

Beechwood

Beechwood, which celebrated its centennial in 1982, is a small farming community located just off U.S.2., eight miles west of Iron River. While it is a rural community, the lands there have not completely supported the people so that in almost every case, right from the beginning, people have been "more than just a farmer."

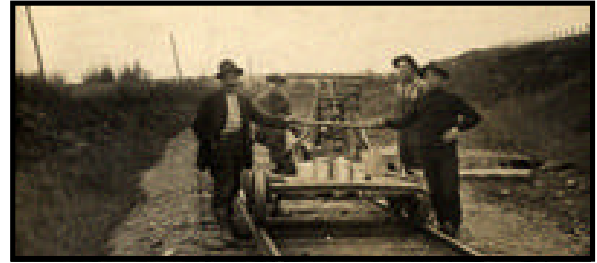


The founder of Beechwood was a Dane, J. Jens Larsen, who settled in 1882 with his wife, Lebbe, a highly respected Indian woman. The Larsens lived in a large tin-covered house from which Larsen also ran the post office for many years, beginning in April 1891.



Beechwood Store

It was the gathering place before the Beechwood Store was built. The Beechwood Store, built in 1912, was the hub of activity and later served as post office until 1976. The store closed in 1979.



The coming of the railroad in 1887 brought the first wave of settlers. A branch was built to lumbering town of Atkinson and at the track "Y", Hazel junction was established. Few traces of Hazel, other than the sign, remain today.

Dairy was important in early days, but one finds fewer than a half dozen dairy farmers today - those raising cattle raise beef instead. There has always been a great pride in purebred stock, however.

Many early farmers worked in the woods in the winter, they also worked in the mines in the early days, sometimes only in the summers. Farming became increasingly a matter of subsistence, and more than one resident has commented that "we had to work elsewhere to keep our farms."

Of the 150 land owners surveyed at the time of the Centennial, 75 were absentee and at least 47 were full-time retirees.



Beechwood Church