



# The Gogebic Roots Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 4

October 2002

**The Gogebic  
Roots  
Quarterly  
Newsletter**  
Volume 2 Issue 4

## **In This Issue**

### **Ironwood's Norrie Location Part 2**

By Joe Carlson

### **Memories of Mining Days**

Ed Sandene

### **WHAT WAS HAPPENING?**

**One Hundred Years Ago:  
October 1902**

**Fifty Years Ago:  
October 1952**

### **WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?**

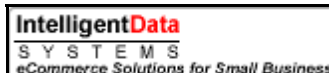
The Gogebic Roots Quarterly Newsletter is a publication of the Gogebic Range Genealogy Society, Inc. The Newsletter is published quarterly in January, April, July and September. We are located in Ironwood, Michigan, USA. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 23, Ironwood, MI 49938.

Your Newsletter editor is Joe Carlson

Our webpage can be found at

[www.gogebicroots.com](http://www.gogebicroots.com)

Our website is hosted by



Membership dues are based on a calendar year starting with the date of enrollment. The expiration date of your membership is shown on your membership card. If renewal of the dues is not received by the expiration date a reminder is sent.

The reason for this is twofold. First and foremost we value your membership and hope you continue to support us. Secondly, our Bylaws state that a member in arrears 30 days after the anniversary date shall be removed from the rolls.

Please keep in mind that one reminder only is required in this same section of the Bylaws and is sent in hopes that your membership continues without a lapse. If any member has a question regarding this please feel free to contact us.

Thanks for your continued support.

## The Early Years (1880-1910)

In 1886, the Hayes brothers from Ashland, accepting the advice of their clairvoyant mother, obtained a lease to the abandoned Norrie/Wood explorations. They dug deeper through the silt and rocks which had been deposited by the melting glacier and discovered what later would prove to be the greatest iron ore producer the world would ever know: the Norrie mine. They sold their claim, however, against their mother's better judgement, to the Norrie Iron Mining Company, a subsidiary of the Metropolitan Land and Iron Company of Milwaukee.<sup>1</sup> The Norrie location was becoming a reality, and the Norrie mine was beginning to produce a lot of ore, which meant that more workers were needed. It was looking good for Norrie location.

The year 1887 showed a 100% increase in production of Norrie ore under the direction of mine boss "Captain" Jefferson Day. Under his management, the output of the Norrie grew from 15,419 tons in 1885 to 124,844 tons in 1886 to 237,254 tons in 1887.

The summer of 1887 was tinder dry, and a disaster was just waiting to happen. On September 17, a fire began next to the Alhambra Theatre, and within an hour and a half most of the downtown area of Ironwood was destroyed. The fire was extinguished just before it reached Norrie Hill, however. The process of rebuilding the city took place immediately.

Ironwood was rebuilt for expansion, and it needed people to flourish. Immigrants were flowing to the United States by this time. Groups of Europeans, especially Irish and English from Cornwall had been coming to the Upper Peninsula since the Civil War days, but they came to work in the mines around Marquette and Ishpeming. The big immigration to Ironwood and Norrie would not happen for another year or two.



Over the next year, only a few miners and their families settled in Norrie location. A scan of the city directory for 1888 shows no listings for homes in Norrie location, but the directory does not indicate the streets where people lived. Everyone seemed to be concentrated in the downtown area or in Aurora location. The population was 7,000.

The Federal census for 1890 lists 7,750 people, only a minor increase in population. But the influence of the growth of

Ironwood was beginning to show, nonetheless. It became apparent that new sources of labor would be required, and provisions for living would be needed if the mine owners would succeed in their quest for additional wealth.

Europeans, ready, willing, and able to handle the difficult labor in the iron mines would meet the source of labor. The mining company imported many potential workers for a fixed number of years of guaranteed work in exchange for passage. Organized labor found this practice deplorable because they feared the new workers would become strikebreakers. Its political muscle forced Congress to pass the Contract Labor Act in 1885 that outlawed the process of importing workers just as the Norrie Mine was growing in production.

<sup>1</sup> Solomon S. Curry was its president; RC Hannah, vice-president; HS Haselton, secretary; the general office was in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; the mine office was in Ironwood. Its legal description was w ½ of sw ¼ sec 23 and s ½ of se ¼ sec 22, t 47 r 47; Michigan.

