

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – B STREET – EAST AND WEST

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

14: NORTH SIDE OF 200 BLOCK EAST B STREET

200 – BON VOYAGE TRAVEL & CRUISES, Mary J. Linton, owner – 2010

History: There was no listing for this address in 1892-1894, 1902-1903, 1907-1908, 1913 or 1925. However, in 1935 **H. Verner Bryroff** operated a barbershop at this location. This is probably the same location identified in the directory for 2010 as 537 South Stephenson Avenue.

202 – ALLEN PAINTING AND DECORATING – 2010, ELIZA'S SALON, beauty salon, Eliza Johnson, owner – 2010

History: There was no listing for this address in 1892-1894, 1902-1903, 1907-1908, 1913 or 1925. However, in 1935 **Mrs. Clara Michaels** operated the **Women's Fashion Shop**, women's wear, at this location. In addition, **Mykle T. Jacobs** worked as a shoe shiner at 202 ½ East B Street in 1935.

204 – JEAN KAY'S PASTIES, Laurie Michaud, owner – 2010

History: **Edward Peterson** ran a saloon at 117 South Stephenson Avenue and resided here in 1892-1894. In 1902-1903 **John Tremberth**, a miner, lived at this location. There was no listing for this address in 1902-1903 or 1907-1908. However, by 1913 **Abe Abraham**, manager of **Michael Khoury's** stores selling "fruits and confections" at 305 South Stephenson

Avenue and 533 South Stephenson Avenue, was living here with his wife **Mary Abraham**. In 1925 **James H. Mandley** operated a restaurant at this address, also residing here with his wife **Emma Mandley** and **Mrs. Hannah J. Mandley**. **Orlando F. Tramontine** operated the **Central Garage** here in 1935. By 1939 the **Mitchell Cash Market**, operated by **Fred Mitchell**, was located at this address, but was listed as the **Economy Cash Market**, still operated by Fred Mitchell, in the 1941-1942 city directory.

An article in the August 14, 1945 edition of the Iron Mountain News announced the opening of Hayward's House of Gifts and Cards on Friday, August 17, as follows under the headline Wide Range Of Items Offered At New Shop:

Every type of greeting card, from congratulations for birthdays and anniversaries to greetings for persons moving into a new house, and a large assortment of gifts and prizes will be offered at **Hayward's House of Gifts and Cards**, 204 East B, which will be opened at 9 Friday morning.

In addition to the complete line of greeting cards, gifts will include hand-painted pictures, Dresden china, gold and spun-glass figurines, toys for children, miniature Hollywood dolls, artificial flowers, religious plaques and pictures, small bridge prizes, tallies, napkins[,] seals and a large assortment of other items.

Mr. and Mrs. Wade Hayward, residents of Iron Mountain for three years, are the proprietors of the new shop. Prior to coming to Iron Mountain, he was affiliated with the Walgreen Drug Stores in Milwaukee.

The interior of the shop has been redecorated throughout. The walls and

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ceilings are finished in an ivory tint, with a pale blue molding. The woodwork is painted in white enamel. Shelves in the shop, upon which the gifts will be displayed, were designed by Hayward. Bright yellow chintz printed with a blue and brown floral design was used to make the pleated drapes for the shelves.

A [sic – An] unique window display, also designed by Hayward, includes white, tiered shelving, upon which the gifts will be displayed, backed by a white picket fence.

206 – CITY PARKING LOT – 2010

History: There was no listing for this address in 1892-1894. However, in 1902-1903 **Mrs. Patrick O'Connell** was found at this address in the street index, but was listed as residing at 306 East B Street instead of 206 East B Street. **C.E. Harris**, a laborer, and his wife **Clara Harris** lived here in 1907-1908. This address was listed as "vacant" in 1913. **William J. Peppin**, an inspector, resided here with his wife **Rose Peppin** in 1925. **George C. Newton, Sr.**, treasurer and manager of **Lake States Oil Company** in Room 17 of the **First National Bank** building, lived at this address in 1935 with his wife **Ione B. Newton** and **George C. Newton, Jr.**, a student. There was no listing for this address in the 1939 or the 1941-1942 city directories.

208 – CITY PARKING LOT – 2010

History: In 1892-1894 **Fred Foley** was a "pop manufacturer" at this address and also lived here. **Carl Rhylander**, of **Rahm & Rhylander** (Gust Rahm and Carl Rhylander), "jewelers, dealers in musical

instruments, sewing machines, talking machines, etc." at 313 South Stephenson Avenue, resided at this location in 1902-1903. **William Hocking**, a salesman at **Kurz Brothers** (Max Kurz and Moses Kurz), "dealers in horses, harness and vehicles" at 225 East A Street, lived here in 1907-1908 with his wife **Sarah Hocking**. **William C. Oliver**, a sawyer, resided at this address in 1913 with his wife **Agnes Oliver**. In 1925 **Correll Peppin**, a foreman, and his wife **Burneiditte** [Bernadette - ?] **Peppin**, lived here with **George Peppin** and **Wilfred Peppin**, both laborers, and **Lillian Peppin**, a saleslady at **Levy-Unger Company, Ltd.** (**Henry M. Levy**, **Albert Levy**, **Isaac Unger**), a general merchandise store at 415-417 South Stephenson Avenue. **William Peart** resided here in 1935, together with **Ezra W. Peart**, who ran a filling station [gas station] at 701 Breen Avenue in Kingsford, and **George E. Peart**. William Peart was still living here in 1939, but by 1941-1942 **Mrs. Kathryn Oswald**, a W.P.A. worker, was listed at this address.

210 – CITY PARKING LOT – 2010

History: **Fred Eaton** was named on the street index at this address in 1892-1894, but was found in the alphabetical listing as residing at 209 East Ludington Street, a member of the firm **Davey & Eaton** (**Josiah Davey** and Fred Eaton), "sample rooms, dealers in fine wines, liquors, cigars and fresh beer. Free lunches served." The Davey & Eaton saloon was located at 207 East Ludington Street in 1892-1894. In 1902-1903 **George V. Phillips**, a conductor on the **Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway**, resided here. **Mrs. Frances Oliver**, widow of

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Charles Oliver, lived at this address in 1907-1908. In 1913 **Arthur J. La Ponsie**, a setter, resided here with his wife **Marie La Ponsie**. **Thomas Polkinghorne**, an autoworker, and his wife **Ellen Polkinghorne** lived here in 1925 with **Eva Polkinghorne**, a student, and **Thomas H. Polkinghorne**, a laborer. This address was listed as “vacant” in 1935. By 1939 **Mrs. Barbara Ostwall** [sic], widow of **Herman Ostwall**, lived here, but this address was listed as “vacant” in the 1941-1942 city directory.

212 – BELLIN HEALTH U.P. PRIMARY CARE, Dr. Douglas L. Villa – 2010

History: **Edward Brockington**, a laborer, resided at this address in 1892-1894 together with **E.C. Brockington**, a laborer, and **Loney Brockington** and **Ethel Brockington**. In 1902-1903 **Edmond Brockington**, a farmer, lived here. **Edward Brockington**, a poundmaster, was located at this address in 1907-1908 with his wife **Mary Brockington**, and **Gordon Brockington**, a deliveryman. In 1913 **Edmund C. Brockington**, a farmer, lived here with his wife Mary Brockington and **Audrie Brockington**, a clerk. It would appear that **Edward C. Brockington** and **Edmund C. Brockington** must be the same individual, especially since Mary was the name of the wife in both cases. **Mrs. Mary Brockington**’s name appeared on the street index for this address, but was not found in the alphabetical listing in 1925. **Leslie A. Sanders**, a clerk at the **Michigan Bell Telephone Company**, lived here in 1935 with his wife **Ruth Sanders**. There was no listing for this address in the 1939, but **Leslie A. Sanders**, an employee of the

Michigan Bell Telephone Company, was again listed here in the street index of the 1941-1942 index, but found in the alphabetical index as living with his wife **Ruth Sanders** at 700 East I Street.

216 – RESIDENCE – 2010

History: **John E. Gill**, a “wiper” on the **Milwaukee & Northern Railway**, resided here in 1892-1894, and was still living here in 1902-1903, listed as a laborer. In 1907-1908, **John E. Gill** was listed as a fireman, living here with his wife **Minnie Gill** and **Murray Gill**, a student. **John E. Gill** was still listed as a fireman living here with his wife **Minnie Gill** in 1913. In addition, **Gordon C. Brockington**, a laborer, and his wife **Emily Brockington** resided at this address in 1913. **Thomas Homer** was identified as living at this address in the street index of the 1925 directory, but his name did not appear on the alphabetical listing. **Mrs. Christina Larson**, widow of **Alfred Larson**, resided here in 1935, and was still living here in 1939, but **Ernest Larson**, a W.P.A. worker, was listed here in the 1941-1942 city directory.

220 – ALLEN J. RITTENHOUSE LAW OFFICE – 2010

History: In 1892-1894 **Thomas Watts**, a miner, lived at this address, as did **Fred Watts**, another miner. In 1902-1903 **Thomas Watts**, again listed as a miner, was still residing here, and **Thomas Watts**, a miner, was at this address again in 1907-1908, living here with his wife **Grace Watts**, **Edward Watts**, a miner, and **Letta Watts**, a bookkeeper. Once again in 1913 **Thomas Watts** and his wife **Grace Watts** lived here, as did **Edward Watts**, a miner. In 1925 **Mrs.**

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Grace Watts, widow of Thomas Watts, still resided here, and **William Toy**, a forester, and his wife **Ingaborg Toy** were also living at this address. **Alfred R. Graefe**, a laborer, resided here with his wife **Ellen Graefe** and **Doris E. Graefe**, a student, in 1935. By 1939 **Edward Watts**, a W.P.A. worker, lived here, now with his wife **Flora Watts**. However, the listing in the 1941-1942 city directory shows **Everett Watts**, a watchman with the W.P.A., residing here with his wife Flora Watts.

14: SOUTH SIDE OF 200 BLOCK EAST B STREET

Gospel Hall: This building, located on the southeast corner of East B Street and South Stephenson Avenue, served as an early meeting place for many newly-formed congregations in the early years.

601 – CHINA GARDENS PARKING LOT – 2010

History: In 1892-1894 **R.P. Helson** sold “fruit, game and fish” at this address. **Rasmussen & Strong** (**P. Rasmussen** and **John Strong**) sold and repaired bicycles here in 1902-1903. **John Niklas**, a merchant tailor, worked here in 1907-1908. In 1913 **Axel Swanson**, a shoemaker, worked and lived at this location. There was no listing for this address in 1925 or 1935.

While there was no listing for this address in 1935, there was a listing for a **Standard Oil Company** filling station at the southeast corner of South Stephenson Avenue and East B Street, but no further information was provided.

203 – CHINA GARDENS PARKING LOT – 2010

History: There was no entry for this address in 1892-1894. However, in 1902-1903 **A.J. Palmquist**, a printer, resided here. There was no entry for this address in 1907-1908 or 1913. **Mrs. Jennie Vincent** ran **The Coffee Cup Inn** at this location in 1925, and **Athlyn Vincent** worked as a waitress here. In 1935 Athlyn Vincent was operating The Coffee Cup Inn, as she was in the 1939 and 1941-1942 city directories.

On page 131 in *Born From Iron: Iron Mountain, Michigan 1879-1979*, the city's centennial book, the following article was submitted by **Estelle (Vincent) Kjellman**:

THE COFFEE CUP INN

In 1922, **Mrs. Thomas (Jane) Vincent** purchased the Coffee Cup Inn at 203 East “B” Street from **Mrs. Emma Hanson**. She operated the inn with her daughter **Athlyn**. Home cooking was the key to their long and successful business. They served two hot meals a day and a Sunday roast chicken dinner with soup and dessert for 50 cents.

Many of the city businessmen had a large table reserved for daily luncheons. Athlyn made it a habit of remembering each man on his birthday with a special cake.

The Coffee Cup Inn was a favorite eating place for all the teachers and many office workers, where they had a charge account for their meals until payday.

The Coffee Cup Inn had a very homey atmosphere with white table cloths and napkins, embroidered and appliquéd with little designs by Athlyn’s mother. Floral chair backs and curtains, also made by Mrs. Vincent, added great charm to the Inn.

