

NORTHSIDE, IRON MOUNTAIN, DICKINSON COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Scrapbook Memories of Dickinson County, Michigan, ca. 1993

[Transcribed and Edited by William J. Cummings]

NOTE: The information contained herein was gathered from the book ***Scrapbook Memories of Dickinson County, Michigan***, published in 1993 by the Iron Mountain-Kingsford Community Schools Scrapbook History Class comprised mainly of senior citizens, over half of which were natives of the Northside, originally inhabited mainly by Italians. The book is dedicated to Lawrence "Larry" Negro, the teacher of the class, who died January 24, 1993, before the class ended.

A TOUR OF THE NORTH SIDE

By John Meyer and Lawrence Negro

(pages 244-258)

NOTE: The following is a tour of Iron Mountain's North Side from a historical-social sketch of southern Dickinson County by John Meyer and Lawrence Negro, two teachers in the Breitung Township School System. The information has been edited by William J. Cummings.

The Water Tank

On the hill to the west of the highway [U.S. 2] in the Chapin Location stands the water tank. It is made of red sandstone and holds part of the city's water supply.

Water is pumped from the Iron Mountain Filtration Plant on North U.S. 2 near Lake Antoine. Lake Antoine is the main source of water for the city. When the water level sinks below normal, water from the old Chapin Mine is pumped into the lake to bring the level back to normal.

Hamilton Shaft Smokestack Chapin Mine

Another landmark can be seen below the water tank at the base of the hill. This is the old Chapin smokestack which used to bellow smoke when the furnaces were used

to furnish power for the hoist at the Hamilton shaft of the Chapin Mine. The engine house, constructed of red sandstone, is presently being used by the Michigan Manufacturing Company which produces wood products.

Miners' Hall

The building previously known as Miners' Hall and used for meetings and social functions is now used as an antique shop. The building was originally located at the East Chapin Pit when began sinking in 1885. *[NOTE: This building was the union hall for the miners.]*

Sandstone Quarry

At the end of Fourth Street, the road narrows to dusty rose pieces of sandstone and leads to a quarry that appears like a natural amphitheater. The sandstone that was blasted out of the quarry provided foundations for many homes and buildings as previously mentioned. The abandoned quarry is now a "playground" for neighborhood children and could be used as a natural theater for concerts as suggested by one of our local musicians.

Turning from this outdoor theater one can view the North Side or Chapin Location of Iron Mountain, where the predominant ethnic group was Italian. Thirty-five per cent of the population of Iron Mountain was Italian and most of them lived in the "Northside".

Domenic Negro Residence 416 Pewabic Street

Domenic Negro immigrated from Italy in 1890 with his wife, Johanna, and settled and raised a family of 13 children at the foot of the hill below this quarry at 416 Pewabic Street. The house is inhabited today by

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another family located on the west end of the lot nearest the alley.

Negro was exceptionally industrious and his wife was extremely thrifty, conservative and domineering over the family. Negro worked in the Chapin Mine and was known in Italian as "Monja [*sic* – *Mange*] Ferro", which translated means "eat iron," because he worked furiously for long hours in those days before the 40-hour week, surpassing by far the output of his fellow workers.

He also found time to spade three large tracts of land for growing vegetables. One tract was about 40 by 50 feet in his backyard, another on a vacant lot next door about 100 by 150 feet and still another at the edge of town about 50 by 50 feet.

**Louis Zaio Grocery Store/Domenic
Negro and Sons Grocery Store
526 Fifth Street**

These parents (Domenic and Johanna Negro) managed to save enough to purchase a grocery store from Louis Zaio in 1911 when Domenic Jr. was 20 years old and then managed the store with the aid of his brothers and sisters. The store was named Domenic Negro and Sons and was a general, typical, country-type store which enabled the neighborhood people to not only buy their groceries, but also provided them with a place where they could meet and mingle and talk about their homeland in the Piedmont and adjacent Lombarda province in northern Italy. This building still exists today at 526 Fifth Street and Joseph Negro Jr., a grandson of Domenic Sr., resides there with his mother, Lucy.

This store specialized in Italian cold meats and homemade Italian pork sausage which was one of the best pork sausages made in the area, not only because of the good spice flavored product, but because only quality lean pork was used, which eliminated the usual shrinkage of similar products purchased elsewhere. There are

places you can purchase pork sausage today, but seemingly not duplicated.

The store carried essential hardware equipment such as nails, pots, pans, galvanized laundry tubs and copper boilers, locks, brooms, shoes, candy, dry goods, etc. Many items were bulk items, like peanut butter, which was transferred from a large container to a paper container, much like hamburger is dispensed today. The same was done for flour, sugar, and lard. Most people did their own baking, so that 100 pound sacks of flour were also available which people transferred to their flour bins at home. Spaghetti, macaroni, and perhaps a dozen or more types of similar products resembling shells, bow ties, curls, etc., were available in bulk. These products were usually boiled in water and tomato sauce seasoned with various spices like bay leaf, rosemary, salt, pepper, and garlic, with pork hocks or beef bone for a base and slowly simmered. It was poured over the boiled products. Strong grated Italian Asiago or gorgonzola cheese was sprinkled over it. To make this delicacy taste even better, most Italians had homemade dry Italian wine made from California grapes to sip as the meal was consumed. Many people used this store as a place to visit with the storekeeper and other visitors and customers. When the storekeeper was not busy, he might even sit around the pot-bellied stove and play cards or just plain spin yarns with the visitors. Life was different in those days.

The store was located on a corner and many children played in the street or store yard and when a delivery wagon or truck came with supplies for the store, they would ask the teamster if they could carry these items into the store and were not expected to be rewarded for doing so, but wanted to do it for fun only. Children also enjoyed using the hand pump in the back of the store to lift the kerosene stored in the basement, which then filled up the

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customers' containers. Kerosene was used for lamps since many had no electricity and it was also used to pour over kindling to start a fire for their wood cooking ranges.

Italian Foods

The people of this neighborhood had certain Italian prepared foods they consumed quite regularly and others on only special occasions. Polenta was and still is an economical, healthy dish, served quite regularly by Italians. This is cornmeal mush sometimes cooked with mashed potatoes and served with the famous homemade Italian tomato sauce and sprinkled with cheese. Some of the people prepared this cornmeal in a different way. It started out as cornmeal mush, but was cooked longer and cheese was added to it so that it became stringy. In some cases the cheese was first mixed with the dough and oil so that it was very rich, hence the name polenta grazza, or polenta with makes you "fat and healthy."

Another dish served quite regularly was and still is rizzotto. This is simmered rice in tomato sauce with Italian grated cheese sprinkled over it.

Gnocci is another common dish which is a dough mixed with potatoes much like a dumpling, boiled and covered with sauce and cheese as mentioned in other dishes.

A dish served mostly on special occasions was and is ognaglotti. Grind pork and beef and veal roasts together. Make a dough rich with eggs, roll in into thin sheets. Place ground meat balls about an inch in diameter on the dough about an inch apart, fold the dough over the meat and press down on the dough in between the meat. Use a special cutter to separate the finished product so that it will not come apart when placed in water and brought to a boil to cook the dough. Serve with tomato sauce and sprinkle on Italian grating cheese.

Ravioli is prepared the same as above, usually for special occasions, but instead of using meat, Italian cheese creamed with spices is used. The individual pieces are prepared the same, excepting that pieces about six inches will result.

Another very unusual preparation years ago was baked sparrows. This was preceded by an unusual way to catch and kill the birds. Burlap bags were ripped apart to make a large drape which was attached to a horizontal pole across the top of chicken wire on the front of a large chicken coop. When many sparrows came into the chicken coop to feed with the chickens, the burlap drape was let down so the birds could not escape through the chicken wire.

Then all that was left was to swat the birds with a broom and clean them. The beak and legs were cut off, the bird stuck through a skewer along with bacon, bay leaves, or similar spices. The skewer rested on a cake pan edge and put into the oven to bake.

Masonry Skills

A few people of this group inherited and learned masonry skills from their ancestors and some of the homes built by these artisans can be seen in the stone and brick edifices in the neighborhood.

Gardens and Farming

Most of the people worked in the mines and also had large vegetable gardens and many had a cow or two to help supplement the food bill. Besides having a vegetable garden in their yards, some utilized unused property of the mining company or land which belonged to the state free of charge until the Squatters Rights program forced them into paying a nominal monthly rent for the land.

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Others owned work horses for plowing fields, excavating, logging, draying and other purposes.

Variety of Italian Dialects Spoken

Everyone spoke their native tongue which made it difficult for both parents and children to learn the English language. If one was not of this nationality, it would be impossible to understand the people in a social gathering. Strangely, one would have difficulty understanding another dialect of the same nationality such as the Abruzzis, Napoleatons, Romagnolis, Ruscanos (supposedly the true Italian language) and others. The mannerisms of the Piemontaise and the Abruzzi were decidedly different.

The Abruzzi were more vivacious and emotional than the Piemontaise. The Piemontaise were mostly fair-haired, tall and comparatively reserved, whereas the Abruzzi were generally short and dark and emotional. Methods of food preparation of the Abruzzi were different, especially in flavoring with spices and garlic being used more extensively than the Piemontaise.

Trials of Daily Life

For the most part, miners were hard-working, religious, tight-fisted, conscientious people, but they also enjoyed frequenting the many saloons typical in any mining community. One can sometimes hear of the escapades of the past such as "Dead Man's Alley" between Millie and Vulcan Streets, so-called because of a murder and several stabbings having taken place there.

Life was primitive in some ways, with no indoor plumbing for the most part, unsanitary living conditions with the outdoor privies, animal manure everywhere and with uninsulated homes with pot-bellied stoves and wood ranges to cook on. Most

people had no water heater and used a galvanized tub or copper boiler to heat water. Most people had no washing machine and washed by hand with a washboard and hand wringer. There was little or no control over the sanitation conditions of barnyard animals and no inspection to prevent disease such as tuberculosis. Cows were milked by hand in small barns and milk was consumed and sold to neighbors without pasteurization, but the strong survived and enjoyed life in America.

Prohibition

Prohibition created havoc in the community with much bootlegging. Federal men raided business establishments and private homes as well, and many times tears were shed with the dumping of wine, beer and moonshine into the gutter.

Life of a Miner at the Turn of the Century

An interview with a miner revealed interesting information about life as a miner in the Chapin Location shortly after the turn of the century. He guessed that about 50 per cent of the population of miners had what is known as miner's consumption, possibly silicosis, which no doubt shortened their lives.

He claimed that some calloused foremen treated the miners like animals and when injured in accidents there was little first aid offered before being taken to the mining company hospital, where some of the service left a lot to be desired. Conditions were terrible, according to him, and no safety was provided in the cage which took men to various levels to work.

Like all mining communities, there was a company store for the men to spend their money. The miners rented company houses adjacent to the mines.

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He described people's wealth by the condition of their floors. If the homes had rugs, this meant the owners were rich. And if there were no rugs, they were poor. Most miners' homes had soft wood floors with many knots in them. Many homes had no wooden floors but their inhabitants lived on the dirt. Most homes at the turn of the century had no indoor toilets. Community wells served people in various areas.

He claimed there were many epidemics in which, as in the case of one family, several children died of black diphtheria.

This miner was also a musician who said many concert and marching bands performed for concerts and special occasions, and at one time, when President McKinley and the King of Italy were killed, some people accused the leader of one of the bands of being socialistic. The Columbian Band, which rehearsed at 609 Vulcan Street, was accused of anarchy by people who thought them to be communistic.

It was well known that the Italians drank their wine regularly and this miner, who was Italian, claimed that Swedes and other nationalities claimed to be prohibitionists by day, but they were alcoholics at night.

Bocce

There were many taverns in the Chapin Location and all had an indoor "Bocce Alley" on which they placed the game of bocce.

This is a game still played today with wooden balls about five inches in diameter. Each man has several balls to throw at a small one about three inches in diameter. The object of the game is to get the ball as near as possible to the small one.

The opposition may, without penalty, knock the opponent's ball away from the small ball. After all balls have been thrown, the person or team with the balls closest to the small one will get a point for each one.

Winners get free beer from the opposing team.

One could hear from a distance, on a quiet evening, the cheers of the men playing the game, so that sometimes it might have been difficult for one to fall asleep, especially if the home was near the tavern.

Oliva's Food Market

Leaving the stone quarry, we go west two blocks to Vulcan Street and go north one block to Oliva's Food Market which specializes in Italian pork sausage.

**Schinderle's Bakery
Millie Street**

Then go east one block, then south one-half block, to purchase some homemade Italian bread at Schinderle's Bakery, especially if you wanted it fresh and if Oliva's may have sold out of this bread. Schinderles remodeled an old gasoline station on Stephenson Avenue near the Chapin Pit for another bakery, but the history of this bakery on Millie Street should be explained.

The bakery was originally owned by Johnh Givogre, an immigrant from the Piedmont area of Italy. He mixed his own dough and baked it on bricks, the old-fashioned way, heated with wooden waste from a local lumber mill. There was something about this recipe, and possibly the bricks, that made his bread and hard crust rolls unique, and was never quite duplicated since he died and other bakers took over the business.

The first new owner was a Mr. Perucco, another Italian immigrant, who did an excellent job of carrying on baking the tasty products, and at present the Schinderle family has been carrying on the tradition of a local homemade bakery shop. The process of baking has now been

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modernized with gas as a fuel for the new type ovens.

If a person desired to do so, it would be possible, after purchasing these Italian products at the grocery store or at the bakery, to take them to a nearby part in the city or at a county park just outside the city limits to cook the sausage and enjoy an extra-special meal in the clean, fresh, outdoor facility.

Furno's Tavern

Behind Oliva's Market is Furno's Tavern, operated through the years by several generations.

To bring back the past, another tavern years ago existed across the street which also specialized in Italian pork sausage with stronger spices than most other places, and the owner's name was Pasquale Celanese.

Capistrano Abruzzi Society

On the east end of the block was the Capistrano building with a business run by a group of Abruzzi people, and which had a space provided for meetings of their Capistrano Abruzzi Society.

Domenic Benzo's Tavern/The T & T

One block east was another tavern operated by Domenic Benzo, presently the T & T, famous for their Italian home-prepared food and also specializing in steaks. When Benzo operated it, many of the societies used an adjacent building known as Benzo's Hall. Also many wedding receptions took place here.

In the back of these establishments were the usual woodsheds, outbuildings and bocce courts. Here, during various festivities, there were often activities for the children, such as pie-eating or watermelon-eating contests which do not seem to take place these days.

At the end of the block is the building where Domenic Negro & Sons Grocery operated which has been mentioned previously.

Stone Quarry Area Gang

All places mentioned since the stop where the stone quarry was is still known as the Stone Quarry area of the Chapin Location or of the North Side, and was one of the areas in the town where more than the average activity of all kinds took place. The young boys of this area congregated together in a "gang" which was known as the Stone Quarry Gang. Sometimes besides playing a friendly game of baseball with another gang, there was a bit of animosity between the gangs, such as gang fist fights and rock-throwing. Few were hurt, however, and seldom seriously.

As for the girls, the animosity was limited to jealousies and feelings of superiority, especially between the Downtown girls and the whole Chapin Location. It should be noted that generally speaking, the miners lived in the Chapin Location, whereas most of the foremen and mining officials lived in the area south of the mines in and around the business district. Needless to say, the people who operated the mines, including these foremen and officials, came from England and Sweden, where they gained valuable experience in mining operations, whereas the miners themselves came from other parts of Europe and were inexperienced.

Chapin, Farragut and Amidon Schools

Across the street from Oliva's Market to the north was a small confectionery store, where many of the children spent their few pennies. This was a good location for the business because across the street to the west was the school grounds where three schools were located.

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The oldest school in this block was the Chapin, located on the northeast corner of the square block. The Farragut School was located at the south end and the Amidon, which is the only one that stands and is still in use, was located on the west. The first school in this location was a one-room school located to the west of the Amidon between Norway and Quinnesec streets.

Many of the children immigrated with their parents to Iron Mountain and attended these schools and at first could not speak English. Teachers had difficulty with these people for quite some time, due to this handicap, plus the fact that there was constant bickering, fighting and general problems between the children of the different nationalities. Parents were of little help to the teacher because they spoke less or no English at all.

Many of the boys had chores to perform before going to school in the morning, such as cleaning the cow barn where their boots and bottoms of their trousers became laden with manure, and they did not change into other clothing. You guessed it – the odor did not bother the boys, but it did the teacher.

Vulcan Street Businesses

The next several blocks as you proceed north on Vulcan Street included many business establishments such as more grocery stores, a hardware store where Zambon's Paint Store is at present, a clothing store on the corner where St. George Glass Company is and at one time, a temporary one-room schoolhouse next door. There were also several taverns in this area and one operating today is Bimbo's L'vino Torchio. Across the street is Cini's Market. The vacant lots across from this store once had a blacksmith shop and lumber yard, where the children congregated both during the day to watch

the "Smithy" or to play in the lumber yard at night.

Bimbo's L'vino Torchio

Bimbo's, operated by William "Bimbo" Constantini, was previously Frank's Place, Rossi's Tavern and prior to that it was Baldrica and Carocci, operated by Frank Baldrica and Rufino Carocci, and was called the Christopher Columbus Saloon. Also, Baldrica & Co. was a barbershop next door, operated by Mrs. F. Baldrica and Mrs. R. Carocci. The barber shop is now operated by Gilbert "Gibby" LaFave. Incidentally, "Bimbo" Constantini lives behind the tavern on Vulcan Street and also owns the apartment building across the street which he converted from an office building. Prior to that, it was Iron Mountain's No. 2 fire hall. Bimbo is a retired Breitung Township teacher.

