

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY - BREITUNG TOWNSHIP - QUINNESEC NOTES – JOHN ALQUIST

[Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

[NOTE: John Alquist, a Quinnesec native, has spent most of his life gathering information about Quinnesec, and is the author of the Quinnesec Centennial Book. These are notes he gathered over the years and submitted for inclusion in this archive in 2012.]

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

1. The Mining Journal, Marquette, Saturday, July 12, 1879

QUINNESEC–

The fourth **[Fourth of July, 1879]** passed off very quietly here. A number of our people went to Escanaba to attend the celebration there, and the only thing in the way of celebration which occurred at home was two picnics, one at **Little Fumee Falls** by the **Catholic society**, and the other south of the railroad track by a few of the villagers. Both were very enjoyable affairs, the one by the Catholic society netting them something over \$75.00 clear of expense. But little drunkenness was visible, though of course some of it had to be indulged in, as well as a little fighting, both of which are very necessary adjuncts of the fourth of July.

2. Quinnesec, Michigan, Mining Accident – March 1897

THREE MEN BLOWN TO ATOMS

Iron Mountain, Mich., March 4 – Three men were blown to atoms by the discharge of a quantity of dynamite last night in the **Cundy mine**, at Quinnesec. The dead are: **BENJAMIN RICHARDS. RICHARD LUKE. THOMAS JEWETT.** The latter was married. It is customary

to make the blasts while the men are at supper, the cartridges being discharged from the surface by an electric battery. Last night the young man who had the battery work in charge, supposing the men had left the mine as usual, touched the button with fatal results.

The News Frederick Maryland 1897-03-06

3. From the **Quinnesec Mine** there was a set of tracks that joined up with the **Chicago & Northwestern** tracks. The track bed for it I have walked many times and its path (I think) can still be seen. The track went east down the hill from the mine then after it got to where the Lake Antoine road is now it started to turn southeast to the **Chicago & Northwestern** tracks. The track went through what is now a yard (now like a curving driveway) and then crossed **U.S. 2** just below the top of the hill leaving Quinnesec going southeast to the **Chicago & Northwestern** tracks. Years ago you could still see where they joined up. There is a cut in the bank between **U.S. 2** and the **Chicago & Northwestern** tracks which can still be seen. This cut is at the state sign for **Fumee Park**. It was all downhill so loaded cars could be set free to go down from the mine. There was a upgrade before the cut to slow the cars before they got to the **Chicago & Northwestern** tracks.

One time a switchman forgot to change the switch and a train going west ended up part way to the mine. I do not know how they took the ore out of the mine cars and loaded it into regular ore cars. When the **Wisconsin & Michigan Railroad** came in the spur from the mine was connected to it. The switch

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- for it was behind the **Methodist Church**. I do not know if then the line to the **Chicago & Northwestern** was removed or both were used.
4. A set of tracks went east from the **Vivian Mine** and then turned northeast to the east end of the **Quinnesec Mine** crossing a track from that mine continuing northeast from the **Quinnesec Mine** and joining the **Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad** tracks going north that ran along the present **Lake Antoine Road**. These track beds at one time were easily seen along the side of the **Lake Antoine Road**. Now I don't think you can see them.
 5. The **Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul** tracks running along the **Lake Antoine Road** going south made a big curve to the east to go across the bridge at **Fumee Falls**. This track bed used to be quite visible.
 6. Another set of tracks was from the **Cundy Mine** to the **Chicago & Northwestern** tracks. This track went southwest from the mine. I still remember the track bed about where it crossed **U.S. 2**. The area has changed quite a bit since I remember the tracks. At one time before they made the five-lane highway the tracks were still in the ground crossing the highway. The foundations for the mine buildings used to be quite easily seen when I grew up.
 7. Another mine shaft and there still are (I think) foundations for it in the east corner of the **Fox Ranch Road** and **U.S. 2**. This was also started by a **McKenna**.
 8. When the five-lane highway was built the center lane had big signs over the highway at various locations stating "CENTER LANE FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES ONLY". Now it is used for left turns.
 9. There was a **trail used by the Indians** that came from somewhere north of **Fumee Lake** to the **Menominee River**. This trail was walked by many villagers 60 years ago or so but now can no longer be seen. I cannot remember exactly where it was as the land has changed so much. I think it crossed **U.S. 2** about where the west high voltage line crosses just east of **Fumee Park**. At this location there is the foundations remaining of a power sub-station.
 10. A few years ago in the 1990's there was a **cave-in**. This occurred in the block north of **Nepper's Auto** north of **Brule Street** and between **Quinnesec Avenue** and **Lake Avenue**. This cave-in was very large and deep. There was rubble in the bottom. An old map showed a mine shaft at this location and also there was one at the north end of **Quinnesec Avenue**.
 11. The **road going north from Quinnesec** used to be from **Lake Avenue** and not from **Quinnesec Avenue** like it is now.
 12. **Fox Range Road** was a **railroad spur of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad**. This track ran north from the main line then to the south side of **Fumee Lake** thence continued on top the north side of **Lake Antoine**. Then the track continued on joining the main line at the west end of **Lake Antoine** and then across the **Menominee River**.