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After her mother's death Athlyn sold the business in the early 1960's to **Ernest Vigo**, who later operated the **Northwoods**. Miss Athlyn Vincent died in 1971.

[NOTE: A photograph accompanies this article with the following caption: The Coffee Cup Inn was located at 203 East "B" Street, and is pictured in 1920 with waitresses Athlyn Vincent and Estelle Kjellman.]

211 – LIGHTHOUSE COMPUTERS, computer and equipment dealers 2010, MERIT NETWORKS, data communications systems – 2010

History: There was no entry for this address in 1892-1894, 1902-1903, 1907-1908, 1913 or 1925.

An article in the February 4, 1925 edition of the Iron Mountain News recorded the awarding of the contract for the **Michigan Bell Telephone Company** building under the headline **BELL COMPANY TO AWARD CONTRACT – New Structure on East B Must be Completed by End of June as follows:**

Contract for a two-story brick and steel telephone exchange office, to be located at 217 [sic – 211] East B street, will be let in Detroit May 1, J.F. Martin, district manager for the Michigan Bell Telephone Co., announced today.

The building will have a frontage of 58 feet and will be 42 feet in length, Mr. Martin said, adding that it will be of court or U-shaped construction.

To Instruct Operators.

The first floor of the exchange will be used by the commercial and plant

equipment departments, Mr. Martin said, while the second floor will be given over to the operating room on one side and a reception room, kitchen and school room for operators on the other. All operators will receive a course of instruction in their work before they are permitted to serve the public, he announced, insuring better service than is possible under the present arrangement.

The basement of the building will be used for battery and other storage.

None of the equipment in use at the present exchange will be taken over to the new building, Mr. Martin said, but the most modern and up-to-date equipage will be used, giving Iron Mountain an exchange that will care for the city's needs for an estimated 10-year period.

*The house on the 100-foot lot which is the site of the new exchange must be moved or sold before May 1, when work is to start on the new structure. The contract will call for completion by 30 [sic – no month given, but according to the headline it must be June 30], according to Mr. Martin, while the **General Electric Co.** will have six months in which to complete installation of switch boards and other equipment.*

In 1935 the **Michigan Bell Telephone Company** listed the office of its manager, **William F. Clarke**, at this location, and there was no change in either the 1939 or the 1941-1942 city directory.

213 – XXX – 2010

History: **Edward J. Ingram**, a "Dealer in drugs, medicines, paints, oils, glass, books and stationary, cigars and fancy good," ran a drug store at 229 South Stephenson Avenue in 1892-1894, and

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resided at this location. There is a lengthy advertisement on pages 53-54 of the 1892-1894 city directory talking about E.J. Ingram, "Druggist and Pharmacist." By 1902-1903 **Louis A. Henze**, of the **Henze-Tollen Brewing Company** (Louis A. Henze and **Gust Tollen**), "brewers of domestic and export beer and porter," lived here. There was no listing for this address in 1907-1908. However, in 1913 **A.H. Storms**, the assistant postmaster, resided at this location with his wife **Bertha Storms**.

An article in the April 28, 1924 edition of the *Iron Mountain News* noted this property changed hands under this headline – **MARTIN PROPRETY SOLD TO DOCTORS:** Valuable Piece of real Estate on B Street Changes Hands – as follows:

Sale of the J.F. Martin home at 213 East B street to Doctors Crowell, Belhumeur and Coffin, Ford physicians and surgeons, was announced today. The property was owned by J.F. Martin, manager of the telephone company, and is one of the most valuable pieces of residence real estate in the city.

The property has a frontage of 102 feet on B street. Before the location of the Ford company here it was valued in the neighborhood of \$3,000. Later it was offered at \$10,000 and was sold to the Ford doctors for \$12,000.

*The property at present is occupied by a large dwelling. No definite plans have as yet been made, it was declared, but a building may later be erected on the lot for use by the Ford doctors, who are now located in the **United States National bank building**.*

Mrs. Frank (Gertrude) Bjorkman operated a restaurant at this address in

1925, and **Mrs. Bertha Dworsky**, widow of **Moses Dworsky**, lived here with **Max Z. Dworsky** and **Paul Dworsky**. There was no listing for this address in 1935, 1939 or 1941-1942.

217 – XXX – 2010

History: In 1892-1894 **George H. Johnson**, a gardener, lived at this location. **William Lundgren**, a clerk at **The Hub Clothing**, owned by **Moses Taylor** at 403 South Stephenson Avenue, resided at this address in 1902-1903. In 1907-1908 **William Langren**, a clerk, lived here with his wife **Carrie Langren**. William Langren, now a salesman, resided here in 1913 with his wife Carrie Langren and **Mabel Langren**. In 1925 **William O. Langren**, still a salesman, lived here with his wife **Carrie O. Langren**, and **Cecil W. Langren**, a teller at the **First National Bank**, and **Jorgen Langren**, an electrician at **Mette Electric Company** (**Walter F. Mette**, **Joseph P. Peterson** and **Edward J. Poirier**), located in the basement of the **First National Bank**.

An article in the May 18, 1925 edition of the *Iron Mountain News* noted the opening of the Langren & Colburn Electrical Shop as follows:

*Announcement was made today of the opening of the **Langren and Colburn electrical shop** at 217 East B street. **J.O. Langren** and **Grove W. Colburn** are associated in the business and will do all kinds of electrical work in addition to handling supplies.*

Cecil W. Langren, still a teller at the First National Bank, continued to reside here with his wife **Helen B. Langren** and **Jorgen O. Langren**, an electrician, in 1935. By

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1939 Jorgen was working for the Kimberly Clark Corporation, and in the 1941-1942 city directory only Cecil W. and Helen Langren were listed at this address.

221 – XXX – 2010

History: **Mrs. H.M. Mead**, widow of **Dr. J.M. Mead**, resided at this location in 1892-1894, as did **Hubert A. Mead**, manager of the **Western Union Telegraph Company** located in "Woods Block" at 235 South Stephenson Avenue. In 1902-1903 **Abe Sackim**, owner of **The Paris Store**, selling "dry goods, clothing, boots and shoes, hats and caps, etc." at 331 South Stephenson Avenue, lived here. Abe Sackim still resided here in 1907-1908 with his wife **Lillian Sackim**, and still maintained his store at 331 South Stephenson Avenue, selling "dry goods, carpets, clothing, shoes and house furnishings." In 1913 Abe Sackim, president of the **A. Sackim Company** (**Ben Seaman**, secretary; **Sam Seaman**, treasurer), still dealt in "dry goods and gents' furnishings" in an enlarged store at 327-331 South Stephenson Avenue, and maintained the same residence with his wife Lillian Sackim at 221 East B Street. **Martin B. Travis**, superintendent of **Iron Mountain Public Schools**, lived here in 1925. In 1935 **Cecil J. Browning**, a bookkeeper at **Phoenix Lumber & Supply Company, Inc.** (**John Williams**, local manager), in East Kingsford on Breitung Avenue at the **Milwaukee, Chicago & St. Paul** track, and his wife **Matilda I. Browning**, resided at this address. By 1939 **Ewald E. Gustafson**, an employee at **Frick's Bakery**, lived here with his wife **Helen Gustafson**. **Albert J. Wilke**, the Register of Deeds, and **Jane Wilke**, a stenographer in the Register of Deeds

officek, were listed at this address in the 1941-1942 city directory.

22: SOUTH SIDE OF 100 BLOCK EAST B STREET

School Record, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 10, Number 6 [February, 1910], pages 21-24 [This was the Iron Mountain school newspaper.]

EARLY IRON MOUNTAIN.

When Captain Wicks and his men came here [1879], there was a roving band of Indians encamped nearby. The nearest building inhabited was occupied by explorers about half way to Quinnsec. A deserted log shack, formerly occupied by lumbermen, stood near the present C.M. & St. Paul station.

***101 – THE MILWAUKEE ROAD PASSENGER DEPOT – 2010**

History: Originally, the **Milwaukee & Northern Railroad** was built from Quinnsec to Iron Mountain in 1886, and a station was established with **J.M. Clifford** acting as agent. The Milwaukee & Northern Railroad Company was incorporated on June 5, 1880. In the early 1890's four passenger trains arrived and departed daily on their tracks. The **Milwaukee & Northern Railway** depot, **J.M. Clifford**, agent and alderman in the Fifth Ward, was located at this address on the southeast corner of East B Street and Merritt Avenue in 1892-1894. In 1895 **Dr. Joseph Addison Crowell**, the health officer,

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condemned the well at the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Depot and pronounced the water poisonous. Several cases of typhoid fever were attributed to the use of water from this well. There was no listing for this address in 1902-1903 in the street index, but in the Classified Business Directory the **Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway** depot was now the name of the building located at this address, as it was in 1907-1908 with **Gust F. Gensch** serving as the station agent. The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway depot was still listed at this address in 1913 with **M.J. Schenk** serving as agent at both the freight and passenger depots for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway and the **Wisconsin & Michigan Railway**. There were no other addresses on the south side of the 100 block of East B Street from 1892-1894 to 1913.

FIRE: On Tuesday night, June 18, 1901, the St. Paul Depot was badly gutted by fire, supposedly caused by spontaneous combustion. The estimated loss on building and contents was \$3,500. The article in the June 20, 1901 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* noted: *The fire company performed splendid work, but it is a question whether the members are not deserving of public censure for saving the old shack from total destruction.*

The July 4, 1901 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* stated that the railroad company had not authorized a new depot as a result of the blaze, *but thanks to the efforts of Agent Gardinier the rebuilt structure is to be modernized to a certain extent.*

The plans adopted call for the entire remodeling of the interior. The north end is to be fitted up for a ladies' waiting room neatly furnished. Next comes the ticket

office and next a waiting room for men. Adjoining will be the baggage room, with the delivery entrance on the west side of the building. The remainder of the building will be utilized for freight purposes.

The proposed changes will certainly be a great accommodation to the patrons, but what Iron Mountain deserves at the hands of the company is a handsome depot similar to that of the North-Western road.

History: Finally, on February 5, 1914, the *Iron Mountain Press* was able to announce that the *first consignment of brick for the new Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul road passenger station has been received here. That looks like business.*

The company is soliciting bids from local building contractors, steam fitters and plumbers for erection work. That looks like business.

Owners of warehouses and other buildings on the company property between B and D streets have been notified to vacate – sixty days' notice having been given. More business.

The new station, estimated to cost about \$25,000, "considerably more than the first estimate," was to be a solid brick building with a slate roof and fire-proof in every particular. The main building was designed at 27 x 100 feet on the foundations with an extension on the east side 4 x 15 feet in size for toilet rooms.

A pavilion facing B Street, 20 x 30 feet in size, made the total length of station and pavilion 130 feet. The general waiting room and the smoking room were 24 x 26 feet, while the ticket office between the two was 14 x 14 feet in size. There was an arched passageway between the general waiting room and smoking room.

A separate building, 20 x 26 feet, for express, baggage, the steam heating plant

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and coal storage was located to the south of the station, connected by a pavilion.

The pavilion floor, platform and steps into the depot was constructed of cement. The platform extended from B Street south to D Street.

The land to the east of the station which had been occupied by warehouses and team tracks was to be turned into a park. As soon as the buildings were removed considerable filling was done preparatory to converting the entire block between B Street and C Street and River Avenue and Merritt Avenue into a park which was known as St. Paul Park.

Plans also included a new roundhouse, coal hoist and storage and water tank. The old station was moved two blocks south, facing on D Street, and converted into a freight depot and warehouse. There was also some rearrangement of tracks. All this brought the total for the project, including the new depot, to an expenditure of considerably more than \$50,000.

The old roundhouse, coal warehouse and water tank were torn down. The new roundhouse, coal warehouse and water tank were erected about one mile south, at a point near the **Wisconsin & Michigan** junction.

The roundhouse was a long, narrow structure, 176 feet long and 25 feet wide, and was erected on the east side of the track. The coal hoist and storage was built directly opposite the roundhouse, on the west side of the main line, with the water tank in the same locality.