100 Block of East Main Street

If you look west two blocks from Bimbo's, you will see a one-block business district which is the 100 block of East Main Street, and you will note that Highway U.S. 2 divides this block from the 200 block of East Main Street. This highway was once a railway spur that led to Traders Mine near the Iron Mountain north city limits.

This business district had considerable history. You will note, if you wish to visit there, that Bruttomesso's Pizzeria is located at the east end of the block next to U.S. 2, the oldest pizza store in town. Bimbo's also specializes in pizza and porketta (pork) sandwiches. A whole pig is roasted in a special oven and sandwiches are then prepared and served in the tavern. Another pizza store is the Pizza Oven, located on Vulcan Street across from Bimbo's. Country Buffet, formerly Shakey's Pizza Parlor, on North U.S. 2, is another pizza establishment.

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Next to Brutomesso's Pizzeria is Romagnoli's On Main which is a tavern that specializes in homemade Italian foods similar to the T & T previously described. It has been a tavern owned by various Italian families since the early history of the town and is operated by Dwight Romagnoli.

This business district is one of the oldest in the town, due to its nearness to the Chapin Mine. Next to Romagnoli's is Chickie's Bowling Alley and Bar, operated originally by John Stefanelli. It started out as a tavern and later expanded to the east for the bowling alley. It was the "Butterfly Theater," operated by Mr. Sonaglia. The grocery store was operated by Anton Constantini and August Tomassoni. West of Chickie's is Becco's Market, specializing in imported Italian foods. Suino's General Store and Saloon preceded Becco's Market for a "clean sweep" of the Italian establishments in the entire block. Across from Bruttomesso's Pizzeria is the Penny Oil Company, operated by Joseph "Penny" Andreini. There were many other Italian establishments to the west of this block and in other places in the Chapin Location, so it is no wonder that it was and sometimes still is referred to as Little Italy.

It should be noted that Bruttomesso's Pizzeria was preceded by a saloon owned by Luigi Tramontin, another Italian, and the building was owned by his daughters, who lived in an upstairs apartment.

Monte Cockoo

In the area of West Main Street and North Milwaukee Avenue is a place that was known as Monte Cuckoo. Pete Aimone had a girlfriend, Theresa Fornetti, who lived on West Main Street, and when explaining to someone where she lived, he used to say in jest that she lived up in Monte Cockoo. When asked why this area was given this name, he replied that most people who lived on this hill at the base of

Pine Mountain were, again in jest, silly or "cuckoo".

The story has it that this name was used to refer to this area after this incident, but for some unknown reason it was changed to "Chetnika" and to this day the old-timers still refer to this area by this name. Pete married Theresa and today they live at 407 Norway Street. Both of their fathers were killed in a Chapin Mine accident.

Tamborini's Hill

On the top of this hill on West Main Street lived farmer Joe Tamborini, who was given dynamite by the Chapin Mining Company to be set off on July 4th to celebrate Independence Day. This farmer thought he would kill two birds with one stone. Instead of setting off the dynamite during the day or early evening, he thought it a good idea to set it off in the early hours of the morning and surprise everyone, but the real reason was that he set the dynamite off under stumps to clear his land and did not want anyone to know about it.

John Rubbo's Tavern 710 Millie Street

One block north of Bimbo's on Vulcan Street is Margaret Street. An historic tavern existed one block up Margaret Street at 710 Millie St. It was operated by John Rubbo, who came from Italy.

It was a very popular tavern which along with the usual bocce courts also had an outdoor bowling alley. It was very near the Italian church and even though all Italians at that time were Catholics, some did not devote themselves to their religion as closely as others. Consequently, some of the men walked to church with their wives, but many times did not get past this tavern. In later years, with the coming of the automobile, drivers of autos who drove the members of a family for a funeral often did

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not enter the church or remain in their autos, but hurried over to the tavern during the time of the church service.

The wife of this tavern operator was a prominent and active citizen as revealed in the following article in *The Iron Mountain News* on May 10, 1947:

Mrs. Mary Rubbo, of 424 Margaret Street, who, on May 11 will observe her 75th birthday, is the oldest active member of the auxiliary organized in 1928 to work for the hospital. She has been on the auxiliary since that time as representative of the Church of the Immaculate Conception.

"I couldn't begin to estimate the yards and yards of bandages I've rolled or the amount of darning and mending I completed, but I guess it would amount to quite a figure," Mrs. Rubbo said.

She recalls how the auxiliary was organized in 1928 among the representatives of the churches and clubs. She was named treasurer and attends every meeting when she is in the city. In addition to making bandages and repairing linens, Mrs. Rubbo has done sewing for the hospital and accepts goods, which she distributes among members of her church for sewing. She also did considerable work for the Red Cross during the war.

In addition to maintaining active membership on the hospital auxiliary, Mrs. Rubbo belongs to and works for the Christian Mothers Society, Third Order of St. Francis and the Church and School Guild of the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Daughters of Isabella and Regina Margharita Club. She has held numerous offices and headed many of the most important committees.

Born Mary Wiegler, May 11, 1872, in Faistriz, Austria, Mrs. Rubbo came to Iron Mountain on July 4, 1891.

"The city certainly was celebrating Independence Day when I arrived here," Mrs. Rubbo recalls. She remembers that

she was taken to Lake Antoine, where the celebration was being held.

"There were no automobiles in Iron Mountain at that time, only horse-drawn buggies," Mrs. Rubbo said. "I remember a shores-drawn street car which made the trip to and from Lake Antoine on special occasions. That July 4th celebration was one of those occasions and I made the trip in grand style. Arriving at Lake Antoine, I boarded the Jones steam boat for a trip from the mainland to the island, where there was a large pavilion, and the fishing was very good. There also was good hunting around the lake," added Mrs. Rubbo.

"I remember a lot of things about those old days. It is pleasant to recall them now and then," Mrs. Rubbo continued as she told about the paths which led from one house to another and the old-fashioned kerosene lamps which provided lights in the residences. As she recalls it, the only electric lines were in the business district.

"And we didn't have a modern water department then, either," Mrs. Rubbo added. "We carried our water by the pails."

Mrs. Rubbo was married the week after she came to Iron Mountain from Italy. She knew John Rubbo in Italy and came here four years after he did.

Mr. and Mrs. Rubbo made their home at 710 Millie Street until 1922, when they moved to 424 Margaret, where Mrs. Rubbo lived with her daughter, Mrs. Victoria Negro.

Her husband, who died February 10, 1924, was in business in Iron Mountain for some 30 years. He served on the city council as an alderman.

Mr. and Mrs. Rubbo were the parents of 14 children.

Commenting on her work for the hospital auxiliary, Mrs. Rubbo said, "I like to work. During the summer, I work in the vegetable and flower garden and during the fall I crochet and sew."

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Active despite her age, Mrs. Rubbo also admits to a "hankering for travel and good music."

Mrs. Rubbo died in 1956.

Mrs. Victoria (Rubbo) Negro

It would be appropriate at this time to mention that Mrs. Victoria Negro retired in 1972 after 61 years as organist of the Immaculate Conception Church and was honored in February of 1973 at a special Mass, followed by a reception in the church hall.

Donald Antonetti, vice-president of the Immaculate Conception Parish Council, read the Council resolutions which aptly characterized Mrs. Negro as "giving of her time and efforts in a unique and unparalleled fashion and through her selflessness and willingness has become a legend in her own time."

Father James McCarthy, pastor, acknowledged the gratitude of the 12 pastors who were part of her 61 years as church organist by saluting Mrs. Negro as "truly dedicated, dependable and faithful. We always knew she would be there."

Members of the choir presented Mrs. Negro with a corsage and sang the mass with music especially selected for her. It was one of the few times in 61 years that Mrs. Negro listened to the church choir and pipe organ from the church proper. Attending the ceremonies with Mrs. Negro were her two sons, their wives and her seven grandchildren. Her sons, Ralph and Lawrence Negro, presented the Offertory gifts during the Mass.

Born in Iron Mountain, Victoria Rubbo Negro began her career in music at 12 years of age when she played the organ for evening services at Immaculate Conception Church and in 1911, at 17 years of age, she became the full-time organist.

Before her marriage to Domenic Negro, Victoria played in the dance band of her

brother, John Rubbo, and was pianist for the silent movies at the old Marion, Bijou and Colonial theaters in Iron Mountain.

A woman who was widowed 42 years ago, a woman who raised two sons alone, and a woman who has been active in civic affairs as well as her church, Victoria Negro maintains her sense of humor and gracious interest in people.

An argent bridge player with a lively interest in art and music and crocheting, Mrs. Negro does not consider her interest in gardening as a hobby: "It's a way of life for me." She is grateful for the many years she had a pipe organ at Immaculate Conception, as she considers it the epitome in organ music.

Mrs. Negro is one of the oldest members of the Immaculate Conception Guild in years of membership. She was a member of the Girl Scout Council for six years and has been a member of the Community Concert Council, an honorary member of the Iron Mountain-Kingsford Women's club and a member of the Dickinson County Senior Citizens Council.

In 1961, Mrs. Negro was honored on her 50th anniversary as organist at Immaculate Conception Church and received the Papal blessing from the Rev. Fr. Otto Sartorelli, diocesan director of music.

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

The tour continues north on Vulcan Street to Blaine Street, then east one block to the Immaculate Conception Church. The congregation of this church was exclusively Italian. From the beginning of the Chapin Mine, Italians were favorite employees of the company. Becoming numerous, Bishop Vertin gave them a priest in the person of Rev. Raphael Cavicchi in the fall of 1889.

Under his supervision, arrangements were made for the formation of an Italian congregation. In 1890, they purchased the lot and commenced the erection of a frame

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church with rooms over the sacristy for the accommodation of the pastor. It was blessed under the title of the Holy Rosary. This structure burned on November 2, 1893.

The second church was practically the same as the first, as it was rebuilt upon what was saved from the fire. Hence the scarcity of room was felt as soon as the attendance increased, which it did through new immigration and also by renewed practice of religion inspired by preceding pastorates. The idea of a commodious church therefore easily gained the minds of people who were anyway desirous of having a substantial church, such as they had left in their native country. Just at this period Father Sinopoli came to the parish and he took up at once the popular demand. The rest of Block 4, in which the parish already owned one lot, was purchased from the Houghton Mineral Land and Mining Company, on June 10, 1902, for a consideration of \$1,000 and *[they]* raised the red sandstone building in a style exclusively Italian, so that one cannot mistake the character of the building nor the nationality of its owners.

The interior, distinctly foreign, is not disappointing, although the frescoing done by Father Sinopoli himself is crude. The rectory is attached to the rear of the church. The entire building cost *[a]* little over \$13,000. It was dedicated to the Immaculate Conception on January 1, 1903, by Bishop Eis, assisted by Fathers Sinopoli, Dassyla, Kraker and Pinten.

The many Italian societies held festivities in this church over the years, parading from Miners' Hall or Benzo's Hall to the marching band music of the Columbian Band, the Knights of Columbus Band and others. The band also played the Italian National Anthem in the church during the festivities.

The parish is no longer exclusively Italian.

Industrial Area

We now journey north on Millie Street to U.S. 2. Here we look to our left and see an industrial area where Les-Cove, Inc., manufactures cabinet tops and other products. Also nearby is another old and popular wood product company called Khoury, Inc., which sells to many wholesale companies and mail order houses. On our right as we proceed north on U.S. 2 we see Maracini & Sons, Inc., which also produces wood products, mostly kitchen cabinets of birch and utilizing aspen for auxiliary parts.

Before we turn right into the historical Ardis Furnace site, we can see in the distance a new industrial park with dozens of various types of businesses such as mining machinery outlets, equipment companies, service companies, electrical contractors, a restaurant and an automobile agency.

One can turn right at Shakey's to take the north road around popular Lake Antoine. Just south of Shakey's is Goulette's Cold Storage which at one time was the site of the historic Goulette Ice Company before the days of electrical refrigeration.

Ardis Furnace

Now turn right to the Iron Mountain Filtration Plant and the remains of the Ardis Furnace. At the site is erected a sign to signify this place as a Michigan Historical Site. Engraved is:

"The Ardis Furnace. Inventor John T. Jones of Iron Mountain recognized the economic potential of the low grade iron ore of the Upper Peninsula. He developed a method for processing the ore and built an experimental furnace in 1908, named for his daughter, Ardis, to test his theory."

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“The furnace, a huge metal tube lined with firebrick, was placed on an incline and charged with ore. The whole device was rotated by electric motor, with iron suitable for mill use discharged from the lower end of the tube. The experiment was plagued with financial and mechanical problems and by the close of World War I, the Ardis was dismantled, Jones moving to other mining endeavors.”

“Elements of the Jones method were later incorporated into successful processing operations for low grade iron ores.”

Iron Mountain Filtration Plant

The original source of water for Iron Mountain came from wells located in the area of the Ardis Furnace. IN 1924, the filter plant was constructed. There have been no changes since 1924, except for an addition of a water softening plant in 1952. It was needed because of the hard water coming from the mines and being pumped into Lake Antoine.

The filter beds have done an excellent job of purifying the water. One-half part per million of chlorine is added due to state requirements. The filter plant is becoming more and more inadequate because of the growing modernization and expansion of the community.

John Tyler Jones Home Grand Boulevard

We now move south to Grand Boulevard, then east to the entrance of the historical home owned by Ray Branz which was the home of John T. Jones, inventor of the Ardis Furnace.

John T. Jones was one of Iron Mountain's leading pioneers and early mining superintendents. Adjacent to the Jones home is a building that at one time or another has been a sewing factory, a dance

hall and meeting room of the Eagles and currently is headquarters for the Brauman Paper Company.

The Jones launch provided transportation for young people to the dance hall that was on the island. After Jones discontinued this service, Domenic Negro & Sons store continued providing this transportation along with a confectionery stand as an added feature.

East Grand Boulevard Circle/East Grant Street Area

We now continue on East Grand Boulevard Circle south and then east on East Grant Street. You will note that this is an area of comparatively new housing development. Before World War II, there were no houses in this area which was open fields and pasture land for the cows owned by the miners of the Chapin Location.

This area immediately adjacent to beautiful Lake Antoine was ideal for family picnics because it was within walking distance for many people for those who lived farther away, it was not much of an inconvenience because it was still in the city limits. The west shore of the lake at the east end of East Grant Street was ideal for swimming for young boys who wanted to go “skinny dipping,” but that all changed 30 years ago when John Fornetti, Jr., purchased a lot at this “swimming hole” and built himself a home overlooking the lake.

It is interesting to note that at 1020 East Grant Street, the home of Charles Peterson, there is an entrance to the yard marked by several pieces of Amberg granite which came from the ruins of the Hulst School, an edifice that when allowed to be torn down instead of remaining was a historical catastrophe. The Hulst School was unsurpassed by beauty and architecture not seen possibly anywhere in the country.

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Pewabic Hill

As we turn right at the end of the street, we can see another new housing development in the distance at the north slopes of Pewabic Hill. Here another mistake was made when the city sold the land and allowed the bulldozers to tear it up and lie idle without measures to prevent soil erosion. Not only the topsoil, of which there was very little due to children setting grass fires in this area traditionally for 75 years, but also the eroded soil ended up in the weed beds at the eastern shore of Lake Antoine, spoiling the fishing for several years.

“Frenchy” Goulette’s Ice House

We will turn left at East Margaret Street and where we see the last house on the left is a point where at one time existed an important landmark, where an interesting and colorful, well-known citizen, the late John – better known as “Frenchy” – Goulette, operated a most unusual type of winter ice harvest business. The following story gives some insight about Goulette and the ice business:

Grizzled, goateed John ‘Frenchy’ Goulette, 72, is one of the few survivors of a vanishing breed of businessmen who were numbered among the first victims of automation. He still harvests and stores natural ice, but he’s the first to admit that there’s little profit in it.

He gets his ice from Lake Antoine near Iron Mountain, but Frenchy says the business is mostly a tourist attraction and the old, roofless ice house is a town landmark. There was a time, he reminisces, when the Goulette Brothers had 25 to 30 men on the payroll and harvested some 87,000 tons of lake ice a year. There was a ready market for ice then – mainly

the breweries, taverns and butcher shops – at a dime for a hundred pounds.

Today, automatic ice markers for home and industry have all but ended the winter harvest, but the old-timers still like to talk about the good old days: Like when the spring breakup brought lumberjacks into Iron Mountain, ready for fun and ready to buy drinks for any and all comers.

“Didn’t matter who the man was, even an iceman,” says Frenchy. “We’d often come to find a man had put in a whole day delivering a wagonload of ice to one lively saloon. He’d bring it in a few cakes at a time, just to get the free drinks.”

In the ice house, 350-pound ice cakes are arranged in even layers and finally covered with 18 inches of sawdust. If the layers are solid with no gaps, the ice will keep under the sawdust, tolerating even 90-degree heat with only minimal shrinkage. Most of the ice harvested by Goulette’s crews is used as a standby supply for the Iron Mountain freezer plant.

“I REMEMBER”
THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS
OF YESTERDAY
By Florence (Milliman) Peterson
(pages 134-138)

There were so many sights and sounds in Iron Mountain, the surrounding area and Dickinson County, which are gone forever, that one person couldn’t possibly remember them all...But together, with each one old enough to remember, with some input, quite a list could be compiled. Let’s talk about a few...