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13. Years ago a **whale was on display on a railroad car in Iron Mountain**. I still remember seeing it.
14. One year the **Barnum and Bailey Circus train** came through Quinnesec on its way to **Iron Mountain**. This was a long train and really something to see with all the circus wagons on railroad cars.
15. **Indians** used to be always looking in windows. My grandfather who was in **Elmwood** (near **Iron River**) building a new railroad track often saw **Indians** looking in his windows. My father-in-law, whose farm was on an **Indian trail in Aurora**, often saw **Indians** looking in his windows. He never could get outside fast enough to catch them.
16. A good book on the geology of this region is: MEMOMINEE IRON-BEARING DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN by WILLIAM SHIRLEY BAYLEY.
17. Two web sites with pictures of the mining shafts of the Upper Peninsula are:
<www.miningartifacts.org/michigan-iron-mines.html>
<www.mq.mtu.edu/shaft2.htm>
18. **John L. Buell's home was across the tracks from the Catholic Church**. When **Mrs. Buell** died her relations from Indiana came up and emptied the house. They had a large bonfire in back and burned everything they could. They had no interest in saving manuscripts or pictures. A few pictures and **John Buell's dairy** were given previously to **Irene Mingesz** who was a housekeeper for the **Buells**.
19. In the early days of Quinnesec there was a **photographer named ROSE** who took a lot of pictures of the villagers and village. It is unknown where all these pictures may be. I have a few old pictures of the village. They were originally owned by **Andrew Bryngelson**, a pioneer of Quinnesec. His large two story house at the corner of **Lake Avenue** and **U.S. 2** was built in 1895 at the total cost including basement of \$500.00 and is still being lived in.
20. At the corner of **Cliff Street** and **River Street** there is a large two story home. This was a **farm house** as the entire area south of River Street was farmland. It was fenced in. There was a windmill located about the center and 50 west of the west line of Lot 2 of Riverview Gardens Subdivision. The house directly to the west of the farmhouse on **River Street** was the first house built in this subdivision.
21. The section boss (**August Alquist**) who lived in the house by the tracks had a box car on the tracks handy whenever there was a danger from fire that would be loaded and ready to go. A shed for the small hand powered and motorized railroad cars was across the tracks from the house. A boxcar without wheels became a storage building and ice house on the property.
22. **The only road to Niagara was over a bridge at the end of Quinnesec Avenue**. When across the bridge on the Wisconsin side the road turned west and followed the river for a ways before going south into Niagara. There was also a tunnel under the river going from the mill to the log yard in Quinnesec. The road going from the

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bridge into Quinnesec was so steep that **Model T's** were put into reverse to go up the hill as reverse was a lower gear. On both sides of the river the cement pillars for this bridge still exist. At one time the pillars were encased in steel which were removed in the 1940's for scrap metal.

23. **A new bridge was built further west in 1929 to replace the original bridge to Niagara.** This bridge was then removed in 2011 and a new span was opened the beginning of 2012.

24. On the east side of the **Kimberly Clark log yard south of Quinnesec** there was a fire tower which overlooked the log yard and the Quinnesec plains. This was manned in the summer during dry spells.

25. **A racetrack was built between Quinnesec Avenue and Lake Avenue south of River Street.** Lake Avenue from **River Street** turned southeast before turning south again so the area was wider than it is now. The area was designated a park in 1882. The racetrack was visible and used by snowmobiles up until the area was subdivided and homes built.

26. An early map has **Fumee Creek** listed as **Little Fumee Creek.**

27. **The original railroad bridge over Fumee Creek was replaced with a new stone and cement bridge.** The date **1888** is in large numerals located near the top and on the south side of the new bridge which is still in use.

28. **When the Gulf Oil Company plant exploded on July 22, 1974, the blast broke and cracked windows in**

Quinnesec and was felt as far away as Kingsford. Every window in the **Norway City Hall** was blown out. Broken windows were also reported in **Iron Mountain** and at the **paper mill in Niagara.** **James Olson**, a volunteer fireman from Quinnesec, was approaching the plant when there was an explosion that that hurled a 450-pound truck axel onto the car in which he was a passenger. He died at the hospital of skull fractures. The fire hall in Quinnesec has a plaque dedicating the hall to him.