Passenger engines were to "take water" from standpipes while at the passenger station.

An article appearing in the August 13, 1914 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* under the headline: **MANY IMPROVEMENTS: St. Paul Railroad is**

Spending Much Money in the Vicinity
detailed the changes made or about to be made by the company:

The old frame building that has served as a passenger and freight depot for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul road ever since the building of the Milwaukee & Northern road, some twenty-nine years ago, is about to be removed south to D street, where, in the future, it will be used exclusively as a freight warehouse. The antiquated round-house and the equally antiquated watering tank will be wrecked. The old coal storage will meet the same fate. A new and modern round-house and coal elevator will be erected at a point near the Wisconsin & Michigan junction, one on each side of the main line. No water tank will be built, as the engines will be supplied with water from several stand-pipes located between rails on the main line south of B street. As soon as the buildings are removed considerable filling will be done preparatory to parking the entire block between B and C streets and River and Merritt avenues. When the entire scheme is perfected the appearance of our city will be improved a hundred per cent. And The Press feels that it is entitled no small share of the credit for the improvement.

Although the address was listed as the east side of South Merritt Avenue between West B Street and West C Street in 1925, the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Depot with **James R. Peebles** serving as agent, still stands – vacant – at this location in 2010. **The Milwaukee Road** was the new name for this railway in 1935, with James R. Peebles still serving as agent for the passenger depot listed at 101 East B Street.

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115 – XXX – 2010

History: There was no entry for this address in 1892-1894, 1902-1903, 1907-1908, 1913 or 1925. In 1935 the **Public Comfort Station** was located here, and continued to be listed at this address in the 1939 and 1941-1942 city directories.

History of St. Paul Park: St. Paul Park was the area west of the 600 block of South Stephenson Avenue near the Milwaukee, Chicago & St. Paul Railway depot where the Dickinson County Chamber of Commerce and the Michigan Welcome Center are located today [2010]. An article in the June 28, 1921 edition of the *Iron Mountain News* reported that the arrangements upon which Mayor **Joseph E. Eslick** had been working for the past five years to insure that Iron Mountain would have a downtown park were being finalized and needed the city council's approval.

Under contract with the city, the "open space east of the St. Paul passenger station could only be used for park purposes as long as the passenger station remained where it was located at that time." [*The St. Paul passenger station still remains at this location today – 2010.*] No spur track could be laid across the ground, nor could the ground be otherwise utilized.

Under Mayor Eslick's plan, the city would "take over the upkeep of this plat, install water and lights, lay out pathways, plant trees, place benches, and build a bandstand." The Milwaukee, Chicago & St. Paul Railway officials had agreed to the proposal.

The article pointed out that under this proposal "the city would be provided with a delightful park almost in the center of the business district, and with a bandstand

where concerts could be given or lectures delivered without causing the congestion of traffic which occurs at the present site. The bandstand at that time was located on the northwest corner of the intersection of South Stephenson Avenue and East Ludington Street, across from the First National Bank, known as the Wood Block. The article noted that the present bandstand was too high for proper carrying of sound.

One of three reported incidents attributed to **Ku Klux Klan** activities occurred at St. Paul Park on Christmas Eve, 1924, according to a brief report in the December 26, 1924 edition of the *Iron Mountain News* which stated: "While worshippers were on their way to midnight church services Christmas eve a fiery cross, emblem of the Ku Klux Klan, was ignited at the St. Paul depot park. The cross was seen by few persons, however, for shortly after it began blazing a party of persons in a car drove over it and knocked it down."

An earlier incident occurred on Saturday evening, August 23, 1924, when a large burning cross about fifteen feet high with a cross arm six feet long was seen blazing at the southwest summit of Millie Hill. The cross arm had been wrapped with burlap and wire, the burlap soaked in oil so it would burn more easily. An article in the August 25, 1924 edition of the *Iron Mountain News* noted that a "few of the more adventurous drove to the top of Ludington street and climbed the hill to examine the cross, which they found to be a spruce tree stripped of its branches and implanted into the ground to hold it firmly. A heavy rope an inch and a half in diameter and which presumably had been used to drag the cross to the spot had been left at the scene, indicating that the job had been

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hurriedly done and a quick get-away was found necessary. After burning a few minutes the cross arm fell from the tree and destroyed the effect of the symbol. The light could be seen on the hill, however, for more than an hour before it finally died out."

This article also stated the cross burning "followed a ceremony at which it is claimed 150 candidates were initiated into the secrets of klanism. The ritual, it was said, was carried out at a point about a quarter of a mile east of the fiery cross in the woods on top of the hill."

A "well-known Iron Mountain business man" spoke with a representative of the newspaper the day the article appeared, and, according to the report "virtually admitted he was a klansman and declared that organization work had been going on since last spring, following the espouse of a big real estate scheme to import hundreds of negroes into the district." The businessman, who refused to have his identity revealed, "asserted that the klan membership here was now about 800, including the class initiated Saturday evening." The informant stated that "preparations for the ceremony were carried out quietly and no one was aware that it was going on," adding "the klansmen were attired in their full regalia of white robes and conical hoods."

All kinds of rumors regarding the Ku Klux Klan's involvement in the community were rampant and undocumented following this first incident. One incident reported in the article stated another meeting was held on Millie Hill on Sunday night and "several white robed figures were seen descending to the northern slope but investigation revealed that as far as could be determined a group of boys were attempting to re-light the cross while one or two were running

about with shirts over their heads in imitation of the klan's dress."

The newspaper article also noted that "a klansman two weeks ago declared the local membership was only 75," giving rise to the credibility of the figure of 800 local members provided by the informant first quoted in regard to the incident.

The last incident received brief mention in the May 11, 1925 edition of the *Iron Mountain News*: "Six robed Klansmen accompanied by about 18 other men, also supposedly Klansmen, burned a fiery cross in the cleared land back of the new **Nightingale** dance hall on Saturday evening. The flames attracted some attention but the Klansmen soon disappeared." The Nightingale was a popular dance hall located at **Badwater**, as was another popular dance resort of the "Roaring Twenties" called **Pine Gardens**.

Nothing has ever been decisively documented regarding the Ku Klux Klan being active in the community, but these events occurred when the local newspaper carried frequent syndicated reports of Klan activity in many areas of the country.

The April 8, 1925 edition of the *Iron Mountain News* reported the city council had awarded a contract for beautifying the grounds at the St. Paul Park the previous evening to **A.A. Gordon**, landscape expert of the **Jewel Nursery Company**, of Lake City, Minnesota, at a price of \$200. Work was to begin in late May or early June, providing weather conditions were favorable. The city was to furnish the "top covering of the surface" which would be "filled with six inches of loam."

The three bids submitted for the construction of a comfort station (public restrooms) to be built by the city were rejected due to cost. An Iron Mountain architect maintained the structure should

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not cost more than \$6,000, but the bids were: **Fred DeRoche and Sons**, Fred and Ray, of Iron Mountain, \$14,400; **Leaf & Abrahamson**, \$10,604; and **Phelps-Drake Company, Inc.**, of Minneapolis, which had a branch office in Iron Mountain, \$12,000. Several changes were made in the plans and specifications and the project would be re-advertised.

Information regarding the revised plans was contained in an article in the April 11, 1925 edition of the *Iron Mountain News*. The original plans were for a building 32 feet by 24 feet, but the new dimensions would be smaller, and the quality of the fixtures which involved a large portion of the total cost would also be reduced. The new structure would be “fire-proof and sufficiently large.”

A contract between the City of Iron Mountain and the **Chamber of Commerce Band** for fifteen band concerts was announced in the April 18, 1925 edition of the *Iron Mountain News*. The series was to begin early in June at St. Paul Park. The concerts were held on Sunday.

An article in the May 12, 1925 edition of the *Iron Mountain News* noted that five bids were received for the revised comfort station, the contract being awarded by the city council to the Phelps-Drake Company for \$8,000. Work on the construction of the new comfort station to be erected at St. Paul Park on B Street was under way by May 16, 1925, with July 4 given as a completion date. The building was a brick structure with the basement floor for the use of men and the ladies' restroom on the ground floor.

22: NORTH SIDE OF 100 BLOCK EAST B STREET

100 – HANTZ GROUP, financing counsulants, Barry Rae, manager – 2010

History: In 1892-1894 **Josiah Hitchens**, a marble cutter, worked at this location. There was no entry for this address in 1902-1903, 1907-1908, 1913 or 1925. In 1935 the **Iron Mountain Grill** was operated at this address by **Christ Anegon** and **Arthur B. Mitchell**, and was still listed here in the 1939 and 1941-1942 city directories.

An article in the October 21, 1921 edition of the *Iron Mountain News* announced the opening of a new restaurant on B Street which would be located in the building then being constructed by Joseph Cordy at 110 East B Street. Christ Anegon & Company, Inc., a firm made up of four local businessmen, were to open this restaurant. Members of the firm included **Christ Anegon**, manager, and **Arthur Mitchell**, proprietors of the **Iron Mountain Candy Kitchen** on East B Street and the proprietors of the **Liberty Candy Kitchen**.

***102 – POLLY'S UNDERGROUND PUB – 2010**

History: There was no listing for this address in 1892-1894 or 1902-1903. In 1907-1908 **Mike Mitchell**'s name appeared in the street index for this address. However, the alphabetical lisiting identified Mike Mitchell as selling “confectioneries, ice cream and fruits” at 421 South Stephenson Avenue. By 1913 **John Anegon** operated a confectionery shop at this location.

An article in the October 21, 1921 edition of the *Iron Mountain News*

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announced the opening of a new restaurant on B Street which would be located in the building then being constructed by Joseph Cordy at 110 East B Street. **Christ Anegon & Company, Inc.**, a firm made up of four local businessmen, were to open this restaurant. Members of the firm included **Christ Anegon**, manager, and **Arthur Mitchell**, proprietors of the **Iron Mountain Candy Kitchen** at 102 East B Street, and the proprietors of the **Liberty Candy Kitchen**, located at 401 South Stephenson Avenue.

In the February 28, 1924 edition of the *Iron Mountain News* "Mitchell & Anegon, proprietors of the **St. Paul Candy Kitchen**, announced...the completion of plans for the enlargement of their establishment." Twelve additional booths were to be installed, and the room in the rear then used for storage and manufacturing purposes was to be remodeled to accommodate the new booths. The walls of the entire store were to be changed and "paneled oak and plate glass" would replace the all-glass decorations then in use. The plan also included changing the ceiling, covering it with plate glass panels.

Thieves broke into the basement of the Anegon confectionery store at 102 East B Street on the evening of Saturday, May 16, 1925, according to an article in the May 18, 1925 edition of *The Iron Mountain News*, making off with "eight large jars of maraschino cherries, a number of jars of crushed fruit and a complete shaving set." Entrance was gained through a basement window, and the thieves were unable to get into the confectionery store on the first floor. Authorities suspected "more than one was implicated" due to the amount of merchandise taken.

The sale of the **Joseph Cordy** building at 102 East B Street, occupied by **Christ**

Anegon and **Arthur Mitchell**, owners of the Anegon confectionery store, was announced in the May 28, 1925 edition of *The Iron Mountain News*. The deal – which had been pending for some time – was closed the previous day for a price of \$22,000. The article noted that the building was "a one-story brick structure" and was "advantageously located for the confectionery business, being next to the Braumart theatre." The building did not occupy the entire lot, the rear portion being owned by **Brauns & Thomas (August E. Brauns and Martin D. Thomas)**, who had planned to use it in the original plans for the Braumart Theatre. No changes in the building were planned at the time except for beautifying the exterior.

There was no listing for this address in 1925, 1935 or 1939. The 1941-1942 city directory listed the **Metropolitan Life Insurance Company** at this address with **H.V. Henry** serving as manager.

104 – TIMBER PRODUCTS MICHIGAN, wood products, Michael Fox, manager – 2010

History: **Charles Cherney**, a photographer, worked at this location in 1892-1894. There was no listing for this address in 1902-1903, 1907-1908, 1913 or 1925. **Floyd Duchaine** worked as a barber at this location in 1935. The 1939 city directory placed the Braumart Theatre, under the management of **Edward Hickey**, at this address (the **Braumart Building**), as well as the **Brauns & Thomas Company**, owned by **Martin D. Thomas**. The Braumart Theatre was listed at 106 East B Street in the 1941-1942 city directory, and **Ray Durham** and **Ledger J. Archambeau**, attorneys, were listed at 104 East B Street.