When World War I drew to a close, there were two armistices – one false and one real. What a commotion – all the whistles, bells, you name it, set off at once! The whistles at the mines, the trains, and Von Platen Fox and all the church bells in town, and I imagine the curfew too. However, before this, all the school children

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collected tin foil and brought it to school. I was real lucky because the clerks at the hotel [The Milliman Hotel, later the Dickinson Hotel] and the bellboys saved it for me, and I had a big cylinder of it to take to school. I can also remember the big American flag that hung in the dining room at the hotel, and the trains full of soliders boys going south on the St. Paul. I remember, too, going with my Aunt Florence and my mother to turn in their knitting at the Red Cross Headquarters in the city building.

While we're on the subject of whistles and bells, let's recall a few...How about...

The curfew on top of the city building which sounded at 9:00 p.m. as a warning to the kids that it was time to go home. Later the whistle at the Ford Plant served the same purpose, and the last night this whistle blew, folks all listened and remembered.

There were whistles at the mines and Iron Mountain had clocks set at "two times" – the regular time and mining time, which was a half an hour ahead of standard time.

Von Platen Fox Lumber Mill also had a whistle which could be heard at least all over the southern half of town.

I can still, in memory, hear the bell at the old First Lutheran Church on Vulcan Street, tolling as a funeral procession made its way from downtown across the pit.

The bells at St. Mary's Church and St. Joseph's Church were beautiful as they rang together several times a day, especially at noon and at six o'clock.

The school bell never sounded the same after it was moved from the Old Central School to the Hulst – maybe because it was farther away.

And how about the loudspeaker on the McLogen and Pierce Music Store? I can still hear La Golondrina being played in the late afternoon after a really bad thunderstorm almost washed out the Elk's

Circus, called "June Joys" in the St. Paul Park.

In the winter the whistles on the St. Paul and Northwestern engines "intensified" the cold as the eerie sound came forth as they crossed the pit and came into the downtown area. In the summer, they seemed to make the heat even hotter. There were bells, too, at the crossings when gates were lowered, with lanterns hanging on them in the dark, and the gatekeepers had either little shacks on the level or elevated as they were at the crossings on East B Street.

I remember the chug-chug of the steam rollers when they rolled the mine waste on the streets and the tar wagons sprayed tar on them afterwards. The city also had water wagons for laying the dust in the summer. I don't remember, but Lee LaLonde told me about caring for horses and how they were trained for the fire department. He said that the department then was in the 100 block of East Ludington Street, where part of Andreini's Furniture Store now stands. Speaking of streets, do you remember when Stephenson Avenue had its first asphalt paving? I do!

The joy to all the kids was Doc's bell as he drove his horse-drawn ice cream and treat wagon around town. And we must not forget Del La Vasseur's popcorn wagon on the corner of Stephenson and East Hughitt – and later on West B St.

After the Braumart Theater was built – on a hot summer's evening – you could hear the hum of people talking and their heels clicking on the sidewalks as the first show let out and they walked either home or to their cars.

Do you remember the old Marion Theater on East Hughitt Street? Later, my cousin Frances Mason had a ballroom dancing school in that building. Then there was the Bijou on West Ludington, the Capitol in Breitung after Ford came to town, and, of course, the Colonial Theater – and

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how people gathered in front of the “News” building on election day to see the results projected on the city building.

I remember the bobsleds full of the “big kids” coming down B St. from the top of the Pewabic Hill and going as far as the high school, and in summer the kids skating down the front walk at the high school when it came straight down from the front door to B Street...oh my, the skinned knees!

And do you remember when Iron Mountain had a problem with its drinking water? My folks got the drinking water for the hotel at the Country Club in wash boilers, but I went with the Frickleton kids over to Reynold’s Blacksmith Shop on River Avenue to get their water from a hand pump alongside the building.

A real event was to take a Sunday drive “around the county”. I remember, too, that when Gene and Hazel DeGayner first had their camp at Silver Lake in northern Dickinson County – it was called “Dead Man’s Lake”. It’s too bad that the horse drinking fountain that stood at East Fleshiem and Stephenson Avenue was demolished. It would be quite something now. For many years Mrs. O.C. Davidson was driven in a beautiful old buggy drawn by a lovely team of horses to shop at the Mercantile – another building claimed by fire. Iron Mountain used to have two fire departments, too, and the Wisconsin-Michigan Railroad made three rail lines coming into town.

When Kingsford Heights was named, it was done by Genevieve Cudlip Howe for E.G. Kingsford and a large wooden arch was erected on Woodward Avenue near where Harding Avenue meets it.

How many of you remember Billy Hosking’s dray line, and after he got his first motorized truck, his little dog would ride on top of the cab. Also, how about Hansen’s Livery Stable and how the teachers who taught on the Northside rode on a big bobsled in the winter. Also, we who went to

the Lincoln School, at least, would ride on the runners of the farmers’ big sleighs going down Carpenter Avenue. So many of our old schools are but memories – the Hulst, Fulton building, Lowell, Chapin, Farragut, Lincoln, Washington, Central and Ludington; also the old ball field with its wooden bleachers and fence, where Iron Mountain High School stadium now stands. We can remember the street carnivals on West Hughitt Street and the circus parades, with horse-drawn wagons, coming north on Carpenter Avenue, with the steam calliope bringing up the rear. Speaking of Carpenter Avenue, there were two houses on D Street which had iron rail fences around them as they were lower than the sidewalks. They were great for doing “turns” on – but you had to watch it in the wintertime that you didn’t stick your tongue on the iron.

Everybody used to dance and the Nightingale-Pine Gardens and the Northern Ball Room were very popular. Even street dances were very popular.

Do you remember the police station with the bandstand on top that stood at the corner of Stephenson and East Ludington? It was later moved to the St. Paul Park and the bottom was used as a warming house for the ice rink. There was also another rink at the old market place up near the pit – across from where the old St. George’s Hospital stood.

Within a few years Iron Mountain lost several churches to fires – St. Joseph’s – The Convent – St. Mary’s – Holy Trinity Episcopal – and the Central Methodist. And so many old stores and shops are gone: Cohodes on the Northside, Scarvada’s, Roell’s, Frick’s Bakery, Sackims-Levy Unger (where on the middle display window you could raise an arm and a leg on one side and it would look like you were in mid-air with both sides moving), Mrs. Dillon’s Millinery Shop, Rusky’s, Scanlon’s, Anegon’s. Rundle’s Hardware

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and Opera House stood where the post office is located. Then there was Buckman's Drug and City Drug, where you could buy a plate lunch for 35 cents and of course the Combination Lunch. Now the hotel, too, is gone...

On Carpenter Avenue, on the corner of B Street, was a building called the "flats" building with two story flats from the alley north, and on the end was Mrs. MacDonald's Millinery Shop and Mr. MacDonald's undertaking parlor – with an apartment upstairs. At the south end was what we thought quite a hill, and it made a wonderful slide in the winter until someone would put ashes on it so the delivery horse wouldn't slide and fall. Between Carpenter Avenue and the sidewalk for several blocks were grassy areas with maple trees. In the spring they had delicious icicles.

All summer long the hobos would come to the back door of the hotel for handouts, and they were never turned away. In the alley, Hofeltz and Eisele had a scale for weighing coal.

There were huge billboards (where the Braumart now stands) between Anegon's Candy Kitchen and The Central House (which stood on the site of the Cordy Building). Al and Tony Myers had a coal business where the Champion Building stands.

Kids and adults, too, swam in Crystal Lake, and when you could swim as far as the sandbar – which I saw a grassy point – you were really a good swimmer; and we all competed with the cows for beach space at Lake Antoine. How about the air pipe which ran from the Hydraulic Falls to the Chapin Mine? Kids walked it many times – risking a broken leg or arm.

Do you remember, too, the mine creek that ran under the board sidewalk alongside of the Commercial Bank (the old Home Furniture – now the Andreini's Building) with Gately-Wiggins Furniture in the other half of the building? And sewer creek ran

open through the south end of town to the river. It looked all right, but smell all right it didn't!!!

All these, plus the old iron bridges at Aurora, Quinnesec and Twin Falls, are precious memories. I hope you all have these memories and more!!!

THE CHAPIN MINE

By Al Fuse
(pages 79-82)

Underground

I have never worked at the Chapin Mine, but have been below surface on several occasions. My father was a foreman "trammer boss" in charge of transporting ore from the pockets of ore that the miners filled to where the "skip" was loaded and hoisted up the shaft to the head of the superstructure and then to the stockpile. My first visit to the mine was while the mine was still in full operation. My father acted as a guide for several people that came from out of the city and I went along. This was during the late 1920's. We went down from the Ludington Shaft.

My second trip underground was after mining operations had ceased. The two pump stations were still operating, one on the 12th level and the other on the 16th level. This time we went down the Hamilton Shaft. My father "Tony" Fuse, Valentine "Ting" Moroni, a pump man and myself. We checked in at both pumping stations and then left to check on smaller pumps. That required climbing down to the 18th level and then back up 200 feet on ladders. Part of the drifts were blocked by falling ore in certain places. On the 18th level "Ting" Moroni operated the winch that lowered my father, in a "bucket", to a pump on the 20th level which had never been worked, but had to be dewatered. The mine was officially terminated in August of 1932.

Shafts, Machine Shop and Office

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Three shafts comprising the Chapin Mine were left standing when operations ceased in 1932. B Shaft was a wooden structure built of heavy timbers and was located near the extreme east end of the Chapin Pit as we now know it. Ore was mined and hoisted to the surface and stockpiled. A spur track off the main line of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad transported the ore to Escanaba. This mine was in Section 30.

The Ludington Mine was the next mine developed, located in Section 25. The shaft was of steel construction. The complex had a boiler house with a tall brick chimney, a shaft house operating the miners' cage and ore skip and a long trestle to stockpile ore after the shipping season on the lakes was halted for the winter.

[Two photographs, one identified as "Ludington Shaft and Stockpile" and the other as "Ludington Shaft, Cornish Pump to the right"]

The Cornish Pump was located here. Warehouses and the "dry" were also located here. The "dry" was a large sandstone building that is still standing and was used by the miners to shower and change clothes, either coming on shift or leaving. The stockpile extended east of the shaft. The airline from the Hydraulic Falls that furnished compressed air for the necessary operations ended here. Electricity also was supplied from the Hydraulic Falls. Direct current was used underground to operate the motors that hauled the underground ore cars from the various "chutes" of mined ore to the location of loading the skip that hauled the ore to the surface to be stockpiled.

[Photograph identified as "Hamilton Shaft - Chapin Mine"]

The Hamilton Mine was developed shortly after the Ludington. The Hamilton was located in Section 30. The Hamilton complex had a coal-fired boiler house, an engine house, where the engineer hoisted

or lowered the cage and the skips, a power house that was the electrical substation and a large storage barn located midway on the south side of West Smith Street that was used for storage. The Hamilton Mine also had a large stockpile located east of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad during the early years. The Miners' Hall was used as a "dry" for the captain, foremen and timekeepers. There were shower facilities and lockers there also.

The ore hoisted during the summer time was loaded into the string of ore cars in the shaft pockets. The reason for this is that when the stockpile is loaded into the ore cars, the trestle has to be rebuilt each year for the coming ore to be stockpiled. Building the new trestle was quite a feat, as the supports were long and thick.

South of the Chapin Pit, the mine had a large machine shop capable of machining whatever was needed. The drills were sharpened here. A complete blacksmith shop and a sawmill that cut the logs into various needs underground for supporting ore bodies was here also. The logs were also sawed into lumber that was used to build homes and sheds for the employees. Storage buildings were available for the needs of the mine, and there was a laboratory equipped to analyze the samples of ore that were mined each day.

North of the Chapin Pit was the Chapin Mining Company office that also served as the paymaster for the miners.

A boardwalk of wooden planking crossed the Chapin Pit adjacent to Stephenson Avenue. This was the only means for pedestrian traffic to cross the Pit.

The mining company also operated a lumber camp in the Vega area, near Hermansville. The camp was complete with bunkhouse, kitchen, dining area, horse barns and all the items needed for a complete operation.

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**MINING COMPANY STREET
DESIGNATIONS**
By Al Fuse
(pages 82-83)

The mining company owned a lot of residential area in Section 30, and their powerful presence in the area dictated some of their actions in what was called **Chapin Location**. The street names and numbering is one example. The following information was taken from the 1925 city directory:

Milwaukee Avenue, originally began north of **West Smith Street**, continuing north, ending at **Antoine Street**. After the mine company sold all their properties, streets were renamed and numbered. Milwaukee Avenue was renamed **North Kimberly Avenue** up to **West Main Street**.

West Smith Street does not line up with **East Smith Street**. There is a separation of three city blocks.

Smith Street Alley originally began from **West Smith Street** westward to the last house and was changed to **North Kimberly Avenue** up to **West Main Street**. The numbering of the houses was reversed with the lower numbers beginning from the west end to higher numbers ending at West Main Street.

Fifth Street began at **500 North Stephenson Avenue** east to **Vulcan Street**, where it became **Sixth Avenue** east to the end.

Sixth Street began at **600 North Stephenson Avenue** to **Vulcan Street**, where it became **Fifth Avenue** east to the end.

The reason for these discrepancies is that the Chapin Mine properties were controlled by the mining company.

The streets and numbering of houses were changed after the mining company sold all of their properties.

THE RAILROAD TRACKS
By Al Fuse
(pages 76-79)

The east boundary of Cyranaica was the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad and the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad tracks. The Chicago & Northwestern Railroad had the larger yard which extended from the Miners' Road north to the "Wye". The Chicago & Northwestern Railroad also had a spur line that ran up to the Ludington Mine stockpile, taking the iron ore to the Escanaba ore docks via "the new line" which began at the "Wye", ran parallel to Lake Antoine and east to Escanaba. This line was specially built to accommodate the heavy ore cars with heavier rails.

Dangerous as the yards were, it was one of our playgrounds. The different flatcars, boxcars, gondolas and ore cars that were parked on the sidings awaiting the make-up of a train were the scene of our activities. We would run along the top of empty flatcars and climb up to the boxcars' catwalks, playing tag. We avoided the coal gondolas and iron ore cars because you got dirty and would catch heck when you came home dirty. (Before the days of automatic washers and dryers.)

The various loads of commodities would be left at the main siding where the switch engine and switchmen would select the cars to be switched out for locations to unload throughout the city. Each day a string of saw logs would come in for the Von Platen-Fox Lumber Mill. The Ford Plant got their logs from the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad. During the 1920's and 1930's, Ford autos had a lot of wood parts and later the station wagons used select hardwoods. All logs for the sawmills came on flatcars.

The gondolas were used for lighter loads, as a gondola was much longer than the compact ore cars. Gondolas were

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primarily used to transport coal and pulpwood.

The boxcars were used for a variety of uses. The finished product of paper mills, heavy freight, machinery, flour, cement, oats, corn, feed, hay, etc., were all materials that had to be sheltered from the elements. The Chicago & Northwestern Railroad had their freight house where the present Timbers Motel is located. The boxcars emptied their contents here and the several dray lines distributed the goods to the intended recipients.

Another spur line which didn't get too much use was the Schlesinger Line, commonly called the "Rusty Track", that ran where the present U.S. 2 highway is located. The line serviced the lath factory near Moon Lake that had a short-lived duration. During the time that mostly all Italian people made homemade wine, the grape cars from California were spotted on this rarely-used track.

Dave Reese and Ferdinand Zambon were engineers on the switch engines and some of the switchmen were John "Scratchy" Serena, Mike Robarge, Joe Shander and Sam Lindgren. Art McCormick was yard master. F. Freeman was section foreman. He and his family lived in a Chicago & Northwestern house off the main line just inside the city limits.

During the days prior to the late 1930's there were very few, if any, semi-trucks and trailers as we now see. Every commodity coming into the cities came by railroad – the Chicago & Northwestern and the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific. Each had a freight warehouse for goods that came in and were not serviced by a sport track: bulk groceries and staples to Carpenter Cook and Gannon Grocers, beer in refrigerated boxcars; wholesale meats to Morris & Co. Coal always came in gondolas to various coal dealers. Lumber came by spur track to city lumber yards – the Fuller-Goodman Lumber Company and

Laing Lumber Company. The Chicago & Northwestern Railroad had their own ice houses at Antoine Station to service the dining car on the passenger trains. The ice came from Lake Antoine and was delivered by Goulette's Ice Company.

The boxcars that had perishable items were kept cold by ice bunkers on each end of each car. Perishables that needed heat were kept from freezing by charcoal stoves in bunkers at the end of each car.

The steam locomotives burned a lot of coal. Coal came in from the coal mines in gondolas. These coal cars were spotted on the outside track and then unloaded into a coal chute, then pulled up into the coal storage shed to service the engines.

Needless to say, this coal was a source of heat for a lot of people that lived along the tracks. The gondolas were filled with a good heap of coal. The next morning the heap would be at car level. This coal was the soft bituminous variety called "black bear". It was dirty and sooty.

Between the Chicago & Northwestern and the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroads was a watchman's tower. This was elevated, painted red with windows on all four sides. The watchman had to watch for trains that crossed the Main Street crossing. The cross arms were raised and lowered by the watchman pumping handles (probably hydraulic system) to lower and raise the arms. This was before the days of electrical operations. We called this watchman tower a "crow's cage". There were several throughout the city. One can be seen behind the mining museum on Kent Street.

During the 1930 Depression days there were a lot of men looking for work and the only method of transportation these people used was to "ride the rails". They were called "hobos". Most were not the so-called "bums". These men were sincerely looking for job opportunities. They had certain stops, usually at the end of railroad yards,

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to catch outgoing trains. These places were called "Hoover's parks". Here the men, all strangers, gathered for a little food and coffee. The men went to homes, bakery shops, etc., begging for whatever people had to spare. Then a mulligan stew and coffee was their meal. There never was a report in our area of any of these men being abusive, stealers, muggers, etc.

