

1987. - Jan 30.

Many Sundays in the 50's and 60's. We enjoyed
are outing at Banning.

My sincere thanks to Richard Jacobson, Rita
(Parger) Grace, Mary Ann and Henry Parger. and
my husband Steve. I shall always remember
those wonderful times we had at Banning.

Now that Banning is preserved. We never visited the area.
Hope we can make again for old time sake and wonderful
times we had and remember.

Ann

PCAHA 2016.315

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June 2, 1952. a few friends & I decided to visit the site of Banner. Made inquiries for its location, to my surprise how little was known of its location. Stopped a farm house, the gentleman gave us direction. The road we had taken off Highway 61 was a far cry of a road. More a cow lane like road which lead to halt on top of a bluff well over grown with brush, we follow a fence, until we came to a path.

After a short walk on this so-called path I realized it was an old railroad bed which lead downward to the Kettle River about half way down, we became onto unsafe bridge. We manage to cross it safely, knowing that this bridge will not take too many crossings.

As we made our way to area below, first we found the roofless weathered walls of concrete rise among the birches and gumac bushes. Inside the walls, the ground wet from an ^{artesian} well. Water was cold and good.

Trooping thru the area found large flat concrete platform foundations and large machinery mountings, some embedded into the rock.

Looking upward to top of bluff, found the area below shadowed when the sun below.

The area are breath taking with the natural wild beauty the flow of the Kettle River had carved gorges through leaving paths in stream bed & banks approximately 20 ft

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beauty. Water seeps through the rocks, making small falls like _____

Many caves, but how far is another adventure. There is so much to see and I am not too brave when it comes to caves.

One thing the area was used for the mining of quarries, but no room for a Village of Banning here below?? (Check)

Twilight came on so quickly, made our supper on a rock that but ~~the~~ stretch out into the river. We chose this area ~~to make~~ a small fire to roast the wieners, area was too dry to make a fire on shore. Almost dark, we made our way to the top again and homeward. We all agree that this area should be preserved.

Ann Vach.

A deep concrete trough - like on edge of river, where something was used to rotate in the water for cooling. (He took a guess, maybe a saw cutting the stone)

Can not believe that less than 50 years how the wilderness had taken over the quarry site, as hiding the past with the birches, pine and spruce.

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Village and quarry of Banning had a rough time to complete with its business down at Lake Stone. Before the Hinckley Fire. George Brown and John Dahmer of Duluth and George Cunningham of Sturgeon Lake, opened a quarry at Banning. Suppose had bid in at sheriff's sale by Cunningham for \$5000 a few years later.

Dr. O'Brien, Smith and Ring were next owners. Then Howell Clark and Theo. K. Kerk. purchased the land above's land out a village, also dug an artesian well.

O'Brien and Smith sold out. Mr. Ring passed away leaving the quarry to Morris Ring who ran the Banning quarry until 1904, when sold to Barker Asphalt Paving Co. There was a beginning boom for Banning. The new paved company put in new buildings, a steam plant with three large boilers, new stone crushing shed, sawing sheds, all electric equipment. Employed a number of men for few years.

Village was laid out (above the bluffs) into streets. Several houses and store was built. The Company erected 2 modern residence & large hotel. A schoolhouse was built (Pictures in 'Sandstone' in gone by days) There were the boom days, four licensed saloons.

After few years Parker Co. decided that the big engine taken up too much coal & closed Banning Quarry. Saloon, stores either burned or closed. 1917 only building remaining. After Quarry closed, the quarry machinery & railroad was left intact for years until 1917, Louis Dick purchased the iron etc and shipped to Duluth.

Sandstone Courier 1917.

next page.

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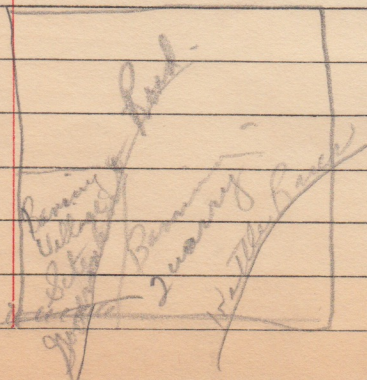
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July 7, 1958. Learn the Banning village site was farmed and plowed. No traces of the village. Met a gentleman pointed out the area of Banning site. Said there were few houses most of men stayed at hotel. Evening were spent at saloons.

Again a most company in ^{that} area, owned store, houses and hotel — and the man.

Men walk downward to quarries. The railroad spur was built by Mr Banning? So why village was named after him. It seem as Banning had lot influence of making of Banning. (Check) Do more check on Correction.

Checked a 1910 official Pine County Map. Only road lead to Banning was Government Road — some times called Military Road. Two Railroads met there Hinckley, but branches of northward, one to Lindborg, other Standstone. The Spur lead from Brangingsen to Banning. At Northern P. then to Sandstone quarries.



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Aug 3 1958. Met the ^{cont} old gentleman & his aged wife (Huff). We invited them to have our usual evening supper. She talked about Banning bay dejes. Not many died there, most men stayed at the "Company Hotel". She visited the village with her parents as young girl (16 or 18 years of age). There were lots of young men there. She laughed with terrible eyes looking her husband. He had a nice visit.

Village as she described, had few scattered houses, hotel and few saloons. Streets were laid out, but not filled. We came from Hocking in a wagon on the Government Road, which was impossible when it rained.

There were big sheds and machinery below the bluff. Artesian well water ~~was~~ common in that area & Sandstone. They sold water from these wells in Mpls & St. Paul. Health Water we call it. Always taken home in jug. Spring water from Sandstone was a business, near the quarries. Shipped in jug by railroad to their warehouses in the cities (Mpls & St. Paul).

St. Paul street was paved with the Banning stone. (What Street Check)

"I heard the owner where Banning set in old Crab other time I could show you the town. was not too big. They had hopes for it, but it never got too big." Ask if they knew how many men worked at Banning. Both thought "it was lot of men, about 100."

I just love talking to older people.

Ann Tuck

Remark 1987. Well I am one of those older people.