

NAME: Crystal Lake Outlet Canal Betsie River Improvement Company		STATUS: Just an outlet from Crystal Lake to Betsie River, Abandoned.		ACS
STATE/PROVINCE: Michigan				DATE
COUNTIES: Benzie County				
LOCATION: North End (Canal) Crystal Lake South End Betsie River		DAYS IN USE		LENGTH CANAL SLACKWATER TOTAL
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS: Benzie 7 1/2'		1 Sept. 1873		2 about one mile
		3		4 none
		4		not a slack water canal.
				There is a current because
				of the over flow from Crystal Lake.
<p>HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: The Betsie River Improvement Company, headed by Mr. Archibald Jones, decided that there was a need to get timber, cord wood and tan bark to the docks at Frankfort, on Lake Michigan. Without making a survey this mile long cut was made to straighten the Crystal Lake outlet to Betsie River. The outlet was also deepened. On a Saturday Morning, late in September, 1873 the final cut was made. (from <u>The Tragedy of Crystal Lake</u> by W.L. Case an eyewitness)" A very small stream it was at first, but the gentle incoming waves added volume to its force until the little stream became a strong current and within an hour the soft sand in the artificial channel was being rapidly washed away and the water soon became an uncontrollable torrent."</p> <p>The following Sunday Captain Miller took his steamboat "Onward" down the Betsie River into the New Crystal Lake Outlet Canal and into Crystal Lake. The return trip was not so easy for the boat was now going with the fast current. A Mr. William Wilson did cut some logs from his land and use this canal a number of times for very profitable trips. There is now a dam at the entrance to the Crystal Lake Outlet Canal.</p> <p>PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: About one mile long. The entrance from Crystal Lake into the outlet is now blocked by a dam. The whole of Crystal Lake was dropped, in its nine mile length, about 6 to 10 feet. This canal has no use except to control the height of Crystal Lake because of the dam.</p>				
<p><i>Preliminary Report</i></p>				
<p>NAMES & ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANALS PRESERVATION (IF ST. RAISED): None for it is only a lake outlet now. It would be nice to have a marker and storey at the dam or some easy to-get-to-place along the outlet.</p>				
<p>BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: <u>The Tragedy of Crystal Lake</u>, by W.L. Case This story first appeared in the Benzie Record in 1922. The above title is the second edition of 1947 of which copies are still available at this writing 5 Jan 1975. There are no exact dates. The book says that work was started in the Summer of 1873 and the lake was tapped in mid-September of 1873 on a Saturday. When this story was written in 1922 by Mr. Case he also had other witnesses that verified these dates. Benzie Area Historical Museum May be contacted at Benzonia, Michigan 49616 Mr. Shelton M. Case Curator</p>				
<p>UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS (CHIEF, HALL, JONES, Local or Regional Historical Societies, Libraries, etc.): Benzie Topography map, The Record Publishing Company, Beulah, Michigan 49617 publishes <u>The Tragedy of Crystal Lake</u> by W.L. Case, Official Highway Map of Benzie County shows Crystal Lake, Crystal Lake Outlet Canal to Betsie River.</p>				
<p>EXISTING OR RECOMMENDED LANDMARK STATUS (CHSR, National Register, etc.):</p>				
<p>REPORTER'S NAME & ADDRESS: B.W. Morant 61 West Bonita Sierra Madre, California 91024</p>				<p>5 Jan 1975</p>
<p>RETURN TO: CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, c/o P.H. STOTT, HAINES ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NY 10549</p>				