” Taken from the Crystal Falls Golf Course looking southwest, Superior Avenue can be seen, as well as the Iron County Court House atop the hill at the far right. [WJC Photo]
Another unused postcard view, dating between 1950 and 1960, shows the approach to the Paint River Bridge from the east at the foot of the hill leads across the Paint River and up Superior Avenue to the Iron County Court House. Note the water tank to the right of the court house.

[WJC Photo]
Postmarked November 26, 1909, this postcard view, looking west and identified as “Superior Avenue, Crystal Falls, Mich.”, shows an unpaved Superior Avenue, providing a glimpse of life on the main thoroughfare complete with horse and buggy and horse and wagon transportation. Note the Iron County Court House at the top of the hill where Superior Avenue ends. [WJC Photo]
Another postcard view of Superior Avenue, again looking west up the main thoroughfare in Crystal Falls, dates between 1910 and 1915. Note the early automobiles at the left and coming down the center of the street. Horse-drawn transportation is still prevalent. [WJC Photo]
This unused postcard view, dating between 1925 and 1942, again looks west up Superior Avenue with the Iron County Court House at the end of the street. Note the electric street lights.  [WJC Photo]
Dating between 1940 and 1950, this unused postcard view once again shows Superior Avenue, looking west. The Ben Franklin Store and the First National Bank with its Ionic columns are at the left, and the Crystal Falls City Hall’s tall tower can be seen farther up the hill on the south (left) side of the street. On the north (right) side of the street the Ejay Theater was playing “Selected Shorts” and further up the hill the sign for Rezin’s Walgreen Agency Drugs is visible. [WJC Photo]
This unused colored postcard view, taken between 1950 and 1960, is a later version of the previous view, again showing Superior Avenue looking west. The Ben Franklin Store, the First National Bank with a remodeled façade, Wills Hardware and the Crystal Falls City Hall building are easily identified on the south (left) side of the street, while Rezin’s Walgreen Agency Drugs had moved farther down the hill to the corner and the Aldo Theater advertised a “Double Feature Program.” There is a Rexall Drug Store farther up the hill. Note the water tank on the right near the Iron County Court House. [WJC Photo]
This detail of an early postcard, identified as “Part of Superior Ave., Crystal Falls, Mich., No. 8, 1908”, provides excellent detail for the commercial district in the early twentieth century. Note the horse and delivery wagon at the left and the unpaved street lined with telephone poles on either side. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked March 20, 1920, this view of Superior Avenue looking east was taken from Iron County Court House clock tower. This view clearly shows the brick city hall building with its tower on the south (right) side of the street and on the north side of Superior Avenue the west side of the Finnish & Swedish Mercantile Association store (F. & S.) is visible. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked August 27, 1926, this view of “Main Street, Crystal Falls, Michigan” (Superior Avenue) looks east with the bridge over the Paint River visible at the bottom of the hill. The Finnish & Swedish (F. & S.) Mercantile Association store, the two-story brick building at the left, was built in 1906, and a grocery store was located on the ground floor for many years. Signs indicate a drug store and an automotive garage a little farther down the block. Street lights line both sides of Superior Avenue. [WJC Photo]
A postcard view of the north side of Superior Avenue, dating to about 1928, shows the Finnish & Swedish (F. & S.) Mercantile Association store, the two-story brick building at the left, built in 1906. Notice the sign advertising “SODAS” next door, followed by a drug store and then a restaurant further down the hill. The Ejay Theater is visible at the right. [WJC Photo]
Again looking east down Superior Avenue, this unused postcard view, dating between 1950 and 1960, shows the Finnish & Swedish (F. & S.) Mercantile Association store, the two-story brick building at the left, built in 1906. The sign for Rezin’s Walgreen Agency Drugs can be identified midway down the north side (left) of the street. [WJC Photo]
This postcard view from about 1940 again shows Superior Avenue looking east. The Finnish & Swedish (F & S) Mercantile Association building, a store advertising “SODAS”, the Rexall Drug Store, Rezin’s Walgreen Agency Drugs and Selmo’s Café, line the north side (left) of the street. [WJC Photo]
On the south (left) side of the street, Bacco’s Café, Excel’s City Shoe Shop and the bank with its tall Ionic columns can be identified. [WJC Photo]
Looking east from the clock tower in the Iron County Court House, this postcard view, copyrighted in 1924 by the Iron Range Studio, Iron River, Michigan, shows Superior Avenue with lots of automobile traffic. The Crystal Falls City Hall with its tall tower is easily identified on the south side (right) of the street. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked October 3, 1961, this colored postcard view again shows Superior Avenue looking east. The Crystal Inn, the F. & S. store and the Rexall Drug Store are on the north side (right) of the street, while the brick city hall building dominates the south side (left). [WJC Photo]
The Iron County Courthouse in Crystal Falls, Michigan, an imposing castle-like structure built in 1890, stands at the head of Superior Avenue commanding a view of the main street of the city and the scenic panorama of the valley at its feet. On a clear day one can stand on the tower balcony and see neighboring Iron Mountain across the hills some 20 miles away. The brick structure, described as "to the Queen’s taste" and "the finest building Northwest of Milwaukee or Detroit" in 1891, was named to the National Register of Historic Places in February 1975 – the first such site to be named in the Iron County area.
On February 28, 1889, a resolution was adopted to remove the County seat to Iron River and that matter placed before the electors at the ensuing spring elections. Election results showed a total of 2,193 votes cast on the issue with 1,050 favoring removal and 1,142 being against the proposed change. This appears to have settled the controversy, and as the stipulation exacted by the taxpayers vote at the launching of the County, that no courthouse be constructed for a period of five years, was not nearing fulfillment, the more public spirited leaders turned their energies in this direction.