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106 – PERFORMING ARTS CENTER – 2010

History: The **Central House**, a hotel and saloon, was operated at this location in 1892-1894 by **Joseph Wenzel**, who also lived here. In 1902-1903 **John Parmentier** [sic – possibly Parmenter] was listed as the proprietor of the Central House, apparently the only structure on the 100 block of East B Street at the time. The Central House still operated at this address in 1907-1908 with **Joseph Cordy**, the proprietor, also residing here. The hotel and saloon still appeared to be the only building on the block. In 1913 Joseph Cordy still was the proprietor of the Central House which was also his residence.

An article in the November 17, 1922 edition of *The Iron Mountain News* showed an ownership change for this property as follows under the headline BRAUNS CLOSES BIG LAND DEAL: Buys Central House And Several Lots on East B Street:

*August E. Brauns has purchased the property on East B street known as the **Central house** and the vacant lots on the west from **Joseph Cordy**. The consideration is private, but the deal is one of the largest real property transactions to be closed in some months. The property has a frontage on East B street of over 92 feet and extends back to the alley more than 125 feet. Included in the deal is the Central house, a large frame structure, now tenanted by **Casmir Recla**. The Recla lease has more than a year to run. It is understood that Mr. Brauns will improve the vacant property. A year ago, a report was current that Marquette capitalists intended erecting a moving picture theatre on the site.*

[NOTE: It is probable that 106 East B Street was actually located where 110 East B Street is now located, as early photographs of the Central House show the train tracks on the east side of the building. The fact that there was no listing for this address in the 1925 directory and that the new Cordy Building was constructed at 110 East B Street in 1921 help prove this assumption. Thus, this site at 106 East B Street would have been vacant when the construction of the Braumart Theatre began in 1925, probably occupying 104-106-108 East B Street.]

There was no listing for this address in the 1925 directory, although construction on the **Braumart Theatre** began September 3, 1924, and the grand opening was April 21, 1925. In 1935 the **Braumart Building**, in addition to the Braumart Theatre, under the management of **Lawrence D. Thomas**, contained the following professional offices and businesses: **Braumart Beauty Shop**, **George Chrest**, proprietor; **Dr. James L. Browning**, physician and surgeon; **Kathryn Colburn**, women's wear; **Portrait Studio**, **Beatrice Johnson**, photographer; **Upper Peninsula School of Beauty Culture**, **George Chrest**, proprietor. The 1939 city directory placed the Braumart Theatre, under the management of **Edward Hickey**, at 104 East B Street (the **Braumart Building**), as well as the **Brauns & Thomas Company**, owned by **Martin D. Thomas**. However, the Braumart Theatre was again listed at 106 East B Street in the 1941-1942 city directory, the Braumart Building, together with the **Braumart Barber Shop**, operated by **Floyd Duchaine**; the offices of **Dr. James L. Browning**, physician and surgeon; and the

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Colburn Shop, women's wear, operated by Kathryn Colburn.

History of the Braumart Theatre

Complex: On February 18, 1924, **Martin D. Thomas**, manager of the newly-formed **Colonial Theatre Company**, announced plans for the construction of a new theater on East B Street. The property was unoccupied with the exception of a small part where the **Central House**, a hotel operated by **C.J. Recla**, stood. The hotel was razed to make room for the new structure.

The new theater was a part of the chain of theaters included in the Colonial Theatre Group, which consisted of the **Colonial Theatre** and the **Bijou Theatre**, both located on Ludington Street, Iron Mountain, and four additional houses located in Fond du Lac, Wis. The name Braumart was derived from a combination of the names of A.E. Brauns, the owner, and Martin D. Thomas, the manager.

Final plans called for a building with a total area of 96 x 120 feet, including the foyer, 25 x 30 feet; the auditorium, 73 x 90 feet; a shop 25 x 40 feet on each side, and another store, 26 x 120 feet. The estimated cost of the entire project, including the theatre equipment, was \$200,000.

The **Foster Construction Company**, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, began construction on Wednesday, September 3, 1924.

The Braumart Theatre opened Tuesday evening, April 21, 1925, with 2,000 movie-goers attending the two performances. The day before the *Iron Mountain News* gave a detailed account of its elaborate décor and declared the Braumart "will rank as the finest amusement house north of Milwaukee, embodying as it does the most modern type of construction and the various

and up-to-the-minute improvements in the technique of motion picture projection."

Inset at several places in the wall dividing the foyer from the auditorium were groups of three arched windows fitted with stained glass that reflected in various tints the soft glow of the indirect lighting system. Entry to the auditorium was through French doors from the arc-shaped, long foyer. The auditorium had seating for 1,000 patrons with four heavily-carpeted aisles to provide easy access to the deeply-cushioned seats.

The auditorium walls were decorated in various tints and shades, providing a "tapestry effect" in the panels. Pilasters along the walls were highly decorated, each bearing the famed theatrical masks of comedy and drama.

The proscenium arch opened upon the 15 x 40-foot stage, quite narrow in terms of depth because the theatre was to be devoted entirely to motion picture programs.

Two large grills, one on each side of the stage and about ten feet above the floor, were located on the two walls that slanted inward to the proscenium arch, concealing the large chambers in which the organ equipment was installed. The instrument purchased for the Braumart, a Wurlitzer-Hope-Jones organ, was considered "the largest and most completely equipped in the upper peninsula and northern Wisconsin."

The equipment included hundreds of pipes and a variety of orchestra instruments, all electrically controlled from a keyboard in the orchestra pit. Large shutters in back of the two grills automatically regulated the amount of sound that reached the audience. As the Braumart featured its orchestra and organ, concealed lights were placed in the ceiling

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to flood the orchestra pit for special numbers.

The projection booth was located on the second floor of the building and access to it could only be gained only by using the stairway that led to the offices in the front of the structure. Everything in the booth was electrically controlled and emergency apparatus had been installed so that if there was an interruption of the power supply on one line it could be transferred to another.

The equipment included two Simplex projection machines both of which could be controlled at three stations in the booth. The machines were even equipped with individual motors that automatically regulated the adjustment of the carbon arcs. In old style lamp houses the light was given directly to the screen through a series of lenses. The lamp houses on these machines, however, incorporated a new process of reflecting the light, thus doing away with bluish and brownish spots upon the screen. In addition, there was a spotlight machine and other equipment to make the projection perfect.

The booth was absolutely fireproof and the portholes in front were guarded by automatic steel trap gates that would drop if the temperature reached a degree sufficient to melt a short strip of metal fuse attached to each projector.

Ambrose Larson, a nationally-noted organist, was engaged for the first two weeks the theater was open. Larson played the organ for the opening of the famous Capitol Theatre in Chicago and stopped every performance during the first week.

The 1,000-seat auditorium was filled for each of the two performances marking the grand opening on Tuesday evening, April 21, 1925, and some patrons were turned

away at the second show which started shortly after 9 o'clock.

In addition to the theater, the Braumart building contained a group of well-lighted offices on the second floor and two stores. The stores were first occupied by the **Stronge & Warner Millinery Shop** (**Mrs. J.M. Record**, manager, and **Lucille Applegate**, assistant manager), opened on Saturday, April 25, 1925; and the **Braumart Shoe Shop**, owned by **R.J. Reynolds**, formerly of Watertown, South Dakota, opened Wednesday, October 7, 1925. **Dan Constantini** and **Wilfred Collette**, two experienced Iron Mountain clerks, were on the staff of the Braumart Shoe Shop when it opened.

Architecture: The classical decoration on the façade hint at the building's glamorous past. This building exterior is another example where brick was used in a variety of ways to add visual texture.

The architectural design was done by **Herbst & Kuenzli**, of Milwaukee. [The complete plans and presentation drawings are in the collections of the Milwaukee Public Library--Central library.] They also designed the demolished Delft Theatre in Iron River. They were a successor to the firm of **Charlton & Kuenzli**, of Marquette, Michigan, and Milwaukee, the architect for the demolished **Colonial Theatre** in Iron Mountain.

A group of local citizens organized in January 2008 with the goal of acquiring and restoring the Braumart. Their goal is to make it into an Arts Center for the area while maintaining the unique historic character of the existing building.

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108 – MILLER AGENCY, INC., insurance, Gary Thomas, manager – 2010

History: There was no entry for this address in 1892-1894, 1902-1903, 1907-1908, 1913, 1925, 1935, 1939 or 1941-1942.

110 – AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL, financial advisory services, Mark McKinnon, manager – 2010, DANIEL F. ANDERSON, PC, attorney – 2010

**106 East B Street: Central House, ca.
1892; owned by Joseph Wenzel in
1892; Milwaukee, Chicago & St. Paul
Depot (later Milwaukee & Northern)
across the street**

History: There was no entry for this address in 1892-1894, 1902-1903, 1907-1908 or 1913. However, early photographs of the **Central House** show the train tracks on the east side of the building. The fact that the Central House appears to have been the only structure on the north side of the 100 block of East B Street from 1892-1894 to 1913, that the hotel was owned by **Joseph Cordy** beginning in 1907-1908, that Joseph Cordy built a new building at 110 East B Street replacing his hotel and saloon in 1921, and that there was no listing for 106 East B Street in the 1925 and 1935 directories, but there was a listing for the Cordy Building at 110 East B Street all indicate this assumption is correct.

History (as 106 East B Street):
The **Central House**, a hotel and saloon, was operated at this location in 1892-1894

by **Joseph Wenzel**, who also lived here. In 1902-1903 **John Parmentier** [sic – possibly *Parmenter*] was listed as the proprietor of the Central House, apparently the only structure on the 100 block of East B Street at the time. The Central House still operated at this address in 1907-1908 with **Joseph Cordy**, the proprietor, also residing here. The hotel and saloon still appeared to be the only building on the block. In 1913 Joseph Cordy still was the proprietor of the Central House which was also his residence.

History (continued): An article in the October 21, 1921 edition of the *Iron Mountain News* announced the opening of a new restaurant on B Street which would be located in the building then being constructed by **Joseph Cordy**, stating:

*Christ Anegon & Co.[,] incorporated, a firm made up of four local business men, has made definite arrangements to open a restaurant in the building on East B street being constructed by **Joseph Cordy**, of this city. A large order has already been placed for interior furnishings and decorations and when everything is completed, booths, counters, mirrors and cut glass fixtures, the restaurant will be the most up to date and convenient in the upper peninsula, the owners declare.*

*The building is at present under construction and will be completed in about six weeks. The main floor and the basement will be occupied by the lunchroom while the rooms on the second floor will be rented out as offices. **Christ Anegon**, manager, announces that the doors will open for patrons about the first of the year. Every need in connection with a restaurant will be anticipated. The booths which will be installed on two sides will be*

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finished in mahogany. A partition will be made across the rear end of the building, closing off the kitchen from the restaurant proper. All counters and tables in the booths will be of marble. Several refrigerators will be installed for the preservation of milk and other foods during the summer months. The proprietors of the **Liberty Candy Kitchen** are also included in the firm besides Christ Anegon, manager[,] and **Arthur Mitchell**, proprietors of the **Iron Mountain Candy Kitchen**, on East B street.

In 1925 the following businesses and offices were listed in the **Cordy Building** at 110 East B Street: The P.H. Davis Tailoring Company, Emil Thorelius, district agent; Hugh McLaughlin, insurance and real estate; James W. Smith, architect; McLogan-Pearce Music Company, pianos, Victrolas, radios, Irving G. Pearce, president-manager, L.G. Hillyer, vice-president, C.W. Weidleman, secretary-treasurer; Van Laanen Insurance Agency, John E. Van Laanen, proprietor; Itzoff [sic – Itzov] Clinical Laboratory, Theodore A. Itzoff [sic – Itzov], proprietor; Arens & Duchaine, (Walter Arens and Floyd Duchaine), barbers.