The railroad trains caused a lot of accidents, mostly not their fault. Several employees lost limbs. One lost both legs below the knee, another, an arm and mangled foot. One man, falling from a moving flatcar, missed the jump to the next flatcar and almost had his leg severed. Several youths lost legs. Two were killed. They would hop a train going to school from the Northside to downtown. It was especially dangerous in the winter, with slippery conditions. One worker was asphyxiated while tending a charcoal stove in a boxcar. One fell asleep in an overgrown weedy side track with his foot over the rail. The switch engine came by and cut off the front half of his foot. These are only a few of the many accidents that I recall. The railroad was lax in supporting safety first. These were the days before lawsuits as we now know them.

In 1958, the steam engine era locally came to an end. The water tower was razed. The coal shed built in 1923 was also razed, as were the ice house and other small service buildings. The roundhouse was kept for storage and servicing the diesel engines used for yard work and servicing the Niagara paper mill. Today very seldom is there any activity in the yards, as all the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad tracks have been abandoned from Antoine to Marinesco.

All that is left are a lot of nice memories...

THE NORTH SIDE RESERVOIR
By Al Fuse

(pages 83-86)

The Northside reservoir is commonly known as the water tank on Tamborini's Hill. The tank is located at the end of the Main Street extension, a private road built by Joe Tamborini, leading to the Tamborini home and farm, settled in the late 1890's.

The construction of the water tank was begun in 1889 and the large wooden dome was completed in 1891. The tank was completed in two years, a remarkable feat for those days, considering the location. The tank and water system was built, owned and operated by a private concern. The City of Iron Mountain purchased the entire system in 1924.

One must remember that 1889 was a time before the mechanized age. Horses provided the power. The water tank was built on an area of under one acre. A route to the tank had to be established, one that teams of horses and wagons could reach the top of the hill.

The route taken left the stone quarry, came down Fourth Street to Stephenson Avenue, then up the mining company road, now known as Kent Street, to the Ludington Mine area. A road was then built north to the site of the new tank.

The capacity of the new tank was 500,000 gallons. This gives an idea of how large the structure is. All the steel plates, with the rivet holes in place, had to be hauled to the site. The stone from the "stone quarry" on the east side of the Northside had to be quarried and cut to size by the stone masons, and then hauled to the site. The lumber for the domed roof was of clear pine.

The inner steel tank that held the water was made of formed steel plate sections and riveted together with large-sized rivets at the site. This was before the advent of welding. The top of the steel tank was uncovered.

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The outer shell of the tank was built by Italian stone masons of the local, native sandstone. The walls of this structure are still in good shape after over 100 years. A wooden shed was built on the east side of the tank that housed the valves controlling the water if a shutdown was necessary. An old-type crank telephone was also here, in case it was necessary to communicate with the well site on the north side of Lake Antoine.

1891 saw the completion of the tank.

The large dome was constructed of white pine lumber. The roofing was of cedar shingles stained red. A cupola with a tall spire topped off the wooden dome. The spire was struck by lightning in the late 1890's, but never replaced.

In 1931 the wooden dome was torn down as a W.P.A. project. The steel tank was scraped and wire brushed, then painted. The outside stone was tuck pointed. A new structure with a flat roof was built and completed in 1932, as one can now see it.

The tank had a capacity of 500,000 gallons. The water intake was in the bottom of the tank and an overflow line at the top of the tank was installed in case of the tank being overfilled. Water was then spilled to the flat area, north of the tank.

On January 31, 1961, the intake water pipe rusted out and the entire 500,000 gallons of water spilled out. It was very fortunate that the lay of the land prevented the home and barns of Anton Fuse from being flooded. The water eventually found its way down to Stephenson Avenue into the East Chapin Pit.

The intake was repaired and the tank put back in service until the city got its water supply from the new wells.

[NOTE: There are three photographs of the sandstone water tank on page 84 with the following captions: (top) Water Tank Original Water Tank Built in 1889; (middle)

Water Tank W.P.A. Project 1931; (bottom) New Look on Water Tank 1932.]

**ENTERTAINMENT OF THE 1920-
1930 YEARS**

**By Al Fuse
(pages 86-89)**

“Doc” and “Minnie” Lacy [*sic* – *Lacey*]

“Doc” and “Minnie” Lacy [*sic* – *Lacey*] were a black family that lived in Iron Mountain near the area of the Iron Mountain stadium. Doc and Minnie were well-liked in the area. Black people were an oddity in the early days. One could see a black person at the railroad stations when the night passenger train arrived. They were employed as Pullman porters or cooks in the diners.

“Doc” Lacy [*sic* – *Lacey*] sold candy, tobacco products, fruit and ice cream from his horse-drawn wagon. He probably covered the entire city; however, I only recall him on Iron Mountain's Northside. He would blow his bugle to alert the people that he was in the neighborhood.

The Northside was one of Doc's favorite stops because he visited at several Italian homes and had a drink or two of homemade wine. At day's end he would be staggering and didn't blow the bugle!

Doc and Minnie were quite popular at the White Star Bar. Doc would play the guitar and Minnie would sing.

Traveling Medicine Shows

Traveling medicine shows were also popular. I recall a medicine man set up his wares on East Hughitt Street off of Stephenson Avenue. His specialty was a cure-all product made mostly of snake oil. A cage with several large rattlesnakes was the big attraction.

A large traveling medicine show set up in the “Shay's Pond” area, the present site

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of the Midtown Mall parking lot. The medicine show was a fairly large operation and played about a week. It featured a large tent and a large built-up stage.

Medicine and salves were advertised as a "cure-all" for a variety of ailments. One medicine would cure tapeworms present in the human body. The medicine man had a half-gallon jar that held the tapeworm, passed by someone, as proof to the effectiveness of his product.

Musical Entertainment

Music by guitar, banjo and violin was part of the entertainment. The main featured entertainment was the local talent show. One feature that I remember well was a tap dancing contest by several of our Northside friends. The winner was judged by the amount of hand-clapping by the audience.

Movie Theaters

"Movie houses" or theaters provided the bulk of entertainment. Downtown theaters were the Bijou (the oldest – 1907), located on the 100 block of West Ludington Street; the Marion Theater (1912) located on East Hughitt Street; and the Colonial Theater, located on the 200 block of East Ludington. The newest theater, the Braumart, was located on the 100 block of East B Street. The Butterfly Theater was located on the 100 block of East Main Street on the Northside.

Theaters in the early days showed silent movies. The words spoken would appear on the screen. I don't recall attending movies at the Bijou Theater. I was very familiar with the Colonial and the Braumart during the 1920's.

The silent movies were sort of "blah"; however, the theaters had an orchestra that played in the "pit" before each show. During the movie the orchestra played for

different scenes that were emotional or excitable. The Braumart had an orchestra "pit" also, and a pipe organ played by Eddie Hickey, Bayne Cummings and Laura Lee.

The Northside "Butterfly Theater" was converted from a saloon in 1920. It was rather primitive. Music, if any, was played on a piano with local Northside talent. Victoria (Rubbo) Negro, John Suino and Katie Suino were some of the pianists. Seating was provided by wooden folding chairs. Heat was provided by a huge heater on one side of the hall. People seated near the heater would bake and those on the opposite wall would freeze. During the winter months, the people would wear heavy coats. The stars featured were mostly western actors Tom Mix and his horse Tony, and William S. Hart. Comedians Buster Keaton, Harold Lloyd, Charlie Chaplin and the Keystone Cops were popular.

The Colonial Theater was built in 1916 and was modern for its time. The Colonial had a large stage, orchestra pit, middle seating, and seating on both sides, as well as a balcony with a reserved section.

Ladies' Night was a popular feature. Ladies were given a dish with the admission, hence the name "Ladies' Night."

On stage, several events took place such as political rallies, recognition events, boxing and some amateur contests. Serials were a big attraction.

The Braumart Theater was constructed in 1925 and was one of the better theaters in the area. There were daily movies and on Saturdays and Sundays the first show was sold out. Monday nights were a big night as the admission was ten cents. The crowds were so big that the city police were often called to keep order for safety reasons. The amateur night was a big feature, with local talent, mostly vocal or musical presentations, played on stage. A fine orchestra and organ recitals were heard before certain presentations.

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One sour note when attending the theaters could be attributed to the style of the times. Ladies wearing hats with wide brims seated in front of you were very annoying. An end seat was the most popular to combat the nuisance of the hat-wearing ladies.

Carnivals

Carnivals that came to our city were very well patronized. The first carnival that I recall in the early 1920's was the Court T. Kennedy shows. The carnival set up on the 100 block of West Hughitt Street. The street was closed to traffic for the week. The merry-go-round, the Ferris wheel and the chair plane were set up on the middle of the street. The side shows and booths of chance were set up curbside of the street. My concern at the time were the rides of which I had plenty. My grandfather owned a building on the street and he had a lot of free passes.

Later carnivals were Wortham Bros. Shows, Scheesly Carnival, Ruben and Cherry and Beckman and Gerty shows, all very well attended. The carnivals in those days arrived by rail. These carnivals mostly played at the old Wisconsin and Michigan railroad depot lot off H Street. These were larger carnivals that featured a lot of rides and a lot of side shows, including the "fat ladies", colored minstrel shows, fire eaters, snake charmers, girly shows (modestly attired), acrobatic shows and a thrill show called the Motordrome.

I recall an interesting incident involving the Motordrome. Nazarine "Shorty" Gentilini came to Iron Mountain from Minnesota to work at the Ford Plant. "Shortly" was quite a motorcycle daredevil. I recall early one Sunday morning I saw him riding down North Stephenson Avenue standing on the cycle seat with arms outstretched.

The carnival Motordrome was a daredevil show. The drome was a wooden circular structure about twenty feet high. The lower third of the interior wall was pitched to a gradual slope, the upper two-thirds of the drome was perpendicular, straight up and down. The cyclist would start at the bottom, and upon gaining sufficient speed and defying gravity, would speed around the perpendicular wall.

The barker on the outside platform gave his death-defying speech to the assembled crowd. He offered anyone in the crowd fifty dollars to ride the drome. "Shorty" was in the crowd and, to the surprise of the barker, he volunteered to ride. The barker was amazed and shocked, also worried of the liability. He asked Shorty if he realized the danger, also if he had ever ridden a motorcycle. Shorty was quite cocky and said, "Put up or shut up!" To make the story sort, "Shorty" rode the Motodrome as if he did this every day. The local people were very jubilant by the performance. The ride was over and a smiling Shorty collected the fifty dollars!

The Circus

Circus Day was a big event in town. The circus held a parade on Stephenson Avenue with a large array of circus wagons, all drawn by horses. The wagons and cages were very ornate and brightly-colored. The calliope was a genuine steam organ, played by the organist dressed in a gold and red uniform. The elephants and clowns followed at the rear.

The Hagenbeck Wallace Circus was the largest that I recall; however, several other outstanding circuses also played in our city. The circus lot was a very busy area as soon as the flat cars were unloaded. The first tents to be erected were the kitchen and dining room. The side show tents, the tent housing the animals, horses, elephants, wild animal cages, the dressing rooms and

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the circus office wagon followed. The big top was then raised by the elephant power lifting the heavy center poles and canvass. Men would fasten guy lines, safety nets, wild animal cages, followed by the erection of the bleachers. Outside and around the Big Top, a crew of husky men were driving tent stakes with heavy sledge hammers.

The afternoon performance was introduced by the ringmaster and the circus band played the traditional circus music. We had two local performers in some of the circuses that played here. Phil Doto, an outstanding trumpet player, dubbed the "Harry James of the Circus World," was the band leader and featured player. Phil had his trumpet in one hand and directed the band with his other hand. He was the soloist for certain acts. The other performer was our own "Guv" Giovanini, who played a clown part.

There were two performances each day. As the evening performance was on, the side show tents, kitchen and dining room, items not further needed, were taken down and loaded on their respective wagons. The Big Top tent came down last, with the help of the elephants. The circus flat cars were spotted at the railroad yard of the railroad company that would take the circus to the next city. The performers would go to their Pullman sleeping cars and the roustabouts would sleep on the flat cars underneath the wagons.

Bandstands

The southwest corner of Ludington and Stephenson was the site of our earliest bandstand, erected in June of 1900. In the early teens and twenties, it served as the Iron Mountain police station with the upper level open, a railing around the concert area, providing a safety feature. Concerts played often during the summer months.

This bandstand was moved to the St. Paul Park, adjacent to the Chicago,

Milwaukee Road Station, an area where the city comfort station was located, the only public restroom in the city. The basement level was for males and the upper floor for females. Later the professional building and I. Zacks & Sons warehouse were built. The bandstand was used for concerts, promotional activities, and, during the 30's, the politicians would use it for speeches and rallies. In the winter months a skating rink was maintained, with the lower level of the bandstand used as a changing and warming house.

The bandstand was later moved to the Lake Antoine Park. It was used for concerts and other festivities. It was short lived and concerts were played from a new, portable band shell.

BIOGRAPHY OF FRITZ SPERA **[AREA MUSIC HISTORY]**

By Al Fuse
(pages 167-173)

Fritz Spera was born on May 15, 1911, on Iron Mountain's Northside, the son of Joseph and Julia (Di Ulio) Spera. His father worked as a miner at Pewabic and Chapin Mines. His mother was a housekeeper. The family consisted of John "Boots", Delgia, Fritz, Emma, Oswald and Bernard.

Fritz attended the Chapin-Farragut-Hulst and graduated from high school in 1929. One Christmas season while in the Farragut School, Fritz had the lead role in the Christmas play as Santa Claus. Mrs. Santa Claus was Celia Fuse.

Early in life Fritz showed a talent for music. His first musical love was the trumpet. At age 12 Fritz began playing the trumpet and continued playing well into his senior years. He was a self-taught musician until he became a student at the high school. Fritz always wanted to be a professional person. With the extra money he earned, as a shoeshine boy at Riley's Smoke Shop, he bought a tuxedo. He wore

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this suit when playing with the area bands while still in high school. Indeed, Fritz was a professional in every sense of the word. The high school furnished his trumpet.

Fritz's first dance job was with "Johnny's Playboys" in 1927. Some of the old-timers will remember or recognize some of the players: John Gianunzio, piano, accordion; Dom Furno, "C" melody sax; Frank Defiore, banjo; Bert Broullire, drums; Fritz Spera, trumpet. Later Fritz joined the popular "Johnson Dance Kings". Fritz was in great demand as a trumpet player and at one time or another he played with most of the area bands. The larger ballrooms of the days in the 1920's, especially the Pine Gardens and the Nightingale Dance Hall, featured the big name bands. The Eagles Ballroom on the Northside and the Northern Ballroom on East Brown Street and Merritt Avenue also were large ballrooms.

The bands or orchestras of the 20's and 30's were: Johnny's Playboys, Johnson Dance Kings, Bob Baldrice's Michigan Night Hawks, Ernie "Swamp" Tomassoni's Orchestra, Joe Biolo, professionally known as Joe Billo, who played professionally as a trumpet player and was referred to as "the Harry James of the North", the Fritz Spera Orchestra, Spera's Dixie Six, Chuck Calo's Seven Piece Band, George Corsi's Band, Carr's Elks, Frankie Flower's Band, Cully Reese's Band, Rubbo's Eagles and Al Fagotti's Band.

As the days of the "big bands" faded away, the combos appeared on the scene. They were the Spud Farzacca Band, Ray Amicangelo Trio, Frank Caviani Trio, Langsford Trio, Alan Brown and the Rhythmaires, the D.J.'s, Uncle Louie (Goffett), Arther D. (Noel) and the Versatones, Santiago Band and many others.

It may be of interest to recall the names of some of these musicians of the era: John Benso, Bert Broullire, Bill Cavaiani, Frank Cavaiani, Biago Colavecchi, Bill

Corsi, Frank Corsi, George Corsi, Joe Cutler, Frank DeFiore, Walt Dougoveto, Merle Evans, Dom Furno, Joe Giachino, John Gianunzio, Wally Hill, Clyde Israelson, Don Johnson, Ewald Johnson, Harry Johnson, Roy Johnson, Darrel King, Joe Lannier, John Moschett, Otto Petschar, Joe "Pep" Pietrantonio, Jack Prentiss, Cully Reese, Etolo Rocconi, Vic Rossi, John Rubbo, Fritz Spera, Ken Thompson, Hap Trottier, Jack Walk, Willie Watt and Art VanDamme.

Fritz organized and was manager for the "Dixie Six". Fritz played the trumpet, Willie Watt played the piano, Bill Cavaiani played the trumpet and guitar, Ewald Johnson played the tenor saxophone, Ron Johnson played the bass fiddle and Joe "Pep" Pietrantonio played the drums.

The "Dixie Six" played a steady engagement at Carr's Crystal Bar in Aurora. They played six nights a week plus Sunday afternoon. Each band member received nineteen dollars per week, without any expense money. Billboard Magazine featured an article and a picture of the "Dixie Six" band.

Fritz not only played with numerous bands and orchestras, but as an entertainer, performer in a variety of different roles. The Santa Fe railroad passenger train featured Fritz and band in the train's club coach. The train operated between Chicago and Los Angeles, then on the return trip from Los Angeles to Chicago. Members playing were Fritz Spera, trumpet; Art VanDamme, piano and accordion; "Pines" Cavaiani, piano and accordion; Cully reese, piano; Marie Gendron, vocalist.