A committee recommended the raising of $30,000 for the purpose and that the proposition be placed before the electors at the forthcoming annual Township elections. The bond issue was approved by a vote of 1,164 to 567, and on April 22, the Board proceeded with the steps necessary to carry out the mandate.
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J.C. Clancy, an architect of national reputation, designed the building, characteristic of the Romanesque revival period with its high-pitched roof, high windows, deeply arched doorways, and exterior ornamentation. The contractor for the building was Louis A. Webber, whose low bid of $26,470 was accepted by the County Board. However, Webber had some problems in completing his contract due to personal illness and the County Board was forced to call in another contractor to finish the work.

Work on the building started in July 1890. By November the walls were erected as high as the ceiling on the second story and part of the roof was on. In February 1891, plastering and the installing of black oak were in progress. By May the tower was near completion and the 17-foot high statues of Law, Mercy, and Justice were placed in position.
The clock in the tower was not added until some time later, the funds being by public subscription. It was wound weekly by a succession of local jewelers. The clock, made by one of the finest clock companies in the United State, the Howard Company, has four faces, and according to one jeweler, one of the biggest problems is keeping the hands on all sides synchronized. In the early days, before electrification, the weights, wound by a windlass, took fifteen to twenty minutes to wind. The largest weight for the strider weighs about a half-ton. Beneath the clock on a balcony is a huge bell, which on a clear day could be heard over four miles away. The hammer, which strikes the bell, weighs over fifty pounds. The bell is hung on eight by eight timbers that were replaced in 1974. During World War II, the balcony was used for air watches by the Civilian Defense.
This postcard view of the Iron County Court House was postmarked October 23, 1909. The building exhibits characteristics of Romanesque architecture which was popular for public buildings in the late nineteenth century. Note the architectural details on the court house, including the statue, the clock tower and bell, and the 1890 date of erection on the second-story level of the clock tower. [WJC Photo]
Dating between 1940 and 1950, this postcard view shows the Iron County Court House at the head of Superior Avenue and the Crystal Falls Post Office on the south (left) side of the street. Note the ivy climbing the walls of the court house. [WJC Photo]
Iron County Court House, Head of Superior Avenue, Crystal Falls, Iron County, Michigan
(left) ca. 1940-1950 and (right) ca. 1960-1970
Souvenir Miniature Pitcher of the Iron County Court House, ca. 1910-1915 [WJC Photo]
Souvenir Miniature Pitcher of the Iron County Court House, ca. 1910-1915 [WJC Photo]
The LaFrance fire engine, weighing 9,000 pounds, was the pride of the Crystal Falls Fire Department, located in the Crystal Falls City Hall on the south side of Superior Avenue. Dating between 1920 and 1925, this postcard view shows William H. Cummings seated at the wheel of the fire engine and Fire Chief Clyde Henry standing on the running board. [WJC Photo]
This detail shows the brass bell, several lanterns, a spotlight and the siren, as well as other equipment on the La France Fire Engine driven by William H. Cummings with Fire Chief Clyde Henry.
CUMMINGS SAVES CARPENTER MINE LOCATION – 1

The Diamond Drill, Crystal Falls, Iron County, Michigan, 36th Year, Number 14 [Friday, April 13, 1923], page 1, column 4

TRUCK SAVED LOCATION

Carpenter Mine Location Would Have Burned This Morning But For City Fire Service

One house burned to the ground and two others slightly damaged is the result of a fire at the Carpenter mine this morning. The city fire truck pounded its way through the snow, arriving in time to quench the fire on the two slightly affected buildings and to keep the flames from spreading. Mine officials say the truck saved the location.

The house burned was occupied by two families, those of Frank Grainger [sic – Granger] and Frank Ballo [sic – Bello]. The occupants lost most of their belongings.
HOUSE FIRED BY EXPLOSION

LIGHTED BRANDS HURLED FROM BURNING SHACK CAUSED FIRE

SAY IT WAS BLACK POWDER

Reports Are That a Still Blew Up
But That Doesn’t Seem To Tab Out
The fire at the Carpenter Mine last Friday was caused by burning brands that were hurled from a shack that caught fire and burned before the houses were fired. The shack stood nearly 200 feet from the houses. What caused the shack fire isn’t clear. Some who are well posted say that the place was a “shine factory” and it is suspected that the fire was communicated from a distilling apparatus. At any rate there are attendant circumstances that would point that way.

What Caused the Explosion.

