

HISTORY of EVELETH MINNESOTA

By

MARGARET E. MORE



Reprinted from Anniversary Edition of
EVELETH NEWS-CLARION

July 31, 1947

MINNESOTA

F612
529E8
148

History of Eveleth Minnesota

Margaret E. More

The first appearance of the "Mesabey Heights" on any map was on that published by J. N. Nicollet in 1841. Later, government surveyors reported the occurrence of iron in scattered areas of this region, and Henry H. Eames, the first Minnesota state geologist, in his report of 1866 made specific reference to iron ore in the Mesabi district.

One of the many timber cruisers to penetrate the grandeur of this wild region was Erwin Eveleth in the 1880's. He represented Eldredge M. Fowler and a group known as Robinson, Flinn, Murphy, and Dorr. Their interests lay in the great white pine forest that covered this area. The fact that Mr. Eveleth reported erratic behavior of his compass due to iron formation led to the reservation of mineral rights when the timber was sold.

We know also that the Merritt brothers were successfully prospecting in this vicinity in 1890.

In August 1891, a cyclone passed over the Mesabi range uprooting many huge pine trees and exposing some iron deposits. This led to the discovery of ore in the Biwabik area and was the signal for general excitement and increased activity in this and the Mountain Iron region.

Many prospectors of those days expected the iron formation to be found on a straight line connecting the Biwabik and Mountain Iron discoveries. However, due to erosion over a long period of time, there was a barren area in this part of the range causing a bend or "horn"

in the iron formation several miles south where Eveleth is located. This possibility was at first overlooked.

In the severe winter of '91 and '92, David T. Adams of Duluth, acting for a promoter, A. E. Humphreys, was selecting land for exploration. On October 1, 1892 he started sinking test pits in section 31, town 58, range 17 and the first ore was discovered in what is now known as the Eveleth group of mines. This was called Adams number 1. Other discoveries followed rapidly: Fayal in the winter of '93, other mines in the Adams area including the Cheeseborough, the Cloquet, and the Vega, all of which with Adams number 1, are now part of the Adams-Spruce Mine.

Early records tell us that in these first operations Adams located the pit, Neil McInnis was purchasing agent and pay master and Thomas Short had charge of the men, the latter soon succeeded by Marvin Van Buskirk. A camp was established and one of the log cabins used then—later by Superintendent J. H. Hearding—is preserved by the city and now stands on the western section of North Side Park. John Morrow, the teamster, and his wife lived here for some years before the city bought it.

Chain and diamond drilling was not used in those days and ore was found by the sinking of test pits, by bucket and windlass, pick and shovel. A crew of about 45 men was employed during the winter of '92 and '93.

File Plat in 1893

A small start had been made to establish a town. On April 22, 1893 the first plat of the village of Eveleth was filed with the Register of Deeds. Most active among the founders of this townsite was Dave Adams. It was surveyed by C. E. Bailey of Virginia and was located west of Douglas Avenue and north of Monroe Street.

Adams suggested the name of Eveleth. It is said that this name was decided upon after several conferences held in the aforesaid log cabin office. Note: H. L. Burns recalls his mother's statement that the name was finally agreed upon at a meeting of David T. Adams, Neil McInnis and Mr. Dorr (of the Robinson, Flinn, Murphy & Dorr group), in the log cabin on the Burns Homestead on Cedar Island (Ely) Lake in the winter of 1892-1893.

On June 9, 1893, a petition signed by 30 residents was presented to the County Commissioners asking for permission to proceed with the incorporation, stating among other things that a census of residents showed the presence of 200 people.

The County Commissioners ordered an election to be held July 25th to determine whether or not the majority wished to incorporate. Neil McInnis, Tom Short, and Joe Eliot were appointed inspectors of election, and copies of "Notice of Election" were posted on five buildings. The results of the election were apparently favorable, for the County Commissioners again gave notice to the legal voters to meet and elect officers for the ensuing year on August 26, 1893. Apparently this election was not held.

Panic 54 Years Ago

With the summer of 1893, began the "panic" and the depression in the iron business with the resulting decline in work. Men who had been paid \$40 or more a month with board now couldn't get a day's work anywhere. In September of 1893 Adams and McInnis decided to do some more testing. They

hired the "whole manpower of Eveleth", namely Hank Hookwith, the proprietor of a saloon, Archie McComb, who had a hotel (afterward destroyed by fire), and Jerry Sullivan, who had a boarding house. These three men worked for six months sinking pits for \$1.25 a day during the winter of '93 to '94. Thus was discovered the Fayal Mine on section 5, town 57, range 17. Moose meat was an important article of diet during this winter.

The early leases tell many a fascinating story. With the discovery of ore, mining companies were speedily formed—some of the wild-cat variety; there were scrambles by companies and individuals for options and leases which were freely traded about; the woods were full of prospectors; land owners' rights were ignored; successes and failures were experienced by many; good and bad worked side by side—all in the quest for glory and wealth from this newly discovered iron treasure.

For more of the romance of these earliest mining activities in the vicinity of Eveleth, one must read two articles: the first, written by Neil McInnis for the 1906 Christmas issue of the Eveleth News, is called "Early Recollections of the Mesaba Range", and the later account, written by W. R. Van Slyke called "The Discovery of Iron Ore, the Mines of Eveleth, and the Development of Eveleth" was read at the St. Louis County Historical Society meeting here on October 14, 1937.

Though the dreams were many, real proof of the vastness of the iron resources around here was not established until many years had passed.

With the coming of 1894, activity gradually increased. There were three mines in operation: first, the St. Clair or Vega, as it was later called, operated by George A. St. Clair; then the Adams and the Fayal.

Dr. More Arrived in 1894

Dr. C. W. More arrived in June, walking from Virginia by way of the Auburn Mine and from there following a trail through the

woods. He moved into a deserted one-story saloon building roughly boarded up on the outside. The window had been removed and he covered the opening with cheese-cloth to keep out flies and mosquitoes. He lived and had his office in this shack. This building was used as a harness shop after the erection of the second hospital; later it was remodeled and used as a dwelling place at 424 Jones St. The doctor received \$48 and board in the tent for his summer's work.

Hoisting of ore from the shaft of the St. Clair mine had begun in April of '94, and by June, about 60 men were employed. John Morrow was teamster; part of his duties were to go to Virginia nearly every day and he would bring back the mail if he had time to call at the post office. Later the mail was brought from Virginia by dog-team.

Goren Gustafson had the contract for boarding the men, the cooking and eating being done in one tent. The men lived in tents and shacks—some at a boarding house operated by Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Childers, the parents of the late Mrs. Peter Schaefer of Ely. Other families living here at that time were: the Van Buskirk family, Mr. Van Buskirk being employed by Dave Adams; Henry Hookwith and wife, and the Jerry Sullivan family including two daughters. There were two or three vacant shacks—about seven houses in all.

It was a hot, dry summer with fresh vegetables scarce and water hard to obtain. The meat was kept in an old test pit and at one time the men were out of meat for several days as a skunk had fallen into the pit and could not be safely dislodged. One man got his drinking water from a test pit which eventually became the Adams mine, until he drew up some rabbit hair in his bucket; then he changed test pits. Later, water was passed from a spring to W. H. Shea's saloon, distance about two blocks. Still later a creek was dammed from which water was obtained until 1902.

Site Surrounded by Forests

The townsite of Eveleth was in the valley. No work had been done on the streets but most of the timber had been removed and no one could tell where the streets and roads began or ended. The site was surrounded by forests, extending for many miles to the south and east. A road had been cut out of the timber over the hill from Virginia. The stumps had not been removed, but shallow ditches had been dug on each side for drainage. There was a spring on the top of the hill from which clear cool water flowed in both directions, north and south, along the ditches. It was a popular watering place for man and beast.

Build Railroad Spur in 1894

Sometime during this spring or summer of '94 a spur of the Duluth and Iron Range Railroad was constructed from the Auburn mine to the crest of the hill west of the village, now the location of the Adams pit. George Watts, now of Two Harbors, was the resident civil engineer, and Duncan Austin was the senior member of the surveying crew. The contractor was Nels Ellsburg who was on the train that finally won through from the Hinckley fire of that year.

The men on the construction crew lived near the mining camp. There was an exploration camp north of Eveleth on what was then known as section 30 and another at section 26, which was east of the then village of Sparta. These camps were reached by a trail through the woods, swamps, and underbrush. The air was usually murky with smoke from forest fires. Porcupines were occasionally encountered.

Typhoid Epidemic

As was stated, water was obtained from a variety of sources, convenience being the determining factor, with no thought of purity or sanitation. This, with the lack of fresh vegetables, the hot dry summer, and swarms of flies and mosquitoes, brought on an epidemic of typhoid fever about the last of August (1894). The doctor who

had few drugs and scanty equipment, was kept busy. The typhoid cases all recovered, but by the end of September, he too, came down with it and was taken to Duluth for hospitalization.

On August 30, 1894, barely two months before Eveleth officially became a village, the railroad spur to the St. Clair mine was completed and the first shipment of ore from any of the Eveleth group of mines was made from these underground workings. It was hauled to Two Harbors. These first shipments in 1894 amounted to 5,628 tons.

