

Diamond Drill

Out of the Past

December 26, 1924

One of the most remarkable acts of heroism combined with tragedy occurred in Crystal Falls last Sunday when Mike Kukura came to the Great Western Location dragging the body of Joe Barna behind him on an improvised sleigh made of a pair of skis which a box had been crudely fastened. The two boys, Kukura (17) and Barna(17), went to camp near the old Hollister Mine on Friday to hunt rabbits. They hunted Friday, Saturday and all day Sunday before deciding to return to town after using all the .22 ammunition they had. Kukura was pushing the sleigh while Barna was carrying Kukura's shot gun and while investigating the prospect for a Christmas tree the shot gun accidentally exploded mortally wounding Barna. Kukura upon reaching Barna found the victim unresponsive, whereupon he loaded Barna into the sleigh and dragged it four miles to Great Western location. Mike did not realize that he himself had been wounded by the gun's discharge until after he had gotten Barna to the location. He was bleeding profusely from wounds in the hand and knee but in the excitement of the moment forgot his own condition to administer to his companion.