Suddenly there was an explosion in the ruins of the shack and burning brands were hurled through the air. One large timber pierced the roof of the house occupied by the Granger and Bello family and set that place afire.

The cause of the explosion is somewhat shrouded in mystery but the story that looks to be the most probable is that the inhabitants of the shack had swiped some dynamite or some black powder from the mine; that it was stored in the dug-out under the house and the heat caused it to explode. Dynamite doesn’t explode when fired as a general thing but black powder does.
Then there is the theory that a still blew up. It is questionable if a still such as would be concealed in the shack would produce force enough to cast the brands so far. At any rate one can draw his own conclusion.

Firemen’s work Well Done.

At any rate, the work of the truck and the fire department was well done and merits praise. Will Cummings, who was driving the truck[,] didn’t chance following the road. He turned onto the railroad tracks at the Odgers and followed them to the Tobin crossing where he again took the road and there was ice enough to hold up the truck and allow him to reach the location. At one point he went off the road but the McKinney Steel team was waiting and with its help he got back on and drove his truck right to the engine house.

The firemen strung 1,200 feet of hose, the pump was attached to the water mains and in a short time the flames were under control. Several times the adjoining houses were fired but each time the flames were quenched.
William H. Cummings was the driver of the LaFrance Fire Engine, pictured inside the Crystal Falls City Hall. Note the chains on the wheels. [WJC Photo]
The MASONIC BUILDING on the NORTH side of Superior Avenue, Crystal Falls, Iron County, Michigan
Located on the south side of Superior Avenue, the Wills Hardware Company was prepared for the Annual Bass Festival – Paint River – July 3, 1938. Note the huge bass fish in the window display in honor of this annual event. [WJC Photo]
The Chicago & Northwestern Railway arrived in Crystal Falls in late February or early March, 1882. The depot was located on Superior Avenue, part way down the hill to the east. Postmarked October 28, 1915, this postcard view shows two passenger cars and two conductors, as well as a water tank in the background. A dray wagon waits ready to be loaded with items delivered to the city by rail, and an early automobile is parked on the other side of the horse. [WJC Photo]
“The Lockwood” was the first hotel built in Crystal Falls. This engraving appeared in Walter R. Nursey’s book *The Menominee Iron Range*, published in 1891. [WJC Photo]
The Lockwood Hotel, already under construction by mid-February, 1882, was located on the northeast corner of Superior Avenue and Fourth Street. D.C. Lockwood was the proprietor of the large, three-story building with a frontage of 58 feet on Superior Avenue and a depth of 46 feet on the east. The Lockwood Hotel burned to the ground on Wednesday, August 8, 1918. Theresa DeLand’s charred body was found in the ruins of the gutted building. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked September 11, 1931, this postcard view shows Crystal Inn, which was constructed where the Lockwood Hotel stood, opening to the public in 1923. Note the early cars parked on the east side of the three-story brick building. [WJC Photo]
This unused postcard view, dating between 1923 and 1930, again shows Crystal Inn Hotel, long a favorite place to stay and eat in Crystal Falls. It served as a nursing home for some years under the name Crystal Manor and recently was converted into apartments. [WJC Photo]
This 1908 postcard view of the “High School, Crystal Falls, Mich.”, was constructed in 1906 at a cost of $50,000, and was razed in 1971 at a cost of $6,850. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked July 15, 1915, a large group of students posed outside of the Crystal Falls High School. The three-story brick structure was constructed in 1906 and fell to the wrecking ball in 1971. Note the iron fence surrounding the school yard and the newly-constructed Forest Park School in the back at the right. [WJC Photo]
Souvenir Small Ornamental Dish, Crystal Falls High School, ca. 1910-1915

[WJC Photo]
Crystal Falls High School Class of 1911: (back row, left to right) Mrs. Al (Bertha Erickson) Burridge, daughter of Capt. Erickson of the Dunn Mine; Mrs. Joe (Edna Bjork) Leonard, daughter of Capt. Arvid Bjork of the Bristol Mine; Ella Corbett, Ed Burling, John Cassidy, son of John Cassidy and later manual training teacher at Crystal Falls High School; Sigrid Stolberg, Vina Russell, who later taught grade school at Crystal Falls; and Mrs. George (Mary Jacka) Wilson.
Crystal Falls High School Class of 1911: (middle row, left to right) Emma Savlin, Leola Robbins, Mrs. Otto (Hazel Parks) Gundstrom; Acting Principal Crane, Margaret Russell; Mrs. Abe (Mabel Richards) Gundstrom and Bertha Schroeder; (seated, left to right) Mrs. Fred (Eunice Miller) Morrell; Annie Savian and Mrs. William (Sophia Pfeiffer) Cummings, daughter of Gottlieb and Katrina (Schmid) Pfeiffer. [Identified by Sophia (Pfeiffer) Cummings] [WJC Photo]
This unused postcard view of the Crystal Falls High School was printed between 1940 and 1950. [WJC Photo]
Dating between 1950 and 1960, this postcard view of Crystal Falls High School, shows the two-story, round, white cylinder at the right of the building which was a fire escape with a spiral slide inside. The feet of the first person down the slide kicked open the doors at the bottom. [WJC Photo]
New Forest Park School, Cost Over $150,000, Crystal Falls, Mich.