29. **U.S. 2** was originally **Michigan Highway 12.** A good part of **Highway 12** was a little north of the present **U.S. 2.** It is especially visible between **Spalding** and **Esanaba** on the north side of **U.S. 2.**

30. **The Pioneer School was moved from its original location up to a location on the south side of Menominee Street towards the cemetery. It was moved because of the Cundy Mine opening up in close proximity to the school.**

31. In 1924-1925 there were three historic buildings that burned. These were the **Opera House**, the **Pioneer School**, and **John McKenna's farmhouse.**

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Year _____, Number _____ [Friday, May 23, 1924], page 7, column 4

Quinnesec

SCHOOL BURNS

QUINNESEC –

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One of Quinnesec's oldest land marks [*sic – landmarks*] passed into ashes when the old Quinnesec frame school caught fire and burned to the ground. The origin of the fire is unknown. The building had been condemned for a few years for school purposes and had been used as a warehouse.

[NOTE: Buell's Opera House burned August 23, 1925.]

32. The **Wisconsin & Michigan Railroad Depot** which was located on the east side of **Lake Avenue** south of the **Wisconsin & Michigan Railroad** track not quite a block north of **Paint Street (U.S. 2)** was moved to **Niagara, Wisconsin**, and is now the **American Legion Hall** on the south side of the road to the cemetery in Niagara.
33. The **town hall, jail, and fire hall** were located on the west side of **Lake Avenue** north of the **Wisconsin & Michigan Railroad** track and south of **Brule Street**.
34. Sometime in the 1940's **Division Street** was extended south of **Lincoln Street** to meet up with **River Street**.
35. The **dump** was at the west end of **Clark Street** past **Division Street**. This was sometimes burned twice in a year. It remained the local dump until the new one was built on the **Breitung Cutoff Road**.
36. **Garbage** was picked up twice a year by **Breitung Township** using a dump truck. Garbage was placed on the ground in alleys. Food wastes were buried in the ground. Burnable items went to heat the houses. Metal, cans, etc., stayed above ground.
37. In the 1960's **Breitung Township** owned a **trailer with a large tank with a big hand pump** mounted on it which anyone could borrow to **pump out their septic system**. After filling the tank it was hauled to the local dump and backed up to the hill overlooking the river and the valve then opened. When empty, the trailer with the tank then went back to get another load. The tank had to be rinsed out before returning it to the town hall.
38. South of **Marpe Street** between **Cox Street** and **Mellen Street** there was a **large mink farm**. It took a lot of pelts to make a fur coat. The mink pens could be smelled a long ways away.
39. What we called the **eight o'clock train** arrived here at eight in the evening from **Iron Mountain**. It carried the **mail to Quinnesec**. Normally, when the train stopped for passengers, the bag of mail would be dropped off and mail picked up for delivery elsewhere. If there was no passengers the bag of mail for Quinnesec would be thrown off of the train and the mail going out was picked up by a hook on the train. The bag to be picked up was hanging on a pole from the depot near the tracks.
40. **There was a track on each side of the depot**. The main line was on the north side of the depot. The depot was located off from **Quinnesec Avenue** between **Quinnesec Avenue** and **Lake Avenue**. There were several hand-pulled wagons to handle freight at the

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depot. Going west from **Quinnesec Avenue** there is a set of tracks on each side of the main line. These are used for switching cars between trains. A **warehouse** for the railroad is still standing and in use by a private party. This warehouse had several doors opening towards the track. When the railroad only went as far as Quinnesec a **roundhouse** was located here.

41. A signal for all children in the village to go home was when the **Ford Plant whistle** in Kingsford blew at 9:00 p.m..
42. **There was a loud siren on top of the town hall to signal when there was a fire.** Every few blocks in the village had a pushbutton installed on light poles that, when pressed, would ring this siren. This would call everyone to come to help fight a fire.
43. **The only fire truck in the village was the 1931 Model A.** This was kept in what is now the lunch room on the west side of the town hall. There were a lot of water cans with a spray nozzle that was available that firemen could carry on their backs to fight a fire. These cans could be borrowed by anyone wishing to burn the fields by their home.
44. The **post office** was originally in the middle of the block on the west side of **Quinnesec Avenue** between **Paint Street (U.S. 2)** and **Pine Street**. When this building burned in the fire of 1906 the building was rebuilt and again the post office was located there. Later, when this building was torn down, the post office was moved into a building adjoining the south side of **Pancheri's store**. Later it was moved
- into the **depot**. When the depot was torn down a new post office building was built at the original location of the post office.
45. Where the **Little League baseball field** is at the corner of **Cliff Street** and **Lincoln Street** there was a **skating rink**. On the north side of the rink there was a small shed heated by a barrel stove at the west end so people could warm up and put on their skates. Many kids put on their skates at home and skated to the rink on the roads which were not salted or sanded.
46. Along the north side of **River Street** a **snow fence** would be installed from the tennis court west every fall and taken down in the spring by **Dickinson County** to keep the snow off the road. Later, when the **school forest of pines** grew up, a fence was no longer put up.
47. In the basement of the **Quinnesec High School** there was a **firing range**. This ran near the center of the school from east to west. The **Michigan State Police** also used this range.
48. **The new town hall was built in 1933 at the location of the Garfield School.** The basement of the school became the basement for the town hall.
49. The **full-size baseball field on Lincoln Street** and west of the school forest was built in the 1940's by a group of volunteers.
50. **The sidewalks in town were built by the WPA in the 1930's.**
51. The **Quinnesec High School** was the area's **disaster and air raid shelter**. During World War II air raid wardens

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would take their flashlights and hard hats and patrol the streets to insure no lights were on during a alert.

