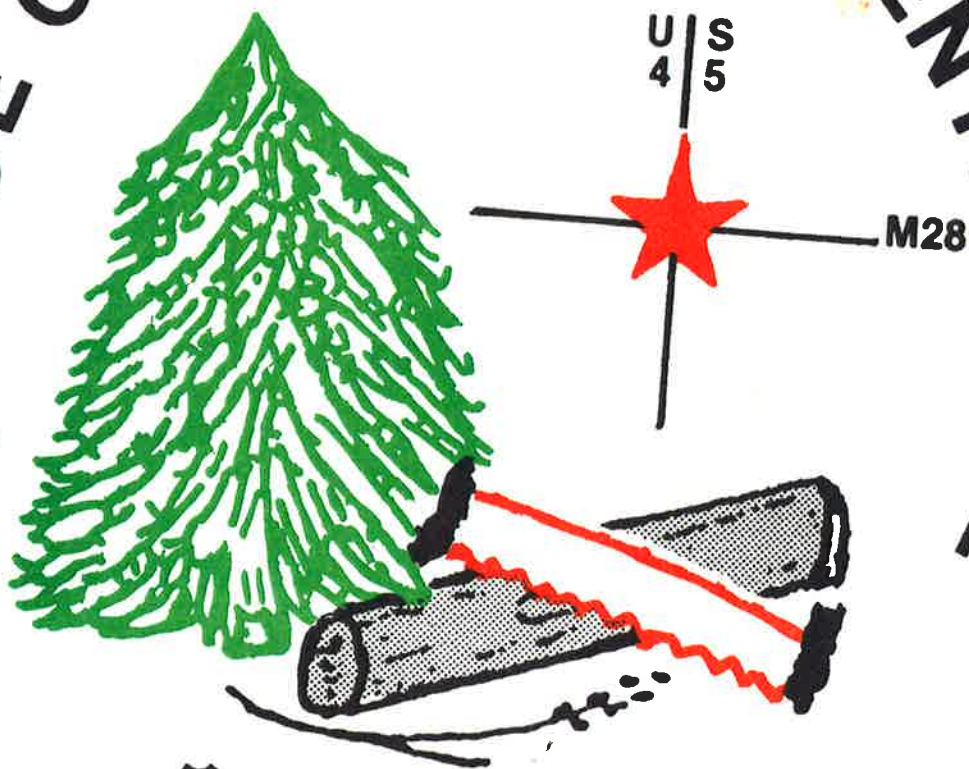


**BRUCE CROSSING, MI., CENTENNIAL**



**1886 - 1986**

## *Golden Honor Roll*



*Citizens* STATE BANK

Ontonagon — Mass City — White Pine

Tulppo's Copper Drift Lounge & Restaurant — Bruce Crossing, Michigan

State Bank of Ewen — Ewen, Michigan

Hansome Prints — Ironwood, Michigan

Digger's Alley — Bruce Crossing, Michigan

Gil & Teresa Kotila, Used Cars, Nippa Sauna Stove — Bruce Crossing, Michigan

Townsite Timber Lodge — Bruce Crossing, Michigan

A & A Hardware, Arne Huhtala & Son — Bruce Crossing, Michigan

Settler's Cooperative Inc. — Bruce Crossing, Michigan

Big Valley Ford-Mercury, Inc. — Ewen, Michigan

Pump Haus, Art & Evonne Welch, Peter & Sheryl Welch — Bruce Crossing, Michigan

Joe's Restaurant, Marie & Joe Fencil — Bruce Crossing, Michigan

Willie & Luella Johnson and family — Houghton, Michigan

Midwest Computing, Bill Besonen — Lake Shore Drive, Ontonagon, Michigan

Ontonagon County Telephone Company — Ontonagon, Michigan

Brown Funeral Home - Monument Sales & Service, Dennis Brown — Bruce Crossing

Nordine Foodland Stores — Bruce Crossing, Ewen, Bergland & Watersmeet

Binder's Bar, Lawrence & Hazel Pulkas — Bruce Crossing, Michigan

Stannard Township

Haight Township

Donald and Cass Joupperi — Bruce Crossing, Michigan

Dr. Everett Sandell D.D.S.

Roy Gotham, Probate Judge — Ontonagon, Michigan



## *Silver Honor Roll*

Fender Mender, Bruce Smith – Bruce Crossing, Michigan  
Flower Port & Hair Dock, Cora Ann Niemi – Bruce Crossing, Michigan  
Al's Used Auto, Alan Kurtti, – Bruce Crossing, Michigan  
Bruce Crossing Credit Union – Bruce Crossing, Michigan  
Coss Heating, James Coss – Bruce Crossing, Michigan  
Ontonagon Herald – Ontonagon, Michigan  
Ottawa Lions and Lioness  
Henry A. Holappa Post No. 9345 & Ladies Auxiliary  
Daniels Motel & Grocery – Paynesville, Michigan  
Scorpio, Dennis Niemi – Bruce Crossing, Michigan  
Big Spruce Golf Course, Dorothy & Tom Meisbauer – Bruce Crossing, Michigan  
Leskela Construction, Gerry Leskela – Bruce Crossing, Michigan  
Krimmer's Amusements, Richard Krimmer – Lily, Wisconsin 715-484-8960  
Ewen Building Supply, Ruben & Gary Fors – Ewen, Michigan  
Deepwoods Veterinary Service, John J. Talsma D.D.M. – Bruce Crossing, Michigan  
B.C. Auto Service, Roger Antilla, Certified Mechanic – Bruce Crossing, Michigan  
Gary W. Lange, Attorney at Law – Ontonagon, Michigan  
Gerry Perttula, Logger - Trucking – Trout Creek, Michigan

# **BRUCE CROSSING CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION PROGRAM**

## **Monday - May 26,**

Memorial Day Family Picnic.

We invite all families to join together for one large picnic to kick off the beginning of our Centennial Celebration. To be held at the Bruce Crossing Ballpark.

## **Saturday - June 14,**

Flag Day - Ethnic Day.

The Volunteer Fire Department will put up a variety of flags representing the different nationalities living in this area. Ethnic food will be available at the Bruce Crossing Ballpark. Fashion Show - Pavillion.

## **Saturday - June 28,**

Teen Queen Contest.

Winner will represent the Bruce Crossing Centennial Committee in the Miss Ontonagon County Queen Contest. Arts and Crafts show at the Co-op Hall.

## **Sunday - June 29,**

Horseshoe Tournament at Bruce Crossing Ballpark.

Country Music Showcase at Digger's Alley - Bruce Crossing.

## **Monday - June 30,**

Centennial Chorus and Adult King and Queen Contest.

Both to be held at Co-op Hall - Bruce Crossing.

## **Tuesday - July 1,**

Talent Show to be held at Co-op Hall - Bruce Crossing.

## **Wednesday - July 2,**

Community Play to be held at Co-op Hall - Bruce Crossing

## **Thursday - July 3,**

Carnival begins at the Bruce Crossing Ballpark.  
Time Capsule.

Concession Stands.  
Centennial Log Building Dedication.

## **Friday - July 4,**

Carnival continues.  
Kids Parade and Kids Races.  
Bingo at the Bruce Crossing V.F.W. Building.  
Small Fireworks Display.

Concession Stands.  
Gag or Good Auction.  
Dance at the Bruce Crossing Ballpark.

## **Saturday - July 5,**

Fun Run.  
Battle of the Bands.  
Concession Stands. Bingo at V.F.W.  
Beard and Mustache Contest.  
Dancing, afternoon and evening at Bruce Crossing Ballpark.

Big Parade.  
Carnival continues.  
Jail House - Keystone Cops.  
Centennial Costume Contest.  
Large Fireworks Display.

## **Sunday - July 6,**

Community-wide Church Services.  
Political Speakers.  
Concessions Stands. Bingo at V.F.W.  
All Stannard Township Schools Reunion - Bruce Crossing Ballpark.

Pancake Breakfast.  
Carnival concludes.  
Raffling of 1986 Ford Aerostar Van.



## **BRUCE CROSSING CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE**

Harold Remington, Chairman  
Judy LaMora, Secretary-Treasurer  
Terry Antilla  
Mabel Berger  
Pat Brown  
Tom Corda  
Edith Corda  
Kay Gibson  
Lola Jaakkola  
Art Korsman

Vicki Kurtti  
Robert LaMora  
Alice Linna  
Dan Linna  
Armida Maki  
Linda Maki  
Mary Ann Morris  
Carlene Niemi  
Cora Ann Niemi  
Jean Nordine

Dan Nordine  
Peggy Perttula  
Dick Polkky  
Joy Popke  
Paul Popke  
Hazel Pulkas  
Bruce Smith  
Mitzi Smith  
Pat Talsma  
Arlene Vlahos



### **Notes of Interest:**

Centennial Sweatshirts, T-shirts, Buttons and Hats will be available for sale all through the Centennial Celebration.

A History Book and a Cookbook will be on sale.

Registration will be held at the Korsman's Building west of Intersection. Coffee and bars will be served. Photos and Centennial Exhibits will be on display. Korsman's Building will be open to the public beginning May 1. Aerostar Van will also be on display there.

Oil Painting Exhibit to be held at Co-op Hall – Bruce Crossing beginning Saturday, June 28 through Saturday, July 5.

Centennial Cancellation Stamp will be used by the Bruce Crossing Post Office from March 1 through July 3. Centennial envelopes and postcards with first day cancellation are available.

## ***In Appreciation***

Mr. Neil Hansen, a past resident of Bruce Crossing, originally of Denmark, moved here in 1943. He purchased the Jonas Haapala farm one mile east of Bruce Crossing and farmed for five years. He also worked at the Ontonagon Valley Cooperative Creamery.

Upon his death, his estate of \$14,000 was bequeathed to the betterment of Standard Township.

The Bruce Crossing Centennial History Class greatly appreciates the contribution from the Neil Hansen Fund which helped to make this book possible.



**Neil Hansen**

# ORIGIN OF ONTONAGON COUNTY AND STANNARD TOWNSHIP

## ORIGIN OF ONTONAGON COUNTY

When Michigan became a state in 1837, the entire Upper Peninsula was just one county called Chippewa. By 1842 Ontonagon was buzzing with people and ships, mostly because of the copper mining around the area and Ontonagon was set off as a separate county in 1843. This later was subdivided into the townships of Ontonagon and Pewabic. Again Algonquin and Rockland were formed from Ontonagon Township in 1854, followed by Greenland in 1855, Bohemia in 1884, Bessemer and Ironwood in 1886, Interior in 1889 and McMillan also in 1889. Carp Lake was formed from Pewabic in 1864. In 1897 Matchwood was added to the number making eight townships, namely - Ontonagon, Bohemia, Carp Lake, Interior, McMillan, Rockland, Greenland and Matchwood. Algonquin and Pewabic had dispersed sometime between 1864 and 1881. Gogebic County, all of which was once a part of Pewabic Township was organized in 1887 and took over Bessemer and Ironwood Townships. Haight Township was organized from Interior in 1889 and Stannard separated from McMillan in 1905. Then in 1912 Matchwood Township was divided to become Bergland and Matchwood. Thus by 1912 Ontonagon County had a total of eleven townships with no change since then.

## SEPARATION OF TOWNSHIPS

In March, 1905, the following petition was circulated in the Bruce Crossing, Paynesville, and Baltimore areas. "To the Members of the House of Representatives, Lansing, Michigan We, the undersigned, residents of McMillan Township, of the County of Ontonagon, State of Michigan, respectfully petition your Honorable body to divide said McMillan Township into two Townships by running a line from the northwest corner of Haight to southeast corner of Rockland with McMillan as shown on attached map red dotted line and form a new Township east of this line, to be known as Baltimore Township." It was signed by Peter Hansen, Michael Schmitt, Ed. Schmitt, Jas. N. Howlett, Wm. R. Howlett, A.L. Lathrop, G.H. Moore, S.T. McKercher, L.C. Fletcher, John E. Anderson, A.P. Buckless, Thos. Kivi, Louis Johnson, Peter Rehlich, E.J. Keeler, Matt Oinas, John Cogswell, Henry Prager, Fred Pletzke, Luther Fuller, Frank Haara, Axel Wuolikainen, Matt Ajala, Matt Lassila, John Gorsline, Adolf Anderson, W.E. Payne, Sidney Payne, H.S. Payne, W.J. Gorsline, Jas. Joslyn, Sophie Geister, John Smith, Dick Buckless, John Niemi, John Pelkola, Matt Mukkari, Robert Douslin, Wm. Bateman, Rome Eastman, Archie Belleville, Ed. Foster, Adam Laitila, Will Kleinlein, Chas. Juntti, Alex Turner, and George Binder.

Because of the growing dissatisfaction with the allocation of funds and lack of representation in local government, this second ticket was placed in nomination in McMillan in April 1905: Supervisor, Fred S. Ball; Clerk, Edwin Keeler; Treasurer, James Howlett; Commissioner, Barney Lindgren; Overseers, Matt Oinas, William Howlett, Helmer Hanson, Albert Sylvester; Justice, A.K. Barnes; Board of Review, August Wallen; Constables, Ed Schmitt, William Bateman, Joseph Wolfe, James Collins.

This makes two tickets in the township and it is reported that a lively fight is ensuing. — Ontonagon Herald, April 1905

The following articles taken from the Ontonagon Herald will describe events leading to the eventual separation and formation of Stannard Township.

### June 3, 1905 Working for Division Township

An effort is being made to divide McMillan Township. A bill has been introduced into the legislature for that purpose and is reported that it will undoubtedly be passed. It is proposed to set off the northeastern portion into a township to be known as

either Baltimore or Stannard. In this portion is located the hamlets of Bruce Crossing and Paynesville and has a population of about 300. This would leave Ewen in the parent township and give it a population of some 500.

Ewen and Bruce Crossing have not been working in harmony for some time. This is especially noticeable along spring election time. Ewen has the more voters and as they pull together closely, the Bruce Crossing contingent is left out in the cold. They feel that their portion of the township is being slighted when it comes to making improvements and believe that they would be in better shape if set off in a township by themselves.

Ewen in its palmy days was incorporated as a village, a water system was built and other improvements were made. There came a time when the population dwindled to some extent, the charter was annulled and by a special act of the legislature the township board was divested with all of the power of a village board. This has worked to the entire satisfaction of the residents of Ewen but it has not been so with those living in other portions of the township.

They have a tale of woe. They point out that Ewen has a water system, for which they must help pay the cost of maintenance, without getting any benefit from it. They also contend that Ewen has the best schools and that they are paying more than their share of the expense of maintaining them.

Naturally the residents of Ewen are opposed to a division of the township and claim that the trouble is largely due to there not being enough offices to go around and to the fact that Ewen holds the control of the political situation.

A lively interest is being taken in the matter and both sides have sent delegates to Lansing to look after their interests. The Bruces Crossing contingent asks that three and one-half towns be set off in the new township. The Ewen people are fighting this strenuously, claiming that if a division is to be made the territory should be about equally distributed.

### June 10, 1905 Bill Passes Both Houses

The bill which was introduced into the legislature to divide McMillan township has passed both houses, a message to this effect being received here Thursday by Sheriff William McFarlane. No particulars were given but it is presumed that the measure, when it becomes effective by the governor's signature, will set off three and one-half geographical towns in the new township, leaving only two towns for McMillan.

It was at first intended to name the new township Baltimore but later it was proposed to substitute Stannard in honor of Representative William L. Stannard, of Greenland. Whether this change was made has not been learned.

It is understood that the measure will become effective at an early date, requiring a special election in the territory set off for the selection of township offices.

### June 17, 1905 Ask Governor to Veto Bill

Ewen People Are Wrought Up Over Division Lines of McMillan Township.

Some of the residents of Ewen are greatly wrought up over the division of McMillan township on the lines embodied in the bill for that purpose which has passed both houses of the legislature. They have petitioned Governor Warner to veto the bill, on the ground that it would not be an equitable division.

In McMillan Township there are five and one-half geographical towns. The bill proposes to set off three and one-half of these into the township of Stannard, or the northwestern portion, containing Bruce Crossing and Paynesville, leaving Ewen with but two towns in McMillan.

The property owners in the Bruces Crossing end of the town-



ship were the instigators of the movement. Two bills were drawn up, one dividing the township about equally as to territory and the other on the lines stated above. W. H. Gardner, of Ewen, and James N. Howlett, of Bruce Crossing, were sent to Lansing to look after the interests of the two factions.

The committees on towns and counties, to whom the bills had been referred, listened to arguments of both sides and then reported out the bill which gives the new township three and one-half towns. It passed the house and then the senate and it was supposed that Ewenites had decided to accept the proposed division without further ado. However, it has since developed that Ewen claims that the bill is not the one which was decided upon by the representatives of the two districts.

While the new township is to be named in honor of Rep. William L. Stannard, of Greenland, he is not the father of the bill. He has not favored either faction in the fight.

Realizing that it was of importance only to the township affected he took no part in the proposed measure until after the bill had been reported out by the committee, when it was given his support and was passed. He was under the impression then that the factions had come to amenable understanding and that the bill would be accepted without further contention.

It is reported that an effort is being made to have the name of Paynesville changed to Stannard. There are several post offices by this name or similar and it results in a confusion in mail matter. It is believed that the postal authorities will act upon it favorably.

#### June 24, 1905 The Division Controversy

##### W. H. Gardner Gives Detailed Statement of McMillan Township Affairs.

For several years the subject of dividing McMillan Township has come up for discussion about election time, the claim being that Ewen got all the offices, and manipulated the affairs of the township to the detriment of the east end. They of the east end of late have not been able to elect any one nearer the head of the ticket than justice of the peace. The charges of corruption and mismanagement have been fully made.

The first few years of the existence of the township, Leo Geismar then of Bruce Crossing, succeeded himself as supervisor, and he set a pace in the management of the affairs of the township which has formed a precedent for those who have followed and which has kept them all busy up to and all during the last few years. At times the east end has had a representative upon the township board who has without exception taken his salaries and prerequisites without peaching. If corruption existed, they have had their mitt in it with the rest. At least two men whose names are well up on the ticket of the new township have been in it with both feet. Writer will say, however, in dropping this part of the subject, that he believes that whatever may be true here regarding the mismanagement of township affairs is also true in most of the townships of the upper peninsula.

Two years ago a bill to divide the township similar to the one which has now passed was presented, but got no further than the committee. But this time the pressure proved too much for Representative Stannard. He was flooded with letters and "being seen" until he did not know where he was at. He told us he would have nothing to do with it, until he met the committee from the east end in Lansing and discussed the matter before the representative committee, and finally agreed upon a compromise bill which would give the new township one-half and allow one half of the assessed valuation to remain with McMillan.

This was agreed to before our Senator Smith and all details were arranged. Representative Galbraith drew the first bill, and the compromise also. We all said all right, shook hands and left the thing to be made into a law. This was in good faith and lived up to so far as the delegations were concerned. Mr. Howlett, chairman of the east end committee, has done all that was honor-

able and stood squarely by the agreement.

Now why this did not pass, but instead an entirely different bill and one quite different from the original, Mr. Stannard still asserting that he would have nothing to do with it. But with Representative Galbraith, of Houghton, and Representative Gordon, of Marquette, falling over each other to put it through, Mr. Stannard was asked to absent himself from the hall, when it would be passed and no blame rest upon him. He told them he would not be a "piker" but would put it through and did and her name is Stannard.

— W. H. Gardner

#### July 1, 1905 Stannard Township Election

The officers of the new township of Stannard which was created by action of the state legislature during the recent session by cutting in two McMillan Township, were duly elected this week. As only one ticket was put in nomination, there was no contest. The following candidates therefore stand elected: Supervisor James N. Howlett; Clerk, Edwin J. Keeler; Treasurer, John Gorsline; Commissioners of Highways, William R. Howlett and Wm. Bateman; members Board of Review, John E. Anderson - 1 yr., Louis Johnson - 2 yr.; School Inspectors, George Binder - 1 yr., Willis E. Payne - 2 yr.; Justices of the Peace, L. Fuller, Elmer L. Crull, Albert E. Pierson, Alexander Turner; Overseer of Highway, Andrew J. Buckless; Constables, John Smith, Herbert L. Young, Frank Haara, Frank Pardee.

(End Ontonagon Herald articles, 1905)

Stannard was the only township created by an act of the legislature. Mrs. Alice Bruno, a life long resident and daughter of James Howlett remembers well the day the "good news" was received. The people from around the area descended on the Howlett farm in a body, shouting, banging on dishpans and ringing cowbells outside the home.

#### The Baby Township

Stannard is the youngest township in the county. Set off from McMillan a couple of years ago and starting without funds, it is slowly pushing forward. The southern part has been stripped of its timber, but in the northern part has large tracts of pine belonging to the Holt Lumber Company, Denis J. Norton and others. There are a number of good farms, among these being the one of supervisor J.N. Howlett which was tilled for a number of years by Leo M. Geismar, now superintendent of the experiment farm at Chatham.

The foundation is erected for a town hall at Bruces Crossing, the principal settlement. There are two stores, Moore & McKercher and J. N. Suits of Ewen has a branch here; Mrs. Barnes is postmistress; two saloons, Alex Turner and L.C. Fletcher, and the Deer Brook Hotel with bar, the proprietors being M. Schmitt & Son.

— Ontonagon Herald, August 3, 1907



Hay making - early days

## STANNARD TOWNSHIP'S EARLY DAYS

Before 1863, the present day Stannard Township was still a wilderness, but Ontonagon was a flourishing village long before that time. So when on March 3, 1863, the U. S. Congress approved an act granting public lands for locating and constructing a wagon road from Fort Howard (Green Bay), Wisconsin, to Fort Wilkins, Michigan, it naturally followed the old overland trail in use from 1845 to 1863 by men who toted mail from Green Bay to Ontonagon during the winter season when the Great Lakes were frozen over. The road was completed in 1868 and became known as the Military Road because of rumors of the possibility of trouble with the Indians after the Civil War began — a rumor found to be without foundation. To accommodate the builders of the road and to serve travelers once the road was completed, a relay station was built. This was located about one half mile south of Bruce Crossing. It was known as the Half Way house because it was located half way between Watersmeet and Rockland. This building was located just about where the Howlett house now stands. It was used only a few years and was gone before the turn of the century.

By the 1880's the area was undergoing a drastic change. The land was being stripped of its grand growth of timber. The Diamond Match Company had camps about two miles north of Bruce Crossing and the lumberjacks came to work. They were a colorful lot with a variety of cultural backgrounds such as Irish, French, Scottish, Cornish and Scandinavian. Most of them moved on with their work, but a few remained. The area, how-

ever, was not developed by the foresters.

The first permanent building was that of a hotel, store and saloon built by Donald Bruce of Ontonagon in 1886 to cater to the men building the D.S.S. and A. railway which was just being built. It was a log house built just north of the railroad tracks and on the west side of the road. Mr. Bruce became the first postmaster of the area on March 5, 1888. Mr. Bruce however, left that same year, selling to a Mr. Fuller who then operated the store and post office.

The railroad played a very important part in the development of Bruce Crossing and it affected our lives in many ways. The railroad was built to serve the iron and copper mining industries of the Upper Peninsula. In 1857 Michigan gave land grants to companies wishing to build railroads in the Upper Peninsula and the South Shore, as it was usually called, was incorporated in October 1886. By 1890 it was operating regularly between Duluth and Marquette, the Soo, St. Ignace and Houghton. The last spike was driven on its Wisconsin line on December 1, 1892.

In October 1886, when the D.S.S. and A. was at last launched, many people in the U.P. must have sensed that a new era was about to begin. In so many ways the trains became enmeshed in the thoughts and emotions of nearly all the people here from its first run, until 1955 when the last passenger train made its final run. The most prosperous time was from 1886 into the late 1920's when automobiles began to make inroads upon the



Bruce Crossing Depot — Turn of the Century



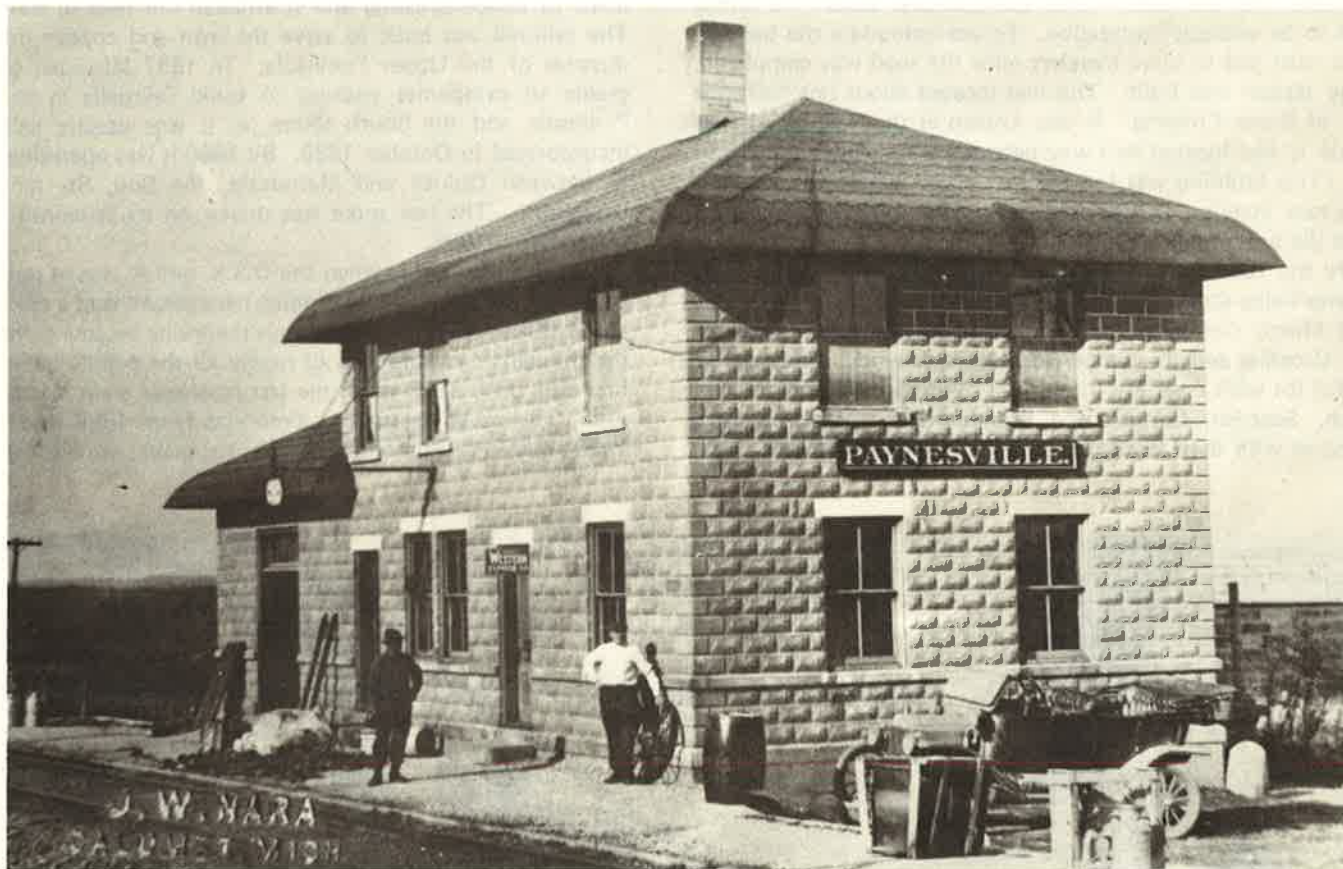
passenger intake and the timber resources were dwindling also.

Over the years, the Old South Shore came in for its share of praise and condemnation and hardly a day passed during those years without some reference to the "South Shore." If, at about 10:45 a.m., someone's sharp ears picked up the faint whistle of a locomotive still in the distance they'd shout "Here she comes" and everyone within earshot who could leave, would make a dash for the depot. Soon the old black monster would be chugging into the station from the east puffing and panting. Always a familiar person was coming or going. Some just went as far as Ewen to see the dentist or doctor or to shop. Mail bags were hoisted on the mail cart to be brought to the post office and ten-

gallon cans of cream were loaded. About three in the afternoon the train came from the west and the performances were repeated. There were also two night trains providing a convenient way to the outside world.

The freight trains, too, meant much to the people of the area since the local merchants were unable to provide all of their necessities. Sears Roebuck provided clothes, tools, household equipment and grocery orders were also sent. One could even order pre-cut kits to construct homes and other buildings. The North Baltimore schoolhouse was built from such a kit.

Besides the regular scheduled stops, the train could be flagged down at Baltimore and Gen Siding and saved many a mile of walking.



Paynesville Depot

## HOMESTEADERS

Another reason for the settlement of this area was the "Homestead Act" passed by Congress in May 1862. It provided that any person over 21, who was the head of a family, and either a citizen or an alien who intended to become a citizen, could obtain the title to 160 acres of public land if he lived on the land for five years and improved it. Or, the settler could pay \$1.25 per acre in place of residence requirement. The opportunities offered by the act were widely advertised in America and Europe.

The following are some of the "Homesteaders" that settled in Stannard Township.

**Leo Geismar** — 1889 — Location - St. Collins Rd. A siding on the D.S.S. & A. Railroad, it served as a mail distributing point until the post office was opened at Bruce Crossing in 1888. Mr. Geismar sold the farm to James Howlett in 1896, when he became superintendent of the experiment farm at Chatham.

**George Binder** — 1887 — Location - Southeast quarter section of present day downtown Bruce Crossing. Mr. Binder was born in Germany in 1861 and Mary, his wife, was born in 1868. His grandson, Quentin, has his home on the same property.