This black-and-white halftone postcard view, postmarked March 28, 1914, shows the “New Forest Park School” which cost over $150,000 to build. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked February 1, 1920, this postcard view shows the Science, Art and Training School – the Forest Park School – from the back. [WJC Photo]
Ground was broken for the construction of the General Hospital on October 30, 1938. This unused postcard view dates from between 1950 and 1960. [WJC Photo]
The Methodist Episcopal Church (left), seen on an unused postcard dating between 1907 and 1918, was located on the southeast corner of Fifth Street and Marquette Avenue. The Little Stone Church – Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church – (right), was constructed in 1902 according to the cornerstone. The unused postcard dates between 1920 and 1930. [WJC Photo]
St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, built in the 1950’s, Crystal Falls, Iron County, Michigan
ca. 1950-1960
This unused postcard view, dating between 1920 and 1930, shows a residential area on Fifth Street in Crystal Falls, Michigan. Note the early automobiles on the street. [WJC Photo]
Sons of Herman, a German fraternal organization in Crystal Falls, Michigan, pictured in about 1890-1900: (back row, left to right) Mr. Breining, Mr. Cameron, Jacob “Jake” Bender, Richard Wehse, John Bauer (married to Caroline Schmid). [WJC Photo]
Sons of Herman, a German fraternal organization in Crystal Falls, Michigan, pictured in about 1890-1900: (middle row, left to right) Adolph Sutter, Frederick Schmid, Jacob “Jake” Bauer, Sr. (brother to John Bauer and father to Rose Bauer Schmid, wife of Frederick Schmid), Jacob Bauer, Jr., son of Jacob “Jake” Bauer, Sr.); (front row, left to right) Ernest Deile, Casper Aberley and Gottlieb Pfeiffer. The photograph was taken by James McCourt, a Crystal Falls photographer. [Sophia (Pfeiffer) Cummings identified the members.] [WJC Photo]
Crystal Falls Mineral Springs, Crystal Falls, Iron County, Michigan
ADVERTISEMENTS FROM WALTER R. NURSEY’S *THE MENOMINEE IRON RANGE*, 1891

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**The Diamond Drill,**

*Published Every Saturday.*

Seven Column Quarto, with Five Column Folio Supplement.


The Diamond Drill is not in a rut, but on the contrary is abreast with the times and always alive to the interests of City, County and locality in which it is printed.

No pains or expense is spared getting The Diamond Drill Mining News, and it can always be counted on as being absolutely correct and reliable.

Subscriptions, $2.00 per year; sample copies sent free on application. Its Extensive Circulation and Newsy Columns make it a Superior Advertising Medium. Rates on application.

Job Department Complete. Special Facilities for Handling Large Work on Short Notice.

Address, THE DIAMOND DRILL, CRYSTAL FALLS, MICH.

C. M. ATKINSON, Proprietor.

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**PETER LARSON.**

**Sole Owner Of**

Crystal Falls Bottling Works

**MINERAL WATER**

Bottled At The Springs, No Other Used In The Manufacture Of

Larson’s Ginger Ale,
Larson’s Champagne Cider,
Larson’s Cream Soda,
Larson’s Orange Cider,
Birch Beer and all other Carbon Waters.

**SAMPLES SENT ON APPLICATION.**

The Crystal Falls Mineral Water as Analysed by Prof. V. C. Vaughan, is Superior to the Celebrated Bethesda Water.
ADVERTISEMENTS FROM WALTER R. NURSEY'S THE MENOMINEE IRON RANGE, 1891

Abstracts of Title
To all lands in Iron County.
Maps and diagrams prepared.
Real estate transferred.
Taxes paid for non-residents.
Correspondence solicited.

ROGERS & McCLINTOCK,
CRYSTAL FALLS, MICHIGAN.

Joseph Sellwood, J. H. Parks, O. D. Kinney,
President, Vice-Pres., Cashier.

THE
Bank of Crystal Falls
CRYSTAL FALLS, MICH.
Transacts a General Banking Business, Sells Foreign
and Domestic Exchange. Agents for the leading
Steamship Lines and Fire Insurance
Companies. Collections made at
Lowest Rates.

CORRESPONDENTS: Chase National Bank of New York; Continental National
Bank of Chicago; Plankinton Bank of Milwaukee.

D. A. KITTO,
Contractor and Builder
Buildings of every class erected with dispatch.
Architectural plans carefully carried out.
Correspondence solicited.

CRYSTAL FALLS, MICHIGAN.

A. L. FLEWELLING,
Attorney-at-Law,
Dunn Block, Crystal Falls.
ADVERTISEMENTS FROM WALTER R. NURSEY’S THE MENOMINEE IRON RANGE, 1891

Crystal Falls Opera House
WM. DOUCET, PROPR.
CENTRALLY LOCATED.
Finest Auditorium and most complete Stage Appointments north of Milwaukee. New and First Class in every respect. Seating capacity 1200.
CRYSTAL FALLS, - - - MICHIGAN.
The City conceded to be the best Show Town on the Menominee Range.