The mining company had another card to play, however. They simply posted notices of employment at ports of entry and scattered them throughout European towns. Steamship lines eagerly spread the word that workers were needed and lured thousands of immigrants to work in the Norrie Mine. This flood of Scandinavians, Finns and Germans would not peak until well into the twentieth century.

The population of Ironwood in 1892 was approaching 10,000. The Ironwood city directory for the year the year listed about 250 families living in the area generally recognized as Norrie location. The majority of families lived on the east side of the hill. There were a handful of boarding houses on the west side located between Hazel and Ironwood streets near Beech and Oak streets. In 1892, there were primarily Swedish, English and Irish families living in Norrie location. Only a few Finnish names can be found. In fact, only a few Finnish names in the entire city of Ironwood are listed in the city directory for that year.<sup>2</sup>

By mid 1893, there were nearly 800 families in Norrie location. Of these, less than five percent were Finnish. About 50 percent of the families were Swedish, 30 percent were English and the rest were Austrian and Irish. The vast majority of the people still lived on the east side of Norrie hill, but more and more new residences were located on Oak and Pine streets near Balsam Street at the bottom of the hill.

A confectionery store owned by John Clark was located at 114 E. Oak Street and Lars Larson, 140 W. Tamarack, made milk deliveries even though most families owned a cow or two which they pastured during the day in their yard or in the fields just south of Larch street.

The Townsite mine was located about where the Norrie Club and Mannie's are presently. Neither the "caves" nor the Burma Road existed. As a matter of fact, Houk Street did not yet exist. A panoramic photo<sup>3</sup> taken from the Townsite Mine toward the city in the 1890s, show the huge land expanse between Norrie location and Vaughn streets. Footpaths criss-cross the area where the residents of both sides of Norrie hill walked to town. There they could buy groceries or meat at the Ironwood Store Company on the southeast corner of Aurora and Suffolk, or at Walker's Cash Grocery located on the south side of Aurora Street between Lowell and Suffolk. Probably men also hiked the trails to visit one or more of 54 saloons and brothels on Suffolk, Aurora, Ayer and Vaughn streets and many, many more in Hurley.



The mine owners now began their big push to hire people from Europe to meet their production goals. Places for the immigrants to live around the Norrie mine were sparse. Some enterprising families met the problem by opening their homes to boarders.

A look at the census for Norrie location shows 41 boarding houses and 273 boarders. Nearly all the homes (85 percent) were located on the east side of the hill. One family had boarders from England and three had boarders from Sweden. The remainder (90 percent) had Finnish boarders. Eight had servants living in the home. All but two had minor children. The largest was the home of Alex Rantamäki with 16 boarders. The Rantamäki home had a total of 21 people living in it.

There were families who had to rely on the poor commission for their next meal, or clothing for their children

<sup>2</sup> The diversity of immigrants into Norrie location was so great that observers in the 1920s counted 23 separate languages being spoken there. Americanization and English language classes would become paramount because of the high concentration of immigrants.

<sup>3</sup> The photo is at the Ironwood Historical Society exhibit in the Ironwood Memorial Building

There were single-parent families, for example, where a mother had to raise several children because her husband was killed in a mine accident or had simply left to find a better life. In some cases, a mother died young and left her husband with a family to raise. The Poor Commission Report of Aid was published in the Ironwood News Record each month. The 6<sup>th</sup> ward for March 1900 shows Ida Lindberg receiving \$14.50 for food and fuel. Andrew Anderson got \$7.00 for food. William Burns got \$7.00 for food, \$7.00 for fuel and \$2.00 for clothing. Susie Gorrilla, whose husband died in the mine, got \$9.00 for food to feed her family. Mrs. James Kellett's husband died in a mining accident. She received \$9.00 for food plus \$7.00 for fuel. Mrs. Peter Olson got a total of \$18.25 for food, fuel and clothing. The list goes on.

Miners, especially the ones who worked underground, were subject to the effects of wet feet, gas fumes, and cave-ins. There was sickness from diseases that have long since been eradicated.