George's descendants ran the Binder Hotel, a Bruce Crossing landmark, till it burned in 1957.

**Ephriam Francis** — 1887 — Location - ½ mile south of intersection. Mr. Francis proved up his homestead about the same time as Binder and Trakat in 1892. The homesteads adjoined each other. Francis sold his farm to William Howlett in 1902 and left Bruce Crossing. His original house still forms 2 rooms of the Howlett house, which has been in the Howlett family since May of 1902.

**Leopold Trakat (Trackett)** was born in Skais-Gerren, East Prussia in 1822 — came to the U.S. in about 1850 and lived at West Bend, Wisconsin. He was described as "one of the best-educated Germans in Washington County". He spoke English and was a correspondent for one of the German-language newspapers in Cincinnati. In 1887, he applied for a homestead in Bruce Crossing. He proved up his claim in December 1892. He sold the farm to Erich Solms of Saginaw for \$100. He died in December 1903. He left no family here, but he did leave something to remember him by. The little creek which ran through his proper-



**James Howlett family at St. Collins home (original Geismar homestead, current Chester Kudlaczuk residence).**

ty is still known as Tracketts Creek, and for miles along Clear Creek in the spring beautiful flowers bloom, and the lilacs and roses around the ruins of the old farmhouse, still bloom each year, evidences of his love of beauty in his life.

**William Kleinlein — 1888 — Location - South of Hillside Cemetery.** He homesteaded here with his wife Mabel, children Otto, Bill, Christine, Lena, and Elizabeth. Kleinleins operated a shingle mill. He also was a self-styled "doctor" prescribing remedies for the settlers of his time, a man who was called a "pinch or rub doctor", lived here, and some people went to him for treatments.

**Isaac Syria — 1897 — Location - 1 mile east of U.S. 45 on the 2 Mile Road, North of Bruce Crossing.** He homesteaded there with his wife Mary and ten children: Victor, Arne, Sulo, Levi, Carroll, Leonard, Emil, Isaac, Mary and Sannie. In the early years when there was no insurance and many forest fires, the Syria farm burned out twice. A neighbor, John Cogswell, not wanting to lose a neighbor gave the Syrias a cow to encourage him to rebuild and stay on. It takes a lot of Finnish "Sisu" to have the courage to start again twice.

**John Cogswell — 1889 — Location - North of Bruce Crossing, 2 miles east of U.S. 45 on the Two Mile Road.** Cogswell was born February 17, 1861 in Tryskiai, Lithuania. As a young man seeking adventure, he came to the U.S. In 1887, he landed in New York City and was employed as a long-shoreman for approximately one year. His employer, not being able to pronounce his name, and taking a liking to Cassimere Gelzinis, suggested the younger man take his name, John Cogswell.

Seeking further adventure, he migrated to Gladwin, Michigan where he worked for one year. Not being satisfied with this type of life, he ventured up into the Upper Peninsula and filed for a homestead. Being directed to Bruce Crossing, which at that time was a logging center for the Diamond Match Company, he arrived

around 1890.

From there he was directed to Kenton, Michigan for a homestead. Arriving there and about ready to set his claim, he was informed that land had already been claimed. Downhearted, but not discouraged, he trekked back to Bruce Crossing. He then set forth to find a new claim and ventured out through the virgin pines and on March 5, 1889, claimed his homestead and started improvements where his farm was located four miles northeast of Bruce Crossing.

His first shelter was made up of two sugar barrels loaned to him by a nearby lumber camp. He kept himself warm at night by huge bonfires from the large pine trees he cut while clearing his homestead and a plot for his new hewed log house.

His nearest neighbors were located by the newly laid railroad track three miles from his homestead, with only a foot trail to reach them. Later a third party, Mr. Payne and his two sons, moved in and located in their midst. Having two sons, they named the new settlement Paynesville.

His homestead improved and house built, he brought his mother, father, and sister over from Lithuania. (Between 1893-97, probably the latest date.) They did not stay very long, but went to Pittsburgh to live with their other son Stanley, whom John had brought over earlier. Stanley also assumed the name Cogswell.

On September 10, 1895, in the little Sacred Heart Chapel of Ewen, John Cogswell married Violet Slaughterbach. To this union seven children were born: Katherine Koppari, October 3, 1896; Agnes Schroeder, October 6, 1897; Cassimere, March 1, 1899; Isadore, October 1, 1901; Mary, August 15, 1902; Ann Codd, July 4, 1904; Violet Csmarich, February 17, 1907. The couple celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on September 5, 1945. Their six children and 19 of 25 grandchildren gathered at the same Sacred Heart Church and their home to help them





**Homesteaders Matt Kivi and Matt Mukari's on buckboard.**

celebrate.

John Cogswell died at his home in Bruce Crossing in April, 1947 and his wife Violet died at the home of her daughter, Violet Csmarich, in Ontonagon in June of 1953. They lie beside their daughter and Mrs. Cogswell's parents in the Hillside Cemetery near their home in Bruce Crossing.

**Anton Sloverbauth — 1901 — Location - Next farm west of Cogswells.**

**Matt Mukari — 1899 — Location - North of John Cogswells's.** Mr. Mukari took over an unproven claim in 1899. It was proven up in 1905. Mr. Mukari came here from Vassa, Finland, alone; his wife and son to follow in 1900. When Mrs. Mukari and son Matt were coming from Finland, Mr. Mukari walked twice a day to meet the trains and was very worried about his wife and son.

They had been left at Painesville, Ohio and stayed at the station there wondering. Finally after days, someone examined the tickets and put them back on the train to Paynesville, Michigan. Mrs. Gertrude Rattikka is the daughter of Matt Mukari, Jr.

**William Hall — 1893 — Location - 1 and one half mile south on the Hall Road.** William Hall, born December 28, 1846 in Bathurst, New Brunswick, Canada, went to Menominee, Michigan in 1872 and worked in the Ewen-Bruce Crossing area in the lumber camps during the logging season.

During the early years, along with farming on the homestead, Hall worked as a logger and as a timber cruiser. As there was a need for horses in logging, he also raised and sold Belgian draft horses. He sold a sizable stand of white pine timber to the D. J. Norton Company. They built a logging office which was later



**Kleinlein Homestead**



converted to the family home after the timber was cut.

Hall married Ellen Fitzgerald of Green Bay, Wisconsin, circa 1880, and children born of this marriage were Estelle, May and Harold. Hall built a house previous to 1888 when he moved his family from Marinette, Wisconsin to the property. His wife died later that year and the children were left in the care of relatives in Menominee and Green Bay.

In July of 1892, William married Helena Wyse in Menominee; she died in 1928. The children of this marriage were Amos (died in 1908) and George Leo (died Dec. 9, 1985). Helena Wyse is buried in the Ewen Cemetery as was William after his death in October, 1927.

**Eli Murto** — early 1900's — Location - North Paynesville area on Sec. 12 T.48 - R.39W. Upon completion of a suitable house, he brought his wife Ida and infant son Edwin there. Later on, Ida's sister Hannah and her husband Hjalmer Davidson came to stay with them and built a house nearby. Then Ida's sister Hilda and her husband John Sjoblom came to stay with her and Eli, and Mr. and Mrs. August Illikainen came to stay with the Davidson's while they all acquired land and constructed homes in the area. Eli and Ida raised nine children — Edwin, Lila Halquist, Arvo, Wilho (Bill), Alfred, Wilma, Selma Illikainen, Ralph, and Alvar.

**Thomas Kivi** — 1896 — Location - 3/4 of a mile North on the Gem Hill Road. Mr. Kivi lived on the farm for 13 years before he proved up his claim. His wife Susanna and son Matt didn't come to America till 1896. While alone on the farm, the area was

covered by a forest fire. Mr. Kivi had dug a root-cellar and had carried water into it, which he splashed on the door to keep it from burning and in that way survived. Mr. Kivi came from Vassa, Finland, like Mr. Mukari and the two settled a mile and one-half apart.

**Matt Heitila** — 1892 — Location - 1/2 of a mile North on the Gem Hill Road. Matt Oinas purchased this farm in 1898. The farm was sold to Michael Tulppo in 1915. The present home was brand new and was a Sears Roebuck pre-cut home.

**Hans Sorenson** — John Iverson — 1890-1891 — Location - 2 miles North of M-28 on the Larson Road (Pat Sexton farm). Was sold to John Kortilla of Calumet in 1909. Mr. Kortilla's daughter was Aliina Aho.

**Layton Keeler** — 1893 — Location - Keeler Hill Road.

**Moses Foster** — 1894 — Location - Corner of Two Mile Road and North Paynesville Road. This property was sold to Addie Lathrop in 1903. Ms. Lathrop was one of the first postmistresses of Bruce Crossing.

**Hannah Engstrom** — 1900 — Location - 2 miles South of Bruce Crossing on the Engstrom Road.

**William Batemen** — 1896 — Location - 2 and one-half miles North of M-28 on the North Paynesville Road. Present Hubert Waara residence.

**Armand Meilleur** — 1889 — Location - 1 mile North on the Larson Road and one-half mile East on the One Mile Road. John Pelkola and wife Saima purchased this property in 1901.

## THE HISTORY OF AGRICULTURE IN STANNARD TOWNSHIP

The first known settler to farm in Stannard Township was Leo Geismar in 1889. Others that followed were James Howlett, J. Cogswell, M. Hautala, H. Hemming, A. Pelkola, B. Haight, A. Lindberg, Gorslines, J. Manty, N. Lannet, M. Taegar, M. Mukkari, M. Ojala, J. Piri, M. Mattson, J. Oinas, Juntti's, V. Virmala, C. Huhtala, O. Wickstrom, J. Kopsi, Wuolikainen's, K. Karjala, Lassila's, Pietila's, and J. Keranen.

Forest fires covered most of the pine cutover. Cedar that was found on some land was used to build houses, barns, and saunas. The remaining cedar was used for fence posts. The first settlers came by freight or train. Some brought horses and cows with them and tools to clear the land. Supplies needed were ordered by the local stores from Marshall Wells in Duluth, Minnesota.

Traveling was difficult on the old logging roads. When more settlers moved in, the Township Supervisor and Board decided to make roads on the section lines. Settlers with horses were assigned portions of road to build.

The water supply came from the Baltimore River, Clear Creek, and Payne Creek. Some dug wells by hand. The first drilled wells were powered by steam drilled on some section corners and by schools.

Stannard Township is classified as a grass area, so hay was the surest crop. The soil is mostly clay. Most farmers planted a lot of timothy. Farmers were able to sell a lot of hay to nearby lumber camps for their horses. Later legumes were added when farmers were raising more dairy cattle.

The first hay balers were powered by horses. Many other methods of making hay were used by the early settlers in the years to follow. They used scythes and hand rakes to gather hay from logging roads and openings in the woods caused by forest fires. Other equipment that came along were horse mowers, dump rakes and hay loaders. By 1920, Fordson, Moline, Case, McCormick and John Deere came out with the iron horse tractor with iron wheels. Area equipment dealers included M. Hautala (Moline), Nick Pelkola (Case), John Bjornstrom (McCormick), and later on Settler's Co-op and Co-op Services.

All tractors had a belt pulley which could be used with the equipment to follow such as hay balers, threshing machines and feed grinders.

New land that was cleared was planted with oats, wheat, barley, peas, rye, potatoes and other fruits and vegetables for the family needs.

Along with cattle, the farmers raised sheep, hogs, and chickens. Wool from the sheep was sheared, washed, dried, and later carded. It was then ready for the spinning wheel to make yarn for stockings, mittens, and sweaters for the family.



Nick Pelkola family with thresher and tractor

The sale of beef, pork and veal was good. Veal calves were fed skim milk and bought by Frank Hara and shipped to Duluth, Minnesota, by train. Farmers' wives canned beef in jars and salted it in crocks for summer use. Farmers that raised chickens also sent eggs to outside markets, getting as little as eleven cents a dozen in the 1930's.

On December 25, 1929, Wisconsin Michigan Power Company turned on the electricity in our area. This changed many things for the farmers. Besides lights, they now had electric motors for pumping water and numerous other luxuries. The milking

machine came soon after.

In 1939 Ferguson came out with a rubber tire tractor. It had a three-point hydraulic hitch and power take-off. Other makes followed. International also had a power take-off mower on the market in 1939 and in 1942 a 42-inch combine.

Farmers who were not able to buy tractors made their own. They made them from old trucks or cars and called them bugs or "Bassi". Arnold Hanson and Gust Niemi, both mechanics, were the first to make them. Gust also made the garden tractor.



Hay making, using "Bug"

Oscar Huhtala, area blacksmith, did forge welding before the arc welder came into use. He repaired farm machinery, shod horses and repaired cars. Leo Nippa also had a welding shop and did repairs for farmers and also made his first sauna stove in 1930.

Farm land prices hit their lowest level in the 1930's, going for only \$6-\$8 an acre. In 1970, farm land was up to \$100 an acre.

Farmers experienced many difficulties in the 1930's. "Bangs", also called Brucellosis undulant fever spread to many herds. Many lost their whole herds. Dry summers and grasshoppers also caused crop failures. It took many years to bring the herds to normal. Some farmers planted corn for feed during the dry summers. Pit silos were made for storing the corn silage and in the 1950's and 1960's farmers started to build the modern day silos. They then needed larger equipment such as choppers for harvesting the corn.

In 1956-57, K. J. Moilanen, County Agricultural Agent, with the cooperation of farmers Malnar, Worachek and Strnad of Ewen planted test plots of trefoil hay. It was a great success and is now planted all over our area. Farmers that do not have dairy herds sell the seed to outside buyers.

Cooperatives were formed that were owned by the farmers. There was the Paynesville Cooperative Association and the Ontonagon County Cooperative Livestock Marketing Association which was formed in 1959 and is still operating today. The Gristmill Sawmill and Thresher was in operation from 1907-1941. The Stannard Township Telephone Company was in operation from 1920-30 with managers Matt Heikkinen and Oscar Huhtala.

The highest number of operating farmers in Ontonagon County reached 1,400. Agricultural Agents that represented these farmers included Roswell Carr, W.C. Clark, Milton Francis, Drake, Arthur Shubert, K.J. Moilanen (1938), A. Markle, K.J. Moilanen (1965), and Alan Slye.

Area farms in the present day are much larger and more expensive to operate. There are still some small farms that exist that either raise beef cattle or leave their farm land idle.

Modern equipment is used on the farms today. Gone are the horse and buggy days. Gone are Mother and Dad who worked so hard to clear the land.

The Ontonagon County Soil Conservation District was formed in 1955.

Registered Holstein Sires were brought into the area in 1920 and artificial insemination was used for breeding by the 1950's.

Stannard Township farmers enter exhibits such as cattle, hogs, chickens, vegetables, fruits, hay, grain and craft items in the Ontonagon County Fair held in Greenland, usually in August. 4-H exhibits entered in the Fair date back to 1915.

Veterinarians that have served our area over the years include Dr. McQuiston, Dr. Wilson, Dr. Penegor, Dr. Pepper and presently Dr. Talsma.



Stump puller — before 1920 - John Lehtonen & Jacob Kangas

## HERITAGE

Beginning in the 1850's, people came to the Copper Country from Finland. Word was heard the copper mining in Michigan's Upper Peninsula was flourishing. Not too many were too enthused, as they did not want to leave their homeland. But, by 1880, there were 3,000 Finns in the Copper Country. Then at the turn of the century came the biggest influx of Finns. Most of the men found jobs immediately in the copper mines and the women tended their homes and children. Single women found employment with the wealthier Cornish English families as housekeepers and maids. Things were looking pretty good in the new land. People were building homes and churches, sending their children off to new strange schools with a strange language.

Around the turn of the century, rumors were spreading that in Bruce Crossing fertile clover-laden land was for sale. A few families were sold on it, loaded their furniture and livestock into boxcars and headed for Bruce Crossing. (It was common for people to have a cow or two in towns those days.) Some of these

early families included the Lassila's, Wuolikainen's, Haara's, Juntti's and Oinas'.

It wasn't until the Copper Strike of 1913 that most of the people were sold on the idea of moving to Bruce Crossing from the Copper Country. Land to farm and work in the lumber camps sounded pretty inviting as in those days there was no strike pay. Unions were just forming and didn't have too many funds. Better than bickering with Company officials and waiting to go back to work, families again by the dozens, piled their belongings into boxcars and headed for the Stannard Township area.

The Paynesville and Bruce Crossing railroad stations played host to these new settlers. (The language must have sounded peculiar to the mostly all English-speaking people already settled here for quite sometime.) The families headed in all directions to their new pieces of land but, to their dismay, it wasn't clover-covered fields, but a pile of old pine stumps left by lumber

barons. Most families put up a log sauna and lived in it while they grubbed the land with hoes and blasted stumps with dynamite. Little by little they built houses to live in and barns to house the livestock.

Life wasn't easy. Most of them were young couples with big families and more children were being born while working their farms. Many men supplemented their income by working in lumber camps. One family, the Carl Hanson's, arrived here with eleven children and twelve more were born to them while pioneering their farm. They grew up to be one of the most prominent, esteemed families of the Paynesville area.

Many of the Copper Country people also settled north of town, again on land that was cut over and left behind by the lumber barons. These families included the Murtonen's, Kempainen's, Honkanen's, Ranta's, Juntunen's and Keranen's.

Many came from the Ishpeming area seeking the same livelihood. Up and down the Military new names were being included in their conversations; names like Hill, Pikkumaki, Linna, Lehtonen, Kangas, and PerttuKalle were being brought up. The Ralph Johnson's were late comers, but also came from Calumet with thirteen children.

The North and South Baltimore areas were being settled about the same time. Again, the majority of the people came from Calumet. On the South road, Pitkanen's settled at the very south end of it, followed by Uusitalo's, Manninen's, Korsman's, Honkavaara's, Haataja's, Huttu's, and Pietila's, to name a few. To the North road came two Wickstrom families, Uusima's, Huhta's, Pesonen's, Kopsi's, Huhtala's, Kangas', Niemi's, Moilanen's, Hartwick's, Raatikka's, Sorola's, Virmala's, Eskola's, and Leskela's who came from the state of Idaho along with the Johnson's. The Timoshuk's settled between them all, just south of the North Baltimore Road.

Because of the wars and oppression in their homeland, many of the German-speaking people left Kiev and the Eukraine area of Russia and other Central European countries and found a haven in Bruce Crossing. Many of the men came first and later, after a house was built and some land cleared, the wives and children were sent for. Some of the names included Binder, Kugler, Priebus, Ferko, Pletzke, Cook, Conrad, Rehlich, Kleinlein,



Picnic in early 1930's

Trakat, Schmitt, Sloverbach, Bessinger, Stanke, Steinbecker, Schutzler, Schaub, Prager, Radke, Stuesser, Popke, and Eiser-mann. Most of the German-speaking people settled an area which is now called the German Road, encircling a section of land just southwest of town. One of their descendants, Paul Popke, born in Leontufka, Poland, is now the Stannard Township Supervisor and also holds a position with Wisconsin Electric Power Company.

In checking over the names of the earliest settlers, a great many English names appear such as Jones, Lathrop, Foster, Turner, Barnes, Reed, Oakes, Francis, Locke, Ames, Borton, Bateman, Buckless, Hansford, Graham, Fouch, Keeler, Payne, Flood, and others.

Among the Swedish and Norwegian settlers are Louis Johnson, John Anderson, Peter Hansen, Lorenz Peterson, Wahlstrom, Engstrom, and Pierson.

In the Irish-Scotch group were Delaney, Fitzgerald, McFarlane, Donovan, Ryan, Torpey, Moore, McKercher, Howlett, McDonald, Quinn, McKenzie and D. Bruce, the founder of Bruce Crossing.

There was a smattering of other nationalities such as Russian, Lithuanian, and French. John Cogswell was called Russian John, but was a Lithuanian. Devereaux was French.



Church Ladies Aid in Paynesville, 1932



## PAYNESVILLE'S OLDER RESIDENTS

East down Keeler Road, across the river lived John Bukemas. Their children had to cross the river, come up the big river hill and walk to the Keeler School. In 1924 - 1925 they and other children along the way were brought to the Paynesville school in horse drawn covered sleds or wagons.

Others on this road were Stephen Laitila, Gust Karjala, John Pelkola (last two moved away — Mrs. Pelkola was the first mail carrier), Gunst Kuntz (homesteader), Matt Leino, and south in the woods lived the Gills. Up the road was the Keeler School. John Ojaniemi built at the corner and on north Keeler Road were Jacob Manty, Jacob Aho, Andrew Pelkola, east a bit was Isaac Gronlund (we always knew him as Homestead Isaac) and Andrew Hills. Back to Keeler Road — Herman Hemming, William Gustafson (homestead 1892) east again, Roytio and Isaac Kankaanpaa. On north on Keeler and east was the Jurmu Kujanen place. Back to Keeler Road and Manty Road East was John Walls, John Piri, Nestor Lannet, Matt Elvis, Matt Teikari and Ben Haight; a little detour south is the Haanpaa farm. Back to the Manty Road, Matt Lassila lived near the railroad; this was his homestead. Over the D.S.S. and A. Railroad and now M28 (built 1930) was Mrs. Anttila. A bit north was Oscar Hirvonen. Now going south on South Paynesville Road — Job Murto, John Pitkanen, John Holappa, Matt Urpila and Erick Karjala. A side trip west — gives the Andrew Pitkanen, A. Mikkonen, Nick Pelkola places (Jensen Lumber Camps were here). Come back to South Paynesville Road and Manty Road, and take Nurkkala Road west — first is the Paynesville Cemetery, Thomas Kivi, Mike Linna, Peter Honkanen, George Nurkkala, and farther west were the Kleinleins and Gorslines. Come back a bit and take a road north where John Geister and the Nikkila-Lehto places were. Now we'll go back to M-28 North.

Ed Foster (the dentist), George Langley, Matt Mukkari Jr. (which was moved when M-28 was built) so on the land was the Vesala Store; farther are the Nikkila-Niemela, and H. Haapala places.

Back to the old M-28 or now North Paynesville Road — north was the Payne Store, Hildens by the railroad was the warehouse — Depot, Section House, Ice House, and Huhtala's Blacksmith Shop. Across the road on the east side is the school (2nd one), George Langley built the Hakala place opposite the Gorsline Store, next was the Gorsline House, Bert Douslin, B. Douslin, Matt Heikkinen, Davidson, Labor Hall, John Kurtti, Henry Payne (later Joslin's), Oswald Gristwald, Andrew Vierimaa, and then the Paynesville Our Saviour Church.

Go back east to Keeler Road and take Blacksmith Road west — Arvid Predas, Andrew Asikainen, Gust Illikainen, Emil Jarvela; over the railroad was Frank Haara, Matt Lassila (2nd place), Matt Ojala, Axel Wuolikainen, Kauppi, and Ivio. Turn right to Gem siding road north — Gem School, Oinas, Mike Tulppo Sr., Thomas Kivi (homestead 1896), Matt Ahola, J. Pelkola, and G. Karjala (these last two moved from Keeler Hill).

Let's go back to Harju Road north off Blacksmith Road and find John Olli, Takala, Alrick Beeliville, a homesteader (year unknown), Carl Hanson; now go east along One Mile Road — Eastman (they had a team of oxen), Rissanen and Charles Lindberg.

Now going back to the church corner on North Paynesville and Blacksmith Roads — Oscar Huhtala, Halonen-Salo, Juusala, Leander Wuolo, Harry Backman, John Smith, John Oinas, Jacobson, John Kauppi, Matt Kovanen (later changed to Mattson). Back on North Paynesville Road were Isaac Majava, Frank Sarkivaara, Alex Lindberg, Jalmer Lindberg, Moses Foster (homesteader) and Buckless. The two North Paynesville Schools were near the Foster (now Maki) home.

## THE STORY OF LOGGING AND LUMBERING

Donald Bruce from Ontonagon built a store, saloon and hotel on the Military Road in 1886 to cater to the Diamond Match lumberjacks who were working far upstream on the Baltimore, South and Middle Branches of the Ontonagon River. The real push of the settlement into the South end of Ontonagon County began not with the influx of Diamond Match woodcutters, but with the coming of the railroad in 1886.

Settlements soon sprung up along the railroads to supply the logging camps. The town of Bruce Crossing actually started when Steinbrecker, McArthur and August Neuman built sawmills here. Those who worked in the mill had a tendency to live near their work, so they settled in the area. Ultimately, a lot of this lumber was used to build the town.

Who owned our pine forest? The Indians, who ceded it to the United States in 1842 — so it became government land. Then the U.S. Government made large grants of land to the states. The state-owned pine covered lands were used by the state as payment for construction of various projects, which included the Military Road, the Railroad, and the State Agricultural College. Much of the College lands were sold to the lumbering interests for as little as 60 cents an acre.

Diamond Match was one of the first logging operators to come to our area. They acquired most of their timber holdings about 1881. Their camps were located along the banks of the Baltimore and Middle Branch Rivers.

The crew went up in the fall, built camps, cut tote and sleigh roads. All transporting of logs to the mill was by water. The logs were floated down the Baltimore and Middle Branch Rivers to the Diamond Match Mills at Ontonagon.

The logs were "tonged," drayed or sleigh-hauled to the streams where they were decked on the ice and the river banks to

await the spring thaw. Ice roads went to pieces in mid-March and hauling stopped. Dams were constructed about every six miles for storing of water for sluicing and driving. The rear of the drive generally reached the mill about the Fourth of July.

Driving was a cheap method of transportation. Fifty million feet could generally be driven as cheaply as 15 million feet.

With the coming of the railroad, logging spurs were constructed into the more inaccessible regions. Geared locomotives were used on these spurs.

Wages were low. General woods workers were paid from \$12 to \$26 per month plus board. Sawyers, teamsters and cant hook men received \$5 additional, while top loaders received \$10 to \$15 per month more. River drivers got \$2.25 to \$3 per day plus board. It's been said that a lumberjack could be fed for 14 cents a day.

The first lumberjacks were French-Canadians, Irish, and Scotch. Later the Scandinavians, Slavic and Finnish took their place.

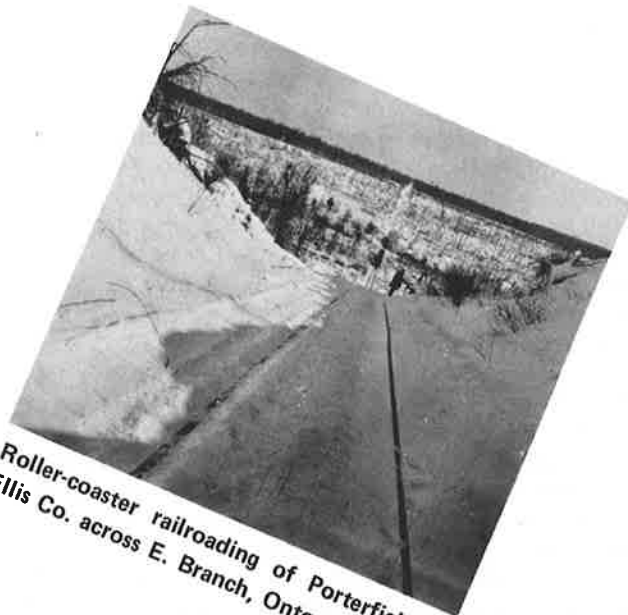
The logs were ripped into planks, dried in the sun and loaded onto schooners and shipped to eager buyers. A lot of the lumber that was used to build up Chicago after their big fire was acquired from Diamond Match. Of course, Diamond Match is known for their matchsticks.

Nestor Estates was also one of the pine logging operators in the area. His headquarters were at O'Brien, three miles west of the town of Bruce Crossing. He had a large quantity of pine lands close to the railroad.

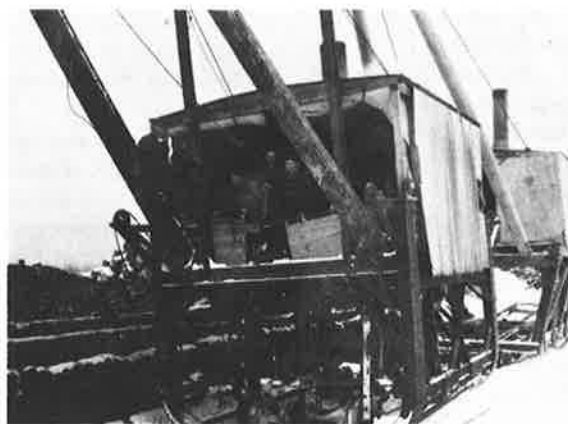
After the railroad came through, Nestor put in a track starting about one mile east of town, going north through Sections 22-15-10-3 T 48N R 39W ending on Section 34 T 49N R 39W. Then adding a spur off this track starting on Section 10 —



Engine hoist on Holtz Camp 7 hill



Roller-coaster railroading of Porterfield & Ellis Co. across E. Branch, Ontonagon River



Steam jammer loading railroad cars



Loaded railroad cars



Sleigh hauling logs on iced roads



Skidding logs in the 1940's



Tom Syria's portable saw mill



running west across Highway US-45 just north of Big Spruce golf course and north westerly to the Baltimore River.

His camps were situated three miles north of Bruce Crossing where the Arvo Perttu farm presently is located.

His logs went by rail to his mill in Baraga. The loading of logs was generally done by long chains — then gradually replaced by "horse-jammers" and about 1900 the steam jammer came into general use for railroad car loading. The three most popular jammers were the McGiffert, which raised its wheels and stood on legs while loading cars; the Decker, which had inclines and sluiced the empties underneath the jammer as it moved back loading the cars; and the "Slide-A," which slid over the empty cars as it worked back loading.

