

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – AGRICULTURE – DICKINSON COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

## DICKINSON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS AND FAIRS

*Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 18 [Thursday, September 29, 1904], page 5, column 1*

### NORWAY NOTATIONS.

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Several prominent citizens are talking seriously of organizing a county fair. **It is claimed that Norway is the center of the farming district and the county fairgrounds should be located here.** A movement is now on foot to secure suitable grounds for exhibits and [a] race track. Some of the finest specimens of fruits and vegetables to be found anywhere in the country are on exhibition in several business places and are a credit to the farming district in this vicinity.

*Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 19 [Thursday, October 6, 1904], page 1, column 1*

### AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

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#### **Preliminary Organization Perfected at Meeting Last Night.**

According to previous arrangements made by **Alvin Poe** with a number of representative citizens, a meeting was held at the council rooms last evening for the purpose of taking preliminary steps toward organizing an **Agricultural society with a view of holding an annual fair.**

A temporary organization was formed with **Mayor Cruse** as chairman, and **Alvin Poe**[,] secretary. **Alvin Poe, H.M. Pelham** and **John Daprato** were appointed a committee on permanent organization and by-laws.

It was decided to charge a membership fee of \$1.00 and all those present became members at once and paid in their fee.

As soon as the committee has time to confer with prominent citizens and farmers of the county, and prepare their report, another meeting will be called and a permanent organization perfected.

It is the intention of those interested to push the arrangements to an early completion, extend the organization throughout the entire county and have in generally known that there will be a county fair held next year, so that everyone will have ample time to prepare their exhibits.

The farming industry in the county is increasing rapidly and there is no doubt that the fair will prove a success.

*Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 19 [Thursday, October 6, 1904], page 5, column 2*

### RANDVILLE REPORTS.

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**B.A. Wilbur**, a former resident of Iron Mountain, is now located on a farm one mile south of the depot and has twenty-five acres cleared and under cultivation. He has four milch cows and six head of young cattle. This year he raised 400 bushels of potatoes, 100 bushels of rutabagas, 2,000 heads of cabbage and 10 tons of hay. He has rutabagas that weigh from ten to fifteen pounds each. Mr. Wilbur says that if there is a **fair in Dickinson county** next year he

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will have some exhibits that will stand a good chance of taking the first prize.

*Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 21 [sic] [Thursday, October 13, 1904], page 1, column 4*

## AN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

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### Canvass in Hand Assures the Success of An Organization.

Since the preliminary meeting held last week, for the purpose of starting the organization of the **Dickinson County Agricultural association**, a partial canvass has been made to secure the names of those who are interested in the welfare of the county and who were willing to contribute a dollar toward organizing the association.

**Alvin Poe** and others, who have the matter in hand, are meeting with abundant success and up to the present time have over two hundred pledged to full membership. There is no doubt that they will secure at least one thousand subscribers as soon as they have had time to canvass the entire county.

This is a matter that every resident of the county should be interested in, as the agricultural industries are increasing from year to year, and in no way can they be better advanced than by holding an **annual fair** and giving the farmers, gardeners, stockraisers [*sic – stock raisers*] and everyone else that is interested a chance to compete for prizes.

The matter has gone far enough now to insure success and every citizen in the

county should lend his name and influence to help it along.

*Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 25 [Thursday, November 10, 1904], page 2, columns 1-3*

## SUCCESS ASSURED

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### DICKINSON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY WAS ORGANIZED WITH A STRONG MEMBERSHIP.

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## PAINT BRIGHT PICTURE

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### Good Land for 4,840 Farms in Dickinson County With a Producing Capacity of \$2,255,500 – Authority Mr. Geismer.

The meeting held in the court-house [*sic – courthouse*] last Thursday afternoon for the purpose of perfecting the **organization of an agricultural society** was well attended, many practical farmers being present.

**Messrs. Poe, Pelham and Daprato**, the committee on permanent organization and by-laws, appointed at the preliminary meeting, submitted their report and it was adopted. The report recommended:

That the organization be known as the **Dickinson County Agricultural society**.

That the society be incorporated under the provisions of act No. 171 of the laws of Michigan for the year 1903 entitled, "An act for the incorporation of associations not for pecuniary benefit."

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That the board of directors consist of eighteen members – the first six selected to hold office for one year, the second six for two years, and the third six for three years.

That the first meeting of the board of directors be held on Monday, the 21st, at the time and in connection with the sessions of the **Dickinson County Farmers' Institute**, to be held on that date.

That the term of incorporation be for a period of thirty years.

That the directors, at this meeting[,.] shall elect a president, secretary and treasurer.

That the annual membership dues to fixed at one dollar.

That the **annual fair** and general exhibition of agricultural, horticultural products and implements, housewifery, needle and fancy work, and such other articles as the board may determine, be held.

That the president shall appoint such officers and committees for carrying on the work as the board of directors may deem necessary.

That each committee of judges shall consist of three persons to be appointed by the directors.

That the president shall appoint the superintendent for each department.

The first board of directors is decidedly representative, each township and city being represented, and embraces our most substantial citizens. With such a board the society is certain to be a great success. Following are the members:

**Breen township – Peter J. Anderson, of Hardwood.**

**Breitung township – John L. Buell, of Quinnesec, Frank Kingsford, of Iron Mountain.**

**Felch township – John J[.] Ovist, of Metropolitan.**

**Norway township – William Kelly, Fred Rodgers, Charles Alberts [*sic – Albert*].**

**Sagola township – John O'Callaghan, of Sagola.**

**Waucedah township – Samuel H. Bridges.**

**Norway city – John Perkins, Joseph H. Bergeron and Charles Morisini.**

**Iron Mountain – John T. Jones, Edward Harvey, O.C. Davidson, Elwin F. Brown, John Daprato and Alvin Poe.**

**Leo M. Geismer**, superintendent of the state experimental farm at **Chatham, Alger county**, and secretary of the **Upper Peninsula Agricultural association**, was in attendance at the meeting and delivered a most interesting and instructive address. It is certain that no one possesses a greater fund of information relative to agricultural possibilities of the peninsula than Mr. Geismer. He has made a study of our soils, and the crops adapted thereto, and when he states that the upper peninsula has a great agriculture future it is no idle talk – it is a conclusion reached after much experimenting and study. In the course of his remarks Mr. Geismer said:

“It is a remarkable occurrence [*sic – occurrence*] that, at such a time as this, I should be called upon to address the leading business men [*sic – businessmen*] of one of the leading cities in the best portion of the state upon the subject of agriculture, especially when considering that this meeting is held for the purpose of organizing an agricultural society in a county which is generally known for its great wealth in iron ore.

“A few years ago, some of the most optimistic [*sic – optimistic*] among us, [*sic*] wished, rather than anticipated, that such a meeting might be possible at this time, yet none of us would have been willing to admit

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that the business men [*sic* – *businessmen*] of Dickinson county would consent to discuss agricultural development during a week in which heretofore, the salvation of the country has been everybody's main concern.

“The occasion is auspicious therefore in more than one way. It gives proof of a proper spirit of patriotism, for the most commendable of all patriotic impulses is that which strives for the comforts and beautifies of the home and for the promoting and developing of the resources of the more immediate neighborhood.

“On the other hand, it gives proof of a greater confidence in the mature judgment of a progressive people, whose con *[need to finish copying this column]* longer by brass bands, torchlight processions and campaign buttons.

“Evidently you have concluded that that prosperity of the past few years constitutes an ample campaign document, and as the future is full of still greater hopes, you see no further reason for the erstwhile political excitement, much less for political animosities.

“The recent strikes and labor disturbances have ceased to obscure the commercial sky and the atmosphere is cleared more than during any other presidential election.

“The shortage of the wheat crop is no longer a scare-crow [*sic* – *scarecrow*], for while the crop may be short one hundred millions of bushels, the higher price and greater yield of other crops will give to that greatest portion of our wealth producing population more money than ever before to our into the channels of trade, for taking the leading grain crops, as now officially recorded, adding to it just one other principal crop – the potato crop – and figuring the total value at present market

prices, and I find that the market value of such crops represents in round figures three thousand millions of dollars for 1902, and three thousand nine hundred millions of dollars for 1903, and three thousand two hundred million dollars for 1904.

“Thus the increased value alone of less than one half of this year's farm products is worth more than the entire output of all the gold and silver mines of the whole country, and with the assurance before us we may well dismiss any thought of future hard times.

“Furthermore, our exports during the first nine months of the present year are practically as large as those of last year. Our imports are less by several millions of dollars, and as during these nine months we have already exported \$21,000,000 more than we imported, we are assured of a greater money circulation; hence a still greater volume of business in the immediate future.

“Another assurance of continued prosperity is the fact that “call money” in New York has generally ruled under two per cent last month, something which has not happened during October for a good many years, while “time money,” for loans extending over the year have [*sic* – *has*], probably for the first time in October, been as low as three and a half per cent.

“Occuring [*sic* – *Occurring*] as it did, at a time of a year when most, or all, available money is needed for the moving of farm crops, it shows that there is a great surplus of money with few borrowers, and that the end of the crop moving season will see an abundance of money well calculated to embarrass the bankers.

“The situation warrants the conclusion that more money than ever will in the immediate future be available for new enterprises and developments.” [*sic*]

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“The soil is a factory, not a mine, said one of the leading agriculturists, and considering the stupendous figures which represent the yearly value of the yearly output of these *[sic – these]* kind of American factories, it is no wonder that the truth of his axiom has been so well appreciated lately by the business men *[sic – businessmen]* of some of the upper peninsula counties, where, during a little over a year ago, agricultural societies have either been organized or are just now in process of organization.

“That these organizations have been perfected lately in such mining counties as Houghton, Dickinson and Ontonagon is highly gratifying and speaks well for the enterprise and foresight of the business men *[sic – businessmen]*, especially of such, who, like ourselves, can appreciate the importance of agricultural development fully as much as the importance of a political contest. I congratulate you. Stand pat, and Dickinson county will get its full share of the incoming prosperity.

“You realize that the welfare of every community is based upon the amount of money in circulation, whether his *[sic – this]* be derived from the mine, the factory or the farm. You realize, also, that no industry can possibly be as staple and as permanent as the farming industry, hence agricultural development means the permanent welfare of the community; and it may be well to consider its importance in this, one of the smaller upper peninsula counties, yet, nevertheless, as large as two-fifths of one of our eastern states.

“Leaving out townsites *[sic – town sites]* and government lands no subject to taxation, there are 475,000 acres of land assessed in Dickinson county. Of that total, less than one per cent, or 4,647 acres, are

in improved farming lands, divided among ninety-five farms.

“Figuring at present market prices, the grain, hay, potato and fruit crops of these farms during the past year represents a value of \$34,000, or \$465 per farm. We may take this as representing the net profit, or the *[sic – or the]* amount put in circulation for improvements and other purposes by your farmers, though the actual amount is no doubt much larger, for these figures do not include the value of barley, peas, millet, strawberries or other small fruit, nor of any vegetables or root crops, outside of potatoes. Nor do they include the value of the products from dairy or poultry farms, nor from any other livestock.