First Village Officers

During the next five months, many changes took place. Early in October the County Commissioners again "gave notice to the legal voters" of Eveleth, and accordingly, the long delayed meeting and election of officers was held on October 18, 1894. The following are the first officers of the village of Eveleth as given in the Village Minute book:

M. Buskirk, president
John Grey, trustee
H. Hookwith, trustee
W. H. Shea, trustee
A. S. Erickson, recorder
S. S. Childers, treasurer
John F. Towell, justice of the peace
Charles Wyman, justice of the peace
Jerry Sullivan, constable

The first council meeting on October 25, 1894 is believed to have been held in the Townsite Company's frame building. Later meetings were held in the back room of Sletten's store. The village was scarcely a month old when these energetic officers made plans to build a jail on lot 36 in block 12 purchased from the Townsite Company.

Stripping Starts

On November 1st of this year, (1894), J. H. Harding, W. J. Olcott, and C. E. Bailey, traveling on broncos from Virginia over a wretched road, arrived to look over the Adams mine. In a small clearing surrounded by pine timber,

they found the exploration camp and some equipment guarded by a single watchman. The next day Mr. Harding returned, and as superintendent for the Lake Superior Consolidated Iron Mining Company, (which later was absorbed by the Oliver Iron Mining Company), began the operations of stripping the mine with equipment on hand.

This began open pit mining in the Eveleth district. He remained, working and expanding this mine, until in 1909, when he became Assistant General Manager of the Oliver Iron Mining company's executive offices in Duluth. His description of that first winter gives us further ideas of what these early settlers had to put up with.

Then, as now, there was a housing shortage so that at first, Superintendent Harding lived in Virginia, hitch-hiking the five miles back and forth each day—with more hiking than hitching. By December 12th, the old office had been cleaned, the inside covered with shiplap, and he moved in.

Work on the mine was started in six inches of snow with little or no equipment. It continued all through the coldest winter many had ever experienced—often 40 and 50 below with a drop to 62 below on one occasion when the superintendent had to drive by open sleigh to Virginia and back. The severe cold and later the thaw and frost caused difficulties with the machinery. There were frequent trips to Virginia at night for replacements. For a time it was necessary to haul water from Mountain Iron twice a day for the shovels and locomotives.

Fayal Mine Opens

The Fayal mine opened about the same time and the D. and I. R. railroad began to construct a spur to this mine from McKinley. The mine had first been worked by the McInnis Mining Company formed by David Adams and Neil McInnis. This was transferred to the Minnesota Iron Company and Superintendent George Wallace was sent there in the late fall of '94 to resume operations. An adjoining 80 acres held by Fowler, Murphy,

Robinson, Dorr, and Flinn, was later transferred to the same company and eventually the entire group passed to the Oliver Iron Mining Company. The station where supplies were unloaded east of Eveleth was called Weimer (also spelled Weymer), then Sparta. Later most of Sparta was moved to Gilbert in order to get at the ore under the townsite.

The Adams and Fayal mines have been sufficient to ensure Eveleth a definite degree of prosperity and growth until the time when other interests and assets may be developed to take the place of the present dependence on mining activities.

Starts to Boom

Late in 1894 Eveleth began to boom. Building and the sale of lots increased rapidly. The townsite was owned by the Duluth Mining Investment Company, (D. T. Adams, general manager), and the price of lots ranged from \$125 to \$300. In August the Investment Company was considering the erection of a hotel 50x109, two or three stories, with about thirty rooms. This was probably the origin of the McInnis hotel which was built in early 1895 by Mr. Adams on the southeast corner of Grant avenue and Jackson street. It was managed by Charles Jesmore. The building still stands and the Kilbride Tavern now occupies the corner on the first floor. A second double two-story building put up about this time was occupied by P. E. Dowling's drug store and a clothing store, (Nick Cavanaugh, proprietor).

Another double block was erected by the Investment Company, one room of which was occupied by the bank and mining office with other offices upstairs.

In September of 1894 J. W. Falk was reported to be clearing his lot and preparing to erect a meat market.

The Towell Lumber Company was running night and day.

The D. and I. R. Railway was delivering freight to Eveleth and expected soon to have a passenger

coach.

A rough road was cut through the woods from the Fayal Mine following the present Adams avenue—a "short cut" to Virginia, but was little used.

Forest fires were a serious menace and were threatening the young village.

The mining operations, construction crews, etc., were each separated by a dense growth of white pine and hardwoods and the illusion of isolation was strong. As the Adams pit was developed, it was found advisable to build new blacksmith and carpenter shops with the mining office and superintendent's home nearer the center of operations at the entrance to the pit.

Life Was Primitive

Life was primitive in those days and men and women had to be hardy to survive. Neighbors helped each other in the common troubles of sickness, fire, extreme weather conditions, and unruly emotions. Eveleth was a "wide open" town, as were all the Range settlements.

It is believed that what were the first church services in Eveleth were held during the summer of '94 by the Reverend O. J. Gary, a Methodist minister of Virginia, in the rear of the Dowling Drug Store, but regular services were not held until the following year.

First Board of Health

On February 1, 1895, the village officers established a board of health consisting of: Dr. H. L. Darms, who had come over from McKinley to take care of Doctor More's work during his absence and who had replaced Shea on the council as the latter had moved away. John Grey and Byron J. McCormick were the other members, the latter replacing Erickson.

By the middle of the month, Dr. More returned, rather weak from his fight with typhoid, and walking with the aid of a cane. By then he was definitely appointed physician for the Adams mine by Mr. W. J. Olcott, for the railroad by Mr. Ellsburg, and temporary physician

*Judge
Erickson's
Gary's
brother*

for the Fayal mine. He and his wife lived in one room of the Mc-Innis hotel and he rented the only available room over the drug store for an office. There was still a housing shortage. A few months later he obtained housekeeping quarters over the drug store.

First Hospital

After considerable search the doctor found an empty one-story building, boarded on the inside of the studdings only, which he made habitable by boarding up to the ceiling of the first floor on the outside and nailing some building paper on the inside and filling the space with sawdust. Two beds were put in and the place heated by the box stove he had bought five months before. This makeshift answered for a hospital for several months, when he had another one built—25x40 feet, one-story, warmer, plastered and filled with hospital beds. At one time he had nine patients with fractures, including a broken spine and a crushed pelvis. Meals were at that time brought in from a nearby boarding house.

This building was later moved to the site of the State theatre and still later out to the Carlson Addition where it is now the Nemanick store. It served as a hospital however until 1901.

With borrowed money, the doctor bought some equipment, including a horse, a second-hand buggy, a cutter, saddle, etc. In making his calls, he also used skates, snowshoes, skis, or high boots as conditions demanded.

Houses then were not so carefully built and so warmly heated as today. There was one air-tight stove in a room on the second floor of the hotel which was supposed to heat three rooms in even the coldest weather. The only approach to this second floor was by the steep outside stairway at the rear of the building. Meals were served on the first floor. All water used for any purpose was brought upstairs in pails and taken down the same way.

One of the chief events of the

day was the arrival of the mail from Virginia by dog team with a four-runner sleigh. This was delivered to the "post office" at the rear of the drug store about 9:00 o'clock each morning.

Eveleth Star

Evidently a newspaper had been started, for we find that the village council on February 18, 1895, decided to publish the proceedings of the regular meetings in the "Eveleth Star". However the first known issue is that of March 12, 1895 on file with the St. Louis County Historical Society. On March 16, 1896, the Eveleth council designated "The Hustler and Mt. Iron Monitor" as the official paper. Another early paper was the "Eveleth Republican" published by C. M. Atkinson in 1898. Timothy Shea, "printer's devil", helped out at night turning the hand press. It was apparently short-lived, however, as only one issue has been located.

From 1902 on, "The Eveleth Star" appeared regularly and was published by P. E. Dowling until he left town about 1910.

Early in March of the year 1895, the council agreed to construct sidewalks on Jones street, and on March 13th, the second village council was called to order by newly elected President Darms. The other officers were: Hookwith, Grey, and Riff, trustees, and McCormick, recorder. The president appointed committees on the following subjects: finance, streets, alleys and sidewalks, bonds, fire protection, rules and regulations, and ordinances. The administration of the new town was by then well launched.

Forest Fire Menace

As has been stated, forest fires were a serious menace in those days and Eveleth residents were apparently on guard against the occurrence of any such tragedy as the fire that had wiped out Virginia in 1893. In the spring of '95, the young Eveleth council ordered all brush and trees within a radius of 250 feet from the town cut, piled and burned as a precau-

tion against fire. On June 3rd, the organization of the Volunteer Fire Company was approved by the village council. Its members "to receive a compensation of \$1.00 each call for the first hour and 50 cents an hour for each additional hour". (One sardonic pioneer recalls numerous false alarms). This organization had 15 charter members. Jules Thibaut was designated to haul the fire apparatus with his team.

Much Happened in 1895

Their first annual ball was given on October 14, 1895. Major A. P. Goss was master of ceremonies and other committee members were: Van Buskirk, Graton, Fuller, Grierson, Prettner, Mourer, Kinney, and Campbell.

The Duluth, Missabe & Northern Railroad shipped ore from the Adams mine in May of this year, (1895). Eveleth's first bond issue was for \$3,000 with which to build a system of water works, the date of issue being June 1, 1895. This system served until 1905 when a new system was installed with water obtained from St. Mary's Lake.