Holt began operations in the summer of 1902. He logged in the Ontonagon River camps from 1902 to 1919, and having cut all of the pine timber, they stopped logging till 1926, when they started one camp and cut some hardwood and hemlock timber.

They had a telephone line which they built and maintained to facilitate the operation of trains from their flag station at Baltimore to the station at Bruce Crossing.

Holt's railroad went 6 miles north from the D.S.S. & A. railroad at Baltimore, crossed over east across the Baltimore River and Highway 45, running east about one mile, then southerly about 2 ½ miles to Camp 7 landing on the Middle Branch river. The D.S.S. & A. engines went in about 6 miles north to pick up the log cars. With numerous rail spurs from this track, they had about 12 different camp locations which are marked on the map.

The Middle Branch of the Ontonagon runs through a deep valley, with very steep banks from 200-300 feet high above the river. In order to get the logs to their railroad, they had to construct an engine hill; that is, they bought two hoisting engines and a boiler and set them on top of the hill, each engine having about 1,300 feet of 3/4 inch wire cable. The hill was about ¼ mile long from top to bottom, and had a 23 percent grade. They hauled the logs on sleighs to the foot of the hill, then released the horses and attached the cables to the sleigh and hauled it up the hill unloading the logs on the landing along side of the railroad. They operated 3 camps for several years during the winter hauling logs up this hill. Several million feet of logs were hauled up this hill.

At one point, upstream from Camp 7 at a steep bank, they built a log chute from the top of the bank to the river flat and slid the logs down the chute instead of trying to skid them down with horses. The Holt Lumber Company of Oconto, Wisconsin, shipped over 400 million board feet of timber from this vicinity to their Oconto Mill.

Most of Bruce Crossing's early settlers worked for Holt Lumber Company off and on. During the summer months when they weren't logging, Holt let the Baltimore farmers use their horses for farm work. Some of the boys who worked at Holt's last camp in 1926 include: Wes Rudiman, cook; Walter Linna, Leonard and Emil Syria, Heino Juntunen, Waino Hoffstrom, Wayne Illikainen, Al Gerber, and Swante Hautaviita.

About 1928, the motor truck began to gradually displace the railroad as a means of log transportation and summer logging became feasible on the easier chances.

The pine era was gradually diminishing so other timber was being harvested. The Porterfield and Ellis Company took hemlock and hardwood saw logs. They operated 11½ miles north of Trout Creek about ½ mile east of Gardner Road across the East Branch River in Stannard Township on Section 15 T 49N — R 38W. This was the site of an almost forgotten miracle in railroading. This "roller coaster" railroading took place on the Porterfield and Ellis Company railroad, which operated from 1918 - 1930, hauling logs to Pori. This 15 mile line crossed valleys or "loops" with grades up to 20 per cent. These loops included the rousseau loop and the river loop. The latter, pictured here, spanned a one mile wide East Branch Ontonagon

River valley with a drop of 200 feet. This distance was frequently crossed in 55 seconds. Located along the line were two logging camps — Camp No. 2 on the west side and Camp 3 on the east side of the river.

Gerald DeHut, Sr. was the engineer and Andrew Lemorand was fireman. The logging train would stop at Camp 2 to take on water, prepare the fire, and prepare the train to make the loop crossing. When all was ready, the brake was released and down the hill they would go.

The engine could not be fired at all once it was in the loop. The speed of the train would create such a suction that it would have sucked the shovel up into the firebox.

They could haul about 5 cars at a time. Harry DeHut, Sr., time keeper and scaler at Camp No. 2, checked the track, cleaned and sanded the rails every morning.

In about 1910, Peter Aili logged in W ½ Sec. 1 T 48N — R 39W. The logs were sleigh hauled to Gem Siding, then loaded by hand onto railroad cars. At that time, the cars had no stakes, so the logs were chain tied. Some of the logs were rolled up along skids with a decking chain pulled by a horse on the other side of the railroad car. Axel Wuolikainen and Louis Pietila did most of the loading.

The Brunswick Lumber Company operated in the 1920's. They had a railroad track starting about ½ mile east of Bruce Crossing, then running south about 6 miles. Their logs went to a sawmill in Ewen.

Turunen also was a logger in the 1920's. His camps were located about 9 miles north of town on the west side of US-45. He operated a portable sawmill there. Alma Gronlund was the cook and her husband Nestor was the foreman.

The railroad ties they produced were hauled to town by Acme trucks owned by Albert and Charles Gerber.

In 1928 a National Forest purchase unit was established. This was proclaimed the Ottawa National Forest in 1931. Other purchase units were added. These National Forest lands were mostly acquired under the authority of the Weeks law of 1911 and various exchange laws. A minor amount of Public Domain lands were existent for transfer. Some land donations were accepted. Cut-over and burnt lands were fast becoming tax delinquent and were also picked up by the National Forest Service.

The agricultural potential was recognized when the boundaries of the Ottawa National Forest were established. A six to eight mile strip centering around Bruce Crossing and Paynesville was excluded from the forest boundaries because of the farms located on these lands.

The second growth timber acquired with the land purchased was mostly of poor to mediocre quality. Early day logging operations had very generally been of the so called "high-grading" type. Trees of the best quality were removed leaving a stand of culls and trees of poor form.

Wild fires burned more than once on most sites. Some timber of good quality and healthy young stands were acquired but corrective measures had to be applied in order that area capacity for production could be increased.

The harvest is limited to mature trees or those that should be removed due to disease or insect infestation.

A block of timber is appraised by forest rangers and sold to the highest bidder. The rangers and their crews mark the trees to be cut.

Fire protection of woodlands got off to a slow start. It took more than a decade to achieve a reasonable degree of fire control.

Tom Nordine started logging in November, 1941, 6 miles north and 2 ½ miles east of Bruce Crossing. The first winter he logged with his brother Jack. They operated a small camp using an old house for the camp. That winter they had about 15 men working for them. During this period, he operated a portable sawmill in the woods at different times and for a couple of years





**Veikko Lehto's truck hauling logs in 1930's**



**One of the first mechanical hoists — about 1940**



**Roger Joupperi operating his forwarder today**

he operated this small sawmill behind the Apostolic Lutheran Church. Tom Syria owned the saw mill. Some of the men we recall having worked there were: Nick Ranta, Andy Linna, George and Arne Luokka, Urho Dahlback, Henry Wuorenmaa, Eino and Arne Piirto, Walter Linna, Matt Raatikka, Gust Pietila, Carl Conrad, Onni Lakanen, and Oscar Huhtala.

In November, 1942, Tom married Seere Huhtala. From that time on she became his bookkeeper and was a valuable asset to his business.

Tom continued operating in that area until 1948 when he moved his operation from North Bruce Crossing to the Sturgeon Gorge. This logging camp was in operation for 5 years. Timber was cut commencing from Sturgeon Falls going upstream four miles. Rudy Meyer was in charge of this job and among the crew were people from the Bruce Crossing area such as: Leo (Sonny) Kauss, David Abramson, George Stuesser, Ralph Christenson, Hanford Codd, John Murto, Carl and Kenny Wuolikainen, Oscar Kamppinen, Fred Niemi, "Whimpy" Antilla, Carl Lespi, Paul Abramson, Bud Cole, and "Little" Pete Dedovich as camp cook — there were many others whom we can't recall.

In the meantime, Tom started another logging camp in the Choate, Matchwood tower area. Ed Illikainen was the "Walker" (wood's foreman). Ed's wife Selma prepared the payrolls at her home. At one time, there were as many as 40 employees. This operation covered U.P. Power Company and U.S. Forest Service lands consisting of approximately 12,000 acres in McMillan and

Marenisco townships. Some men working here were: Whiskey Joe, Black Tom, Handlebar Hank, Slivers, Happy, Bolshevik Sam — these being some of the lumberjacks who stayed at camp for many years. Richard Kumpula was the first cook and later on Pete Dedovich took over. Of the men listed previously, a good many of them worked at all camps.

This job tapered down in later years and finally closed in 1971. Of the production of 140,000 cords, 8 ½ million feet of poplar was sawed into box lumber at the camp site — most of which was trucked into Rhinelander, Wisconsin.

From 1942 - 1950, Ed Illikainen logged in the North Bruce area on both sides of the Baltimore river down from the Okunde-kon falls.

After the pine was depleted, hardwood and hemlock was logged and trucked to different sawmills out of the area. From 1940 on, a considerable amount of pulpwood has been shipped from this area. Over the years, from 1942 - 1972, Tom Nordine purchased a lot of the pulpwood in the area from individual operators. This wood went to the mills of Kimberly Clark, Marathon Corporation, Necoosah Edwards and the Marinette Paper Mill.

Guy Nordine logged on the east side of the Middle Branch in 1958. The logs went to his own mill in Trout Creek.

Roger Juopperi, a local resident, has had woods operations for most of his life. More recent operators in the area are Jim Nordine, Burt Johnson, and Gladen Niemi to mention a few.



Modern log hauling by Jim Nordine (Jim and his father Guy)





# A WALK THROUGH 100 YEARS IN BRUCE CROSSING

In order for you to visualize how the businesses and buildings of Bruce Crossing have changed during the past 100 years, we have decided to take you on an informative walk through town beginning one-half mile west of town at the present Chester Kudlaczuk home. This St. Collins siding was homesteaded by Leo Geismar in 1889. The homestead, or farm, was sold to Mr. and Mrs. James Howlett in 1896. William Elliott and Mrs. Amelia Howlett operated a general store and post office there until 1899. It was then operated by Mr. and Mrs. William Howlett until 1900. The farm was owned by John Aho when it was sold to Leander Wiinamaki. His granddaughter, Doris, along with her husband and family still reside there.

Walking east towards town, and remaining on the north side of M-28, we pass what is now Kopsi's home. McArthur and Hollister and August Newman operated sawmills on this property on the west side of Clear Creek. On the east side of the creek, Walter and Irene Couture built and operated a commercial fish-smoking business along side of the home they also built (presently Lawrence Pulkas').

The apartment building owned by Howard Johnson began as Benstrom's store which was converted from the storehouse after the fire of '22. Through the 1930's and '40's, Norman Benstrom operated a garage in the building. It was later used as a private dwelling until converted into apartments.

Where the Pump Haus is now located, Hank Platzke built and ran a Phillips' 66 gas station in the mid 1950's. After his death, Bill Korsman bought the business and ran it until his son Arthur took over. He maintains ownership but Art and Yvonne Welsh now operate the business as the Pump Haus.



Street scene — 1907



Next door is Korsman's building supply where a large red building constructed by Leonard Fletcher once stood. It was used as a saloon and barber shop with living quarters upstairs. Later the whole building became Albert and Hazel Gerber's home. The building was torn down in the '50's and the lot remained empty until Korsman constructed his lumber yard there.

On the corner, the Settlers Co-op built a gas and oil service station in 1926; it remains Co-op Services today. The first station was operated only in the summer months since cars were not used in the winter months.

On the corner across US-45 from Co-op Services, Charles and Albert Gerber built and operated a garage. They, with their sister Bessie as the bookkeeper, maintained a Chevrolet dealership from 1922 until 1931. In June of 1943 Gerbers sold the business to H.O.B. (Houghton, Ontonagon, Baraga) Cooperative Services. They used the building as a repair shop, garage, offices, and the Michigan State Highway Department also used garage and office space. The building was also used for Eino Stenfors' car business, 1935-37, and for the post office when Irene Couture was post mistress. After H.O.B. Services vacated, the building was used for truck storage by Settlers Co-op with the front corner housing a flower shop and last, before the building was torn down in 1985, a Tourist Information Center.

Let us now cross the highway and head back towards the west. The original two-stall Fire Hall was built in 1949. The first two office additions were built in the early 1970's. Two additional truck stalls were built in 1978.

Next door is the present V.F.W. Hall. In 1908, a two-story Town Hall was built. It opened with a dance on January 25, 1908. This popular community gathering place was used for dances, card parties, elections, and school and church activities. When this building burned down in 1953, the local V.F.W. purchased the unused North Paynesville school house, moved it to the former town hall site and built on an addition. This building is still used for many community affairs.

Where Tulppo's Restaurant and Motel now stand, Bill Korsman started a welding shop in 1946. From 1946 to the present, this building has undergone much remodeling. It has been used for a car dealership, sporting goods shop, restaurant and motel.

On the corner where the Bruce Crossing Auto Service is

now operated, William Howlett, in 1901-02, built a general store with living quarters upstairs. From 1902-1919 Jason Suits of Ewen operated the store. Carroll Brown bought and sold it the same year to Rissinen and Huhtala. Their garage and blacksmith shop burned in 1922. A gas station was built on the same location in 1925 by A.F. and Charles Gerber. The business was leased by Standard Oil in 1931. John (Rudy) Engstrom took over the gas station in 1933. Henry Platzke worked for him and later ran the station until 1952. After this, various people managed it. In 1979 Orville Tulppo bought it from Mrs. Engstrom and still owns it.

At the intersection where Binders Bar now stands, and after the new road was built just east of it, a general store was run by Carroll Brown until this store burned in the "Big Fire of '22". Sy Barnes rebuilt a hotel on this corner in 1924 and it was operated by various managers. Esther Binder took over the business in 1937 and it is best remembered as Binder's Hotel. The building burned down on January 16, 1957, while Bill and Betty Andrus were managers. It was again rebuilt, this time as a bar only, by Quentin Binder in 1957. Lawrence and Hazel Pulkas are the present owners of Binders Bar, purchasing it from Binder in 1977.

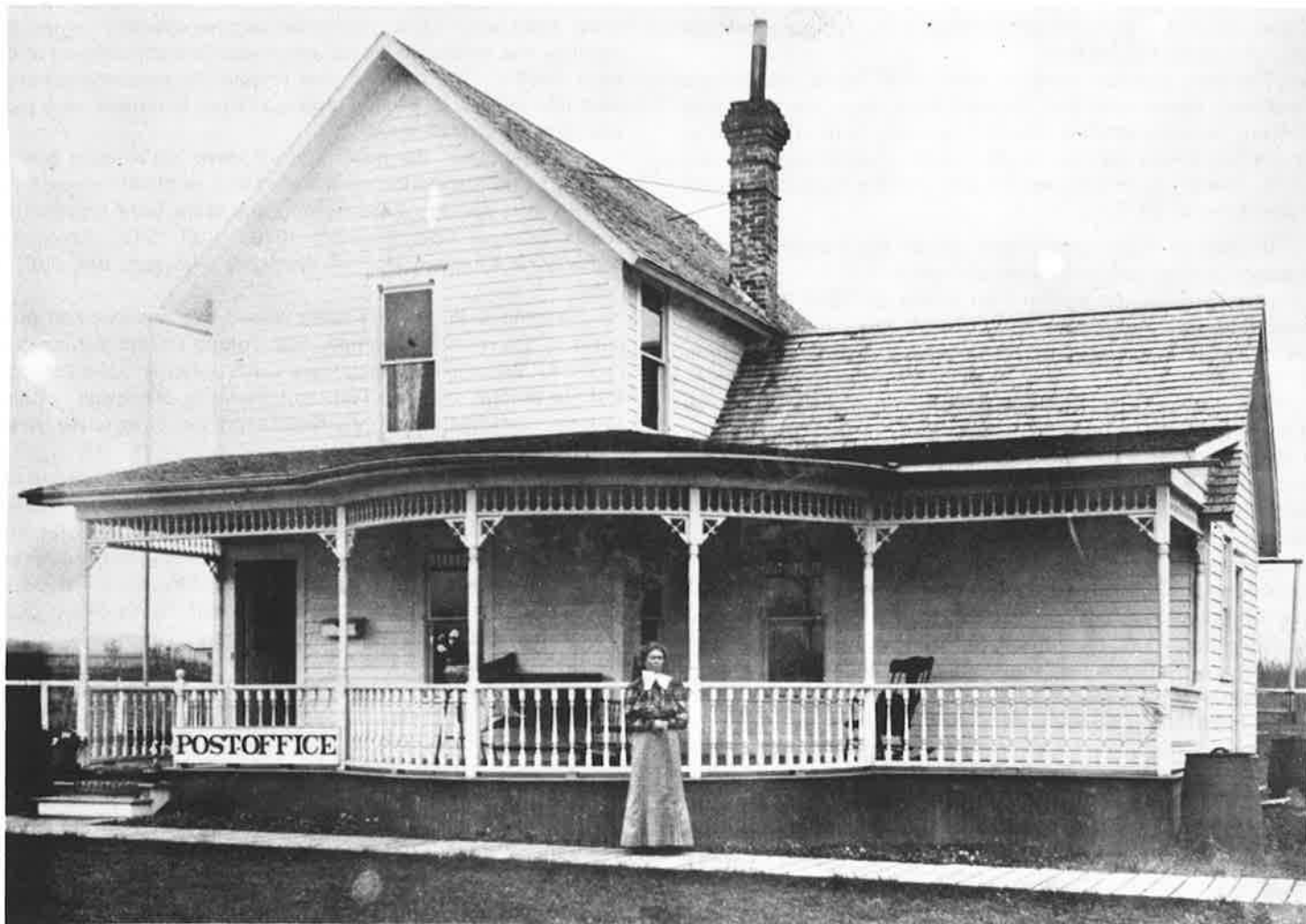
Next to the Hotel, before the present A & A Hardware Store, stood Turner's Saloon in the early 1900's. Where A & A now stands, in about 1910, James Howlett built and operated a hardware store. In 1912 John Benstrom purchased the building and ran a general store and at one time the post office. This building also burned in the fire of '22. In the late 1920's, Albin Lahikainen rebuilt a grocery store which Emil Hautala managed as the Red & White. In 1944, Bill and Aune Korsman purchased the building and operated their hardware business until 1968 when Arne Huhtala and Arnold Wirtanen took it over. It is still run by Huhtalas today.

West from A & A was Barnes' general store built in 1910 by Sy Barnes. The Farmer's Cooperative Company bought the store in 1918 and operated it until it too burned in the fire of '22.

At the beginning of the century, where Digger's Bowling Alley is now, Barnes owned and operated a livery stable. One could rent a horse and buggy in the summer and a sleigh in the winter. Luther Taylor used rigs from Barnes to transport children to school and people to local dances. Eino Stenfors purchased



Downtown street scene — Present M-28 looking east towards intersection.



Post Office and Cobb House — 1903

the property from Barnes and converted the stable to a tavern. An attached restaurant, The Susy Q Cafe, is remembered operated by Sue Pietila and Milt and Margaret Ekstadt in the 1930's and early '40's. This building was torn down and Eino Saaranen rebuilt a bar in 1962; the bowling alleys were added later. Ed Saaranen was operating the business when Dan Nordine took it over; Dan is still there today.

Next door to the livery stable was an ice cream shop owned and operated by William Kleinlein. This later became a barber shop. Behind this shop, where the Settlers Credit Union now stands, was a gas station/garage owned by Eino Stenfors and run by Bill Korsman. Barney Benstrom and Glen Anderson also had businesses there from '39 - '48.

On westward, where Emil Syria's house is now, Dr. Koivupalo, a general practitioner and surgeon, had an office and hospital from 1917 until the early 1920's. He lived in the house next door, which is now Alice Bruno's, with his wife and nine children. After the doctor moved to the Copper Country, the office was used by the telephone company.

Next door is the Finnish Apostolic Church which had been the Syrja school house before it was moved to its present location in 1928.

Further on, just west of Clear Creek is the Ontonagon County Garage. The present building was constructed in 1964.

Next to the County Garage is the Bethany Lutheran Church. This building also began as a school and became church property in 1914.

To see how the south section of Bruce Crossing has changed through the years, let us begin at the southern border of Stannard Township along the east side of what is now US-45. In 1960 Reginald Moll and son Carl moved their beverage plant from Watersmeet to their home south of town. They operated this beer/soft drink business until 1968.

In the area of the Steamboat Bill Ball Park, the Bruce Crossing school was located. The first two-room school was built in 1915 and used for children in grades K-10. After this building burned in 1920, a similar school building was erected on the same spot. This was used until it, too, burned in 1971.

Brown's Funeral Home began as a private home. In April, 1941, Guy Hawkins opened a funeral home in the building. In 1948 the Hawkins left town and Perry took over with George Brown as funeral director. Some time later Browns took it over and it became the Brown Funeral Home. George and son Dennis



Barnes Motor Inn, late 1920's — early '30's



began a partnership in 1969 and worked together until George retired in 1974. In 1979 Dennis bought the complete business and remains the sole owner.

The next business north of the funeral home, the Scorpio warehouse, began as Wilbert Majava's Body Shop. In 1948 Glen Fleming began operating Fleming Heating from the building. Dennis Niemi now uses the building as his Scorpio business warehouse. He began this amusement and vending machine business in December of 1977.

In July of 1980, Cora Niemi opened the Flower Port and Hairdock in what used to be a private home.

Just south of the present Post Office, in 1930 Pete Bruno operated a garage and auto repair shop. The building was also used by Majava and then by Holombo as a sheet metal shop in the late 1940's.

Our current Post Office was built in 1960. On the lot north of it was Al Pletzke's Sport Shop from 1962 until it burned down in 1980. Next to this now vacant lot was what was known as the Mass Co-op, a general store and branch of the Mass City Co-op, dating back to 1933-34. Carl Wuolikainen was the first store manager. Later, the building was used by: Mack Holombo, as his sheet metal shop; William Johnson, as a variety store; Howard Johnson, as a building supply; Norma Lehto, as a beauty shop, Coss Brothers, as a heating business, David Helsius, as an insurance office; and presently Bruce Smith runs an auto body shop along with Mitzi's This and That.

Directly behind this building, where the old Military Road ran, in 1904 George Moore built and operated a general store for a few years. The original building was moved back off the road, converted to a home, and his daughter, Vivian Moore, still resides there.

Returning to US-45 and traveling south from Binders Bar, we now find ourselves in a parking lot. The building best known in this location was Hank's Bar. It was built by Eugene (Buck) Taylor in the 1920's. It originally was the "Always Inn" restaurant and rooming house owned and operated by the Taylors. After prohibition, the building was rented by J. Staff, Sr. and G. and M. Aslen of Trout Creek. They operated it as a tavern until Staff died. J. Larson and E. Lauri bought the license from Aslens and ran the business until Grover Lackie bought it in the 1940's. Mrs. Wubbena bought the building from Taylor and sold it to Lackie also. Owners since the 1940's were J. Waara, Hank Huttula, Gardner, and Sayles. Mitzi Sayles owned the building when it was demolished and the vacant lot is now a parking lot.

Joe's Restaurant dates back to the 1920's when it was the Gem School. It was moved into town near the Bruces' School and used for the high grades. Later Matt Lampi and Grover Lackie moved it to its present site and operated a tavern there. Lampi converted it and used it as a home until William and Lempi Niemi bought it and began a restaurant, well known as Bundy's. Owners after the Niemi's were Bob and Sue Leskela and then Mitzi Sayles. In 1981, Joe and Marie Fencil purchased the restaurant and added the banquet room in April of 1984. In 1985 they remodeled the original dining room. Fencils operate the restaurant as "Joe's."

Where Nordine's store is now located, a blacksmith shop and a Wisconsin-Electric sub station once stood.

In the part of town where Tom Nordine's house and store now stand a gas station is remembered in the early 1900's. When the station was not in operation, different families used the building as a home. When the North Baltimore School was no longer in use, Grover Lackie and Barefoot Charlie moved it into town and set it up next to the gas station; Lackie converted it into a home. The old station was then torn down and a small store, 16' x 24', was built on the same foundation.

South of Nordines was Leo Nippa's Sauna Industry started in 1930. After Leo retired in 1960, his son Eli operated the busi-

ness until Michael Stenfors and Gil Kotila took over as partners from 1969 until 1978. When Gil became the sole owner, the business was moved to his car sales location north of town in the early 1980's. The building that housed the original business is used now by Dr. E. Sandell, a dentist from Ironwood who practices in town twice a week.

To look over the north side of town, we'll begin 6 miles north of the intersection on the west side of US-45 where Remingtons now reside. A gas station and store were operated by Walter Couture from the early 1920's until 1942. Across the highway, a Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses was built in 1968.

Heading back towards town, about two and one-half miles north of the main intersection, Ray Tulppo started a golf course in 1967. Succeeding owners were Lewis Johnson, John Johnson, and its present owners, Tom and Dorothy Miesbauer. Ralph Johnson operated Johnson Livestock on the farm south of the golf course.

About one-half mile north of the intersection, Doug and Jan Anderson operated a home heating and fabric shop in the 1970's. In 1983 Arv Niemi purchased the building and used it for his auto repair shop. Recently part of the building was used as a physical fitness center and it also housed the Country Memories Shop.

Closer to town, Vern Hemming opened Vern's Repair Shop in 1948 and is still operating it.

Continuing south, Elson & Bessen operated a grist mill, The Community Milling Company, before 1920. On this same corner near the railroad tracks, Settlers Co-op now maintains a truck garage. From this corner let's take a short side trip down what is now Railroad Street. The Co-op hall was constructed in 1931 and used extensively for local events. It still stands, in good condition, and will be used for Bruce Crossing 1986 Centennial activities. Across the street from the Hall was the first depot which was used until 1918 when a new depot was built at a new location.

At the end of this street near Clear Creek, Steinbrecher saw mill was in operation at the turn of the century. At this sight the Ontonagon Valley Co-op Creamery began business in 1924 and remained in operation until 1978. Coss bought the property and the building was used for sheet metal work.

Back out on US-45 and after the fire of '22 burned the Co-op Store, a Co-op warehouse was used as the store until 1939 when a new store was built. Between this interim Co-op Store and the Co-op Service Station on the corner, Addie Lathrop's home was located which housed the post office in the early 1900's.

Crossing the street, and north of the original Gerber Garage, Ed Platzke operated a garage in the late 1930's. Next door was a small building used first as a private home and later by Norma Lehto as a beauty shop. This location is now the Co-op parking area. The Settler's Co-op Store was built in 1939 and is still operating from the same building today. Next to the store, still on the south side of the tracks, the second depot was built in 1918. This was used until the trains stopped running.

On the north side of the tracks was the Michela Lumber Company. Nestor Gronlund managed the business. Beyond the present ball park, Alfred Korsman operated a shoe repair shop beginning in 1937.

Traveling further north, the Townsite Motel was built by Lauri Syrjanen in the mid 1950's. After Syrjanen, the business was operated by Engstroms, Streeters, and Sayles until Gil Kotila purchased it in 1984. He currently operates the motel as the Townsite Timber Lodge.

Gil Kotila began his used car business from his own yard north of town in 1959. In 1966 he began selling cars from his large new building one mile north of town and in 1980 combined his car sales with the Nippa Sauna Stove industry. He remains in both businesses today.





Bruce Crossing Post Office & Bjornstrom's (Benstrom) General Store — 1931 (Geste, Aileen, John & Danny Benstrom)



Korsman's Store



Nordine's Market



Nordine's Foodland

**JOHN ZACHARY (BENSTROM) BJORNSTROM****1862 - 1950**

John Bjornstrom was born in Tornio Sweden September 3, 1862. He came to the United States in 1872 settling in the Copper Country with his parents. In 1890 he married the former Anna Catherine Oja. In 1912 they moved to Bruce Crossing to start their own business.

When Mr. Bjornstrom opened his store, it was first located in the area just east of where A & A Hardware now stands. This building was destroyed by fire in the early twenties. He then moved the general store and Bruce Crossing Post Office to his warehouse located next to his home about a block west on M-28. The home is now owned by the Anderson's and the store building is owned by Howard Johnson.

During the Great Depression, John Bjornstrom's generosity and compassion in giving credit to his customers enabled many of the local farm families to survive those depressed years. Thousands of dollars were still on the books when he retired from business in 1935. Some of his creditors still stopped by occasionally to visit and give him a few dollars towards their bill up until he passed away in 1950.

Along with being a prominent business man in Bruce Crossing for over thirty years, he was also the Bruce Crossing Postmaster for 17 years and after retiring from business in 1939 at the age of 77, he was elected and served 4 years as Stannard Township Supervisor. He also served 2 years as the township treasurer.

During John Bjornstrom's early years in business, almost all of his customers were Finnish immigrants, all of whom had difficulty in pronouncing the name "Bjornstrom", so over the years the name "Benstrom", which was easier to pronounce, evolved and eventually became the name used by all of his descendants. John and Catherine had 12 children; 7 lived and grew up in Bruce Crossing; 3 survive, Dora Skurr of Ontonagon, Martha Hatfield and Geste Benstrom, both of Davison.

**NORMAN D. (BARNEY) BENSTROM (1911 - 1972)**

Norman operated an auto repair business in Bruce Crossing for several years. His first garage was located in the basement of his father's general store and the Post Office building, starting in the twenties while he was still a teenager, through the thirties and early forties.

In 1929 Norman married the former Aileen Bessen of Trout Creek. They had two children, both born and raised in Bruce Crossing.

During most of the war years, he worked for the U. S. Government as an automotive mechanic, returning to Bruce Crossing in 1944 to reopen his garage. This time he opened a garage and service station in the Stenfors Sinclair Station which was located just west of the present bowling alley. He was in this location until moving to Flint in 1950.

"Barney", as he was often called, was a self taught automotive expert, starting as a youngster by tearing down his 1924 "Model T" and putting it back together. During the war and the post-war years, new vehicles were not available so his expertise was very much in demand to overhaul the aging Model A's and other pre-war vehicles, especially the locally fabricated farm tractor called the "Bessy".