52. The **speed limit during World War II was 35 miles per hour** to conserve on gas. Many items were rationed.
53. A **pump house for the water supply** was built of the same material as the present town hall. This was on **River Street** between **Quinnesec Avenue** and **Lake Avenue**. The pump house was later torn down.
54. **During the 1940's an airport was built on the Quinnesec Plains.** This airport had the longest runway in the Upper Peninsula. Many GI's took **pilot's training** under the GI Bill. They were interesting to watch from Quinnesec practicing stalling the planes and then diving down to restart the engines. These were all small planes like the **Piper Cub**. Some were bi-planes. Later this area became a large potato field with the hangers being used to store potatoes. Then later the paper mill was built.
55. **Fumee Lake was the playground and swimming spot for the Quinnesec youth for many years.** The Boy Scouts used to have overnight camping on the shore of the north side of the lake. Merit badges were earned on its shores. On the south side of the lake a raft was built and used for swimming. Access to the lake was usually by the trail up by Fumee Falls park. On the Lake Antoine road there was an entry to the old railroad bed which was used to travel by car down the railroad grade, through a field, and then close to the south shore of the lake. Many times the canoe was put on the car and then
56. At the west end of **Fumee Lake** there was a **spring** which supplied a **continuous flow of good drinking water**. A pipe was driven into the ground to make it easier to drink from it.
57. **At the top of Fumee Falls there were two ponds.** The boys claimed one and the girls the other for swimming and cooling off in the summer.
58. On the north side of **Menominee Street** near the end of **Bluff Street** there was a large building occupied by the **Sweeney Lumber Company**. The citizens of Quinnesec bought their lumber and building supplies there.
59. The **Lake Antoine-Quinnesec Road** for many years was only a narrow gravel road. We used to take our bicycles on this road to Lake Antoine to swim and many times take a bar of soap to wash up. The water was warmer than at the house for this purpose.
60. At the north end of **Quinnesec Avenue** on its west side there was a **spring** which flowed continuously since **John Buell** stopped there in 1871 before discovering ore over the hill. The water from this spring used to flow down the street and go over the highway at the intersection of **U.S. 2** and **Quinnesec Avenue**. Many cars going too fast used to hydroplane and end up in the ditch in front of the motel. Finally the state/county plugged this spring to prevent its water from going over the highway.

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HISTORY SINCE 1996

GENERAL DATA

1. **Nepper's Body Shop** was originally built as **Freeman's Buick and Opel** in about 1960. It had been Nepper's since 1968. In 1969 **Nepper's** became a Fiat dealer until 1982. There were originally gas pumps in front. Two gas and one diesel fuel tanks were buried. One gas tank was removed early after the pumps were removed and the others were removed in 1993.
2. The **old tin building** across from **Bryngelson's** was built by **Andrew Bryngelson** for a **saloon**. Two families lived upstairs. One was **Art Johnson** and the other was a **Caine**. **The area of the building where the saloon was located was later used for the early grades of school when the Garfield School became crowded because of the Ford boom.**
3. In 1906 the buildings going south from **Paint Street (U.S. 2) on the west side** were owned by **J.H. McKenna, Charles Paquette, J.H. McKenna, Pat McKenna** (2 lots), **Mrs. P. Smith, John Marsch** (2 lots), **James Malone, Tom McKenna**. Going south from **Paint Street on the east side** were **Paul & Riley, John McLelland, A. F. Wright, Matt Bryngelson, John Crane, W.L. St. Denis** (2 lots), **R.B. Buell** (3 lots).
[NOTE: Quinnesec burned in 1906.]
4. **Nordman's gas station** was originally owned by **McKenna**.

EVENTS OF 1996

1. Classic **Autotop & Upholstery** closed up and moved to **Iron Mountain**.
2. **TK Auto** changed ownership and is now called **Performance Auto**.
3. **Witters Saw Mill** across from the town hall which was built in 1942 was torn down. For many years the building was used by **United Abrasive**.
4. The school is now gone. **Demolition started on October 12 and by October 21 all trace of the school was gone.** The large piece of sandstone which was above the front door with the words "HONOR, LOYALTY, REVERENCE" was saved and is in storage at a **Breitung Township** building.
5. The east building of **41 Lumber** is now called **Contractors Siding & Supply**. The west building is now **Ferguson Enterprises, Inc.** which is a supplier of pipes, valves, fittings and industrial supplies.
6. The county waste disposal is now called **GAD [Great American Disposal], Dickinson County Processing Facility**.
7. The **Quinnesec School Playground Association** was formed.

