

## Doyle Township, the beginning:

A petition was first filed to form a township, Gulliver Township, in May 1890. Upon filing the petition, it raised much opposition in Manistique and from a few local families in Gulliver. For political reasons and an approaching election year, Manistique did not want to lose their voting power involving districts 41-45, Range 14. For an unknown reason, the subject was tabled until the meeting of October 15, 1890. The same petition was again presented and the same groups of people opposed the forming of a township. There was so much opposition that name calling and fist fights broke out at the meeting. Detailed reports from the Pioneer Tribune in Manistique recorded these fights and named the people involved. A main point in the case was the accusation that the names listed on the original petition were fraudulent and would have to be checked for legal residency. Through the legal battles, the case eventually came before the Michigan Supreme Court. The submitted petition checked out fine. However, one of the objections made by a State Representative was the name "Gulliver" brought to mind a village of elves and giants. The name was hastily changed on the petition to Doyle Township after Michael J. Doyle, a Democratic legislator from Sault Ste. Marie, was recruited to negotiate a settlement. The citizens were so impressed by his negotiating skills they decided to name the township after him than for either of the feuding politicians. Michael J. Doyle had been practicing law in the Sault since 1887, became a City Attorney in 1890, and was then elected Chippewa County Representative to the Michigan Legislature in 1891.

The Supreme Court voted on May 1, 1891 to declare "Doyle Township" a new township with two voting districts. They also voted to omit the one year waiting period because of the delay the townspeople had had to endure. The legal date was made retroactive to the date the petition was first filed with the Supreme Court...October 15, 1890.

July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1990 Gulliver had a patriotic salute to the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Gulliver. The committee scheduled day long events for the celebration. Activities began at the Doyle Twp Hall around 1 p.m. with live entertainment, music, dancing, raffles, food and beer booths, and games and prizes for all ages. Later in the evening the party moved to the shores of beautiful Gulliver Lake Park. Everyone was invited and property owners showed their northern hospitality, the people participating in Venetian Night, a boat decorated boat

parade. As the sun slowly set over Gulliver Lake, the exciting finale, fireworks!!

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Doyle Township still has the community spirit. Doyle Township Parks on Gulliver Lake are used during the summer for Fire Dept picnics, family reunions, fun, and swimming for everyone. The Doyle Township Parks on Gulliver Lake have swings, slides and a merry-go-round. In addition, at the township hall grounds we have a baseball park, tennis court, basketball court, and swings and slides. The Doyle Twp Hall is a large building that is used for meetings, wedding receptions, family reunions and parties of all kinds.

A community pride project is the Seul Choix Pointe Lighthouse restoration. Although the lighthouse is in Mueller Township, this project was adopted by The Gulliver Historical Society which now leases the lighthouse from the U.S. Coast Guard. In 1988 they started the restoration with the help of many hands and grants from the State of Michigan. We believe this lighthouse is one of the best tourist stops in the county, maybe even in the state. The love and efforts show in the pride of the volunteer tour guides as the lighthouse gives over 16,000 tours each year. They are open the last day of May until October 1<sup>st</sup> from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. The group also offers a Labor Day picnic for past light keepers, for those who love the history of lighthouses, and for the entire community. There is a Haunted Lighthouse tour in October and a Christmas from the Past tour the first weekend in December. The tour guides dress in period clothing and serve homemade cookies, while Santa arrives on the Doyle Twp Fire Truck. For these last two events the lighthouse is appropriately decorated for each occasion.

Community living in Doyle Township is what great country living is all about.