An article in the April 23, 1925 edition of the *Iron Mountain News* announced the opening of a new pool room at 106 East B Street as follows:

B. Simonson and M.O. Hearn, of Cloquet, Minn., having [sic – have] opened up a new pool room at 106 East B street. Five pocket billiard tables and one billiard table are included in the equipment. There is also a soda fountain and cigar counter. The new place is to be known as the **Star**

Billiard hall, a large electric sign being erected this morning.

In 1935 **Sim's Drug Store**, **Edwin J. Sims**, proprietor, and **Edward Izzo**, cigars, occupied ground floor of the Cordy Building. Upstairs, the following businesses and professional offices in 1935 were: **Edward J. Dundon**, lawyer; **Dr. Claude W. Walker**, physician; the **Itzov Clinical Laboratory**, **Theodore A. Itzov**, proprietor; **Walter A. Henze**, real estate; **Ellen V. Nord**, chiropractor. The 1939 city directory simply listed this address as the **Cordy Building**, but the 1941-1942 city directory contained a more complete directory which included the following: Sim's Drug Store, **Edwin H. Morrison**, manager; **Chippewa Billiard Parlors**, operated by **Louis Izzo**; **Marinello Beauty Shop**, operated by **Mary E. Harvey**; **Vanity Beauty Shoppe**, operated by **Mary Marana**. In addition, the rooms on the second floor were occupied as follows: Room 1, Edward J. Dundon, lawyer; Room 3, Itzov Clinical Laboratory, Theodore A. Itzov, proprietor; Room 6, Ellen V. Nord, chiropractor.

120 – XXX – 2010

History: There was no entry for this address in 1892-1894, 1902-1903, 1907-1908, 1913 or 1925.

In 1935 **Buchman's Drug Store**, operated by **Abraham G. Buchman**, "Druggist and Prescription Pharmacists," was located at this address on the south end of the **Commercial Bank Building**.

An article in the May 26, 1935 edition of the *Iron Mountain News* recorded the opening of a new flower shop, **The Blossom Shop**, in a section of Buchman's Drug Store as follows:

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Miss **Florence Schubert** and **F.J. Milford**, of Houghton, will soon open a flower store in a section of **Buchman's Drug store** at the corner of Stephenson avenue and East B street. Although the date of opening has not yet been set orders are now being taken for Memorial day and may also be left at Buchman's drug store in Breitung. The store will be known as the **Blossom shop** and will occupy that part of the drug store facing on East B street.

In the 1939 city directory Buchman's Drug Store, Abraham G. Buchman, proprietor, was listed at 500 South Stephenson Avenue instead of 120 East B Street, but the establishment was again listed under the same ownership at this address in the street index and at 536 South Stephenson Avenue in the alphabetical listing in the 1941-1942 city directory.

23: SOUTH SIDE OF 100 BLOCK WEST B STREET

SW Corner of West B Street and Merritt Avenue – RIVER VALLEY STATE BANK – 2010

101 – RIVER VALLEY STATE BANK – 2010, NATIONAL CITY INVESTMENTS, INC. – 2010

History: In 1892-1894 the **Commercial House** was owned and run by **Vivian C. Chellew**, who also sold wholesale meats at 109 East Hughitt Street. Chellew also resided in the hotel. The **Commercial Hotel** was located at 101-103 West B Street in 1902-1903, operated

under the management of **Ira A. Bean**, who lived at the hotel. By 1907-1908 the Commercial Hotel's name had been changed to the **Milliman Hotel**, operated by the **Milliman Brothers** (**Claude H. Milliman** and **Frank M. Milliman**), both of whom lived at the hotel with their wives – **Marie Milliman**, wife of Claude H. Milliman, and **Florence Milliman**, wife of Frank M. Milliman. The address was listed as 101 West B Street, but the structure encompassed more than one lot. In 1907-1908 the Milliman Brothers were also listed at 105 West B Street, suggesting the Milliman Hotel occupied 101-105 West B Street at this time. The Milliman Brothers still operated and lived in the Milliman Hotel, listed at 101-103 West B Street in 1913. The Milliman Hotel, still operated by the Milliman Brothers, was listed at the southwest corner of West B Street and Merritt Avenue in 1925. In 1935 Frank M. Milliman, the manager of the Milliman Hotel, resided in the hotel with his wife Florence Milliman, as well as **Florence Milliman**, their daughter, and Marie Milliman, widow of Claude H. Milliman. The hotel advertised: "Nicely Furnished Rooms, Hot and Cold Baths, Best Dining Room In the Upper Peninsula."

By 1939 **Warren W. Sherer** owned the establishment, renamed the **Dickinson Hotel**, which was under the same ownership in the 1941-1942 city directory.

103 – RIVER VALLEY STATE BANK – 2010, NATIONAL CITY INVESTMENTS, INC. – 2010

History: There was no listing for this address in 1892-1894. The **Commercial Hotel** was located at 101-103 West B Street in 1902-1903, operated under the management of **Ira A. Bean**, who lived at

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the hotel. By 1907-1908 the Commercial Hotel's name had been changed to the **Milliman Hotel**, operated by the **Milliman Brothers (Claude H. Milliman and Frank M. Milliman)**, both of whom lived at the hotel with their wives – **Marie Milliman**, wife of Claude H. Milliman, and **Florence Milliman**, wife of Frank M. Milliman. The address was listed as 101 West B Street, but the structure encompassed more than one lot. In 1907-1908 the Milliman Brothers were also listed at 105 West B Street, suggesting the Milliman Hotel occupied 101-105 West B Street at this time. The Milliman Brothers still operated and lived in the Milliman Hotel, listed at 101-103 West B Street in 1913. The Milliman Hotel, still operated by the Milliman Brothers, was listed at the southwest corner of West B Street and Merritt Avenue in 1925. In 1935 Frank M. Milliman, the manager of the Milliman Hotel, resided in the hotel with his wife Florence Milliman, as well as **Florence Milliman**, their daughter, and Marie Milliman, widow of Claude H. Milliman. The hotel advertised: "Nicely Furnished Rooms, Hot and Cold Baths, Best Dining Room In the Upper Peninsula."

By 1939 **Warren W. Sherer** owned the establishment, renamed the **Dickinson Hotel**, which was under the same ownership in the 1941-1942 city directory.

105 – RIVER VALLEY STATE BANK – 2010, NATIONAL CITY INVESTMENTS, INC. – 2010

History: By 1907-1908 the Commercial Hotel's name had been changed to the **Milliman Hotel**, operated by the **Milliman Brothers (Claude H. Milliman and Frank M. Milliman)**, both of whom lived at the hotel with their wives –

Marie Milliman, wife of Claude H. Milliman, and **Florence Milliman**, wife of Frank M. Milliman. The address was listed as 101 West B Street, but the structure encompassed more than one lot. In 1907-1908 the Milliman Brothers were also listed at 105 West B Street, suggesting the Milliman Hotel occupied 101-105 West B Street at this time. The Milliman Brothers still operated and lived in the Milliman Hotel, listed at 101-103 West B Street in 1913. The Milliman Hotel, still operated by the Milliman Brothers, was listed at the southwest corner of West B Street and Merritt Avenue in 1925. In 1935 Frank M. Milliman, the manager of the Milliman Hotel, resided in the hotel with his wife Florence Milliman, as well as **Florence Milliman**, their daughter, and Marie Milliman, widow of Claude H. Milliman. The hotel advertised: "Nicely Furnished Rooms, Hot and Cold Baths, Best Dining Room In the Upper Peninsula."

By 1939 **Warren W. Sherer** owned the establishment, renamed the **Dickinson Hotel**, which was under the same ownership in the 1941-1942 city directory.

115 – PARKING LOT – 2010

History: There was no listing for this address in 1892-1894 or 1902-1903. By 1907-1908 **Andrew Swanson**, a merchant, and his wife **Julia Swanson** lived at this location. Andrew Swanson, the local agent for the **Prudential Casualty Company** in 1913, still resided here with his wife Julia Swanson. In 1925 Andrew Swanson, a salesman, and his wife Julia Swanson remained at this address. Andrew Swanson still lived here in 1935 and 1939. **Jean [sic – Gene –?] A. Fortier**, a teacher at Iron Mountain's junior high school, was

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listed at this address with his wife **Fern Fortier** in the 1941-1942 city directory.

117 – PARKING LOT – 2010

History: There was no listing for this address in 1892-1894, 1902-1903 or 1907-1908. However, **Fred E. Parmelee**, an architect, and his wife **Carrie Parmelee**, resided here in 1913. It is probable that the listing for this couple at 119 West B Street in 1907-1908 was in error or there was a renumbering of the street, as there was no listing for 119 West B Street in 1913. In 1925 **Wells E. Hallenbeck**, a lumberman, and his wife **Belle Hallenbeck**, resided here. **Mrs. Isabelle Hallenbeck**, widow of Wells Hallenbeck, still lived at this address in 1935, 1939 and 1941-1942.

119 – PARKING LOT – 2010

History: There was no listing for this address in 1892-1894 or 1902-1903. By 1907-1908 **Fred C. Parmelee**, an architect, resided here with his wife **Carrie Parmelee** and **Claude Parmelee**, a student. There was no listing for this address in 1913, but Fred E. Parmelee and his wife Carrie Parmelee were listed at 117 West B Street, probably the address which should have been used in 1907-1908. There was no listing for this address in 1925, 1935, 1939 or 1941-1942.

125 – PARKING LOT – 2010

History: **Charles E. Parent** resided at this address in 1892-1894. Parent was a “Dealer in dry goods, carpets, boots and shoes, gents’ furnishings, groceries, provisions, flour, feed, crockery, glassware and general merchandise” at 219 South

Stephenson Avenue at that time. In 1902-1903 **Charles E. Parent, Sr.**, now retired, still lived here, as did **Charles E. Parent, Jr.**, who worked as a bookkeeper for **Moses Taylor**, owner of **The Hub**, a clothing store located at 403 South Stephenson Avenue. An article in the July 12, 1906 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* reported: “**Mrs. C.E. Parent** has sold her home at the corner of West B street and Carpenter avenue to **Joseph T. Mason**, president of **The J.T. Mason Mercantile company** doing business at Niagara. The property is one of the finest and most commodious in the city. The consideration was \$3,500. Mr. and Mrs. Mason come to Iron Mountain in order that their children may enjoy the privileges of our excellent schools, and they will be accorded a warm welcome by our people.” Joseph T. Mason, owner of the J.T. Mason Mercantile Company in Niagara, Wisconsin, and his wife **Emma A. Mason**, **Jay Mason** and **Marion Mason**, a student, all resided here in 1907-1908. By 1913 **Samuel Rusky** and **Julius Rusky**, the **Rusky Brothers**, selling general merchandise at 215 South Stephenson Avenue and 613 Vulcan Street on the North Side, resided at this address with their wives – **Minnie Rusky**, wife of Julius Rusky, and **Esther Rusky**, wife of Samuel Rusky, as well as **Gertrude Rusky**, a clerk. The Rusky Brothers (Samuel Rusky and Julius Rusky) still lived here in 1925, and ran a general merchandise store at 620 Vulcan Street on the North Side. Others listed at this address in 1925 were **Benjamin B. Rusky**, a salesman at Rusky Brothers; **David Rusky**, a salesman, and his wife **Helen Rusky**; **Minnie Rusky**, Julius Rusky’s wife; and **Nancy Rusky**, a saleslady.

An article in the May 16, 1925 edition of *The Iron Mountain News* reported an

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ownership change for this property as follows under the headline CLOSE DEAL FOR RUSKY PROPERTY: Ballagamba and Loia Purchase Carpenter Avenue Corner:

Purchase of the Rusky property at the southeast corner of B street and Carpenter avenue by Victor Ballagamba, of this city, and Angelo Loia, of Iron River, at a price of approximately \$27,000, was announced today.

The deal was closed late yesterday afternoon. The new owners are undecided as to what use they will make of the property, the purchase being largely an investment on probable turnover. It is known that representatives of a Chicago firm were in the city this week negotiating with the Ruskys for the property for probable use as a hotel site. A small difference in price held up the deal.