EVENTS OF 1997

1. A **refrigerated storage building for Jack's Pizza** was built just south of the tracks west of Third Street.
2. The **Chicago & Northwestern Railroad** was sold to **Wisconsin Central**.

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3. **The grounds for the Quinnesec Playground were landscaped.** With the newly-seeded grass soccer could not be played here.
4. The first piece of playground equipment purchased by the **Quinnesec School Playground Association** was installed.
5. **Town & Country Ford started building their new facilities just east of the old drive-in.**
6. **The Pasty Oven** opened up where the **Classic Autotop & Upholstery Shop** was.
7. On the site of **Clooney's Motel** there is now a business called **Flowerland** which sells plants in the spring and summer.
5. A **basketball court** (blacktop) was constructed on the north side of the tennis courts.
6. **Burger Kings' playground equipment** from its Kingsford location was donated to Quinnesec and was installed at the playground.
7. The telephone poles which had supported the backstops at the **Babe Ruth and Little League baseball fields** were removed and replaced with steel poles and new fencing.
8. **Performance Auto (Larson's old gas station)** went out of business.
9. **Ferguson Enterprises** which was in the west building of the old 41 Lumber closed.

EVENTS OF 1998

1. **Town & Country Ford** opened up their new facilities for business.
2. **Sugar Creek Outfitters Sport Shop** closed. At the north end of the building a new business called **Smoky River** is located. The **archery range** is still in use.
10. A **pavilion** was built in October on the playground.
11. **The Menominee Range Historical Foundation** announced in October that it is going to sell the former **St. Mary's Catholic Church**.

EVENTS OF 1999

3. The former **Puddy's Pasty Shop** building and **Puddy's home** on the highway up by the **drive-in theater** were demolished.
4. **Hirsch's West**, a supper club, has taken over the building which was formerly **Generations**, a night club. Originally the building was called **The Fire Alarm**, also a night club, whose interior was gutted by fire. This building is located at the **intersection of U.S. 141 and Lincoln Street**.
1. **The Menominee Range Historical Foundation** removed the religious articles from **St. Mary's Catholic Church** and plans to use a section of the **East Side Museum** to display these articles.
2. **St. Mary's Church** was sold by the **Museum on February 2** to the **Christ Temple of the Church, Pentecostal Assemblies of the World (based in Lansing)**. Items remaining in the

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church were the old organ and bench, all pews, the candle holder on the wall of the sacristy, the piano in the basement, the cabinet for storing music books which was in the choir loft, and the original cabinet and drawers which were used for the priest's vestments

3. The last piece of **playground equipment** planned for the playground was installed in May.
4. The township built a **volley ball court** at the playground in July.
5. The **Flowerland Shop** up by **Dallas** closed up and the hothouses were removed.
6. **Bertoldi's** built a **new storage building** west of their present facility.
7. **Beaulier's Building Center of Kingsford** set up a **display of eight storage buildings** they build north of **Antonini's**.
8. A **new storage building**, built north of **Antonini's**, is operated by **Dave Carey** and called **Boy's Toys Storage**.
9. The **Methodist Church** placed a new lighted sign donated by the estate of **June Wales** out in front of the church.
10. A **permanent fence** was installed along the north and east sides of the **soccer field**.
11. A **fence** was installed along the north side of the **new third addition to the cemetery**.
12. The light poles at the **tennis courts** were removed by the **Breitung Township** in November.

EVENTS OF 2000

1. **Noel's Storage Sheds** on Menominee Street are now known as the **Ward Store**.
2. **MFC First National Bank merged with Wells Fargo & Company on March 30, 2000**. New signs were put up July 22, 2000.
3. **Dickinson County** opened up and built an **extension of Mullen Street** between **Lincoln Street** and **Menominee Street**.
4. **Breitung Township** installed new and heavier poles for the **volley ball court** in May.
5. **Breitung Township** removed the remaining section of the center light pole at the **tennis court**. They then installed a single steel pipe for the tennis nets. Originally there were two steel pipes for the center with a gap in between before the light pole was installed.
6. **Champion International merged with and became International Papers**.
7. **The Niagara Mill merged with and became Stora Enso North America (SENA)**.
8. **On July 28 Breitung Township removed the old iron fence that was on the north side of the cemetery**. A new chain link fence was installed the week of August 7 to replace the old iron fence.
9. The last week of August **Breitung Township** installed a **water drinking fountain** at the playground.

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10. The **Michigan State Highway Department** installed **traffic signals at the intersection of U.S. 2 and Quinnesec Avenue**. These were activated on November 20.
11. The **Pasty Oven** closed up for the season and the premises are now for sale.