“This rather small farm average is due to the fact that one-third of the acreage is in hay, and it is certain that with more progressive methods, this average could be easily doubled. Let us take it, however, as the basis for estimating the value of Dickinson county’s farm returns when fully developed, for it will show us the ***[need to finish copying this column]*** industry as a factor in contributing to the stability of your community.

“Leaving out of consideration the thousands of acres of land still unassessed, and deducting ten per cent from the remainder as lands not available for agricultural purposes, there will still be enough left to provide Dickinson county with 4,840 farms, assuming each to be as large as the average farm in the state. This would mean an additional population of nearly forty per cent larger than the entire present population of your whole county, and population means wealth, since everybody except the unfortunate, the idle, or the criminal is a wealth producer.

“At the low average net returns per farm, as heretofore given, the yearly amount

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which would then be circulated among the business men [*sic – businessmen*] by the farmers of your county would exceed \$2,255,500 or, instead of \$34,000, seventy times more than at present. As already pointed out, this would scarcely represent one-half of the actual amount and probably less than one-third.

“The figures are sufficiently important, however, to convince you that agricultural development deserves your best efforts and your unstinted patronage.”

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 28 [Thursday, December 1, 1904], page 4, column 2

## BRIEF CITY NEWSITES.

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At a meeting held in Norway last Thursday it was decided to circulate a petition addressed to the directors of the **Dickinson County Agricultural society** requesting that **Norway be designated as the place for holding the fairs.** “Farmer” **Robert E. Henderson** was chairman of the meeting. Our Norway neighbors are taking great interest in the agricultural society – since the success of the movement was assured. Prior to that, however, but mighty little interest was evidenced by our neighbors. Better late than not at all, however. But, on the side, wouldn’t it be a good scheme for some of the fellows who are urging the holding of ALL the fairs at Norway, to join the society before attempting to dictate its management? It would be good taste, to say the least.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 11,

Number 18 [Thursday, September 20, 1906], page 1, column 2

## Norway Fair.

It has been decided to hold the **second annual fair of the Menominee Range Agricultural society at Norway** on the 27th, 28th and 29th of the present month. An endeavor will be made to make the fair more representative than the first one. There will be a number of special features and a band contest may be held on the closing day.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 14, Number 13 [Thursday, August 19, 1909], page 1, column 5

## PROJECT MUCH ALIVE

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### Matter of Forming An Agricultural and Racing Association.

The matter of organizing an association for the purpose of **holding agricultural fairs and race meetings in Iron Mountain** has not died abornin’, as some people seem to think. Indeed, the project is very much alive. The gentlemen having the enterprise in hand tells [*sic – tell*] The Press that already assurances have been received of stock subscriptions to the amount of several thousand dollars and they do not anticipate any great difficulty in securing all the money necessary. It is purposed [*sic – proposed*] to include the **Athletic Park** in the deal and acquire sufficient adjoining property to construct a good **half-mile race track** and ample room for **agricultural fair purposes.** The

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enterprise is one in which business man *[sic – businessmen]* should invest liberally. It would give Iron Mountain an ideal playground and at the same time insure the holding of a fair each fall. The fair and race meeting would bring many dollars to the tills of the merchants and would also materially aid in advancing our agricultural resources. The park, too, would be *[an]* ideal place for holding celebrations of various kinds. It has been established that enterprises of this kind are paying investments, and the good business man *[sic – businessman]* will lend his assistance to the present movement.

*Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 14, Number 15 [Thursday, September 2, 1909], page 4, column 1*

## COMING FAIR AT NORWAY

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### Plans of the Committees Insures Success of the Enterprise.

Regarding the agricultural fair to be held at Norway on the 23rd, 24th and 25th, the Current says:

“The fair this year promises to be even a greater success than those held in 1906 and 1907. The soliciting committee has already collected in the neighborhood of \$800 and it is thought that this amount will be increased to \$1,000.

“The year has been a most propitious one for the farmers in general and they promise a fine lot of exhibits. All farmers along the Menominee range are invited to attend and take an active part in making the fair a success.

“The various committees are now hard at work, perfecting the necessary

arrangements and nothing will be left undone to make the event the most enjoyable of the year. There will be music galore, to say nothing of all the other attractions incident to a county fair. The city fathers will be petitioned for holding of a street carnival during the week and it is very likely that the necessary permission will be obtained. If you want a real, live good time, the last week in September, Norway will be the place to come. Visitors from the county seat and other suburban towns will be heartily welcomed.

“There will, in addition to the other attractions, be a full line of sports, including horse racing, automobile races and parades and if the necessary arrangements can be made there will be a balloon ascension.”

*Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 14, Number 19 [Thursday, September 30, 1909], page 1, column 6*

### Automobile Contests.

One of the interesting features in connection with the fair was the automobile contests. In the tour around the county, Dr. Lockart was the winner, his machine having a perfect score. The hill-climbing contest was won by a wide margin by Arthur Jones, son of John T. Jones, of this city, in his Ford. The course selected was the Vulcan hill and the distance was about a quarter of a mile. Arthur Jones made the run in forty seconds flat. His nearest rival was the big car driven by Frank Armstrong, of Vulcan, time 41 ½ seconds. E.W. Jones, of Iron Mountain, was third, time 42 ½ seconds. The victory of Arthur Jones was a decidedly popular one. The little fellow handled his machine in a masterful manner.

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*Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 14, Number 19 [Thursday, September 30, 1909], page 5, column 3*

## NORWAY NEWS NUGGETS

The third annual fair of the Menominee Range Agricultural society held last Thursday, Friday and Saturday, was largely attended. Taking into consideration the short time allowed to prepare the exhibits after it was decided to hold a fair, the showing in all departments was good. The fruit and vegetable exhibits were exceptionally fine as was also the poultry exhibit. The livestock show was not as extensive as might be wished for, but was good, and proved that the farmers on the range take pride in raising pure-bred stock. One of the most complete features of the fair was the exhibit of school work. The mapping and free-hand drawing was particularly fine. The pupils and teachers are deserving of great praise for the efficiency of the work. The exhibit of needle work and art attracted its full share of attention from the ladies and many fine specimens of fancy work were displayed. The carnival brought in for a large drawing card produced results in a measure as far as the drawing of the people from out of town was concerned, but further than that it might as well have been left off the program, for every feature was insignificant and not worth the money. From a general standpoint the fair was a success and a credit to the enterprising business men [*sic – businessmen*] of Norway, who made it possible by their financial aid and personal influence to hold the fair.

*Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 14, Number 20 [Thursday, October 7, 1909], page 1, column 2*

## AN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

### Dickinson County-Menominee Range Perfects Organization.

At a meeting held in the city hall at Norway last Tuesday afternoon the **Dickinson County-Menominee Range Agricultural society** was organized with a goodly membership. The officers are as follows:

President – **Arthur W. Thompson.**

Vice President – **Charles J. Albert.**

Secretary – **A.T. Sethney.**

Treasurer – **James O'Callaghan.**

Directors – The above-named officers with **J.P. Roach, Joseph Rowe, John G. Kass, Anton Anderson, M. St. Peter, Don Cameron, James B. Knight and R.C. Henderson.**

A committee of nine was appointed [*to*] arrange for the **purchase or rental of grounds suitable for the holding of future fairs**, also, a committee of five to draft by-laws. A committee was also appointed to solicit members. The membership fee was fixed at \$1.00. The meeting was attended by forty-five business men [*sic – businessmen*] with a fair sprinkling of farmers.

*Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 14, Number 24 [Thursday, November 4, 1909], page 7, column 3*

## BRIEF CITY NEWS.

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The directors of the recently organized **Agricultural society** have **closed a deal with the Keweenaw association for forty acres of land for fair grounds to the south of Norway.** The question of buildings, a base ball [sic – baseball] diamond and race track is now under consideration. The Current says that the site selected is an ideal one.

*Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 3 [Thursday, June 9, 1910], page 5, columns 2-3*

## NORWAY NEWS NUGGETS

**P.E. Cootware**, of this city, **A.W. Thompson**, of **Vulcan**, and **John E. Quarnstrom**, of Iron Mountain, made a trip around the county in Mr. Thompson's auto last week in the interest of the **Dickinson County Agricultural society** and secured pledges for \$2,400 worth of stock on the trip. Thompson and Cootware afterwards secured pledges for \$1,200 more. The total amount has since been raised to \$5,600, which is more than the estimated cost of putting the **fair grounds and race track** in shape for the annual fair.

*Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 6 [Thursday, June 30, 1910], page 5, column 3*

## NORWAY NEWS NUGGETS

Work on the **new race track and fair grounds** [sic – fairgrounds] is progressing finely under the supervision of **Alex**

**LeBlanc.** The grading of the track is well under way [sic – underway] and the balance of the grounds have [sic – has] been cleared of underbrush. The base ball [sic – baseball] park has been leveled up and will soon be ready for the opening game, which will be played with the Niagara team. The fair grounds are located about a half mile south of the city limits and a good macadamized road is to be built from the city to the grounds.

*Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 18 [Thursday, September 22, 1910], page 1, column 2*

## Fair at Norway.

Iron Mountain should be well represented at the fair in Norway, which opened yesterday. The exhibits in all departments are most creditable. The association has arranged an excellent program of amusements for each afternoon. The fair grounds [sic – fairgrounds] are beautifully located and the association is deserving of your patronage.

*Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 18 [Thursday, September 22, 1910], page 1, column 3*

## A Sweet Note.

**J.J. Eskil** will have an **exhibit of over a thousand pounds of honey** at the Norway fair. Mr. E. probably has the largest colony of bees in the upper peninsula and has been unusually successful in the business. He says that, despite contrary belief, this climate is an excellent one for the business

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and it is his intentions [*sic – intention*] to greatly enlarge his operations.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 18 [Thursday, September 22, 1910], page 5, column 4

## FACTS FROM FELCH.

The **local grange**, through the efforts of **A. Rian**, has made arrangements for a **special train to leave here on Friday morning for Norway, returning the same evening**, for the accommodation of county fair visitors from this side of the county, and **Felch, Foster City and Hardwood** will be well represented at the big show on that day.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 19 [Thursday, September 29, 1910], page 4, columns 1-2

