

## FARMING in this Area.

### Summary of farming history.

- 1930's Directions for treating seed potatoes translated into Finnish for local farmer by the MSU Extension Service.
- 1933 First Annual Potato Grower's Contest with the Extension Service. Three potato warehouses in the County.
- 1936 Copper County Strawberry Growers Association formed.
- 1938 Copper County Cheese Cooperative was established in Dollar Bay.
- 1944 Local Farmers showing at the Potato Show - Alex Olson, Jacob Heikkila, Wesley Johnson, Art Oinas, Waino Lahti, and Henry Eilola.
- REA extends to rural areas. By 1949, 1081 farms in the county had electricity. The era of 4-H Clubs and Extension Home Demonstration Clubs in the area.
- 1951 Four dairy plants in Houghton Co. There was a bottle shortage so started bottle exchange.
- 1957 Bounty hunting for fox. One hunter is August Rintala.
- 1960's Commercial Fishing. See businesses of Oskar. Two are Kallianen and Lepisto

The Gazette states that in 1906 there were 250 people in Oskar and 80 were farmers.

Henry Garnell, shares on his 1977 WMPL Heritage line interview: After the virgin timber was harvested land was sold to farmers in 40, 80 and 160 acre plots. Crops grown were hay, potatoes, strawberries, chickens, dairy and some beef.

Farming was first done with horses. About 1935 tractors were used.

There was a lot of help from the Michigan State Extension Service.

Jack Ruohonen in his history document shares this:

When the wood business started to slow down, people started to clear out stumps and to prepare fields which grew into several hundred acres. They produced a variety of grains.

In the beginning they built an old fashioned threshing building where the grain was separated from the straw with flails. Then came threshing machines operated by horsepower. The grain was not ground but was fed to the horse's whole.

Eliassen only had a couple of cows, and workers also had cows.

Researched by Barb Koski, Osma Plat Road Houghton MI I welcome stories and dates.. contact the webmaster. Submitted in 2009.