



**The stories found on this page are reprints from old issues of the Copper Range Newsletter from the early 1960's to early 1970's. A special thank you to Chuck Bennett, Manager of Industrial Relations for the Copper Range Company for providing me with all these wonderful CR News Issues, which I now pass on to you. (KEMusser)**

**This story appeared in the December 1967, volume 7, number 12 issue.**

**The end of an era**



Raymond Durocher, master mechanic at Freda blows the siren at 7 a.m. Saturday, November 4, signaling the end of the shift.... the end of all shifts, after 67 years of processing rock from Painesdale.



Signing the contract that makes official the turning over by Copper Range Co., the Champion Mine water supply to the Adams Township - Village of South Range Water and Sewage Authority which will henceforth furnish water to the Range area and much of the Portage Lake district.

Seen from left are: William P. Nicholls, CR vice President; Ferris R. Dennis, chairman; Helmuth M. Steinhilb, secretary; and Clifford F. Paulson, Township supervisor and Village President.



The last skipload of ore was removed from Champion Mine in Painesdale and loaded in cars for the trip to Freda, September 11. With copper-bearing rock so poor as to be unprofitable to extract, the mine had to be closed.



Stillness settled over the Copper Range mill at Freda November 4th when it ceased operations. Built in 1900 Freda was the last to close of five stamp mills that had flourished in nearby lake shore towns since before the turn of the century.



The last trip to Freda for the Copper Range Railroad was made November 3 to pick up cars used to haul the final shipments of stamp sands from Portage Lake the previous day. The train crew, from left, is: Carl Ponnikas, brakeman; Carl Wuoti, fireman; Gus Kumlin, brakeman; Eddie Laurn, engineer; and Cyril LaBissoniere, conductor.