Bank Opened

A. P. Goss organized the first Eveleth bank this year, (1895); later selling it to O. D. Kinney. In 1900 G. A. Whitman of Tower started a bank in the building on the corner of Grant avenue and Monroe street, known as the Kingston Block. In 1901 his bank was consolidated with that of Mr. Kinney and Eveleth had its First National Bank.

The first school was "in the valley by the creek" (west of the Northside Park) and opened in 1895 with Florence Kent (Mrs. E. R. Kent) of Virginia, as teacher. This was a one-story frame shack with two benches and a plank table with a smaller table for the teacher. Today this building is at 303 Douglas avenue. Included among the first pupils were Rosie Walker, Charlie Higgins, several children of the Gross family, Burt and Otis Springer, Tony, Mae and Anna Van Buskirk. The homes of some

of the children were two or three miles away.

The "little creek" often overflowed its banks and many times the Van Buskirk and Higgins homes near by were flooded. This was also the year of the "big cloudburst"—or at least one of them—in which water was forced through windows and down chimneys, causing housewives to scramble for pails and pans. Rock Channing, then superintendent of a mine at Sparta, was obliged to swim across a swollen stream near what is now Fayal Pond, to reach Eveleth.

Build Spruce School

Later this same year, the Spruce school was built at a cost of \$6,000 and was the first building erected especially for a school. It had to be enlarged the following year to care for the greatly increased enrollment. At that time and until 1903, Eveleth was part of the Virginia school district.

Early in 1896 the Village Hall was erected at a cost of \$656—a two-story frame building. The first floor served the Volunteer Fire Department and the council chambers were on the second. When the town was moved, this building was placed on Pierce St., the site of the present City Hall, and in 1906, it was moved to the lot next to Stepetich's saloon on Grant avenue, where it was converted into the old Strand (Bijou) theatre. It is now Malevich Bros. Grant Auto Service Garage.

Light Plant

On May 28, a contract was signed with Frank McCormick of Duluth to erect and maintain an electric light plant in the village with "party of the second part, to furnish all night lights as above, except as per moonlight schedule from December 1, to April 1, of each year". The following year this plant was bought from Mr. McCormick by James W. Falk and Charles W. Webster as partners. Falk later sold his interest to Webster, who owned and operated the plant until his death which was caused by a bursting flywheel on February 23, 1900.

Religious stirrings became much stronger in the community. The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph F. Buh began coming down from Tower in this year (1896) or the next, to hold the first Catholic services, which took place in the Peterson Hall, the second floor of what is now known as the Peterson Block. The early Holy Family church was later (1900) built under his supervision.

Methodist First Church

The first church built in Eveleth was erected in this year, the Methodist Episcopal. It was set on posts high off the marshy ground. When the town was moved, this building was moved to the location of the present church and forms the rear part of it. Until March before the church was erected, some of the meetings were held in the one-room schoolhouse mentioned earlier. All denominations were represented in these early gatherings, which also included a Sunday school.

The present Concordia Lutheran church was organized in January of this same year at a meeting held in Walon Lahde Hall and the first services were held at members' homes or in the Hall.

In 1896 the pay of the village officers were as follows:

President \$10 per month; recorder, \$25 per month; street commissioner, \$2.50 per day "for actual services"; marshal, \$75, and his deputy, \$60 per month; water works engineer, \$75 per month; janitor in the Village Hall, \$30 per month (including the lighting of the street lamps); unskilled labor, \$1.75 per day.

On April 7th, Maurice D. L. Fuller was appointed Village attorney.

Town Moving

By 1895 enough exploration work had been done on the townsite by David Adams to indicate that he had made a mistake in locating the town there. It would have to be moved. North St. marked the northern limits of the town, Fayal Road the southern, and Kimberly, Carey (Carrie), Ruth, and Rachel were avenues running north

and south.

Much planning had to be done, a new townsite was platted, called the First Addition to Eveleth, and was filed August 31, 1896. This plat was bounded by Fayal Road on the south, Jackson on the north, Adams avenue on the east, and Douglas avenue on the west. The owners of the mineral under the townsite had to pay for the town being moved in order to permit the mining of ore. Negotiations had to be entered into with all the property owners, each of whom wanted a better location in the new town and a bonus for moving. A clipping from the "Eveleth Star" of June 15, 1899 gives the terms of contract between the Townsite and the Village, which had been long in the drawing up, so it was not until August 1899 that the first building was moved.

Prominent in the negotiations was Temple E. Dorr who had the job of trading new lots for old. Moving activities continued all through the balance of 1899 and 1900. At this time the population of Eveleth was between 1200 and 1500. 107 buildings were moved, all of them frame. The average distance that these houses were moved was one-fourth of a mile. Timothy Shea, who worked at the Adams mine and lived with S. E. Helps, has said that he never knew when he left for his work in the morning, where he would find the house in the evening. This experience was probably shared by others in those moving days.

James H. Flinn visited Eveleth during this time and he was responsible for the installation of a steam hoist on Adams avenue that snaked buildings up the hill far faster than had previously been done with windlass and rollers.

It is interesting to know that the main business street might have been located where the Adams or Chandler avenues are now, had not negotiations for the sale of land fallen through.

With these important projects begun, the town grew rapidly.

Telephone Company Organized

In November 1898 the Mesaba

Telephone Company, organized by F. C. Talboys and Frank R. Campbell, together with Dr. More, had erected telephone poles in the streets of Sparta, Virginia, and Eveleth, originally planning this service for their own private use. However, as soon as work had begun, many others wanted phones too, so the lines were expanded, annual rental to be \$40.00. The switchboard was located in the Talboys and Campbell store.

On May 17, 1899, the company was incorporated and included O. D. Kinney of Duluth. There were then 20 telephones in use, and by the next year there were 70. In May 1900, R. B. Freedy of St. Paul came to manage the company. Soon there were two switchboards, individual wires, and day and night operators.

The "Biwabik Iron Ore", February 22, 1901, gives a history of this company concluding with a list of the then subscribers from eight Range communities.

The business soon grew to such proportions that the owners found it impossible to handle it along with their own work, so finally, E. B. Hawkins, Mr. Kinney, and a Mr. Wright, who was manager of the Duluth Telephone Company, purchased the entire interest, and eventually, it was merged into the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company.

School Moving

In 1899, something happened which links the early history of the schools with that of the Presbyterian church. Earlier, in 1894, a one-room school had been built near the Auburn Mine in Virginia. Mrs. W. H. Nichols, now of Eveleth, was one of the teachers. In January 1899, arrangements were completed for the moving of this school building to the Fayal location in order to accommodate 35 children living there, who found it difficult to travel the great distance to the "city school". The building was 28x32 feet, and it was expected to be difficult to move. These expectations were realized.

The December 19, 1906 issue of

"The Eveleth News" states that the schoolhouse "was moved over to Eveleth on log sleighs in 1899. While coming down the hill, it broke away from its moorings and made a flying trip that is remembered by some of the old timers".

This building was used as a school for two years at the Fayal when it was moved to the south-east corner of what is now Memorial Park and was then occupied by the Presbyterian church.

An amusing note of this year is found in the Village minutes of April 17, 1899, "the recorder was instructed to have a motion printed and posted forbidding the riding of bicycles on sidewalks".

The bulk of the Village minutes for the two years 1898 and '99 was concerned with details and business having to do with the moving of the town.

Fabiola Hospital

It was in 1899 also that the Minnesota Iron Company built a hospital to serve its employees at the Fayal, Genoa, and Auburn Mines. This was the Fabiola hospital on the corner of Fayal Road and Fayal avenue, (now the Fayal apartments). G. W. Wallace was then superintendent at the Fayal and Doctor W. E. Harwood, the company physician, remained in charge of the hospital. His assistant was Dr. Frederick Barrett.

A description of this hospital in the "Eveleth Mining News" July 5, 1902, mentions the broad veranda, the spacious reception room and office, the modern operating and drug rooms. In the basement were the kitchen and dining rooms, the heating apparatus and living quarters for the nurses. The first floor contained two wards, one for men and one for women. The second floor had apartments for the assisting physician and steward, and a large attic was above this.

At the turn of the century then, Eveleth was well along in her development. As the logging, mining, and railroad work increased, large numbers of men were imported from Europe and the young town began to be a true "melting pot." Many of these men came

early in the spring with the opening of the season, collected their money at the close of operations in the fall, and returned to the old country with round trip tickets in their pockets.

The growth of the town had been rapid. In 1893 the population was 50, (declined to 3 in October). While now in 1900, it was 2,752. Eveleth was a bigger town than Virginia, which had had to re-establish itself after a destructive fire and was to experience another before the year was out.

This year the Adams Mine had shipped 777,346 gross tons of ore; the Fayal, 1,252,504 and the Spruce 101,675, which last figure is the first recorded shipment from there.

There was agitation for the division of the county—the new county in the north to be called Iron.

Big Fire

Two events of 1900 will always stand out in the minds of the early settlers. One was the second burning of Virginia. The front page of the "Eveleth Star" for June 14, carried a description of this tragedy which had occurred on the 7th. Many friends and relatives of Eveleth people were burned out. The Eveleth fire department gave its services and Eveleth citizens contributed food, clothing, and material help to the homeless. A few months later, the Eveleth Village council passed Ordinance No. 34 concerning local fire regulations.

