

Diamond Drill

Out of the Past

December 22, 1960

The Walter Skibo summer home at Armstrong Lake was completely destroyed by fire in one of the most costly blazes in Iron County in recent years. The home, a ranch style building of frame construction, completed only last spring was used as a rental unit during the summer. The fire was first discovered by John Hoholek who rushed to the nearby Sophie Novak home to call the Alpha Fire Department. Unfortunately the Novak home was on the same telephone party line as the Skibo residence where the fire had damaged telephone lines making it impossible to call out. Hoholek had to drive to the Felix Kanieski home, about a mile closer to Alpha, where he made the call summoning the fire department. According to Alpha Fire Chief Chet Polivka by the time the volunteers arrived on the scene the walls and roof of the house were completely burned and had collapsed into the basement. The building, valued at \$15,000, was only partially insured.