By far, most of the tragic deaths involved conditions in the mines. Miners would have to climb down ladders between levels. Many deaths resulted from slipping on ladders or having ore fall on them.

In January 1901, Fred Wahlquist a miner who lived at 370 E. Pine Street fell 25 feet at the eighth level of Norrie No. 2 shaft. He suffered a fractured skull. Fred, a Swedish immigrant, was 48 years old when he was killed. He left his 37-year-old wife, Amanda and four children: Lillie, 9, Clarence, 5, Hugo, 3 and Leonard, 3 months. In 1912, the family still lived at that address.

Peter Sandbeck, a pumpman at the Norrie mine was climbing up #6 shaft on his way to work in April 1901, when he found the body of a man lying on the second sollar<sup>4</sup> about 125 feet from the surface. The man was identified as Matt Mattson, a 52-year-old repairman at the mine who lived at 411 E. Pine Street. He had been last seen 24 hours earlier on his way home from his son's saloon on Vaughn Street. He was drunk at the time. It was speculated that he thought it was time to go to work in the mine and slipped and fell off the ladder. When Matt was killed, he left behind his 52 year old wife, Sophie and two boys, John, 18 and Alfred, 15.

Mike Caddy of 103 W. Oak Street had worked in the mines since 1892. On December 4, 1915 he was working at the 18<sup>th</sup> level of the East Norrie. He started to climb down to the 19<sup>th</sup> level to catch the cage to the surface when he slipped off the ladder at the sollar trap door.

In June 1899, Victor Koyola, a 32-year-old trammer at the East Norrie went to work drunk. A friend, Fred Wahlquist, who would be killed in a mine accident just two years later, (see above), took him to his boarding house where he could sleep it off. Victor must have decided to go to work, instead, because he fell down "B" shaft and struck the cage 400 feet below. He left a wife and two children back in Finland.

In August 1899, trammer Appa Englebert was killed by a fall of ground at Norrie #7 on the 9<sup>th</sup> level. He was 29 years old and had been in this country only a month.

Edward Johnson, another trammer, was buried in the East Norrie mine when about a ton of ore slipped from the footwall. He, too, had come from Finland only a month before.

Not all stories are tragic. Samuel Maki, an underground miner who lived on East Pine Street slipped at the #7 shaft at the Norrie mine. He fell 150 feet to the ninth level. He got up, shook himself off and climbed back up the ladder so he could return to work. Captain Williams ordered Sam to the surface where he could rest. It was reported that not single scratch was on his body as a result of the ordeal.

Another problem in Norrie location was disease, especially from smallpox, typhus, and "consumption" (tuberculosis). John McGrath, a McLeod Street blacksmith who lived at 127 E. Oak, contracted typhoid fever in February 1901. He was reported to be "dangerously ill". Apparently he might not have recovered because his name is not in the city directory for year 1912. A son had taken over the McLeod Street blacksmith shop.

---

<sup>4</sup> A sollar is a platform in a shaft, especially one of those between the series of ladders in a shaft.

The spread of smallpox was quickly checked. A 1900 breakout in Ramsay location was watched closely, and the infected families were held in quarantine. The virus did not make it to Norrie location at that time, however.

John Erickson, 130 E. Birch died in November 1903 from "that much dreaded disease, consumption". He was 21 and a member of the Finnish Temperance Society.

Ida Forsbakka, 28, the daughter of Sakris Forsbakka died of TB that same month and year.

Agnes Gardner, the youngest daughter of Mr. And Mrs. Thomas Gardner, 108 E. Tamarack died of tuberculosis in November 1915. She was in the L.L. Wright junior class. Her classmates were pallbearers at her funeral.

It was not only mines and disease that contributed to disaster within the family. Children enjoyed playing in the stockpiles and caves back then just as they have ever since, sometimes with tragic results.

In April 1900, 9-year-old Thomas Barry and his sister were playing around Norrie No. 2 shaft when they spotted a sinkhole filled with water. Thomas grabbed a stick and started to dig at the edge of the water. He lost his balance and fell in. Apparently the boy could not get a foothold on the slick embankment and disappeared into the red water. His younger sister ran home where she found her mother and father working in the garden. Michael Barry raced to the No. 2 shaft to rescue his son. He jumped in the 12-14 foot deep sinkhole and he, himself, sank into the murky water. Twenty minutes later help arrived. But it was too late. Both father and son had drowned.