Barney was a friend to anyone that ever met him.

**NORDINE FOODLAND**

Tom Nordine bought his house and original small store, which measured 16' x 24' and became Nordine's Market, from Grover Lackie in 1949. He operated both a Mobil gas station and grocery store with Saimi Antilla, Myrtle Meyers, Dorothy Gerber, and Ethyl Neuman being the first clerks. Business was good and the store was enlarged in 1951 and again in 1953. It was operated this way until the "little" store closed on February 1, 1968, and the completely new "big" store opened along side of it the following day. In 1977 expansion was again necessary. Nordine purchased the Ewen V-Store and it burned down the same day. He wanted the old Locker Plant lot in addition to the V-Store lot but decided this investment would be too great. Instead, the new "big" store that opened in 1968 was doubled in size and remains that way today.

**KORSMAN BUSINESSES**

In 1944 Bill and Aune Korsman purchased the Red and White grocery store from Albin Lahikainen of Toivola. This building presently is the A & A Hardware store.

At that time, Bill was operating the Standard Oil gas station, which is presently operated by Roger Antilla. In 1946 he started a welding shop where Tulppo's Restaurant is located now. Bud Korri was one of his employees and Slim Niemi was one of the students to whom Bill taught the welding trade.

Also in 1946, Bill began his hardware business and Chrysler dealership. He displayed DeSoto and Plymouth cars in the front part of the store and operated a repair garage in the rear of the store. He also became a Pure gas and oil dealer which he later transferred to a Phillips "66" dealership.

Bill assisted Henry Pletzke in building his gas station in the early 50's. Around the same time, Bill built the service garage which A & A still uses for car repair. After the new repair garage was built, he became solely a hardware, auto parts-repair dealer, and oil company owner. Son Arthur was one of his employees who began working in the business in 1958.

In 1968, Bill and Aune sold the hardware store to Arne Huhtala. Shortly thereafter they purchased the Phillips "66" gas station and built the lumber yard across the street, which are now owned by Arthur Korsman.

**KORSMAN SHOE REPAIR**

In 1937 Alfred Korsman built a small shoe repair shop which was located immediately north of the northwest corner of the Stannard Township Park on the east side of U.S. 45. Mrs. Martha Pouttu now lives in the original Korsman home.

Alfred charged about 25 cents for a new pair of heels and 50 cents for new soles on a pair of shoes.

Sometimes when the customer had only one pair of shoes, he repaired them on the spot with the customer waiting in his stocking feet — often at the house over a cup of coffee with his wife Louisa.

**BRUCE CROSSING AIRPORT**

The Bruce Crossing Airport was opened in the spring of 1947, offering flying lessons to returning servicemen under the G.I. Bill. Private lessons were also available to non-military personnel. Approximately 30 students flew to varying degrees of

accomplishment under the instruction of Don LaValley. During this time, rides were available to the public. The airport also featured a restaurant, cabins, and airplane fuel. Many breakfast flights took place with up to 40 planes arriving from various fields in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. Several air shows were also featured with stunt flying and aerobatics.

The school ceased to exist after 1949. The field, however, remained licensed until the early sixties under the ownership and management of Halfdon Opland. During this period it was used by special forces, such as the Green Berets for maneuvers and parachute jumping.



Leo Nippa

### NIPPA SAUNA STOVES

The Finns came to the Upper Peninsula, Wisconsin, and Minnesota by the thousands in the early 1900's, bringing memories of their saunas with them. Leo Nippa started the sauna-making business at Bruce Crossing about 1930 after watching his step-father make his first stove out of an old steam boiler he salvaged from the old Co-op store location when it burned in 1922. At first Leo produced only wood and coal burning stoves for the farmers. Then the farmers' friends wanted them and soon he had a growing business. Later he made electric ones. At first only the Finns had saunas. (It's correctly pronounced sow' na, not sawna as one hears it pronounced today.) Between 1930 and the mid 1960's it was estimated over 15,000 such stoves had been manufactured at Nippa's shop.

Leo's son Eli started helping his father in the shop when he was eight years old and took over the business when his father retired in 1960. Eli and his family manufactured Nippa stoves until Michael Stenfors and Gil Kotila took over as partners from 1969 until 1978. Leo Nippa died in January of 1975.

The fame of Nippa stoves reached every state in the United States, even Alaska and Hawaii. At one time the Wall Street Journal did a story on the Nippa's and in the month following the write-up, they received 1500 inquiries. During World War II when Army maneuvers were carried on around Bruce Crossing, they had 300-400 soldiers using and enjoying the sauna. This brought in a number of stove orders from the men after they returned home.

Gil Kotila and employees still manufacture and sell the sauna stoves at his car sales location north of town.

### TULPPO'S RESTAURANT, MOTEL AND COPPER DRIFT LOUNGE

Originally Bill Korsman, owner and proprietor of a welding shop, put his building up for sale and Mrs. Albert Allie, of Paulding, Michigan, bought it.

Mrs. Allie then rented the building to Tom Nordine, who had the Kaiser-Frazer Auto Franchise in this area. Orville Tulppo worked for Tom as a car salesman.

In the fall of 1949, Orville remodeled half of the building into a sporting goods store with living quarters in the rear. Two years later a poolroom was established in the rear of the sporting goods store while the Tulppos moved into an apartment above Korsman's Welding Shop. In June 1953 the building was remodeled and became a root beer drive-in with living quarters in the back.

That same year Mrs. Allie sold the adjacent lot to the east to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post for \$300, after which a schoolhouse was moved on the lot and became the V.F.W. Post Home. Sometime after that the Town Hall burned down. Tulppos bought the lot where the Post Home was situated from the V.F.W. Subsequently the Post Home was moved onto the Town Hall basement by Tulppos, where it stands today.

By 1959 Tulppos had built eight motel units and a new kitchen for the restaurant. 1961 brought the construction of living quarters above the restaurant, with a bar downstairs being added in 1970 and enlarged in 1973. In 1979 the upstairs apartment was remodeled into a formal banquet room.

1986 marks the thirty-eighth year of business for Tulppos, having started November 1, 1949.

### COSS HEATING

On June 5, 1972, James and Robert Coss bought out the heating department at Settlers Co-op along with the Lennox franchise and formed Coss Brothers Heating. They also purchased a building housing Norma's Cut & Curl which was later torn down. Business was done out of the old Co-op slaughter house located east of the store. Coss' expanded in September, 1972, and purchased the old Mass Co-op building from Tom and Seere Nordine and then ran the heating business from there. They also started manufacturing wood furnaces during the 1972-1973 heating season. In September of 1978, Coss' built their present shop on land purchased from Richard Polkky.

Bob Coss decided to return to Kenosha, Wisconsin, where he still works. The business name was changed to Coss Heating and later to Coss Heating and Manufacturing, Inc. By late 1979-80, up to 15 workers were employed, mostly for the manufacturing of the Coss Wood Furnace. There were dealers and distributors of these furnaces as far as Arkansas, California, and many in



Tulppo's Restaurant, Motel, and Copper Drift Lounge



Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

The Co-op Creamery, which was located just south of Coss', went out of business in November, 1979. The last milk can, Can No. 36, went through on November 19, 1979. Coss' purchased the creamery in March, 1980, and used the building for sheetmetal work and assembly of the Coss furnaces. Welding was done in the steel building. On October 24, 1984, the manufacturing part of the business was sold to Eagle Furnace Co. of Stambaugh, Michigan. Coss' remain in the heating and sheetmetal business and changed the name back to Coss Heating, Inc.

### JOHNSON LIVESTOCK

In 1943 a new business was added to the community. Ralph Johnson moved in from Calumet with his family. He was already in the livestock business there but Bruce Crossing proved to be a more convenient place for this type of business. The markets for beef were closer as Green Bay and Peshtigo were the most popular outlets. Also at that time almost all the farms here were dairy. Trading and buying milk cows from farm to farm proved to be a good business as most of the farms were all within a 60 mile radius.

Johnson Livestock was located two and one-half miles north of town being the former Murtonen farm. It proved to be a good place for cattle to lay over until a trade or purchase was made. Being always strange cattle, they always found a good hole in the fence or jumped the fences. To many neighbors' dismay, the cattle got a good chase back over the fence, as Margie Tulppo can attest to!

His son Burton took over the business in 1965 after Ralph's retirement. Although Burton owns the farm, it is rented to Howard Dollar, and Johnson still operates the livestock business out of his home east of town.

Ralph can be remembered as saying, "Bruces is a good place; it has been good to me and my family."

### R. A. MOLL & SON BEVERAGE COMPANY

In the spring of 1947, because of a dispute over distributorship boundaries of two distributors of Bosch beer, the Brewery felt they were not being properly represented in the area. At this time, Carl Moll was employed as a salesman by Blake Distributors of L'Anse, who serviced part of the area in question.

Kelly Bros. from Watersmeet also felt that this was their territory. Therefore, Carl and his father, Reginald, purchased the Kelly Bros. distributorship, consolidating all areas in question, and the Company R. A. Moll & Son was formed.

Along with Bosch beer, they added Rhinelander, Kopitz, Schlitz and also various wines.

In 1960, they purchased the Johnson Bottling Co. of Bessemer and moved the plant to Bruce Crossing, where for ten years they bottled soft drinks under the name, Moll's Artesian Beverages. This included a "Mr. Cola" Franchise and Cliquot Club.

In 1962, Carl purchased his father's share of the business and operated under the name Moll Beverage Co. Altogether, Carl serviced the area with beverages for a total of twenty-two years before selling the business.

### RED AND WHITE STORE

The Red & White store opened in 1929. It was built and operated by Mr. Albin Lahikainen of Toivola and managed by Mr. Emil Hautala. It was a general merchandise store with groceries, hardware and dry goods as well as a feed business and some farm equipment. The store served as a collection station for cream from the local farmers which was sold to the Bessemer Creamery which made regular stops there. Eggs were also purchased from the local farmers and sold outside of the area. Delivery routes were operated in the rural areas for the delivery of feed for

livestock and groceries and the pick up of cream. Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Linna were long time employees of the store working there many years before their marriage. Ralph Hemming also worked there for a few years. It was operated as the Red & White until the building was sold to William Korsman in 1943.

Mr. and Mrs. Emil Hautala moved to Detroit following the closing of the business, where Mr. Hautala was employed by Sears till his retirement in the 60's. There were five children in the family who grew up in Bruce Crossing: Elaine, (Mrs. Albert Miller, Deceased), Ruth, George (Elroy), Clifford and Ray. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hautala are now deceased.

### SETTLERS COOPERATIVE CREDIT UNION

The first meeting of the Credit Union was held September 30, 1932. Board of Directors at that time were: Emil Aijala, President; Maurice Rayburn, Treasurer; Ivar Kemppainen, Bert Backa, and Charles V. Nurmi. The Credit Committee was composed of Sulo Hayrinen, Nick Niemi, and Abel Suhonen; the Supervisory Committee of August Kauppinen, Andrew Maarala, and Abel Moilanen.

The Credit Union was organized with the purpose in mind that those who needed credit could borrow money from the organization and make their purchases with cash. From this beginning, the Credit Union has grown into a million dollar plus business. It offers, in addition to the original money to lend, such things as share draft accounts, savings accounts, money market certificates, all-savers certificates, Christmas Clubs, money orders, travelers checks, insurance and other services. It has grown from the small office in the Co-op Store to a large, modern building. This move was made November 4, 1981, making 1986 the fifty-fourth year in business.

As of February 26, 1986, the Board of Directors consisted of: Thomas Corda, President; Arthur Juntunen, Vice President; Gladen Niemi, Treasurer; George Wolfe, Secretary; and Roger Halquist, Membership. The Credit Committee was composed of Arvo Perttu, Chairperson, Judith LaMora, and Doris Kudlaczky; and the Supervisor Committee was John Talsma, Chairperson, Val Bonetti, and Delbert Kopsi.

### EINO STENFORS (1905 - 1956)

Eino Stenfors moved to Bruce Crossing from Rockland in 1929 as a boarder of Mrs. Minnie Moore. In 1934 he built an airplane and taught himself to fly using Binder's Field, the local airport. He sold the plane in 1936 after a few too many close calls.

In 1934, Eino established the Chevrolet Car and Truck dealership, which was located in the Co-op Services Building. He operated this business until 1936. In that same year, he purchased a tavern from Sylvester Barnes which had formerly been a livery stable. Along with the tavern, there was a barbershop, a Sinclair Gas Station, and a home (presently L. E. Johnson residence).

From 1937 to 1940, Eino ran a beer wholesale distributorship, servicing the south end of Ontonagon County. During World War II, Eino logged in the Porcupine Mountains. After the war, he kept his logging equipment and established a bulldozing service which he kept until 1954.

Eino's bar, which stood at the present site of Digger's Alley, was sold to Eino and Mary Saaranen in 1961 and razed in 1962.

Stenfors was also a Charter member of the Volunteer Fire Department.



Settler's Cooperative Trading Company

## SETTLERS COOPERATIVE TRADING COMPANY

In 1917 it took the settlers three months to eke together their original investment of \$700 to set up the business that is now the Settlers Cooperative Trading Company. Since then they have distributed back to themselves total patronage refunds of over \$940,000 in cash and in shares of interest bearing stock.

These Finnish immigrants had migrated to the logged over, burned over area in and after 1910, paying for their 40 acre plots of land out of logging camp wages as low as 80 cents a day.

These Finnish immigrants approached the Board of Directors of the Hancock Cooperative Store. They figured that though they needed a cooperative desperately, they simply lacked the numbers and economic power to go it alone. This Hancock group promised to put in a branch operation, providing the area residents raise \$1,500 in share capital. The shares were only \$5 each but even this was too much as a one-blow investment for most of the settlers. They paid the price in installments over a three-month period, and finally \$800 of the required sum had to be borrowed. In May of 1917, the Bruce Crossing Co-op Store opened for business in rented quarters.

In the latter part of 1918, area people had become dissatisfied as a branch of Hancock because of the long distance between the stores. A constitution and by-laws were drawn up for an independent Co-op Store and on March 12, 1919, the local members incorporated the Co-op Store in the name of "Settlers Cooperative Trading Company."

The number of members, share capital, sales and net savings have been climbing year by year. At the end of 1985 there were 1,873 members as compared to 71 in 1917; \$134,680 of share capital as compared to \$700 that first year; and annual sales had soared from \$21,000 in 1917 to \$2,000,000 in 1985.

In July of 1922, the Co-op Store building and stock burned. Cream testing was done in the store. A fire was needed for this process and sparks from the chimney ignited the dry, wooden shingles. During the hot, dry summer and having no organized fire department, three adjacent stores burned down with the

Co-op and the bucket brigade could do nothing to stop the blaze. Shortly after the fire, the store reopened in a warehouse. In 1939 the present store was built.

At one time there were Settlers Co-op operations in Ewen, Paynesville, Trout Creek, and Mass City. The Bruce Crossing store is the only one still operating.

The first gas station was built in 1926 and in 1935 a new service station was constructed. Some years later this second station was remodeled and repaired to be more convenient for serving the patrons.

Shareholders elect the Board of Directors at the organization's annual meeting. This Board then elects the General Manager. General Managers who have served are: 1917 - Kalle Korhonen; 1917 -18 Victor Lahti; 1919 - August Rissanen; 1920 - Bernhard Wirkkula; 1920 - 21 Hubert Onkka; 1921 - 22 Oscar Lensu; 1922 - 26 J.J. Polkky; 1926 - 31 Emil Ojennus; 1931 - 34 Maurice Raeburn; 1934 - 52 J.J. Polkky; 1952 - 65 Carl Norberg; 1965 - 71 Dick Hauser; 1971 - 80 Arvo Perttu; 1980 - 81 Vern Tollefson; and from 1981 to the present Marvin Larson.

In 1978, the Settlers Co-op took over the gas and fuel oil business previously operated by H.O.B. Services. They sold this part of the business to the Gitche Gumees Oil Company in 1983.

## ONTONAGON VALLEY CREAMERY

Farmers in the area had an idea that if they had their own creamery, they might be able to get more for their cream. In the fall of 1923 the farmers interested began to collect share purchase agreements and pledges to sell all the cream produced to a co-operative creamery.

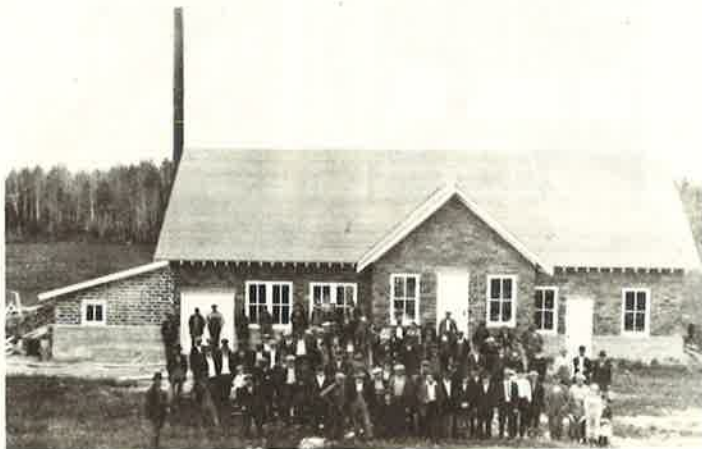
The first Board of Directors was elected in April 1924 and consisted of Chairman Emil Hautala and members Emil Ojennus, Gust Stringle, J.N. Howlett, Jacob Manty, Matt Hannuksela and Arthur Wiinamaki.

Progress was made and by August 1925, the creamery was able to start making butter from cream brought in. The creamery



was the first in the area to teach the farmers the necessity of producing clean, fresh milk; the butter produced was 70% sweet cream butter.

Political problems arose, therefore losing patrons, and a fire in January 1932 caused difficulties. By February 1933, a new building was constructed, and when operation resumed production started off on a small scale. Until 1936 cream was taken from the producers and butter was the only product made. Private creameries began to take in milk so it was started here too and casien was produced from the separated milk; the cream into butter. Casien production was short lived when the price dropped so low. In 1937 cheese production was started, which did well.



**Ontonagon Valley Coop Creamery**

With Clear Creek nearby, the creamery ran the whey into it. The State Stream Control Commission insisted they stop this practice and by 1949 a whey drier was put in which added to the income of the Creamery. Later cottage cheese was made and milk, buttermilk, cream, and whipping cream were bottled and sold over a large area with deliveries made by special trucks. Ice cream was also produced. Through the years many ribbons and awards were won at fairs for butter, cheese, and cottage cheese.



**Ontonagon Valley Coop Creamery**  
H. Priebus, Y. Manty, T. Kaars

Ice cream was sent to Milwaukee, Chicago, and Minneapolis. At first the Creamery was controlled by Bruce Crossing and the surrounding area, but later milk was brought in by the thousands of pounds from Covington, Ontonagon, Mass City, the Copper Country, Pelkie area and Phelps, Wisconsin. Of the 440 past patrons, the ten remaining dairy farms in Stannard Township are operated by Terry Perttula, Ronald Raatikka, Charles Perttu, Arvo Perttu and Sons, Charles Jousma, Thomas Younke, Clifford Lindberg, Bernard Lannet, Harold Roberts, and Reino Mukka.

The Creamery closed with the last can, can No. 36, going through on November 19, 1979. Milk was then shipped to the Dollar Bay Creamery, but that also closed in July, 1985. Now the farmers send their milk to Frigo in Carney, Michigan.

Some Creamery Statistics from 1976 (10 years ago)

- During the seasons of high production, as much as 120,000 pounds of milk were brought in by 13 trucks.
- There were 10 Stannard Township farmers, the rest were from Ewen, Trout Creek, and the Ontonagon area.
- With intake of milk so great, the Creamery made additions in 1941 (cheese room), 1946 (whey drier), 1948-49 (bottle milk department - "North Star Dairy").
- 5,494,620 lbs. of milk with butterfat of 199,852 lbs. was taken in.
- Annual milk payroll (to the producers) was \$411,707.23.
- 542,755 lbs. of cheese made. Not all was sold locally, but was packed in 500 lb. drums and sold to Pauly Cheese Co., Green Bay, Wisconsin. In prior years Kraft Cheese Co. was the main outlet for cheese produced.
- 29,415 lbs. of butter was made in 1976. Butter not sold locally was wrapped in Armour wrappers before going into the markets for sale.
- Late 1960's employee payroll was \$60,207 with nine year-round employees. During the flush in summer, an average of 15 employees were working, almost doubling the payroll.
- Share capital and interest was \$34,756.87; 65% was paid to shareholders at the close of business in November 1979.

## VERN'S REPAIR SHOP

Vern Hemming started repairing air-cooled engines, chain-saws and lawnmowers mostly, about 1948. There was at the time no other small engine shop in the area.

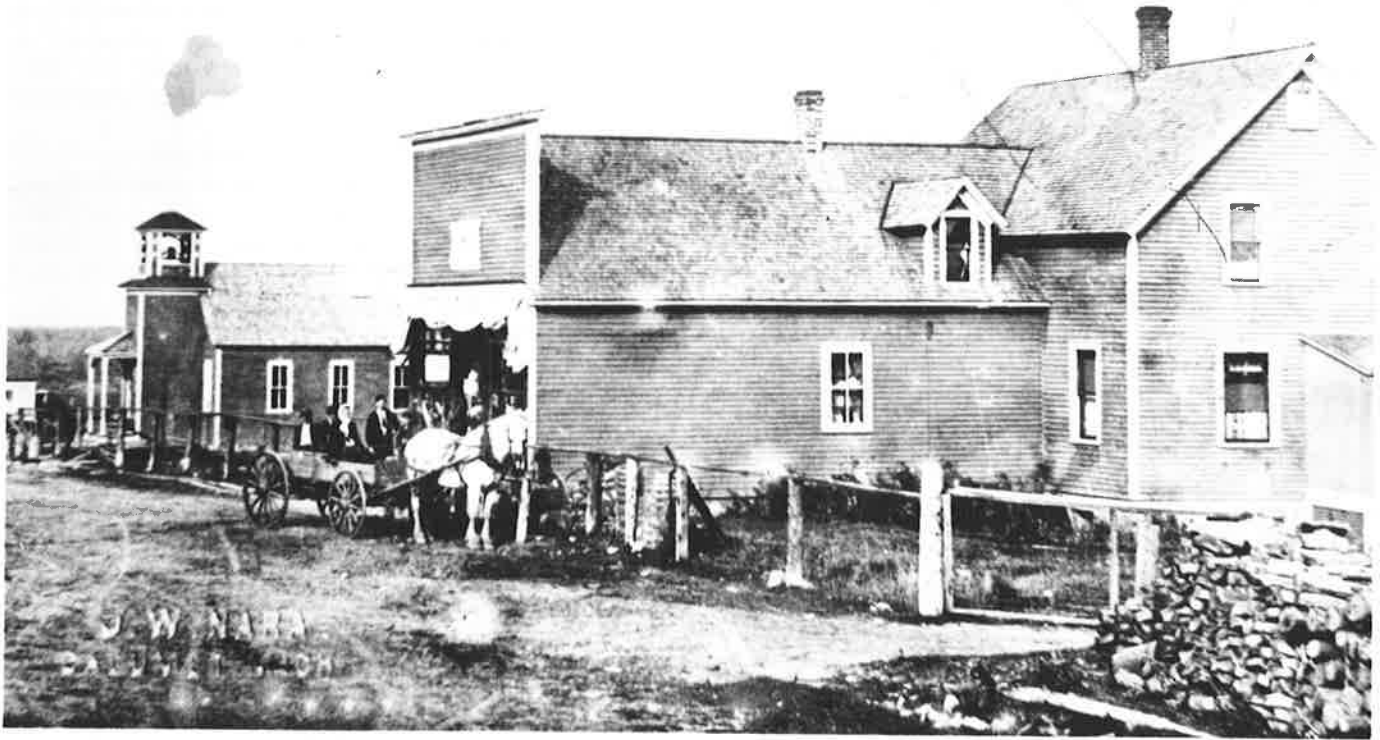
It wasn't until 1959 that Hemming had a full-time shop after years of finding sources, attending schools, building inventory and so on. Vern's shop is presently located in his back yard but, by the time of the Centennial Celebration, he hopes to be in a different building two doors down the street, 5330 US 45 N., with more floor space and more parking room.

Besides repairing, Vern sells push and rider lawn mowers, roto tillers, garden tractors, chain saws, and supplies and repair parts. He also offers warranty service on several nationally advertised engines and many kinds of equipment, regardless of whether or not he sold them originally.





# PAYNESVILLE



Paynesville School and Benstrom-Nystie Store - 1922-23

This village in McMillan Township was founded by the Payne family (Willis, Henry, Sidney and Etta), all of whom acquired homesteads in the area.

John Gorsline built a store and was a storekeeper as was his son Eugene. Nick Pelkola was a storekeeper in the same building followed by Helakoski, Shingler and Lukkarinen. Otto Ekonen was a delivery man for Lukkarinen using a horse and sled to bring feeds and groceries to the countryside. Rosberg and Simula were in the store in the 1930's. (They had branch stores in Trout Creek and Ewen.) John Juurikoski, from Trout Creek, was the Paynesville store manager. Storekeeper Charles T. Andrews became the first postmaster on March 5, 1890.

The Payne's built a store (where Miriam Teikari's home is now). They had living quarters in back and also upstairs. In 1915, Payne sold it to C. V. Nystie, who with Benstrom, had a store. The latter moved to Bruces and Albert Pulkkila was storekeeper a while before moving to Ewen.

How did the Co-op Store come to Paynesville? There were co-op members from the Paynesville area from the very beginning and in 1924-25 they asked for a branch store. A share capital drive brought in \$750 towards financing the branch store. People looked for a site for a building and purchased a lot which later had to be sold to the State Highway Department. (They were planning the present M-28 highway, I suppose!) To replace the condemned lot, the State purchased another lot on the east of the railroad station. In the fall of '25, members purchased the inventory and fixtures from A. Pulkkila, a former storekeeper. A branch store building was rented from the Antilla Estate. Managers there were Paul Lahti and Victor Rajala. This store building burned down. The Paynesville No. 2 school building was moved across the road to the Co-op lot and a store was put in. The front shed and bell tower were removed as was the back room which was used as a warehouse. Mike Ivarinen and Sylvia Meining were managers until Sylvia got married and Vi Salonen came in from the Bruces' store. Carl Norberg was there awhile,

too, before the store was moved to the old Gorsline building and the No. 2 store was moved to the south side for a warehouse. Managers were Carl Norberg, Onni Sikkila, Reino Metsala, Arne Huhtala, and Arthur Larson. The store was closed in 1967 when the membership decided to reduce operating costs and inventories. The store and warehouse still stand!

Andrew Vesala built a store and gas station in the late '20's. Ed Kaars bought it in 1937 and added a motel. He was in business until 1969 when Ed Daniels, the present owner, purchased it.



Vesala's Store - 1926

Nick Pelkola had a building on the east side of the railroad, south of the depot. This had been used before as a warehouse by the railroad. Pelkola had a store and also the Post Office. All the area young people used to congregate there and wait for the 10 p.m. passenger train to come from Marquette. In 1935 Toivo Kaars rented the warehouse. Feed and grain was brought in from Ironwood and Kaars delivered it to farmers in the area. The building was later moved southwest of Bruces by Peter Lehto, who was then living on the Frank Lehto place.

There was an ice house in the area where Mrs. Myers home is. (It was fun to get ice chips from there.) Oscar Huhtala had his first blacksmith shop in a little building near the ice house (or in the same area). He later, and for many years, had a blacksmith shop at his home (corner of Blacksmith and N. Paynesville Rds.). Later he added a large garage and was a car dealer for Overland cars with Emil Hautala as his partner.

The Grist Mill was located on the present M-28 at first. When the new road was built, it was moved to an area a little north of Art Hill's present place. It was west of the South Shore Railroad on the present Manty Road on old M-28. The flour mill was a three-story building about 40' x 50'. It was made of timbers and had galvanized sheet metal siding in the block design. (And boy! Did it make noise when the winds blew. It was scary!) On the top floor were the grinding stones. They were about four feet in diameter and twelve inches thick and made of red granite. The top stone had a hole in the center through which the grain went into as it turned. Conveyer belts with cups attached carried the grain from the first floor to the third floor grinding wheels. On the second floor were the sifting screens for making different grades of flour. These screens were hexagon drums about 10 - 12 inches long and three feet in diameter. The screens covering the drums were made of silk. Mrs. Hirvonen had the job every fall of patching the holes that the mice had chewed into the screens when the mill was idle.

Matt Heikkinen was the miller at the flour mill. He could make a Miller's knot on a sack of flour in the wink of an eye! Lindberg brothers were chief engineers and kept the steam engine running, while Carl Wuolikainen was the separator man.

This mill was started by a group of farmers. As the membership grew, an association was formed. This same group kept a saw mill, threshing machine, and the flour mill going. The saw mill was run most of the summer months. Threshing was done at the end of July, August, or September — whenever grain was ripe.

The Duluth South Shore Railroad through Paynesville was very busy. There were four passenger trains (10 a.m., 3 p.m., 10 p.m., and 3 a.m.) and lots of freights. They had a side track a little north of the depot on the M-28 side of the railroad which was used for switching freights. There also was a spur which went to the stock yards also on the west side. On the east side of the

railroad, a little north of the depot, was a section house. The section crew kept their tools and hand cars there. There were speeders, too, but the hand car had a bar which was moved back and forth to make it go. Carl Wuolikainen worked on this section gang for 15 years. Others from here were Toivo Alho and Eiser Pokela. There was also a switch for freights at Ruby Siding. This land used to belong to the railroad. (Next forty south from Art Dupras' place.) The Ruby Siding forty was the first borrow pit for sand and gravel for road building and repair in the 1920-1930 period.

