“You can’t see the forest for the trees.”

That old saying came home last week when a newcomer to the area was “extolling” the delights of some of Iron County’s historic landmarks.

“You have some really amazing places here in this county,” he said. As a native of Iron County, I looked at him with raised eyebrows and a rather smirky look on my face.

Amazing places? Landmarks?

Without batting an eye, he read off a list of a few of these amazing places he had seen in his travels about the county… the Crystal Theatre, the Windsor Center, the Iron County Museum…

As we talked, we tossed in a few other special places you’ll see in Iron County, from east to west, from north to south, there are a number of places that make our county very special, very unique.

Add to that mix, the number of events we have included on our summer and winter calendars of things to do and see, and he’s right… we do have a very special area that we call home.

Now obviously, not everything is peaches and cream, as another saying goes. We do have our share of economic woes and it could be a very long time before that picture changes.

But, it’s nice to look at life here in Iron County from a newcomer’s prospective… If we have such an abundance of special places and events here in the county, it’s due to the dedication and endurance of the many… or perhaps those dedicated few… who take the time and effort to make this a great place to live.

It takes a newcomer to the area to remind us how lucky we are to be living here. Even our climate and weather make this a far better place to be than many other locations we’ve read about in newspapers and seen on TV.

It’s all about attitude, I guess. If we have the attitude to forget all the negatives we hear on a daily basis… “It’ll never work.” “We’re not a big enough area to get anything done here.” “It’s impossible.” “Are you crazy?” … Then maybe that positive attitude can take us further than we think.

A journey of a 1,000 miles begins with the first step, we’ve heard, and it’s time to get started on that journey. With the “proper” attitude, there isn’t anything we here in Iron County can’t resolve. It just takes a little working together to tackle the problems we think are weighing us down.

We do have a delightful array of special places, and most of all, special people, dedicated to making life in Iron County the best choice of all.

We know the downside of living in small communities; we know the downside of trying to keep our heads above the waterline of increasing costs in utilities, food, insurance and taxes.

The upside, though, of a positive attitude can work wonders in appreciating and applauding the good things that make Iron County home.

--Allyce Westphal