Both Bellagamba and Loia are interested in the **Union Oil company**, which has filling stations in the city, village and at Iron River. If no other use is made of the Rusky corner a filling station may be built there by this company.

Bellagamba recently returned from Gillett, Wyo., where he closed a deal for the purchase of 440 acres of oil lands which will be developed in the near future.

By 1935 the **Machus Service Station**, operated by **Alex M. Machus**, was located at this site on the southeast corner of West B Street and Carpenter Avenue. Listed as **Johnnie's Service Station** by 1939, the business was owned by **John Fauri**, who was still at this address in the 1941-1942 city directory.

23: NORTH SIDE OF 100 BLOCK WEST B STREET

100 – MICHAEL R. LAYDON, CPA, accountant – 2010

History: Hoose & Gage (Jay W. Hoose and Fred Gage) operated a "Livery, sale and boarding stable" at this location in 1892-1894, advertising: "General teaming. First class livery turnouts at reasonable prices."

Two items in "Brief City Newsites" in the September 7, 1899 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* noted a business change and additional vehicles for use at this location as follows:

L.M. Hansen has leased the Gage livery barn opposite the Commercial Hotel and will conduct the same in the future. It will be stocked with splendid driving horses and fine carriages, and will be conducted in the same courteous manner as the Stephenson avenue stable.

...
L.M. Hansen has ordered another trap and several fine single buggies from Morris, the Waupun, Wis., carriage manufacturer.

In 1902-1903 **Louis M. Hansen** operated two livery stables, one at this address and the other at 411-413 South Stephenson Avenue. Hansen also was owner of an undertaking parlor at 217 East Hughtt Street in the **Robbins Block**. **Allen Labrook** worked at Hansen's livery at this address in 1902-1903. By 1907-1908 **Joseph DeConcini** was running a livery stable and feed store at this location, and **James Davis**, a hostler (a groom or stableman), lived here with his wife **Tena**.

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Davis. John H. McKenna ran a livery and sale stable here in 1913.

An article in the October 15, 1915 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* documented the change from livery stable to automotive garage as follows:

Calvi & Tollen, who own the livery barn opposite **The Milliman Hotel**, will remodel the building, putting in a glass front and side windows; also a stone foundation and concrete floor, making the building suitable for a garage. **Anton Miench** will raise the building preparatory to building the foundation.

A few weeks later another article, appearing in the November 4, 1915 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press*, provided additional information as follows:

*The work of converting the **McKenna livery barn** into a garage is now in progress. A stone foundation has been built and the plank floor taken out preparatory to re-placing [sic – replacing] with concrete. An addition, 24x36 feet in size, will be built on the rear of the building to be used as a repair shop. The garage when completed will be leased to **John Lloyd** and **Garnet James**. John Lloyd has been employed as foreman of the machine shops at the **Pewabic mine** for several years and Garnet James is a blacksmith by trade with considerable experience in auto repair work. The new firm expects to take the agency for some leading automobile. They will no doubt make a success in their new business venture.*

An article in the January 13, 1916 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* noted further changes in the Lloyd & James garage as follows:

John Lloyd and **Garnett James**, well-known young business men, expect to open their new garage in the re-modeled building opposite **The Milliman** about the first of February. The building is well adapted for the purpose. It will have a storage capacity for about twenty-five automobiles with a convenient office annex. A machine shop has been erected in the rear and it will be equipped with an up-to-date plant of machinery. The firm has secured the agency for the famous Buick automobile, heretofore handled by **Bjorkman & Son**, and will handle a complete line of auto accessories and repairs. In addition, the firm will specialize in machinery repair work of all kinds. Mr. Lloyd, the senior member of the firm, has been foreman of the Pewabic machine shops for a number of years and has had a wide experience in all lines of shop work including automobiles. Mr. James is a blacksmith by trade and has also had experience in automobile repair work. The young men are congenial, reliable and accommodating and will no doubt succeed in their business venture.

The **Winkler Motor Company**, **Herbert Winkler**, proprietor, "Oldsmobile Sales and Service," was located at this address in 1925. An article in the April 6, 1925 edition of *The Iron Mountain News* announced a new line for the local company as follows:

*The **Winkler Motor company** has received the agency for the Rickenbacker motor cars, it was announced today. One of the members of the firm left today for Milwaukee to drive back one of the new models. The Winkler firm also handles the Oldsmobile.*

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Johnson's Garage, operated by **Emil Johnson**, was at this site in 1935 and still listed here in 1939. However, in the 1941-1942 city directory **Ace Buick Sales**, operated by **Gottfred R. Johnson**, was located at this address.

104 – IBEW, labor organization – 2010

History: There was no listing for this address in 1892-1894, 1902-1903, 1907-1908, 1913, 1925, 1935 and 1941-1942.

106 – KINGSLEY NORTH, INC., jewelers/lapidaries, Dan Paupore, owner, Jeannie Whaley, manager – 2010

History: **Charles Guneson**, a painter, lived at this address in 1892-1894. In 1902-1903 **Theodore Strebler**, of **Holfeltz & Strebler** (J.R. Holfeltz and Theodore Strebler), a firm selling "agricultural implements, wagons, buggies, ice, lime, brick, cement and plaster" at 104 River Avenue, resided at this address. **James Murphy**, a railroad worker, lived here in 1907-1908 with his wife **Amelia Murphy**. In 1913 **James L. Murphy**, now a conductor, still lived at this address with his wife **Emelia Murphy**. **Mrs. Lillian D'Amour**, widow of **Wilfred D'Amour**, resided here in 1925. By 1935 **Vincent M. Granger** ran his barbershop at this location, listed as **Granger Barber Shop** in the 1939 and the 1941-1942 city directories.

110 – PARKING LOT – 2010

History: **John R. Johnston**, an "Artistic merchant tailor and dealer in the

only line of fashionable gentlemen's furnishings," resided at this address in 1892-1894, and operated his tailor shop at 204 East Ludington Street. In 1902-1903 the **Rev. Isaac Wilcox**, pastor of the **Central Methodist Episcopal Church**, lived here in what was now the church parsonage. By 1907-1908 the **Rev. James Kerridge, Sr.**, pastor of the Central Methodist Episcopal Church, resided at this address with his wife **Jennie Kerridge** and **James Kerridge, Jr.** The **Rev. R.L. Hewson**, pastor of the Central Methodist Episcopal Church, resided in the parsonage here in 1913 with his wife **Agnes Hewson**. By 1925 the **Rev. Ernest Brown, Sr.**, pastor of the Central Methodist Episcopal Church, lived at this address with his wife **Mabel Brown** and **Ernest Brown, Jr.**, and **Ivan Brown**, both salesmen at the **J.C. Penny Company**. The **Rev. Matt Mullen**, pastor of the Central Methodist Episcopal Church, resided at the parsonage here in 1935 with his wife **Ethel F. Mullen**. By 1939 the **Rev. Henry A. Manahan**, pastor of the Central Methodist Episcopal Church, resided here with his wife **Mary Manahan**. They were still listed here in the 1941-1942 city directory.

112 – PARKING LOT – 2010

History: There was no listing for this address in 1892-1894, 1902-1903, 1907-1908 or 1913. In 1925, 1935, 1939 and 1941-1942 the **Central Methodist Episcopal Church** was listed at this address instead of 114 West B Street.

An article in the December 13, 1921 edition of the *Iron Mountain News* announced the plans for a new Central Methodist Episcopal Church building to replace the original structure as follows:

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Plans and specifications for a new Central Methodist Episcopal church to be erected upon the site of the present place of worship, on West B street, are now being drafted by **F.E. Parmelee & Son**, architects and building superintendents.

The proposed new church will be one of the handsomest structures of this character in the upper peninsula and will contain many features unusual in places of worship.

The style of architecture employed is gothic of a beautiful and unusual design and the building will present a pleasing and attractive appearance. The plans do not include the usual steeple.

Stone and brick will be employed in the construction and the estimated cost of the building will be over \$50,000.

The plans provide for many novel features in church erection, including a fine gymnasium and moving picture balcony.

The size of the building on the foundation will be 51 feet wide by 120 feet in length. In the basement will be located the gymnasium[,] dining-room, kitchen, seven large class-rooms, and the boiler and fuel rooms.

On the main floor is the foyer, 12 by 29 feet in size with waiting rooms for women and men on each side. These waiting rooms are 9 by 12 feet in size. From the foyer two stairways, one on each side[,] lead to the moving picture balcony, directly overhead.

The dimensions of the main auditorium are 52 by 51 feet and it will have a seating capacity of 450 people. The chair-room [sic – choir room] is 26 by 12 feet in size and directly in the rear will be located a large and modern pipe [organ]. There are also four large class-rooms in the rear as well as two lavatories. A stairway in the rear will lead to the basement.

In point of attractiveness the new Central church will be unequalled in the peninsula and the gymnasium and moving picture balcony are evidences of an attempt to make the house of worship more popular with the young people, a tendency to place the church in the lead in community work.

It is expected that work on the building will commence early in the coming building season.

However, the new church was not constructed in 1922, as then the church burned on January 5, 1944, the building was stated to be 61 years old.

FIRE: The following article appeared in the Wednesday, January 5, 1944 edition of *The Iron Mountain News* under the headline \$30,000 Loss In Blaze At M.E. Church:

Only blackened, crumbling walls remained shortly after noon today of the 61-year-old Central Methodist Episcopal church, West B street, which was destroyed by fire of unknown origin at an estimated loss of \$30,000, about half of which is covered by insurance.

Smoke pouring from the building at about 11 this morning was noticed by employes [sic – employees] of Frick's Bakery, adjoining to the west, who notified the fire department and the Rev. Percy Lomas, pastor, at his home. The latter said he was in the church at 10 this morning, and saw nothing wrong.

There was no fire in the church furnace last night or early this morning, although it was said a heating stove was lighted last night, in an ante-room of the basement, for a Boy Scout meeting.

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Hurrying to the church when told of the fire, the Rev. Lomas tried to enter, but was driven back by smoke and flames.

Fire Spread Quickly

Firemen played three streams of water into the structure, one from the roof of the adjoining bakery, but the blaze, fanned by a stiff cross-wind, gained rapid headway. Flames burst quickly through the roof and upper walls, and clouds of black smoke rolled out over the area.

Many spectators, including high school students, watched the blaze.

Built in 1882, the church was one of the oldest structures in the city. The old walls, dried and porous through long-standing, were ready fuel for the fire.

Organ Lost

Lying in the charred embers today was the organ installed only five years ago and presented to the church by the children of the late Richard Hosking, who died Nov. 11, 1937. Lost also was the new pulpit Bible given by Mrs. Eldred Roberts and John Thomas, both of this city, in memory of their mother, Mrs. Bessie Thomas, who died Jan. 1, 1937.

The church was redecorated last summer by members who contributed their labor.

Insurance of \$14,000 is carried on the building and \$500 on the contents, according to the McGregor agency, which has the coverage.

The old parsonage, adjoining the church to the east, and which has been closed since the Rev. Lomas became pastor, was not damaged. This building was sold by the church some time ago, and has already been ordered razed.

The Rev. Lomas, residing at 407 West B, said he would call the trustees together in the next few days, to discuss future plans.

114 – PARKING LOT – 2010

History: In the fall of 1887, the Rev. G.C. Squires was sent to Iron Mountain to serve the First Methodist Episcopal Church on the North Side and to organize the new downtown congregation which met at Scandling's Hall. The foundation of the new church was laid on West "B" Street on land owned by John T. Spencer. The dedication service was conducted by the Rev. A.R. Johns, and presiding elder, the Rev. Thompson, on May 26, 1889. In September, 1890, the Rev. John M. Shank became the first pastor with 108 full members and 20 probationers. The Central Methodist Church occupied this site in 1892-1894 with the Rev. John M. Shank serving as pastor. Services were at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday school was at 2:15 p.m. Class meeting was held on Sunday morning before preaching, and at 3:15 p.m. and in the evening after preaching. Prayer meeting was held Thursday at 7 p.m. J.H. Irwin was superintendent of the Sunday school. Although there was no listing for this address in the 1902-1903 or in the 1907-1908 directory, the Central Methodist Episcopal Church was located here at that time. In 1913 the Central Methodist Episcopal Church was listed at this address. There was no listing for this address in 1925, 1935, 1939 or 1941-1942, as the church address was given as 112 West B Street during that time.