Insanity reared its ugly head in the early days. On October 8, 1898, ten days after her child was born, Selma Nylund, wife of John, committed suicide while "temporarily insane." At supper, she complained to her husband that she was not feeling well. Her husband asked her if he should go downtown for the doctor and she told him there was no need to. After supper she left the house and when she did not return after a short time, her husband went in search of her. She was found sitting on the steps of the outhouse. She had slashed her throat. Selma was only 23 years old; she had two children.

In April 1902, Sheriff Olson and Deputy Nodolay took Abraham Hill, "a Finlander on the Norrie location" to the U.P. Insane Asylum at Newbury after he was judged insane by the probate court. Because of his "violent condition", it took two men to take him there.<sup>5</sup>

House fires posed a different kind of problem for Norrie Location. Tired miners dropping a lit cigarette, children playing with matches, and the lack of adequate fire equipment were to plague residents.

In December 1899, the 18-month son of Emil Ross of E. Oak Street found a box of matches while his mother was at a neighbor's house. Her husband worked at the Norrie on the 12-hour night shift and was sleeping. He awoke to find his child's clothing nearly burned off his body. The boy died four hours later.

Fire destroyed a house on Birch Street in May 1902. Fire equipment never did show up on the scene.

Little three-year-old Minnie Johnson who lived with her parents on East Pine Street set fire to her clothing while playing with matches and died the next morning. The child was playing in the kitchen while her mother was doing domestic chores elsewhere in the home. When Minnie's wounds were dressed, a half dozen charred matches were found in her clenched fist.

Not everything that took place in Norrie Location was tragic. There was a "society crowd" in Norrie Location in the early years, too. Various social groups met and people went on family outings. There were marriages and birthday parties.

---

<sup>5</sup> Ironwood News Record, April 9, 1902

The Finnish Temperance Society, a group of families whose mission was to stamp out drinking and, especially, taverns in Norrie Location met at a building on East Pine Street. The photo on the right is of the Finnish Temperance Society. Barely visible in the background is the water tank on top of Tank Hill.



There were parties and weddings, great social affairs that took place at the turn of the century.

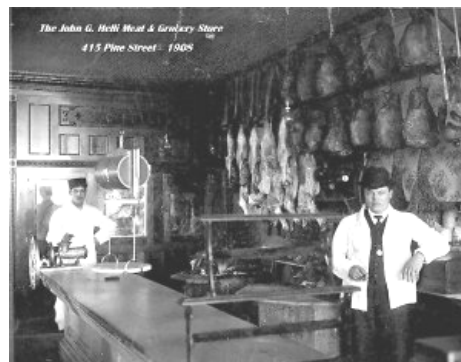
In September 1899, Mrs. Margaret Park of 120 E. Pine bundled up her three children and went for a visit to Dalton, England, for several months. The evening before they departed, friends and neighbors gave a surprise party.

And the Jacquart boys of 236 E. Oak Street took part in a bicycle race in Negaunee in August 1899. Joe fell off his bike and was disqualified from finishing the race.

Mary Frances Gorrilla, the daughter of John, 149 W. Oak, married Paul Mukovitch at St. Michael's Catholic Church on May 15, 1899. Her maids of honor were Teresa Sloma and Maude Balon. The best man was her brother, John, and Anton Siminick. After the wedding, the party moved to Sisel's Hall where a "general good time was had by all". They bride and groom moved out of Norrie Location to West Aurora Street.

December 26, 1902 was the marriage of Mary Sullivan, 102 W. Tamarack Street, and John Tobin of Greely, Alabama. The Rev. Father Becker wed them at St. Ambrose Catholic Church. Julia Tobin, the groom's sister was the bridesmaid and Michael Sullivan, the bride's brother was the best man. After the wedding, the party commenced at the family home. A wedding breakfast was served and later that evening the couple boarded the train for their home in Alabama.

