

Diamond Drill

Out of the Past

April 32, 1951

One of the most unique business enterprises ever undertaken in Crystal Falls is the J & J Minnow Farm, located southeast of Crystal Falls on the Johansen property in the Blaney Creek area. An extensive construction project was undertaken last summer by owners Hjammer Johansen and William Jacobson which involved the use of a gas shovel and bulldozer to construct a pond. Johansen needs no introduction to the local residents and is widely known here as a building contractor. Jacobson, a newcomer to Crystal Falls, is a former erection superintendent for a Chicago building firm. An earthen dam 700' in length forms a reservoir which is the nucleus of the minnow farm. The project involved construction of four ponds 300'x 40' wide and digging a ditch approximately 1,500' long to turn part of Blaney Creek into the reservoir. Minnow fry will be purchased from the fisheries division of the Michigan Department of Conservation and raised to bait size (three to four inches) to satisfy the needs of retail outlets.