Baseball trains taking fans to various games engaged Fritz and combo to entertain en route. Trains were sponsored by the Lion's Club. A clown band was organized and performed at different functions and was very well received.

The bands that Fritz participated in were: W.P.A. Band, Trinity Trinkets,

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Dickinson County Band, Lions Roar productions, open air concerts at Lake Antoine and also at the band stand located at the old St. Paul Park between Stephenson Avenue and the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad depot on B Street.

Fritz was a veteran of World War II with the U.S. Army. He played with the Army band. After the war, Fritz was employed as a mail carrier with the U.S. Post Office in Iron Mountain.

Fritz was involved with special education. He referred to them as his "kids". Music was his life, so he organized some of his "kids" in a band. Fritz got a lot of instruments from the Iron Mountain Fire Department, who at Christmastime repaired toys for the needy. He picked up a lot of donated musical instruments, such as drums, guitars, stringed instruments, toy trumpets and saxophones. The kids enjoyed their endeavors and also their teacher, "Fritz".

Fritz had a dream that never became a reality. He envisioned an outdoor amphitheater at the site of the abandoned sandstone quarry on Millie Hill. This was before the quarry became overgrown with trees. He claimed that the acoustics were perfect with the background of sandstone. His idea never developed, mostly due to lack of interest and support, and the high cost of public liability insurance.

Fritz married Mabel McLeod, who died in 1982. Fritz died in September of 1988 at the age of 77. They had one son, John. Fritz Spera lived a full life, and he was remembered with the following article written by Dr. Wesley L. Hanson from the School of Music, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana:

"Iron Mountain has just lost one of its best-known and most-beloved citizens. With the passing of Fritz Spera, all segments of the populace are experiencing the feelings of bereavement. But, at the

same time, there is joy at what he was and what he did for the community."

His skillful music-making over many decades brought much enrichment and pleasure. He became an elder statesman, representing that hugely-talented group of musicians who emerged as youngsters from the Northside during the Great Depression. During his years as a mail carrier, he was always helpful and comforting to those on his route.

His concern for this community was best exemplified in his work with the kids of the special education programs in the public schools. He taught them intelligently and well. He opened their lives to the joy of music making, quite often at considerable expense, such as the purchase of instruments and equipment, to himself. He always spoke of "my kinds" with deep feeling.

Deep feeling will continue to be felt by those of us who made music with him, who were with him in civic activities, and those who just knew him, whose number could never be counted.

**BIOGRAPHY OF JOSEPH
TAMBORINI**
By Al Fuse
(pages 174-184)

Through this account of Joe Tamborini in the early days of Iron Mountain and life the way it was, I shall relate it as told to me by my mother, Josephine "Lucy" Tamborini Fuse, by grandson, Alfonse Fuse.

Joseph Tamborini was born on September 12, 1856, at Seston Calende, Province of Varese, Lombardy, Italy. Sesto Calende is located near Lago Maggiore, the largest lake in Italy. The River Tachino that separates the regions of Lombardy and Piedmont also runs through Sesto Calende.

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Mr. Tamobrini began working at the early age of nine, as a water boy and messenger for construction groups. The large Italian families of the time had a hard time to support the families; consequently the oldest son began working at an early age. Military service was compulsory for males reaching the age of induction. Joe served with the Italian Army, in the cavalry, in Africa. On completion of service, he came back to northern Italy and worked building the "St. Gothard" Tunnel through the Alps from Italy to Fance. This tunnel was built before the mechanical age, and took years to complete. He worked on both ends of the tunnel and when on the French side, he married a French woman from a village called Pont Ste. Mard in 1889.

Information about the opportunities offered in the United States was coming back to the various European countries. There was a mass exodus to the United States, including Mr. and Mrs. Tamborini. They first settled in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, in 1889. Joe obtained work in the coal mines as an underground miner. A daughter Josephine was born in Latrobe on November 6, 1891. They did not stay in Latrobe too long, as Mr. Tamborini suffered severe "powder headaches" from the fumes of blasting in poorly ventilated work areas. They decided to go to Joliet, Illinois, where a lot of Italians from Northern Italy resided, and worked in the numerous stone quarries. Joe Tamborini got work very easily, as he was an experienced hard rock miner, experienced in Italy. He worked here for several months. Word that Iron Mountain was booming and a lot of work was available prompted the family to move to Iron Mountain.

The area mines all wanted men to work at the mines. Joe Tamborini chose to work in the Chapin Mine. There was one drawback, however. The "powder headaches" confronted him, but one had to survive. He lived in a company house in

the area we now know as North Kimberly Avenue near the Chapin Pit.

Work at the mines was sporadic for one reason or another, probably due to a weak market for ore. When the men were laid off, there were no provisions for unemployment as we now know. Once the miners staged a march of protest. Who would be leading the miners, carrying a red flag? Episodes like this eventually led to Joe getting fired later on. Tamborini was not a labor organizer, as there were no local unions at the time. Joe was illiterate and had no formal schooling, but he was very vocal.

Joe Tamborini eventually was fired as a miner and ordered to move out of the company house. The area where the Northside water reservoir is located was known by all of the old-timers as "Tamborini Hill". Joseph Tamborini built a home on this site in 1899. He preferred a hill site which reminded him of his native land of Sesto Calende, Italy, in the foothills of the Alps Mountains. His choice of this site was prompted because he was fired from the Chapin Mine due to his outspoken political views that were not in keeping with the mining interests.

[Photograph of barn with the following caption: Susana, Joe Tamborini, Josephine Tamborini on horse, boy – Tabby Leardi, 1898]

At the time of his dismissal, he was living in a company house, on mining company property, near the Hamilton Shaft. He had to move in the dead of winter, forcing him to sell his cow, pigs and chickens and find lodging for his wife and daughter. Mr. and Mrs. James Giacobina, pioneer Italian bakery operators, ran a bakery on what is known today as North Kimberly Avenue. In the old days, it was known as West Smith Alley.

The Giacobinas took the wife and daughter and Joe Tamborini obtained employment in the woods for the remainder

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of the winter. When Tamborini built his home, he made sure it was on a higher elevation than the mansion that Superintendent McNaughton, who fired Joe, lived. This superintendent's home is now the "Chippewa Club House." The reasoning for the home being higher than the superintendent's home was: "I may be a poor immigrant, but if Superintendent McNaughton looks to the north of his home, he will have to look up to me, not down!"

[Photograph with the following caption: Mr. and Mrs. Joe Tamborini & daughter Josephine (middle) about 1905-06]

Joe Tamborini built the house on the hill in 1899. A French carpenter was the builder. At the time, it was the most impressive home across the tracks. It was a story and a half house, as was prevalent in those days. There were three bedrooms upstairs, a spacious parlor which was seldom used, a large dining room that was seldom used, and a large kitchen that was the most used. There was a rear entry room that held the work clothes and wood box. A stand for several water pails was in one corner. The home had no running water. Most homes on company land had no running water in the home. Pumps were installed in each block, where the people would get their water in pails and bring them to the home.

Joe Tamborini had running water available because the water main leading to the reservoir ran through a corner of his property. A tap was made in the main and a pump was installed. It wasn't the pump handle-type pump as the pump was under pressure from the main. Protecting the pump from freezing was a problem, so a shed was built over the pump. The thick walls were insulated with sawdust. The sides of the shed were banked with snow. Later a water line was laid to the house.

A year after the house was built, Mr. McClintock, from Menominee, Michigan, who was the person that sold Mr. Tamborini

the 150-foot by 50-foot parcel, came to Iron Mountain to check on his interests. Joe had built the barns and shed on this parcel, but unknown to him, the house was partially on McClintock's property. This was before the days of zoning and went unnoticed. Mr. McClintock offered Tamborini a deal, selling him all the land (unplatted) down to Iron Mountain Street. Joe didn't have a choice, so he purchased the entire block.

In 1913, he had a two-story duplex built for rental purposes. Mr. Tamborini furnished the lumber, and had the foundation built of sandstone from the quarry on Millie Hill. A French carpenter built the home for two hundred dollars (\$200). After the house was built, a double-decked porch was built with a railing of turned wood, the style of the day. One-half hog was accepted as payment for this addition. Labor was cheap in those days.

The first decade of the century, Joe Tamborini spent the winters working in the woods as a teamster. He had his own team and logging equipment and worked skidding logs to the landings where the logs were decked for hauling to the railroad sidings. Mr. Tamborini and the horses shared a huge tent in the woods. The logging operations he worked were small, isolated tracts that didn't make it feasible for the larger complete lumber camps. Working hours were from dawn to dark, seven days a week. Supplies and the hay and oats for the horses were picked up at the Randville depot. Most of his work was in the Randville, Merriman and Granite Bluff area.

One winter he logged in the Spread Eagle area. This was all white pine country. He worked for a local businessman in the jewelry business. When the operation was over with the spring break-up, he was not paid in full. A furious Joe told him either I get my pay, or I will take it out of your hide. Mr. Tamborini was well-known, not to be duped. The

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jeweler didn't have the cash. He made up the difference with jewelry to cover the bill.

The summer and fall months were devoted to jobs involving the horses. Grandmother tended the vegetable garden, milking and delivery of milk. Joe, with his team, was involved in sub-contracting on road work and excavating jobs. In 1901, he donated to the Immaculate Conception Church on the Northside, the excavation on the north end of the church, to be used as a furnace room and for storage of fuel.

Haying season was a busy time. He cut his own hay for winter feeding of the cows and horses. He also hired out to cut and cure hay for different people. One of the big haying jobs was for John Buell, a Civil War veteran, and one of the founders of Quinnesec, Michigan, in 1877. Mr. Buell had a large farm located on the Lake Antoine to Quinnesec cut-off road. When the needs of Mr. Buell's animals were taken care of, Mr. Buell gave Mr. Tamborini the hay he couldn't store.

Later in the decade Mr. Tamborini was employed by the City of Iron Mountain as a garbage collector and during the winter months, he plowed the city sidewalks. He now had two teams of horses to take care of the increased work load. Garbage was collected once a month. There was no automobile traffic and the streets were not plowed, as the horses and sleigh traffic kept them open. The plowed sidewalks were necessary as people walked to various places in those days. One may notice, some of the sidewalks were built in the early teens. Sidewalks on the Northside were stamped by the contractor. "J.R. Hofeltz, 1912" can still be seen.

Property purchase became an interest for my grandfather. He was now financially able to buy properties. Property on West Hughitt Street was especially attractive, as it was the "red light" district, pre-prohibition days, catering to the lumberjacks and transients of the area. He purchased a

building on the corner of West Hughitt and Merritt Avenue, and the house on Merritt Avenue, between Rundle's Store and the corner building. The property was operated by a woman, "French Rosie". In 1913 the Farmer's House on East Ludington Street was for sale. It was being sold to make room for the Colonial Theater, built in 1916. The Farmer's House, a large rooming house with a restaurant, was purchased by Mr. Tamborini and moved to the Northside, located at the corner of West Main Street and North Milwaukee Avenue. The building was moved, with horsepower, by Miensch Contractors. A note of interest: Old U.S. 2 came off of North Stephenson Avenue into Chapin Street and then across the railroad tracks on Main Street, then to North Milwaukee Avenue, north on the Bass Lake Road.

Mr. Tamborini ushered the July 4th activities with salutes of dynamite at 4:00 a.m. This was before the days of fireworks as we now have. He also set off the dynamite salutes for the different Italian lodges when they had their parades. They were frequent in the old days. Joe took advantage of these occasions to break the larger boulders in his fields with the dynamite charges.

During the 1920's, the City of Iron Mountain became mechanized. Joe and his team of horses became history. Joe sold his teams and equipment, but he kept one horse. He now turned his activities to truck farming. The produce was sold at the Farmers' Market, located at the old St. Paul Park. He also had a flock of chickens, ducks, pigeons, one cow and several hogs for butchering. He made daily trips to the downtown restaurants for the left-over meals. The restaurants of the time were: The Combination, De Lima, Liberty, Coffee Cup Inn and the Milliman Hotel.

Mr. Tamborini passed away on September 16, 1929, ending a colorful and controversial career, at the age of 73.

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[Transcribed and Edited by William J. Cummings]

The following episodes were told to me by my mother, other people and what I have witnesses as a youngster.

One of my grandfather's heifers was missing from the pasture for several days. One of the neighbors, upon hearing about the missing heifer, told Mr. Tamborini that a near neighbor had a heifer locked in the barn and didn't let it out to forage with the other cows. Mr. Tamborini asked the neighbor if he had seen his heifer, and he got a negative reply. He contacted the city police for a warrant to gain entrance to the cow barn. Upon entering the barn, he saw his heifer, but proof was necessary to claim it. He said my heifer had five normal teats, a rare occurrence, as the normal udder had four working teats. He recovered his heifer and no charges were made.

Mr. Tamborini was asked to appear before the city council to answer complaints made against him for keeping hogs in an unsanitary condition. Dr. Cruse, a good friend, was mayor. He told Mr. Tamborini to clean up the situation, as the meat was not fit for sale. Joe answered the mayor, "How come when I give you a piece of pork, I never hear you complain?"

This was related to me by a city policeman who, at the time, was present at the city court. Mr. Tamborini asked the municipal judge what the fine was for giving a man a black eye. The judge replied, "Five dollars." Joe said, "I'll pay you in advance. I got to give a man a black eye!"

My grandfather was illiterate, couldn't read or write in any language. He could sign his name and read and copy numbers. He had to bid for the garbage collection in the city. He always had the low bid because it was the practice of the time for the city clerk to open the bids before the council meeting. The clerk, a good friend of Joe's, wrote the low figure in the bid for Mr. Tamborini. Two teams were used to collect the garbage once a month. There was very little garbage in those early days. The

paper was burned in the wood-burning ranges. There were very few cans, as most of the people canned vegetables and fruit. The table scraps were fed to the dogs, chickens and pigs. I would say that 90% of the families either had a dog, chickens and occasionally a pig.

Mr. Tamborini was the garbage collector in the teens until the city became mechanized. During the teens (1910) a bounty was paid on rats, payable at so much a head, at the county court house. Rats were very plentiful and could be found wherever feed was available, where chickens and farm animals were housed. My grandfather had plenty of rats on the farm which he turned in. On his garbage route he always found a rat or so when he dumped the garbage from the can, which was loose. He would bring them to the court house for payment. The janitor would throw the rats in the court house refuse cans. When Joe made his round of the collection, stopping at the court house, he would retrieve the rats and bring them in for payment. The clerk remarked to Mr. Tamborini, "Don't hold these rats too long, as they are beginning to smell." I don't know if the scam was ever noticed.

Mr. Tamborini was elected as a constable of the second ward. In the early days, the city had constables in addition to the city police force. Joe had an easy time on election day. He was well-known and had a fearless reputation. To my knowledge he had never made an arrest.

Snow plowing in the early days was very limited, as there was no auto traffic. The horse-drawn sleighs kept the roads passable. The big concern was to keep the sidewalks plowed. Mr. Tamborini kept the sidewalks clear with the horse-pulled plow. People had to walk to their different destinations. Mr. Tamborini, as a city employee, in addition to the garbage collection, plowed the sidewalks. The horses were ahead of the plow, pulling the

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plow, whereas today the force used is pushing the plows. His first run was always to the I.C. Church on the Northside.

During the summer school vacations, I would go along the garbage route with my grandfather. I recall one incident at the railroad crossing at West Fleshiem Street and Merritt Avenue. A train had just crossed the crossing and a young boy had put his finger through a pivot of the crossing arm, severing his finger. My grandfather was still stopped at the crossing. He got off the wagon and put the boy on the wagon seat alongside of me. The St. George Hospital was one-half block away on Merritt Avenue where Mr. Tamborini took the boy.

The garbage was dumped at the old city incinerator, located at the end of East Fleshiem Street. The team drove on to the first floor. The furnaces were located on the sub-ground level. The garbage was dumped into the bottom level from a large, covered hole. The lid covering the hole was of metal and was uncovered with a pot lifter hook affair, then swung to one side. I was always fearful of falling in to the hole. I stayed on the wagon.

As a youngster I was always with my grandfather. One day, coming back from haying at Mr. John Buell's farm, with a single horse and buckboard wagon, the horse was given a drink at Lake Antoine. The horse waded in the shallow water for some distance. I was scared stiff for fear I would drown.

One winter Sunday morning my father took me to Randville where my grandfather was logging. We went on the early train that was half-filled with hunters with their shotguns between their legs and the hunting dogs on the floor. My grandfather had his tent pitched across the St. Paul Railroad tracks just west of the present Randville Tavern. Mr. Tamborini lived in this tent that was heated with a wood-burning stove. The horses were bedded in the same tent, whose body heat helped

warm the tent. Joe Tamborini lived this way all winter until the spring break up.

One fall day my grandfather took me hunting in the Randville area. We left in the early morning by the St. Paul train to Randville. He hunted the logging roads and shot a lot of partridge. The time was approaching the return of the passenger train, at about 2:30 in the afternoon. We were about one-half mile from the Randville depot when we heard the train whistle. We could never make the depot as it was a whistle stop. My grandfather let out a string of Italian curse words that were not of any help. We had no choice but to walk to the farmhouse that he knew. We stopped at the general store and bought some cookies and we walked about two or three miles to the farm. On the way, my grandfather shot several partridges that were nesting in the trees as it was approaching dusk, and we got to the farm near dark. The house was lighted by Coleman gas lamps that I had never seen. They gave a more brilliant light than the kerosene lamps we had at home. Mr. Nelson gave us a ride with his Ford Model T.