“THE FAIR.”
A. LUSTFIELD, Prop.,
MAMMOTH
Dry Goods & Clothing Emporium
HEADQUARTERS FOR
Carpets, Cloaks, Hats, Shoes, Trunks and Everything Else Carried in a Strictly First Class Store.
The Oldest and Largest Establishment in Crystal Falls, Michigan.

CAMPBELL & SON.
DEALERS IN
Drugs, Medicines,
Paints, Oils, Toilet Goods, Cigars,
Pipes, Tobaccos, Stationery, Wall Paper, Notions of All Kinds,
Cutlery and Ammunition.
Prescriptions Carefully Compounded by Day or Night.
SUPERIOR AVE. - CRYSTAL FALLS.

F. G. CLARK, C. E.
MINING ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR
Agent for the celebrated BUCHANAN IRON AND COMBINATION TRUSS BRIDGE CO., of Bellefontaine, Ohio.
Particular attention to the Examination of Lands for Minerals, and the Superintendence of Exploratory Work.
OFFICE IN DUNN BLOCK, CRYSTAL FALLS, MICH.
ADVERTISEMENTS FROM WALTER R. NURSEY’S THE MENOMINEE IRON RANGE, 1891

JAS. McCOURT,
PHOTOGRAPHER
PORTRAITS TAKEN BY IMPROVED PROCESS.
VIEWS A SPECIALTY.
A large collection of views of Mines and points of interest in the Menominee Range always on hand. A number of the scenes in this book are reproductions from Mr. McCourt’s photographs.
ORDERS BY MAIL RECEIVE ATTENTION.
STUDIO, SUPERIOR STREET.

THE CRYSTAL FALLS CLIPPER,
H. P. ANDERSEN, EDITOR AND PROP.
(CRYSTAL FALLS, MICHIGAN)

Glendale Addition.
This Beautiful Addition to the Village of Crystal Falls, recently platted, is now open. The Glendale Addition is situated within two Blocks of the County Court House, with Main Line of Water Works and Electric Lights running through it. Lots for Sale at Prices and on Terms to Suit the Purchaser.
FOR PARTICULARS APPLY TO H. W. HARTE, A. FLEWELLING, GEO. EISMAN,
CRYSTAL FALLS, MICHIGAN.

SPECIAL ATTENTION GIVEN TO THE TRANSPORTATION OF HUNTING AND CAMPING PARTIES.
HOLLISTER & CO.,
LIVERY,
SUPERIOR AVE., CRYSTAL FALLS, MICH.

OPERA.
CHARLES R. KIRBEY,
CIGAR MANUFACTURER.
CRYSTAL FALLS, MICH.

JOHN FISHER,
DEALER IN
Beef, Veal, GROCERIES Mutton, Pork,
Salt and Smoked Meats of All Kinds, Fruits, General Produce, Game and Fish in Season, Canned Goods, Flour, Feed, Hay, etc.
SUPERIOR STREET, CRYSTAL FALLS.
ADVERTISEMENTS FROM WALTER R. NURSEY’S *THE MENOMINEE IRON RANGE*, 1891

**THE LOCKWOOD,**
SAX & BRAZEE, PROPR’RS.
CRYSTAL FALLS, MICH.

*Special Attention to Hunting and Fishing Parties*

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**BURGER & CO.**
Iron, Steel and Nails
Mine, Mill and Lumbermen’s Supplies,
Superior Avenue, Crystal Falls, Mich.