## NORWAY NEWS NUGGETS.

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The **Dickinson County-Menominee Range Agricultural society** held their annual fair at the new park last week and the success of the event far exceeded the expectations of the promoters. The attendance was large on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and considering the inclemency of the weather was very fair Saturday. The total gate receipts reached nearly \$2,000. The farmers contributed to the exhibits well considering the poor season for farm products. There was a noticeable shortage of fruit exhibits, but the vegetables were in most instances fine. The livestock exhibits showed a great improvement in breeding over previous

years, especially in horned stock, the Holstein breed taking the lead. The **Morgan Lumber & Cedar Co.**, of **Foster City**, had seven head of Holstein cattle on exhibition and took the first prize on one cow, one two-year-old heifer and two eight-months'-old calves. **S.F. Farrell**, of **Hardwood**, took first prize on Holstein bull and yearling heifer. **U.F. Asselin** took second prize on Holstein bull, cow, two-year-old heifer and bull calf. **Richard Hafferkorn** [*sic – Haferkorn*] took a special prize of \$5.00 on Holstein bull and **Richard Reath** a special prize of \$5.00 on a Holstein cow. Several fine horses were on exhibition and prizes were awarded as follows: **Hubert Perras**, draught-horse, second prize; **James London**, driving colt, first prize; **Richard Hafferkorn** [*sic – Haferkorn*], one-year-old colt, first prize, two-year-old colt, second prize; **D. Giacomina**, black stallion, first prize; **John Juliana**, stallion, first prize; The **O.C. Lumber Co.**, mare and three-months' old colt, second prize; **William Parolini**, two-year-old colt, second prize. In the sheep exhibits the prizes were awarded to **Charles Albert** and **Richard Hafferkorn** [*sic – Haferkorn*]. In the exhibits of swine, **Frank Bernard**, **U.F. Asselin** and **C. Pellegrine** [*sic – Pellegrini*] each took prizes. There was a fair exhibit of poultry, the most noticeable being four extraordinary large geese from **Jos. Tauschek**, a former **Iron Mountain** man, now in charge of the **county poor farm**, which took the first prize. There were also several exhibits of ducks, chickens and pigeons. **Chas. Albert**, one of the farmers in the **Pine Creek district**, took first and second prizes on Plymouth Rock chickens. **Chas. Johnson** first prize on brown Leghorns, **Alex Lind** on Houdons, and **O.F. Turner** on Buff Wyandotts. In the

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vegetable exhibits many prizes were awarded, **Henry Melis**, of **Homestead**, taking first prizes on squash and corn, second prize on pumpkins and third prize on tomatoes. **Richard Hafferkorn** [*sic – Haferkorn*] took a special price [*sic – prize*] of \$5.00 on wheat and **Abel London** second prize on Canadian Giant oats and second prize on yellow-eye beans. **Chas. Albert** carried off nineteen prizes on vegetables of different varieties, fourteen of them being first prizes. **C. Morosini** took first prize on wheat and **J.J. Eskil** first prize on Rural New Yorker potatoes. The fruit exhibit was smaller and few prizes were awarded. **E. Bolitho** took first prize on grapes and **Mrs. J.A. Crowell** second. There was a large display of canned fruits and vegetables and also of fancy work, the latter attracting the attention of the lady visitors at the fair. Taking all in all, the fair was a success from every standpoint and great credit is due to those having the event in charge. The sporting features were horse racing and base ball [*sic – baseball*]. Owing to the bad weather last Saturday, a portion of the races were postponed until yesterday.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 38 [Thursday, February 9, 1911], page 1, column 4

## **Thompson is Busy.**

**President Thompson**, of the **Agricultural society**, is hard at work planning for the **next fair**. It won't be Thompson's fault if it is not the equal of any agricultural exhibition ever held in this peninsula. The premiums will be considerable [*sic – considerably*] larger than last year and there will be more of 'em.

Thompson is also planning for some very nifty side attractions. Thompson is a good booster. 'Rah for the fair!

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 17, Number 11 [Thursday, August 1, 1912], page 1, column 4

## **Baloon [*sic*] Ascensions.**

**President Thompson** has made arrangements for a **baloon [*sic – balloon*] ascension and parachute drop twice each day during the Norway fair**. Arrangements have also been made for a series of institutes for farmers during the fair. The speakers will include men of national reputation as specialists in agriculture and it is thought this feature will prove popular with the farming classes.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 19, Number 26 [Thursday, November 12, 1914], page 6, column 1

## **NORWAY NEWS NUGGETS.**

The **Dickinson County Menominee Range Agricultural Society** has decided to **repair the race track at the fair grounds** [*sic – fairgrounds*]. The society has solicited help from the farmers and sixty of them have agreed to donate one day's work with a team to haul clay on to the track. The work was started last Tuesday with the arrangement that fifteen teams would work each day. It will take four days to complete the work.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 20,

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – AGRICULTURE – DICKINSON COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

Number 2 [Thursday, May 27, 1915],  
page 6, column 3

## NORWAY NEWS NUGGETS.

The plank curbing along a portion of the **race track at the fair grounds** [*sic – fairgrounds*] has been completed and the work of hauling clay for filling and top dressing will be started at once. It is the intention of the management to have the track completed early, so that the ground will have time to settle before the opening of the fair.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 20, Number 11 [Thursday, July 29, 1915], page 3, column 2

## Dickinson County Fair.

With the united efforts of horsemen and Vulcan and Norway and the farmers of this vicinity, the **race course at the fair grounds** [*sic – fairgrounds*] is now in first-class condition. They have practically remodelled [*sic – remodeled*] the track, placing curbing on the quarter-mile stretch. About 300 loads of clay hauled onto the ½-mile track has been spread and dragged, converting the speedway into one of the fastest in the north. Dickinson county fair dates are Sept. 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th and the one big attraction in conjunction with the annual show will be horse racing – the most extensive race meet in the history of the fair association. Special attractions will be booked and with the hearty co-operation [*sic – cooperation*] of all the farmers, whose crops are promising a bountiful yield, the coming fair will be the biggest and best ever. – Current.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 20, Number 10 [Thursday, September 2, 1915], page 1, column 2

## The County Fair.

Do not neglect the county fair on the 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th. Despite an adverse season, every farmer has something worth of the fair. Bring your best, anyway. In addition to the soil products help make the cattle show one worthy of Dickinson county. Prove your dairy skill and bring in your fruits and posies. In addition to **J.B. Hendershot's United Shows**, there will be a good race program, a number of **motorcycle and bicycle races**, base ball [*sic - baseball*] for the championship of the range and field sports. Accompanying the United Shows is a solo cornet band of twenty pieces. There will be three free feature acts twice daily: the **Flying Geyers**, the world's greatest aerial act, the revolving ladder act, and **Mlle. Zalla**, in her sensational swing perch act. The other shows are: **Little Marie and her trained bears**, **Leon's cat and rat circus**, **glass blowers**, **Huber's bears**, that **Strange Girl**, the **Show Girls**, **Southern Plant Show**, **Tango Twins**, **Sensational Wild West**, **Ferris wheel**, **jumping horse carousal**, **Wonderland City** and **Wise's European flea circus**.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 21, Number 18 [Thursday, September 14, 1916], page 1, column 6

## THE DICKINSON COUNTY FAIR

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# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – AGRICULTURE – DICKINSON COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

**At Norway, Next Week Wednesday,  
Thursday, Friday and Saturday.**

Next week Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday occurs the annual fair of the **Dickinson County Agricultural society** on its grounds at **Norway**. The society has provided liberal premiums for exhibits in all departments. Especially is this true in the speed division, where there is an increase over the purses offered in previous years. The races this year will attract a good string of fast horses. Then the live stock [*sic – livestock*] and agricultural products' premiums are more liberal than usual and should draw good exhibits. In fact, every division has been taken care of, and it remains for the people of the county to take their products to the fair to make it the most successful yet held. In the line of amusements the **George Harrison Trained Animal Shows** will offer clean novelty acts, and this part of the fair will be open all day and evening – from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. There will be a merry-go-round and a Ferris wheel. There will be no games of chance on the grounds. In addition to other sports, the **Iron Mountain and Niagara ball teams will cross bats** in games on Friday and Saturday afternoons for the championship of the range. There will be something doing every day of the fair.

*Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 21, Number 20 [Thursday, September 28, 1916], page 1, column 3*

## THE COUNTY FAIR

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**DESPITE THE RAINY WEATHER  
WAS A FINANCIAL SUCCESS.**

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**The Attendance, List of Entries In  
All Departments and the Racing  
Much Better Than Last Year.**

The annual Dickinson county fair at Norway outclassed any previous exhibitions in points of attendance, numbers of exhibitors, excellence of attractions, etc.

Notwithstanding the downpour of rain all the days but Saturday, the people turned out very liberally. The receipts at the gate on Thursday totaled \$150.00; on Friday \$300.00, and on Saturday about \$800.00. It is expected that the fair will break even, paying all expenses in full.

The stock, agricultural, dairy products, vegetables, grains, fruits, floral, culinary, canned fruits and vegetables and pastry exhibits were better than usual and numbered over twelve hundred as against one thousand a year ago.

The attractions, especially the horse racing, were very much superior to anything previously attempted. The best horses ever seen in the upper peninsula were entered and with the exception of the Friday card were pulled off as advertised.

Considerable interest was centered on the ball games on Friday and Saturday between the **Iron Mountain and Niagara teams**, for the supremacy of the Menominee range, which resulted in two victories for the Iron Mountain aggregation by scores of 2 to 0 and 12 to 7. In the base ball [*sic – baseball*] contest on Thursday between the married and single men of Norway the single men won out by a score of 16 to 11.

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – AGRICULTURE – DICKINSON COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

The winners in the speed contests follows [sic – follow]:

Thursday, 2:18 Pace –

First, Colonel Leyborn, owned by **Louis Saam, Hancock.**

Second, Alice Owens, owned by **Harry Stiles, Menominee.**

Third, Gail Dillon, owned by **Ed. Richards, Menominee.**

Fourth, Heirline, owned by **Matt Aho, Negaunee.**

Saturday, 2:25 Pace –

First, Baron J. Cecil, owned by **Chas. Enard, Escanaba.**

Second, Katherine W., owned by **Wm. Girard, Vulcan.**

Third, Silvas, owned by **Frank Greenwood, Green Bay.**

2:30, Trot –

First, Heirline, owned by **Matt Aho, Negaunee.**

Second, Arlete, owned by **Louis Saam, Hancock.**

Third, Z. Bell, owned by **Ed. Marineau, Marinette.**

Free-For-All –

First, Harry I., owned by **Frank Greenwood, Green Bay.**

Second, Alice Owens, owned by **Harry Stiles, Menominee.**

Third, Colonel Leyborn, owned by **Louis Saams, Hancock.**

Farmer's Race –

First, **Tom Luke, Iron Mountain.**

Second, **Dan Hart, Vulcan.**

Third, **G. Trepanier, Iron Mountain.**

Motorcycle race –

First, **Abel Blackberg, Norway.**

Second, **Joe Bittner, Crystal Falls.**

Third, **Oscar Blackberg, Norway.**

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 25,

Number 16 [Thursday, September 2, 1920], page 1, column 4

## County Fair.

“You should not forget to remember” that the county fair will be held at Norway next Friday, Saturday and Monday. The management has been assured of large exhibits in all departments. The program of amusements is an extra good one. There will be good horse races on Saturday and Monday. Eight horses have arrived from Marquette, where they had been racing in the **Cloverland circuit** and five or six more are coming from Green Bay. The several events should prove exciting. On Saturday, the **Norway and Niagara teams will play ball** and on Monday **Iron Mountain will meet the winners**. In addition to the horse racing and base ball [sic – baseball], there will be minor sports such as bicycle races, foot races, etc. The **Columbian band**, of this city, has been engaged to furnish the music on Monday. Iron Mountain people should accord the fair a generous patronage.