EVENTS OF 2001

1. It was announced that a **new Breitung Township Building for maintenance**, etc., will be built across from the **Breitung Township Hall**.
2. **Breitung Township** built an extension in height on top of the **backstop at the baseball field**.
3. The **Pasty Oven** reopened in June.
4. The **lumber yard on U.S. 2 once again is called 41 Lumber**.
5. The state built **new restrooms at Fumee Park**.
6. **Breitung Township** is **blacktopping the avenue of flags at the cemetery** both east/west and north/south.
7. **Dickinson County** is **blacktopping Menominee Street** west of the cemetery to **Third Street**.
8. **Breitung Township** removed the **chain link fence on the east and south side of the cemetery** up to the south gate and will be replacing it with new chain link fence.

9. A large building of wood construction is being built by **U.P. Cycle & Sport** on the property just west of **Dallas**.
10. The **small storage sheds on display** which were on the property just north of **Antonini's** were removed and the land leveled.
11. The building built by **U.P. Cycle & Sport** collapsed when high winds **lifted the roof** and it came down and collapsed the walls. This was of a wood frame construction.
12. A new business, **Quinnesec Equipment Sales**, was put in place north of **Louie's Junk Yard**.

EVENTS OF 2002

1. The business for repairing trucks that is west of **Bertoldi's** is called **U.P. Truck Center**. It was formerly known as **U.P. Western Star**.
2. In May a **new steel building for U.P. Cycle & Sport** was being built at the same location.
3. In June a new building for the **Township Department of Public Works** was being built. Upon leveling the ground, the **foundations for the old sawmill** were discovered and also the "pond" for the logs was found complete. The pond's north wall was left remaining in the ground when the new building was built.
4. The siding on the **Lutheran Church** was removed and new siding was put in place.
5. The **old barn at the Poor Farm** was demolished to make room for the **Home**

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- Depot store.** Another landmark is gone.
6. In August **Breitung Township** was extending the **chain link fence at the soccer field** to completely encircle the field.
 7. On the evening of September 30 a **tornado** ripped through the area with Quinnesec getting the worst. Gone is the old **outdoor drive-in movie screen**. The west end of the east building of **41 Lumber** was demolished. Repairs to the building were made. The west end of the **green building across from the town hall** was also demolished. The entire building was then torn down. Many roofs need to be replaced. Most other damage to homes was minimum with only a few severely damaged. Many storage sheds and garages were severely damaged. Some homes had major damage when trees fell on them. Many trees were in the range of 27 to 33 inches in diameter. Most trees seemed to have been taken out by the roots. All power, telephone and cable lines were out. The main transmission line was down. Trees were down all over town. **Most of the trees in the cemetery are now gone. The cemetery flagpole which came from the Quinnesec School was bent over.** Gone also is the **school forest** which seemed to take a direct hit. Trees from there fell over and damaged the new fence that was installed around the **soccer field**. The forest was then completely cleaned out by a logger. The **Babe Ruth baseball field dugouts** were demolished. The center field fence also was knocked down by falling trees. The east half of the roof on the east **county storage shed for salt** was blown off.
 8. **The cemetery reopened on Tuesday, November 12.** One of the huge pines that went down was 54 inches in diameter which is 14 feet around.
 9. The last of the **school forest trees** went down on November 13. On November 14 the remaining brush was picked up and a bulldozer was leveling the open area. Wind is now ripping across the open field. Before the school forest grew up in the mid-1940's a snow fence was put up every year on **River Street**.
 10. **41 Lumber** rebuilt the end of the building that was destroyed.
 11. **Dickinson County** replaced the roof on the **salt building** that had been blown off.
 12. The fallen **outdoor drive-in movie screen** was cleaned up and the **projection/concession building** was demolished.
 13. **Breitung Township** straightened out the **flag pole at the cemetery**.

EVENTS OF 2003

1. In January **Dickinson County** cleaned up **Fumee Park**.
2. The new **Breitung Township Garage (Public Works Building)** was finished and in use.
3. The roof over the drive-in area of **St. Arnauld's Restaurant** was removed in April.
4. In May the **blue metal garage at the Breitung Township Hall** was removed.
5. The new **Public Works Building** across

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[Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

from the **Breitung Township Hall** was officially opened.

6. The old **1931 Model A fire truck** was brought back into working order by **Guy Forstrom** and is now back in use for parades.
7. The original meeting room in the **Breitung Township Hall** was renovated and is in use for the treasurer, secretary and other offices.
8. The **original garage in the Breitung Township Hall is now being renovated** to be used for the **township meetings**, etc.
9. The **fences** that were damaged by the storm last fall have now been repaired.
10. The **cemetery work** was completed after the storm last fall.
11. The **motel was closed** and the contents were auctioned off.
12. The **bar has been closed** for some time.
13. **Hirsch's West Supper Club** closed its doors at the end of July.
14. The state was completely resurfacing **U.S. 2** between Norway and Iron Mountain, and also from Iron Mountain west to the state line.
15. By the end of September the **motel was being readied for moving** and sections had been started to be taken away.
16. In October **Frank Larson's house** behind his **gas station** was removed.

