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GHOST TOWN = KENO

IN 1887 HORNING & HARRT LUMBER CO. BUILT A LARGE SAW MILL IN SECTION 23, MONROE TWP. A LITTLE SETTLEMENT WAS BUILT AROUND THE MILL AND GIVEN THE NAME OF KENO. IT WAS THE NAME OF A DOG BELONGING TO MR. HORNING. A POST OFFICE WAS ASSIGNED TO THE VILLAGE AND WM H. FORNING WAS APPOINTED POST MASTER, IN 1889; IN 1890 A PLANING MILL WAS ADDED TO THE OPERATION AND GIVEN THE NAME OF KENO MFG. CO..

IN 1893 A FIRE DESTROYED 12,000,000 FT. OF LUMBER BELONGING TO WILLIAM PETERS OF COLUMBIAVILLE AND STORED NEAR THE BIG MILL. ALSO DESTROYED ONE HORSE, SEVERAL BARNES AND SIX FREIGHT. THE SAW MILL WAS SAVED.

THE YEAR 1895 WAS MARKED IN THE COUNTY WAS THE NUMEROUS DESTRUCTIVE FIRES. THE BOARDING HOUSE AND MANY HOMES OCCUPIED BY THE WORKMEN FROM KENO DESTROYED. AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME THERE WAS A LOT OF ACTIVITY AND EVERY HOUSE WAS OCCUPIED. MOSE BELL, FORMER ENGINEER FOR THE RYERSON & HILL, WAS RUNNING THE LOGGING LOCOMOTIVE AND MRS. WHITMAN FROM NEWAYGO HAD CHARGE OF THE BOARDING HOUSE.

THE LAST CUT WAS MADE IN THE KENO MILL IN 1896. AFTER CUTTING MILLIONS OF FEET OF LUMBER FOR WM PETERS IT IS SAD TO NOTE THAT HORNING & HARRT ENDED THEIR BUSINESS IN BANKRUPTCY. THERE WERE ONLY A FEW PINE SNAGS LEFT STANDING WHICH MARKED THE END OF LUMBERING IN THE COUNTY. THE POST OFFICE WAS DISCONTINUED IN 1897.

RIT '75.