*The Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 2, Number 136 [Thursday, September 21, 1922], page 1, column 5

## ASSOCIATION TO MEET NEXT WEEK

—————  
**Will Elect Officers of  
County Fair Or-  
ganization**  
—————

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – AGRICULTURE – DICKINSON COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

The annual meeting of the **Dickinson County Fair association** will be held September 28 at Norway, it was announced today by **A.T. Sethney**, secretary.

The meeting will open at 7:30 o'clock in the evening at the city hall. In addition to the election of officers, regular business of the association will be taken up and plans for next year's fair discussed.

"Every business man [sic – *businessman*], farmer or anyone interested in the progress of the county should attend," declared Mr. Sethney. "A special invitation is extended to ladies, who are largely responsible for the success of the fair every year."

Opinion is unanimous that the fair this year was the best ever held in the county. It was by far the largest and attracted record breaking crowds, the attendance on the last day exceeding by 3,000 the previous high mark.

It is the intention of officials, who have been inspired by the interest taken in the 1922 exposition, to make next year's event bigger and better. With this in mind, plans will be made immediately for the annual exhibition.

*The Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 3, Number 123 [Tuesday, September 4, 1923], page 1, columns 1-2

## NEW RECORD SET BY FAIR ATTENDANCE

More Than 10,000 Persons  
Visit Grounds Yes-  
terday

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## RECEIPTS HIGH

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Exceed by \$1,000 Largest  
Sum Ever Taken in  
Before

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The attendance yesterday at **Dickinson County's fourteenth annual fair was estimated at more than 10,000 persons, the largest in the history of the fair association.** Admissions at the gate amounted to \$3,671.70, a new high record.

Saturday, the first day of the fair, approximately 1,500 persons attended and the gate receipts amounted to \$529, which is the largest amount ever taken in on the first day.

That thousands would attend the fair yesterday was evidenced shortly before noon when hundreds of persons started to go through the gates. Most of them went to the grounds in their own cars while the big **Iron Range Transportation busses** also brought many. The entrance gate was jammed at different intervals during the morning while in the afternoon there was an endless line of motor cars.

The procession of cars reached its greatest length about 1 o'clock when it appeared that all cars in the district were headed in the direction of the fair grounds. Free parking places on the grounds were all occupied shortly after 1:30 o'clock.

### 2,000 Cars At Grounds.

It is estimated that fully 2,000 motor vehicles were parked in and around the fair grounds. Many others were parked in Norway for motorists found it was

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – AGRICULTURE – DICKINSON COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

impossible to secure parking space near the grounds after 2:30 o'clock, when fences had been torn down to make parking room. Hundreds of persons were compelled to walk to the fair grounds in order to see the beginning of the program, which was started a half hour earlier in view of the fact that extra races and events were added. For an hour there was a stream of cars extending from the fair grounds gate a mile down the road.

## **17 Horses On Track.**

Seventeen race horses were seen on the track yesterday and 10 minutes was allowed between races. The horses that competed for honors were by far the best collection ever seen at the county fair. The races were good and some fast pacing and trotting was seen. The motor cycle *[sic – motorcycle]* was also interesting for dirt track riders with *[sic – with]* specially built machines circling the track.

"Bullet", the lone pacer, gave two exhibitions yesterday and one Saturday. The spirited steed toed the mark in front of the grand stand *[sic – grandstand]* with his Escanaba master beside him and at the master's command the horse without a guide paced the track in true race horse manner. Making the mile in less than 2:18, the lone pacer stopped as the bell was rung after completing the second lap. The owner of the horse then paraded the track in front of the grand stand *[sic – grandstand]* and was given much applause.

## **One Minor Accident.**

Everything at the fair this year went on without interruption or mishap with the exception of a minor automobile accident yesterday afternoon when a Ford car owned by **Walter Miller, Norway**, rolled into the rear end of the grand stand *[sic – grandstand]*. The car was parked about 25 yards behind the stand. The brake became

loosened and the machine headed towards the grand stand *[sic – grandstand]*, tore down a pile that marked a parking space and plunged down the incline. As it struck one of the supports of the grand stand *[sic – grandstand]*, it made a crash as though the structure had collapsed and frightened many persons in the stand.

The exhibits in the general exhibit building were by far the best ever seen there and it is estimated that 5,000 persons visited the building. The automobile, poultry and livestock displays were visited by hundreds.

## **Baby Show Success.**

The baby show conducted in connection with the fair was also a big success, it was reported this morning by **Mrs. T.J. Pascoe**, chairman. There were 54 babies entered in the contest and were nearly all perfect. So close was the decision that it was necessary to resort to measurements to decide the winners. After a careful examination by **Doctors G.M. Belhuemer [sic – Belheumer]**, of **Iron Mountain, B.S. Gutelius**, of **Norway**, and **B.W. Jones**, of **Vulcan**, who comprised the examining board, the following babies were selected as winners:

**Elaine**, daughter of **Mr. and Mrs. Herman Erspamer**, of **Norway**, was given first honors in the nine months' old division. **Leslie**, son of **Mr. and Mrs. Walter Brison [sic – Brisson]**, of **Norway**, won first prize in the three months' division, and **Elizabeth**, daughter of **Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Eisele**, of **Iron Mountain**, was given first prize in the five months' division.

## **New Records.**

With the gate receipts and money taken in at the pavilion dances Saturday and last night, it was said that the total receipts will come to approximately \$5,000. This includes revenue obtained from the 25 or

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – AGRICULTURE – DICKINSON COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

more concessions. Last year's receipts paid for the running expenses with a slight sum left over but a report from the fair committee this morning said that a net profit of about \$1,000 would be left on hand for next year's fair. This will be used for improvements. The largest amount heretofore ever taken in at the fair was slightly over \$4,000 and that was last year. The receipts of this year's affair exceeded that amount by \$1,000. The attendance on Labor Day last year was estimated at 8,000, or 2,000 below that of this year.

*The Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 3, Number 121 [Friday, August 31, 1923], page 6, columns 6-7

## CONCESSIONS A FAIR FEATURE

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### And One Can Buy Most Anything One Desires

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"How yuh like 'em, with or without?" "Co-o-oney Island r-r-red hots!" "Ice cream, ice cold pop, cracker jack and chewing gum."

Sounds interesting doesn't it? It is, as a visit to the Dickinson county fair at Norway will prove. One can buy anything from chewing gum to the best stogies ever turned out; from cracker-jack to delicious angel food cake; from all-day suckers to the best bon bons made in the United States – that and a whole lot more, at the fair grounds, where concessionists *[need to copy remaining column of this article]*

*The Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 4, Number 120 [Saturday, August 30, 1924], page 8, column 1

## County Fair Association Was Organized in 1908

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### Norway and Iron Mountain Both Sought Annual Event.

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The Dickinson County Menominee Range Agricultural association was organized in 1908, according to A.W. Thompson, prominent Iron Mountain insurance man, who at that time was connected with the Penn Iron Mining company at Vulcan.

The first fair in the county was held on the street of "old" Norway in 1907. William Kelly, of Iron Mountain, formerly superintendent of the Penn mines in Vulcan, had charge of it. The business section of Norway was then located north of the present district.

#### Thompson Chief In 1909.

The following year Mr. Thompson was elected president of the fair and through his efforts the Dickinson county fair association became an established organization.

During 1908 the articles of the association were drawn up by the late **R.C. Henderson**, former Dickinson county prosecuting attorney. The association incorporated in 1908 in the state of Michigan.

Bitter rivalry existed between Iron Mountain and Norway during those days[,] and each faction attempted to have the fair

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – AGRICULTURE – DICKINSON COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

grounds [*sic* – *fairgrounds*] in their respective cities. According to Mr. Thompson, the Norway business men [*sic* – *businessmen*] got the jump on the Iron Mountain men and for that reason the fair grounds are now located near Norway. The Iron Mountain business men [*sic* – *businessmen*] proposed to build the fair grounds [*sic* – *fairgrounds*] opposite the Athletic park in the western part of the city.

After the articles of association were turned into the secretary of state and approved, Mr. Thompson and several other Norway citizens were confronted with the matter of locating the fair grounds and the problem of financing it.

A committee was appointed and \$25 bonds were sold. Through bond subscriptions the committee realized \$5,500 which gave it sufficient funds to carry through the project. Most of the bonds were bought by Norway business men [*sic* – *businessmen*] and Dickinson county farmers, comparatively few being taken by residents of Iron Mountain.

## **Receives Donations[.]**

During 1908 the committee also received donations from the **Oliver Iron Mining company**, **Loretto Mining company**, **Penn Iron Mining company** and **Pewabic Mining company** which amounted to \$2,000, Mr. Thompson said. Liberal donations were also received from **Judge R.C. Flannigan** and the **Kimberly-Clark company**, of **Niagara**. The county board of supervisors also set an amount aside for the fair and has continued to do so every year. The fair association received \$1,500 in 1908 from the board. The sum has varied since that time.

After the committee received sufficient funds to carry on a building program it deliberated for several months on a site. The present grounds were selected

because only a small price was asked for the land. One forty-acre tract was purchased for \$400 from the Keweenaw Land association. The committee could have also purchased the adjoining forty but did not realize at that time that the fair would develop into a big enterprise. The additional tract could have been bought for the same price.

The **race track** at the Norway fair grounds was completed in 1909 and at that time was considered the best north of Milwaukee. The main exhibit building was also constructed that year at small cost. The cost of the race track, Mr. Thompson declared, was only \$700.

During the 1912 fair, the amusement committee secured the services of the famous **Ruth Law, daredevil woman aerialist**. Amusements during those days were scarce but always the best were obtained.

In 1913 the vegetable and fruit displays at the fair were declared to be the best Dickinson county had ever produced. The exhibits have never been equaled in this department, it is claimed.

*The Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 4, Number 120 [Saturday, August 30, 1924], page 8, column 2

## **ALL ROADS LEAD TO FAIR TODAY**

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**New Attendance Record  
Will Be Established,  
Belief**

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# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – AGRICULTURE – DICKINSON COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

All roads led to the Dickinson county fair today.

Judging from the large crowd that visited the fair this afternoon, the attendance for the three days will establish a new high record. Cars from every corner of the county and a large number from neighboring counties jammed the gates at the fair grounds early this afternoon.

Although entries were still being registered this morning it is estimated that there will be approximately 2,000 exhibits at the fair grounds. **Mrs. W.W. Noyes**, chairman of the women's department, said last night that 700 exhibits may be viewed in the main exhibit building. These include every variety of sewing, baking art, flowers and canned goods.

The next largest assortment of exhibits is the vegetable, grain and garden crops display. There are more than 302 of these, according to figures obtained at the registration booth. There are 102 exhibits in the section adjacent to the main exhibit building. In this group are included chickens, geese, ducks, pigeons and rabbits.

Probably the best exhibit at the fair is the livestock display at which more than 70 heads may be viewed. The finest cattle in Dickinson county, consisting of pure bred Holsteins, guernseys [*sic* – *Guernseys*] and jerseys [*sic* – *Jerseys*], are on display.