My grandfather had a problem with a neighbor's horse getting into his pasture which was all fenced. This horse was kept in a small field adjacent to Mr. Tamborini's. The horse would break into the pasture and would harass the cows and a mare horse. One afternoon, my grandfather caught the horse wearing a halter. He led him to the road on the crown of the hill. I held the horse while Mr. Tamborini tied several cans with haywire to the horse's tail. He then gave the horse a slap on the rump. The horse took off like greased lightning all the way down West Main Street, across the tracks, up East Main Street, ending at Lake Antoine. The horse never bothered anymore.

One Sunday in November, about 1924 or 1925, my father, my grandfather and I went to Negaunee, Michigan, to visit

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friends. This was at the time of the Barnes-Heckler Mine disaster, when the mine caved in, killing a lot of miners. On the way back from Negaunee my father wanted to see what happened. We had a 1922 open touring Overland auto. In Negaunee my grandfather got a gallon of moonshine whiskey from his friends. This was during Prohibition days and illegal. I had to say in the car with the jug of moonshine between my legs and covered with a blanket, as it was cold. My father and grandfather went to the scene of the disaster and I was left alone. There were state police, sheriffs and deputies all over the place keeping order. I was happy when we left for Iron Mountain!

One winter day when my mother was a little girl, she had to go "pottie" and the teacher wouldn't let her go. She couldn't hold it much longer, so she ran out of the room to the toilet. She didn't make it, so she wet her pants and dress. This was on a cold winter day and before she got home her clothing was frozen stiff. When her father came home from work, she told him what had happened. The next morning he took my mother to school and confronted the teacher. He said to the teacher, "When the girl got to go p - - -, you let her go p - - -. See no. Otherwise I'll come back." The teacher was dumbfounded, but she didn't try it again.

The early 1920's saw a lot of political activity prior to 1929. A new city charter was adopted on February 4, 1929, that changed the government in different departments. Prior to the charter, the mayor and council were for one-year terms. With the change of mayors, the successor made a sweeping change in the city departments, but the fire and police departments suffered the most, leaving the fence riders immune.

Two news weeklies were distributed about the city. "Our Rights" was published by Mr. [Walter] Henze and the "Capitol Times" was published by Mr. Marlof. I

recall two cross burnings the evening before the election day. One was on the hill south of the water reservoir, the other on the hill on the extension of North Iron Mountain Street and West Margaret Street. Who the cross burnings favored is speculation, as there was no active K.K.K. organization. I recall seeing both of these incidents and I recall that my grandfather, Joe Tamborini, was about to fire gunshots overhead of the cross burners, but he changed his mind.

Butchering the hogs was an annual affair. Killing the hogs could be a problem if not properly stunning the animal, either by sticking or stunning with a sledge hammer blow. My grandfather came up with the idea of shooting them in the head with a rifle. He had the four hogs lined up, eating corn spread on the ground. At the age of seventy-one he used his 35 Remington automatic deer rifle, and killed each hog with a well-placed shot to the brain. I watched the event, but was terrified.

I was five years old when I had my tonsils removed at the old mining company hospital, the St. George Hospital. My mother and I walked to the hospital via the St. Paul Railroad tracks. Dr. Cruse operated. My grandfather came to visit me just as Dr. Cruse carried me in his arms to the hospital bed. The doctor's surgical gown was streaked with blood. My grandfather asked Dr. Cruse, "What are you doing, is the boy dead?" That night my father and Mr. Frank Sonaglia took me home with Sonaglia's Model T auto.

The fire department became motorized and the two fire department teams of horses were sold. Mr. Tamborini bought the two "bays", Dave and Dan, from the number one fire house. He used the team on his garbage route -- quite a let down from a proud team of fire horses. I recall one incident. I was with my grandfather on the garbage run, on Stephenson Avenue near the First National Bank. A fire truck

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was en route to a fire, with sirens screaming, which spooked the team of horses. My grandfather had a hard time to control them, but was successful in turning them up East Fleshiem Street towards the incinerator. He finally controlled the horses as they neared the entrance to the Millie Mine pit. The team was too fast for farm work, so Mr. Tamborini sold the team to John Stone, who had a farm at Granite Bluff and worked in the woods.

Mr. Suino operated a grocery store at 100 East Main Street. He delivered groceries with a horse and wagon to his customers. He had a brown mare that suffered an accident at the Main Street crossing. She got her hoof caught in a guard rail. Mr. Suino had the local veterinarian attend the horse. He advised Mr. Suino to dispose of her, as she couldn't be cured. Mr. Tamborini asked Mr. Suino if he could have the horse, as he thought he could cure her. Mr. Suino gave him the horse. Tamborini had a lot of horses with different ailments and he figured he could cure "Queen". He made a poultice of fresh cow manure into a gunny sack. This poultice was put around the hoof and changed periodically. I remember Queen hobbling along in the pasture. Several months later the hoof healed enough so she was walked around every day for several months. A year later she was healed, could be shod and did some light work. Later, she made here daily runs downtown to pick up the slop for the pigs. However, she had a peculiar "clippity-clop" gait. Queen outlived my grandfather and died in the pasture behind the water tank in 1935. I dug the hole in which she was buried.

Mr. Tamborini's property was often used by his friends for occasions such as wedding parties and get-together functions. He didn't have any close neighbors to bother with noise. A reunion of Italians from Sesto Calende, with fifty or so people,

attended, including all the children, in 1898. There are no survivors.

[Photograph of large group of people with the following caption: Reunion of Italians from Lombardy Province – 1898]

There was a double wedding held up in the hill with twenty-eight people attending. Anton and Maria Garavaglia and Joe and Marie Badini were the couples married. One survivor of the 1906 celebration is alive and well today (Mrs. Madeline Badini Cavicchioni).

[Photograph of the double wedding with the following caption: 1906 Double Wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Badini and Mr. and Mrs. Anton Garavaglia – From left to right: Peter Becco (boy), Charles Torretti, John Colombo (boy), Carlo Badini, Anton Masnagnetti, John Giachino, Joseph Tamborini, Charles Schenaggi, Alexander Scolatti, Joe Becco (boy), Carlo Bagga, Joe Bagga, Arturo, Ferdinand Badini, Morgorhetta Badini; children in front: Mary, Madeline, Chester, Anton Garavaglia (groom), Maria Garavaglia (bride), Joe Badini (groom), Maria Badini (bride), a Piedmont man, Biago Gualdani, Joe Brusatti, Ben Gorogiolia, Joe Giansanti, James Stella; dogs in front – Lamp and Chief.

So ends the era of one of the old-timers that helped to build Iron Mountain.

[Submitted by grandson Alphonse Fuse]

**BIOGRAPHY OF A DETERMINED
IMMIGRANT: JOSEPH "PENNY"
ANDREINI**

**Interviewed by Al Fuse
(pages 15-20)**

Joseph "Penny" Andreini, born in Italy, came to this country as a young man with no money, pursued many fields of endeavors and became a very successful businessman through courage, fortitude, with cooperation from friends and relatives

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and showed that America is the land of opportunity.

Joseph Andreini was born September 8, 1903, at Catabagli, Province of Ancona, region of Marche, Italy. At this writing Penny is 89 years old. John was his father, who died in 1913 at age 74. His mother was Rosa (*nee* Carletti), who died in 1919 at age 54. The Andreini children were very long-lived. Brothers Ernesto died at age 95, Louis at age 91, sister Maria at age 90 and sister Francesca at 88.

Penny's father was a farmer and handyman. Penny's schooling in Italy was equivalent to our eighth grade. He had no formal education in the U.S.A. As a youngster, he helped with farm chores. Penny started to work at a local sulphur mine at age 15. The mine was underground and the sulphur fumes didn't agree with him, so he quit after the first day. Later, he couldn't find work, and he went back to the mine asking for employment. The foreman asked, "Didn't I hire you once before?" He felt sorry for Penny and rehired him.

Penny decided at age 18 to seek his fortune in the United States. His brother Ernesto came to the United States and worked in the iron mines at Eveleth, Minnesota, for 4 years, then returned to Italy when his father died, assuming the role as provider for the family. Penny's brother Louis "Vampa" lived in Loretto, Michigan.

Penny left Italy en route to Belgium, where he boarded a ship for Detroit. The destination of the ship was to Montreal, Canada, via the St. Lawrence River seaway. The rest of the voyage to Detroit would be by rail. His first stop proved to be a nightmare for him as he couldn't speak any English. He approached a policeman, who fortunately spoke Italian. The policeman directed Penny to a nearby Italian butcher store for further information. The storekeeper advised Penny to go to the

nearby police station where he could sleep for the night. He was advised to be careful with his money as a lot of transients slept in one large room. Penny put his money in his sock and slept with his shoes on that night. The next day he found the railroad station and arrived at Detroit, Michigan.

At the Detroit railroad station Penny had another problem as he didn't know where Loretto, Michigan, was located. His tag gave Detroit as his destination. He found an Italian-speaking person and asked him how he could get to Loretto, Michigan. This person had no idea where Loretto was, but told him to go to the ticket agent. The ticket agent sold him a ticket to Loretto via the Northwestern railroad. Penny was met by "Greg" Argentati, who took him to the rooming house that his brother Louis lived in.

Penny recalls his first job in the U.S.A. Winter was very evident to Penny, as he never had experienced a snowstorm. He got a job shoveling snow on the Northwestern railroad line. A group of men shoveled snow for six days. He later got a job at the Loretto Mine for \$2.10 a day. The job lasted two weeks, as there was a slump in the ore market.

His brother Louis got him started in a small pool hall with one pool table. Soft drinks, snacks and candy were featured. The school children would stop here for penny candy. A penny or two of candy was a big treat for the children. Someone told Penny, "You should do a landslide business with all these kids. We should call you 'Penny'."

Penny got called back to the Loretto Mine and worked there for a year until 1923. Wages at the mine were \$2.10 per day. Ford Motor Company had built the Ford Plant in Kingsford and the wages were the highest in the area. Penny was attracted by the wages and he got a job at the Ford Plant. A lot of men left their jobs in the mines, woods and the local sawmill.

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Penny worked at the Ford Plant for one year.

Penny got a job as an apprentice mechanic with "Greg" Argentati. The garage was located on the 100 block of East Main Street, owned by Mr. Sonaglia, the former Butterfly Theater. He worked there for four years and became a very proficient mechanic. One incident that Penny recalls was very embarrassing. He was washing a car with a hose. Someone called out to him and he turned around with the hose stream on. A woman was in the garage and he sprayed her with water. She was very infuriated. Mr. Argentati gave her twenty dollars to buy a new outfit.

Penny had further ambitions to own his own garage. In April of 1928, Penny rented an old building owned by Mary Gaudio on Vulcan Street, opposite from the old No. 2 Fire Station. He worked as a mechanic along with Jimmy "Gan" Dinocenzio. He had a gasoline pump and sold Sinclair products. He also sold Philco, Spartan and Majestic radios. He bought twenty-five radios, but had no cash on hand to pay for them. He borrowed money from relatives and friends. He was living with his brother Louis, who had built a home at 1300 North Milwaukee Avenue.

Penny met his future wife, who was visiting friends, in Iron Mountain. Beatrice Santini lived in Hurley, Wisconsin. A brief courtship ensued and they were married in Hurley, Wisconsin, on November 14, 1931. They spent their honeymoon in Milwaukee. The honeymoon was short-lived, as deer hunting season was in progress. Penny was a very ardent deer hunter and Beatrice was very supportive, much to Penny's delight. Mr. and Mrs. Andreini lived in an upstairs apartment, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Petroni, on Margaret Street. The rent was \$15 per month.

Penny now had a further ambition to build and own his own service station. The new U.S. 2 highway was being relocated in

1931. This highway followed the old abandoned Schlesinger spur track past Moon Lake. Penny had his eye on property on the corner of U.S. 2 and East Main Street. The property was owned by the Chapin Mine which had ceased operations and was selling their land and homes. Penny was dickering for the property, but had a lot of competition as the area was a prime business property. He closed the deal with Supt. O.C. Davidson for \$3,000. The loan was made through the First National Bank in Iron Mountain. President Roosevelt declared the bank moratorium, freezing all assets, including loans. Penny was in a difficult position, as competition had the cash for the property. Supt. O.C. Davidson told Penny, "We made a deal and I'll wait until the crisis is over and the bank reopens."

George Wallner designed the modern station with a two-bay garage, six pumps and living quarters on the second story. The station featured Sinclair products. A wrecker service was offered. The wrecker was built from a second-hand truck chassis and the winches and other wrecker component was built by Penny and his mechanics. The mechanics and helpers were Joe "Friday" Carollo, Jimmy "Gan" Dnocenzio, "Chick" and Mario Pietrantonio. Sinclair was pressuring Penny in certain areas. Penny bought the gas pumps and the underground tanks. Sinclair wanted to have the pumps painted a certain way and Penny had his own ideas. The controversy ended when Penny got a franchise with the Texaco Oil Company. In 1934 Penny obtained a franchise for Westinghouse products. He started with two refrigerators, the Philco line of radios and later television. Penny also stocked a lot of battery-operated radios, servicing the outlying areas without electric service. Anton Kranner was the radio repairman.

*[Photograph captioned as follows:
Penny Andreini, North Side Texaco]*

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Americo Senatori and Bill Jenkins managed the garage and gasoline sales. Later Gerald Piatti was the all-around serviceman, installing t.v. roof antennas before cable t.v., electrician, maintenance man and delivered gas and fuel oil at peak times.

Penny was always thinking ahead and in 1939 he built the "G and H" station on the 100 block of East Brown Street. The garage had two garage bays, one on the south side and the other on the east side for larger vehicles. A sales room was also featured with Texaco products. The "Bear Wheel Alignment" and frame straightening unit were installed. The station also dispensed gasoline.

Penny added another service station in 1949 at East C Street and Carpenter Avenue. He bought the property for \$3,200. The station was an attractive, modern facility with a two-bay garage to service automobiles and trucks. Several gas pumps were installed. A large display and sales room was also adjacent to the garage. A large, modern apartment was on the second story. Jerry Rittenhouse managed the station.

Penny's business grew to the point that he had need for a bulk storage facility. The bulk plant was built on North U.S. 2 within the city limits. Four upright and two horizontal tanks with a capacity of 95,000 – 100, 000 gallons, for gasoline and fuel oil storage.

A large cement block warehouse was constructed to store all the bulk oil, solvents and greases. Various types of oil were stored by the case lots. A garage for the gasoline and oil trucks was built on the south end of the warehouse. The Chicago & Northwestern Railroad built a spur track to service the bulk tanks and also the warehouses that obtained the products in carload lots. Three delivery trucks were used to distribute the gasoline and fuel oil. An average of 800,000 to 900,000 gallons

of fuel oil and 130,000 gallons of gasoline were sold each year.

Penny had the Twin City Service Station built on six lots at the corner of Carpenter and Woodward Avenues. The station was built of concrete block and brick. The size was 60 feet by 65 feet. It had three service garage bays. A large display room featured the Texaco products. Modern restrooms were provided for the convenience of the patrons.

Penny had several stations in the surrounding area. The Loretto station was remodeled and an underground storage tank and new pumps were installed. Felch, Michigan, had a Texaco outlet. Penny built a new service station with new underground bulk tank and new gas pumps. It had a display room and also a lunch counter. Louis Sandri was the owner of the station.

Occhietti Service Station on North U.S. 2 was also serviced by Penny Oil Co., as a privately-owned station.

[Photograph of Penny Andreini]

Florence, Wisconsin, also had a Penny Oil Co. station, also owned by "Penny" Andreini. New underground storage tanks and pumps were installed. The station was completely remodeled with a garage and display area. The station was managed by Cal Chainey.

Penny bought the vacant Chicago & Northwestern Railroad freight house off of Ludington Street and Stephenson Avenue to Brown Street in 1962. The freight station was used for storage of bulk oil products. The products arrived by freight boxcars. Penny Oil supplied the Hanna-Groveland Mine with the bulk oil and solvent products, through the Texaco Oil Company. Two years of negotiations with the Northwestern company with many trips to Chicago resulted in Penny Andreini acquiring the property between East Ludington and East Fleshiem Streets after the railroad company had abandoned the tracks in the downtown area.

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In 1982 the Texaco Company terminated all of their franchises in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and much of northeast Wisconsin. Penny at this time obtained a franchise with the Phillips 66 Oil Company and he continued as a distributor of Phillips products.

Penny was a fourth degree Knight of Columbus. He also was one of the founders of the Chippewa Club. He is an active member of the Immaculate Conception Church on the Northside of Iron Mountain. Mr. and Mrs. Andreini were the parents of three children: Pauline and Bernadine, both graduate school teachers, and a son Larry, who is a medical doctor in the Escanaba area.

Penny built and lived in his new home at Moon Lake. He also has a cottage at Lake Elwood. A hunting camp located near Alfred, Michigan, gets a lot of use by Penny, who is an ardent small game and deer hunter.

[Photograph with the following caption: Joe "Penny" Andreini and Beatrice Andreini – Golden Wedding Anniversary]

CYRENAICA

By Al Fuse

(pages 188-194)

Cyrenaica is pronounced "Cher-ee-nyka" and is a part of Lybia in Africa. Italy, as well as other countries, during the last century, was expanding its empire for economic reasons. Italy tried to take Cyrenaica by force, but was met with fierce and brutal resistance.

The area west from the railroad yards in the Northside of Iron Mountain is still called "Cher-ee-nyka". There may be several versions how the name originated. However, the following version is very realistic.

