

advised them to hire "Silver Jack" John Driscoll, who he claimed would take care of the bully of the competing company. Mr. Heron was sent to look up and tender the river driving job to "Silver Jack" who accepted the position. It was not long after the river drive started that the two men promptly clashed. "Silver Jack" and "Jack McGovern" Mr. Heron relates fought to a draw. The fight lasted nearly an hour. Mr. Heron says that the two men were weaving around on the ground, clutching and clawing at each other, when they both broke holds and sprang to their feet. "Silver Jack", he relates, seemed to have some hidden accession of strength and fury. He caught "Jack McGovern" in a merciless, powerful upercut on the jaw and the bully collapsed. "Silver Jack" stepped back to wait for his antagonist to recover and arise to his feet. In a few minutes he recovered and stood up, holding out his right hand. He said, "I want to shake hands with you, I believe we can work together." Mr. Heron relates that for three years both companies put out their entire cut of timber and that there was no more trouble. The bully had been taught a lesson and he no longer tried to bulldoze and terrorize men working for the competing company.

I was able to glean the following from T. G. Belanger of L'Anse: It appears that Mr. Belanger's father ran a lumberjack boarding house under the name of "The Ottawa Hotel". This Hotel still stands in the village of L'Anse, located opposite the entrance to the Ford Motor Company's saw mill. In the L'Anse cemetery in one corner you will find a grave now overgrown with weeds in which lies "Silver Jack" John Driscoll, the original and only real "Silver Jack", champion of the north woods, whose deeds almost rivaled those of Paul Bunyan; who was known, admired, hated and feared from the Saginaw Valley to the Superior shore, and who is variously reported to have been shot on an Upper Peninsula train; killed in a saloon in Ewen; drowned in the Tahquamenon River; died in State prison; or drifted off to an unknown end in the State of Washington.

Ask any old timers in Clare, Roscommon, Farwell, Grayling, Muskegon, Manistee, Seney, Duluth, Marquette, L'Anse and other towns where he swung fists and axe, and they will tell some such story.

T. G. Belanger says "Silver Jack" John Driscoll met a prosaic, unromantic fate, having died with his boots off, a victim of pneumonia, in the Ottawa Hotel in L'Anse, April 1, 1895. Beside him under the pillow of his bed was found the following: A bottle of cough medicine, \$85 in bills, and a note reading, "This will be enough to bury me."

Ironically enough, his death spoiled an April Fool joke he framed upon Oliver Durocher, a small superstitious French-Canadian who served as man-of-all-jobs at the Hotel.

"Silver Jack" came to L'Anse in 1893, probably from Seney, says Mr. Belanger. Seney at that time was one of the wildest and wooliest towns in Michigan. I remember very distinctly in the Spring of 1895 "Silver Jack" came to Seney to hire a crew of lumberjack river-drivers to take out a log drive on the Yellow Dog River. "Silver Jack" was considered one of the best all around lumberjacks in Upper Michigan. The men all liked to work with him. He had no trouble in getting a crew of the best river drivers obtainable. That was the last we ever heard of him. Many of the men returned after the drive.

Years of dissipation and the term in Jackson Prison for a crime he did not commit had softened and slowed him, but still he was a champion. He stood six feet four inches tall. Possessing an insatiable lust for battle, he mopped up Curley Leclair, Jack McGovern, Joe Fournier, and many other huskies from the Huron Bay country without much difficulty.

"Silver Jack" John Driscoll was one of about sixty lumberjacks who boarded at the Ottawa Hotel, Belanger recalls. "Silver Jack" had caught a cold, shortly after he came out of the woods from the river drive in the Spring of 1895 and a doctor summoned by my mother ordered him to bed. He joked a lot at the time over his plight. On the evening of March 31