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PRICE
FIFTEEN CENTS

Kinney revitalization campaign under way

BY PATRICIA ROBERTUS

KINNEY — An ambitious, four-year Human Development Project began in Kinney last spring and is starting to show results.

The community has a new playground, a recently formed community development corporation and hopes that a custom sewing company will bring new jobs. It also has, some residents say, a new sense of purpose and unity.

Helping to bring all these good things to Kinney are volunteer staff members of the

towns to look at goals, obstacles and potential for change. Little seems to have come out of the April 1977 Hibbing meeting, but Kinney became one of 16 ICA Human Development Projects in the U.S.

"Kinney picked us and we picked Kinney" is how Michael Bellamy, project director, described the site selection. The ICA looked at towns in Minnesota, Wisconsin and the Dakotas before choosing Kinney.

They were looking for a community that met three criteria: a place with a story to tell, a compact site and "a town that is going to win."

The Iron Range was a good place to look for a town with a story to tell because the area is known around the world and because a natural resource has such an impact on the lives of its people, Bellamy said. Kinney, with its 350 residents all living within a few blocks of each other, is geographically compact and also unified by the dominance of mining.

Finally, Bellamy said, Kinney seemed to be a town "eager to do great things."

While the ICA and the Human Development Project seem to be generally well received in Kinney, and a number of state and federal agencies have supported the work in one way or another, some nagging questions about what is going on in Kinney persist.

ICA staff members began arriving in May 1978. They set up headquarters, which also served as their home, in an abandoned grocery store near the edge of the mine.

Michael Bellamy was joined in June by his wife, Barbara, also an ICA volunteer, and their

two preschool children. Don Hinkelman and Jackie Cress are the other two ICA staff members assigned to Kinney.

In June a week-long consult was held. Almost everyone in Kinney took part in one or more sessions where residents were encouraged to describe their goals for the village, discover the obstacles to achieving those goals and define strategies to overcome those obstacles.

"People are very used to not being able to do things," Michael Bellamy said. A principal task of the ICA in the communities where it works is to help people overcome this feeling of helplessness.

It does this by a combination of motivational techniques, and a knowledge of how to make the system — political and financial — work.

Kinney residents, with the direction the ICA staff, outlined a series of goals, or operating visions. These range from such tangibles as a laundromat to such concepts as "leadership amplification." All this is set out in a 109-page summary statement.

The second phase of the consult was the identification of the "underlying contradictions," which the ICA report defined as "conglomerations of underlying blocks to the Operating Vision. Contradictions are closely related to relatively invisible, deep currents of history and, therefore, are difficult to discern."

The report continued: "They cannot be located directly, but must be approached indirectly through identification of the deterrents and blocks to the Operating Vision of the people."

How this was accomplished was to divide the participants in the Kinney consult into groups, each of which identified obstacles. Or, in the language of the report:

