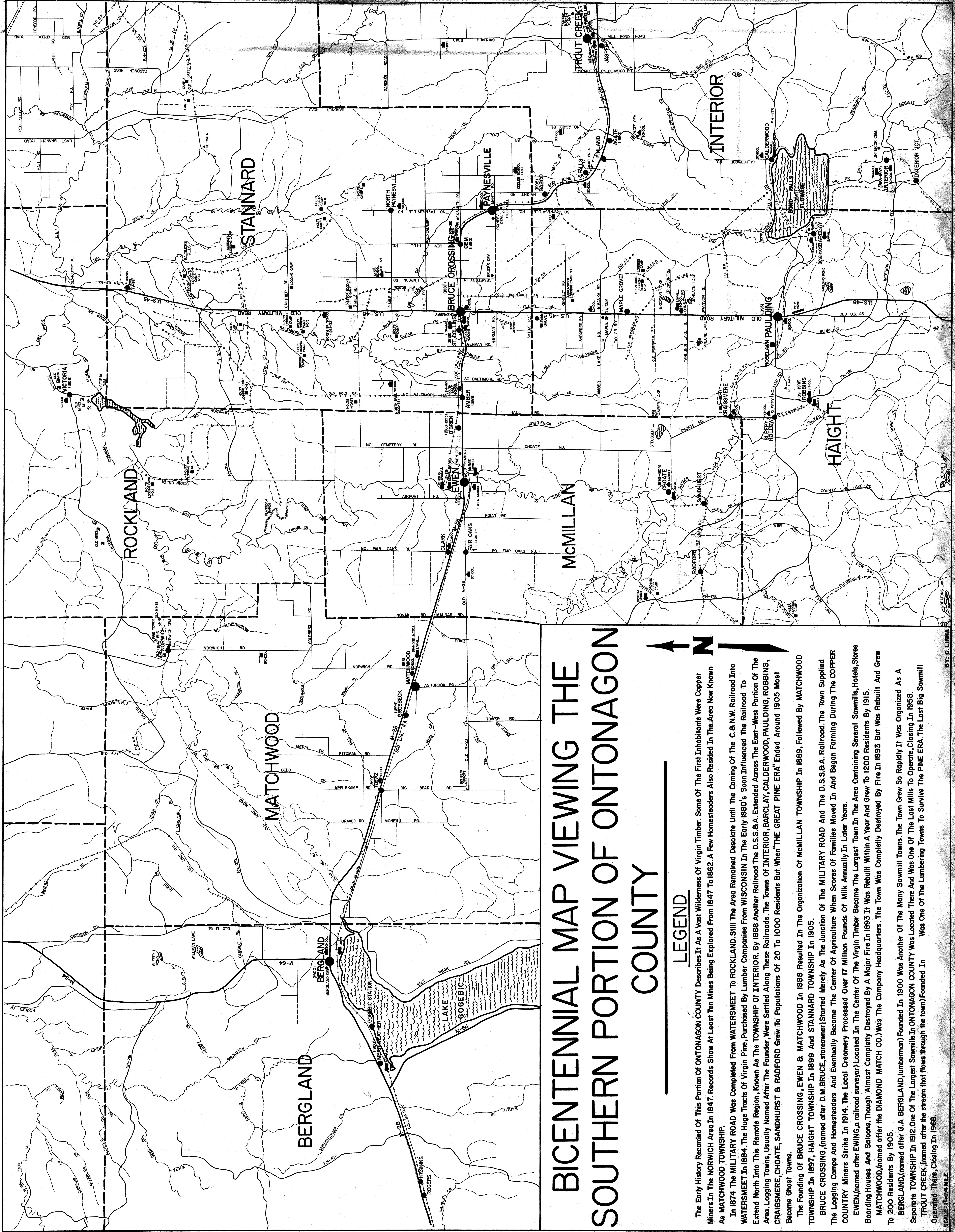




BICENTENNIAL MAP VIEWING THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF ONTONAGON COUNTY

LEGEND

The Early History Recorded Of This Portion Of ONTONAGON COUNTY Describes It As A Vast Wilderness Of Virgin Timber. Some Of The First Inhabitants Were Copper Miners In The NORWICH Area In 1847. Records Show At Least Ten Mines Being Explored From 1847 To 1862. A Few Homesteaders Also Resided In The Area Now Known As MATCHWOOD TOWNSHIP.

In 1874 The MILITARY ROAD Was Completed From WATERSMEET To ROCKLAND. Still The Area Remained Desolate Until The Coming Of The C. & N.W. Railroad Into WATERSMEET In 1884. The Huge Tracts Of Virgin Pine, Purchased By Lumber Companies From WISCONSIN In The Early 1880's Soon Influenced The Railroad To Extend North Into This Remote Region, Known As The TOWNSHIP OF INTERIOR. By 1888 Another Railroad The D.S.S.A. Extended Across The East-West Portion Of The Area. Logging Towns, Usually Named After The Founder, Were Settled Along These Railroads. The Towns Of INTERIOR, BARCLAY, CALDERWOOD, PAULDING, ROBBINS, CRAIGSMERE, CHOATE, SANDHURST & RADFORD Grew To Populations Of 20 To 1000 Residents But When "THE GREAT PINE ERA" Ended Around 1905 Most Became Ghost Towns.

The Founding Of BRUCE CROSSING, EVEN & MATCHWOOD In 1888 Resulted In The Organization Of McMILLAN TOWNSHIP In 1889, Followed By MATCHWOOD TOWNSHIP In 1897, HAIGHT TOWNSHIP In 1899 AND STANNARD TOWNSHIP In 1905.

BRUCE CROSSING, (named after D.M. BRUCE, storeowner) Started Merely As The Junction Of The MILITARY ROAD And The D.S.S.A. Railroad. The Town Supplied The Logging Camps And Homesteaders And Eventually Became The Center Of Agriculture When Scores Of Families Moved In And Began Farming During The COPPER COUNTRY Miners Strike In 1914. The Local Creamery Processed Over 17 Million Pounds Of Milk Annually In Later Years.

EVEN, (named after EWING, a railroad surveyor) Located In The Center Of The Virgin Timber Became The Largest Town In The Area Containing Several Sawmills, Hotels, Stores Boarding Houses And Saloons. Though Almost Completely Destroyed By A Major Fire In 1893 It Was Rebuilt Within A Year And Grew To 1200 Residents By 1915.

MATCHWOOD, (named after the DIAMOND MATCH CO.) Was The Company Headquarters. The Town Was Completely Destroyed By Fire In 1893 But Was Rebuilt And Grew To 200 Residents By 1905.

BERGLAND, (named after G.A. BERGLAND, lumberman) Founded In 1900 Was Another Of The Many Sawmill Towns. The Town Grew So Rapidly It Was Organized As A Separate TOWNSHIP In 1912. One Of The Largest Sawmills In ONTONAGON COUNTY Was Located There And Was One Of The Last Mills To Operate, Closing In 1958.

TROUT CREEK, (named after the stream that flows through the town) Founded In 1908 Was One Of The Lumbering Towns To Survive The PINE ERA. The Last Big Sawmill Operated There, Closing In 1968.