The second calamity occurred on one Sunday early in September. The powder house at Spruce location exploded, breaking most of the windows in town, shaking the houses, and cutting some citizens. As far away as Fayal, dishes were knocked off shelves and broken. Insurance men estimated 10 to 20 thousand dollars worth of damage, including broken glass. Window frames had to be boarded up for a week or two until new glass arrived.

By 1901 there were 62 telephone subscribers and the population was about 3,500. The road between Eveleth and Biwabik was not very

passable but hopes were expressed that with the election of Neil McInnis to the county board, it would be improved.

Complete Hospital

Early this year, the present More Hospital was completed and occupied. Then a 20-bed hospital, it has had several additions and remodelings since, and now accommodates 30. It was privately built, owned, and managed, but officially served the Spruce, Adams, Sparta, and Pettit mining employees and the general public as well. The early staff included: Dr. C. W. More, Dr. F. W. Bullen, Dr. W. A. Day, Dr. F. J. Pratt, Miss L. N. Trafford, Miss Hattie West, and John Sweiger, orderly. Miss Clara West was stenographer and clerk.

Mr. William F. Haenke, who came here in the early 1890's and had a meat market in Eveleth, settled with his family on a homestead four miles west of the city and thereafter Mr. Haenke's influence had considerable effect in the opening and developing of farms in this territory.

The Vega Mine, opened by Geo. St. Clair, and the Cloquet, developed by the Minnesota Iron Company, were added to the Spruce property which was now part of the Lake Superior Consolidated Iron Mines. All this came under the U. S. Steel Corporation which was formed this same year.

An outbreak of small pox caused some difficulties as the men in the logging and mining camps saw no sense in being quarantined and disliked being vaccinated.

1902 Was Busy

The year 1902 was one of special activity—the most important being Eveleth's incorporation as a city at an election held on April 1. As Charles Jesmore was then the village president, he continued as mayor of the city until the next election in 1904 when Nehemiah B. "Mike" Maxwell was elected.

The "Eveleth Mining News" then made its first appearance on May 31st. Its editor and publisher was H. C. Garrott.

First Graduates

On June 19th, elaborate exercises were held in Vail Hall for the six pupils graduating from the grammar grades: Frank C. Fredlund, Marie F. Page, Thomas F. Trezona, Anna Van Buskirk, Allister D. Murray, Florence Knight, and for the first high school graduate, who was Mae Trezona (now Mrs. George Dormer).

This event is worth recalling. The hall was decorated with bunting, flags, and greenery, and the platform was occupied by the graduates, some teachers, Superintendent Stevens, Principal Andrews, members of the school board and State Superintendent Olson. After some music, the six eighth grade graduates "read in turn, consecutive pages from Victor Hugo's "Ninety-Three". As each one took his seat amid applause, Lillian Shapiro came out from behind the scenes and gave him a bunch of carnations. The glee club then gave a selection. This was followed by Miss Trezona's essay on "Importance of the Schools." She was listened to with close attention as she read in a composed and earnest manner.

After a duet by the Misses Greene and Roberts, J. H. Harding, the president of the board, made a brief address which was so vigorous, entertaining, and to the point, that the audience was sorry he did not say more. He then presented the diplomas. Mr. Olson made a long speech. The last number was a song by the girls' chorus. Their selection was heartily applauded.

It might be interesting here to give the list of teachers as announced by S. W. Gilpin, district superintendent, on August 25, 1902: C. M. Stevens, superintendent, Misses Alice Rockwell, Mary Ferraby, Maude Bette, Elsie Lawson, Jennie Fraser, Ina Roberts, Franchon Barrett, Lottie Roberts, Ida Schneider, Agnes Flynn, Mary Fridley, Bertha Lyons, Corrie Barrett, Ada McKenzie, and Elsie McKenzie. Salaries were not listed.

In June also, a movement was on

foot to obtain shorter working hours for clerks. M. E. Nichols of the Talboys Company was one of the instigators and the idea was supported by most of the employers. They said "15 hours is too long a working day." Some stores kept open as long as 9:00 or 10:00 in the evening, and it was desired that all stores agree to close at 8. They succeeded in obtaining a 9:00 o'clock closing and shortly afterwards, organized a union with the hope of reaching their first objective.

This month saw the arrival of the first x-ray machine at the More Hospital. Fire Chief William Ellsworth was authorized to buy a new mockingbird whistle and four new fire alarm boxes to be placed near the D. & I. R. depot, the More Hospital, the M. E. church, and at the corner of Jackson and Adams.

A chemical laboratory was built at the Fayal at a cost of \$3000 with R. B. Greene in charge. It served the following mines: Fayal, Adams, Spruce, Genoa, and one in Biwabik.

Water Problem

There was much agitation about the muddy and potentially unsanitary drinking water which was half from the Spruce Mine and half from the creek. Housewives objected because white clothes took on a pinkish hue after the wash. Some families carried water from the spring on top of the hill between Virginia and Eveleth, but this was tedious. The city was threatened with a water famine and there was an epidemic of typhoid fever. The 1902 report of the Health Officer gave the number of typhoid cases at 354, most of which occurred in the fall months. However, by August 23, pure water was reaching the people from No. 6 shaft of the Adams Mine through 2,000 feet of pipe to a reservoir at the foot of Jones street where it was pumped to the city tank. Old timers locate this early tank about where the Peterson Funeral Home now stands. This water system apparently

served satisfactorily for a time, but all through Eveleth's history, there was much difficulty, discussion, and disturbance over this water problem. The purity of the water was challenged from time to time by those in charge of the health of the city. Conditions changed so fast that the water was often affected before the general public realized it.

It is on record that State Chemist H. C. Caryl in 1902 had "made several trips to Eveleth to look into the question of our water supply", so it is not unreasonable to conclude that he may have been the first to make an analysis of Eveleth's water. Finally in 1905, a new system was installed and water was obtained from St. Mary's Lake, but even this required many adjustments and regulations in order to keep the water free from impurities. People were frequently warned to "Boil all water". Improvements were made at the St. Mary's Lake pumping station in 1914 and 1919.

Build Filtration Plant

In 1921 the Filtration Plant at St. Mary's Lake was constructed and in 1923 the Sewage Disposal Plant. With these improvements, Eveleth's water and sewage problems reached a turning point. From 1920 on, the drinking water has been regularly analysed—at first by a representative of the Filter Company, then by John Masucci, a pharmacist, until March 1932, when Paul Stauff became the first, and is at present, the city chemist. His work includes water purification, sewage treatment, milk analysis and special assignment jobs. Mr. Stauff first came to Eveleth in 1907 as stenographer at the Fayal, and was later employed as chemist at the Fayal laboratory.

Finally in 1942, new equipment was bought and installed at the St. Mary's station, and the first smoke stack, built by the Dowling Brothers about 1904, was dynamited for reasons of safety in storm. Eveleth has an outstanding record of vigilance in this water matter.

Few cities of this size have any laboratory at all, and none a more conscientious chemist.

Establish Wards

On August 5, 1902, Ordinance No. 44 was passed, dividing Eveleth into three wards: ward No. 1, comprised all the city land lying west of Grant avenue and south of Jones street; ward No. 2, that lying east of Grant avenue and south of Jones street; ward No. 3, all territory of the city lying north of Jones street—"said three wards comprise all of the territory of said City of Eveleth".

It was in this month that the people of Eveleth woke up one Monday morning to find the post office had been moved from its old building, about where the Regent Theatre now stands. After some search, it was found installed across the street "in the store next to Murnik's, everything in shape and ready for business."

This "store" originally accommodated the Kinney Bank and the vault used then was now used by the post office. Plans were made to put in 150 more boxes. In December 1902, J. C. Poole became postmaster and about a year later, the post office was moved to the building on Jones street which it occupied until 1936 when the present post office was completed. The early post office was probably a fourth-class one, serving about 4,000 people. Today, a first-class post office, it serves about 8,000, has 544 boxes in the building. 290 rural boxes, free mail delivery, and provides many other services undreamed of in the early days.

The first regular taxi service between Virginia and Eveleth, that of Peter Pastoret's stage line which was drawn by four horses, was also begun this August. During the winters, the stages were glass enclosed, heated and put on bobsleds. Larger coaches were added as needed. The first auto taxi was begun early in 1911 by J. H. McWhirter and continued until August, 1913, by which time the street-car was operating between the Range towns.

By September 1902, Eveleth had about 40 saloons, two hospitals, two schools with 16 teachers and 1,100 pupils, and 131 telephones, (Virginia had 97). About this time the use of names in making phone calls was discontinued in favor of numbers.

First Automobile

In the previous June of this same year, an automobile made its first appearance on the streets of Eveleth. This was probably the "Locomobile" purchased that month by a group of young Virginia blades including A. B. Coates, D. Bailey, Chris Johnson, D. W. Freeman, and Ed. Finch. It apparently created quite a stir in this city for early in September, Ordinance No. 45 was passed. This limited the speed of automobiles within the city to four (4) miles per hour. Eveleth had several flourishing livery businesses including that of the mayor. The first automobiles for Eveleth residents arrived in May, 1907.

Also in Sept. 1902, the Talboys Mercantile Company moved into their new building—the "Glass Block"—at the end of Main Street. This building now houses the Fair Store.