Draft horses of high quality are also causing considerable comment at the grounds. One of the large teams weighs 1,600 pounds. The sheep and swine exhibits are the best that have ever been seen at the annual fair.

More than 20 racing horses were to complete for purses this afternoon. Some of them are from the best stables in the upper peninsula and northern Wisconsin.

The **flying circus and motor derby** were also scheduled for this afternoon. This evening **auto polo** will be played and a dance will follow.

*The Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 4, Number 120 [Saturday, August 30, 1924], page 8, column 3

## BOVINE “400” AT COUNTY FAIR

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### Pure Breds of High Lin- eage Exhibited By Spencer

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Genuine members of the bovine “400” are being displayed at the Dickinson county fair by **Ben Spencer**, Iron Mountain dairyman and one of the leading Holstein breeders of the upper peninsula. They are two cows and a bull, each a pedigreed animal of “blue blood” ancestry.

First among the Spencer cattle is Dirkjie Countess, No. 165,286 H.F.H.B. bred by **H. Bernard** of Schenevus, N.Y. Dirkjie Countess, a pure-bred Holstein, was former grand champion of Wisconsin. She twice produced butter fat in excess of 30 pounds in a week and set a record for daily milk production when she gave 115.6 pounds in a single day. Dirkjie Countess is one of the best known of Holstein cows in both Michigan and Wisconsin.

The second cow exhibited by Spencer is Lady Idylwilde Dixon Echo, H.B. No. 43,926. She is a Canadian animal bred by **James Seymour**, of Ida, Ont., and is a daughter of one of the famous heavy

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – AGRICULTURE – DICKINSON COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

milking "Posch" cows. At four years of age her production records for a single week was 26.04 pounds of butter fat and 610.60 pounds of milk. Her sire carries 75 per cent the same blood as the world's Canadian milk champion, May Echo Sylvia. Her sire is descended from the former Canadian champion, May Echo, with a record of 1,042.57 pounds of butter fat in a year.

The sire on exhibition is Can--- Fobes Longfield, H.B. 182,105, weighing 2,400 pounds.

These three cattle are among the finest in the upper peninsula and Wisconsin and are members of a herd of nearly 50 head of Holsteins owned by Spencer.

*The Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 4, Number 120 [Saturday, August 30, 1924], page 8, column 3

## SCHOOL ENTRIES ARE BEST EVER

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**Keen Interest shown By  
Leaders In Exhibit At  
Fair**

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The rural school entries at the annual Dickinson county fair this year re the biggest and best ever, according to members of the fair association. Keen interest has been shown by school leaders in the fair and some exceptionally good exhibits are on display.

Thus far the **Vulcan school** leads all in the number of exhibits entered. The Vulcan school has entered material in every division of the junior department in which it

is possible to score. The exhibits from this school are considered among the finest in the history of the fair.

The **village of Kingsford is represented for the first time** with an exceptionally good array of exhibits. The art work from the **Breitung school**, representing the village, is deserving of especial commendation, members of the association declare.

Among the other rural schools entering what are considered better than ordinary exhibits are the **Loretto and Quinnesec schools**.

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 4, Number 306 [Friday, April 10, 1925], page 6, column 3

## NORWAY NEWS

### SELECT SITE OF NEW CAMP SITE

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**Will Propose That Plot  
Near Fair Grounds Be  
Purchased**

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Norway will have one of the best free camp sites in the district if the present plans of a committee of the **Norway Welfare club** materializes.

At a meeting yesterday afternoon the committee, headed by **Max Vielmetti**, merchant, selected the grounds west of the main gate of the fair grounds for a tourists' camp site. The recommendation will be submitted to the club at a meeting which will be called next week, Mr. Vielmetti said.

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – AGRICULTURE – DICKINSON COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Indications are that the recommendation will be approved and steps taken for the purchase of the grounds. It is understood that the city will be asked to buy the grounds for the Welfare club which will put them in first class condition. The property is owned by **J.C. Knight**, attorney.

“The site we have chosen,” Mr. Vielmetti said, “will compare favorably with any in the district and with the proper care in putting it in condition Norway will be able to boast of something worth while [sic – *worthwhile*]. We hope that we will be given co-operation.”

The grounds offer an excellent place for a camp site and have many heavy foliage trees. A small creek runs through the grounds which are practically level.

The committee consists of **Max Vielmetti**, chairman, **John E. Anderson**, **Stephen Benzie**, **U.F. Asselin** and **G.L. Greenawalt**.

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 24 [Friday, May 8, 1925], page 6, column 1

## PLANS READY FOR ROUND-UP

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### Big Program Outlined For Gathering at Fair Grounds

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With the completion of the program everything is in readiness for the annual county round-up which is to be held at the fair grounds [sic – *fairgrounds*] in Norway on Saturday, May 16. It is planned to make

the round-up this year the best ever held and many new features have been added.

The program will start at 9:30 o'clock with the assembly of all the students at the fair grounds [sic – *fairgrounds*] after which the work that is to be judged will be placed on exhibition. At 10 o'clock contest games will be held between the boys and the girls of the north and south end of the county.

A basket lunch will be served at 11:30 and at 12:30 the club program will begin. A novel method will be employed in taking the roll call, each club responding with a yell after which there will be community singing, and club stunts.

Three addresses are also scheduled. **Mrs. Ruth Kettunen, girls' club leader for the upper peninsula**, will speak on the work of the girls and announce the winners in the contest; **Merton Wright, boy's [sic – *boys'*] club leader in upper Michigan**, is to announce the winners of the boys' exhibits and give an address on the work and **County Agent A.J. Lonsdorf** will also speak.

### Plan Track Meet

Great interest is being shown in the **first annual track meet** which is to be made a part of the round-up this year, the events being open to the boys of the sixth, seventh and eighth grades of all the village and rural schools in the county.

Each school is allowed one contestant in each event and no student is allowed to enter more than two events. Boys are allowed to enter in only one of the running events.

A silver loving cup has been offered by **Rahm and Will, Iron Mountain jewelers**, to the school securing the greatest number of points, while the individual winners will be given ribbons which are to be donated by the business men [sic – *businessmen*] of Norway.

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – AGRICULTURE – DICKINSON COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

The events include the 50 and 100 yard dash, quarter mile relay with four boys to a team, running and standing high jump and running and standing broad jump, pole vault and the eight and 12 pound shot put.

No admission is to be charged and the program will be well supervised, principals of all the schools in the county taking part.

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 24 [Friday, May 8, 1925], page 11, columns 1-3

## ***Offer More Premiums In Fair Livestock Division***

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### **Desire to encourage Owners to Exhibit Cattle; Parade to Be Feature.**

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Bigger and better every year is the policy adopted by those interested in the annual dairy cattle show of the county fair, and this year more premiums are to be given and a livestock parade will be featured. Larger premium awards resulted from the decision to abandon the horse show which has been falling below expectatoinis [*sic – expectations*], due to the fact that this is not a horse raising section.

With the abandonment of the horse show a number of new events have been made possible, including a speed milking contest and other features.

The livestock parade is something entirely new, and fair officials in charge of the livestock division are looking forward to making this one of the big events of the fair. All of the exhibitors will be requested to

have their animals entered in the parade on Monday and failure to comply will cost the exhibitor his premium money.

### **Entries by September 5**

Entries of livestock are to be made before Saturday, September 5, but cattle, hogs, sheep and poultry can be brought in until Saturday at 9 a.m. Registration papers of pure-bred cattle must be shown the fair officials upon request.

As has been the custom in the past, hay, water and bedding will be furnished free by the fair association. Grain is not included and the milking must also be done by the attendants. The road commission will again transport livestock of those living more than 10 miles away from the fair grounds [*sic – fairgrounds*], this work being done at the owner's risk.

### **Start Judging Saturday**

Judging will start on Saturday. Holsteins will be judged at 9 o'clock and the judging on Guernseys will begin at 1:30. A speed milking contest for men and women is also scheduled for 1 o'clock Saturday afternoon, entries for which must be made one week before the fair, either with the county agent or the secretary of the fair. Another contest which will continue during the fair is a judging event, contestants estimating the work of the cows on display. A milk and butter fat contest is to start Friday evening at 5 o'clock as a preliminary. The contest is to run all day Saturday, Sunday and will close Monday evening. It will be carried on under the supervision of an official tester and awards are to be based on the butter fat percentage. The purpose of this contest is to encourage dairymen to bring their best cows to the fair. Ten dollars is the first prize; \$5 will be awarded as second prize, and \$2 is the third prize. A \$3 prize is also to be given the cow with the highest milking record.

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – AGRICULTURE – DICKINSON COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

A boys' and girls' judging contest is to take place Saturday noon, great interest being displayed in this event. A number of good teams have been entered from various schools in the county and competition is expected to be keen.

## **Extra Prizes Offered**

One hundred dollars in extra prizes is to be offered in the two bull *[sic – bull]* classes, entries being limited to bulls that helped to win third place in the **Upper Peninsula Development Bureau's** pure bred bull contest. The bureau offered \$1,000 in prizes, Dickinson county exhibitors winning \$125. Of this amount \$25 is to be spent in transporting calves belonging to the various calf clubs in the county. The other money *oe [sic – to be]* divided as follows:

Class 1-A, Special – Holstein bulls, all ages: First prize, \$6; next two, \$5 each; next three, \$4 each; next four, \$3 each; next five, \$2 each. All ages are included in this special. A similar prize offer is being made for Guernsey bulls, all ages being included.

In addition to the above **John Guiliani**, of **Vulcan**, pioneer pure-bred Holstein breeder, is offering \$10 in cash prizes of \$2 each to be divided among the five Holstein bull classes. This prize money is restricted to farmers who purchased bulls from the Guiliani farm. A \$2 prize will also be offered on the bull standing highest in its class.

## **Grand Champion Class**

Purple ribbons are to be awarded grand champions of both sires and females in the Holstein and Guernsey classes, four entries being provided under Class 1. Herd exhibits are to include a purebred sire, cow over three years, a cow over two and under three years, a heifer over one and under two years and a heifer calf under one year.

It is required that the sire be a pure bred, but females can be grades *[sic – grades]* or purebreds. Six prizes are offered in both the Holstein and Guernsey classes, ranging from \$20 for first prize to \$6 for sixth prize.

## **Registered Cattle Awards**

Class 2 includes registered Holstein cattle, six prizes being offered in all classes. Prizes for bulls, three year olds and over range from \$15 to \$4 while the prizes on two year olds and one year olds range from \$12 to \$4. Bulls over six months and under one year are given prizes ranging from \$8 to \$1, while *[sic – while]* bulls under six months are awarded prizes from \$6 to \$1. The prize list for cows and heifers is worked out on the same scale, ranging from \$15 to \$3 for cows over three years, \$12 to \$2 on two year olds, \$10 to \$2 on one year olds, \$10 to \$2 on one year heifers while the prizes on heifers over and under six months is *[sic – are]* the same as offered in the bull class.

