

Diamond Drill

Out of the Past

June 19, 1974

Over 100 persons attended a pot-luck dinner held recently at the Mastodon Township Hall as a tribute to an Alpha native, Gerhardt Gollakner, who at the end of the 1973-74 school year ended a lengthy 45 career in teaching and coaching. Gollakner, born in Florence, Wisconsin in 1909, grew up in Alpha, started school there at the age of five graduating from Alpha High School and Eastern Michigan University. He taught two years at Amasa, 13 years at Tipler, Wisconsin, many years at Alpha before completing his career at the Forest Park Schools after consolidation. He coached many championship teams in track, baseball and tennis but is best remembered for his outstanding record as a basketball coach. (Note: Member of the U.P. Sports Hall of Fame and the Forest Park Achievement Hall of Fame)

Four sections of new aluminum and tubular steel spectator seating have been assembled and installed at the Runkle Lake softball diamond. Previously it was necessary to borrow seating sections from the Forest Park School's athletic field for the summer season.

## Gerhardt Gollakner

Gerhardt Gollakner, 76, of Alpha died Friday, Oct. 3, 1986, at Marquette General Hospital, following an illness of the past six months.

Mr. Gollakner was born Oct. 5, 1909 in Florence, Wis. and was raised in Alpha. He was a graduate of Alpha High School and Eastern Michigan University.

He taught in Amasa for two years, Tipler, Wis., for 13 years, and was a teacher and coach for 28 years. He was inducted into the U.P. Sports Hall of Fame in 1980.

Mr. Gollakner was a member of the Alpha Volunteer Fire Department and St. John's Evangelical Church of Florence. He married the former Alice Isacson Jan. 1, 1936 in Iron River.

He leaves his wife; four daughters, Arlene Krajewski of Crystal Falls; Gail Miller of Mount Pleasant, Susan Overly of Green Bay, Wis., and Lynn Hopkins of Irving, Tex.; a son, Gary of Indian Lake; four brothers, Walter of Lake Emily, Fred of Ice Lake, Frank of Jackson and Clements of Branch; 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Friends called after 4 p.m. Monday at the Plowe Funeral Home in Crystal Falls. Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the funeral chapel with Rev. J. S. Hering, pastor of St. John's Evangelical Church, officiating.

Burial was in Evergreen Memorial Cemetery.





#### NEW SEATING INSTALLED

Four sections of new aluminum and tubular steel spectator seating have been assembled and installed at the Runkle Lake softball diamond. The seating was purchased by the city of Crystal Falls with recreation fund monies provided under a special application to the state. Previously it was necessary to

borrow seating sections from the school district athletic field for the summer. The field is being used four nights per week, and for special weekend events in addition this summer, and the seating is a welcome improvement. City crew members finishing up the job are Irving Jackson and David Frisanco.