In concluding this recital of 1902 events, the figures on ore shipments are of special interest. The Fayal Mine shipped more iron ore than had ever been shipped before in one season, from a single mine—nearly two million tons. The Adams and Spruce mines, considered as one since they had underground connections and were managed from the same office, then had no open pits and every ton shipped had to be mined underground by a slow, laborious process. In 1902, the Adams-Spruce Mine shipped 1,786,320 gross tons of iron ore. This was the greatest record for a strictly underground mine in the history of iron mining.

Divide School District

One of the most important events of 1903 was the division of the Virginia-Eveleth School District, No. 22. On December 5, 1902, the School Superintendent Charles M.

Stevens of Eveleth submitted to the Board of County Commissioners, a petition signed by a majority of property holders, asking for a separate school district for Eveleth. After some exciting discussions between the two towns over taxes and new school buildings, the county board on April 22, 1903, granted permission for the organization of Common School District No. 39.

On May 12th the following were elected to the 3-man board: J. H. Hearing, president; G. H. Dormer, treasurer, and W. J. Smith, clerk. Their term ended in July when the regular annual election was held and these men were re-elected.

The new district found itself in debt and in possession of two buildings: the Spruce, mentioned earlier, and the Fayal, "a frame building built by Mr. D. T. Denton in a picturesque country club house style". To help alleviate a badly overcrowded condition, the district made plans to erect two "temporary" school buildings, known as the Adams and Fayal Kindergartens, at a cost of nearly \$4,000.

The former, near the intersection of Douglas avenue and the Virginia Road, was in service until June 1926. At that time, a kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades, were being taught there by the Misses Doris Springer, Jeanette Mitchell, and Margaret Helps. Fayal kindergarten, built on the site of the present Karvala residence, was closed when the Franklin building was opened, early in 1923.

In November of this same year, Superintendent Stevens, who continued with the new district and may be considered Eveleth's first superintendent, reported the following schools in operation: Fayal, with 8 teachers and a principal, primary department through high school, and the superintendent's office; Eveleth building (Spruce) with 8 teachers, primary through sixth grade; New Finn Hall (Urania Hall) now housing the Paciotti Lumber Co., with 89 kindergarten pupils taught by Ada McKenzie and Hilma Berg, her assistant.

This last group was forced to

move from place to place until the kindergarten buildings were ready and it was a common sight in those days to see the 89 youngsters, with their two teachers, trudging to a new shelter, carrying their little chairs on their heads. Among the places they occupied were the Walon Lahde hall and a hall over William Murray's blacksmith shop.

Cooking and sewing classes were now begun at the suggestion of J. H. Hearing, who was a strong supporter of the then current belief that "poor cooking is largely responsible for the drinking of alcoholic beverages." These classes were taught by the Misses Lottie Roberts and Ida Schneider at the Fayal school. Manual training classes, which had been established in 1902, and taught by Superintendent Stevens, also at the Fayal, were greatly expanded.

First Library in 1903

One old timer recalls a reading room on the Main Street in "Old Town" in 1896, but the first record we find of library service in Eveleth was on May 2, 1903 when a shipment of library books for children was received from the Northern Library Association via the Duluth Public Library by Mrs. H. C. Garrott, who announced that the books would be loaned out to the children from the "Mining News" office daily from 8:00 to 12:00 A. M., except Fridays and Saturdays. A number of prominent Eveleth people agreed to be responsible for this service and it was apparently popular with the children for a time. We do not know how long this lasted. The present Public Library was opened for service on July 1, 1914.

Hotel Opening

The "Grand Opening" of the McNeil Hotel (now the Park Hotel) finally took place on May 8, 1903, after many announcements and postponements. It was a gala affair.

In September, a group of businessmen met. They elected J. C. Poole chairman, and he appointed Messrs. Dowling, Robb, and Smith as a committee to look into the

matter of organizing a commercial club. The next record we find is that of a "Businessmen's Association", with J. H. Hearing, president; C. E. Bailey, vice president; Solomon Sax, secretary, and J. A. Robb, treasurer, with Messrs. N. McInnis, Whitman, More, Gleason, and Peter Peterson being active committee members. It was said that Solomon Sax had "done more than any other man in the city to arouse the public on the matters under discussion." The organization went on record as favoring a cemetery, pure water supply, good roads, and other things for the welfare of Eveleth. The name of this club changed in 1910 to the Eveleth Commercial Club.

And so these organizations were actually the predecessors of our present active Chamber of Commerce.

The Miners National Bank was begun this same year.

According to Polk's Range town directory, Eveleth's population of 6,500 was 2,000 larger than Virginia's. During the mining season, there were 2,692 men working in the Eveleth mines.

The writer is overwhelmed at the amount of material of both personal and public interest that must be omitted from this account due to the limits of time and space. Some events that have been included may not be as important as some that have been omitted, and for these, please accept our sincere apology and regret.

Events Happened Quickly

From this point on, events happened so quickly that it is impossible to mention more than a few and those very briefly.

For a record by years up to 1911, see the paper read by George Perham at a meeting of the St. Louis County Historical Society in Eveleth on August 27, 1925.

We continue with a few facts about the schools, more of which may be found in the "Open Pit" (school annual) of 1926.

The first high school was built in 1904-05, on the site of the present Junior High School. It was of brick and was the pride of Eveleth.

In June 1908, it was destroyed by fire and the present Junior High School building was erected the following year on the same site. The first school library was opened there in January of 1910, with Miss Teckla Jackson, librarian. This building housed the kindergarten through the high school until 1917 when the present Senior High School building was built, located two blocks east. In 1922 the first high school became the Junior High School, serving only the 7th, 8th, and 9th grades.

In 1910, Common School District No. 39, with three directors, became Independent School District No. 39, with six directors, which is its present status.

The Fayal School burned on April 25, 1911. Rebuilt in 1912 it contained the largest gymnasium on the Range. This building was closed last month (June, 1947).

Raze Spruce School

A luncheon program held on May 24, 1930 in the Spruce School, was in the nature of a farewell party, attended by a large number of former Eveleth teachers and persons interested in the early life of the schools. That summer, the building was sold and later torn down.

The use of the Adams Building, erected in 1908 and later called the Lincoln Annex, was discontinued in June of 1939. In 1912, the Lincoln School was built. A clipping tells us that a contest was held to name this new building. There were three prize winning essays, all suggesting the name of Lincoln. First prize of \$3.00 was won by Hugo Newberg; second, \$2.00 by Axel Brandt, and the third, \$1.00 by Salina Saari. There were 40 contestants.

In 1914 the Manual Training building was erected and was "the first school building in Minnesota devoted entirely to boys' industrial subjects".

College Started

The Jr. College was established in 1918 with 7 students enrolled. By 1922 there were 65, with prospects for a continued increase

which necessitated building an addition to the Senior High School. This was justified by the rapid increase in enrollment to the all-time high of 339 in 1939-40.

The Benjamin Franklin, finished in 1922, is the latest new school building. It houses the kindergarten through 6th grade, and the Art, Instrumental Music, Home Economics, and Health departments. The garage and stock room building was completed in 1929.

The old "ball park", worked on during the depression years by the W. P. A. labor, was completed in 1935, and is now called the More Stadium. Flood lights were added in 1937-38.

The study hall (assembly room) in the Senior High School, for some time considered outmoded, was in 1941 remodeled and re-equipped and is now known as the Boardman Auditorium.

Schools Play Important Part

The Eveleth schools have played an important part in the lives of the people. Credit is due to wise administration from the very beginning with constant attention all through the years to the changing needs of the times. Each generation of pupils can recall certain courses or departments that were in existence during their student days and were later discontinued when the need lessened. An example of this is the night school work begun in 1908 primarily for Americanization purposes. These classes became so large that in the early 20's, busses were used to transport persons from the surrounding area, and the work was greatly expanded. Gradually the Americanization classes became largely Citizenship classes for those wanting to take out their first and second papers, courses in other subjects were added as public interest justified. The Citizenship classes were discontinued shortly before World War II, but the other night classes in handicraft, industrial arts, etc., have been continued to the present time.

Full realization of the high edu-

cational standards and unusual advantages offered by the Eveleth Public Schools comes to those who have gone forth from these schools and have had experiences in other parts of the country.

Much Building in 1904

In 1904 there was much building activity. The trimness and well-kept appearance of the Fayal location was often commented upon. Fred Dahl was building a house, Supt. Trezona's house was repainted, the Fayal fire hall was built next to the Fayal town hall.

St. Patrick's church was finished and high mass was held at 10:30 a. m. Sunday, August 7, 1904.

On Jones street, residences for the following were being built or remodeled: William Murray, Max Shapiro, Peter Johnson, Stephen James, W. J. Smith and A. J. Filia-trault. On Jackson street, Fred Larson and Thomas Dark built homes. J. Mesberg moved into his new brick store on Grant avenue where Sagen's Hardware Store is now. Water pipes were laid on Jackson street and Adams avenue.

Four pupils graduated from high school in 1904: Clara Shapiro, Ella Talboys, Marietta Murray, and Many Shapiro. Dr. W. F. Folwell of the University of Minnesota was the main speaker at the exercises held in the new auditorium of the Methodist church.

Supt. B. O. Greening arrived in August to take the place of Supt. Stevens who had resigned. At the opening of school in December, the enrollment was 779. Mr. Greening remained for 13 years and those years witnessed the school district's most rapid growth.