Prizes in Class 3, which takes in registered Guernsey cattle and in Class 4, including Jersey cattle are the same as in Class 2.

## **Grade Cattle Prizes**

Awards in the grade cattle classes are also uniform for Classes 5, 6 and 7, which include Holstein, Guernsey and Jersey cows. Three year olds and over draw the highest money, first prize being \$13 and ranging down to \$3 for sixth prize. Prizes for two year olds range from \$9 to \$3; one year old heifer calves, \$7 to \$1; heifer calves, six months to one year, \$6 to \$1 and heifers under six months, \$5 to \$1.

Purple ribbons are to be given in beef cattle classes to the grand champion bull and grand champion female which includes all ages and all breeds.

The Class 8 contest, which includes all breeds *[sic – breeds]*, has a prize list ranging

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – AGRICULTURE – DICKINSON COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

from \$8 to \$2 on bulls over three years old; and on bulls ranging from one to three years; \$5 to \$1 on bull calves under one year; \$8 to \$1 on cows over three years; \$5 to \$1 on heifers from one to three years, and \$3 to \$1 on heifers under one year.

The premium list has already gone to press and copies will be available some time *[sic – sometime]* after June 1. Although first prizes this year are not as large as in the past, the awards are higher, being more evenly divided and more are being made as an inducement to encourage a greater number of dairymen to exhibit their cattle.

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 31 [Saturday, May 16, 1925], page 1, column 6

## ATTENDANCE AT ROUND-UP SMALL

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### Weather Forces Gather- ing to Be Held At Norway School

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Because of the inclement weather the scene of the annual county round-up of boys' and girls' clubs was transferred today from the Norway fair grounds to the Norway high school.

In addition, the new feature of the gathering the proposed track and field meet, had to be cancelled.

The weather was also responsible for small attendance, only 100 children being present. **Loretto**, **Channing** and **Sagola** were unrepresented.

The morning was spent in playing games and at noon a picnic lunch was served in the high school gymnasium.

**Mrs. Ruth Kettunen**, girls' club leader in the upper peninsula, was to address the children this afternoon and winners in the various contests were also to be selected.

*The Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 34 [Wednesday, May 20, 1925], page 7, column 1

## NORWAY NEWS

## CAMP SITE IS BOUGHT BY CITY

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### Location Near Fair Grounds Purchased For \$1500

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The desire of the **Norway Welfare club** to have the city purchase the property west of the fair grounds for a combination tourists' camp site and municipal park has approached fulfillment.

Decision to buy the property for \$1,500 was reached by the city council at its regular meeting Monday night. The grounds are owned by **J.C. Knight**, attorney.

At the next meeting of the council, it was indicated yesterday, **Mayor Murray** will appoint a park commission to get the grounds in readiness for the summer season. It is understood, however, that the Welfare club will share part of the expense with the city in putting the grounds in condition.

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – AGRICULTURE – DICKINSON COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

The property will make an excellent camp site and park as it is almost level and has many shade trees. A small creek runs through the southwest part.

Electric lights will be installed on the grounds and other improvements added.

*The Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 37 [Saturday, May 23, 1925], page 2, column 3

## FELCH FIRST IN CLUB CONTESTS

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### Sewing Exhibits Will Also Be Entered at Chat- ham Round-up

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Felch took first honors in the county club contests held at the annual county round up at Norway, **Elvera Sandstrom** and **Alice Johnson** being awarded high honors in the third year sewing club work, it was announced today. The work of the girls will also be displayed at the round up at **Chatham** in August. The winner of this will receive a free trip to Detroit where the best work of the upper peninsula will be displayed at the state fair.

**Mera Wickman** and **Mildred William** were awarded high honors as the best judges of sewing. Both are from Metropolitan and their work received special comment from **Mrs. Ruth Kettunen**, club leader for the upper peninsula.

Members of the **Felch sewing club** are planning a large display at the county fair this year in first, second the third year work.

There are five members enrolled in first year sewing, seven in second year sewing and eight members in the third year sewing class. Each class completed three garments which will be placed on display. The work of the third year class is exceptionally good. Some of the garments to be featured are wool dresses which have been made over by the students.

*The Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 39 [Tuesday, May 26, 1925], page 7, column 1

## NORWAY NEWS

### STUNT FLYERS AGAIN FEATURE

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#### Secured For Second En- gagement on Norway Fair Program

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The **Federated Flyers**, who thrilled thousands of people at the Norway fair grounds last year, have again been secured as the leading entertainment attraction for the 1925 fair, it was announced today.

The flyers feature stunt airplane flying and auto polo and their death defying performance last year won the admiration of all who saw them.

**George Babcock**, who performed various acrobatic feats on a plane moving rapidly through the air, is still with the company and will give a similar program this year. In addition, a girl aerialist is also with the flyers although she is not reputed to be as spectacular as Babcock.

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – AGRICULTURE – DICKINSON COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

The fair this year will also include a big fireworks display.

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, \_\_\_\_\_ Year, Number \_\_\_\_\_ [Friday, June 26, 1925], page 9, column 2

## **NORWAY NEWS**

### **ENLARGING STAND AT FAIR GROUNDS**

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#### **Seating Capacity Will Be 1,000; Other Work Planned**

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Work on enlarging the grandstand at the fair grounds [*sic – fairgrounds*] has been started under the supervision of the fair officials.

The stand will be extended southward. It is estimated that approximately 1,000 persons will be accommodated after the addition is completed. Last year the stand had a seating capacity of only 600 and proved entirely too small.

As soon as the work is completed, construction will begin on a barn for the live stock [*sic – livestock*] exhibition. Lumber for this will be obtained by dismantling the auto shed.

It is also proposed to enlarge the main exhibition building but this will depend largely on the demand for space.

*The Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 18, Number 186 [Tuesday, November 22, 1938], page 2, column 2

### **GILL REPORTS ON IMPROVEMENTS AT NORWAY GROUNDS**

#### **Fair Plant Is Regarded As One of Best In U.P.**

Further improvements at the county fair grounds [*sic – fairgrounds*] in Norway, including road construction, new fencing and guard rails, cobblestone gutters, resurfacing of the race track and other work, have been completed, it was reported today by **Harold W. Gill**, fifth district WPA director.

The project included the building of 36,000 square yards of gravel roads, 660 lineal feet of new enclosing fence, 6,000 lineal feet of guard rails, 682 lineal feet of new cobble gutters, re-surfacing of the entire race track and the moving of 2,640 lineal feet of line fence.

In addition, 600 lineal feet of 12-inch sewer was laid, a retaining wall was constructed in the rear of the concession building and a parking area was constructed with a bank run gravel surface.

#### **Plant Ranks High**

**[need to finish copying this article]**

*The Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 126 [Tuesday, September 8, 1925], page 1, columns 4-5

### **New High Record For Closing Day of Fair**

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# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – AGRICULTURE – DICKINSON COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

## Total Attendance Less Than Last Year Due To Threatening Weather; Receipts Larger.

Although falling short of equaling the 1924 total attendance figures, the 1925 Dickinson county fair passed into history last evening after having set a new high mark for attendance on the final day.

Despite murky skies that constantly threatened rain, more than 14,000 persons passed through the gate yesterday, a completed tabulation revealed this morning. This is 1,000 more than attended the fair on the last day in 1924.

Attendance figures suffered this year on Saturday, when rain also threatened. Approximately 3,000 persons were at the grounds, making the total attendance for the 1925 fair about 18,000, including those who were present Friday, entry day.

### Receipts Are Larger.

But while total attendance was less this year, gate receipts were much large, due to an increase in price. Receipts yesterday were approximately \$7,000 and those on Saturday were \$1,300, a total of \$8,300. The receipts yesterday were larger than the combined receipts of the two banner days a year ago.

The fair was regarded as being fully the equal of the 1924 event. Because of the unfavorable weather, part of the aerial program of the **Federated Flyers** had to be eliminated, but other entertainment features made up for this loss.

Although a new grand stand [*sic – grandstand*] with a capacity of 1,000 persons was erected this year, there was still a shortage of seats. Both the new

stand and the old one, with a capacity of more than 500, were packed to capacity yesterday, and thousands of persons stood grouped along the race track fence or milled up and down the midway and through the exhibit buildings.

### Program Features.

Features of the program yesterday were the old car race, won by **Leonard Dishneau**, and the five-heat bareback horse race, which was taken by **Paul Hasel, Iron Mountain**, first, and **Steve Benzie, Norway**, second.

The two-mile motorcycle race was won by **Marenger**, of **Escanaba**, in the time of 2:01, and the three-mile event was won by **Art Spavin**, of the **Federated Flyer group**, in the time of 3:02.

Exhibits this year were more varied and extensive than ever before. Particularly in the cattle division was there a noticeable difference. In 1921 20 head of cattle were on exhibit as compared to 149 yesterday.

### Largest in Peninsula.

The exhibition of pure bred bulls was the largest ever had at a fair in the upper peninsula or northern Wisconsin. It included 43 animals, more than half the pure bred bulls in the county.

The grand champion for the best boys' and girls' calf was awarded to **Gordon Johnson**, 10, of **Metropolitan**, who exhibited a grade holstein [*sic – Holstein*] four months old. **Florence Rhodes**, the only girl exhibitor, won first place for her calf in a class of nine purebred holsteins [*sic – Holsteins*]. **Chester Girardi** was first in the guernsey [*sic – Guernsey*] class with an excellent registered bull calf. There were 27 boys' and girls' club calves on exhibit.

Other cattle awards included first place for the guernsey [*sic – Guernsey*] bull owned by **John Davidson, Metropolitan**; first place for the holstein [*sic – Holstein*]

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – AGRICULTURE – DICKINSON COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

bull owned by **Eric Johnson, Metropolitan**; first place to the guernsey *[sic – Guernsey]* cow owned by **Elof Bjorkman, Norway**, and first place for the holstein *[sic – Holstein]* cow owned by **John Guiliani, Vulcan**.

Because of lack of time the scheduled cattle parade was eliminated from the program yesterday afternoon.

Other exhibits included 244 birds in the poultry division, double the number of last year; 206 samples of apples, with the Duchess variety leading, and 72 samples of potatoes, with 13 exhibitors showing Rural New Yorkers.

The women's department at the fair was also filled with exhibits, but winners in the various divisions could not be announced today as the lists, which included the names of hundreds, had not been completely tabulated.

## **2,500 Cars at Grounds**

All roads in Dickinson county led yesterday to the fair grounds *[sic – fairgrounds]* and visitors came from within a radius of 100 miles. More than 2,500 cars were parked in the free parking space provided by the committee and traffic officers kept congestion at a minimum.

Congestion within the grounds, however, served to emphasize that larger buildings are needed in order to keep pace with the growing patronage. Factors militating against the attendance this year were the unfavorable weather conditions and the full time operation yesterday of the producing departments of the Ford Motor company, which prevented hundreds of families from attending.

One advertised feature of the event, the beauty contest, was cancelled when the small number of entries made it unfeasible to hold the contest.