Saw mills were very common. Keeler had a saw mill near the Ojaniemi place in 1916. (He later went to Lower Michigan.) The Farmer's Co-op (at the Grist Mill) had a saw mill. The Laitila Brothers and Jim Harju have also sawed lumber in recent years.

Bert Douslin was a bee farmer in the Paynesville area where Bonetti's and Metos' now live.

Axel Wuolikainen grew strawberries and raspberries. Carl Wuolikainen has crops of berries, too. Other berry farmers in Stannard Township include O. Linna, Strangle, Wm. Harju.

The two motels in the Paynesville area were the Kaars' White Roof, now Daniels', and the Gem Motel owned by Ken and Aileen Huhta.

Nick Pelkola went around threshing grain. His machine was a Case and his tractor men were Yalmer Lindberg and Andrew Pelkola.

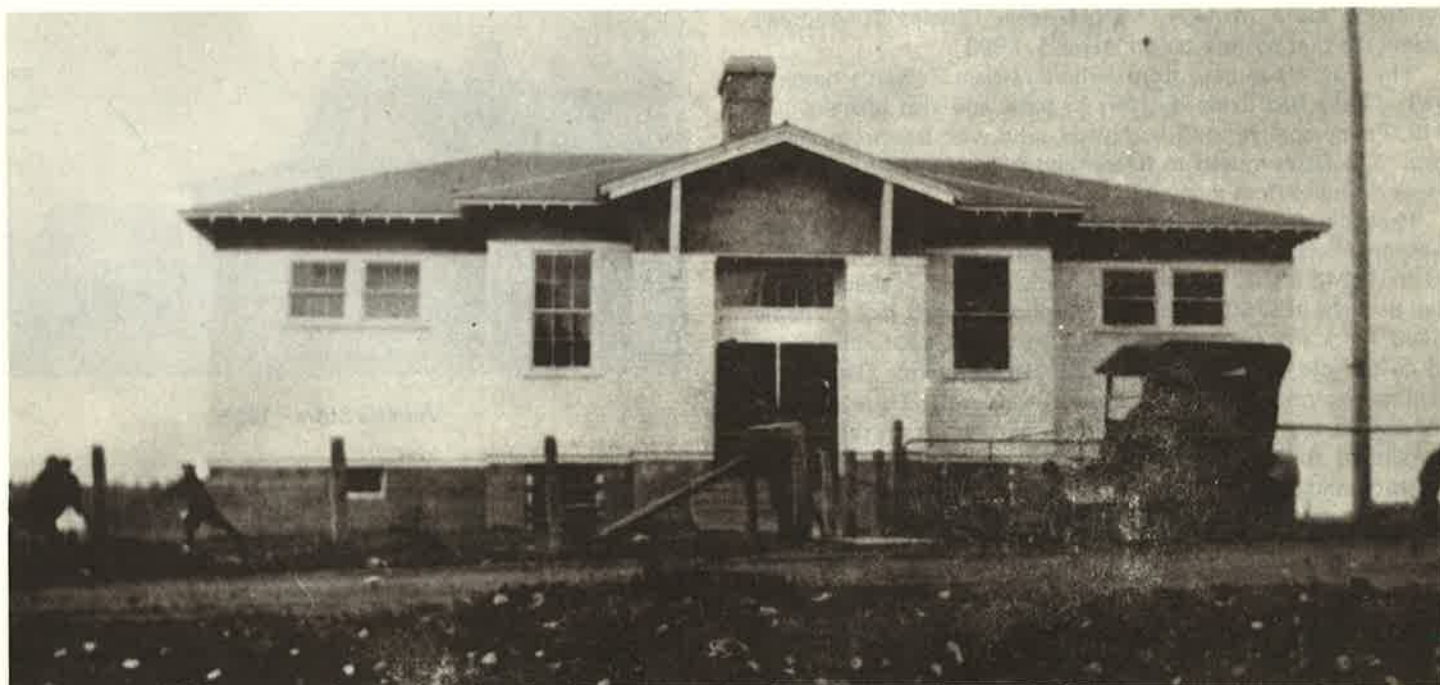
#### Loggers in the Area:

Jensen Lumber Co. from Ewen had camps southwest of Strangles and logged big areas. The Holtz name is familiar through the years. They had camps in the N. Baltimore and N. Military areas. Brunswick Logging Company was southeast of Bruce Crossing where the Tri-Township dump is now.

Forest fires occurred all over. It seemed as soon as the big trees were cut, the fires finished the rest — besides burning many homes, also. But fields made from land which had been burned produced abundantly. Hard wheat grew especially well. Big trees were plentiful. After 70 years the big pine stumps are still amazing — how big those trees must have been! Timber was 24 in diameter and you could get three - 16 foot cuts from a tree. (They had grown real tall.)

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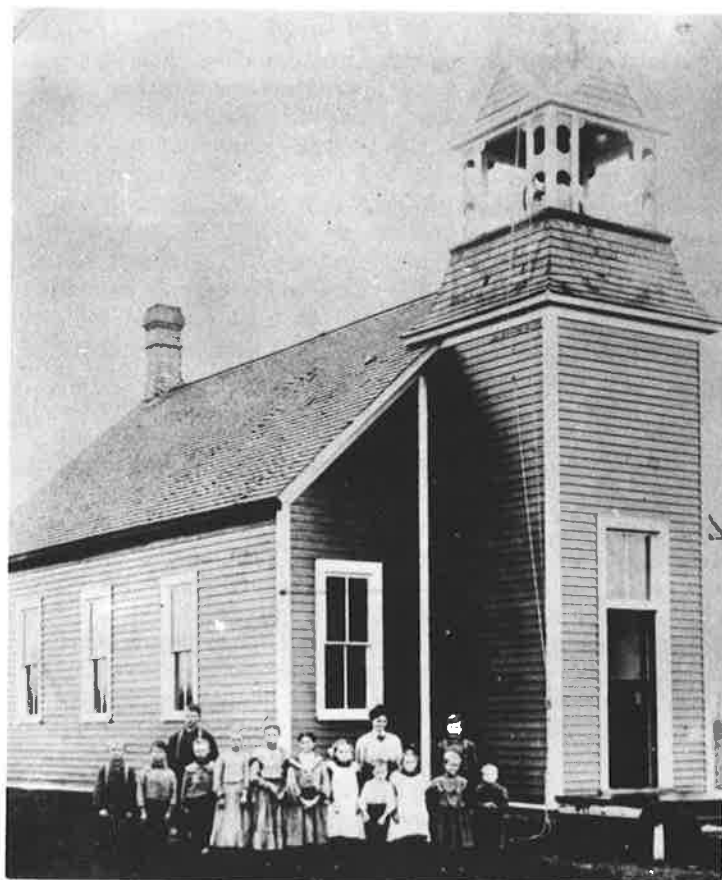
## SCHOOLS



Bruce Crossing School



School Board - Stannard Township 1916 - 17  
Mrs. Minnie Moore, Mrs. Ed Keeler, Albert Gerber,  
William Howlett, Ralph Jones



St. Collins School

## EDUCATION. . .An Important Part of Community Growth



Military School

Left: Arne Hill, Pheobe Hill McGregor, Toivo Kangas, Minnie Uusimaki Wolf, Helen Anttonen Wertanen, Aili Pikkumaki Larson Irene Murtonen Ahola, Eleanor Honkanen Kauppinen, Lily Pikkumaki Mars, Ellen Keranen, Ida Juntunen Nara, Alma Kemppainen Keranen, Impi Uusimaki Hill, Helga Finnila Rankinen, Irene Juntunen Jackala, Ida Hill Remington and Martha Uusimaki.



South Baltimore School



## SCHOOLS — In the Early Days

Nowadays, before families with school age children move into a new community, they check out the schools and try to settle as close to a school as feasible. Long ago, if there was no school nearby, one was built. No one seems to know just when the first school in Bruce Crossing was built but only that it was here before the turn of the century, while we were still a part of McMillan township; there was also a school in Paynesville before 1899. The first teacher remembered in Bruce was a Miss Elizabeth Vail, who later married a Mr. Brown and lived in Mass City. The first known teacher in Paynesville was a Miss Florence Josylin, a local girl, but there may have been others before them. As time went on, more and more families moved here, most of them to farmlands; they lived too far from these schools to walk and so one by one little one-room schools sprang up in all directions. These little schools were much alike, mostly painted white, windows evenly aligned on the two sides. A few steps took one up to the entry way, with the bell rope hanging, and clothes hooks for the children's wraps. There was a woodshed and outdoor toilets in the back. The interior was as stereotyped as the exterior. Up front was the teacher's desk, sometimes on a raised platform. Blackboards were behind the teacher's desk, and in front of the teacher's desk was the one recitation bench, where each class was called to read or recite as the case might be. To one side was the heater, its cavernous mouth always ready to receive the huge chunks of wood which were fed to it by the teacher or bigger boys; the teacher was also the janitor. She usually received an extra \$5 a month for this. Of course, there was no electricity, but some schools had kerosene lamps held in brass wall brackets and with reflectors. They were not used much, but in case a program or meeting was held in the evening, the teacher saw to it that the chimneys were cleaned, the wicks trimmed and the lamps filled with oil. The "water carriers" were paid about \$1.50 a month. At the Bruce's School, the bigger pupils took turns walking to the town pump and lugging a pail of water, used mainly for drinking water, each day.

Teachers didn't need a lot of education. Teachers' examinations were held in Ontonagon each summer — and if the prospective teacher was 18 years old or older and passed the tests, they would be granted a teaching certificate. During World War I when there was a teacher shortage, some emergency certificates were issued and one local girl was sent to finish out a school term at about 14 years, after passing the eighth grade. Later prospective teachers attended summer school at Marquette Normal for 6 weeks or attended a year at the County Normal at Ontonagon. Most teachers didn't stay long at the same school. Those who intended to make a career of teaching, attended summer school and took correspondence courses, so eventually they earned a 2-year Life without leaving their job. A 2-year Life qualified them to teach any grade or subject anywhere, so a teacher was considered very well qualified when she got her Life.

Most of these early teachers were local girls who lived at home, but if their school was more than 3 or 4 miles away, they had to board and room during the week with a family near the school — at least during the winter months when no one drove their automobiles in winter. Teachers did a lot of walking and skiing. Teachers coming here from Rockland, Mass City, Ontonagon and other nearby towns didn't get home very often. If a teacher from Ontonagon wanted to go home on the train, he or she left on the D & S and A, went as far as Sidnaw, waited hours in the depot or went to the hotel until morning, and then boarded the Milwaukee and got into Ontonagon about noon. It was quite an ordeal to get to a town less than 30 miles away.

### Where Have All Those Buildings Gone?

1. The first school in Bruce Crossing; By 1915 there were too many pupils for one teacher to cope with. She had all the grades, including chart class, primer, ninth and tenth, so a new school building was to be built. The Lutheran Congregation had been hav-

ing services in the school for some time and now took it over. It stands in its original place today — as the Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church — Wisconsin Synod.

2. The new school was not completed when opening day arrived, so school was held in the Town Hall for a few months. 1916 saw the children settled in their new school with two teachers — Miss Kathryn Woodbury of Ontonagon as the "lower room" and Miss Anna McVicar of Houghton as the "higher room" teacher. Miss McVicar taught in the "old" school the previous year. In 1920 on a stormy day in March, this school burned to the ground. Miss Hilden (later Mrs. John Murto) saw smoke coming from the door and sent a boy to investigate. When he opened the door, Miss Hilden said calmly, "Get your wraps and go right out." No one went in again. Nothing was saved. After one day's vacation, during which time the teacher and some of the Board members went from school to school collecting surplus books and other supplies, school was held again in the Town Hall. There was no school in the lower room the day of the fire, because the teacher, Miss Madie Johnson was quarantined because of small pox in her family; therefore, the primary pupils had no more school that term.

3. Another new school, a replica of the other, was begun in late summer, but the pupils had to go to the Hall for another full term and part of another before they moved into the new building.

This school was used until 1971, when it too burned. There has been no school in Bruce Crossing since. On the place where the school stood, is now the Steamboat Bill Memorial Park, where the Little Leaguers play.

4. Gem School: This one-roomer was built about 1908 on the Gem Hill about half-way between Bruce Crossing and Paynesville. It was closed in 1925 and the building was moved to the Bruce's school yard and used as a classroom for the upper grades for a few years. Later it was purchased by Matt Lampi for a home. He, in turn, sold it to William Niemi who made it into a restaurant, known as Bundys. It is now Joe's Restaurant, owned by Joe and Marie Fencil.

5. The Keeler Hill School closed in 1924, because of the small enrollment, and the pupils were transported to Paynesville. The building was bought by a Mr. Lelvis and used as a farm building.

6. The first Syrja School was so called because of the Syrja family living nearby. It was north and east of town. Built about 1910, the enrollment became too large for the one room and a room in Alanen's house was used as a second room until 1922, when a new two-room school was built, known then as the Lincoln School. The old one was sold and moved into town to become the Apostolic Lutheran Church. The Lincoln School burned in January, 1942, and the pupils were sent immediately to the Paynesville School.

7. The Baltimore School was built about 1914 and was closed about 1942. It was on the main highway between Bruce Crossing and Ewen. It was made into a home, now occupied by the Peter Strnad's.

8. North Baltimore School was built in 1922 and closed in 1938 and the few pupils were brought to the South Baltimore School until 1942. The building was moved into town and used for Tom Nordine's home.

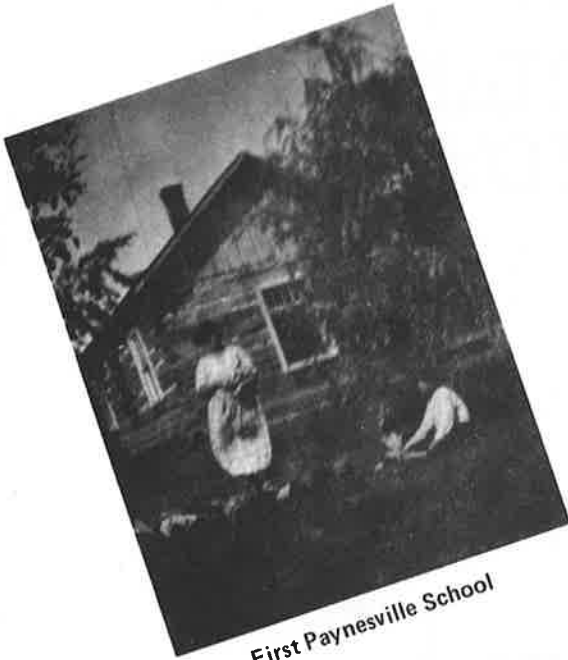
9. The first one-room North Paynesville School was built in 1909; then five years later, another one-roomer was built beside it. The first one closed in 1937 and was moved across the road to the George Hukkanen farm (now Juhola's) to be used as a chicken house. The second one closed the following year and became the front half of the V.F.W. Hall.

10. The Storvis School was a small school just south of the Military Hill and named after the Storvis family. Not many families lived near and it was closed in 1921, with the few remaining pupils being sent to the North Military School.

11. The North Military School was built about 1922 four miles north of town. It was closed by 1932 and purchased by the Finnish Lutheran Church — Suomi Synod. It has not been used for years



North Paynesville School



First Paynesville School

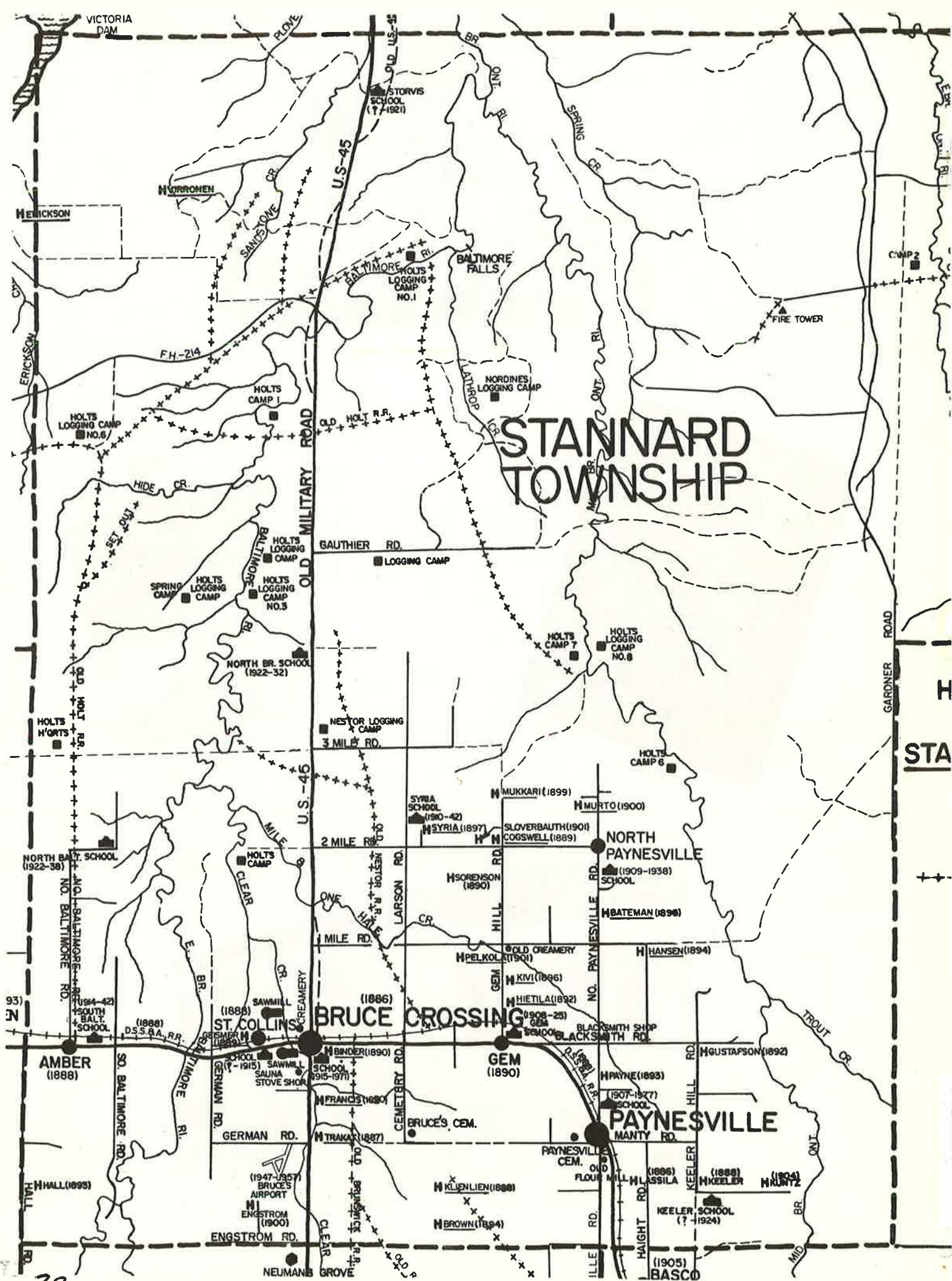


Paynesville No. 2 School



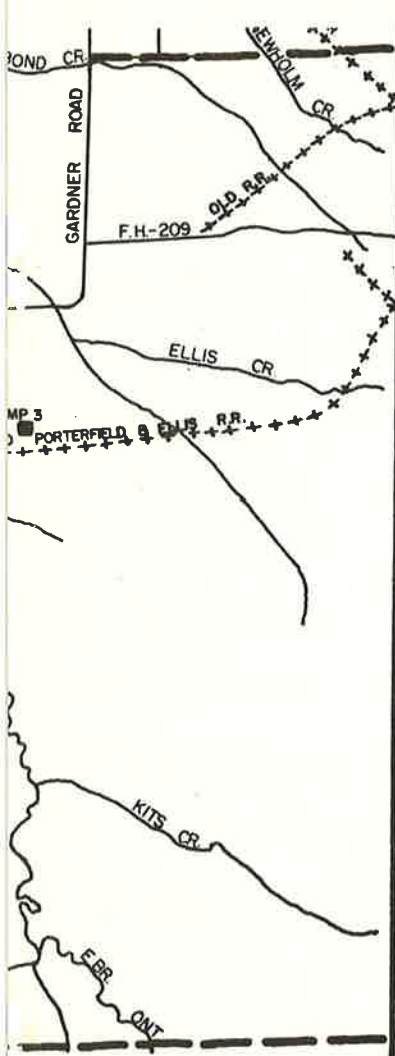
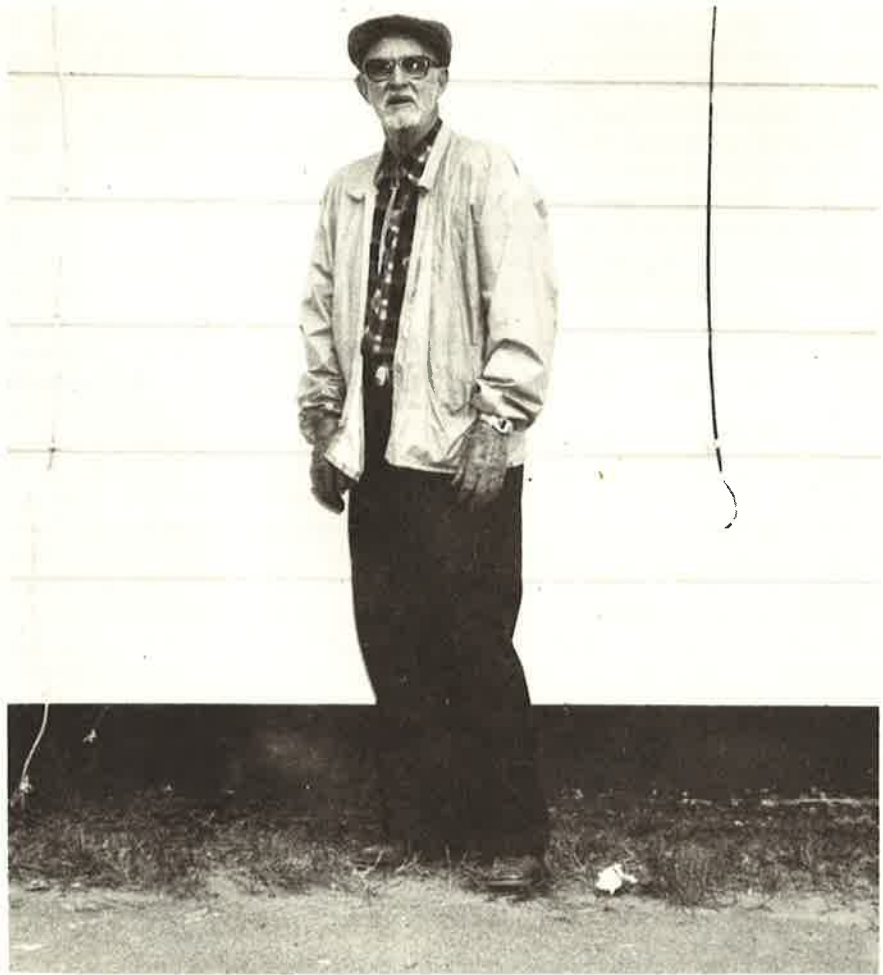
Last Paynesville School







## CENTENNIAL CHAIRMAN HAROLD REMINGTON



## HISTORICAL MAP OF GARDNER TOWNSHIP

- HOMESTEAD
- ▲ SCHOOL
- SAWMILL
- + OLD RAILROAD
- LOGGING CAMP

## CENTENNIAL HEADQUARTERS



BY CLARE LINNA, 1988

and stands empty today.

12. The Paynesville Schools. The first school seems to have been a small log building which served from before 1900 to 1907 when it became too small to serve the growing population. It became the Hirvonen home and a second larger one was built. When the third school, a four-room one was built in 1924, the second one was used as a store by Nicholas Pelkola for a few years, then as a warehouse for the Co-op store. The four-room school was used until 1978. It still stands a reminder of bygone days. Passers-by seeing it so forlorn looking, windows boarded up, may recall the lines by a famous poet of long ago — "Still sits the schoolhouse by the road, A ragged beggar sunning." The days of the "little red school houses" are gone.

There were 14 teachers in our township by 1923. In 1961, when Stannard Township joined with Ewen, there were 6. Today there are none.

### What About the Pupils?

Most people agree that teaching really isn't easy, but being a pupil in those early days wasn't all fun either. There were no buses of course, so they walked be it one mile or two or more. The early fall days were pleasant; some boys came barefoot until really cold weather set in but when the thermometer plunged way down below zero, the attendance dropped too. The little ones, though bundled up against the cold, often came crying with frosted cheeks and ears and chilblains caused a lot of itching and pain as their feet warmed up. They wore "rubbers" over high shoes, but no slacks for girls in those days. The lunches were usually brought to school in lard or syrup pails with covers, carried by the oldest one who doled out the lunch at noon. Bread and butter sandwiches, or sometimes pancakes was the usual fare. Sometimes apples, cookies or doughnuts provided an extra treat. One family sent a jar of canned raspberries along every day to eat with the bread. Some had berry sauce between the bread, making a soggy mess. The pupils were hungry and ate without complaint.

The smaller children up through the second, or sometimes third grade, were dismissed at the afternoon recess. Those who lived nearby walked home; others had to wait for their older brothers and sisters. They could have sewing cards, letters with which to make words, and sometimes they learned a lot by listening to the classes of the older students. Sometimes they fell asleep at their desks. Pupils were to go to school until they were 16 or pass the eighth grade state examination, but some, especially boys, often quit before and nothing was said. The state examination was held every spring shortly before school was over. All the 8th Graders in the township met at the school chosen, usually Gem School. The teacher there or a county school official took charge and the tests went on for two days with tests in reading, penmanship, spelling, arithmetic, mental arithmetic, history, geography, agriculture, civil government, grammar and orthography. Pupils were told ahead what the reading test was to be based on — usually a poem such as Snowbound by Whittier, Columbus by Joaquin Miller or The Great Stone Face. A 75 average was needed to pass and those who did could go on to high school. But how? The 9th and 10th grades were still taught here to the disgust of the teacher who kept urging them to go to Ewen. One year there was only one 10 grader. Anyway, after finishing the 10th grade, those who were determined to finish high school found ways to do so. Some stayed with relatives in Ewen, some worked for their room and board with various families and others "batched." One group from town found another solution. In the fall of 1921, 3 girls and 2 boys hired a man to drive them up each morning and get them again after school. This was fine until winter set in, then they had to go with a horse drawn vehicle, something like a covered wagon, but on runners, with a smelly little kerosene heater to provide some warmth. In late spring, the automobile was used again. When the fall of 1922 came around, there were only 2 girls and 1 boy — the others had graduated. The mothers of the 2 girls went to Ewen on the train

and found a place for them to "batch" — 2 other girls from this township joined them. If they couldn't get a ride up any other way, they would go up on the 11 a.m. train with their battered suitcases full of a few extra clothes and food to last the week, such as homemade bread and butter, home canned fruit and meat and an extra dollar to spend if needed. In the next few years many others did the same thing in order to get through high school.

The highlight of the school year was the Christmas program. When school resumed after the Thanksgiving holiday, the teachers were besieged with questions — "When do we get our parts, Teacher?" Am I going to be in a play this year?" "Do I have to speak a piece?" Finally, all the questions were resolved. Then came the practice — day in and day out until some could recite the whole program backwards and forward. A few days before the big event, the pupils were marched to the Town Hall. There was a stage with steps on either side, so the pupils could stay in the back room out of sight and sound, or stay upstairs. Some of the pupils brought armloads of fragrant cedar boughs and spent hours making wreaths to hang in each window and garlands to fasten all along the wainscoting. The big boys were sent to someone's woods to get the tree. They made a day of it. Ornaments were brought from home or made at school and everyone thought it beautiful when the big girls finished trimming it.

On the big night, everyone came dressed in their best "bib and tucker." Girls had to have new dresses, even if it was a hand-me-down or a made over one. The Town Hall was always packed. Relatives and friends came from all directions. The songs were sung lustily, pieces well-spoken and the plays were great. Then bags or boxes of candy were given to each by the teacher and each received an exchange gift. They were not costly — perhaps from 10 cents to 25 cents, but even today some still have some of these gifts — cups and saucers that may even be valuable now and they bring back cherished memories of that boy or girl "who got your name".

### The Teachers

It is not possible to get a complete list of all the teachers who taught in Stannard Township, but a reasonable estimate would be nearly 200 over the years from 1900 to 1978 when the last school closed its doors. The teachers came and went — some only stayed a few weeks, some a year or two. Then in the 20's several local girls were ready to teach locally and they stayed. Many changes took place during those years.

The little one-room schools closed and one by one buses came into use. A hot lunch program provided nourishing noon meals. Wells dug at Paynesville and Bruces provided water for indoor plumbing and electricity was brought to the schools. Full time janitors relieved teachers of those duties. Wages gradually went up. Back in 1900 and for quite a few years after, \$45 a month was the usual monthly wage for women and \$50 to \$55 for men teachers. It still wasn't an easy job, but the few local teachers who stuck with their jobs went on through the good times and the bad.

Bouquets are in order for Mrs. Minnie Kopsi Nykanen who taught in Stannard Township all through her long teaching career beginning in 1923 and continuing for over 40 years. She taught in 3 schools — Syrja, N. Baltimore, and Paynesville. Other local women who also served many years in Stannard were Vivian Moore, Florence Howlett, Carrie Howlett and the late Mrs. Ida Norberg. In spite of some rough times, one of these summed up some of light recollections of those years.