116 – PARKING LOT – 2010

(William Eldred – 1935)

History: There was no listing for this address in 1892-1894, 1902-1903 or 1907-

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1908. The Iron Mountain Mercantile Company, Ltd. (Adolph Anderson, president; Charles A. Hogg, secretary; Axel E. Nelson, manager), successor to the Iron Mountain Co-Operative Society, was located at 116-124 West B Street in 1913, selling general merchandise. There was no listing for this address in 1925. However, the Iron Mountain Mercantile Company Company, Ltd. (William G. Monroe, president; Andrew Ostrand, of Crystal Falls, Michigan, treasurer; Abraham E. Gronlund, secretary and manager) was listed as a "Department Store, Dry Goods, Groceries, Meats, Hardware, Crockery, Flour and Feed" was located at 118-122 West B Street in 1925. See the entry for 118 West B Street for additional information. William Eldred, a mail carrier for the post office, lived at this address in 1935 with his wife Marie Eldred. In 1939 Frick's Bakery, owned and operated by Donald A. Frickelton and Ray Frickelton, was located here and was still listed at this address in the 1941-1942 city directory.

118-122 – PARKING LOT – 2010

History (118): John T. Spencer, a dealer in fruits and vegetables, provisions, confectionery and notions, operated a store and lived at this address, and had a second store, located at 321 South Stephenson Avenue in 1892-1894. By 1902-1903 the Iron Mountain Co-Operative Society was located at 118-120-122 West B Street, selling general merchandise with Alex LaViolette working as manager. In 1907-1908 the Iron Mountain Co-Operative Society was located at 118-124 East B Street, dealing in general merchandise and managed by John Carlson.

In its June 9, 1910 edition, the *Iron Mountain Press* reported the following business change regarding the Iron Mountain Co-Operative Society:

The Iron Mountain Co-Operative society has been succeeded by the Iron Mountain Mercantile Co., Limited. The latter company assumes the business and liabilities of the society. The organization of the Mercantile Co. was perfected last Friday with the following officers: President, Adolph Anderson, secretary, John H. Holland; treasurer, John H. Hitchens. The board of managers is composed of the above named officials and William E. Jayne and Henry Trepanier. The capital stock of the company is \$36,000. James W. Thompson will continue as manager of the business of the stores.

The Iron Mountain Mercantile Company, Ltd. (Adolph Anderson, president; Charles A. Hogg, secretary; Axel E. Nelson, manager), successor to the Iron Mountain Co-Operative Society, was located at 116-124 West B Street in 1913, selling general merchandise.

An article in the April 24, 1924 edition of *The Iron Mountain News* announced a major expansion of the Iron Mountain Mercantile Company as follows:

The Iron Mountain Mercantile company, which conducts a large retail store in its own building on West B street, is planning improvements that will cost \$25,000, according to an announcement by W.G. Monroe, chairman of the board of directors.

In addition to extensive remodelling [sic – remodeling] in the store, a large warehouse and garage will be erected and

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work on this will get under way within the next 30 days.

The store at present occupies practically three separate stores. Partitions will be removed between these and the quarters enlarged to include the store formerly occupied by **Jacobs' jewelry**. The changes will give it an area of 70x90 feet.

A feature will be the installation of a refrigerating plant for the meat market. During rush hours butchers are unable to handle the trade as fast as is desired but this will be changed with the addition of glass refrigerator counters in which may be placed meats already cut. In this manner, the meat can be prepared in advance without any danger of waste or spoilage.

The warehouse will be of either brick or stone construction, one story in height and 40x65 feet. It will be fireproof and large enough to store a quantity of merchandise. The garage, a separate building, will accommodate nine trucks. A barn will also be built for teams.

The Iron Mountain Mercantile Company Company, Ltd. (William G. Monroe, president; Andrew Ostrand, of Crystal Falls, Michigan, treasurer; Abraham E. Gronlund, secretary and manager) was listed as a "Department Store, Dry Goods, Groceries, Meats, Hardware, Crockery, Flour and Feed" was located at 118-122 West B Street in 1925. In addition, the following professional and businessmen rented rooms on the upper floor as follows: Rooms 1-3-4, Frank O. Logic, chiropractor; Room 2, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, P.J. Spehar, assistant manager; Rooms 5-7, Arthur W. Moe, chiropractor; Room 6, Dundon's Actual Business College, Richard F. Dundon and Ruth F. Dundon, proprietors, established in 1908, "Individual Instruction,

Every Graduate is Successful"; Room 8, **G.A. Gustafson Company (Gustaf A. Gustafson, president and treasurer; Irene M. Gustafson, vice-president; Seth Gustafson, secretary)**, building contractors.

FIRE: A fire which started at about 10:45 p.m. on January 15, 1935, totally destroyed the Iron Mountain Mercantile Company and three other business establishments. The full account of this disaster appeared in the January 16, 1935 edition of *The Iron Mountain News* as follows:

*Four business establishments were wiped out and damage estimated between \$90,000 and \$95,000 – including building, stock and fixtures – resulted when fire of undetermined origin, starting at about 10:45 o'clock last night, destroyed the **Iron Mountain Mercantile company's** building, West B street. It was the most disastrous fire in this city in many years.*

The morning only the walls, steel pillars and girders and two brick chimneys were standing, and at noon eight streams of water were still pouring into the smoldering ruins.

Firemen fought the blaze in a 22-below-zero temperature during the night and early morning.

*Besides the Mercantile company's meat and grocery departments, the jewelry partnership of **Walter Flatt and Harmon McCarthy**, the **Allyn dress shop** and the **Actual Business college**, located in the building owned by the Mercantile company, were wrecked. Officers of the Mercantile placed their loss by damage to building, stock and fixtures at about \$70,000; the jewelry store and dress shop, between \$4,000 and \$5,000 each, and the Actual Business college, about \$3,000.*

Mercantile Fully Covered

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The Mercantile damage was fully covered by insurance, **Abe Gronlund**, president of the corporation[,] stated. **Mr. and Mrs. George Allyn**, of the dress shop, estimated their insurance coverage as "little more than half." Flatt and McCarthy this morning said their insurance policies were locked in a safe now buried in the ruins, and were unable to fix their coverage. **R.F. Dundon**, proprietor of the Actual Business college, said he had "very little" insurance, and reckoned his loss as "almost complete."

Quick action of the **Iron Mountain fire department**, assisted by the **Ford Motor company's** equipment, and the added protection of stout, stone walls on either side, saved the **E.J. DeGayner** garage, corner of Carpenter Avenue and B street, and the **Central M.E. church**, adjacent to the Mercantile building on the east. The east wall of DeGayner's and the west wall of the church were blackened with smoke and heavily caked with ice today, and a small quantity of water had seeped into the garage office. Considerable smoke crept into the garage building, but no serious damage resulted.

All of the cars stored in DeGayner's garage last night, including five new passenger cars, a new truck, some second-hand units and a number of cars left there for overnight storage, were taken out safely last night, and the new cars and those left for over-night storage being taken to the **Northern Battery company's** garage, on East Hughitt street. All of the furniture and most of the fixtures in the DeGayner apartment, over the garage, were taken out, some being moved to the **Iron Mountain Gas company's** office across the corner, and the rest being taken elsewhere for safe-keeping.

Trooper Overcome

Trooper Watkins, of the Iron Mountain detachment of state police, working with **Troopers Carstensen, Young and Gilmer** in removing furniture and fixtures from the DeGayner apartment, and cars from the garage below, was slightly overcome after his third trip into the smoke-filled building, but he was quickly revived. Troopers also were instrumental in salvaging Gronlund's car, stored in the rear of the Mercantile.

Crowds of spectators, attracted by the curling, black smoke which swept over the city, and the flames which leaped high into the air as the blaze reached its peak, stood about watching the fire and the efforts of troopers and others to salvage equipment. Despite the frigid temperature, the intense heat could be felt for a considerable distance and spectators crowded as close as possible for the double purpose of watching the spectacle at close range, and to benefit from the heat.

Alarm Turned In

An unidentified man turned in the alarm at 10:45 o'clock last night, and the crew from number one station, with **Chief Mike Scolatti** in charge, answered it. A call was sent immediately to number two station. At about 1:30 o'clock a truck arrived from the Ford plant with additional hose, and men, in charge of **Hiram Byers**. The Ford firemen stayed at the blaze until about 3:30 a.m., but the Ford hose was still in use at noon.

When the firemen arrived at the scene they found the blaze already well under way, apparently centered in the basement near the rear of the building and behind the Flatt and McCarthy jewelry. The Mercantile had a central heating plant, and the basement lay-out included several rooms and compartments, the furnace and boiler room being located at about the point where the blaze was discovered.

Eight Streams Working

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Hooking onto five hydrants within an area of a block or more in every direction from the building, the firemen soon had eight streams of water playing full force into the structure, and from all sides. In all, about 5,500 feet of hose, including all of the equipment from both city stations and about 900 feet from the Ford plant, were in use at the height of the blaze.

For a time it appeared that the blaze had been partially stifled, and its progress definitely checked. Suddenly, however, the plate-glass window in the front of the Allyn shop crashed in, taking with it a rush of air that immediately sent a spiral of red and blue flame leaping skyward. In the next few moments, fire enveloped the interior, and the wave of heat sweeping outward told the full story of that blast of air through the broken store window.

Meanwhile, Gronlund, Mrs. Allyn, Flatt and Dundon had been notified, and all arrived at about the same time. Mr. Allyn was at work at the Ford plant when word reached him.

Removes Cars, Fixtures

DeGayner, learning immediately of the blaze and waiting only long enough to note that it was mounting steadily, enlisted aid in getting the cars out of his garage, and the furniture and fixtures from the living quarters above.

Paul Gingrass, sheriff, arrived soon after the alarm and joined city and state police in keeping the crowd back.

When it became apparent, shortly after midnight, that the building itself was doomed, the firemen concentrated their efforts on the east, west and rear walls of the structure, and that plan proved effective. At about 1:30 a.m., the second floor of the building, loudly crackling at first as if in warning, crumbled with a roar into the flaming mass beneath. With that crash

went all the equipment of the Actual business [sic – Business] college.

Burns Self Out

Thereafter, despite the eight, full-pressure streams which played steadily into the ruins, the blaze burned itself out and, as the flames died away, only the steel pillars and girders, one half-wrecked brick partition and the two, brick chimneys were silhouetted against the sky. Rows of blackened cans stood out on the steel-shelving which still clung against the west wall of the Mercantile. There was nothing else but black, smoking ashes.

This morning, lines of hose stretched web-like in every direction from the building, much of it, immediately around the structure, submerged in water, slush or solid ice. Weary firemen plodded about, readjusting their lines and warning passersby against the danger of toppling walls. And perched crazily against a pole, in front of the Allyn dress shop, was a badly-dishevelled [sic – disheveled] clothes form, its bright apparel coated with icicles. It was the only article taken from the shop.

It was a busy, almost frantic scene at the DeGayner garage. Volunteers darted back and forth in and out of the building, and cars were shooting forward and backward out of the south and west doors. Trooper Watkins, on his third trip, brought out a car but collapsed, for a moment, in the seat. He was quickly resuscitated and went back to work. Another trooper dived into the smoke-filled garage at the rear of the Mercantile, for Gronlund's car, backed it half out and the engine stalled. The trooper climbed out the door, scrambled up over the top of the car and dropped down in back, clear of the smoke. The car was pulled to safety.

College to Re-Open

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Only one of the businessmen whose establishments were destroyed could announce any plans for the future this morning. That was **R.F. Dundon**, of the **Actual Business college**, where 22 students had been enrolled. "The business college will definitely be reopened," Dundon said, "—where and when, I can't say. I will find a place somewhere, and the work will go on."

The Actual Business college was established in Iron Mountain in 1908, and had been located in the Mercantile building for the past 14 years. Included in the equipment destroyed last night were 12 typewriters, about 75 desks, tables and chairs, and all of the records. The equipment and fixtures were valued, Dundon said, at about \$3,000. "It's just about a total loss," he added. "There will have to be some financing before I can start up again. I hope that any persons with accounts owing the business college will do what they can to assist."