## **Fireworks Display Is Liked**

The feature of the night entertainment program was the **fireworks displays** arranged by the **Thearle-Duffield company**, of **Chicago**, which had two representatives on the grounds.

Golden comet shells offered beautiful spectacles while the "Pageant of Progress" rockets also provided good entertainment. Radio fans acclaimed with interest and humor the new set pieces, "Radio Wheels." Centered in loop aerials on poles 20 feet apart, the wheels represented the first waves being caught with an accompanying shrill noise. This was amplified until something – depicting the operation of a radio set – went wrong and then the entire piece flared up in a blaze of fiery sparks. The "Whistling Coon" shells were also spectacular as was the "Star of the East."

Fair officials today were highly gratified over the success of the event. Arrangements this year were more extensive than ever before in anticipation of increased patronage and larger revenue. Although the total attendance was less, receipts were large, and fair officials felt that the new record made yesterday indicated that with favorable weather the fair would have gone far past the mark of last year, when total attendance was more than 23,000.

## **MENOMINEE RANGE** **AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY**

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume 1, Number 28 [Saturday, August 15, 1885], page 1, column 3

An **agricultural society** has been formed in this county, and the **first annual fair will be held in Menominee** on Sept. 21, 22 and 23. Suitable buildings, we

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

understand, are to be erected for the exhibits, and it is hoped to make it as big a success as possible.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume 1, Number 31 [Saturday, September 5, 1885], page 1, column 5

Our farmers should bear in mind that **Menominee county's first fair** will be held at Menominee the latter part of this month. The premiums offered aggregate nearly \$1000.

## DICKINSON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 18 [Thursday, September 29, 1904], page 5, column 1

## NORWAY NOTATIONS.

Several prominent citizens are talking seriously of **organizing a county fair**. It is claimed that Norway is the center of the farming district and the county fairgrounds should be located here. A movement is now on foot to **secure suitable grounds for exhibits and [a] race track**. Some of the finest specimens of fruits and vegetables to be found anywhere in the country are on exhibition in several business places and are a credit to the farming district in this vicinity.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 19 [Thursday, October 6, 1904], page 1, column 1

## AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

### Preliminary Organization Perfected at Meeting Last Night.

According to previous arrangements made by **Alvin Poe** with a number of representative citizens, a meeting was held at the council rooms last evening for the purpose of taking preliminary steps toward organizing an **Agricultural society with a view of holding an annual fair**.

A temporary organization was formed with **Mayor Cruse** as chairman, and **Alvin Poe**, secretary. **Alvin Poe**, **H.M. Pelham** and **John Daprato** were appointed a committee on permanent organization and by-laws.

It was decided to charge a membership fee of \$1.00 and all those present became members at once and paid in their fee.

As soon as the committee has time to confer with prominent citizens and farmers of the county, and prepare their report, another meeting will be called and a permanent organization perfected.

It is the intention of those interested to push the arrangements to an early completion, extend the organization throughout the entire county and have in generally known that there will be a county fair held next year, so that everyone will have ample time to prepare their exhibits.

The farming industry in the county is increasing rapidly and there is no doubt that the fair will prove a success.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 21 [sic] [Thursday, October 13, 1904], page 1, column 4

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – AGRICULTURE – DICKINSON COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

## AN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

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### Canvass in Hand Assures the Success of An Organization.

Since the preliminary meeting held last week, for the purpose of starting the organization of the **Dickinson County Agricultural association**, a partial canvass has been made to secure the names of those who are interested in the welfare of the county and who were willing to contribute a dollar toward organizing the association.

**Alvin Poe** and others, who have the matter in hand, are meeting with abundant success and up to the present time have over two hundred pledged to full membership. There is no doubt that they will secure at least one thousand subscribers as soon as they have had time to canvass the entire county.

This is a matter that every resident of the county should be interested in, as the agricultural industries are increasing from year to year, and in no way can they be better advanced than by holding an **annual fair** and giving the farmers, gardeners, stockraisers [*sic – stock raisers*] and everyone else that is interested a chance to compete for prizes.

The matter has gone far enough now to insure success and every citizen in the county should lend his name and influence to help it along.

*The Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 24 [Thursday, November 3, 1904], page 1, column 5

## Agricultural Society.

A meeting of the **Dickinson County Agricultural society** will be held at the courthouse this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock for the purpose of receiving and acting upon the report of the committee on permanent organization and by-laws. **Leo M. Geismer**, superintendent of the **Michigan experimental farm at Chatham, Alger county**, and secretary of the **Upper Peninsula Agricultural society**, will be present and address the meeting upon the subject of agricultural interests of the county. Every member is earnestly requested to be present and bring with him such friends as are interested in the subject of agriculture and the early development of our resources.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 25 [Thursday, November 10, 1904], page 2, columns 1-3

## SUCCESS ASSURED

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**DICKINSON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL  
SOCIETY WAS ORGANIZED WITH  
A STRONG MEMBERSHIP.**

## PAINT BRIGHT PICTURE

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**Good Land for 4,840 Farms in Dickinson County With a Producing Capacity of \$2,255,500 – Authority Mr. Geismer.**

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – AGRICULTURE – DICKINSON COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

The meeting held in the court-house [*sic* – *courthouse*] last Thursday afternoon for the purpose of perfecting the **organization of an agricultural society** was well attended, many practical farmers being present.

**Messrs. Poe, Pelham and Daprato**, the committee on permanent organization and by-laws, appointed at the preliminary meeting, submitted their report and it was adopted. The report recommended:

That the organization be known as the **Dickinson County Agricultural society**.

That the society be incorporated under the provisions of act No. 171 of the laws of Michigan for the year 1903 entitled, “An act for the incorporation of associations not for pecuniary benefit.”

That the board of directors consist of eighteen members – the first six selected to hold office for one year, the second six for two years, and the third six for three years.

That the first meeting of the board of directors be held on Monday, the 21st, at the time and in connection with the sessions of the **Dickinson County Farmers’ Institute**, to be held on that date.

That the term of incorporation be for a period of thirty years.

That the directors, at this meeting[, ] shall elect a president, secretary and treasurer.

That the annual membership dues to be fixed at one dollar.

That the **annual fair** and general exhibition of agricultural, horticultural products and implements, housewifery, needle and fancy work, and such other articles as the board may determine, be held.

That the president shall appoint such officers and committees for carrying on the work as the board of directors may deem necessary.

That each committee of judges shall consist of three persons to be appointed by the directors.

That the president shall appoint the superintendent for each department.

The first board of directors is decidedly representative, each township and city being represented, and embraces our most substantial citizens. With such a board the society is certain to be a great success. Following are the members:

**Breen township – Peter J. Anderson, of Hardwood.**

**Breitung township – John L. Buell, of Quinnesec, Frank Kingsford, of Iron Mountain.**

**Felch township – John J[.] Ovist, of Metropolitan.**

**Norway township – William Kelly, Fred Rodgers, Charles Alberts [*sic* – *Albert*].**

**Sagola township – John O’Callaghan, of Sagola.**

**Waucedah township – Samuel H. Bridges.**

**Norway city – John Perkins, Joseph H. Bergeron and Charles Morisini.**

**Iron Mountain – John T. Jones, Edward Harvey, O.C. Davidson, Elwin F. Brown, John Daprato and Alvin Poe.**

**Leo M. Geismer**, superintendent of the state experimental farm at **Chatham, Alger county**, and secretary of the **Upper Peninsula Agricultural association**, was in attendance at the meeting and delivered a most interesting and instructive address. It is certain that no one possesses a greater fund of information relative to agricultural possibilities of the peninsula than Mr. Geismer. He has made a study of our soils, and the crops adapted thereto, and when he states that the upper peninsula has a great agriculture future it is no idle talk – it is a conclusion reached after much

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*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

experimenting and study. In the course of his remarks Mr. Geismer said:

“It is a remarkable occurrence [*sic – occurrence*] that, at such a time as this, I should be called upon to address the leading business men [*sic – businessmen*] of one of the leading cities in the best portion of the state upon the subject of agriculture, especially when considering that this meeting is held for the purpose of organizing an agricultural society in a county which is generally known for its great wealth in iron ore.

“A few years ago, some of the most optimistic [*sic – optimistic*] among us, [*sic*] wished, rather than anticipated, that such a meeting might be possible at this time, yet none of us would have been willing to admit that the business men [*sic – businessmen*] of Dickinson county would consent to discuss agricultural development during a week in which heretofore, the salvation of the country has been everybody’s main concern.

“The occasion is auspicious therefore in more than one way. It gives proof of a proper spirit of patriotism, for the most commendable of all patriotic impulses is that which strives for the comforts and beautifies of the home and for the promoting and developing of the resources of the more immediate neighborhood.

“On the other hand, it gives proof of a greater confidence in the mature judgment of a progressive people, whose con **[need to finish copying this column]** longer by brass bands, torchlight processions and campaign buttons.

“Evidently you have concluded that that prosperity of the past few years constitutes an ample campaign document, and as the future is full of still greater hopes, you see no further reason for the erstwhile political

excitement, much less for political animosities.

“The recent strikes and labor disturbances have ceased to obscure the commercial sky and the atmosphere is cleared more than during any other presidential election.

“The shortage of the wheat crop is no longer a scare-crow [*sic – scarecrow*], for while the crop may be short one hundred millions of bushels, the higher price and greater yield of other crops will give to that greatest portion of our wealth producing population more money than ever before to our into the channels of trade, for taking the leading grain crops, as now officially recorded, adding to it just one other principal crop – the potato crop – and figuring the total value at present market prices, and I find that the market value of such crops represents in round figures three thousand millions of dollars for 1902, and three thousand nine hundred millions of dollars for 1903, and three thousand two hundred million dollars for 1904.

“Thus the increased value alone of less than one half of this year’s farm products is worth more than the entire output of all the gold and silver mines of the whole country, and with the assurance before us we may well dismiss any thought of future hard times.

“Furthermore, our exports during the first nine months of the present year are practically as large as those of last year. Our imports are less by several millions of dollars, and as during these nine months we have already exported \$21,000,000 more than we imported, we are assured of a greater money circulation; hence a still greater volume of business in the immediate future.

“Another assurance of continued prosperity is the fact that “call money” in

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – AGRICULTURE – DICKINSON COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

New York has generally ruled under two per cent last month, something which has not happened during October for a good many years, while "time money," for loans extending over the year have *[sic – has]*, probably for the first time in October, been as low as three and a half per cent.

"Occuring *[sic – Occurring]* as it did, at a time of a year when most, or all, available money is needed for the moving of farm crops, it shows that there is a great surplus of money with few borrowers, and that the end of the crop moving season will see an abundance of money well calculated to embarrass the bankers.

"The situation warrants the conclusion that more money than ever will in the immediate future be available for new enterprises and developments." *[sic]*

"The soil is a factory, not a mine, said one of the leading agriculturists, and considering the stupendous figures which represent the yearly value of the yearly output of thses *[sic – these]* kind of American factories, it is no wonder that the truth of his axiom has been so well appreciated lately by the business men *[sic – businessmen]* of some of the upper peninsula counties, where, during a little over a year ago, agricultural societies have either been organized or are just now in process of organization.

