

Diamond Drill

Out of the Past

September 7, 1961

A large crowd was on hand to witness the first softball game played under the lights at the Runkle Lake Park Field. A total of 44 lights provided by the Westinghouse Company were installed atop eight 50' -60' poles by the Crystal Falls City Electrical Department with the help of crane provided by C.B. Oss. The field is located at the east City Limits off Hwy M-69 on City owned land that in the early years served as the dumping grounds for Crystal Falls. The field was built in 1957 by the City with countless hours of volunteer labor provided by local softball enthusiasts. A dispute about the height of the backstop by airport authorities in relation to the Haight Airport runway which almost prevented construction was overcome. The field was enclosed by a snow fence in 1959 and this season a total of six teams participated in the East Side Softball Association League playing a 15 game schedule. Cloverland Lumber, Crystal Dairy, Hoholek's, Infield Bar, McNeil's Oilers and Snack Bar.



LIGHT TO SPARE — No extra lighting was required to take this photo of the Infield Bar and McNeil Oilers in action in the East Side Softball Association play-offs last Thursday evening. The eight banks of lights, 44 in all, provided enough illumination for this shot of the Runkle Lake Park field. The Oilers are at bat with the Infielders in the field. The bartenders won the game

5-1 to advance into the play-off finals. Large crowds were on hand to witness the play-off contests, which are extending into this week. The play-offs, normally held earlier, were delayed until city light department crews completed work on the lighting system and gave the league the go ahead for the first under-the-lights softball game. The lights were turned on for the first time by Crystal Falls Mayor Walter Danielson.

(Drill Photo)