

Diamond Drill

Out of the Past

January 4, 1924

Michael H. Moriarty, Crystal Falls' best known and best loved citizen, passed from this life last Sunday after a lingering illness of eighteen months duration. Moriarty was born in Hudson, Michigan September 27, 1859 spending his boyhood days on the farm of his father. His nature was not attuned to agriculture and at an early age sought other work first as a clerk in a dry goods store then as a railway mail agent serving on routes between Chicago and New York. During this time he decided to become a lawyer tutoring under prominent lawyers then securing a clerkship in the Michigan Legislature. Hearing of great opportunities in the Upper Peninsula he moved to Iron Mountain in 1889 before settling in Crystal Falls in 1890 to open his law office and assume part ownership of the Diamond Drill Newspaper and elected Iron County Prosecutor twice in addition to Treasurer battling the big land companies over tax issues. He was elected a Michigan State Senator for the 31<sup>st</sup> District in 1902 serving for 10 years. As an attorney Moriarty gained a wide reputation and was especially interested in those causes which enlisted the sympathy of a kindly heart dealing with the legal burdens of the poor and helpless earning him the nickname "Merciful Mike".

Michael H. Moriarty