"That these organizations have been perfected lately in such mining counties as Houghton, Dickinson and Ontonagon is highly gratifying and speaks well for the enterprise and foresight of the business men *[sic – businessmen]*, especially of such, who, like ourselves, can appreciate the importance of agricultural development fully as much as the importance of a political contest. I congratulate you. Stand pat, and Dickinson county will get its full share of the incoming prosperity.

"You realize that the welfare of every community is based upon the amount of money in circulation, whether his *[sic – this]* be derived from the mine, the factory or the farm. You realize, also, that no industry can possibly be as staple and as permanent as the farming industry, hence agricultural development means the permanent welfare of the community; and it may be well to consider its importance in this, one of the smaller upper peninsula counties, yet, nevertheless, as large as two-fifths of one of our eastern states.

"Leaving out townsites *[sic – town sites]* and government lands no subject to taxation, there are 475,000 acres of land assessed in Dickinson county. Of that total, less than one per cent, or 4,647 acres, are in improved farming lands, divided among ninety-five farms.

"Figuring at present market prices, the grain, hay, potato and fruit crops of these farms during the past year represents a value of \$34,000, or \$465 per farm. We may take this as representing the net profit, ort he *[sic – or the]* amount put in circulation for improvements and other purposes by your farmers, though the actual amount is no doubt much larger, for these figures do not include the value of barley, peas, millet, strawberries or other small fruit, nor of any vegetables or root crops, outside of potatoes. Nor do they include the value of the products form dairy or poultry farms, nor from any other livestock.

"This rather small farm average is due to the fact that one-third of the acreage is in hay, and it is certain that with more progressive methods, this average could be easily doubled. Let us take it, however, as the basis for estimating the value of Dickinson county's farm returns when fully developed, for it will show us the *[need to finish copying this column]* industry as a

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – AGRICULTURE – DICKINSON COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

factor in contributing to the stability of your community.

“Leaving out of consideration the thousands of acres of land still unassessed, and deducting ten per cent from the remainder as lands not available for agricultural purposes, there will still be enough left to provide Dickinson county with 4,840 farms, assuming each to be as large as the average farm in the state. This would mean an additional population of nearly forty per cent larger than the entire present population of your whole county, and population means wealth, since everybody except the unfortunate, the idle, or the criminal is a wealth producer.

“At the low average net returns per farm, as heretofore given, the yearly amount which would then be circulated among the business men [*sic – businessmen*] by the farmers of your county would exceed \$2,255,500 or, instead of \$34,000, seventy times more than at present. As already pointed out, this would scarcely represent one-half of the actual amount and probably less than one-third.

“The figures are sufficiently important, however, to convince you that agricultural development deserves your best efforts and your unstinted patronage.”

*Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 27 [Thursday, November 24, 1904], page 1, column 5*

## A SUCCESSFUL GATHERING.

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**William S. Laing**; vice-president, **John O’Callaghan**; secretary and treasurer, **Alvin Poe**.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 28 [Thursday, December 1, 1904], page 4, column 2

## BRIEF CITY NEWSITES.

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At a meeting held in Norway last Thursday it was decided to circulate a petition addressed to the directors of the **Dickinson County Agricultural society** requesting that **Norway be designated as the place for holding the fairs**. “Farmer” **Robert E. Henderson** was chairman of the meeting. Our Norway neighbors are taking great interest in the agricultural society – since the success of the movement was assured. Prior to that, however, but mighty little interest was evidenced by our neighbors. Better late than not at all, however. But, on the side, wouldn’t it be a good scheme for some of the fellows who are urging the holding of ALL the fairs at Norway, to join the society before attempting to dictate its management? It would be good taste, to say the least.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 14, Number 39 [Thursday, February 17, 1910], page 7, column 3

## Agricultural Society.

A very satisfactory meeting of the board of directors of the **Dickinson County–Menominee Range Agricultural society** was held in the council chambers Thursday evening. Among other matters, a

committee composed of Messrs. **Wm. Kelly**, **A.W. Thompson** and **E.F. Brown**, the latter of Iron Mountain, was selected to look over the grounds acquired [*sic – acquired*] by the society and are asked to submit plans for the beautifying of the park, the **making of a race track** and the location of the several buildings. The premium list this year will as far as known have prizes aggregating \$500, and \$100 of this sum will be for the ladies’ department, which all will remember, was one of the best cards last year. The gentlemen on this committee are **Messrs. M. St. Peter**, **Charles Albert**, **Jos. Milks**, **J.J. Eskill** and **Wm. Phillips**, and the ladies who are asked to lend assistance in this capacity are **Mesdames R.C. Flannigan**, **James O’Callaghan** and **Wm. Kelly**, who will secure the operation of two others. Membership tickets in the association are now on sale for the small sum of \$1 and the quicker they go, the better all of us will like it. – Current.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 3 [Thursday, June 9, 1910], page 5, columns 2-3

## NORWAY NEWS NUGGETS

**P.E. Cootware**, of this city, **A.W. Thompson**, of **Vulcan**, and **John E. Quarnstrom**, of **Iron Mountain**, made a trip around the county in Mr. Thompson’s auto last week in the interest of the **Dickinson County Agricultural society** and secured pledges for \$2,400 worth of stock on the trip. Thompson and Cootware afterwards secured pledges for \$1,200 more. The total amount has since been raised to \$5,600, which is more than the estimated cost of **putting the fair grounds**

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – AGRICULTURE – DICKINSON COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

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and race track in shape for the annual fair.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 6 [Thursday, June 30, 1910], page 5, column 3

## NORWAY NEWS NUGGETS

Work on the new race track and fair grounds is progressing finely under the supervision of **Alex LeBlanc**. The grading of the track is well under way [*sic – underway*] and the balance of the grounds have [*sic – has*] been cleared of underbrush. The base ball [*sic – baseball*] park has been leveled up and will soon be ready for the opening game, which will be played with the Niagara team. The fair grounds are located about a half mile south of the city limits and a good macadamized road is to be built from the city to the grounds.

## DICKINSON COUNTY GRANGES

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 14, Number 10 [Thursday, July 29, 1909], page 1, column 2

## WANT TO BE A GRANGER

**Dickinson Farmers Will Have  
Chance – Two Lodges Are  
Organized.**

State Deputy **John Wilde** has begun the organization of granges in Dickinson

county, and is in hopes of forming lodges in every township.

The first lodge was organized in **Breen township**, at a meeting held at **Foster City**. At the first meeting it was deemed best not to elect permanent officers. **Edward Ketchum** was elected temporary master and **John Asp** temporary secretary. The next meeting will be held at Foster City on Tuesday evening, August 10th, at which time a large attendance is assured and a permanent organization will be perfected.

On Saturday evening last a grange was organized at **Metropolitan** with the following officers:

Master – **Andrew Rian**.

Overseer – **John Blomquist**.

Lecturer – **Jonas Blomquist**.

Steward – **John M. Wickman**.

Assistant Steward – **Herman Gustafson**.

Lady Assistant Steward – **Anna Rian**.

Chaplain – **Leander Nylund**.

Treasurer – **Mat Willman**.

Secretary – **Alfred Anderson**.

Ceres – **Anna Nylund**.

Pomona – **Mary Blomquist**.

Flora – **Gustafoa Anderson**.

The next meeting of the **Metropolitan Grange** will be Wednesday evening, Aug. 11th.

Deputy **Wilde** has organized granges in nearly every township in Schoolcraft, Chippewa, Delta and Mackinac counties. He will soon extend his work in Dickinson county to **Waucedah, Norway and Sagola townships**, and his canvass is certain to meet with success.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 21 [Thursday, October 13, 1910], page 5, column 3

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – AGRICULTURE – DICKINSON COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

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## NORWAY NEWS NUGGETS.

A county convention of Granges of Dickinson was called for Saturday, 1st inst. [of this month], to be held at the city hall. Only the **Norway and Waucedah granges** were represented. The object of the convention was to elect delegates to the State Grange and Mr. and Mrs. A.W. Thompson were elected as the two delegates from Dickinson county.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 16, Number 6 [Thursday, June 29, 1911], page 1, column 4

## COUNTY GRANGE FORMED.

### **Arthur W. Thompson, of Vulcan, is Elected to Office of Master.**

The meeting of the several Dickinson county granges held at Vulcan last Tuesday was well attended. Addresses were delivered by Grand Master Hull and a number of other visitors. At the conclusion the Dickinson County Pomona Grange was organized with the following officers:

Master – **A.W. Thompson**, Vulcan.

Secretary – **W.M. Quinlan**, Powers.

Treasurer – **Joseph Paul**, Waucedah.

Lecturer – **Mrs. B.R. Miller**, Vulcan.

Overseer – **T.E. Dillon**, Waucedah.

Steward – **Carl Carlson**, Felch.

Assistant Steward – **Edward London**, Pine Creek.

Lady Assistant Steward – **Ida Haferkorn**, Pine Creek.

Chaplain – **Ruth Haferkorn**, Pine Creek.

Gate Keeper – **Joseph Haferkorn**, Pine Creek.

Pomona – **Grace Stone**, Waucedah.

Ceres – **Edwilda Asselin**, Norway.

Flora – **Amanda Roudeau [sic – Rondeau]**, State Road.

Executive Committee – One year, **Robert Barker**, State Road; two years, **Thomas E. Dillon**, Waucedah; three years, **Fred Paul**, Pine Creek.

The grange has a charter membership of forty-three.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 19, Number 45 [Thursday, March 25, 1915], page 4, column 2

## NEWS IN PARAGRAPHS.

The meeting held at the court-house last Thursday for the purpose of considering the matter of **organizing a grange** was a success. A preliminary organization was perfected with **Clinton Ballard** as secretary.

## STATE FARM BUREAU

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 25, Number 24 [Thursday, October 28, 1920], page 1, column 5

## State Farm Bureau.

The **Dickinson county branch of the State Farm Bureau** will be organized at a meeting to be held at the courthouse tomorrow [sic – tomorrow] – Friday – afternoon[.] During the week units have organized at **Felch, Ralph, Waucedah, Foster City, Vulcan, Hardwood, Sagola** and **Iron Mountain**. These units will send

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – AGRICULTURE – DICKINSON COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

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delegates to the Iron Mountain convention. **County Agriculturist Miller** says that the county branch will have a membership of nearly 400, but few farmers declining to join the organization.

## FARMERS' INSTITUTE

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 27 [Thursday, November 24, 1904], page 1, column 5

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*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 25 [Thursday, November 10, 1910], page 1, column 4

### Farmers' Institute.

The **farmers' institute at the court-house** [*sic – court house*] to-day [*sic – today*] should be largely attended. There [*sic – Three*] sessions will be held – morning, afternoon and evening. The lecturers – **Messrs. Taylor and Geismer** – are experts in matters agricultural and their addresses will be instructive and helpful. The farmers in the vicinity cannot afford to miss the sessions and the people in general will profit by attending.