New businesses were showing up in Norrie Location. A 1908 photo of John G. Helli's new butcher shop at 415 Pine Street, shows but one of a few stores within walking range of most Norrie residents.<sup>6</sup> John Helli was a Finnish immigrant who came to this country with his parents when he was 14. He is shown in the foreground and an unknown person, perhaps his brother Manuel, is in the background. There are slabs of meat and cured hams hanging from hooks on the right wall of the shop. John turned over management of the store to his brother Manuel soon thereafter when he started the Helli farm in the township.



There were few buildings of significance other than mine buildings. There was a dry where the men could shower and change their clothes. There was an engine house, offices for the management, a small "hospital" which was nothing more than a first aid station.

<sup>6</sup> For more about the Helli family, visit Rod and Terry Mattson's website at [www.mattsonworks.com](http://www.mattsonworks.com).

Near the top of Houk Street stood the first Norrie School building located about six houses east of Mannie's (Norrie Club). It was built in the late 1800s and was closed in 1917 when the new Norrie School was opened on Balsam Street. The picture on the left of the old school was taken prior to 1904. After the school closed, it was converted into apartment buildings.



Before it was destroyed by fire about three or four years later, it was used also as a dance hall for the neighborhood, but mostly as a social gathering place for neighborhood youth. The lot is still there, but is overgrown with pine trees.

The years 1880-1910 marked the beginning of Norrie Location. Although there were some homes on the eastern side of the hill, it was the immigrants that came to work in

the mines who created it.

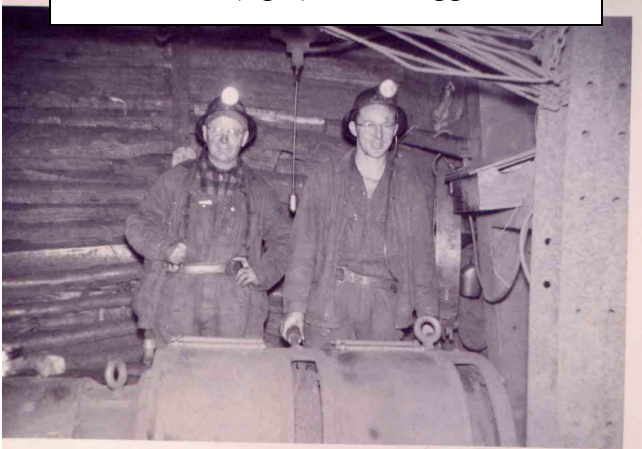
## **The Mining Experience**

I will always remember that first trip underground. It was on a Saturday, and only a few men were on the cage going down. I always felt like new employees were tried out on weekends to see if they could cut the mustard. The only other workers were the shift boss, who was on fire patrol, and the repair crews. Later on I would get extra shifts to accompany the shift boss on these patrols.

I went to the Penokee mine because I heard that they might be hiring. I went through the interview process, took the physical, and started work the same week on a Saturday in May of 1956. There was a thirty day probation period before you would become a union member and have a job. The first thing that they had us do was clean track. This was using a pick and shovel to dig away the buildup of ore along the tracks on which the ore was hauled to the main shaft. I had heard that they expected a car a day so I gave it all I had and filled a car plus. I later found out that the cars held 7 tons of iron ore.

On Monday the normal work week began and I was assigned to the timber gang along with another new employee. We would take all of the wood products used underground to the miners. This included mining timber, poles and lagging. All of these were used to support the drifts that the miners made. Drifts were like tunnels that extended into the ore body and were used as access to get the ore out. They were roughly 8 feet by 8 feet in height and width and eventually be caved back by caving in the ore above them. Anyway I worked really hard so that I would have a job.

Ed Sandene (right) on the tugger



When I had about 20 days in, I was put on this car loading job which was a kind of important job because about 3/4 of the ore produced went through there. I still was a probationary employee and I had never run a tugger or loaded cars so I was really worked up. I worked a day with the fellow that was leaving the job and the next day I was on my own. This first shift happened to be one of those where there was no end to the ore. It just kept coming and I kept loading and the motorman kept hauling. There was a smaller motor which was used to spot the cars under the chute for loading. This was also operated by a motorman. This would later change as discussed below. Any way, at the end of the

shift when we got to the shaft I saw the tally which turned out to be 104 cars. The "motor" was the electric locomotive which hauled the cars. These operated on 440 volt DC electric power. I guess the advice that "Mini", the skip tender who sent me the ore from the 31st level, was good advice. He said "Ed, don't ever come back with a scraper that's only half full." This was good advice and something which I always

remembered. There were a lot of changes made during my years there, such as putting in a much bigger tugger and a wider scraper. If the ore consistency was right I could load a car with one scraperfull or maybe just a little more than one. There were different types of ore in that some was wet and runny, some was dry and sticky etc. depending on the area the ore came from. At the end the system was automated so that I controlled the spotting motor from up above where I worked.