In the old days, the north side had a lot of so-called neighborhood gangs or sections with the members being very

clannish. The story has it that Mr. X from a different north side came to the area across the tracks for whatever reason. This person was very temperamental and had a drinking problem. He got into an argument and scuffle with a person who gave him several bruises. Later, one of Mr. X's neighbors asked him why he had those bruises. He replied, "Don't ever go across the tracks, because the people there are as savage as the people of Cyrenaica. The name stuck.

Cyrenaica's boundaries are indisputable because there are no overlapping districts. It is bounded on the east by the Chicago, Milwaukee Railroad and the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad yards. To the west, the area was never more than one block deep, except the Joseph Tamborini farm at the end of West Main Street.

All the houses on West Main Street are located on the north side of the street because Main Street was the dividing line between Chapin Mine property and city-platted lots.

The following should be of interest to the people who had roots in Cyrenaica. All of the original settlers are dead. I shall have a listing of households. The information was taken from the 1925 City Directory. I recall all these people as I was eleven years old.

100 West Main Street – Mrs. Angelina Sericati, a widow. Her husband Frank died in 1922 at the age of 44. A large family was left, with Caesar, Mary, Dora, Victor, Ronald, Leo, Inez and Catherine. Eight children survived and Mrs. Sericati died in 1926 at the age of 47. The oldest son and daughter became Mom and Dad.

106 West Main Street – Peter Fiorani, wife Santina. Peter was a miner who died in 1952 at the age of 72. Santina died in 1960 at the age of 74. Children Lisa, Americo and Attilio were born in Italy. Mario, Yolanda, Arnold and Frank were born in Iron Mountain.

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108 West Main Street – Maria Fornetti died in 1948 at age 84. Husband Anton died in 1901 at age 40. He was killed in a mine blast that took the lives of eight miners. His family: Anton, James, John, Michael and Mary.

110 West Main Street – James Fornetti, a barber by trade and W.W.I veteran. His wife Anna is still living in 1993 at age 92. They had two sons, George and Donald.

112 West Main Street – Henry Storkull, wife Wilhelmina. They had two children, Ed and Hilma. Henry worked for the county. Mother and daughter had four to five boarders. Henry died in 1935 at age 74. Wilhelmina died in 1949 at age 80.

114 West Main Street – Anton Fuse worked in Chapin Mine as “Trammer Boss.” After the mine closed, he operated a truck farm. Anton died in 1970 at age 85. Mrs. Fuse was a housewife and died in 1962 at age 71. They had two children, Cecelia and Alfonse.

1000 West Main Street – Joseph Tamborini was the last house on West Main Street extension. He was a farmer. He was born in 1856 and died in 1929 at the age of 73.

Milwaukee Avenue Court was on mining company property and originally called Milwaukee Avenue Alley. The street was narrow with houses on both sides of the street.

No. 3 Milwaukee Avenue Alley – Domenic Gasbarro was a miner who died in 1961 at age 78. Wife Theresa died in 1955 at age 73. They had eight children: Alfred, Fiore, Armand, Mafalda, Jennie, Caroline, Samuel and Joseph.

No. 4 Milwaukee Avenue Alley – John DiBiase, a miner who died in 1946 at 87. His wife Santa died in 1943 at age 76. They had five children. The oldest was electrocuted in Chapin Mine at age 18. The others were Domenic, Molly, Mary and Flora.

No. 5 Milwaukee Avenue Alley – John Cattelan was a miner who died in 1930 at age 51. His wife Josephine died in 1938 at age 54. They had seven children: Adella, Arthur, Albert, Fred, Adolph and twins Anna and Ada.

No. 6 Milwaukee Avenue Alley – Mrs. Sophia Erickson, widow of Charles, who was a carpenter. Their children were Jack, Charles and Hulda. Charles died in 1929 at age 73.

No. 7 Milwaukee Avenue Alley – Ottavio Becco, W.W. I veteran, was a miner who suffered a disabling injury and died in 1956 at age 63 in a Chicago V.A. Hospital. His wife Sandra died in 1929 at the age of 31. They had no children.

No. 8 Milwaukee Avenue Alley – Angelo Balzarini, a miner who died in 1946 at age 65. His wife Virginia died in 1950 at age 69. When the mine closed he bought a farm at Randville. They had six children: Joe, Mary, Theresa, Angelo, Charles and Frank.

No. 9 Milwaukee Avenue Alley – Peter Valerio, a miner, died in 1938 at age 67. His wife Maria died in 1948 at age 77. They had five children: Domenick, John, Peter, Louis and one daughter, Clara.

No. 10 Milwaukee Avenue Alley – Delmasio Becco, a miner, died in 1923 at age 57. His wife Lucia died in 1935 at age 68. They had five children: Ottavio, Peter, Joe, Frank and one daughter, Theresa.

West Smith Street – One block south of Main Street.:

100 West Smith Street – Mrs. Regina Sculati, widow of Gerolimo, a miner. Regina was 82 when she died in 1963. Gerolimo died in 1922 at age 47.

108 West Smith Street – Domenic Dario died in 1926 at age 72, a miner, known as “John Paolo”. His wife Johana died in 1917 at age 40. They had five children: John, Joseph, David, Donald and one daughter, Adeline.

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110 West Smith Street – Rocco Romi, a stone mason, died in 1950 at the age of 62. His wife Theresa died in 1985 at age 92. They had one child, a daughter Antoinette.

112 West Smith Street – Alexander Sculati, a miner, died in 1945 at age 78. His wife Amalia died in 1939 at age 64. They had six children: Carlo, Mario, Julia, Mary, Jack and Josephine.

114 West Smith Street – Ubaldo Bartoletti, a miner, died in 1932 at age 63. His wife Lucia died in 1966 at age 85. They had six children: Richard, Orlando, Louis, Ada, Amelia and Adolph.

116 West Smith Street – Tomasso Spigarelli, a miner, died in 1967 at age 81. His wife Anrica died in 1975 at age 86. They had four children: Jean, Florence, Frank and Armond.

118 West Smith Street – Mike Minutelo, surface miner, died in 1956 at age 74. His wife Carmella died in 1971 at age 95. They had one son, Angelo. Twins died much earlier.

121 West Smith Street – Arcangelo Tavonatti, miner. He died in 1946 at age 87. His wife Augusta died in 1962 at age 88. They had six children: Emanuel, Silvio, Joe, Henry, Felix and Mary (twins).

125 West Smith Street – Valentino Lupini, a miner, died in 1946 at age 61. His wife Albina died in 1960 at age 75. There were seven children: Nina, Mary, Louis, Rose, Eugena, Margie and Robert.

NOTE: There were no houses on the south side of West Smith Street as the Chapin Mine had a large storage barn commonly called "The Big Barn" there. What is now known as North Kimberly Avenue was listed as West Smith Street Alley. All are on mining company property.

West Smith Street Alley going West:

No. 21 West Smith Street Alley – Peter Salina, miner, died in 1940 at age 57.

His wife Santina died in 1972 at age 89. There were four children: Albina, Louise, John and Arthur.

No. 22 West Smith Street Alley – Ferdinand Badini, miner, died in 1933 at age 61. His wife Margarhetta died in 1964 at age 84. There were three children from his first marriage: Chester, Madeline and Mary; and seven children from his second marriage: Anton, John, Frank, Jenny, Mario, Joseph and Arthur.

No. 23 West Smith Street Alley – Lucien Leardi, surface miner, died in 1968 at age 84. His wife Cessarina died in 1967 at age 81. They had four children: Lucy, Frank, Eugene and Louis.

No. 25 West Smith Street Alley – Baptista Pozza, miner, died in 1948 at age 74. His wife Maria died in 1971 at age 87. There were five children: Mary, Carrie, Bert, Henry and Ceclia (who was a nun).

No. 26 West Smith Street Alley – Joseph Badini, miner, died in 1964 at age 87. His wife Maria died in 1962 at age 72. They had five children: Antoinette, Josephine, Garfield, Henry and Katherine.

No. 27 West Smith Street Alley – Matteo Spigarelli, miner, died in 1952 at age 70. His wife Josephine died in 1973 at age 79. Their four children were: Americo, Dominic, Marie and Tony.

No. 28 West Smith Street Alley – Filippo Nocerini, farmer, died in 1928 at age 76. His wife Virginia died in 1928 at age 72. They had two children, Angelo and Victoria.

No. 28 ½ West Smith Street Alley – Angelo Nocerini died in 1975 at age 76. His wife Kate died in 1962 at age 64. They had four children: Peter, Richard, Virginia and Celia.

No. 29 West Smith Street Alley – August Nardi, miner, died in 1962 at age 83. His wife Louisa died in 1932 at age 42. They had four children: Perina, Fred, Margaret and Jean.

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No. 35 West Smith Street Alley – Alberto Pastori, miner, died in 1932 at age 75. His wife Madeline died in 1943 at age 72. They had six children: Charles, Ernest, Fred, Louis, Rose and Lena.

NO. 44 West Smith Street Alley – Frank Rocconi, miner, died in 1939 at age 60. His wife Maria died in 1970 at age 91. They had seven children: Helen, Angelo, Esther, Albert, Ludwig, Etalo and Inez.

No. 46 West Smith Street Alley – Antonio Altobelli, miner, died in 1954 at age 66. His wife Carmella died in 1972 at age 82. They had no children.

NOTE: The numbering of homes now jumps to 200 and up.

No. 200 West Smith Street Alley – Joe French operated the city steam roller and died in 1935 at age 64. His wife Ruby died in 1919 at age 39. There were no children.

No. 201 West Smith Street Alley – Donato Steffanelli, miner, died in 1957 at age 77. His wife Angelina died in 1974 at age 77. They had four children: Adeline, Jenny, Tony and Mary (a nun).

No. 202 West Smith Street Alley – Anton Cavaiani, miner, died in 1967 at age 74. His wife Maria died in 1974 at age 77. There were four children: David, Luis, Mary and Richard.

No. 204 West Smith Street Alley – Selma Erickson lived here and never married.

No. 208 West Smith Street Alley – Lorenzo Quadrani, miner, died in 1930 at age 62. His wife Adella died in 1938 at age 60. They had three children: Rose, Mrs. Cavaiani from Norway and Joseph.

No. 211 West Smith Street Alley – Ann Asplund died in 1948 at age 68. Her son William drowned in Pine Creek in 1925 at the age of 10.

NOTE: The original North Milwaukee Avenue now became North Kimberly from

600 to 700, where it became North Milwaukee Avenue.

600 North Milwaukee Avenue – Carlo Moroni, miner, died in 1947 at age 83. His wife, Josephine, died in 1930 at age 59. They had five children: Louise, Angelo, Charles, Mary and Josephine.

601 North Milwaukee Avenue – John Ronzani, miner, died in 1951 at age 78. His wife Catherine died in 1929 at age 52. They had seven children: Gussie, Anthony, David, Eugene, Irene, Floyd and Nathaly.

602 North Milwaukee Avenue – Nicola Eutizi, miner, died in 1936 at age 65. His wife Maria died in 1953 at age 76. They had nine children: Julius, Clementine, Mersillia, Josephine, Perina, Colombo, Theresa, Orlando and Linda.

603 North Milwaukee Avenue – Mario Melelli, miner, died in 1934 at age 59. His wife Anna died in 1916 at age 36. They had six children: Theresa, Joseph, Americo, Eugene and Delia (twins) and Nelio.

604 North Milwaukee Avenue – Orsio Cavicchioni, miner and greenhouse owner, died in 1988 at age 92. His wife Angeline died in 1962 at age 58. There were three children: Joseph, Jeana and Elena.

604 ½ North Milwaukee Avenue – David Castori, miner, died in 1959 at age 70. His wife Rose died in 1954 at age 53. Their children were: Catherine, Josephine and Salvatore.

605 North Milwaukee Avenue – Enrico Cavaliere, miner, died in 1948 at 59. His wife Theresa died in 1975 at 86. Their children were Peter, Jean and Ann.

606 North Milwaukee Avenue – Alexander Pataconi, miner, died in 1950 at age 69. His wife Johana died in 1945 at age 63. They had seven children: Minnie, Rudolph, Elda, Yolanda, William, Joseph and Robert.

607 North Milwaukee Avenue – Guiseppe Cavichioni, miner, died in 1958

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at age 86. His wife Ollivata died in 1952 at age 74. There were four children: Orsio, Mario, Rose and Mary.

NOTE: Alley off 100 East Main Street, going north. Stone house – Ferdindo Lillie, miner, died in 1919 at age 28. His wife Maria died in 1936 at age 73. There were three children: Anible, Louis and Joe.

106 West Margaret Street – Vincenzo Spigarelli, miner, died in 1946 at age 81. His wife Biffania died in 1961 at age 79. Their children were: Nina, Ada, Adolph, Lena, Ann, Eva and Alda.

108 West Margaret Street -- Ubaldo Crispignia died in 1935 at age 68. His wife Maria Crispignia died in 1966 at age 94. The children were: Joe, Theresa, Oreste, Susan and Ann.

NOTE: Continuing north from West Main Street to North Milwaukee Avenue.

700 North Milwaukee Avenue – Jake Bracini, no records. Lived in Iron River. His wife was Ann Gregory. They had one son, Emory.

702 North Milwaukee Avenue – Martha Roberto died in 1943 at age 73. She had four children: Nick, Angelo, Rose and Thomas.

704 North Milwaukee Avenue – Frank Tomassoni had a saloon and apartments. A bachelor, he died in 1927 at age 55.

708 North Milwaukee Avenue – Vincenzo Gregory, miner, died in 1963 at age 89. His wife Rachella died in 1968 at age 87. Their six children were: Ann, Louis, Joseph, Domenic, Quinto and Mary.

712 North Milwaukee Avenue – Peter Carlevato died in 1958 at age 64. Peter was a law officer, Iron Mountain Police officer and county sheriff. His wife Catherine died in 1968 at age 75. They had two children, Erma and Josephine.

714 North Milwaukee Avenue – Silvestro Spigarelli, miner, died in 1932 at age 61. His wife, Assunta, died in 1957 at age 68. There were three children: Celia, Rose and Eda.

718 North Milwaukee Avenue – Antonio Caruso, miner, died in 1915. His wife Gracelia died in 1954 at age 70. Their children were: Paul, Fiorangelo, Margaret and Tony.

800 North Milwaukee Avenue – Vincenzo Sgreci, miner, died in 1955 at age 74. His wife Mariana died in 1954 at age 65. They had two children, Ann and Devillio.

802 North Milwaukee Avenue – Tulio Romagnoli, miner, died in 1964 at age 64. His wife Ada is still living (1993). They had two children, Norma and Henry.

804 North Milwaukee Avenue – Joseph Bazilli, a mason, died in 1925 at age 59. His wife Mary died in 1932 at age 55. Their children were: John, Louis and Agnes.

810 North Milwaukee Avenue – Maurice Piatti, miner, died in 1952 at age 83. His wife Giatana died in 1952 at age 79. They had five children: Pasquale, Joe, John, Peter and Clara.

812-840 North Milwaukee Avenue – Piatti buildings – garage, gas station and bakery.

900 North Milwaukee Avenue – Leopoldo Dulan died in 1942 at age 72. His wife Theresa died in 1961 at age 87. They had seven children: Eva, Nick, Joe, George, Steve, Matthew and Henry.

WINDY CITY

**By Al Fuse
(page 76)**

The area across the tracks, north of Cyranaica, includes West Stanton, West Grant, West Grand Boulevard, West Lincoln and West Antoine Streets, bounded on the west by Iron Mountain Street and on the

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east by North Milwaukee Avenue, an area of two blocks by five blocks.

How the name of "Windy City" originated I don't know, but it was familiar to us across the tracks. Prior to 1920, the area was heavily wooded by white pine trees that were logged off and the area was platted.

The first home built there was owned by Arthur Sundin. He bought his "pre-cut" package from the Sears Roebuck catalog. Material for the entire house from the foundation up arrived via the railroad and was trucked to the site at 1204 North Milwaukee Avenue. It was the most impressive home in the area at the time. The area had water mains, but no sewer system. The homes had a few septic systems, but outside toilets were in the majority. The first sewer system across the tracks was a W.P.A. project, all dug by hand during the mid-1930's.

This area was soon developed. The majority of the original owners have passed on. I recall, as of 1993, three original settlers still alive – Mrs. Louis Andreini, Mrs. Mario Cavicchioni and Mrs. Louis Lillie.