Total Damage

The Mercantile damage was total, not a single item being saved. Only yesterday, it was learned, an insurance agent had checked the policies held by his company for the Mercantile, and had persuaded Gronlund to add another \$5,000 to his coverage. Several agencies, it was said, shared in the coverage, and adjusters are expected here probably tomorrow to check the loss.

Gronlund was unable to say whether the business will be re-established. The Iron Mountain Mercantile company, formerly a co-operative concern, was incorporated in 1910, but had occupied the Mercantile building for some time previous to that. The officers are **A.E. Gronlund**, vice-president, and **Peter Broullire**, treasurer. The

building, likewise, was owned by the corporation.

Eight employes [sic – employees] of the Mercantile were thrown out of work by last night's blaze.

The **Allyn Dress shop** had occupied store space in the first floor of the building for the past two years, or since the previous costly fire at the DeGayner flats, also at Carpenter and B streets. The loss in stock and fixtures there was estimated at about \$4,500, of which slightly more than half was covered by insurance.

Inventory of the Allyn stock, according to Mr. Allyn, was taken only a few days ago, at which time he had expressed the thought to his wife that more insurance could be carried. Nothing was done about it, however, he added.

No Plans For Future

The Allyn's today announced no plans for the future.

Walter Flatt, for many years a jeweler here, and having been variously located during his business in the city, said today that watch and jewelry-repairing tools owned by him to the value of more than \$1,000 were destroyed. **Harmon McCarthy**, of Vulcan, his partner in the business since the store was located in the Mercantile two months ago, also lost a considerable amount in tools.

All of the gems, watches, etc., as well as insurance papers and other valuables, were locked in the safe, Flatt said. The safe went down when the floor collapsed early this morning and was still in the ruins at noon. Flatt, however, had asked **Anton Miench**, contractor, to remove it as soon as possible, so that he could check up on his insurance coverage. Flatt said he had "five or six" policies, but did not know whether there were all in force. Consequently, he

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said, he could not even approximately estimate his loss.

Flatt's business was destroyed last night on the site adjoining the location in which he first entered the business in Iron Mountain. Thereafter he was located in the new **Wolf building** on Stephenson avenue, between B and C street, and, before moving into the Mercantile, in the **Blackstone Taxi building** where he occupied a site, jointly, with **Thor Lieungh**, music dealer and instructor.

"I haven't any plans for the future," Flatt said this morning. "I won't know how I stand until I can get into the safe and examine the policies there. Unless it's what I hope it is, I may have to look around for a job."

State troopers stayed at the scene until about 5 o'clock this morning. City police and county deputies were still patrolling the area shortly before noon.

Approximately 800,000 gallons of water had been poured into the fire up to noon today, according to the estimates at the city filtration plant.

This address was listed as "vacant" in 1935, and there was no listing for this address in 1939 or 1941-1942.

History (120): There was no listing for this address in 1892-1894. By 1902-1903 the **Iron Mountain Co-Operative Society** was located at 118-120-122 West B Street, selling general merchandise with **Alex LaViolette** working as manager. In 1907-1908 the Iron Mountain Co-Operative Society was located at 118-124 East B Street, dealing in general merchandise and managed by **John Carlson**. The **Iron Mountain Mercantile Company, Ltd.** (**Adolph Anderson**, president; **Charles A. Hogg**, secretary; **Axel E. Nelson**,

manager), successor to the Iron Mountain Co-Operative Society, was located at 116-124 West B Street in 1913, selling general merchandise. The **Iron Mountain Mercantile Company Company, Ltd.** (**William G. Monroe**, president; **Andrew Ostrand**, of Crystal Falls, Michigan, treasurer; **Abraham E. Gronlund**, secretary and manager) was listed as a "Department Store, Dry Goods, Groceries, Meats, Hardware, Crockery, Flour and Feed" was located at 118-122 West B Street in 1925. See the entry for 118 West B Street for additional information. This address was listed as "vacant" in 1935. [NOTE: See **History (118)** for more details.]

History (122): There was no listing for this address in 1892-1894. By 1902-1903 the **Iron Mountain Co-Operative Society** was located at 118-120-122 West B Street, selling general merchandise with **Alex LaViolette** working as manager. In 1907-1908 the Iron Mountain Co-Operative Society was located at 118-124 East B Street, dealing in general merchandise and managed by **John Carlson**. The **Iron Mountain Mercantile Company, Ltd.** (**Adolph Anderson**, president; **Charles A. Hogg**, secretary; **Axel E. Nelson**, manager), successor to the Iron Mountain Co-Operative Society, was located at 116-124 West B Street in 1913, selling general merchandise. The **Iron Mountain Mercantile Company Company, Ltd.** (**William G. Monroe**, president; **Andrew Ostrand**, of Crystal Falls, Michigan, treasurer; **Abraham E. Gronlund**, secretary and manager) was listed as a "Department Store, Dry Goods, Groceries, Meats, Hardware, Crockery, Flour and Feed" was located at 118-122 West B Street in 1925. See the entry for 118 West

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B Street for additional information. This address was listed as "vacant" in 1935, and there was no listing for this address in 1939 or 1941-1942. [NOTE: See **History (118)** for more details.]

124 – GRASSED LOT – 2010

History: There was no listing for this address in 1892-1894. By 1902-1903 **Martin Harvey & Company**, a blacksmith and wagon shop, was located here. In 1907-1908 the **Iron Mountain Co-Operative Society** was located at 118-124 East B Street, dealing in general merchandise and managed by **John Carlson**. The **Iron Mountain Mercantile Company, Ltd.** (**Adolph Anderson**, president; **Charles A. Hogg**, secretary; **Axel E. Nelson**, manager), successor to the Iron Mountain Co-Operative Society, was located at 116-124 West B Street in 1913, selling general merchandise. This address in 1913 was probably erroneous, and should have been 118-122 West B Street. The **Iron Mountain Mercantile Company Company, Ltd.** (**William G. Monroe**, president; **Andrew Ostrand**, of Crystal Falls, Michigan, treasurer; **Abraham E. Gronlund**, secretary and manager) was listed as a "Department Store, Dry Goods, Groceries, Meats, Hardware, Crockery, Flour and Feed" was located at 118-122 West B Street in 1925. See the entry for 118 West B Street for additional information. In 1925 **Eugene J. DeGayner** operated a garage at this address which would be the same site as addresses listed below as 126 West B Street and 130 West B Street. Eugene J. DeGayner also lived here with his wife **Hazel DeGayner** and **Ralph DeGayner**, a student. **DeGayner & Kesler** (**Eugene J. DeGayner** and **Russell A. Kesler**) were

"Dealers for Dodge and Plymouth Motor Cars and Dodge Trucks" here in 1935, and also did "General Automobile Repairing." The business continued to be listed at the same address as the **DeGayner & Kesler Garage** in the 1939 and 1941-1942 city directories. [See **History 126** and **History 130** below for additional information, as the numbering for this lot varied over the years.]

126 – GRASSED LOT – 2010

History: There was no listing for this address in 1892-1894 or 1902-1903. In 1907-1908 **Beard's Wagon Works**, owned by **Josiah Beard** and located at the northeast corner of West B Street and Carpenter Avenue, (listed in the street index as 126 West B Street) provided blacksmithing and horseshoeing, in addition to manufacturing wagons.

An article in the April 13, 1911 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* announced the sale of Beard's establishment as follows:

A new business firm – known as **Freeland Corning & Co.** – closed a deal last Saturday for the purchase of the **Beard blacksmith and wagon shops** at the corner of West B street and Carpenter avenue. The business will be enlarged so as to include a first-class garage with automobiles for sale and hire. **Josiah Beard**, who is a first-class worker in iron and wood, will remain in the service of the firm. Mr. Corning is a machinist and has had experience in the best shops hereabouts as well as in the construction of automobiles.

In 1913 **Corning & Company** (**Freeland Corning** and **William Parent**)

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operated an automobile garage and blacksmith shop at this location, although the address given was 130 West B Street.

An article in the June 10, 1915 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* announced the establishment of another new automobile firm at this address as follows:

Gottfred Johnson and Howard Sandercock have succeeded to the automobile business of **Charles Rauer**, at the corner of West B street and Carpenter avenue. The young men have a thorough knowledge of all departments of the automobile business and are first-class machinists. They have held positions with Mr. Rauer for several years. Messrs. Johnson and Sandercock are progressive young men and enjoy the confidence of the community. It is safe to predict that they will make a success of the business and that work entrusted to them will receive prompt attention. The firm also will succeed to the local agency of the famous Overland automobile.

The partnership had changed to Johnson & DeGayner [Gottfred "Guffy" Johnson and Eugene J. DeGayner] when the following article appeared in the May 3, 1917 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press*:

Many new automobiles are being sold here this spring and the demand for light delivery trucks is very large. During the past ten days, **Edward G. Kingsford**, agent for the Ford, has received and sold over sixty cars. He has orders booked for many more. **Johnson & DeGayner** have sold a number of Overlands and are expecting three carloads. Nearly a dozen new trucks have appeared on the streets during the past few weeks.

By the fall of 1920 Eugene J. DeGayner was enlarging his recently-purchased business, as recorded in the following article from the October 21, 1920 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press*:

Eugene J. De Gaynor is one of the few business men who does not propose to be overwhelmed next spring by the influx of new business. Mr. DeGaynor is district agent for the Dodge and other automobiles. He recently purchased the building at the corner of West B street and Carpenter avenue that he now occupies as a garage. Mr. DeGaynor has now let the contract to **Tom Stafford** for the immediate erection of an addition at the rear forty-seven by forty-nine feet in size. The present building is also to be remodeled. Work on the addition has commenced.

Further renovations were completed by December, 1924, as reported in the December 3, 1924 edition of the *Iron Mountain News* as follows under the headline NEW SHOW ROOM FOR DODGE AUTOS: Extensive Alterations At DeGayner's Completed:

One of the finest auto display rooms in the city has just been finished in the **E.J. DeGayner garage** at the corner of B street and Carpenter avenue. Alterations have been under way for several weeks.

The display room formerly occupied a small part of the front of the building. A room 30 feet square and large enough for four cars, [sic] has been built where the entrance to the garage was previously located. The entrance to the garage has been moved to the right of the display room.

The show room is painted white with green trimmings. It is brilliantly lighted at

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night and sets off effectively the cars on display. The garage has the agency for Dodge automobiles.

By the following spring the **DeGayner Motor Car Agency** was promoting Graham Brothers trucks, as shown in an article in the May 9, 1925 edition of the Iron Mountain News as follows under the headline GRAHAM TRUCK FIRST IN CLASS: World's Largest Producers, Figures Received Here Show:

Official figures received by the DeGayner Motor car agency from Detroit for the first quarter of 1925 show that Graham Brothers rank first in the world in the production and sale of 1 ½ ton trucks.

On the 1 ton and 1 ½ ton truck fields combined there were surpassed in volume only by Ford. "The information may be surprising to the general public," said E.J. DeGayner, Dodge Brothers dealer here[,] "but not to us, nor to those who are familiar with the performance of Graham Brothers Trucks and with their rapid ascendancy in the industry during the last three years.

"Their advance has been without ostentation. It has been a steady, wholesome growth, based entirely upon the truck's performance."

Less than three years ago Graham Brothers were in twentieth position. Now they are manufacturing trucks at the rate of over 100 a day, marketing their entire output through Dodge Brothers dealers. This sales and service advantage of a strong dealer organization, combined with the merit of the truck itself, is regarded as one of the chief reasons for the rapid advance to leadership. Dodge Brothers dealers everywhere are highly regarded and their service facilities are good. Service is an exceedingly important factor

in the operation of a truck and business men are not slow to appreciate the advantage of having genuine parts instantly available when needed.

130 – GRASSED LOT – 2010

History: There was no listing for this address in 1892-1894, 1902-1903 or 1907-1908, although 126 West B Street and 130 West B Street were probably the same lot. In 1913 **Corning & Company (Freeland Corning and William Parent)** operated an automobile garage and blacksmith shop at this location.