Sports organizations sprang up in 1904:

The Eveleth Gun Club became an active organization, holding gun shoots from time to time. A frame building was put up and a trap set, at the "ball park on Gun Club Hill." In March of 1910, the annual business meeting was held. Officers were elected and it was announced that "grounds opposite the Iron Range depot half a block from Grant avenue" had been secured. Early officers included G.

H. Dormer, Hans Van Nostlitz, James Robb, Albert Rohrer and C. W. More. In March 1922, it was stated that a charter was to be issued by the National Rifle Association. There were then 20 members.

This same year also saw the establishment of the Eveleth Driving (Horsemen's) Association with 16 members, including some from Virginia. The president was Dr. Harwood. Others interested in horse racing at this time were W. J. Smith, James Robb, Charles Jesmore, F. C. Talboys, Dr. Barrett, W. H. Shea, G. A. Whitman, Dr. Lenont and Mayor Maxwell. Mr. Whitman's "Indiana Girl" won first place in one of the races on the St. Mary's lake track that December.

A baseball club was organized with George W. Mulligan as manager. Players were Guy Woodard, capt.; J. M. Roberts, catcher; Mr. Roberts, pitcher; William Dolan, first base and pitcher; F. Winchester, second base; Guy Woodard, third base; R. Gudell and Matt Doyle, short-stops; S. A. Meade, left field; C. Kalligan, center field and pitcher; Russell Kane, right field; Sam Trengove and Chas. Clark, substitutes. Their first game on June 12th was with Hibbing, who defeated them 6 to 1. They wore their new suits: red caps, blue uniforms, white belts and red stockings.

The Fayal and Eveleth city bands were also functioning this year, Director Scott directing the former.

Expressed desires for the city in 1904 included a cemetery, a park with shade trees and lawn for the relaxation of those not interested in horses or ball games, a paved business street and the inevitable water works and sewage improvements.

In 1905 the police force was increased to four. Nicholas Brascugli began building his home at 701 Garfield—the only one on that street. He built it of native brick made by himself in a yard near the Genoa mine. The house still stands.

A park board was created with

Neil McInnis, P. E. Dowling and Solomon Sax as members. Eveleth's first steam laundry was opened the end of the year on Jackson street by Eugene Maxwell.

The only office building on the Range or probably anywhere, built exclusively for Fee Owners, was finished and occupied by D. W. Freeman, C. E. Bailey and W. R. Van Slyke, the latter having just arrived.

In 1906 the Missabe Mountain Township hall was built on the northeast corner of Adams avenue and Garfield street. D. A. Springer was then chairman of the board. It was a two-story red brick building, wired for electricity and with a steam heating plant in the basement. This was sold to the Masonic Lodge in 1910 and remodeled in 1920.

The Monitor Hall on the northwest corner of Grant avenue and Pierce street was another outstanding building erected this year. Both had halls for public gatherings. Now in 1947 the American Legion moves into the Monitor Hall upon the completion of an addition and remodeling job.

By the end of 1906 the new City Hall was finished, much to the satisfaction of the city fathers who had long complained of the old, hastily built village hall. The Police and Fire Departments were housed on the first floor and the municipal offices on the second.

The ball park on "Gun Club Hill" was enclosed by a high board fence. By August, \$2,400 had been spent on it and Jesmore said more was needed to put it in shape for racing.

There was much discussion on granting franchises for an inter-urban electric line.

In 1907 Frank Rabinowitz erected a new building which now houses the First National Bank. There was also a panic during which the O. I. M. Co. issued private script for pay roll money, which was accepted at face value by all the merchants.

Agitation was begun this year for a home rule charter, for a curling club and for a local company of the National Guard, all of which

materialized as follows: By January 27, 1909 a charter commission appointed by the district court held its first meeting. Members were freeholders who had been citizens at least five years. John J. Murnick was elected chairman and N. B. Arnold, secretary. Other members were Messrs. Poole, Whitman, Robb, Sax, More, Dowling, Max Shapiro, E. J. Millette, Jos. Wilson, Peter Peterson, F. R. Campbell, Jacob Saari and W. J. Smith. The membership changed through the years, but the commission still functions as needed.

On June 10, 1909 the Eveleth Curling Club was organized with the following officers: Tom Pratt, president; S. E. Helps, vice president; W. J. Davey, treasurer, and Fred Smith, secretary. They hoped to have a rink built on Jones street, below the electric plant in time for the opening of the season.

In 1908 Co. F of the Minnesota National Guard was organized under Capt. R. M. Cornwell and mustered 65 men at the first inspection.

In February of that year, Mayor Maxwell, serving his second term, died in office. W. J. Smith was appointed to fill the unexpired term.

Chisholm burned this year as well as the Eveleth high school mentioned before.

The McNeil Hotel became the Glode Hotel when it was bought by a local group and leased to John Glode.

Discussion of free mail delivery and concrete sidewalks was started. Twenty-six cars of ore, the first from the Leonidas mine, was shipped in October 1908. By the end of the year, the Fayal had shipped a total of 1,439,878 tons of ore.

In December a new fire team was tried out. The animals were not trained but were promising. By the first of the year it was expected that 3 new firemen would be put on, making all paid men in the local department, volunteers to be called only in emergencies.

In 1909 Supt. J. H. Hearing

was promoted to the Oliver Iron Mining Company offices at Duluth. The present 300,000 gallon water tank was erected, extensive concrete sidewalks were laid, and the September school enrollment was 1,279 with 34 teachers.

In December, the Othello theatre, scene of many a brilliant dramatic performance, was opened. Every box and seat in the house was filled with elaborately gowned ladies and gentlemen in evening dress. The fanciful play "Graustark" was presented. This theatre, built by P. E. Dowling, also housed the "Eveleth Star" offices. It was completely destroyed by fire on April 7, 1911.

The congregation of the Holy Family church, planning to rebuild, sold their first little church in the summer of 1911 to the Jewish congregation for \$500, the structure to be moved to the corner of Jackson street and Adams avenue. It was improved and redecorated and now is the synagogue.

The first paving on Grant avenue was granatoid, laid in 1910 and covering 9,991 square yards. At once the problem arose of keeping it free of mud and dirt tracked in from other streets and the city fathers had to investigate street sprinklers and washers. The first two "white wings" were employed and outfitted.

Eveleth Expands

Since the moving of the town, the city limits had been gradually extended by the absorption of various "additions". The first addition, platted in 1896, was highly unsatisfactory and had a large part in obstructing moving operations. This was rearranged in 1899 to include land within the boundaries of Fayal Road and Adams Avenue, half a block north of Jackson, and one and one-half blocks west of Douglas. A month later the second addition was platted, extending these limits about a block and one-half to the east and north.

On May 10, 1905 we find a special election being held to determine whether certain additional

plats would come into the city. These comprised all residential portions east and south of the city to Fayal Avenue and Fayal Road. At this time Eveleth had a population of about 6,000. The election was held in the reading room of the Hotel McNeil. There were 27 ballots cast, of which 26 were favorable, with one spoiled, the voter being so anxious to vote YES, that he briskly scratched off the word NO, and forgot to put an X after the word YES.

By this election the city gained several residential blocks, a number of public institutions, nearly all the churches, two public halls, Fayal School, the new High School, and the McNeil Hotel.

The next extension to the city limits was also decided by an election, this one held on April 8, 1910. This, comprising Central Division No. 2, Highland addition, and Northside Division, extended the city east to Fayal Avenue, then north between that avenue and Adams to an east-west line just this side of the present cemetery. This increased the city area many times, the assessed valuation about ten times and the population within the city limits to 7,205. The 3-ward city was then reconstructed into 6 wards.

Later additions to the city were made from time to time in accordance with provisions of the city charter adopted in 1913. The largest and most important of these was the territory included in resolution No. 284, published October 18, 1922, which embraced extensive land west of the southwest corner of the city. Comprising the Volcansek Addition it became election precinct No. 7, bringing in a new valuation of 3 to 4 million dollars with territory amounting to about twice the original city limits.

This was disputed by the mining company and it was taken to the district court and later to the state supreme court which granted a decision in favor of the City of Eveleth.

The Kingston Addition, platted in 1920, covered an area north of

Garfield street and extending east from Grant avenue, formerly the site of both underground and open pit mining operations by the Kingston Mining company. The present Eveleth-Virginia road extending from Grant avenue was paved by contract with Lawrence-McCann about 1922.

On June 23, 1947, the latest plat was accepted by the city council. Known as Welton's Morningside Addition, this is located east of the main group of school buildings and north from Jones street to the Detention Hospital (Cleveland St.).

Early in 1911 the federal census was corrected, giving the population for Eveleth proper 7,036 and Fayal Township 1,141. During this year and the next, many more building plans got under way. The present fire hall was completed on June 12, 1912; the Armory, now called the Auditorium, for which \$10,000 had been advanced by the state, was opened and dedicated on November 22, 1912.

Park desires were at last being realized. In July 1911, plans were in the offing for one to be located in the Highland Addition acquired in 1910, on the north side, with the now famous creek to be dammed for a public swimming beach.

Purchase Park Land

A year later, while work was proceeding on that, the land east of Chandler avenue (now Memorial Park) was purchased from Messrs. Robb, Poole, and Smith for \$19,000 to be used for a park and also a site for a public library. Arrangements had to be made to move the Presbyterian and Episcopal churches which were on corners of this property and there were many meetings of the library board, the city park board, the land owners and church representatives besides correspondence with Andrew Carnegie's representatives about financial aid for the library. Plans were also made in August 1912 to set out trees on this low land and a contract was let for about \$9,000 for the creation of a park, including the erection of a fence.