17. The **bell from the school and the "Q" from the high school** were mounted on a plaque and installed in the **Breitung Township Hall meeting room**.
18. In December **Bill Larsen's house** on the highway was **burned for fire practice** by the departments.
19. A **new storage shed facility** was being built west of the **refrigerated storage building** between the junk yard and the tracks.

EVENTS OF 2004

1. The **dugouts at the baseball field** that were destroyed by the tornado were rebuilt in May.
2. At **Fumee Falls** a **stairway to the top of the falls and an observation deck** were being built in May.
3. Work was continuing on **moving the motel** piece by piece. Some sections had been moved to **Niagara** behind a house across from the liquor store.
4. A **new skateboard area** was being built just south of the **skating rink** which was blacktopped. The **tennis courts** would no longer be used for that purpose.
5. A **new storage shed facility** was being built north of **Prestige Auto** at the south junction.
6. The **new skateboard area, the parking lot for the south entrance to the town hall, and the north-south main road through the cemetery** were blacktopped.

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7. At **Fumee Creek** the **stairway, observation deck** and the **creek bed** were finished in August. Yet to be built was a **new bridge** across the creek.
8. In the **playground** four trees were planted in September.
9. A fence was constructed around the **new skateboard park**.
10. The **MFC/Wells Fargo bank** was closed up and the building is for sale.
6. The old **Grenfell home** on **Menominee Street** was demolished and a **Habitat for Humanity home** was being built there.
7. The work at the park at **Fumee Falls** was nearly complete. The walkways to the bridge had been completed.
8. The remainder of the **Hillcrest Hotel** was moved the third week in July.
9. **Postmaster Steve Campbell** retired on January 31. **Stacy LeGrave** was appointed on March 19 to be the **new postmaster**. She was officially installed on August 12.

EVENTS OF 2005

1. **St. Arnauld's Restraaurant** (formerly the **Dog & Suds**) opened on April 16 and closed permanently May 1. **The property has been sold to the Norway bank.**
2. In June **MDOT (Michigan Department of Transportation)** had been working at **Fumee Park**. The toilets were moved close to the road. A small building was constructed to house the water supply and electrical had been added. Bulletin boards were on the outside of this building with maps, etc.
3. Construction of the **new foot bridge across Fumee Creek** had been started.
4. The **First National Bank of Negaunee** planned to open a branch bank in the former **MFC/Wells Fargo** building in August. A **community picnic** was held there on August 26.
5. **Breitung Township** had now completed the restoration of the **1930 Model AA Ford fire truck** which was purchased by the township in 1940 for \$50.00.
10. The dedication and ribbon cutting for the **new Fumee Park renovations** was held on September 8.
11. The dedication of the **new foot bridge over Fumee Creek**, built by the **Iron Mountain Rotary Club**, was held on September 20.
12. **Breitung Township** started to remove the **tennis courts** on Monday, October 31. The fencing had been removed and the cement was broken up and removed. These courts were **built by the WPA in 1936**. Work was completed on Friday, November 4.
13. **The bank's name was changed to RangeBank in December.**

EVENTS OF 2006

1. In May a **new score board** was put up at the **Little League** field "Sponsored by **U.P. Truck Center**" of **Quinnesec**."

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Also a concession building by “**Beaulier Buildings**” was added to the grounds.

2. The old **Sweeney Lumber Company building on Menominee Street**, owned by **Jim Beauchamp**, was demolished.
3. The location where the **tennis court** had been was being prepared for the installation of a **new court**. A new single court built. The court was blacktopped. A high fence enclosed the court.
4. Quinnesec was commemorating the **100th anniversary of the May 18, 1906 fire** which destroyed the entire business district and many homes. The celebration took place on May 20 at the **Breitung Township Hall**. It was a huge success and everyone enjoyed the historical displays.
5. In the second week of June a **new piece of playground equipment** was installed at the playground by Breitung Township.
6. The old tires at **Antonette’s Auto Salvage** were picked up for recycling by a company in Lower Michigan.
7. In July **Breitung Township** prepared the road in the cemetery going east from the **Avenue of Flags** for blacktopping. The road was blacktopped on July 25.
8. The **new tennis court** was blacktopped on July 26.
9. In July **Breitung Township** built the foundation and upper-structure to hold the plaque from the old **Quinnesec High School** – “Honor Loyalty Reverence”. This was placed near the front entrance to the **Breitung Township Hall**.
10. The **U.P. Truck Center** was building another building east of their existing one.
11. **Breitung Township** removed the original dugouts on the **Little League Field** in preparation for building new ones. New cement slabs were in place by August 25.
12. **On August 1 International Paper became Verso Paper Holdings.**
13. On August 22 the lines were painted on the **new tennis court**. Pipes are in ready for fencing. On August 24 the fencing was installed completely around the court with a gate on each side. On August 25 the tennis court was complete with a net.
14. In October the **mural of Quinnesec High School** on stone was completed and the bronze plaque was installed.
15. In October **Quinnesec Avenue** and **Wells Street** east of Quinnesec Avenue were repaved.

