

Diamond Drill

Out of the Past

December 12, 1896

The first long distance telephone call was made to Crystal Falls on Tuesday. Henry Demeret called the Diamond Drill office from a telephone located in the Michigan Telephone building in Iron Mountain to ascertain whether Crystal Falls was still located on the hillside. There had been an inclination of disbelief by patrons when the Michigan Telephone Company promised communication with the outside world to Crystal Falls last spring. The toll for the call was twenty-five cents and limited to five minutes for each message. The first telephone exchange in Crystal Falls began operations in 1892.

Adolph Lustfield received two fine specimens of German carp from a friend in Wisconsin. The finny creatures traveled in hay, packed in a neat package. Lustfield doused the fish into a pail of water and in a few moments the fish squirmed about the container in a lively fashion. The new owner did not possess supernatural powers but simply "sobered the pair up". The fish were taken from the Wisconsin waters and in their mouths were placed pieces of bread saturated with whiskey. The fish were quickly intoxicated and remained in a comatose state until revived in the pail of water.