The beautification of this unsightly garbage dump and cow pasture was the result of persistence and hard work on the part of a few far-sighted civic leaders.

Detention Hospital

It was probably early in 1912 that what is said to have been the Christopherson home, was moved from Jackson street up the hill to a site near the water tank and the present 3-story detention hospital with 8 rooms for patients, was later established under the supervision of the health department, W. S. King being in charge. Then early in 1914 Mr. and Mrs. Albert Brackett were hired to live there and be the caretakers.

Details about the earliest so-called "pest house" (also called isolation and contagious hospital) are lacking, but old timers recall a lone structure standing on Spruce Hill, surrounded by a barbed wire fence; there are references to the "pest house road", and we read that by July 1, 1904, a telephone had been installed in the "pest house".

In September 1924 we find St. Louis County establishing a trachoma hospital in the old Capt. Mitchell residence and again in 1925, the village of Leonidas used the same building as a detention hospital to care for a diphtheria emergency that arose.

It was also in 1912 that a third park site was obtained from Murphy, Dorr and Flinn, through the efforts of Messrs. Freeman, Van Slyke and Hatch of the Eveleth Park Board. This was a timbered area between Ely and St. Mary's Lakes now known as the Veterans' Lake Park. Adjoining acreage was purchased in 1926.

Ever since 1902 the city council had been considering granting a franchise for an interurban street-car service. Finally on December 12, 1912, the first run from Eveleth was made on Adams avenue with departure from a station at the Park hotel, formerly the Glode, Guy Golden being street-car operator. This continued operation until April 1927 and today we have regular bus service.

Local Cemetery

In 1913 action for a cemetery was pushed at a meeting in July of the Cemetery Association at which J. J. Gleason was named president. The first burial in the Eveleth cemetery took place on August 17, 1914 when Charles Anderson was laid to rest.

There was some dispute over the vote on a new charter, but on October 23, 1913, the court declared it passed, giving Eveleth the commission form of government.

In the same month, the Eveleth News moved its offices to the Monitor Hall building.

Open Library

The year 1914 marked the beginning of World War I and the outstanding event in Eveleth was the opening of the public library.

Early in 1915, a group of 35 boys met at Fayal school and under the leadership of D. V. West, the Boy Scout movement was begun. In May 1922 the Scout Council acquired 80 acres for a camp site on Pleasant Lake.

In March 1915, a bill for the division of St. Louis County was defeated in the House of Representatives; Attorney V. E. Essling took up residence in Eveleth this spring; Mike Cronin and William Trenholm were each planning to build amusement pavilions on the opposite sides of Ely Lake.

In May 3,000 trees were set out along boulevards of the city under the direction of Park Commissioner J. A. Spurrier, whose creative work in beautifying the city will long be remembered by those who knew Eveleth when it was hardly more than stumps and mud.

In September the school board purchased the Gleason home on Jones street for use by the domestic science classes. Later it became the superintendent's home.

During these years, streets were in an almost continuous state of excavation for the laying of water and steam pipes, storm sewers, and all such modern conveniences necessary in a well regulated city.

Company F was called for duty and left for the Mexican border in

June 1916, returning in December; Neil McInnis, age 74, died at his home here; and tennis courts were built on the Fayal school grounds.

In 1917, the year of our entry in World War I, Mayor Saari ordered all the public meetings stopped because of a small-pox scare; also in this year, John Glode was appointed chief of police; and the Minnesota Utilities company merged with the Home Electric company, later to become the Minnesota Power & Light company; August Bratulich, who had come to Eveleth in 1909 and established a bakery at 304 Jackson street, moved to his new building on Jones street; the city bought 40 acres of St. Mary's Lake frontage from Bargh & Perham.

Recreational Building

The Curling club was again looking for a building and strenuous efforts, begun in September, 1917, had their climax in the opening on January 17, 1919 of the new skating and curling rink on the corner of Adams avenue and Garfield street. This was the Recreational building which was leased and occupied in January 1947 by Cluett-Peabody and Co., Inc. for a factory. The Curling club is again having building pains.

While our peace-makers in Europe struggled over Wilson's Fourteen Points, Eveleth activities marched on. 1918 saw the retirement of Capt. R. R. Trezona after 17 years service as superintendent of the Fayal mine.

Thirty Eveleth saloons closed as a result of the vote in the previous September, making St. Louis County dry, thus anticipating the 18th amendment to the United States Constitution by about a year; in April the Peoples' State Bank received its charter; and W. F. Pellenz arrived from Hibbing to be superintendent of the Fayal and Genoa mines which were consolidated with the Adams in August beginning what was known as the Eveleth District; Pierce and Jackson streets with McKinley avenue were being paved.

In March 1919 Virginia and Eveleth councils agreed to cooperate

in paving the highway between their cities and plans were being prepared; St. Louis County commissioners went on record favoring the paving of the Miller Trunk Road; the Regent Theatre built by Frank Rabinowitz next to Monitor Hall, was opened on June 6, 1919.

Eveleth's open air school on Elv Lake this September was the first of its kind in the state. During the winters after the Franklin school was built, the group occupied large well-ventilated rooms on its top floor.

Two men arrived in the city this year, each of whom contributed in his own way toward making Eveleth a finer community. Robert Dunbar, a championship curler, arrived in September to give the curling enthusiasts here that shot in the arm needed to make Eveleth the great curling center it has become. Grove Wills arrived in March to be Intertype operator for the Eveleth News, and has in a quite different way, become an ardent booster for Eveleth.

Fitzgeralds Start

In 1920 the Fitzgerald brothers began bus operations in Eveleth. With a big business now spread all over the country, they still think this is a good place to be and maintain a summer home on Ely Lake, also known as Cedar Island and Eveleth Lake.

Girl Scouting was begun in Eveleth this same year as was the Rotary club which disbanded in September 1934 upon stiff competition from the Lion's club.

The year 1921 marked the beginning of the rise of hockey to its championship peak which resulted in making the name Eveleth a national byword. Early games were played in the Recreational building.

A Western Union office was opened in May and the first telegram was sent by A. A. Trost. In June, women served on the jury for the first time in Minnesota and the first Eveleth women are believed to be the following: Mrs. T. Lind, Mrs. J. C. Pryor, Mrs. Robert Meyers, Mrs. C. S. McCarty, Mrs. Peter Peterson, Mrs. Victor Parks. They

served under Judge Moylan.

This year the Eveleth Clarion came into being and with its consolidation in 1942 with the 41-year-old Eveleth News, we now have the Eveleth News-Clarion.

In January 1922 the Hippodrome, with a seating capacity of about 3,000 was opened and became the "new hockey rink".

Remodel City Hall

The city hall was also enlarged and remodeled this year to accommodate increased activities. A garage and quarters for a jail were added about 1930. By August 1922 a fourth Packard bus was added to the Transit company for the daily run between Eveleth and Virginia and seven years later the bus depot was moved from the west side of Grant avenue to the Rainbow Inn on the corner of Jones street where it is now.

In October plans were begun by the Elks for the erection of a building on Jones street east of Grant avenue on the site of the destroyed Othello Theatre. Building operations were set back by the collapse of the front wall but it was finally opened in April 1924.

The city auditorium was to be remodeled to include dining and kitchen facilities. The Commercial Club, with its energetic secretary, George A. Perham, and a "live-wire" committee consisting of Messrs. Canill, Kefgen, Malley, Mather and Harry Rabinowitz, sponsored a formal opening of the newly paved Miller Trunk Road, State Highway No. 11, on Saturday, October 14, 1922. There was a large parade, prizes for the most beautifully decorated car, dinner at the Recreational building, a football game and a dance.

The first train entered the new depot on Fayal road in July 1923. Mail service by bus began this year, too.

It was reported that 51 new buildings had been erected in the city during the summer of 1924 including some in the new Carlson and Volcansek Additions.

A unique feature was introduced to its employees by the Oliver Iron

Mining company in 1925. This was an underground auditorium, capacity 200, located at the bottom of Spruce No. 4 shaft. It was used as a recreational room and occasionally for small banquets. Joseph Wilson was credited with the idea for this.

Dedication of the new Italian-American building on the corner of Adams avenue and Pierce street took place in July 1926 before 150 persons.

The Eveleth municipal band played its first concert in the new \$5,000 band shell in Memorial park in July 1928.

Since it was in 1928 that proposals were first submitted to the council for a municipal airport, this seems the right place to pause for a look at the local interest in air travel.

Interest in Flying

The Kingston-Rhodes Airways, Inc., with M. S. Kingston, president and C. R. "Dusty" Rhodes, pilot and general manager, was creating local interest in flying just one year after Lindbergh had made his historic New York to Paris hop. With a Ryan four-passenger monoplane named the "Spirit of St. Louis County", equipped with pontoons for landing on water, they inaugurated seaplane service on Saturday, June 17, 1928 at Ely Lake, specializing in fishing and hunting parties. It could be chartered at \$60 per hour. There was also a base on Vermilion Lake.