EVENTS OF 2007

1. The **dugouts at the Little League Field** were being rebuilt the first part of May.
2. The **old swing sets at the playground** were removed the last of May and new ones were to be installed soon.
3. A **community picnic** was held at the **Public Works Building** on June 23.
4. A 12 foot by 6 foot lighted cross was placed atop the **Lutheran Church** in July by the **Swanson family**.

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5. In August a new sidewalk was constructed for the **Lutheran Church**.
6. In September **Lincoln Street** was repaved.
7. In October **Pine Street** was repaved.
8. Another road was blacktopped in the **cemetery**. This is the south road east from the main entrance road.
9. A **large garage** was built across the road from **U.P. Truck Center**.

EVENTS OF 2008

1. A **new garage** was built across the road from the **U.P. Truck Center**.
2. The **Annual Community Picnic** was held June 21.
3. The road west from the main road in the **cemetery** on the south side was blacktopped.
4. **Lincoln Street** from U.S. 141 up to **Third Street** was repaved in July.
5. A house was being built on the two lots across from where the school was on **Cliff Street**. These two lots were in the **Alquist family** since the early 1920's and were where a garden was located.
6. A new blacktopped **parking lot** was built on the east side of the **Methodist Church** and the area in front of the church was also re-blacktopped.
7. **Dickinson County** graveled a few of the **alleys** in Quinnesec in late summer. This gravel was mostly clay with a little bit of gravel mixed in. It was red in color, and

when dry became hard as rock. When wet a person could not walk on it without sinking in and tracking it all over.

EVENTS OF 2009

[No listings.]

EVENTS OF 2010

1. The bar on the highway has been completely remodeled and is now the **Sports Bar and Grill**. It is owned and operated by **Bruce St. Arnauld**, who formerly owned the restaurant that was the former drive-in.
2. A set of steps was built from the parking lot at the park down to the **soccer field**.
3. The annual picnic was held on the third Saturday of June – the 19th.
4. Long-time pioneer and store owner **Emanuel Pancheri** died November 20.
5. The **new Humane Society building** at the corner of **U.S. 141 and Lincoln Street** was nearing completion.

EVENTS OF 2011

1. Street signs were installed for the four roads running east-west in the **cemetery**. Avenues Nos. 1-4. The signs are on the main road from the gates.
2. This year there was no community picnic. An open house was held at the **North Breitung Fire Station**.
3. The **bridge over the Menominee River** on **U.S. 141** built in 1929 was demolished.

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EVENTS OF 2012

1. A new and wider bridge for **U.S. 141** across the **Menominee River** was opened to traffic.
2. The east–west road in the **cemetery** nearest the road was graveled and will be blacktopped.
3. An additional **new ball field** was under construction at the southwest corner of the playground where the school forest was. This field was to be for the **Little League** teams. The old field will be for **girls' softball teams**.
3. The **tennis court** was recoated. The playing surface was blue while the perimeter was green. New lines were painted on. Work was done on August 22. The net was put up August 31.
4. The east end of the **soccer field** was dug out to make a level end.

EVENTS OF 2013 – Historical Updates

1. **Nepper's Body Shop** was originally built as **Freeman's Buick and Opel** in about 1960. It has been Nepper's since 1968. In 1969 they became a Fiat dealer until 1982. There were originally gas pumps in front. Two gas and one diesel fuel tanks were buried. One gas tank was removed early after the pumps were removed and the others were removed in 1993.
2. The old tin building across from Bryngelson's was built by **Andrew Bryngelson** for a **saloon**. Two families lived upstairs. One was **Art Johnson** and the other was a **Caine**. The area of

the building where the saloon was later used for the early grades of school when the **Garfield School** became crowded because of the **Ford boom**.

3. In 1906 the buildings going south from Paint St. (US2) on the west side were owned by **J.H. McKenna, Chas. Pauquette, J.H. McKenna, Pat McKenna** (2 lots), **Mrs. P. Smith, John Marsh** (2 lots), **Jas. Malone, Tom McKenna**. Going south from Paint St. on the east side were **Paul & Riley, John McLelland, A. F. Wright, M. Bryngelson, John Crane, W.L. St. Denis** (2 lots), **R.B. Buell** (3 lots).
4. **Nordman's gas station** was originally owned by **McKenna**.