

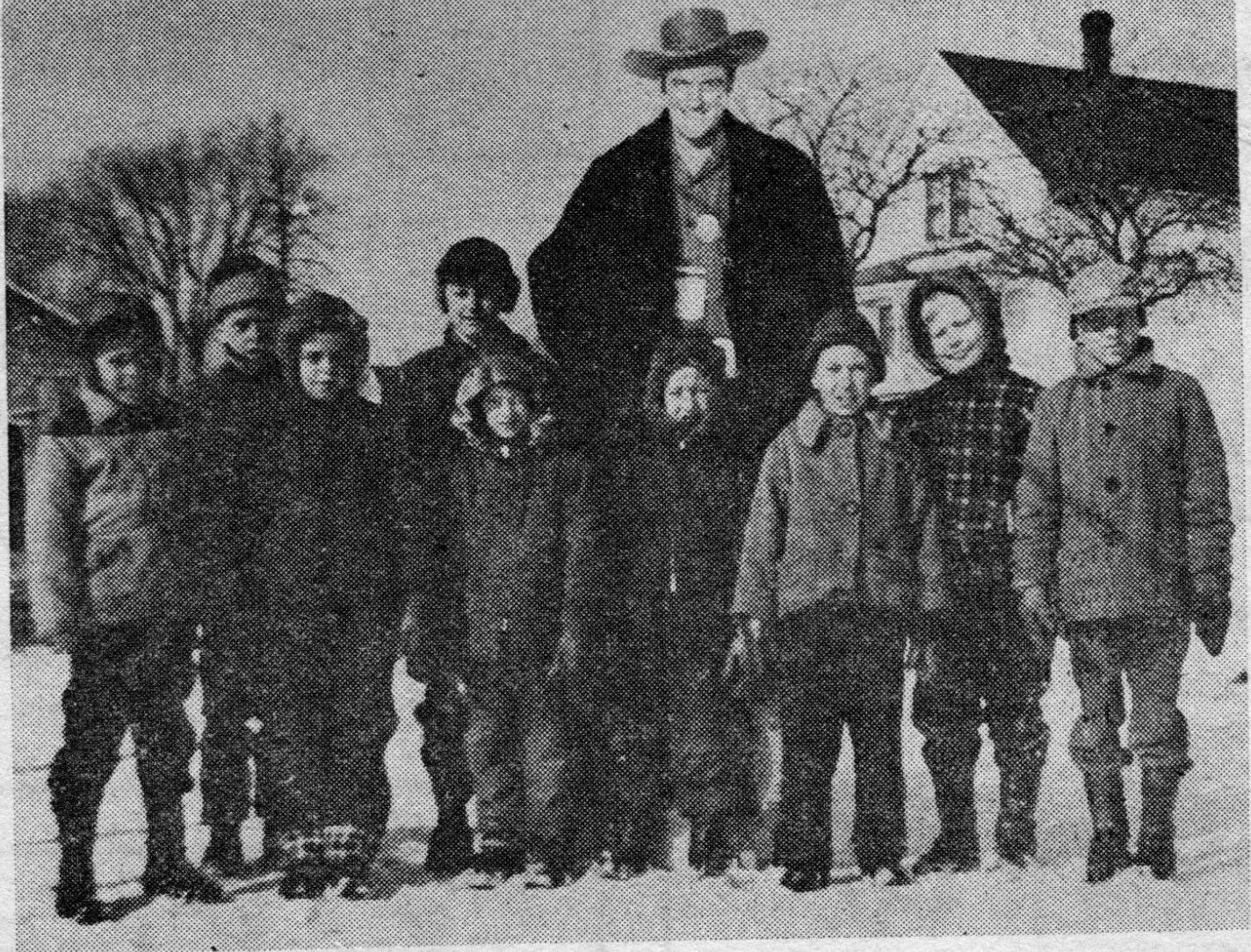
Diamond Drill

Out of the Past

March 19, 1959

The youngsters of Mrs. Heino Puotinen's Cub Scout Den #11 of Alpha were hosts to a real celebrity recently. Matt Dillon, the gun slinging lawman featured on the Television series "Gunsmoke" was in town. The cubs made a day of it, having their pictures taken in various poses and locations about the community. Matt was a little out of character with a borrowed mackinaw coat covering his signature vest to ward off the effects of the cold and snow. Members of the troop included: James Anderson, James Ball, Robert Hoholek, William Jarvi, Robert Polivka, James Puotinen, Denis Skibo, Mark Skrzyniarz and William Thorpe. Although some of the photos looked quite realistic the truth is that Matt was only a two-dimensional cardboard figure 6'5" tall in exact proportion to the TV marshal. The life-size cutout was on loan from the F&S Store in Crystal Falls where it was used in an advertising display.

According to Hematite Township Supervisor, Arne Maki, only about 40% of the surface area of the Township appears on the tax rolls. The entire Township is 99,840 acres in size with 57,488 acres exempt from local assessment due to being designated as commercial forest lands, school and State owned forests plus rivers, lakes, public roads and railroad right-of-ways.



BIG MATT (6'5") Dillon looks a bit out of character with his borrowed mackinaw drapped over his shoulders and his cowboy boots sunk in the fresh snow, but the group of Alpha cub scouts is thoroughly enjoying the whole thing. Mackinaw was donated by Heino Puotinen, when Matt complained of possible ill effects to his 'shootin' arm" by the Northern Michigan cold. Cubs, left to right, are: (front row) James Anderson, Mark Skrzyniarz, Robert Hoholek, Robert Polivka, James Puotinen, William Jarvi and Denis Skibo; (back row) James Ball, William Thorpe, and Matt (honorable member, Den 11). Photo was taken during the marshal's recent visit to Alpha. See story.