

The Mission is undoubtedly one of Ontario's invincibly romantic communities. Bordered downstream on the South by the thundering waves of Lake Superior, upstream by the picturesque Falls of the Maggie River, the Mission stands today on the sandy terraces of what was once a mighty glacial river. This picturesque community situated among scattered birch and pine, overlooking the harbour, first gained its being as a tiny missionary church administering to the needs of the Ojibway Indians, following the signing of Indian Treaty No. 60.

During the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway from 1883--1885 the Mission ~~ge~~ began to boom. Norman teamsters freighted material from the Mission to Kawa, and on some sixty rough miles to the construction camps of Soudet and Missar aided by corduroy and gravel roads. Following the completion of the C.P.R. the Mission again sunk into near oblivion until the discovery of gold in 1892.

As prospectors rushed in, the Mission buzzed with activity, as it operated small sloops carrying miners and supplies from the Harbour seven miles below to the Mission road. The Michipicoten Land Speculation Association registered a townsite at the Mission as "Michipicoten City." The fact that the 25 foot lots were laid out without a ruler and without so much as taking the contours of the ground into consideration did not contribute to the failure of the project. It was simply that as the gold rush declined, so did the demand for housing. ~~re~~ Those hardy pioneers who did remain behind were surprised to discover that according ~~to~~ to the Michipicoten Townsite Company survey of 1920, many owners had built their houses in the long lots, and sometimes in the centre of what was once planned to be a roadway. Orders were given by the Company, for houses to be moved, but an appeal to the Lands and Forests ~~department~~ approved the existing arrangements.

Life during the period from 1900 to 1930, as serene. For a long period of time there was no public school, and it ~~waxxi~~ took considerable effort on the part of the inhabitants to obtain a small white school house, which was established on a hill, commanding a view of the Michipicoten and Magpie Rivers as well as Lake Superior. The schoolhouse was later rented by the Masonic Lodge.

The first view of the village was not impressive. One saw a score of substantial log houses strung along the high sandy bank, with the little Mission church carrying a big black cross. But life did have its excitement. In the spring large log drives were pushed down the swollen Magpie and Michipicoten Rivers to the harbour where the logs were boomed and towed to the Abitibi pulp mill at the Sault. Local residents planted spring gardens which yielded bountiful fall crops of turnips, pumpkins and potatoes. The frequent visits of the steamships, Windsor, Telegram and Minnie, M, and later the Caribour and Manitou provided transportation and supplies for the community. On these vessels the community welcomed numerous visitors, canoeists, prospectors and mining engineers who were continually exploring the old mining fields, or spreading rumours of fresh gold discoveries and the openings of new mines. Local residents earned considerable cash freighting and by transportating such people by launch from the Harbour to the Mission.

With the approach of autumn supplies were stocked up for the long cold winter. The village assumed an abandoned aspect as many of the villagers took their families and headed north to the trap lines for the colder months. The solitude and loneliness of the winter months was broken ~~lyxbraxxkxkx~~ on the weekends by the gathering of visitors from Michipicoten Falls and the Helen and Magpie Pines to pick up mail and gossip.

~~Kixkixix~~ The Mission has boasted of two hotels, the Lakeview,

and later the Log Cabin Inn which was destroyed by fire in 1943.

To-day although telephones, electric lights and taxes suggest the attributes of civilization, the abundance of black spruce, the roar of the falls, and the clean open water of the harbour continues to attract many Inuit residents to the Mission with its closer contact with ~~the~~ nature.

- (1) Describe the location of the mission?
- (2) How did it begin?
- (3) What occurred there in the 1880's?
From previous studies, what was the town like?
- (4) How did the gold rush affect the Mission?
- (5) What did residents of the Mission do during the 1920's in
 - (1) Spring
 - (2) Summer
 - (3) Autumn
 - (4) Winter