1. We didn't have any bus troubles — we had no buses.
2. There were no teacher strikes — we took what was offered, thankful to have a job.
3. There was no school lunch count to bother about, no milk break, no money to collect — we brought our own lunches.
4. No fretting about how to get benefits from unused sick leave — we didn't have any.
5. We couldn't close schools because of a power failure — we

had no electricity.

6. There was no calling the janitor about stopped-up sewers, etc. — rest rooms were small buildings in the back lot.

7. There were no special water problems — it was brought in, in pails.

8. There was no income tax withheld from our checks which

may have been all of \$75 to \$85 per month.

These teachers earned their wages. But there were other rewards that came when we finally saw the light shine in a pupils eyes when one day he happily announced, "Teacher! Teacher! I can read!"

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## GOVERNMENT

Bruce's Crossing received its name because the town needed to have a name for the place where the railroad and Military road crossed and since Donald Bruce built the first permanent building, it was named after him. Minutes of the meetings before 1935 were destroyed but those from 1935 - 1952 were in the clerk's home.

After much research, letter writing, and going through minutes of the township meetings, these facts have been gleaned.

### 1935

April 17 (Special Meeting) Township approved application to sell beer for Esther Binder, Sy Barnes and John McLaughlin.  
April 27 Paynesville light petition, and repair for sidewalks in Bruce's.  
May 25 Granted Paynesville three lights.  
June 29 Built 12'x14' building on east side of cemetery.  
December 3 Agreed to purchase land not to exceed \$200 for Canning Factory, Ontonagon Valley Coop Creamery leased creamery for \$5 a year.  
December 29 Creamery agreed to pay well driller \$8 a day.

### 1936

February 29 Stannard Township sewer project.  
March 24 500 annual statements printed by the Cloverland Press.

### 1937

July 31 Sold grader and scraper for \$25 for scrap iron.

### 1938

March 26 Wine License for Rienhold Priebus and Eino Stenfors Tavern.  
April 29 Proposed sale of Township Park to be brought to vote of the people.

### 1939

March 25 Donated \$10 to 4-H Club.  
April 28 Leased ball park and club house to V.F.W. for one year for \$1 plus 10% of gate receipts with V.F.W. paying for lights.  
July 29 Purchased 1000 size 8 by 8 paper spittoons for the Township Hall.  
December 23 Approved pool room and soft drink license for Wilho Kauppinen.

### 1940

March 19 Approved Class B Hotel license from Esther Binder to Minnie Stuesser.  
April 8 Approved Eino Stenfors Class C liquor license.  
April 27 Motion to have Constable patrol the town on Saturday starting immediately.  
August 31 Approved transfer of tavern and dance permit from Mary Staff to Hjalmer Larson.

### 1941

January 4 Approved transfer of tavern license from Hjalmer Larson to Grover Lackie.  
February 22 Motion to have clerk write to Michigan State Highway Department to install traffic (stop and go) light at intersection of 28 and 45.  
April 30 Located dump behind township gravel pit.

### 1942

June 27 Approved Skerbeck Carnival at Bruce Crossing for \$10 a day.

### 1944

August 26 Approved Honor Roll posted of Stannard Township boys who were in the Armed Forces.

### 1945

September 13 Wrote to state requesting electric signal light for Bruce Crossing intersection.

### 1946

April 1 Passed motion to have well drilled at park.  
June 26 Rented park to Skerbeck Carnival for \$5 per day.

### 1947

January 28 Passed motion to write to Dow Chemical Company to construct branch chemical plant at Bruce Crossing.  
June 24 Purchased power driven lawn mower for Bruce Crossing and Paynesville cemeteries.  
October 24 Passed motion to purchase fire truck.

### 1948

During Year Discussion and election held on Sewage Disposal Project.  
September 21 Resolved to contact State Highway Commission to have streets in town paved from curb to curb.



**1949**  
 July 15 (Special meeting) Decided to build sidewalks in Bruce to the school on east side of Highway 45.

**1950**  
 September 29 Motion to contact county about storm sewers and blacktop.

**1951**  
 August 31 Motion to approve Walter Tulppo bid to build 4175 square feet of sidewalk at 45¢ per square foot.

**1952**  
 May 23 Motion to use every effort to obtain a State Police Post in Bruce Crossing; adopted resolution on June 23.  
 August 29 Motion to ask for bids for toilets for the Town Hall.  
 October 20 Motion to install shallow well pump and pressure system in the Town Hall.  
 November 21 Motion to buy and install a water heater in the Town Hall.

**1953**  
 May 22 Accepted the signed petition from residents of Stannard Township requesting storm sewers on Highways 45 and 28 in the town of Bruce Crossing.  
 July 24 Adopted resolution to have M-28 completed with a hard surface; resolution sent to State Highway Department.  
 October 30 Motion to purchase 3 H.P. Federal fire siren at a cost of \$485.  
 December 22 The Town Hall burned down.

**1954**  
 March 24 Joined the Michigan Township Association.

**1955**  
 April (Annual Meeting) Motion made to seriously consider construction of a new Town Hall.

**1956**  
 July 27 Motion to purchase playground equipment for Paynesville and Bruce's schools.  
 August 31 Motion to rebuild the baseball diamond at Bruce Crossing.

**1957**  
 August 17 Motion to allow the V.F.W. to move their Hall onto the Town Hall foundation.

**1958**  
 August 28 Agreed to pay for building materials for the V.F.W. Hall.

**1960**  
 July Motion to erect toilets at the ball park.  
 July 28 Motion to request Walter Kemppainen to remove the old Michela building.  
 November 2 Motion to purchase a pressure pump for the V.F.W. Hall.

**1967**  
 August 3 Motion to purchase land from William Korsman for Park Program.  
 November 9 Motion to submit application for grant funds for water and sewage in Bruce's.  
 December 14 Motion to purchase a Santa Claus suit for the Township.

**1970**  
 February 24 Motion to accept proposal for Park expansion project funding — 80% State and 20% Township; Total cost of \$5,000.  
 September 28 Approved adding Edward F. Saaranen as partner on 1970 Class C license with dance permit at Bar. Appointed Richard Hauser Chairman of Park Improvement Committee.  
 November 11 Approved application from Settlers Co-op to install propane gas storage tank.

**1971**  
 March Approved buying land for lagoon.  
 June 25 Bids opened for sewer project; L.W. Brumm bid accepted.  
 August 5 Approved application for Low-rent Housing Project.  
 October 11 Contract to extend lighting south of town.

**1972**  
 January 10 Purchased stove for skating rink changing house at Park.  
 February 14 Approved transfer of liquor license from Henry Huhtala to Melvin Gardener. Discussion on adding onto the Fire Hall.

**1973**  
 March 1 Moved to end winter burial when conditions are such to prevent it.  
 May 9 Met with N. J. Kolinsky to have Mausoleum made safe.  
 September 6 Corporation formed for Sanitary Landfill Authority.

**1974**  
 February 7 Decided to invoke Health Law on owners of Mausoleum.  
 March 19 Adopted resolution for zoning Stannard Township.  
 June 6 Adopted scale of wages for anyone employed by the Township — skilled labor, \$4/hr.; general labor, \$3/hr.; Election board, \$2/hr.  
 July 2 Motion to hire carpenter to repair storage building at cemetery.

**1975**  
 April 3 Applied for C.E.T.A. workers to build winter vault and improve both cemeteries.  
 June 5 Motion to buy swings and slides for Park.  
 August 7 Discussion on new building for Senior Citizens to meet.

**1976**  
 April 1 Approved motion to raise Township wages for labor by 50¢ an hour.  
 May 6 Adopted Rural Township Zoning Ordinance.  
 July 8 C.E.T.A. approved to hire carpenter for Township projects.  
 December 20 Application to D.N.R. for Park expansion funds.

**1977**  
 April 27 Motion to build addition to Fire Hall garage and to look into purchasing new fire truck.

**1978**  
 September 8 New fire truck delivered.  
 December 7 McMillan, Interior, and Bergland Townships request use of winter burial vault.

**1979**  
 February 1 Naming and numbering of all roads in Township to be carried out.

**1980**  
 May Motion made to have new toilets at Park.

**1981**  
 January 27 Meeting to discuss progress on Senior Housing.  
 March 31 (Public Meeting) Stannard Township Board working with Ottawa Lions Club for the Park improvement.  
 May 14 Township has to assume responsibility for all building codes.

**1982**  
 March 10 Lioness Club donated playground equipment to Township Park; \$750 of total cost donated by Lioness' with matching funds from the Neil Hansen estate.  
 June 3 Class C liquor license transferred from Ed Saaranen to Dan Nordine.  
 December 29 Board passed resolution agreeing to collect summer taxes for local school district.

**1983**  
 March 10 Resolution to submit application for Park improvement funding.  
 June 9 Commendation to Richard Polkky for his diligent work in getting the grant for the Park project.  
 November 8 Resolution giving Big Spruce Golf Course permission to have Club liquor license.

**1984**  
 March 27 Accepted bid from R. J. Strand for the construction of Park Pavilion.  
 May 10 Leased the Little League Park from the Ewen-Trout Creek School District.

**1985**  
 June 19 Discussion on construction of log building at Park with Dan Linna of Community Schools.  
 September 12 Jim Stingle, WUPPR, will help Township apply for Michigan Small Cities Housing Rehabilitation grant.  
 November 7 Motion made and supported to have log dugouts built at the park in the spring of 1986.

**1986**  
 January 9 Received word from State of Michigan that Stannard Township has been approved for a Housing Grant in the amount of \$100,000.



The First Supervisor, James Howlett



Amelia Howlett

# **PAST AND PRESENT TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS**

## **SUPERVISORS**

James Howlett (1905-09)  
Alex Turner (1910-13)  
Nicholas Pelkola (1914-15)  
Carroll Brown (1916-17)  
Andrew Pietila (1918)  
Emil Hautala (1919-21)

Andrew Pietila (1922-31)  
Eddie Murto (1932-33)  
Albert Kinnon (1935)  
John Bjornstrom (1936-39)  
Manuel Jurmu (1940)  
Rayno Niemi (1941)

Reino Niemi (1942-44)  
Manuel Jurmu (1945-48)  
Toivo Mattson (1949-60)  
Thomas Nordine (1961-71)  
Kenneth Hopkins (1972-73)  
Rayno Tulppo (1974-77)  
Harold Essig (1978-80)  
Paul Popke (1980-86)

## **CLERK**

Edwin J. Keeler (1905-07)  
Peter Hanson (1908-09)  
Edwin Keeler (1910)  
Ralph Jones (1911-12)  
Carroll Brown (1914)  
Emil Hautala (1915)  
William Koppari (1916-18)  
Leonard Murtonen (1919-21)  
John Murto (1922)

Leo Nippa (1923-24)  
John Tulppo (1925-26)  
Wilmer Huttula (1927)  
Charles Joupperi (1928)  
Edith Joupperi (1929-31)  
Ida Haapala (1932-34)  
Rayno Niemi (1935-36)  
Carl Larson (1937-39)  
Eddie Illikainen (1939-41)

Rayno Tulppo (1941-48)  
Sylvia Tuominen (1949-50)  
Rayno Tulppa (1951-60)  
Raymond Gibson (1961-62)  
Mrs. Raymond Gibson (1962)  
Margaret Gibson (1963-64)  
Margaret Codd (1965-71)  
Alice Linna (1972-86)

## **TREASURER**

John Gorsline (1905-06)  
Michael Schmitt (1907-08)  
John Gorsline (1909)  
Albert Gerber (1910-11)  
Matt Hautala (1912-13)  
John Benstrom (1914-15)  
Herbert Onkka (1916-17)  
Matt Ahola (1918)

Carl D. Onkka (1919-20)  
Emil Ojennus (1921-22)  
Arthur Winnamaki (1923-24)  
Aili Winnamaki (1925-26)  
George Murtonen (1927-28)  
Halfdon Opland (1929-30)  
Albert Kinnon (1931-32)  
Selma Horsma (1933-38)

Arthur Sjoblom (1939-43)  
Ralph Murto (1943-48)  
Paul Illikainen (1949-65)  
Robert Nousiainen (1967-70)  
Ann Kananen (1971)  
Elizabeth Andrus (1972-73)  
Richard Polkky (1974-86)

## **TRUSTEE**

Arne Huhtala (1953-70)  
Arthur Sakkinen (1953-57)

Elmer Maki (1958-68)  
Rayno Tulppo (1969-73)

Robert Nousiainen (1971-86)  
Arne John Huhtala (1974-86)

## **JUSTICE OF PEACE**

Luther Fuller (1905)  
Elmer Crull (1905-06)  
Alex Turner (1905,07-17,21)  
William Bateman (1905)  
Lindy Green (1907)  
Lorens Peterson (1908,14)  
John Gorsline (1908)  
L.G. Stuesser (1909)  
Rome Eastman (1909)  
Wm. Hall (1909,13,18,20,22)  
Louis Johnson (1910)  
Ralph Jones (1910,16)  
William Howlett (1911-12)  
Albert Gerber (1912)

Paul Kaiser (1913,17)  
Carroll Brown (1915)  
Harry Wubbena (1918)  
Nicholas Pelkola (1919,35-38)  
Arvid Hirvela (1920-24)  
Carl D. Onkka (1922)  
Matt Ahola (1924,31)  
John Pelkola (1926)  
Henry Huttula (1927,31)  
John Tulppo (1927)  
Michael A. Sinnula (1928)  
John Walls (1929)  
Fred Berg (1930)  
Arthur Winnamaki (1932,36,1945)

Elmer Mars (1933,36-37)  
William Pietsch (1934)  
Hjalmer Manty (1935,36-37)  
Eli Murto (1938-40)  
Ivar Kemppainen (1939-41,43-44)  
John Aho (1941-43,45-46)  
Ed Illikainen (1942-44)  
Walter Tulppo (1947-48)  
Wilho Kauppinen (1947-48)  
Eric Wm. Nippa (1949-51)  
Martin Keranen (1949-50)  
George Brown (1950-51)  
Emil Ojennus (1952)  
Arne Huhtala (1952)



## POST OFFICES

Although mail was dispatched from Mr. Donald Bruce's hotel prior to 1888, he became the first postmaster of Bruce Crossing that same year. It is interesting to note that when Mr. Bruce applied to the Post Office Department in Washington D.C., on January 20, 1888, for the establishment of a post office to be named "Bruce", he indicated it would serve 350 settlers living in this area. After Bruce left here in 1888, John Foster handled the mail until 1891 when Mr. Henry Fuller took over. Between 1893 and 1896, mail was handled by William Hall. In 1896, the post office was moved to the store at St. Collins and run by Mrs. James Howlett until 1899 when William R. Howlett began handling the mail. In 1900 the post office was moved back to town to the home of Mrs. Addie Lathrop. She kept the post office until 1906 when it was moved to the C.S. and S.A. Barnes' General Merchandise Store and Mrs. Cora Barnes became postmistress. In 1913, the office was moved to John Bjornstrom's store and was there until 1935 when Mrs. Walter (Irene) Couture became postmistress. It was housed for a

short time in the building which had been Gerber's Garage. A new post office was built just north of today's post office and used until 1960. Coutures left town in 1943 and Miss Bertha Jurmu became postmistress until 1953. Albert Holmes took over in 1954 until his retirement in 1980. Acting postmasters between Jurmu and Holmes were Emil Cook, Robert Hemming, and Howard Johnson. Robert LaMora became the next full-time postmaster in 1980 and remains in that position.

Paynesville's first postmaster was Mr. Charles Andrews who was appointed March 5, 1890, and served until 1893. Henry S. Payne filled the position during 1893-94, followed by James Bateman from 1894-96, and Fred Ball from 1896-1903. John Gorsline was postmaster from 1903-1915 and was replaced by Nicholas Pelkola. Later Mrs. John Murto held the position until the early 1960's. Edmund Kaars was the postmaster until 1969 when the Paynesville Post Office was discontinued. The area then became and remains a Bruce Crossing route.



## RELIGION AND CHURCHES



In the early days of Bruce Crossing, there were no church buildings, but they were not without religion. A Rev. Graham held services as early as 1904 in logging camps and services were held in homes. The Town Hall was used often for Church and Sunday School. Ewen had a Catholic Church since 1892 and persons of that faith went there to Mass as often as weather and other circumstances permitted. Although early Sacred Heart Church records were destroyed by fire in the mid-1890's, research shows the following information on Stannard Township residents: First Township baby baptized was Thomas McLaughlin, Paynesville, in May 1904; some of the first recorded marriages were Augustus Bragg to Frances Schlauderbauch in 1905, Leander Stuesser to Minnie Binder in 1909, and Margaret Mary Teresa Murphy to Charles Gerber in 1912; included in first recorded Confirmation class of 1904 were W. Gerber, B. Cosgrove, and T. Murphy; and in the first Communion class recorded were M. Cosgrove, A. Murphy, C. Murphy and A. Howlett. Of the 95 families currently active in the Catholic congregation, 25 reside in Stannard Township. The Methodist Church of Ewen was incorporated in 1905 and ministers from the church came down on the 3 o'clock train to hold services on week-nights, which many persons of various denominations attended. Many residents from Stannard Township still attend this Ewen church and make up a sizable part of the congregation.

### APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH

The church came into existence November 7, 1916, as the Finnish Apostolic Lutheran Church of Bruce Crossing and Paynesville. Twelve residents associated themselves with the church according to the original Articles of Association. They were Matti Mukari, John Olli, Leander Wiinamaki, Karl Hanson, Mikko Linna, Shefanus Laitila, Matti Ranta, Jakob Aho, Isaac Syria, Nels Koppari, Peter Lampi and Frank Haara. Later, the church became known as the Bruce Crossing Apostolic Lutheran Church.

In the early years the members met in various homes until 1928 when the former Syria schoolhouse on Two Mile Road, north of the community was purchased and moved to Bruce Crossing for a permanent place of worship. Throughout the years, various ministers of the Apostolic Lutheran Church of America have served the congregation including Leander Wiinamaki, Andrew Mickelsen and Richard Barney. In September of 1975, Rev. Charles Maikkula was called to be the congregation's full-time resident

pastor. Members of the board of trustees are: Chairman, Eugene Hammond; Vice Chairman, Eino Suomumaki; Secretary, Cathy Wainio; Treasurer, Michael Applekamp; and Trustees Dan Roberts, Alton Hautamaki and John Sahinoja.

Much remodeling has taken place to improve church facilities. In the 1960's, the church was struck by lightning and started afire. The building was saved, however, and the congregation took this as a sign from the Lord to hold regular, weekly services or else they might lose their church. In the coming summer, the Lord willing, the congregation hopes to add on to the church a new entryway with additional space for the Sunday School. At present there are 47 students enrolled in Sunday School which meets at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday followed by worship at 11 a.m. Activities at the church are always open to the non-member public.



Bruce Crossing Apostolic Lutheran Church

## BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Hwy. 28 West, Bruce Crossing, Michigan

The Charter Members of the Bethany Lutheran Church in 1914 are as follows: George Binder, Peter Rehlich, Fred Platzke, Julius Platzke, Joseph Keller, Daniel Keller, Fred Teske, Ludwig Conrad, William Ferko, Oswald Kugler, Fred Priebus, Gottlieb Zalen, John Bettorf, Robert Untrau, Leopold Cook, Edward Cook, Carl Cook Sr.

The first and earliest of these Charter Members, being small in number, and having no church building, would meet in their individual homes for family worship; the first of such meetings, as recorded, came in 1893. However, as the membership increased, homes of yesteryear could not accommodate these meetings, therefore out of necessity a first building was sought, found and purchased for \$300. The purchase in 1914 was the one room public school building that served our community for many years. This one-room schoolhouse became the Bethany Lutheran Church. Later it was found that corporate papers be filed in Lansing and the Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church legally became a non-profit church body on January 28, 1924.



Bruce Crossing Bethany Lutheran Church

All services from its inception to 1929 were conducted in the German language. In 1929, with a growing membership, bilingual services were instituted. All services since 1953 have been conducted in English.

Rev. Fred Bergfeld became the first resident pastor and, with several pastors of the Synod attending, he was ordained and installed on October 8, 1933. There upon the parsonage was completed in 1935.

In 1938, a 16 foot extension was added. This addition facilitated the installation of a much needed furnace and washroom. Also in 1938 as part of this construction the church was raised and given a 2 foot foundation and a wall of stone; and thus added the lower level church parlor and kitchen we today enjoy so much. Again, after much deliberation, in 1946 a well on the premises was drilled to serve both church and parsonage. In 1976 a narthex was added. This addition as planned, now affords convenient access to the lower level.

Five Pastors have served our parish. In chronological order they are Rev. Epler, Rev. William Roepke, Rev. Fred Bergfeld, Rev. David H. Sternberg and our fifth and present Rev. Paul W. Knickelbein.



Jehovah's Witnesses Kingdom Hall

## JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

The Bruce Crossing Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses was established in 1961. They began meeting in a rented building in Rockland. After a time, more room was needed, so the congregation built a new Kingdom Hall at a location six miles north of Bruce Crossing on Highway 45. This hall, constructed in 1966, dedicated in early 1967, served until 1973, when an addition was built to increase the floor space.

The congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses are known, locally and worldwide, for their door-to-door ministry and bible study activities.

## PAYNESVILLE CHURCH MARKS 79TH YEAR

Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Paynesville, the first church in Stannard Township will be 79 years old this summer. Our Saviour began as a mission post served by pastors from Ishpeming and Negaunee who traveled here by train. Worship services were held at homes of members of the church or at the Paynesville school. In 1903 the Paynesville area had its first known worship service and Rev. J.K. Lammi was the first to serve the area. In 1905 the families of Alex Lindberg, Matt Mattson and Jaakko Keranen joined the congregation and were charter members along with Mr. and Mrs. John Piri, Mr and Mrs. John Saikkijarvi, Andrew Pelkola, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Hemming, Mr. and Mrs. Matti Kovanen and Mr. and Mrs. Jaakko Manty.

The people of Paynesville worked with the Agate Congregation until 1907 when the Paynesville group separated and formed its own congregation. On September 16, 1907, the congregation was founded and on April 2, 1909, Our Saviour Lutheran Church was received into membership by the Lutheran Church-Suomi Synod.

In 1912 the church building was begun on land donated by Andrew Viermaa with Mikko Linna in charge of construction. Coincidentally the building was begun with \$75 on hand 79 years ago. The final cost of construction was \$1339. The building remains much the same as it was built but has been modernized over the years. Running water was installed in 1958 and many other renovations have taken place including heating systems and new paneling installed in 1962. In 1965 a new bell and storm windows were purchased. In 1970 a new organ was purchased and new steps were built. Many other improvements have been made through the years.

In 1930 Pastor F.W. Kaskinen became the first resident Pastor. In the past 79 years, the church has been served by 22 pastors, including Pastor Lammi and the present pastor Rev. Robert Kleinke. Two members of the congregation have gone into the ministry, the



## PAYNESVILLE APOSTOLIC



Our Savior Lutheran Church - Paynesville

Rev. Ahti Karjala, son of the late Gust and Emma Karjala, and the Rev. George E. Hautala, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Emil Hautala.

The first choir was organized in the 1920's under the leadership of William Nippa, and the first chorus was organized in 1938.

In the late 1950's the name of the congregation was changed from Paynesville Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church to Our Saviour Lutheran Church. In 1962 the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church-Suomi Synod held its 73rd and final reunion at Cobo Hall in Detroit in June when the Suomi Synod was to pass into history.

In 1974, because of the decrease in the population, the youth groups became parish-wide and became known as the SHY (senior high youth) Group.

In 1976 the large layoff from the White Pine Copper mine made the economic situation look gloomy, but the church struggled on. A highlight of 1977 was the Mother-Daughter Banquet in May, served by the men of the congregation. As far as memory serves, this is the first such event of its kind to be held at the church.

In 1978 the sons of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Kurtti donated a parcel of land across the church, to become the new parking lot for the church. A new roof was put on in 1980 and was made possible by a gift left to the church by Ed and Gertie Kaars.

The church has seen many organists through the past 79 years, but serving as organist now is Linda Wonsey.



The Apostolic Lutheran Church of Paynesville was officially organized and the articles of association were filed and certified under the State Laws of Michigan on October 24, 1919.

Before this and around the turn of the century, a few families were here; namely the Matti Lassila's, Matti Oinas' and the Charles Juntti's. William C. Lassila was born in Paynesville in 1899 and baptized into the church, the first native child member.

Just before the year 1913 and a short time after, more families moved into the area mainly from the Calumet area.

Services, confirmations, and baptisms were held in homes, schools, and the town hall in Bruce Crossing.

In the year 1919 the board of trustees consisted of: Enock Lehto, chairman; John Mikkola, vice chairman; Isaak Majava, secretary; Edvart Mukka, vice secretary; Matti Larson, treasurer; Charles Johnson, vice treasurer; Paul Riekk, Jacob Rajala, and Jacob Latvakoski, trustee.

In the very early days, the congregation was served by the late Arthur L. Heideman and later by his son Paul A. Heideman along with lay readers Alfred Korsman and Olli Pankala. Visiting pastors also served at that time; some of them were Revs. Halvari, Paulson, Nelson, Walter Torola and Pohjanen.

The congregation always and still has held kind of a mission church stance being served by the Apostolic mission in Calumet. Although, the church has always had its own board of directors, votes on all temporal matters of the church, and keeps its own records dating back to the earliest days of organization.

In the year 1938, the congregation purchased a building on the north Paynesville road and held services there in its own edifice for the first time. Rev. Raymond Tulkki of Ishpeming served the congregation steadily until 1961 when he accepted a call to Detroit. Since then, it was served by George Haapala, Usko Petajisto, Nathan Ruonavara, Aaron Storm, Walter and his son Peter Torola, and presently by David Taivalkoski, Reuben Anderson, and Frank Honkala.

Countless ministers from all over the United States, Europe and Canada have always and still are called to preach the Gospel at Paynesville; and in return, our pastors are called to do the same, thus its global unity.

Regular services are held on the first and third Sundays of the month, with a church school meeting twice a month and a Bible study once a month.



Paynesville Apostolic Lutheran Church





## STATE POLICE POST

*December 30, 1971 - Wakefield News Article*

**TWO-MAN RESIDENT TROOPER OPERATION TO START JAN. 2 AT BRUCE CROSSING** — Establishment of a two-man resident trooper operation starting January 2 to service the Bruce Crossing area in Ontonagon county in western Upper Michigan is reported by Col. John R. Plants, department director.

Troopers assigned to the Bruce Crossing duty are Roland F. Calovecchi, 31, now at Marquette, and Thomas P. Corda, 32, presently at Ypsilanti.

Initially they will service the Bruce Crossing area from the Wakefield post until housing for them is located. Ontonagon will be the fifty-sixth of the state's 83 counties in which a State Police facility is located.

The detachment will be primarily concerned with trooper duties in Ontonagon County in this western peninsula area now bracketed by the Wakefield, L'Anse and Iron River post. Requests for this service had been weighed by the department for some time. Bruce Crossing is located at the junction of highways US-45 and M-28.

Department communications for the troopers will be through patrol car radio and telephones in their residences. *(End of article)*

At this time the troopers have a radio communications system set up in the Stannard Township Hall.

## VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Stannard Township Volunteer Fire Department was organized in the spring of 1947 and consisted of eight charter members. Bill Korsman was elected Fire Chief and remained in the position until 1962.

The first fire truck purchased by Stannard Township was a 1947 KB-5 International equipped with a 500-gallon tank and a John Bean high-pressure fog pumping unit (still in use). The truck was housed in the Korsman Hardware garage until 1949 when a two-stall fire hall was built next to the Township Hall. A used truck was also purchased and converted into a tanker.

The insight of the Township Board in the coming years resulted in the purchase of various fire fighting equipment such as boots, coats, hats, Scott air packs, etc., for the safety of the fireman.

In 1978, two additional stalls were constructed to the original fire hall by members of the fire department. A new Ford truck equipped with a 750-gallon tank and FMC high pressure and volume pumps, was purchased with the passing of a millage vote by the citizens of the Township.

An agreement with the DNR resulted in the acquisition of a 1200-gallon tanker and a power wagon now housed in the Bruce's Fire Hall. A mutual aid agreement is also in force with the fire departments in the local communities in the South End of Ontonagon County.

Covering the past 40 years, the Fire Department has been under the leadership of the following chiefs: Bill Korsman, 1947-1961; Rusty Berger, 1962-1963; Eli Nippa, 1964-1968; Mike Stenfors, 1969-1970; Paul Popke, 1971-1974; Floyd Fleming, 1975-1979; Clare Linna, 1980-1986. The department now maintains a roster of 18 active firemen plus 6 members on a reserve squad. Most of the members have attended fire fighting classes administered by the DNR or the State Fire Marshal's Office.

The department has been a member of the Upper Peninsula Firemen's Association, participating in annual tournaments since 1950.



