

Diamond Drill

Out of the Past

January 8, 1926

Crystal Falls has supported what was known in slang of the blind pig world as “The Swamp”. The swamp is a collection of shacks and log houses occupied by bachelors along the Paint River at the bottom of Main Street. The illegal liquor business was not carried on in a commercial way but money collected by passing of a hat was used to purchase “moonshine” and the drinkers, many of them habitual drunkards some of which rarely drew a sober breath or see the light of day would congregate in these shacks. Fresh air was only enjoyed by the man delegated to make the trip to purchase the moonshine. Alerted by a pitiful story told by a school age girl whose father abandoned the family to take up residence at the swamp, Sheriff Dickie and his deputies drained the swamp of its occupants and they were hauled off to jail to await appearance in Justice Olson’s Court.