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**CRYSTAL FALLS LUMBER CO.,**
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS IN:
SASH, DOORS, BLINDS, LUMBER LATH AND SHINGLES.
BRICK, HAIR LIME AND CEMENT. ALL KINDS OF BUILDING MATERIAL. WAGONS, BUGGIES, SLEIGHS AND CUTTERS.
DEALERS IN REAL ESTATE—LOTS FOR SALE—GLENDALE ADDITION.
YARD AND OFFICE, West Third Street.
This undivided back postcard, postmarked March 27, 1906, shows the Crystal Falls Water Works and Power House. The large amount of white space on the front was for the message which could not legally be written on the back which contained the address only. [WJC Photo]
This postcard view of the Crystal Falls Water Works and Power House on the Paint River dates from between 1915 and 1930. Today’s city-owned power plant supplies one third of the town’s electricity. Note the iron bridge in the upper left and the houses in the upper right. [WJC Photo]
Souvenir Small Drinking Glass, Crystal Falls, ca. 1910-1915
[WJC Photo]
Way Dam, located on the Michigamme River east of Crystal Falls in Mansfield Township, was built in about 1940. This unused postcard view dates between 1950 and 1960. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked October 11, 1961, this postcard view shows Way Dam, located east of Crystal Falls in Mansfield Township. [WJC Photo]
This unused postcard view, dating between 1940 and 1950, shows the Department of Conservation office building and garage located north of Crystal Falls. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked September 12, 1907, this tinted halftone postcard view shows an unidentified mine near Crystal Falls. Note the shaft housing and huge stockpile at the right, as well as the steam engine and loaded ore cars. [WJC Photo]
The Carpenter Mine was opened in 1913 by the Hanna Furnace Company. Ore was shipped from 1914 to 1928, and the mining works were used again between 1954 and 1956 to get to the ore in the neighboring Lawrence Exploration. This unused postcard view probably dates between 1915 and 1930. The property description is NW-SW Sec. 31 T43N R32W, which is the 40 acres between N46°4'34", N46°4'47", W88°21'42", and W88°22'1". [WJC Photo]
This unused postcard view, dating between 1950 and 1960, shows an unidentified iron mine near Crystal Falls in Iron County, Michigan. [WJC Photo]
These two early postcard photographs, dating between 1912 and 1920, show men gathering ice on Runkel Lake near Crystal Falls. William H. Cummings is the man with the pole second from the right below, and also in the center in the photograph above. [WJC Photo]
FORTUNE LAKE, Iron County: Although the mine property here had been explored in 1915 and again in 1920, and a shaft sunk, no ore was produced until Pickands took it over in 1952. The railroad and highway were relocated, and mining began, the first ore coming up in 1953. Fortune Lake is now a developed recreation area.
This unused postcard view, dating between 1950 and 1960, shows Be-Wa-Bic Park at Fortune Lake. This section of a virgin pine tree, exemplifying the size of the logs cut in the early years, and the set of big wheels used in logging to get cut timber out of the woods when there was no snow for sleighs were exhibited at Be-Wa-Bic Park for the tourists to examine. [WJC Photo]
This unused halftone postcard view, dating between 1930 and 1940, shows “The Lake Shore at Bewabic Park, Fortune Lake, Crystal Falls, Mich.” Note the shuffleboard courts with shaded seating, the pavilion at the edge of the lake and the raft with diving platform in the swimming area. [WJC Photo]
Another unused postcard view dating from between 1940 and 1950 shows the shuffleboard courts with shaded seating, the pavilion at the edge of the lake and the raft with diving platform in the swimming area at Be-Wa-Bic Park, Fortune Lake. [WJC Photo]
HEMATITE TOWNSHIP

Hematite Township was established in 1891 when Felch Township, formerly a part of Iron County, became a part of newly-formed Dickinson County.

- **AMASA**
- **BALSAM**, Iron County: Balsam was a settlement with a station on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, 4 miles southeast of Amasa, in 1884. Frank C. Deming became its first postmaster on February 13, 1909, but the office was closed on November 15 of the same year. Balsam was named after the tree which dominates the area.
- **NET RIVER**, Iron County: See Parks Siding.
- **PARKS SIDING**
- **PORTER**, Iron County: Porter was also called Amasa Porter. The Nevada Mining Company developed a mine here in 1914. A sand cave-in resulted in the death of 16 miners on February 21, 1918. Located five miles south of Amasa, the settlement was probably named for industrialist H.H. Porter.
- **ROSEBUSH RANCH**, Iron County: See Triangle Ranch.
HEMATITE TOWNSHIP

- **TRIANGLE RANCH.** Iron County: Triangle Ranch was also called Rosebush Ranch for Judson Rosebush, of Appleton, Wisconsin, who founded it as an experimental cattle ranch in 1920. The project was given up during the Depression in the 1930’s.

Hematite Township was established in 1891 when Felch Township, formerly a part of Iron County, became a part of newly-formed Dickinson County.
AMASA, HEMATITE TOWNSHIP

AMASA, Iron County: Iron ore croppings were first discovered here along the shore of the Hemlock River by Matthew Gibson, and his son Thoburn Gibson in 1888. When sufficient ores had been uncovered, the property was taken over by the Hemlock River Mining Company, a subsidiary of the Pickands, Mather Company. The village which the mining company platted in October, 1890, west of the workings, was first named Hemlock, but it was soon renamed for the father-in-law of Col. Henry S. Pickands, Amasa Stone Mather. Amasa was a station on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad. Frederick F. Sanford became its first postmaster on March 7, 1891.
This printed halftone postcard identified as “Birdseye View of Amasa, Mich.” was postmarked April 12, 1911. Reproduced in Jack Hill’s A History of Iron County, Michigan, the view was dated to about 1907. [WJC Photo]
Despite the misspelling of Amasa as “Omasa” and the typographical error omitting the “l” in Beautiful, this unused halftone postcard view, probably dating between 1910 and 1920, shows another “Birdseye View of Amasa, Mich.” The word play with “You ‘Auto’ Pay Us a Visit” indicates the popularity of touring in automobiles when they became affordable to the common man, largely due to Henry Ford’s Model T. [WJC Photo]
This multiview colored, printed postcard, dating between 1910 and 1915, shows six views of Amasa, including three views of the business district. All of these views would have been made into individual postcards at the time.  [WJC Photo]
This postcard view of Amasa’s main street, looking east, dating between 1910 and 1918, shows the Premo Hotel halfway down the street on the left with the balcony running across the front and side. The Amasa House is the building at the right. Note the enclosed exterior stairway leading to the second floor. Board sidewalks line the unpaved street on both sides. The building with the bell in the belfrey must be either the town hall or a school. [WJC Photo]
In Roy L. Dodge’s *Michigan Ghost Towns: Upper Peninsula Volume III*, Frank Steddick was listed as proprietor of the Amasa House in 1905, and William Hermansen was operating the hotel in 1927. This unused postcard view dates between 1910 and 1918. [WJC Photo]
In Roy L. Dodge’s *Michigan Ghost Towns: Upper Peninsula Volume III*, in the entry for 1915, George Primeau [*sic – Premo*] was listed as running a hotel in 1915 in Amasa. This unused postcard view dates between 1910 and 1918. [*WJC Photo*]
PARKS SIDING, HEMATITE TOWNSHIP

