

IN 1915 WE BUILT a two-room shack on our land in Alice near the present Memorial building. There was no other house nearby—only two houses on our block. Mr. Randall Niemi moved an old store building from original Hibbing, his and ours being the only two buildings. We had big tree stumps — about three feet wide—on our land and later we had them pulled out and used them for wood. Now, I was in the same boat as when I was a child — no water nor sewers, but we did have lights. We got water from a pump in front of the Alice school until our neighbor put in water. We had a small baby now and used rain water for washing my clothes. There were no sidewalks — only on First Avenue—and there was mud all over. So, when we went to Hibbing we had to walk on muddy roads from Alice School to Hibbing.

THE FIRST POST OFFICE in Alice was Northland on First avenue. McLaughins operated it. Some of the streets were named after girls, such as Adeline and Josephine. A teamster delivered our groceries from old Hibbing — from Cash Market and Palace Meat Market. Now and then we saw cars. Dr. Carstens came to our house with a one-seater model T Ford and father bought a 1911 model T Ford —second hand. Then we were so happy when the first bus started running here, that operated by Mesaba Transportation Co. owned by Andy Anderson, Eric Wickman, and Ralph Bogan. So we rode in the first bus to Alice. (They did have an old Hupmobile bus before that.). We now could ride as far as the bus depot in Hibbing. Then we walked and carried our babies to the Finnish Location — made a day of it, and then back again. The bus went to First avenue south.