

Diamond Drill

Out of the Past

March 5, 1926

The Bell Telephone Company will celebrate its fiftieth birthday on March 10<sup>th</sup>. On March 10, 1876 the first transmission of the human voice was accomplished by Alexander Graham Bell. The telephone came to Crystal Falls in 1892 when a small local exchange was instituted. It was of little account then as there was no outside connections and in the terrible days of the panic of 1893 the exchange was abandoned. The local exchange was resurrected in 1896 with C.T. Roberts as local manager. The competition at Iron Mountain between the a local exchange known as the "Range" and the Bell people caused a toll line extension first to Florence by both companies and then to Crystal Falls by the Bell Company. First subscribers included: Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, McLaren's Livery (128 Superior), Dr. A.M. Darling (300 Superior), Crystal Falls Lumber Company (2 Superior), Diamond Drill (229 Superior) and the Lockwood Hotel (400 Superior). Today the local Crystal Falls exchange has 850 subscribers.