

MICHAEL MESSNER, SR. Born in Trossinger, Germany, on April 2, 1845, Messner came to the United States on May 26, 1864, and travelled to Eagle Harbor, Michigan, by boat. After working at the Huron and Minnesota Mines, he moved to South Pewabic (later Atlantic), where he resided for 65 years. Later he purchased a team of horses and cleared trees on the site of the first mine shaft. He also used his teams in connection with the construction of the Portage Canal and hauled materials for the railroad extension being built from Marquette to L'Anse. Besides cutting timber and operating a sawmill of his own, Messner ran a blacksmith shop and raised hay and cattle. He was married to Anna Knodt; he had two children and several stepchildren. He died at the age of 85 in August, 1930. (D.M.G., August 26, 1930.)

The women and children brought additional income to the family. The children worked at odd jobs or as 'helpers' in the mine. Women sold baked goods and candy; they also served as dressmakers and midwives. The Messners of Atlantic Mine hired women to rake hay and preferred them to men workers; they were more swift and efficient.<sup>22</sup> The women, of course, had a full-time job just keeping a home. Rising before her husband, there was water to be pumped and heated (the section of Atlantic where the mine officials lived [See Map IV, p. 140] had pressurized water from two windmills, but the laborers were not so fortunate), breakfast to be made, and pasties to be prepared for family members going to work and school. A reference volume for young housewives at the turn of the century called *Household Discoveries and Mrs. Curtis' Cookbook* outlined other daily tasks: kindling and the care of fires, cleaning and polishing the wood stoves, dishwashing and care of sinks, garbage disposal, chamber of bedroom work, care of oil lamps and preparations for the night!<sup>23</sup>

In addition to regular chores, each day had its own special requirements. One of the most tedious was wash day. With no automatic washers to ease her burden, the miner's wife had to clean the heavily soiled mining clothes as well as the regular wash for their family and household. Mrs. Lulu Pyykkonen, of Atlantic, remembers those wash days well. Her strong but calloused hands attest to the harshness of the work.<sup>24</sup>