PARKS SIDING, Iron County: This lumber settlement, on a siding of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad, was founded by and named for John Parks, a local lumberman. From its location just west of the Net River, it was given a post office as Net River on December 9, 1907, with Herbert E. Hessetine as its first postmaster. The post office operated until May 31, 1910.
This unused postcard view probably dates to about 1907 and shows O.A. Wade’s Hunting Camp at Park Siding in Iron County, Michigan. The construction is typical of that seen in logging camps at the time. Note the antlers and deerskins at the corner of the roof, the boards placed for a walkway and the bench underneath the window next to the door. [WJC Photo]
Presentation Continues with Part 2
**ARMSTRONG**, Iron County: Armstrong was a station on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad in 1882, and was in Marquette County until Iron County was organized in 1885.

**ATKINSON**, Iron County: In about 1887, the Metropolitan Lumber Company, under the direction of J.K. Stack and Henry M. Atkinson, secured extensive pine holdings along the north and south branches of the Paint River. They built a large sawmill and general store and began the village, named for Mr. Atkinson, who supervised the firm’s operations here. Thomas G. Atkinson, secretary of the company, became the first postmaster on March 12, 1892. The post office was closed on October 14, 1905, and the village has now reverted into farmland. When the new township was organized in 1892, it was named for the same Mr. Atkinson.

**BALSAM**, Iron County: Balsam was a settlement with a station on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, 4 miles southeast of Amasa, in 1884. Frank C. Deming became its first postmaster on February 13, 1909, but the office was closed on November 15 of the same year. Balsam was named after the tree which dominates the area.

**BASSWOOD**, Iron County: Basswood was a station on a branch of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, 12 miles southeast of Watersmeet, in 1894. A number of these railroad stops were named after forest trees.

**CADIZ**, Iron County: Cadiz was the take-off point of a spur track of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad leading to the early Chicago Lake Mine in Sec. 26 T 43 R 34.
**CLINCH**, Iron County:  Emily V. Leece became the first postmaster of this rural post office on October 20, 1899, the office operating until June 30, 1900.

**DUNN/DUNN MINE**, Iron County: Dunn was a settlement around the Dunn Iron Mining Company, with a station on the Menominee River branch of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad in 1884. The depot was named Dunn Mine, as was its post office, which opened April 11, 1890, with Nelson J. Webb as its first postmaster. The name of the post office was shortened to Dunn on October 31, 1894, but closed on November 30, 1900.

**EARLE**, Iron County: With the development of the Rogers Mine, Dr. George Washington Earle, director of the Wisconsin Land & Lumber Company, from 1889, platted and recorded the village of Earle on his lands in Bates Township in September, 1913, but the project failed and was abandoned.

**ELMWOOD**, Iron County: When opened in 1887, this depot on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad was named Paint River, since it was near the Paint River. The settlement was given a post office as Paint River on November 15, 1887, with John F. Brenvel as its first postmaster. The spelling was changed to Paintriver on February 8, 1895, but the office was closed on July 31, 1901. The station was renamed Elmwood by 1898.
GAASTRA, Iron County: The tract upon which the city is located was selected by Alfred Kidder, of Marquette, in 1879, and he received his patent to it in 1881. Kidder conveyed it to Andrew Young in 1884. Edwin H. Piper owned it in 1902, and in October, 1908, Douwe Gaastra, a building contractor and real estate speculator, bought it and platted the village named for him. Merchant Olaf A. Olson became its first postmaster on September 26, 1914, serving until he retired in 1953. Gaastra was incorporated as a village in 1919 and as a city in 1949.

GIBBS CITY, Iron County: Gibbs City was a sawmill settlement on the Paint River; named for R.F. Gibbs, a hardwood lumberman, who operated here from 1913 to 1921. Ame E. Raidle became its first postmaster on May 24, 1917, the office operating until October 31, 1952. Gibbs City is now a ghost town.

GREAT WESTERN, Iron County: A mine was discovered and opened here by Solomon D. Hollister and George Runkle [sic – Runkel] in 1881, operated by the Great Western Mining Company. The mine is now inactive and reportedly a reserve holding. Its settlement was given a station on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad in 1884.

HAZEL, Iron County: Hazel was a spur take-off from the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad to the lumber communities in the area in the 1880’s. Like several others of these stops, it was named after forest trees. Its post office was Beechwood.

