

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY -- FORD MOTOR COMPANY – LAST FORD PLANT WHISTLE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

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OLD FORD WHISTLE LAST BLAST TONIGHT

Tonight at 9 o'clock, the Twin Cities of Iron Mountain and Kingsford will lose a 40-year-old alarm clock.

Tonight, the old Ford plant whistle, which has been blowing six times a day since 1921, will sound its last blast.

The 9 o'clock blast which will last for about two minutes, *[sic]* will be the death knell of the Kingsford company, which is moving to Kentucky.

The old Ford "alarm clock" has been waking up residents of the Twin Cities at six each morning since 1921. This has been followed by a 7 o'clock whistle, starting time at the plant.

The next blast was at 11, lunchtime, followed by a 11:30 back to work whistle. At 3:30 has been the quitting time whistle.

The sixth has been the nine o'clock blast[,] supper time for the night shift.

The lay-off process of the 356 employes *[sic – employees]* at the Kingsford plant, which took over Ford operations in 1951, has been completed. Almost an even 300 have been given their notices and are without jobs. About 55 will remain at the plant for at least several months to take care of dismantling.