

Diamond Drill

Out of the Past

December 5, 1973

The members of the Iron County Clergy Association have appealed to President Richard Nixon to modify his position on the sales ban of gasoline on Sundays as a means of dealing with the current energy crisis. The association stated that many parishioners in their congregations are senior citizens and shut-ins for whom Sunday is the only day they travel for church and visits with family and friends.

A community institution died Sunday. His name was Murdoch McDonell who at the age of 90 went quietly and left a legacy of home-spun interest in music manifested by a tenure as an active bandsman that dated back to 1908 when he formed a group of local musicians together under the name of "Dewey's Band" travelling extensively around the Upper Midwest. "Murdy" was born on July 24, 1883 in Florence and moved with his family to Crystal Falls in 1887. For many years he was the night clerk at the Crystal Inn and tuned countless area pianos after graduating from Polk's School of Piano Tuning. Many locals will always remember him marching in local parades playing his bass drum.

Murdoch McDonnell