HEMLOCK, Iron County: See Amasa.
IRON RIVER JUNCTION, Iron County: See Stager.

KELSO JUNCTION, Iron County: Kelso Junction is believed to have been named for C.E. Kelso, of Manistique, a lumber and railroad company executive.

MANSFIELD, Iron County: The adjacent mine was developed by the Mansfield Mining Company. The village was platted in 1889 by W.S. Calhoun, who had discovered ore in profitable quantities here. The railroad was extended to the site in 1890, and John Erikson became the first postmaster on July 23, 1891. The waters of the Michigamme River seeped into the mine workings in September, 1893, and brought death to 27 miners. By providing a new channel for the river, the mine was later redeemed and was operated for some years by the Oliver Iron Mining Company. The post office was closed on May 15, 1913.

MAPLETON, Iron County: Mapleton, a farming community and the seat of Bates Township government, was located in an area of dense maple forests. Storekeeper Michael Krick became its first postmaster on July 26, 1910.

MASTODON, Iron County: See Alpha.

MASTODON MINE, Iron County: Alfred Breitung, of Marquette, opened the Mastodon Mine in 1881. Louis Newman became the first postmaster of its settlement on January 21, 1884. The post office was closed on November 12, 1887, but was restored from April 3, 1888 to February 13, 1896. After the village of Mastodon took the name Alpha, the village of Mastodon Mine became known as Mastodon. It was in Marquette County until Iron County was organized in 1885.
MAYWOOD, Iron County: Maywood was a station on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad. Charles Shaw became its first postmaster on August 22, 1900, the post office operating until December 14, 1903.

MINERAL HILLS, Iron County: Named from the very productive iron bearing hills in the area, Mineral Hills was incorporated as a village in 1918.

MONONGAHELA, Iron County: Monongahela was a mining location, its name reflecting the interests of Pittsburg iron industrialists in the area.

NANAIMO, Iron County: See Iron River.

NET RIVER, Iron County: See Parks Siding.

NEW CASPIAN, Iron County: See Caspian.

NEWTOWN, Iron County: See Caspian.

PAINT RIVER, Iron County: See Elmwood.
PALATKA, Iron County: See Caspian.

PANOLA, Iron County: Panola was a spur take-off from the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad in 1884. The pine and blueberry plains lying east of here are known as Panola Plains.

PARKS SIDING, Iron County: This lumber settlement, on a siding of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad, was founded by and named for John Parks, a local lumberman. From its location just west of the Net River, it was given a post office as Net River on December 9, 1907, with Herbert E. Hesetine as its first postmaster. The post office operated until May 31, 1910.
PENTOGA, Iron County:  In 1896, Herman Velguth secured a large tract of timberlands southwest of Chicagon Lake and built a sawmill on the south shore of Indian Lake. This mill site became known as Pentoga, but before milling operations began, Velguth sold out to the **Hood & Mahoney Lumber Company** which moved the mill 2 ½ miles south to a site near the railroad and the river. The company retained the mill site name and their operations resulted in the establishment of the village of Pentoga in 1900. On March 27, 1900, Francis G. Hood became Pentoga’s first postmaster and the settlement was given a station on the Chicago & Western Michigan Railroad. Pentoga’s post office operated until January 30, 1937. The village was named for **Pentoga Edwards**, wife of John Edwards, chief of the local Chippewas. Pentoga is now a ghost town, but a county park on Chicagon Lake retains her name.

PORTER, Iron County:  Porter was also called Amasa Porter. The **Nevada Mining Company** developed a mine here in 1914. A sand cave-in resulted in the death of 16 miners on February 21, 1918. Located five miles south of Amasa, the settlement was probably named for industrialist H.H. Porter.
ROGERS, Iron County: The Rogers-Brown Mining Company developed the Rogers Mine in about 1912 and built homes for the miners and their families. The village is also referred to as the Rogers Location or simply as the Rogers.

ROSEBUSH RANCH, Iron County: See Triangle Ranch.

SAUNDERS, Iron County: See Scott Lake.

SCOTT LAKE, Iron County: Named after a local pioneer family, this station on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, built about 1883, was named Saunders Spur, and later just Saunders. It became the site of the C. Hatterberg Lumber Company veneer mill in 1889. On June 13, 1889, it was given a post office as Saunders, with Robert Barclay as its first postmaster. It is now a farming community.

SPRING VALLEY, Iron County: See Palatka.

STAGER, Iron County: Harvey Mellen, a U.S. land surveyor, discovered iron ore in this district in 1851, but the mining of iron ore did not begin until 1882. In that year the district was opened when the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad reached Iron River, with a spur from Iron River Junction, now Stager. Stager Lake is nearby and the name is understood to refer to a stag or deer.
TAMARACK, Iron County: Tamarack was a spur take-off from the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad to the lumbering communities in the area. Like several others of these stops, it was named after forest trees.

TRIANGLE RANCH, Iron County: Triangle Ranch was also called Rosebush Ranch for Judson Rosebush, of Appleton, Wisconsin, who founded it as an experimental cattle ranch in 1920. The project was given up during the Depression in the 1930’s.