

Diamond Drill

Out of the Past

August 6, 1959

The Iron County Road Commission used an unconventional method to locate a water source at the County Airport under construction South of Crystal Falls. One glance at the flat sandy dry property of the surrounding Panola Plains provided dim hopes of securing water. Enter Iron County Mine Inspector Reino Anderson and his dowsing wizardry. Anderson produced a sprig of willow in the form of a crutch, grasped the two tips in his hands, pointed the stem forward and began to wander seemingly aimlessly near the runway. To the astonishment of a group of skeptical onlookers the stick suddenly dipped downward with such force that Anderson nearly lost his grip on the magic wand and proclaiming "There's your water". Good sports all; the spectators asked "How deep is it Reino" and got the wizard's reply "Between 40 and 45 feet". A drill was dispatched to the scene and after drilling a seemingly dry hole to a depth of 60' without any water the skeptics were smug. Jaws dropped however when extracting the drill a large flow of water appeared at a depth of 43'.