

Diamond Drill

Out of the Past

October 2, 1974

A stock liquidation sale of the Crystal Falls Iron Mine brought an end to one of the area's unusual tourist attractions. The owners have announced that there will be no further efforts made to operate the mine which has provided thousands of people the experience of touring the historical underground exhibit. The Mine was rated as one of the Upper Peninsula's genuinely unique local attraction. The cost of continuing the operation in the face of regulatory pressures, taxes and other expenses involved became too much. Plans for the tourist attraction began in 1959 when pumping began to dewater the former Kimball Mine. The mine, originally called the Junietta, was first explored in 1882 and renamed the Kimball in 1887 and produced 35,000 tons of ore from 1907-1915. Efforts made to reopen the mine in the 1920's faltered and the property had remained dormant until the new venture took ownership in 1959. The tourist attraction was opened to the public on May 28, 1962. Future plans for the site are unknown at this time.