



KITZVILLE

NASSAU

ALBANY

REUNION

AUGUST 10 & 11, 1974

The Albany Location

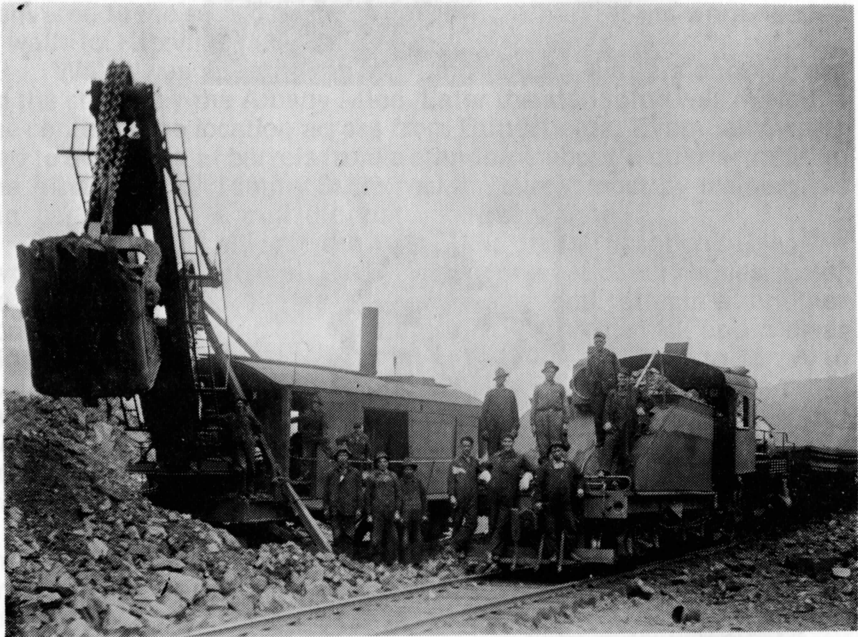
The Albany Location was probably the smallest location in the whole mining area of the Iron Range. There was only one row of houses for seven families. One house was a duplex. It was the only house that kept changing occupants. The Whites, Haglins, James, Sontags, McKays, Heckelmans and Busseys lived there at different times in our childhood. The other families were the Foucaults, Gardners, Vigers, Tahijas, and Mobiles. Mr. and Mrs. Mobile ran the boarding house.

The mining company built two large bunk houses for the single men working at the mine and they ate their meals at the boarding house. After the mine cut down on the number of men working, one of the bunk houses was used as a community center. Dances, parties, and christenings were held there.

A playground was just across the road from the houses. Along with a big field in which ball games and such were played, there were several sets of swings, & teeter-totters. In the center of the field a large play house with a big table in the center surrounded by benches was situated. Many a party was held there. The kids even ate their lunches and suppers there in picnic style.

The young men working at the mine formed a ball team. The younger set was the "rooting section".

The "Dinkie" engines used to run up the tracks behind the houses to the screening plant. After larger engines were acquired, the "Dinkies" were dismantled and sold for scrap.





In a pond, which was reached by climbing over a huge dump behind the houses and descending the other side, was the "old swimming hole" in the summer and the skating rink in the winter. The kids built a little shack in which they had a stove to keep warm in the winter while skating. Large pieces of cardboard were used to slide down the dump as no one had toboggans in those days. The snow got plenty deep, too. We were usually joined by the kids from Kitzville and Nassau, too.

When the street cars came and connected the towns from Hibbing to Gilbert, a long sidewalk, made of wood, was built from the location to the highway. It went through the woods and was about a mile long. Many a walk was taken on it. The older girls in the location would walk to the highway and meet the boys from the Glenn Location which was across the highway and to the east.

If we had a nickel to spend, we had to walk to Kitzville to spend it because that was the closest store to us. It was a good mile there. The store I remember the best was owned by the Caucci family. I remember when they sold out to the Musech family and left here to retire to Italy.

Mr. Crea from the Nassau used to take long walks and us kids would meet him and he'd tell us where the best berry patches and flower patches were. We would pick berries and bring bouquets of flowers home and to school all the time. We even built a shanty out in the woods. I remember when Helen Viger cut her toe with a hatchet while we were building our shack and we told her she couldn't cry 'cause Mr. Crea was coming.

The Nassau kids and Nelson Location kids rode on our school bus. There were so many kids in Kitzville, they had their own bus. The only time any of them rode on ours was if they overslept they'd catch ours 'cause it was always later then theirs.

Mr. W.G. Brown, Mr. Robert Murray, Mr. Paul Kurtzman and Mr. C.P. Schemmel are the men I remember as mine superintendents for the Pickands Mather Company who ran the Albany and a number of other mines in the area.

In 1931 the mine closed down. The pumps were pulled out and the pit flooded. The Viger family was the first to move. Mr. Foucault retired and they also moved. The Ed Larraviere family moved in to Foucault's house as he replaced Mr. Foucault. In 19-- the company sold the houses to be moved off the property as they were going to start mining again.

Thus the smallest location on the Iron Range saw its demise. Although the mine was worked for a few more years and the dumps got a little higher, most of the high test ore was removed and so the mine closed completely for good.