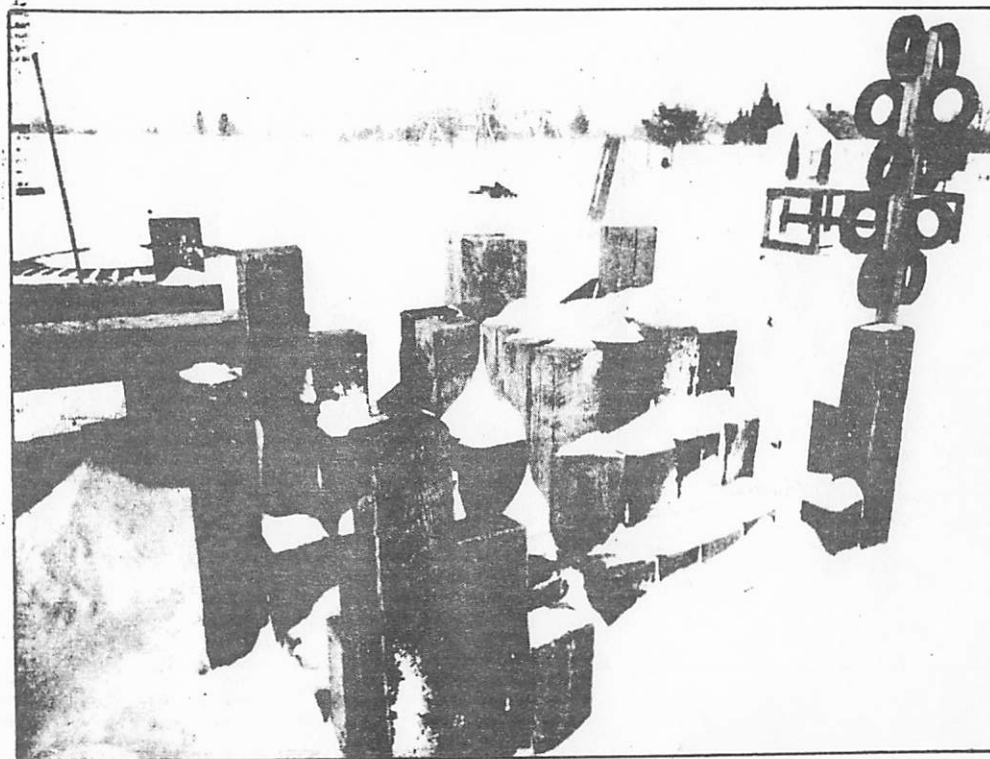
"Keeping in mind the profound trends of history which had been the subject of an earlier conversation among the total consult, the teams discerned the subjective irritants as revealed by the field visits in order to identify the objective deterrents to the Practical Vision."

What all this seems to mean is that the people tried to figure out why things that they wanted to happen were not happening in Kinney. They came up with 123 contradictions, which were then arrayed in a chart. These range from "poor top soil" to "collapsed consensus structure."

The third task of the consult was to build practical proposals, or plans of action for overcoming the contradictions. These were divided and subdivided. The 22 proposals each had four subparts.

The fourth task was to create tactical systems for implementing the proposals. Here, under level upon level of abstraction and jargon is where the report gets down to action.

Finally, in simple English, the plan is unfolded. It calls for new shops and industrial facilities, renovation of buildings, additional commercial services, new light industry, a community greenhouse and garden, a newsletter, bulletin board, signs for the city, a consumer league, more publicity for local activities, community workdays, annual health fair, home repair classes, a town mural, a



Staff photo

DONATED LABOR — People in Kinney built much of this equipment and used a small grant to buy the rest.

Community involvement has increased since the project began, some people say.

4-H club and more than 100 other actions.

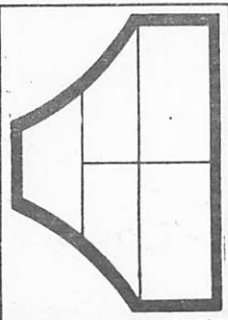
Last on the list — number 122 — was a children's playground and recreation equipment.

NEW PLAYGROUND BUILT But the playground was one of the first, and most visible, accomplishments of Kinney after the consult. Edie Thorne,

a Kinney resident, said the playground was something people had talked about for a long time. But the money available, a \$3,500 grant from the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board, was not sufficient to have the work done.

Instead of contracting to have the playground built, the people of Kinney did the work themselves, and used the money to buy seven pieces of playground equipment that they could not make.

"I don't think the playground would have come about without the project," Dick Blanchard said. Blanchard, who works in the mines, said that the project is "getting everyone involved, working for the village."



SYMBOL — This symbol represents the outline of Kinney. The five sections, or neighborhoods, are called stakes. "A Town on the Move" is the new slogan.

Institute of Cultural Affairs, a Chicago-based organization that describes itself as a "research, training and demonstration group concerned with the human factor in world development."

Hibbing, as well as other Range communities, was the site of an ICA-inspired town meeting designed to encourage