

This nickel was shipped by rail and by sea
To Russia, Great Britain and Germany.



One million dollars was what the States spent,
To the making of nickel steel's where it
went.

Mining at that time was hard and slow,
The toil back-breaking, the wages low
As capital was really lacking,
(What they needed was lots more backing
There were only twenty-five men
On the payroll just then.
They worked in the pits and the roast-yar
Those first few years were very hard.

The toxic fumes from
the roast beds blew,
Killing the trees, leaving
only a few.



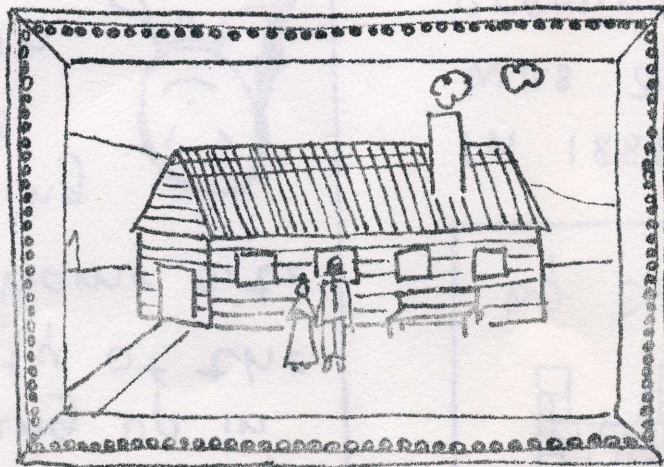
Where once were
great forests, bushy
and green,

Now only outcroppings of rocks can be
seen.

But wait! There's life behind the
smoke,

A diligent, hard-working folk:

* * * * *



The first log building in Copper
Cliff was built in 1885 by Mr. and
Mrs. Tom Johnson from Bay City,
Michigan. They and their daughter,
Margaret, ran a boarding house for
miners.

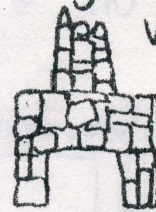


A shanty town sprang up in the vicinity of the original home site.

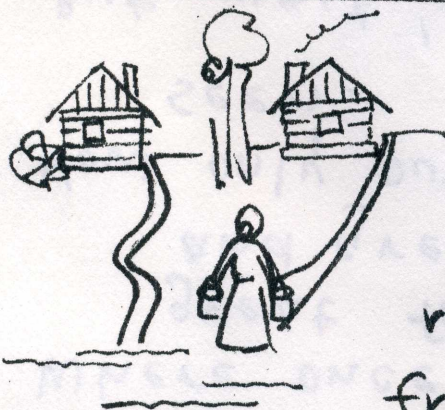
The boarding house was torn down to make room for a chinese laundry



The fireplace cairn commemorating the site of the original home was designed by Roy C. Barnes and built by Dan Kelly.

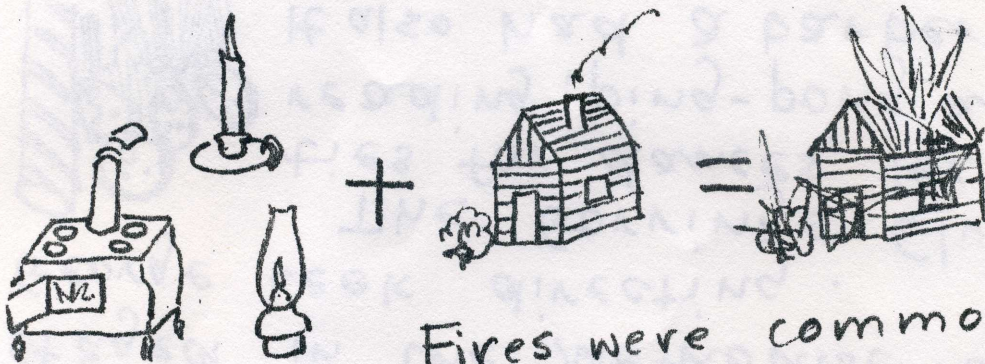


In 1888, the pop. was about 500, and growing rapidly. Two new boarding houses and a grocery store were built.



During 1891, several log cabins were built on Clarabelle Road. As there was no indoor plumbing, residents got their water from Lady McDonald Lake.

(Residents in other parts of town got water from creeks or the sand pit spring.)



Fires were common in those days. The buildings were all constructed of wood and everyone used wood stoves, lanterns and candles. Dangerous gas lanterns were replaced by electric lights on the streets in 1894.

In 1894, the dry at the smelter burned and a man was killed in the first mining accident

Because this was a mining town, there were laws prohibiting liquor. However this didn't prevent it from being smuggled in



But, to combat the forces of evil alcohol, the growing Finnish community established a temperance society in 1895.



1895 saw the first bicycle come to Copper Cliff



The Canadian Copper Co. donated \$100 for the purpose of starting a library in 1896.



A. V. Forsyth was the librarian

As the community grew, churches were built. A Methodist church was built on Clarbelle Hill, a Presbyterian church on Park, a Lutheran church on Balsam, an Anglican church and a Catholic church (1897).

The town also had a number of places of entertainment.

The Rex Theatre was on Market Street.

Entertainment was provided at the dances held at McKinnon's boarding house by




Joe Martel and

Sam Doyle - 2 expert fiddlers.

A stage was built in the house and the first play was presented in December, 1888. Plays were also staged in the Methodist church with George Leek directing.




The Gorringer Club had facilities for dances, lectures, cards, reading, ping-pong and billiards. It also had a barbershop and an indoor bathroom!

The Club held a Masquerade Ball
 in 1902 organized by T.K.
Dickerson, the manager.

The Copper Cliff
Brass Band be-
gan practising
in 1894 and in
1898, it was re-
organized with
J. P. Vireent as
bandmaster.



 In March, 1902
the Copper
Cliff Courier
produced its
first weekly
issue. J.J. Pratt was
editor.

The Copper Cliff
Lacrosse team was
organized in 1890
to compete with
the already existing
Sudbury team.

(In 1900, Bill Dorsett
formed a league).

Baseball was also popular - a club
was formed in 1891.

