

Diamond Drill

Out of the Past

March 17, 1960

Anyone who visits the Museum of Natural History in Chicago and has seen the 16 whitetail deer mounted and placed in natural settings representing the four seasons of the year, have, whether they realized it or not were viewing animals that once roamed the wild deep woods area of the upper Net River north of Amasa. The four sets of four deer each are choice specimens of 150 deer shot by three Iron County hunters with the permission of the Michigan Department of Conservation under a contract for Carl Ackley, a Chicago big game hunter and taxidermist. The hunt for the specimens began in 1896 and lasted for three years as the woodsmen searched for deer that would exactly meet the stern requirements of Ackley. The men who took part in the hunt were George Premo and William Robinson of Amasa and Albert Drake of Mansfield. The display had been incorrectly labeled as the deer coming from Iron County, Wisconsin until corrected in 1944 by the original hunters. A remnant of the hunt is the Parks Siding home of Herb Edwards which was built by Ackley in the 1890's as headquarters for his band of northern Michigan woodsmen.