# MEMBERSHIP

## BRUCE CROSSING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.

### ORGANIZED-1947

BILL KORSMAN (CHIEF 47-61)	1947-1974	GLADEN NIEMI	1961-1966
EMIL SYRIA	1947-1977	MIKE STENFORS (CHIEF 69-70)	1962-1975
RALPH CHRISTENSEN	1947-1967	FLOYD FLEMING (CHIEF 75-79)	1965-1968-1974-19
MATT KORRI	1947-1973	MARV LINNA	1967-19
ELI NIPPA (CHIEF 64-68)	1947-1950-1962-19	DENNY BROWN	1968-19
EINO STENFORS	1947-1950	BILL GRONLUND	1969-1985
ORVIE TULPPU	1947-1956	JIM VLAHOS	1969-1978-1985-19
BARNEY BENSTROM	1947-1950	JACK SMITH	1969
SYLVESTER NEUMAN	1949-1950	ELMER WESMAN	1970-19
RALPH HEMMING	1949-1950	DEL VER MIER	1971-1972
RUDY MEYERS	1949-1950	DAN VIGNALI	1971-1973
EMIL TESKE	1949-1950	EUGENE KUGLER	1971-19
IRVING PETTERSEN	1950-1971	JOHN HUHTALA	1973-19
CARL JOHNSON	1950-1956	DOUG JOHNSON	1973-19
PAUL POPKE (CHIEF 71-74)	1952-1965-1971-19	AL KARIANEN	1973-19
ORA POPPS	1953-1963	JOE FENCIL	1974-1978-1982-
HANK HUTTULA	1954-1958	DOUG KUGLER	1976-19
RAY SOUKKO	1954-1957	JOE HAUTAMAKI	1976-1977
NESTOR NIEMI	1954-1956	PAT NIPPA	1977-19
CARL TOUMINEN	1954-1962	LAWRENCE KALLIO	1977-1985
RUSTY BERGER (CHIEF 62-63)	1954-1968	LAWRENCE PULKAS	1977-19
CHET ALLEN	1955-1959	FRED JOUSMA	1978-19
BILL ANDRUS	1956-1958	ROGER MATTSON	1979-19
JOHN HEMMING	1957-1959	BILL NIPPA	1981-19
WILBERT LARSON	1958-1977	JEFF NORDINE	1984-19
WAINO HAAPALA	1958-1975	BO GUSTAFSON	1984-19
CLARE LINNA (CHIEF 80-86)	1959-19	BRUCE SMITH	1985-19
VERN HEMMING	1960-1974	KURT SAYLES	1985-19
QUENT BINDER	1960-1969	BRUCE KRIEGER	1985-19
ART ROSS	1960-1966	ART WELSH	1985-19
RUSS STENFORS	1960-1966		

## CO-OP HALL

The Co-op Hall was built in 1931. A group of people got together to finance the project and bought shares for ten dollars a share. All of the work was done by volunteer labor. There were about eighty members when the hall was finished.

Many organizations were started including the Co-op Hall Board of Directors, Educational Club, Women's Guild, Youth League, Choir, Basketball teams, Athletic Club, and a Drama Club that presented Finnish-language 2-, 3-, or 4-act plays several times a year, always to a full house. Lunch was served at all occasions. The hall was also used for dances and no intoxicating beverages were allowed. Turkey dinners were served on Thanksgiving for the

members and their families.

In 1943 when soldiers were on maneuvers in our area, lunches were served to them at the hall. They also held church services there with their chaplain in charge. After the war was over and the boys came home, we had a nice celebration with a program and dance in their honor.

The hall was also used for school plays. Chet Kooker showed movies there twice a week. These activities continued until 1945. There has been no activity there of late except during the Bicentennial Celebration in 1976 when a fine patriotic concert was presented by local citizens.

The Settlers Co-op Inc. bought the hall in 1950. The building still stands in its original location and is in good, usable condition.



Settlers Co-op Hall

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## 4-H CLUBS

The first 4-H Club in Ontonagon was organized in Paynesville on January 4, 1923. Miss Creswell, 4-H Assistant from Marquette, helped club leader Marcella Cummings to organize the Paynesville Pioneer Garment Club. The club had 21 girls ranging in age from 10 to 20. Each girl was required to make three projects; a sewing bag, bloomers, and a bungalow apron. They had to keep an account of all materials purchased and then compare the price of the garment after being made to see if it paid to sew at home. They also had to write a story of "What Our Club Has Done For Me." They were judged on neatness, general appearance, buymanship of material and their report and story. First place went to Lempi Haanpaa, 12 years old; 2nd place, Lydia Pauldanis, age 14; 3rd to Linda Honkanen. That summer five girls went to what we remember as Camp Shaw: Sigrid Kurtti, Lila Urpila, Mary Haapala, Lyyli Nurkala and Wilma Salo.

Since that time 4-H has played an important part in the lives of many of our residents. It expanded to clubs in cooking, electrical and wood working, sewing, handwork, cross-country skiing, dog obedience, rocketry, and crafts. The name "Happy Helpers" has been associated with our Bruce Crossing club for approximately

25 years.

The current Happy Helpers Club has about 30 members in grades 3 through high school age. Both boys and girls are enrolled and students from the entire Ewen-Trout Creek School System are welcome to participate.

## HOME EXTENSION

The first Extension Clubs in Ontonagon County were organized in 1935. Five clubs were started on the south end of the county, the Bruce Crossing Club among them. Over the years Extension has played a large part in the lives of many in our area. Some of the projects the club has undertaken included tray making, upholstering, making rugs of all types — braided, hooked, tooth brush, etc. Nutrition was one of the main topics in the early 1940's and '50's. The women would take trips to Camp Shaw by bus, spending a week to learn crafts and nutrition and bring the knowledge back to the rest of the club.

The Baltimore Home Extension Club is active in our area with a current membership of about 20 women. Present officers are: Pat Talsma, President; Judy Hansen, Vice President; Penn Pilto, Secretary; and Mary Ann Cestkowski, Treasurer.



## HENRY A. HOLOPPA V.F.W. POST 9345

The Post was formed on April 27, 1947 by 47 comrades with the late Alex Beltramo as the Post's first Commander. The Post was named in honor of Henry A. Holoppa of Bruce Crossing, who lost his life while serving in the Philippines with the Army on January 26, 1945.

The first meetings of the organization were held at a small log structure which was located in the Stannard Township Park. The same building was also used as a warm-up house for the skaters who utilized the skating rink there.

In 1939 the old North Paynesville School had been vacated, so the Veterans Organization purchased the old school in 1946 and had it moved to where now stands Tulppo's Copper Drift Lounge. It remained there until after a fire on December 22, 1953, destroyed the Township Hall next door. Shortly after that the men moved their building again, this time to set on the foundation of the old Township Hall that had burned down.

This facility has since been the Post Home for both men and ladies of the V.F.W. It has been the scene for most wedding receptions and other gatherings for the locality through the years.

On April 27, 1986, the V.F.W. Post will celebrate 39 years of existence in Bruce Crossing.

The Post now hosts "BINGO" every Monday night. Much has been done during the past years in remodeling the Post. A Memorial to all Veterans was erected in 1985 in front of the Post Home. All this being accomplished by the members of the Post.

Charter Members of Post 9345 who are still active are: Walter N. Aho, Paul R. Abramson, Quentin A. Binder, Ernest Cook, Fred A. Cook, Robert E. Hemming, Vernon E. Hemming, Arne O. Huhtala, Martin S. Keranen, Jorma H. Lannet, Orville W. Tulppo, Ale Kurtti and Eli Nippa.

There are at present 66 members of the Post. Present Commander of V.F.W. Post 9345 is Val Bonetti.



V. F. W. Hall — Post 9345

## LADIES AUXILIARY TO THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

The ladies Auxiliary to the V.F.W. was formed on October 23, 1947 with 28 members. Evelyn Wirtanen was the first President of the auxiliary and has been a continuous member since. Today

the unit has 65 members. The first meeting of the unit was held at the home of Helen Nippa. Charter members are Ev. Wirtanen, Dorothy Binder, Syme Antilla, Eileen Benstrom, Edith Bezotte, Esther Binder, Alvina Cook, Augusta Cook, Elma Cook, Alma Keranen, Esther Korri, Aune Korsman (post was named after her brother Henry A. Holoppa), Mary Jane Kurtti, Florence Linna, Myrtle Meyers, Gertrude Moll, Lorraine Moll, Lempi Syria, Helen Nippa, Seere Nordine, Hilda Rounisto, Lempi Niemi, Annabel Stuesser, Delma Waara, Georgeanna Hemming, Margaret Wirtanen, Esther Kananen and Susan Christensen.

Past presidents of the auxiliary are Wirtanen, S. Christensen, Hilda Rounisto, Lempi Syria, Irene Teske, Mary Jane Kurtti, Mamie Honkanen, Dolores Peltola, Miriam Teikari and Cora Niemi. Kurtti and Honkanen both served as president for eight years.

## OTTAWA LION AND LIONESS CLUB

The Ottawa Lions Club was organized with a Charter night celebration at the Ewen High School on June 15, 1968. The first officers were: President, Paul Popke; Vice President, K.J. Moilanen; Secretary, Richard Hauser; Treasurer, Orville Hanson. Their purpose was to serve the community. One of the first projects was to provide a bus for groups to use such as 4-H Clubs, churches, etc. The Club provides the insurance and maintenance for the bus. The Lions have also provided white canes, eye glasses, and helped with many fund-raising projects.

In 1979 the Lioness Club was organized to help with service projects. The first officers were: President, Joy Popke; Vice President, Phyllis Juntunen; Secretary, Terry Goodwin; and Treasurer, Gertie Moilanen. Since its beginning, the club has provided scholarships annually for two male and two female graduates of the Ewen-Trout Creek School, purchased playground equipment, and now has taken on the project of paying for the pavilion at the Stannard Township Park that we all enjoy.

## LEST WE FORGET

Memorial Day in Bruce Crossing is a special day as crowds assemble at the cemeteries to once again pay tribute to our many servicemen who fought for our country, as well as remembering all the loved ones who have gone before. It seems fitting that these men be honored whatever their role was and special mention be made of those who made the supreme sacrifice for us. During World I, four Stannard Township men died. John Sakkinen was the first. He was killed on August 31, 1918, during the Battle of Juvigny. George Linna, also from Paynesville, was killed during the Battle of Argonne in October, 1918. Alex Daniels also lost his life and Norman Berg was the fourth. He died of pneumonia while serving his country. World War II claimed two lives. Arne Sillanpaa was killed in Belgium in 1945 and was interred in the American Cemetery in Belgium. Henry Holappa was killed in action in Luzon January 26, 1944. The V.F.W. Post here is named after him. Again, Stannard Township lost two young men in Vietnam: Quentin Binder in February, 1968, and John Ekstadt in November, 1967. Both were returned to Bruce Crossing and given full military rites. Que is buried in the Maple Grove Cemetery and John in Hillside.

As far as known, no one from here served in the Spanish-American War. It may also be mentioned that although Bruce Crossing didn't exist until after the Civil War, one of the Bruce Crossing residents was a Civil War veteran. Morris Quinn, known as "Doc", was born in Scotland in 1844 and he and his wife moved here many years after he had served in the war and settled on a farm about a mile south of the town. He was buried in the Ewen cemetery.



## BASEBALL

In the early days Bruce Crossing was no different than any other part of the country when baseball was truly the American game. With ten schools within the township there were many enthusiastic would-be players to choose up sides to play ball. Remember this was before television and transportation as we know it now.

Teams played on various fields, one diamond was located where Nordine's Store and Joe's Restaurant now stand, one at Neumans Grove, and in 1931-32 the baseball field was developed north of town. A large canopied grandstand that held 2000, a fence around the field, and a scoreboard in center field, were built as a WPA project.

At one time Bruce's had two teams that were known as the town team and the Wildcats. In 1932 the two teams merged to become one; the team was organized and incorporated under the laws of Michigan in the name of Bruce Crossing Baseball Association. The officers of the organization were Paul Kaiser, Eddie Murto, Charles Gerber, and Leo Nippa.

On April 26, 1933 the Ontonagon County Baseball League was organized. The league was composed of the following teams: Bruce Crossing, Ewen, Mass-Wainola, Greenland, Rockland, and Ontonagon. The schedule of games was drawn on a split season basis with the winners playing a series of three games for the championship.

The Bruce Crossing team under the management of Marcus (Paddy) McKay and later taken over by Paul Kaiser, played all scheduled games plus home and away games with Hurley, Iron River, Eagle River, Land O'Lakes, Gile and Houghton. The season ended with Bruce Crossing and Ewen as half season winners to meet in the three game series. Bruce Crossing emerged as the victor to become the first Ontonagon County Champions.

The team played to capacity crowds who gathered from all parts of the peninsula. The admission charge was 20¢. The average gate receipts per game were \$50.00. There existed a keen rivalry for baseball honors between Ewen and Bruces. Fights among the fans were common place and accepted as part of the game along with wagering among both men and women to show they were solidly behind their team to win. One of the biggest fans, there to cheer on her three sons, was Hazel Gerber, who would ring her cow bell each time the team made a succesful play or hit.

The championship team continued to be challenged. On September 17th they played an all star team from nearby CCC camps and on September 24, played a Copper Country team, winning both games.

On October 14, 1933 a banquet to honor the County Champions was held at the town hall with officers of the Ontonagon County League and the Bruce Crossing Association in attendance. A large Spalding Trophy Cup, suitably engraved, was presented to the team. Entertainment was provided by the Little German Band of Iron River.

After '33 baseball continued to be played and provide the fans with many summer Sunday afternoons of entertainment. The Bruce Association also played the Piney Woods colored travelling team,

the New York Giants colored team, the House of David and George Kell's touring American League all stars. Those in authority recall they did win their share of these games.

Baseball was played till World War II when there was a shortage of men to play. After the War, interest was renewed and Bruce Crossing became a part of the Interstate League. The league was composed of an Eastern Division — Ontonagon, Trout Creek, Bergland, Ewen, Mass, Rockland and Erwin; and a Western Division — Y.M.A.A., Gile, Monarchs, Marenisco, Montreal, Ramsey and Saxon. During the year teams from each division played each other, home and away. At the end of the season the winners of the eastern and western divisions played a best-of-three series for the Championships. Names of those who played from 1946-1955 are E. Platzke, K. Huhta, C. Gerber, R. Conrad, A. Kurtti, R. Hemming, J. Gerber, T. Hemming, W. Majava, L. Mattson, W. Nippa, R. Mattson, A. Waisanen, O. Lindberg, O. Tulppo, D. Benstrom, H. Johnson, B. Car, E. Huttula, A. Huhtala, C. Linna, A. Wickstrom, W. Niemi, H. Kauppi, Bill Abramson, Al Pletzke, Pete Gerber and G. Lehtonen. Managers of baseball were Guy Hawkins, Charles Gerber, Ralph Hemming, Jack Gerber, George Brown, and Bundy Niemi.

During the early 1960's a new form of baseball game started in the area, slow-pitch softball. Ed Saaranen and Bill Abramson helped to form the league which included teams from Trout Creek, Ewen, Bergland, White Pine, Ontonagon, and Rockland. One can still enjoy a ballgame at the Stannard Township Park between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day. Binder's Mens' Softball Team is part of the area's Northwood's Softball League and has sponsored the "Silver Dollar Classic" softball tournament every Labor Day weekend since 1976. Women's softball teams have also been active in our area.

Many young men from Stannard Township have played on the local high school baseball team. When they could no longer hold games on the field next to the Ewen School, the Stannard Township Park became the boys' home field.

Little league baseball has also been active in this area since Bill Nippa organized players in the late 1940's. Although it began as a boy's game, girls can now participate equally. Coaches who have helped youngsters learn and enjoy the sport include Ora Popps, Charles (Pete) Gerber, Bill Abramson, Al Pletzke, Dick Polkky, Al Karianinen, and Al Kurtti. Little league ball games are now played at the Steamboat Bill Park which was built and dedicated in 1976.







#### THE BRUCE CROSSING BASEBALL ASSOCIATION — 1933

**L to R Top Row:** Jack Gerber, fielder; Eddie Murto, secretary; Orville Ahola, fielder; Carl Johnson, catcher; Howard Mikkala, fielder; Bill Peach, umpire; and Charles Gerber, first base. **Middle Row:** Onnie Mattson, pitcher, southpaw; Eino Niemi, fielder; Russell Benstrom, fielder; Paul Kaiser, manager; Albert Gerber, second base; and Robert Burns, catcher. **Bottom Row:** Art Larson, catcher; Rudolph Conrad, third base; John Larson, bat boy; Emil Platzke, shortstop, and Wilho Manninen, pitcher.

### HOCKEY

Organized hockey came to Bruce Crossing in 1946. Prior to that, ice rinks were prevalent throughout the township. Wherever there was an opportunity to form ice, be it a swamp area, a dammed up creek or rivulet, children and young people could be found skating, and invariably some would choose sides, sticks were found, and something would serve as a puck (a piece of wood, a chunk of ice, or the heel of a shoe) and hockey would be played.

In 1946 a group of young men and local businessmen got together and formed the team known as the Bruce's Nite Hawks. A rink was first built for the team behind what it is now the A & A Hardware and later moved to the baseball park area where a building was available for use as a changing room. Work on putting up the rink and sideboards and the ensuing labor of maintenance, cleaning snow, flooding, etc., was done mostly by the team members, with help from some of the townspeople.

Games were played against teams from Ironwood, Ontonagon, Stambaugh, Hubbell, Lake Linden, Michigan, and Rhinelander, Eagle River, and Mosinee, Wisconsin. Some of the players involved included Orville Tulppo, Eli Nippa, Carl Moll, Arnold Wirtanen, Ralph Hemming, Paul Abramson, Dave Abramson, Carl Johnson, Clarence Linna, Willie Johnson, Fatto Johnson, Ray Mattson, Bob Kroll, Marvin Gravier, Charles Juntunen, and John Tikkanen. Reg Moll served as a coach, referee, and consultant. Out-of-town players who were an added dimension to the team were Aale Tulppo, Eino Kauppi and Wilbert Koopikka from Kearsarge, and for one game, the great Chet Berryman from Calumet was the goalie. The team disbanded in 1949.



**L to R Front Row:** Buck, John Tikkanen, Clare Linna, Willie Johnson, Dave Abramson. **Sitting:** Charles Juntunen, Ducky Johnson. **Back Row:** Marvin Gravier, Eli Nippa, Bob Kroll, Reg Moll, Carl Moll, Orvi Tulppo.



# BIG SPRUCE GOLF COURSE

In 1967 Ray and Marge Tulppo started the construction of a golf course two and one half miles north of Bruce Crossing. Two years later six holes were completed and it was opened to the public.

In 1972 the golf course was purchased by Lewis Johnson. Three holes were added, making it a nine hole course. The barn was converted to a club house. In 1973 the men's and women's golf leagues were organized. The original men's league started with 8-four man teams and now has 14-seven man teams. The women started with 4-five women teams and now has grown to 8-six women teams. In 1976 the course was sold to John Johnson and in 1978 it was then purchased and is still owned by Tom and Dorothy Miesbauer.

More improvements have been made to the golf course over the years. Golf has become a very popular recreational activity and many local citizens have learned to play and enjoy the sport today.



## HISTORIC INFORMATION

### ENTERTAINMENT

People worked harder years ago than they do now, yet it seemed there was actually more time to visit and have good times. Many dances were held, often in homes and those with any musical ability would show off their talents as the young and old waltzed or danced the polka, schottish or two-step. The old Bruce's Town Hall, Gem Hall, and Labor Hall were scenes of countless dances. Sometimes the dances lasted so long, the weary dancers got home just in time to start their morning chores.

The Germans had their own type of dance called the "Hush Kater." Roughly translated it meant "Pounce Cat", and though it was considered a children's game, the adults took part in the chase and often removed their shoes in order to run faster. Mrs. Ottilia Teske was noted for her speed. To speak of Hush Kater to an old country German today would evoke a smile and a flooding of memories.

In the early 1920's a very popular dance pavilion was built two miles south of Bruce Crossing, just across the border into Haight Township. This was Neuman's Grove and was operated by August Neuman, a long time resident of the area. In the summer months crowds came from all over the county, some even on foot, to dance to the big name bands such as Duke Ellington and Eli Rice. Besides the Saturday night dances, many church picnics, ball games and other social gatherings were held there. There was even a merry-go-round for the kids. Mr. Neuman moved to Bruce Crossing in the 1930's and sold the place to Grover Lackie who operated it several years before it closed completely.

The Co-op Hall was used not only for Co-op meetings, but also for dances, school programs and movies. Chester Kooker had movies there twice a week for several years until the attendance dropped due to the introduction of television. The hall was used in 1976 during the Bicentennial Celebration when a fine patriotic concert was presented by local citizens. The hall will come alive again with activity during Bruce Crossing's 1986 Centennial Celebration.

Around the area people still meet for social, church, school, and community affairs. There is bowling and golfing which were unheard of around here many years ago. The senior citizens have the Crossroads Senior Citizens Center where they can meet and socialize daily. The Porcupine Mountain Community Schools program also offers a variety of classes and activities for the involvement and enrichment of the local citizens.

### DOCTORS AND DENTISTS

Dr. Edward Koivupalo was a resident doctor in Bruce Crossing. He and his wife and nine children lived in the house where Alice Bruno lives. His office was the current Emil Syria home. He came here from Calumet in 1917. They left in the 1920's, going back to Calumet.

Mr. Kleinlein was a self-styled "doctor" prescribing remedies for the settlers of his time.

Dr. Florentine from Ewen made house calls over this area. Dr. Lake from Trout Creek did likewise to help the sick; he also pulled teeth when necessary. Dr. Whiteshield also came out on house calls from Trout Creek.

If a person got hurt or needed hospital care they usually were taken to Marquette or Calumet by train, as that was the easiest and quickest way, before the days of ambulances, good roads or fast cars.

Dr. Harold B. Hogue, Ewen, was honored in 1962 with a banquet for his 30 years of service to the surrounding communities. Dr. Hogue learned the Finnish language under the tutorage of the late John Franti, and anyone else who could translate. The doctor made house calls, no matter what the weather. He borrowed what he needed, horse and sled, or skis. He was an outstanding doctor, friend and counselor. As a family doctor, he encountered many hardships to bring his services into the homes of this large area. (Hogue information taken in part from April 12, 1962 Ontonagon Herald.)

Mr. Foster of Paynesville was known to extract teeth. Dr. Dozer used to come to Bruces occasionally and use the back room of the Town Hall for an "office" to extract teeth. Dr. Lake from Trout Creek also extracted teeth.

### POPULATION

Since Stannard Township did not exist as a township until 1905, there was no way to determine its population until the 1910 census had been taken and recorded. In that year the population was 498. In the next decade the population more than doubled. The main reason for the increase was the closing of the copper mines in the Copper Country. By 1920 there were 1,160 persons in the township. The next ten years showed only a small increase bringing the total to 1,395 in 1930. In 1940, only one person was added bringing the total to 1,396. That seemed to be the peak year. The population of the township then began declining — the 1950 census showed 1,199; 1960's was 1,030; 1970's was 978; and the last in 1980 was down to 924.

## TELEPHONES

The Bruce Crossing area was added to the Ontonagon County Telephone Company in 1949. In 1962, the company completed rejuvenation and expansion of its system with new dial exchanges. On June 19, 1975, Bruce Crossing and its surrounding area was able to dial direct and by January, 1976, everyone was included in the one-party system.

## ELECTRICITY

The Wisconsin-Michigan Electric Power Company brought electricity to this area in 1929, a memorable event that made a great difference in lifestyles. The R.E.A. came into the rural areas about ten years later. The first power company, now named Wisconsin Electric, built a new garage and offices one-half mile east of town in 1985.

## ARMY MANEUVERS

Bruce Crossing and miles around was a scene of lots of activity in the winters of 1943 and 1944 when the troops from the Second Infantry Division (Indianhead Patch) from San Antonio, Texas, came for winter maneuvers. The instructors came from the 87th Mountain Infantry from Camp Hale, Colorado. They taught the troops to ski and to survive in the cold weather. This training was before the invasion of Italy and other places in Europe. The Bruce Crossing area was headquarters for the Blue and the Red Armies, consisting of 15,000 men or more.

The hospital was in the Bonifas C.C.C. Camps. The Bruce's Town Hall and the Gateway Inn in Land O'Lakes were the headquarters for the Signal Corps. The troops lived out doors in dug-outs in the snow, some used trees and branches for protection from the elements. Those winters were bitter cold with lots of snow. The men lived on K-rations, plus what people gave them. Their means of transportation were skiis, Weasels, and Jeeps. These maneuvers trained the troops and tested the equipment for the invasion overseas.

The second troops came from the 76th Division from Fort Meade, Maryland. Instructors were from Camp Hale, Colorado.



1943 Maneuvers Living Quarters

## THE COMMUNISTS AND THE KU KLUX KLAN

When the Finns came to the area, they brought with them their religious and political beliefs and ideas. From the start, there was

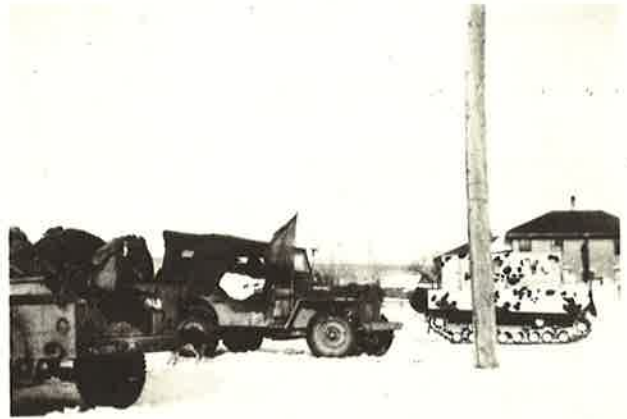
a split. On one side were the ardent Lutherans who themselves had several divisions, while on the other side were those who had little to do with religion.

In 1911 the "Socialists" built a Labor Hall in Paynesville in which meetings, dances and various other forms of entertainment were held. Each side was accused of pestering the other to gain converts and many harsh words were hurled at each other.

In 1930, the Great Depression era and no jobs, many Communist recruiters were in the area saying "Come to the Soviet Union, away from USA. We can give you jobs and all the good things." This offer was on a five-year plan.

Several people packed their belongings and left for Russia. They had been hit by "Karelian" fever. Karelia is on the border of Finland so it interested the Finnish people. Once there, they were disillusioned and so returned in a year or longer to start life anew in the United States.

About that time the Ku Klux Klan was in the area. They called themselves the "Americanization Club" but were really the Ku Klux Klans. They didn't tar and feather anyone, but they did burn crosses. It was even said that the Bruce Crossing area was labeled as a "melting pot for Communists." The KKK activities died after a few years much to the relief of the people.