When the motorman on the main line left for the Norrie shaft with the loaded cars I would go the main drift and pick up the empties he had just brought back. I backed them in and spotted the first car under the loading chute. Then I set the brake on the spotting motor just enough so that it wouldn't be free-wheeling, and started to load. I had to fill up the front end of the car and put just enough into the chute to fill up the back end when I moved the car ahead. There was a pushbutton switch which I used to activate the motor to move it and put the next car under the chute. There was also an air cylinder device which I could use to drop a barrier against the back of the car to keep it from going too far, If the brake was set properly this device was not really needed and so it hardly ever made contact. With this setup, the spotting motor operator was eliminated and we still raised the number of cars to 144 in one shift. A part of my job was to go into the shaft to grease the skips. These were the containers that brought the ore up the shaft. The shaft at the Penokee mine was an incline shaft so the skips and the cage, which could carry the men or supplies, rode on rails which were placed in the shaft. I would climb up the shaft to where we had stopped the skip above my loading sub and I greased the wheels. Then Mini and I would take the cage up to the 13th level, we got off, had the hoisting engineer drop the cage and we got on the roof. We then signaled him to hoist the cage up a ways to where the second skip was. This was only used as a counterbalance on this setup. I then climbed across the steel framework to the skiproad and greased that one. This was at the 13<sup>th</sup> level and it was a long way to the bottom- no missteps here while climbing across on the steel. The bottom of the shaft was at the 32nd level.

I could never have done this outside where I could see all the way down, but we had only our little headlamps for light. All we could see was as far as the light would show down the shaft and a faint light at the very bottom where it was lit up- this is where Mini worked. Anyway when we got done we reversed the process and went back down to our work areas. Once when I was up there with my partner, we heard a noise while on top of the cage. We hurried and got in and rang the signal to lower us to the 13th level. We no sooner got off than something went down the shaft. We called the surface crew and they said they had dropped a crowbar down the shaft. Another time while in the shaft near my work area a noise was heard and we ran down the ladder to the main level. This time it was rocks that had come loose in the shaft.

As I recall, the levels were about 100 feet apart, so the 13th level was 1300 feet below the surface and the 29th level where I worked was about 2900 feet. When something came down the shaft it could be heard for a long time. The important thing was that if it sounded like something was coming you had better run for cover because there was no protection in the shaft. I heard stories about men who had fallen down the shaft in other mines; one I remember is that he had screamed all the way down. This had been in a vertical shaft which was straight up and down so he didn't hit too hard till the bottom. With an incline shaft like at Penokee he would have bounced all the way down.

## **WHAT WAS HAPPENING ON THE RANGE?**

### **OCTOBER 1902<sup>7</sup>**

The Bessemer bowling club played three games with the local team on Foley's alleys Saturday evening. All three games were won by Ironwood, the latter having 800 pins to the good when the contest ended.

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Presbyterian Church will serve coffee at Mrs. S.S. Curry's Saturday afternoon and evening, October 11<sup>th</sup>. All are cordially invited.

A fine muskallonge (sic) was on exhibition at the Curry Hotel Monday. Its weight was twenty six pounds, and the fish was caught at Spider Lake by Ald. Max Stevens of this city [Ironwood]

---

<sup>7</sup> Ironwood News Record



Mrs. W.G. Wilcox and Mrs. Butterfield entertained at tea Monday afternoon in honor of Mrs. Geo. Deaking, Mrs. Henry Sawyer of Cambria, Wis., and Mrs. R. Faulks of Waupaca, Wis., at the home of the former.

The retail clerks' association held a mass meeting at the opera house [in Ironwood] Thursday evening in the interest of six o'clock closing part of the time. One Suffolk street concern has kept open every evening during the past ten days and the clerks are endeavoring to have it close as the others do.