Twelve days after this formal opening, Dr. J. F. Briggs of the More hospital answered an emergency call by air to Pelican Lake, using this plane and pilot. Mr. Kingston was quoted as saying that "God gave Minnesota 10,000 natural airports." A real enthusiast, the appearance of his plane in this area always attracted large crowds. This air service was continued into the 30's and carried many sportsmen into areas otherwise inaccessible.

Today, nearly 20 years later, the seaplane base at Sky Harbor on Ely Lake, established in April 1946, is a further development along the same line.

And so, Mr. Kingston in 1928 implanted the idea of a municipal airport in the minds of many. The city bought about 160 acres 3 miles south on the Miller Trunk for \$19,500 from George Pappas in November 1929. From then on, during various city administrations work spasmodically leaped and lagged on this so-called airport.

The local schools made history in 1929 by the establishment of a student police patrol—the first on the Range; and in 1930 the high school band directed by Frank Solazzi won the state championship.

Air Mail Service

Air mail service was begun in June 1931; the following month W. F. Pellenz was made mining superintendent for the Virginia-Eveleth District with headquarters in Virginia; work was begun on the municipal golf course which was opened in August 1934; and the county moved into its new \$16,900 garage building on lower Jones street between Grant and Douglas avenues; in August a new city charter was voted down, but 2 years later, four new amendments were adopted.

Famous for Hockey

Eveleth again won the State Amateur Hockey Title in March 1932 by an overtime score of 3 to 2 over the Deephaven team of Minneapolis. The players included Patsy DeLeo, Frank Brimsek and his brother Johnny, Danny and Robert DePaul, Gasperlin, Richards, Brascugli, Bjork, Vandell, and Kauppi. At the same time, the professionals were preparing for their final games after taking first place in the Central Hockey League; and Mike Karakas, with the Chicago Shamrocks, was the youngest goal tender in the professional hockey league circuits. He made such a name for himself and Eveleth, that 7 years later a letter addressed to:

Miss Patsy Cervený

Mike Karakas' Home Town
Somewhere in Minnesota

was delivered in Eveleth without delay.

During these years there were

fewer outward and material changes, but many Eveleth people had achieved recognition in their chosen work. Among them were: Ernest and Arthur Lampe, Frank and Peter Mancina, John T. Bernard, Wayne Kakela, Virginia Farley.

These were the years, too, of the latest panic - depression to us - with large numbers of unemployed, huge relief rolls, N.Y.A., W.P.A., etc., all of which had serious impact on every phase of Eveleth's life and development. Federal funds to keep men and women busy were used to renovate six city buildings, to finish the hippodrome, to develop the ball park, to build a pavilion at Eveleth Lake Park, etc.

Late in the 30's the most widespread depression the nation had ever experienced seemed to lessen somewhat. People began to move about, and in August 1938 the Northwest Gas and Power Co. established a branch in the city.

Dante and Roland Paciotti had established their lumber and coal business in the remodeled Urania Hall, later enlarging their interests to include a lively dairy and cattle farm.

In 1939 there were two dedications: that of the new golf club house on June 18; and the two experimental stretches of Iron Pavement a half mile south of the city on October 22. Mayors Berghult of Duluth and Woolcock of Eveleth cut the ribbon and shook hands for the latter event.

The Junior Chamber of Commerce received its U. S. charter at a meeting in the Spruce underground theatre on October 30 of that year.

In the spring of 1941 Ed Hatch was elected mayor of Duluth; and the House of Representatives passed the per capita reduction bill which was a severe blow to future expenditures on the Range. Preliminary work was begun on the airport with a grant of \$500,000, and additional land was purchased in July.

With our country's entry into the war, selfish civic plans were dropped and all efforts were directed toward

the greater national emergency. At the war's end it was estimated that 1,350 had gone from Eveleth; 40 died in service.

By 1943 Eveleth was participating fully; the air raid system was perfected; there were black-outs, rationing and salvage drives; all War Bond drives went over the top; it was noted that Mrs. Anton Pugel had six sons in service. Two more entered service later, making eight sons.

Although Germany's surrender did not come until May 1945, Eveleth had already begun preparing for the future. In January the city council and school board agreed to sponsor a joint recreation program. Today this is one of Eveleth's most important activities. Supt. Pellenz retired in September, being replaced by W. J. Kaiser.

Ten-Year Lease

The following year negotiations were entered into with the Cluett, Peabody & Co., Inc., which culminated in the signing of a 10-year lease on the Recreational building for use in making men's shorts. There was much interest in this as it was the first large scale industry outside of mining to enter Eveleth. The factory began operations on January 13, 1947, Frank Mancina, manager.

The county-wide 4-H winter frolic was held at the golf course for the first time, in January 1947. In February Ridson Inc., owners of the Duluth News Tribune and Herald papers, announced a new radio station WEVE for Eveleth, to be located on land across and just north of the cemetery. And in March the district basketball tournament was held in Eveleth, also a first.

In June the city leased the main and second floors of the auditorium to the state for use of the National Guard. The same month an allotment of \$46,000 was made by the state for future work on the airport and in July contracts were let for an administration building, water line, septic tank, etc. The runways have been completed and a few planes are already landing. With adequate hangar, fuel and repair

service, the use of this field, together with the sea plane base nearby, could mean much to the future prosperity of Eveleth.

This year too, the Virginia-Eveleth mining district absorbed the Vermilion Range operations and it is now known as the Eastern District.

Thus was ushered in, not only a new year, but a new era for Eveleth with activities directed toward the time when the mines would no longer be able to support the town. Progress, and even existence, demand far-sighted plans today. Good foundations have been laid in material needs, such as water and sewage systems, paved streets, fire, police, health, recreation, communication, and transportation, with an educational system second to none.

The "mountains of red gold" are diminishing, tax levies have declined, the population and school enrollments are leveling off.

The future welfare of Eveleth depends not alone upon the action of the city fathers, the board of education, the Chamber of Commerce or any organization, but upon the vigilance and constructive work of each private citizen. Those who enjoy the benefits of a democracy must bear the responsibility for its continuation and nowhere is this more important than in the small towns of America today.

Eveleth is no metropolis such as Chicago or New York, but she looms large in the hearts of those who have helped to make her the flourishing little city that she is today.

Sources

- Greening, B. O.—*Thirteenth Annual Report of the Superintendent of Schools*. 1917. School District No. 39, St. Louis County, Minn.
- Hearding, J. H.—*Pioneer Mining Man Describes Early Days in the Eveleth District*. Clipping from SKILLINGS MINING REVIEW, n. d.
 Unpublished manuscripts.
- Johnson, Ephraim—*After Forty Years*. 1942. Manuscript.
- Leith, C. K.—*The Mesabi Iron-Bearing District of Minnesota*. 1903 Vol. XLIII U. S. Geol. Survey.
- McInnis, Neil—*Early Recollections of the Mesaba Range*. In EVELETH NEWS, December 19, 1906.
- More, C. W.—*Reminiscences of a Range Physician in MINNESOTA MEDICINE*, January 1936.
 Manuscripts.
- Open Pit, 1926—*History and Development of Eveleth*, by Milton Sax, Lee Bradford, Clarence Johnson, Dorothea Perham.
- Perham, George A.—*Eveleth Chronology to 1911*. Paper read at meeting of St. Louis County Historical Society, Eveleth, August 27, 1925.
- Perham, Mrs. George A.—*History of Eveleth*. Paper read before Eveleth Woman's Club, February 17, 1936. Also in EVELETH NEWS, March 5, 1936.
- Tobin, L. J.—*Eveleth Firsts*. Nine installments and addenda. In EVELETH CLARION, October 21, 1937 and succeeding issues. Read at meeting of St. Louis County Historical Society, Eveleth, October 14, 1937.
- Van Brunt, Walter—*Duluth and St. Louis County, Minnesota*, 1921. 3 vols.
- Van Slyke, W. R.—*The Discovery of Iron Ore, the Mines of Eveleth and the Development of Eveleth*. Six parts. In EVELETH NEWS, October 21 - November 25, 1937. Read at meeting of St. Louis County Historical Society, Eveleth, October 14, 1937.
- Village Minute Books, October 25, 1894 - October 3, 1899.
- Watts, George W.—Unpublished manuscript and letter, June 27, 1947.
- The following Eveleth newspapers from the earliest available to the present: Republican, Star, Mining News, News, Clarion.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks are extended to the many who furnished various historical items and information, as well as helpful criticism. Among these are: Andrew Anderson, Mrs. J. F. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Will H. Brown, H. L. Burns, Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Eddy, R. H. Ely, Gilbert Finnegan, D. W. Freeman, Hazel and Mrs. Florence Goard, E. H. Hatch, Alice Johnson, Mayme Kentta, Mrs. Merton Kingston, Mrs. Sally S. Martin, Mrs. Jennie Maxwell, G. H. Murray, Burt D. Pearson, George A. Perham, B. C. and Violet Prout, Mrs. Mary Rivett, Albert Rohrer, Grace Ryan, Joseph Sannicola, Mrs. Timothy Shea, Otis Springer, L. J. Tobin, A. J. Van Buskirk, W. R. Van Slyke, and many others.

Finally, this work could not have been done without the help and encouragement of Johanna Maas, faithfulness and efficiency of Marie Timpano as stenographer, and material assistance of Grove Wills.

None of the above are, however, responsible for misstatements of facts. Errors and omissions in such a quickly gathered and written story are inevitable. It is hoped that these will be called to our attention for correction.