Jeep, Weasel by Paynesville Depot



Eino Stenfors Plane — 1931

# BRUCE CROSSING CENTENNIAL BOOSTERS

William V. Wirtanen	Robert H. Berger	Charles Gerber
Helmi Arittanen	Shannon Berger	Evelyn Gerber
Wirtanen	Mabel V. Berger	Jerry Brower
Ellen J. Kaars	Gerald R. Berger	Jane Brower
Toivo H. Kaars	Geneva Popke Olson	Marvin A. Luma
Hilma (Asikojinen) Hill	Robert J. Fradrickson	Julie M. Luma
Helene Popke	Doug Brunner	Roger Brady
Aili J. Manty	Elsie M. Hoehler	Nanette Brady
Theris Viimala	Vivian (Polky) Koski	Julie Ann Brady
Lillian Viimala	Minnie Nykanen	Roger Dale Brady
Victor Viimala	Paul Popke	Daniel Mordine
Jane O. Viimala	Joy Popke	Vane Mordine
Robert Peltola	Letty Savare Himanka	Harold Essig
Sharon M. Peltola	Louise Seale Dana	Elaine Essig
Virginia Dollar	Ethel Newman	Chester P. Costkowski
Lucretia Huson	Donald E. Lish	Mary Ann Costkowski
Martha Hatfield	Stella B. Light	Joy Hemming Moore
Van I. Syta	Luven Light	Helen Koskela
Clifford J. Niemi	Albert Kurtti	Gertie
Charlotte Niemi	Marilyn Kurtti	Bertha Johns
James Linna	Heida J. Laakso	Joy N. Loppinen
Robert Bessen	Harold Bernington	Mary A. Kargala
Lynn M. Bessen	Ada Bernington	John Bessen
Dale & Jean (Salonen) Koski	Terry Z. Perttula	Saima (Kurmi) Wirtanen
Verna Johnson	Sheila Perttula	Bert Nurmi
Toivo Anttila		



# BRUCE CROSSING CENTENNIAL BOOSTERS

Chae Linna  
 JESS. B.  
 David B.  
 Erik B.  
 Alice Linna  
 Ruth Backman  
 Harry Backman  
 Mr. Douglas E. Kugler  
 Mrs. Bunda Kugler  
 Kenneth M. Pietila  
 Edna Pietila  
 Ellen S. Pietila  
 Maureen Pietila  
 Sheila Pietila  
 Todd Nord  
 Janny Nordine  
 Evelyn Soronen Pranti  
 Alan Kurtti  
 Vicki Kurtti  
 Phanka Kurtti  
 Jured Kurtti  
 Deana Kurtti  
 Kara Kartti  
 Abie Bruno

Mary Trakat Reynolds  
 Kurt Trakat  
 Rose Stator  
 Carl Conrad  
 Cecilia Conrad  
 Auker Sikkila  
 Geraldine Conrad Sikkila  
 Terrance Conrad  
 Carol Conrad  
 Clinton Sikkila  
 Dean "Frankie" Sikkila  
 Denise Sikkila  
 Cousineau  
 Tom Cousineau  
 Albert A. Pietila  
 Paul B. Johnson, Fittila  
 Rodney Mattson  
 Betty Mattson  
 John J. Talsma DUM  
 Pat Talsma  
 Kurt J. Talsma  
 Craig Talsma  
 Robert Lynn  
 Gayle Maloney

Mitty Smith  
 Bruce Smith  
 Richard Salchy  
 Arma Nara  
 Wesley E. Nara  
 Gerty Nara  
 Robert Nousiainen  
 Katherine Nousiainen  
 Aimeida Maki  
 Alma Sarenpa  
 Leonard Sarenpa  
 Albert E. Holmes  
 Bethyl L. Holmes  
 Alex Tarnas  
 Becky Karianen  
 Shelley Karianen  
 Kent Karianen  
 Koren Karianen  
 Koni Lindholm  
 Terry Lindholm  
 Anthony Hill  
 Ann Campbell

# BRUCE CROSSING CENTENNIAL BOOSTERS

E. O. R. S.  
 Art Schaefer  
 Aili M. Lignas  
 Walter J. Linn  
 Bradley Linn  
 Esther Gorri  
 Wayne F. Langley  
 Vivian Moore  
 Florence Howlett  
 Carrie Howlett  
 Petrina V. Tensten  
 Andrea Niemi  
 Olga Nipka  
 Martha (M.)  
 Eggertson  
 Elsie Clark  
 S. H. Park  
 Amber Merri  
 Drew Niemi  
 James H. Coss  
 Paula M. Coss  
 John Herbert Fleming  
 Sam Tairas  
 Ernil Platyke  
 Del Platyke  
 Louis Humphrey

Vela Kerypauka  
 Patricia A. Johnson  
 Davis Lindberg  
 Leina Lindberg  
 Marie J. Wagner  
 Lempi Kennedy  
 Mamie Honkanen  
 Martin S. Keränen  
 Alvin E. Keranen  
 Fatto Johnson  
 Stanley E. Illikainen  
 Selma Illikainen  
 Eddie Illikainen  
 Millie Maciaszek  
 Harold Kanonen  
 Ellen Kamman  
 George J. Laitila  
 Benel Kuehnl  
 Frances Kuehnl  
 Jeff Macdise  
 Dian Nordine  
 Joan Morris  
 Al Tarr  
 Helen M. Tarr  
 Bill Haakola  
 Lola Jaakkola  
 Robert J. Kersak

Carl Gerber  
 Anderson  
 Liz Gerber  
 Ellen Leskela Gerber  
 Jack Gerber  
 John Selinaja  
 Lily Lakingja  
 J. Alfred Murto  
 Wilho A. Murto  
 Hazel Teller  
 Edwin H. Murto  
 Florence Gerber  
 Haggala  
 James D. Vlahos  
 Arlene Vlahos  
 Bob Vlahos  
 Dave Vlahos  
 Marie Brown  
 Arnold Wirtanen  
 Evelyn Wirtanen  
 Nancy (Lepton) Salisbury  
 Sissy Johnson  
 Sackett  
 Marian Roynisto Cassinara  
 Cecilia Lindsay  
 Shirley M. Hako  
 Frank Loney Johnson  
 Verna Nash  
 Robert Nash



# BRUCE CROSSING CENTENNIAL BOOSTERS

Joini Maatta	Hertunde Jordan Tiitinen	Anne A. Niemi
Betty Hawthier	Ernest E. Cook	Lorraine M. Niemi
Maki	John V. Olson	Gertie Knuutila
J. K. Fleming	Elsie Olson	Jorma Lannet
Clifford I. Lehto	Howard Neppa	Jane M. Lannet
Janet C. Leeson	Norma Neppa	Charles Juntunen
Martha Waara Storm	J. Saukkoja Kaszychi	Carol Juntunen
Edna Moilanen	E. J. Saukkoja	J. Hannon
Jackie Essig	Sadie Lassila	Martha Koskela
Alan Essig	Ralph Linna	Ruth Hanson
Evelyn (Eskola) Schroeder	Harold Lin Cronkright	Cindy Tuerer
Paul A. Keranen	Dr. Hasenberg	Bertrudal (Kugler) Riley
Louis Keranen	Clyde Turesdell	Roger A. Juopperi
Julia Mattson	Sue Turesdell	Laurie Juopperi
Joan Scott	Shirley Pittsley	Sharon Juopperi
Andy Huttula	David Pittsley	Sandra Juopperi
David Nordine	Charles "Tom" Pittsley	Tom Kaara
Carl E. Photo	Johnny L. Zisk	Dulce Maki
Melga Luokka Photo	Spencer Ward	Pat Franti
Jo Hrusak Linon	Albert Mukka	Bob Franti
Leh Raatikka	Florence Mukka	Eun Franti
John R. Hanaatt	Lempi M. Beckman	R. Floyd Fleming
Henry Kraly	Myrtle Hillier	Sis Fleming
Paulina Malz	Sigrid Jurmu	Phoebe McBrigg
Eroy R. Niemi	Warne Ilkkinen	John D. Jukonen



# BRUCE CROSSING CENTENNIAL BOOSTERS

Binger (Linna) Potter  
John S. Hemming  
Marilyn Hemming

Daniel S. Roberts  
Gene Roberts

Maie Ahola  
Brent Pietila

TOIVO LINNA  
MYLMA LINNA

ROGER LINNA  
PATRICK LINNA

SALLY LINNA  
JOSEPH LINNA

MICHAEL LINNA  
NICOLE LINNA

LINDA LINNA  
Thomas A. Nordling

Heene Hardeue  
WILLARD STRANGLA

VERA E. STRANGLA  
August Pietila

Mary Pietila

Elmer Nara  
Ida Nara

William Wonders  
Mary Dee Wonders

Norma (Laine) Leppanen

Armas Ant Laine  
Gregory Franz

Burton W. Johnson  
Betty J. M. Johnson

Sam (Alan) Schlachet  
Connie Nadine Schlachet

Thomas P. Corda  
Edith A. Corda

Lewis E. Johnson  
Jean Kerber Johnson

MAVIS SAIN  
La Coursiere

ROBERT COLE  
La Coursiere

Mr. George Vort  
Mrs. George Vort  
(Aune Miller)

Edith Bayette  
Buck Bayette

Arvo W. Berthel  
Thiedra L. Berthel

John Jilek  
ALVIN A. Jilek

Alvin A. Jilek  
E. Olson Sr.

Nancy R. Olson  
David Olson

Gladden J. Niemelä  
Carol L. Niemelä

Margaret L. Ekstadt  
Melba Leppanen

Carl Moll  
Lorraine Moll

Emil Syria  
Lempi Syria

Eino A. Laite  
Dorothy A. Laite

Phillip J. Kaas  
Ralph Woll

Helen Doll  
Ray Tulppo

Marsa Tulppo  
Edroy + Edna Leskela

Benson J. Leskela  
Ruth M. Wade

Emma I. Schaefer  
Harold Halquist

Lila Halquist  
Barbara Anderson

Robert L. LoMora  
Judith K. LoMora

Toivo W. Luoma  
Doris E. Luoma

Jane Kotila  
Chris Kotila

Don Heuman  
Betty Poppo

# BRUCE CROSSING CENTENNIAL BOOSTERS

Vernon Hautamaki

Margaret Lemminkinen Soronen

Tyynne A. Hautamaki

**Doris Sironen**

Doris E. Miner

Tom & Dorothy Miesbauer

Ken & Beth Desaulniers

Harry Allright

Joanna Abramson

Mary Moll-Allright

David Abramson

Lila (Marmi-) Haara

Melvin J. Mantz

Gordon Haara

Edward K. Sittkanen

Barbara M Benstrom

Ed Femia Jarvi

David C Benstrom

Uimo Jarvi

Geste T. Benstrom

Ruth A. Micheletti

Calvin D Morrison

LINDA J. DESNAH. (CH.)  
(L.A.)

Roy J. Soronen

Phillip Linna Surman

John T. Surman

Genevieve A. Benstrom-Morrison

Sheresa Juopperi Buccanero

Pamela J. Soronen-Johns

Cindy Juopperi Organist

Roy Alanen

Sylvia Kurtti Cumming

Frjoko Lehto

Charles A. Keranen

Melvin J. Lehto

Lygdi Keranen

Father Francis B. Abyszewski

William D. Lehtonen

Lempi A. Lehtonen

Leo & Helen Nousiainen



# **SENIORS and PERSONALITIES of STANNARD TOWNSHIP**

## **MRS. MATILDA EISERMANN**

Although she lived to be 102, Mrs. Eisermann's life was one of many hardships and traumatic experiences both here and in Poland, but she was a woman of great physical strength, indomitable spirit and great faith.

Here in Bruce Crossing, she was a good friend to all, known for her kindness and good deeds. Visitors were always welcome and plied with food. On occasions where lunch was served, mostly church functions, a cheesecake or a plateful of her delicious cookies were on the table. She always managed to pay back three-fold any kindness shown her. She gardened and grew beautiful flowers.

She came to Bruce Crossing in 1921, nine years after her husband came. Their farm home burned in 1936, a flash flood in 1942 damaged property and drowned their chickens, and there was much sickness; but these seemed like minor troubles compared to her life in the Old Country.

By the time her husband Otto had settled here west of town, World War I broke out and the Czar, fearful of all the Germans living in Poland and the Ukraine had them sent deep into the Russian Empire. Mrs. Eisermann knew she had to go, but thought her aged father and an ill son would not be required

to go, only to learn much later, they had been deported too, and were never heard of again. She packed a small milk cart and left with her four other children — part of the way on foot, part by cattle cars. They slept outdoors and were fed by villagers along the way. Three of the children became ill and when the authorities learned of this, they were taken away, and never seen again. Gust (Gustav) also became ill but she managed to conceal his illness. While in Russia, she cooked for an Orthodox priest.

In 1921, she and Gust were able to leave the Soviet Union and went to her sisters, and finally contacted Otto. Five years later, he had sent enough money for their fares. They went to the free port of G'Dansk where through forgery or bribery another man passed himself off as Gust, so she had to come to America alone. While waiting, Gust was drafted into the Army to complete his Army duty. By 1930, he was able to join his parents. Otto died July 2, 1948, and Matilda died in May, 1984, leaving Gust with no known relatives in this Country and only one cousin in Canada.

## **ANNA NARA**

Anna Karvola was born in Nivala, Finland, November 26, 1886, and came to the United States at the age of five. She settled in Ishpeming for a short time, then moved to Calumet, Michigan. Anna married Frank E. Nara on September 17, 1910, in Calumet. They moved to Bruce Crossing in June 1920, where she has resided since.



**Matilda Eisermann**



**Anna Nara**



## MRS. LENORE WUBBENA

Lenore Stralow was born in Houghton in 1879 and after high school took up nursing, working with the local doctor at Ewen for some years. She met and married Harry Wubbena, depot agent at Bruce Crossing.

During World War I they lived at Bruce Crossing and she was actively engaged in nursing during all this time. Their next residence was Trout Creek, then quite a number of years were spent in Marquette, where Harry was dispatcher in the freight yard. They returned to Bruce Crossing in the 1930's where he was depot agent. After Harry died in 1947, Lenny lived here until the building was torn down. She then returned to Houghton to live with her sister Ruby.



**Lenore Wubbena**

While living in Bruces, Lenny did first aid in her home — especially when there was no doctor. She was always happy to help, even when no pay was forthcoming. She also helped local immigrants to get their U.S. Citizenship papers, wrote letters for those who couldn't write English, helped people with their income tax forms and helped in other ways. One never saw her idle — she crocheted, wove rugs, hooked yarn rugs, pieced and quilted innumerable quilts and also tatted and knit doilies.

Lenny always welcomed her friends who brought her cast-off clothes to cut up. She also had a "green thumb". Her indoor plants flourished and her yard was always abloom.

The Wubbena's had no children, but raised her brother's daughter, Ruby, when he died. A sister, Dorothy lives in Dollar Bay. Lenore died at the age of 102, after a long, active, useful life.

## MINNIE MOORE

Minnie Christobel McKercher Moore was born in 1878 at Spur Mt., Michigan. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. James McKercher. At the age of 25 she married George H. Moore at Michigamme. She came to Bruce Crossing as a bride in 1902. She and her husband operated a General Store for many years. This store was owned by J. N. Suits of Ewen. Then later Mr.



**Minnie Moore**

Moore built his own store on the site where her house still stands. The business was operated for several years and later sold to John Benstrom. Mrs. Moore then kept boarders and roomers for several years until her retirement in 1935. She died in Ontonagon Medical Facility in 1980 at the age of 102 and five months. They had two children, Archie Moore, now deceased, and Vivian M. Moore who still lives in the family home.

## CHARLES JOUPPERI

Charles Joupperi was born in Rovaniemi, Finland on December 1884. He came to the United States and to Bruce Crossing as a child. He made his living farming, woodworking, and worked on the Ontonagon County Road Commission. He also served on the Stannard Township School Board. He enjoyed raising strawberries in his younger years. He celebrated his 100th birthday in 1984. At present he is living in the Gogebic Care Facility in Wakefield, Michigan. Charles attributed his great age to abstaining from drinking, coffee, smoking and eating between meals.



**Charles Joupperi**

## MRS. OSWALD KUGLER

Pauline Kröll was born August 26, 1881, in Koengisburg on the German-Polish border. At age five, she moved with her parents to Russia — in a place called Mikelruska. In 1900, she met and married Oswald Kugler and came to Canada. Their passage to the New World was arranged by people in Winnipeg and Oswald was to work as an indentured servant as repayment. A short time later Oswald became ill, so Pauline went to work with the men. The next year, they moved to Racine, and about 1908 moved to Bruce Crossing. Her sister and brother-in-law



**Mrs. Oswald Kugler**

Amalia and Fred Priebus were living here and Kugler's bought the adjoining farm land.

When she was about 74, one of her sons got her a motor scooter. She looked at it, sat on it and drove away. "That beats walking," she said. Soon "Grandma Kugler" became a familiar sight, cruising around in her "putt". She drove her little putt for many years. In 1961, she made national headlines when she made a trip to Milwaukee on her scooter.

In 1942 she worked as a janitor at the Bruce Crossing School after Mr. Kugler died.

At age 90, she took her first airplane ride to Long Beach,

Washington, to visit two sisters and a brother. She was a long-time member of the Bethany Lutheran Church. She was the Ontonagon County Senior Citizen's Queen in the 1976 Bicentennial Celebration.

She was also known for her quick wit and humor. She remained in relatively good health until her death on July 23, 1978, at the age of 96. Many of her descendants still live in the area.



## JOHN JALMER POLKKY

John, better known as J.J. Polkky was born in Copper Cliff, Ontario, Canada. Two years later his parents returned to Kauhava, Finland, where he lived until the age of 19. It was then he came to the United States, settling for a time in Ohio and Minnesota.



**John J. Polkky**

After taking a cooperative bookkeeping course, he began his cooperative career as a bookkeeper in 1921 at the Settlers Cooperative Trading Company in Bruce Crossing. The following year he was manager. In 1924 he married Hilma Sahinoja, who was a clerk in the Co-op Store at the time, and later had four children.

In 1926, "J. J." went to Hancock, Michigan to manage the Farmers Cooperative Trading Company for seven and a half years. In 1934 he returned to the Settlers Co-op Store in Bruce Crossing. During some of those years they had branch stores in Trout Creek, Paynesville, Mass City and Ewen, and the Gas Station and main store in Bruce Crossing, of which he was general manager. He also served on several Co-op boards of directors.

After a lifelong career as Co-op manager he retired in 1952. He died at the age of 83.

## SYE and CORA BARNES

Sye and Cora Barnes settled in Bruce Crossing in the early 1900's. Sye Barnes started out in the logging business, then acquired a livery stable and pool hall. His next step was to purchase what came to be known as the "S. A. and C. S. Barnes General Mercantile Store". The Post Office was moved into their store in 1907 and Cora Barnes became postmistress as well as manager of the store. Sye and Cora then decided to build the hotel and they did so for less than \$2,500.00. Labor for the hotel cost a little over \$600 and materials came to around \$1,900. Sye hired Cora's nephew Art Cooley and his wife Mamie Gauthier Cooley to manage the hotel, which they did for quite a few years. In later years the hotel was sold and it was known as "Binders Hotel" from then on. Mamie Cooley is still lovingly remembered in the area by those who stopped at the Ole Hotel for one of her sugar cookies which were the best around. Sye Barnes moved to Paulding where he lived for many years. Sye Barnes spent the last years of his life in the Covington Rest Home but his heart was always in Bruce Crossing. On Betty Gauthier Maki's weekly visits to the rest home, he once told her, "Honey, I'm the only American here"! The rest home was 90% Finnish at that time. Sye died in June of 1970 at the age of 94.



Sye and Cora Barnes



M-28 looking west from the center of town. (Circa 1918). The tallest building on the left is Sy Barnes' Livery Stable, now the Bowling Alley. The white house on the right is John Bjornstrom's home. Now Anderson's.

## LOUIS CONRAD

Louis Conrad was born August 15, 1882 in Germany and came to Bruce Crossing in 1907. His wife Augusta arrived here in 1908. They had eight children, their oldest daughter was born in Germany and a son Carl was born in the building located behind the former Benstrom Store, part of which now serves as Howard Johnson's sauna. About three years later the family moved to a farm on German Country Road presently owned by Carl Zimmerman.

He was a woodsman in the winter and a railroad section employee in the summer. In the mid 1930's he delivered milk, cream, meat and fish in local, Paulding, and Watersmeet areas. He served as town Constable from the mid 1930's until the late 1950's. In serving as constable he caught many a couple parking at the park. He was most noted for his billy club and long five-cell flashlight. Nobody ever got the upper hand on him and he was respected by everybody including the town drunks, bums and renegades. Some of his favorite sayings were "Me'll cetch'em", "Gosh Dunit me'll Get U Young Schnocker's", and "Better straighten out or to Ontonagon you'll go."

In later years his favorite pastimes were fishing and playing smear. He died in June 1970.



Louis Conrad



## ERIC WILLIAM NIPPA

Eric William Nippa - better known as "Bill" was a well-known resident of Bruce Crossing, residing there for about 40 years. He was born in Calumet, Michigan on September 11, 1887. He received his musical education from private teachers in Detroit and throughout the world. He was a violin soloist and toured Europe with a symphony orchestra including an appearance in Finland where "Finlandia" was played before its composer, Jean Sibelius. He was well known throughout the Upper Peninsula as a violinist, orchestra leader, choir director and composer of classical music.

Bill organized and directed a local "Glee Club" in 1926. The group performed at the Town Hall and at Neuman's Grove. He also directed choirs at Our Savior Lutheran and Bethany Lutheran Churches. In the late 30's and early 40's he directed the well-known Maple Grove Band, that played at local celebrations, ballgames and concerts at the town hall. He taught music at Haight, Stannard, and McMillan township schools and directed the first Ewen High School Band.

Bill was an avid sports fan especially baseball and hockey. During the early 40's, Bill's desire for something for the boys to do, found an ally in Guy Hawkins (local undertaker and also head coach of the Ewen Bulldog basketball team). Between the two of them they spent hundreds of hours with the youth of Bruce Crossing, providing transportation, acquiring the proper equipment, working on the baseball field, and during the winter, the art of making "good ice" for hockey. Bill coached the



Eric Wm. Nippa

first American Legion team, the "Rurals", also many Little League and Babe Ruth League teams.

The boys whose lives Bill touched will agree, he was a hard task-master because he demanded the very best you had to give to make the team. That may be the legacy he left with those that participated — "There is no victory without sacrifice."

Bill was married in 1917 and his wife died during the flu epidemic of World War I. Bill died February 4, 1965.

## STEAMBOAT BILL

William Wuolo, 53, who lost his life in an automobile accident on August 23, 1975, was known throughout this area as "Steamboat Bill" because he worked on the ore boats on the Great Lakes for a good part of his life. He was an avid sports enthusiast, a snowmobile fan, and an active promoter of youth activities.

His many friends thought there could be no more fitting memorial than a Little League Baseball Park that both boys and girls could use. With much donated labor and contributions, the park was dedicated on July 4, 1976, in remembrance of the man who contributed so much to the community.

Steamboat was a colorful character — one never knew what to expect of this tall, gangly figure with the big smile when he came lumbering down the street. He often wore a 4-cornered Laplander hat emblazoned with beautiful embroidery. He loved children and sometimes played Santa Claus, passing out treats off his snowmobile. One year he snowmobiled to the Newberry State Hospital and took the retarded children riding to their delight. He fed the deer during the bad winters and helped people when he was able. One year he, with some help from his sisters, gave a surprise Christmas party to a needy family with 10 children. A complete dinner was served and gifts given to each one. Bill said that was their "best Christmas ever." He was a beekeeper at the time of his death.

### Some "Steamboat Bill" Tales

One time Steamboat saw a picturesque old windmill while snowmobiling. He walked over to get a picture of it and promptly fell into a 12 foot hole, an old well. Being alone, he had to get himself out. Making a ladder from his camera strap and pants, he got out and rushed into town clad only in his underwear, to tell of his harrowing experience in 7 degree weather.

Another time he was bitten by a coyote. He saw an injured coyote too late, and drove over it. He backed off to see to the animal and it bit him. The doctor said it was an accident but Steamboat Bill said, "Heck, it wasn't an accident. That coyote bit me on purpose."



Steamboat Bill

**EXCERPTS FROM THE DIARIES OF  
JAMES N. HOWLETT**

**1902**

**2 April 1902** Bill sold to Suits (William Howlett sold his store to Jason Suits. This store was situated approximately where the gas station is today.

**19 April 1902** Bill bought Francis place. (\$725.00) (The present day Howlett home south of town).

**18 July 1902** Bad fire south of Bruce's.

**20 July 1902** Mr. Foster's Funeral (Moses Foster of Paynesville.)

**1903**

**9 February** George Binder helped cut ice

**16 August** No. 6 killed a Finlander

**11 September** Peck got hand cut off at Ryan's Mill (Clyde Peck).

**13 December** Mr. Tracket died at 8:30, coldest day of the season.

**15 December** Mr. Tracket buried. Bill & Pete Rehlich took him (Bill Howlett)

**26 December** Dance at Fletcher's, home at 1:20 (house where Lennie Wuebbena lived, where the Deco Den stands today. There was a saloon downstairs and a dance hall upstairs.)

**1906**

**12 February** Ira Taylor killed

**8 April** Dalberg here and had church (a circuit minister)

**20 April** Fires at Matchwood and Trout Creek.

**18 May** Fire at Sec. 18. Burned out McFarlanes. Fires started several times at St. Collins.

**22 June** Saloons ordered closed in Bruce Crossing on Sundays.

**28 August** Wind blew Binder's barn down.

**16 December** Church held in school (school that is now the Bethany Lutheran Church.)

**17 December** Mrs. Lathrop dropped dead at 5 p.m. (Addie Lathrop, postmistress in Bruce Crossing.

**1907**

**6 June** Homesteaders - 2 Griffens, Fogelstein and Hoffenberg went to homestead.

**7 July** To Will Hall's to figure on lumber for hall (Bruce Crossing Town Hall.)

**16 August** Very bad fire all around, Ewen threatened.

**21 November** Thomas O'Rourke got cut by Finlander at Ewen.

**1908**

**25 January** Opening dance at new hall (Bruce Crossing Town Hall).

**17 March** St. Patrick's dance at hall, took in \$44.00

**10 April**

First report of diptheria

**21 April**

Diptheria at Johnson farm — put F. Allen as watchman.

**3 July**

Paid \$100.00 on piano for town hall.

**1 August**

Went to shadow party at Haight Hall (a fund raiser. People put on different clothes. e.g. hats, coats, and stand behind a sheet and the others guess who it is from the shadow.)

**8 September**

Fires were bad near Peterson's. Gem siding burned out. (Peterson place on north east corner of cemetery corner, one mile east of town.)

**20 September**

Ball game on my 10 acres. (Near Abramson's)

**23 September**

Fire at Pete Taylor's (burned til 26th when it rained.)

**26 September**

Fire crossed tracks west of Bruce Crossing.

**4 October**

(Rev.) Graham held meeting in school (church service).

**1909**

**17 March**

Snow Plow killed a Finn, John Hill near Agate.

**6 October**

Medicine show at Bruce's

**1911**

**23 April**

Carl (Swede) Johnson cut his leg with an axe. His father carried him to Jim Howlett's and Amelia (Mrs. Howlett) sewed it shut.

**15 July**

Party at Teske's, cool night. (a Hush Kater Dance).

**14 October**

Finnish party at town hall.

**1912**

**26 January**

Gerber's root house burned.

**11 April**

Barber shop started. (In the Red Building where the Deco Den stands today.)

**29 July**

Barnes started to build a store.

**31 July**

Went to Finn Hall on hand car at night.

**1913**

**9 April**

Eddie Coad gave a dance and supper at hall (town hall)

**11 June**

Sympathy dance at town hall.

**13 August**

Finn moved in Cook place.

**1914**

**1 February**

Ole Olson froze going to camp.

**13 June**

Drove to telephone meeting at Haight hall.

**29 September**

Hilma Oinas held up on truck.

**20 October**

Paul Kaiser started to build livery (where Polkky's house is now.)

**18 December**

Christmas program at town hall.

**1915**

**27 January**

Helped Benstrom do inventory (at his store,

which was formerly owned by Jim Howlett. This store burned in 1922.)

27 September 1916 School started in town hall.

1 September 1916 New saloon opened.

1917

"Cream expressed out of Bruce Crossing 1917" 24,985 gallons.

1918

19 January 1918 First sewing club at Gerber's (Red Cross).

25 January 1918 Finished cutting ice.

25 April 1918 Rudolph Engstrom left for training camp (WWI)

30 April 1918 Moved to Ryan place (Jim and Amelia Howlett moved to the farm where Ken Pietila currently lives.

1922

15 February 1922 Rolled the roads (big iron roller, used instead of plows.)

4 April 1922 Tapped trees to make syrup, first car drove by (for the season.)

3 May 1922 Neuman's opening dance (Neuman's Grove).

27 July 1922 Fire at Bruce Crossing. The three stores burned. Started at 4:30 a.m.

1923

11 January 1923 Put long distance telephone in at Gerber's (in the hotel - in the dining room.)

31 August 1923 Gypsies passed through.

13 September 1923 Ground covered with snow.

1924

14 April 1924 Creamery meeting—to look at landsite.

6 July 1924 Circus at Bruce's

1925

18 April 1925 School play at hall in evening.

10-16 May 1925 Bad fires southeast of town. On the 14th Holt's lumber camp sent their men to fight the fire.

14 November 1925 Town board meeting — Armstrong resigned. Neuman's last dance of the season.

1926

26 February 1926 Got radio. (First radio).

25 March 1926 First day of radio.

2 August 1926 KKK meeting at Bruce Crossing

1928

21 April 1928 Bill's girls got new car (William Howlett's daughters, Mary, Carrie and Flossie).

4 June 1928 Out with school board looking for school site (Maple Grove).

1929

24 April 1929 Getting house wired (by Mr. Deichelbar).

materials for wiring . . . . .	\$21.30
fixtures . . . . .	19.64
freight . . . . .	.92
postage . . . . .	1.02
labor . . . . .	23.00
TOTAL . . . . .	\$65.88



Bill Howlett General Store — 1905



## CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE



**Front Row, left to right: Carleen Niemi, Armida Maki, Arlene Blahos, Cora Ann Niemi, Harold Remington, Mabel Berger, Lola Jaakkola, Elaine Essig, Vicki Kurtti, Theresa Antilla, Back Row: Dick Polkky, Cliff Niemi, Hazel Pulkas, Jim Lannet, Jean Nordine, Bob LaMora, Judy LaMora, Pat Talsma, Elmer Leskela and Alice Linna.**

## CENTENNIAL BOOKLET COMMITTEE



**First Row, left to right: Carrle Howlett, Ellen Kaars, Joy Popke, Alma Keranen, Shirley Hahn, Thelma Illikainen, Jorma Lannet. Second Row: Dick Polkky, Arlene Blahos, Pat Franti, Alice Linna, Florence Howlett, Hilma Polkky, Martin Keranen, Ed Illikainen.**

# Thank You

*The people who have participated in the Ewen-Trout Creek Community School sponsored Local History class have done their best in gathering and compiling information to present you with this look into the past one hundred years that is as accurate as possible. Special thanks to those contributing information both in and outside of Stannard Township - businessmen, both past and present, and friends and relatives of people who have played a part in the history and growth of our area.*

## *Our Sources of Information*

Harry DeHut, Sr.  
Andrew Hendrickson  
Donald Holt  
Werner Lamsa  
Michigan Tech Archives  
Ontonagon County Court House

Ontonagon Herald  
Pages from the Past, 1976  
Stannard Township Records  
State of Michigan  
U. S. Forest Service

## *Members of Class and Contributors*

Alice Bruno  
Pat Franti  
Jack and Ellen Gerber  
Betty Gnowles  
Shirley Hahn  
Mamie Honkanen  
Carrie Howlett  
Florence Howlett  
Ed Illikainen  
Howard Johnson  
Ellen Kaars

Alma and Martin Keranen  
Jorma Lannet  
Alice Linna  
Tom Nordine  
Emil Pletzke  
Hilma Polkky  
Richard Polkky  
Joy Popke  
Harold Remington  
Lempi Syria  
Arnold Wirtanen

*From our labors of today  
Let us turn awhile away  
And renew our precious memories of the past.  
With a heart of gratitude  
Let's go back to where they stood  
Those pioneers whose fortitude held fast.*

*On, on, on, we'll keep a-marching  
Always on to better ways,  
But we offer up a song  
For kin and friends who lived here long  
And paved the way back in "those good old days."*

*Where we live in ease today  
They were wearing life away,  
Doing battle with privation want and toil  
Chopping down our stately pine  
Building homes that seemed so fine  
And eking out a living on our soil.*