## **OCTOBER 1952<sup>8</sup>**

**10/1** Luther L. Wright High School students staged a parade and rally to build up team support for the Ironwood-Ashland homecoming game on Friday evening. It will be followed at the practice field with a bonfire.

**10/1** Four features will highlight the LLW High School Band performance at the homecoming game. Prior to the game the band, directed by Clyde Hill, will provide the musical background for the ceremony in which Joan Saari and Marvin Lakvold will be crowned queen and king of the homecoming. At halftime, Jerry Gotta will present a trumpet solo, "Stormy Weather".

**10/1** A hard-fought football game between the Ramsay and Puritan Junior High boys ended in a 6 to 6 tie. Touchdowns were scored by Arthur Da Pra for Ramsay and Conrad Rasmusson for Puritan. Puritan threatened late in the fourth period, but Jerry Grenfell of Ramsay recovered a fumble ending the threat.

**10/4** The Red Devils rallied to beat Ashland 13-7. Coach Mortorelli praised the team, especially the play of fullback Lakvold, signal calling of Sertic, Shaughency's running and Stockhaus for his defensive play.

**10/6** The Wakefield Cardinals crushed the Bessemer Speedboys 27-6. Coach Roman Yatchak's team was now 5-0 for the season.

**10/13** Wakefield swamped Lake Linden 53-0 for its sixth straight win. The team gained 340 yards rushing, completed 7 out of 10 passes for 150 yards, and made 16 first downs.

Team members were:

Ends: Bugni, Tarro, H. Linn, K. Linn, Novak

Tackles: Ahonen, J. Bracket, Ballone, Haapoja, Rydeski

Guards: Kuivinen, Kilponen, Lepola, D. Bracket, Newman

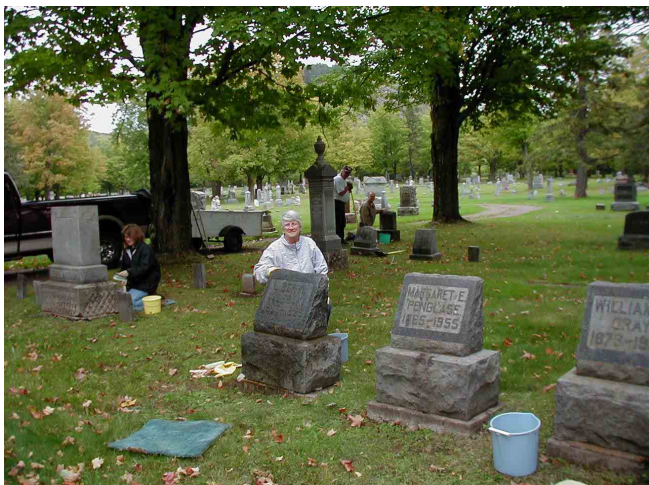
Centers: Cloon, Hongisto

Backs: Hero, Johns, Harrison, Osier, Davidson, Niemi, Kunes, Valesano, Finco

---

<sup>8</sup> Ironwood Daily Globe

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?**



The GRGS preserves the oldest stones in section one of Bessemer's Hillcrest Cemetery. The group recently met to upright and clean some of the headstones at the cemetery. The group worked from 9AM until noon and we cleaned the moss and lichen from about 20 headstones and up righted about 5 stones. Dwight Filipinni organized the cleaning session and the rain was nice enough to start after we had completed the job. We did get rather dirty but we still held the meeting after that. Dwight and Pam would like to make this an annual event and hope that more will participate next year. We really had a

good time. It was good to be outside doing something that preserves our heritage and getting some exercise and fresh air at the same time.



Above are Diane (facing front) and Connie. Dwight and Gary are in the background.

Pam, Connie, Dwight and Gary

**Our Officers are**  
**Gary Harrington, President**  
**Diane Egan, Vice President**  
**Pam Bretall, Secretary**  
**Eddie Sandene, Treasurer**

**Our meetings are held at the Bessemer Library on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month from 10 am to noon**

**Everyone is invited to attend.**  
**If you are from out-of-town, please stop and visit us.**