

WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP – RALPH – MISCELLANEOUS NEWS ITEMS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 24 [Thursday, November 3, 1910], page 5, column 4

NOTES FROM RALPH.

The new school-house [*sic – schoolhouse*] at Ralph will be finished this week. It is a splendid little building and is heated by the Smith system of heating. We are all proud of it.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 25 [Thursday, November 10, 1910], page 5, column 4

NOTES FROM RALPH.

We moved into our new school-house [*sic – schoolhouse*] this week. It is a credit to the town.

...

We are all pleased with the work of Adolph Hammersmith, who constructed our new school-house [*sic – schoolhouse*].

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 24, Number 45 [Thursday, April 1, 1920], page 1, column 6

CAPTURE STILL NEAR RALPH

Federal Official Arrests Andrew Frank in West Branch Town.

The latest victim to be taken into the toils by federal prohibition agents is Andrew Frank, who was arrested last Saturday in

West Branch township by Federal Agent John Saul.

March 26th, Saul learned that a still was in operation in West Branch township. He also learned that the owners of the still, said to be Andrew Frank and a John Miller, who was not arrested, intended to move the still and manufactured products out of that community early last Saturday morning.

Mr. Saul got in touch with Sheriff O'Dess, of Delta county, and , with a deputy sheriff, proceeded to the scene of operations. A special train was provided by the Escanaba & Lake Superior road to transport the officers. It took them to a place called Camp A, near Ralph. The men then drove six miles with horse and sleigh, reaching the shack at about daylight Saturday morning.

They round [*sic – found*] about ten gallons of moonshine whiskey and forty gallons of raisin mash. In an out-house they found two stills of ten gallon capacity each. The stills were not in operation, but are said to have shown every indication of having been used recently.

Two guns, a rifle and shotgun, both loaded, were found near Frank's bed.

Miller was not on the premises, but was said to have been at Escanaba. Upon the return of the officers to Escanaba, search for Miller proved fruitless, and it is thought he has left the country.

Frank was arrested upon a warrant served by United States Marshal T.T. Hurley, of Marquette, and placed on bonds of \$2,000. Upon failure to furnish bail he was committed to jail at Escanaba, where he will be held pending the opening of federal court at Marquette April 13th.

Frank is alleged to have said that he and Miller purchased the two stills from a man named Keppler for \$35. It is the supposition that whiskey made by these stills caused the death of two men at Watson a few weeks ago.

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Frank is charged with manufacturing, transporting, selling and keeping for sale alcoholic liquor of more than one-half of one per cent alcoholic content.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 25, Number 11 [Thursday, July 29, 1920], page 1, column 6

Grasshopper Pest.

H.J. Hendrickson, owner of the Ford River Farm, near Ralph, was in the city last Friday. He tells *The Press* that the grasshopper pest is very fierce in his district. All the crops on his farm were destroyed by the hoppers and when he left home **[need to copy the remainder of this article from original newspaper at the Menominee Range Historical Foundation Museum]**

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 25, Number 16 [Thursday, September 2, 1920], page 1, column 5

Growing Sunflowers.

The first considerable acreage of sunflowers ever grown in Dickinson county is now in full bloom at the ranch of Reeves Bros. in West Branch township. It is being grown for silage purposes and the experiment promises to be a complete success. County Agriculturist Miller tells *The Press* that the crop will certainly run twelve tons to the acre and many reach fifteen tons to the acre. Reeves Bros. are now engaged in erecting a one-hundred ton silo. This firm is specializing in graded cattle and hogs and their venture is proving a fine success.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 25, Number 25 [Thursday, November 4, 1920], page 1, column 3

A Peace Maker.

Sheriff [*Archie*] Farrell was called to Ralph last Saturday to settle a dispute between the foreman and an employe [*sic – employee*] of the I. Stephenson Co., the latter alleging that the foreman took \$8 and two gold rings from him. The complainant came to Ralph from Milwaukee, the I. Stephenson Co. having paid his railroad fare. The foreman demanded that the mn pay for his fare and it is claimed that the money and two rings were given over as security. However, after the sheriff had discussed the matter with the two men the foreman returned the money and rings, and a walking boss brought the fellow to another camp where he agreed to work out the railroad fare paid by the company.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, _____ Year, Number _____ [Wednesday, July 5, 1922], page 1, column 5

HARRIS WILL BE AT RALPH TOMORROW

Will Consecrate New Church; McDowell To Assist

The Rt. Rev. Robert L. Harris, bishop of the Episcopal diocese of Marquette, will consecrate the new church at Ralph tomorrow. Bishop Harris will be assisted in the ceremonies by the Rev. William E. Poyser, general missionary, of Crystal

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Falls, Archbishop Spalding, of Marquette, the Rev. Robert F. McDowell, of Iron Mountain, and other clergymen of the diocese.

The Ralph church has been erected largely through the devoted efforts and self-sacrifice of Mrs. Hugh A. Campbell, assisted by the Woman's *[sic – Women's]* Auxiliary of the diocese.

Iron Mountain friends of the church are invited to attend the services.