THE OLD "FURNO'S GANG"
1920 – 1930 – 1940
By Silvio "Tape" Egizii

(pages 259-265)

[* indicates deceased – before 1993]

– A –

*Aimone, Caesar "Cha"
 *Aimone, Edward "Ettere"
 *Aimone, Ernest "Ernie"
 *Aimone, John "Kina"
 *Aimone, Peter "Nino"
 Aimone, Peter "Sarp"
 *Alexander, Peter "Pe-a"
 Altobelli, Arthur "Rinks"
 *Amicangelo, Gasperino "Speedy"

Amicangelo, Paul "Poppie"
 Amicangelo, Romuldo "Christare"
 Anderson, Jack "Jackie"
 *Anderson, Winston "Winnie"
 *Angela, John "Big John"
 Antonelli, James "Lummy"
 Antonio, Frank "Mox"
 *Antonio, Mox "Big Mox"

– B –

*Baldrice, Joseph "Joe"
 Baldrice, Louis "Baa"
 *Ballario, Anthony "Tony"
 Ballario, Louis "Louie"
 *Balzola, Peter "Pete"
 Baravetto, Domenic "dom"
 *Baravetto, James "Jim"
 Baravetto, Joseph "Joe"
 Baravetto, John "Johnnie"
 *Barboni, Jack "Jackie"
 Barboni, Orlando "Law"
 Bartolameolli, Adolph "Pete"
 *Bartolameolli, Albert "Abba"
 Bartolameolli, Ernest "Ernie"
 Bartolameolli, Guido "Gwano"
 Bartolameolli, Henry "Specs"
 Bartolameolli, John "Ganno"
 Bartolameolli, Louis "Stork"
 Bartolameolli, Max "Maxie"
 Benvenuto, Anthony "Tony"
 *Benvenuto, Frank "Frankie"
 *Benvenuto, Thomas "Tom"
 *Bernardo, Domenic "Dom"
 Bertrand, Lamont "Lemon"
 Bianco, John "Hot"
 *Bianco, Sabitino "Sub"
 Blazier, Norman "Norm"
 Bloom, Edgar "Edgar"
 *Bongi, Ettore "Bongi"
 *Borla, Spirit "Spirit"
 *Branz, Josseph "Beans"
 Branz, Mario "Mar"
 Broullire, Robert "Bobbie"
 *Bruno, George "Georgie"
 *Bugni, Angelo "Ange"

– C –

*Caduto, George "Georgie"
 Caduto, John "Johnnie"

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Caduto, Nebo "Neb"

*Capra, Carlo "Cap"

Capra, Robert "Bob"

*Caruso, Angelo "Spak"

*Caruso, Paul "Goose"

Cavaliere, Angelo "Ange"

Cavaliere, Angelo "Buff"

Cavaliere, Anton "Tony"

Cavaliere, Joseph "Cubby"

Ceccoli, Joseph "Joe"

Ceccoli, Joseph "Joe-Penner"

Cecconi, Ray "Banks"

Cecconi, Richard "Dick"

*Celli, Alfonso "Pretty-Boy"

Cerasoli, Armond "Dickie"

Cerasoli, Joseph "Puge"

*Cerasoli, Manfred "Man"

Cerasoli, Manfred "Palm-Beach"

Cerasoli, Rudolph "Lefty"

*Chiapusio, John "Mutt"

Ciochetto, Charles "Cheldi"

*Ciochetto, Joseph "Bran"

Colantonio, John "Jap"

*Colantonio, Joseph "Shorty"

Colavecchi, Biagio "Biag"

*Colavecchi, Clement "Shine"

Coombs, Douglas "Doug"

*Combs, Jack "Jackie"

*Corsi, Alfred "Al"

Corsi, Frank "Fra"

Corsi, Louis "Lou"

*Costa, Michael "Mike"

Cristan, Sam "Sammy"

- D -

D'Andrea, Joseph "Barrie-Joe"

DeCarlo, Peter "Petalay"

*Dedo, John "Johnny"

*DeJuliannie, Eugene "Geno"

*DeJuliannie, Fred "Fritz"

*DeJuliannie, Lawrence "Gene-Barber"

DeUlio, Wildo "Wil"

DiBiase, Domenic "Miniguchi"

DiBiase, Frank "Hot-dog"

DiBiase, John "Henry Ford"

*DiBiase, Joseph "Josie"

DiBiase, Valerio "Vale"

*Dulcan, John Sr. "Johnny"

- E -

*Eckholm, Einor "Totters"

*Eckholm, Fredrick "Fritz"

Egizii, Silvio "Tape"

*Enrico, Tony "Dago"

- F -

Faccin, Frank "Keggy"

Faccin, Stephen "Steve"

*Ferzacca, John "Reush"

Fontana, Alex "Alec"

*Fontecchio, August "Gusto"

Fontecchio, Anthony "Tony"

Fontecchio, Isadore "Vis"

Fontecchio, James "Jimmy"

*Fornetti, John "Uncle-John"

Furno, Charles "Charlie"

*Furno, Domenic "Dom"

Furno, Edward "Eddie"

Furno, Fred "Fred"

*Furno, John "Johnnie"

Furno, Joseph "Hop"

Furno, Louis "Lou"

- G -

Ganga, Crmen "Carm"

Ganga, William "Blow"

*Garvaglia, Joseph "Barrie-Joe"

- H -

*Harding, Ivar "Iv"

- I -

Inglese, Anthony "Tony"

Inglese, Michael "Mike"

Izzo, Armond "Charms"

*Izzo, Carmine "Carmen"

- J -

Jaffolla, Guido "Gui"

*Jaffolla, James "Jimmy"

Jafolla, Joseph "Jaff"

Jaffolla, Joseph "Joey"

- K -

Kososki, Henry "Hank"

- L -

*Larson, Elmer "Fatty"

*Larson, George "Georgie"

*Larson, Leslie "Swede"

Lerza, Anthony "Tony"

Lerza, Louis "Louie"

*Lorenzi, John "Crecha"

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*Lorenzi, Tony "Crecha"
Lunberg, George "Georgie"
Lupini, Aquilino "Bay"
Lupini, Nello "Nel"

- M -

Marini, Ercoli "Sparky"
*Marini, Frank "Shanks"
Marini, James "Shinoush"
Marini, Joseph "Shank"
*Marini, Louis "Lugie"
*Marini, Nicholas Sr. "Nick"
Mariucci, Albert "Cabbie"
Mariucci, Ardovino "Ardivino"
Mariucci, Ernest "Nanny"
Marulli, Alfred "Al"
Menghini, Aquilino "Art"
*Menghini, Ario "Ears"
Menghini, Armand "Mandy"
Menghini, Joseph "Domer"
Menghini, Rudolph "Dalfo"
*Menucci, Egidio "Cow"
*Menucci, James "Buns"
*Menucci, John "Nana"
*Mochen, Attilio "Shim"
*Mochen, Jack "Jack"
*Mochen, Thomas "Tommy"
Moroni, Frank "Frankie"

- N -

*Negro, James "Jim"
*Negro, Joseph "Joe"
Nora, John "Johnnie"
*Nora, Joseph "Joe"
Nord, Alfred "Al"

- O -

Occhietti, Louis "Louie"
Oliva, Arthur "Art"
Oliva, Ernest "Ernie"
*Oliva, Henry "Snuffy"
Oliva, Max "Maxie"
Oradei, Louis "Lou"
Oradei, Victor "Padza"
Orella, Bernard "Bernie"
*Orella, Ceaser "Slugger"
Orella, Francis "Fran"

- P -

*Palluconi, Joseph "Joe"
*Pancheri, Louis "Lou"

*Paoli, David "Dave"
Paoli, Leo "Lee"
Pericolosi, James "Jimmie"
*Person, Nels "Nesa"
*Person, Toby "Tob"
*Perucco, Victorio "Peruc"
Pietrantonio, Pasquale "Patsy"
Pietrantonio, William "Billie-Pete"
Pucci, Louis "Louie"
Pucci, Mariano "Muzz"

- Q -

Querio, Caesar "Cecci"
Querio, Domenic "Dom"
*Querio, Frank "Frankie"
Querio, John "Johnnie"
*Querio, Joseph "Crane"

- R -

*Raffin, Albert "Al"
Raffin, Erminio "Skeep"
*Raffin, John "Butts"
*Rampanelli, Albert "Buck"
*Rampanelli, Aldo "Ram"
*Rampanelli, Arthur "Turk"
Rampanelli, Mario "Munge"
Rampanelli, Quinto "Red"
Remondini, Frank "Rammer"
*Rolando, Domenic "Dom"
*Ronzani, Eugene "Tuffy"
Ruffatto, Domenic "Alack"
Ruffatto, Joseph "Gary"
*Ruffatto, Nick "Floorboard"
*Rossi, Jacob "Jake"

- S -

*Sacchetti, Ernest "Naa"
*Sacchetti, Joseph "Piop"
*Sacchetti, Louis "Buck"
Santi, James "Jimmie"
*Santini, Frank "Fluff"
Santini, John "Johnnie"
Santini, Mario "Doc"
Schinderle, Albert "Abba"
Secinaro, Alphonse "Fonzie"
*Serena, Henry "Babe"
Sjoberg, Earl "Swede"
Spera, Adoldo "Daldo"
Spera, Alfred "Fritz"
Spera, John "Boots"

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Spera, Manfred "Fritz"

*Spera, Oswaldo "Ozzie"

- T -

Tedesschi, Anthony "Fungo"

*Tedeschi, Domenic "Topsy"

Tedeschi, Joseph "Windy"

*Tedeschi, Nello "Fungo"

Tedeschi, Rudolph "Rudy"

Tedeschi, Theodore "Teddy"

Thiebert, Randal "Randie"

*Tomasi, Sam "Scarpe"

*Tondini, Felix "Felix"

*Tortelli, Carara "Carara"

*Trama, Thomas "Tom"

Tramontine, Adolph "Ham"

Turini, Joseph "Jo-Bo"

- U -

- V -

Valenti, Atilio "Talion"

*Vallanecourt, Valmore "Val"

Vespa, Anthony "Tony"

- W -

Wentarmini, George "Georgie"

*Wentarmini, Sam "Sammy"

*Witte, Wheeler "Wheel"

- X -

- Y -

- Z -

Zaio, Charles "Charlie"

*Zambon, Angelo "Susie"

Zambon, Donald "Dynamite"

*Zambon, Ernest "Ernie"

Zambon, Frank "Frankie"

The names have been compiled and authenticated by Marino "Muzz" Pucci and edited by Silvio "Tape Egizii. We realize that many of the "Illustrious Furno's Gang" of the 1920-30-40's may have been inadvertently omitted. However, the only individuals considered were those that made "Furno's" their home away from home. It should be a challenge to improve this list from your memory and past

experiences. After all, sixty years is a long time to recall many past experiences. This is what we tried to do!

The purpose of this get-together is to reminisce the many activities, stores, anecdotes, etc.

For example: How many of you remember whenever Angelo "Susie" Zambon was cornered in an argument, he always got out of it by asking this question - "Was the man on the wagon when he fell off?" No matter how you answered, you were always wrong. He claimed that he alone knew the answer. Unfortunately, he carried the answer to his grave.

How about those casino games between Orlando "Law" Barboni and Joseph "Piop" Sacchetti which ended up either throwing their cards or "swinging" at each other, that "Law" was forced to protect himself with a baseball mask, breast-protector and shin guards, owned by Aimone Electric baseball twilight league team, and stored at Furno's!?!

Do you recall, after winning a baseball game against "Goulette's Ice Men," how we paraded past the tavern, horns blowing, with them "pegging" rocks at us and vice-versa?

How about those poker games between Egidio "Cow" Menucci, Louie Marini, Sam Cristan, Tom Benvenuto, and Victorio Perucco (who claimed he always made good bread after losing in a poker game by "punching" the dough very ahrd and saying - "Sempre-Me).

How anyone that dared to sleep on those benches was either "hot-footed" or scared to hell by having Dom Furno exploding a firecracker under the benches! And the time "Muzz" was almost castrated when he had his "you-know-what" tied to a piece of string that was tied to the arm of the bench?

How about those "Boss" smear games when Aero Menghini delighted himself by making a person "dry" merely to get even

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with him for doing it to him several months before. What a noisy and boisterous game!

How about those formal initiations we took to become full-pledged members into the "gang" by sitting on the top of those concrete steps and having the older members grab our feet and pull us ahead so that our "B-T's" bump all the way to the bottom?!?

How about allowing Frank Mox "crow-bite" us, with those large "hammiy" fingers, to get the price of a 5-cent ice cream cone?

How about going to dances, either at Pine Gardens, Nightingale, Eagles-Ballroom, etc., and have the young ladies, when they'd see us coming, say "here comes that 'damn Furno's Gang'."

How about when Ernest "Nanny" Mariucci was "baptized" to his first drink spiked with a shot of whiskey to give him courage to attend his first New Year's dance? He ended up on the floor of the washroom and finally was carried home under the arms of his buddies, Armond "Dickie" Cerasoli and Valerio "Vale" DiBiase. That ended "Nanny's" debut as a ballroom dancer!

Do you remember when Victor "Padza" Oradei fell asleep on one of those benches and was carried, bench and all, and dumped on the floor of his home? Do you recall when a "Squiz-smoke-bomb" was placed in "Piop's" car and when he started it the noise and smoke caused "Piop" to get out of the car and he started to run toward "Old -Lady-Ceaser's" candy store hollering, "Get away, it's going to blow up!, etc..."

Do you recall who was the champion "backer-upper"? He was none other than Domenic "Miniguchi" DiBiase. He could go straight and faster backwards than most of us could go forward!!!

And those wives who thought Furno's wa a "den of iniquity," but were happy to know women weren't around.

How about the time Frank Mox hung Tita Quadliotti, a boisterous little individual,

on one of the wall coat hooks, his feet dangling, and Jim Negro nailing Louie Pucci's shoe rubbers to the floor?!? We were always up to something for a laugh.

How about when "Muzz" won a bet from "Piop" for being able to drink four glasses of julep while the glasses were upside down by sliding the upside town glasses on a playing card to up-right them. "Piop" started to holler, "You can't do that!" "Piop" paid up and again, "Muzz" outsmarted "Piop".

Do you recall while John "Reush" ferzacca was asleep on one of the benches Robert "Bobby" broullire, as a gag, awoke "Reusch" while he held a large butcher knife over him. "Reush" awoke, and seeing "Mortician Bobby" with that knife over him, started yelling, "Me no dead, Bobby, me, no dead, Bobby!" What a laugh!

How can we forget Sunday, December 7, 1941? While playing a friendly game of smear, the radio blared out, "Pearl Harbor has been bombed the by Japs. We're at war!!!" A peaceful and enjoyable game was rudely interrupted...

Whenever we said, "Merry Christmas, Art", to Art Menghini, he'd reply, "That's alright."

Do you remember "Mum" pool and "Zist"? How about the brocery store that is now the pool room? How about Frank "Fluff's" meatless pasties. (We called them Friday Pasties.)

How about those noisy "Morra" games? They hollered so loud until they became hoarse. Do you remember playing poke with a pinochle deck and the betting was wild? Everyone had a perfect winning hand until they found out what type of cards they were playing with!!!

When Louis "Buck" Sacchetti, while asleep on a bench, had a pack of Camel cigarettes drop from his pocked (We smoked Marvels, Wings, etc.), and we awoke him and returned it to him and he asked, "Can I take one for a later time?" We answered, "Sure, you can keep them.

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They're yours." He nearly flipped! How about his brother "Piop", always bumming a smoke, stating that he left his pack home on the piano? He got away with it, but not for long!

We were never able to find out the signals in a card game that Jim "Shorto" Negro and Orlando "Law" Barboni had. We could never catch them at it. Very cleverly done!

How about our famous Cardinal Baseball and Football teams? I invariably lost an ice cream cone to Dom Furno. He always bet me that before the evening was over, the conversation of the boys, no matter what, would turn to the topic of women. How true!

We had a reputation of being a "tough" gang. In reality, we were an exceptional group that spearheaded the construction of the "War Memorial Field," now referred to as the Northside Field, from an old potato patch known as the "stock-pile", with one of our own, Domenic "Alack" Ruffatto, as the first president. They undertook various activities such as skating, softball and hardball, summer recreational programs, construction of a concession and warming house, until it was disbanded when the Ford Motor company moved out of town, forcing many of our members to leave town also.

Our fantastic group produced a mayor, aldermen, supervisors, athletes, millionaires, successful businessmen, scholars, teachers, superintendents, contractors, engineers, inventors, managers, morticians and "boot-leggers". Being from a first or second generation of Italians, and sprinkled with many of other nationalities, we didn't do so bad...

I remember how proud the "gang" was of us high school athletes by going to every game, out or in town, and keeping us in training by "kicking" us home at a reasonable hour. How about election time? Whenever we saw a politician approaching

the tavern, we'd start hollering, "The Red-coats are coming," meaning that probably free drinks were in the offing!

We were of a Depression and World War II generation and many of our "gang" served their country faithfully, and to show their respect, John and Dom Furno placed a memorial service board in their establishment, which is still there. Unfortunately, one was not kept for those who served in World War I, but we knew who they were from the many stories and experiences they told us.

How about that Furno's softball team, nicknamed the "Coffin-dodgers" by Marino Pucci, who also coined the phrase "th Lake Geneva-wtist" whenever I tried pitching a game because I never could retire the side until I was relieved by Fred "Palm-Beach" Cerasoli. In spite of the fact we were called the "Coffin-dodgers" because of our ages, it made little difference because the team won their share of games. (By the way, Angelo Bugni's wife Antonette gave me his "Coffin-Dodgers" T-shirt that will be enshrined in the halls of Furno's Tavern by Dom Furno, Dom's son and his son, Michael, the fifth generation.) The place has been modernized somewhat from our days, when we had to go to the "Biffy" (backhouse to us) outdoors.

I could go on and on... Many of you may not agree with my versions of the stories, but that's the way I remember them. After all, it's been many years since they happened. By the way, Furno's was a "God-send" during the Depression years. I recall when word got around that Ford was hiring, the boys came running out of the tavern like a "military mobilization" to get to the Ford plant for a few days of work. Today they could care less; they now have unemployment compensation.

I was just reminded that Alex Fontana is the oldest continuous active member of the "Old-Furno's Gang". At the age of 81, he

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visits the old “stomping grounds” daily.
How about that!?!

I’m sorry if I inadvertently omitted names or misquoted many stories. I personally feel that very few “Northsiders” didn’t at one time or another go through the portals of “Furno’s” Tavern.

Remember, fellows, our “Furno’s Gang” had nothing to be ashamed of. The trouble was we were merely trying to live up to a legend of being tough. In reality, we were a bunch of softies!!!

[Submitted by Silvio “Tape” Egizii]