

Recollections of Mining Locations while working at Hibbing Taconite Company

Pool (Poole) Location- Prior to the construction of Hibbing Taconite Pool location was accessible to the general public via the Pool road which entered just at the "Tingtown" intersection at Highway 5. Many times my wife and I would head out there for an afternoon cruise.

At the time we first visited, in 1973, there was only the empty frame of one home remaining. However, there were many foundations and basements remaining with rhubarb, apple trees and lilacs in the yards. Many locals also made visits to Pool to fill water bottles at the Spring located near the center of the townsite.

On one particular trip out to Pool we had a picnic on the south edge of the old St. Louis County Fairgrounds racetrack which was still there though overgrown with grass and small brush. While walking around we came upon a small depression that was probably the site of an old outhouse. Picking up a small piece of glass I discovered that it was an entire old medicine bottle that was embossed with "The Hibbing Pharmacy" . . . "Congdon - Proprietor".

Lavinia Location (Lavina)- As you approached Pool Location on its access road from the Tingtown site you passed the Lavinia Location, but most were unaware of it because there were only a few basement foundations and no road leading into them. I had only found it by wondering through the brush and trees looking for property corner location caps.

Stevenson Location- In 1975 Hibbing Taconite was planning a diamond drilling campaign in the area of the old Stevenson Location quite a distance to the west across the Kleffman road and just on the north side of the Stevenson road. While we were brushing survey lines with a bulldozer we came across the site of one of the garbage dumps for Stevenson Location. Many old bottles were found and I kept one bottle that was an old soda bottle that was embossed with "Hibbing Bottling Works".

No old homes, and only a few foundations were left in Stevenson in 1975, but you could certainly find fruit trees, rhubarb plants, lilac bushes and lilies marked the locations of the old home sites. As I recall there was only one notable feature remaining. That was the concrete footings of the old foot bridge that crossed the Stevenson Mine on the north crest.

Mahoning Location- In the early 1980's Hibbing Taconite was conducting a diamond drilling program right in Mahoning Location. The old city streets were still there as locals often drove out there to visit the locations. We had decided to locate one of the drill holes right on one of the old streets for convenience. Shortly after drilling began I received a call from the drillers that they were "drilling wood" and having a difficult time. As I soon discovered the Mahoning Location streets had been surfaced with 4"x4" cedar paving blocks. So, we moved the drill rig

just a few feet off of what we thought was the street. I left the drillers to their work and within an hour or two they called again. This time they were down just a few feet and were not able to drill any deeper. I returned to the drill, had them move the drill off the drill site and they used the bulldozer to scrape down the couple of feet. This time it turned out to be a manhole cover they were drilling into. It was set in concrete and after removing the manhole cover we discovered the long lost Mahoning sewer system. Mahoning Location is of course a fine example of a "company location". A squatters location, or "Chicken Town" would certainly not have any sewer system or nicely paved roads. Mahoning Location was one of the finest locations to have the luck to live in.

Carmi- Carson Location- In the late 1970's or early 1980's there was still a short head frame and shaft at the south rim of the Carmi-Carson Mine. It remained there for several years while I worked at Hibbing Taconite. We used to make a weekly hike into the shaft and sent a line down to determine the water elevation in the shaft. Eventually the structure was taken down and the shaft capped by the State of Minnesota as part of the Mine Land Reclamation Program.

Early Kerr Location- (I'm waiting on some information from Terry Filippi to detail our memory of "The Big Rock")

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October 1, 2017