

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

## 3: EAST SIDE OF 100 BLOCK OF SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

**History:** This is perhaps the most confusing block on which to trace back the history of business places, mainly due to numbering systems used over the past eight or nine decades. It is probable that the buildings in this complex were constructed after a terrible fire in the 100 Block of South Stephenson Avenue on December 18, 1888. Thirteen buildings were completely destroyed at a loss of \$40,000 and there was little insurance coverage. According to the 1914 Women's Club History, these buildings were all rebuilt later of brick. Because of the damage this fire caused, the city appointed a new fire warden and an ordinance was amended so that only stone or brick buildings could be erected in the business district. When the building housing today's [2010] Fontana's Supper Club was built, the long façade was constructed parallel to railroad tracks which went to the Chapin Mine. The tracks are long gone, but the sharp turn in the architecture marks their route.

**Architecture:** The architectural features of the buildings on this block are best viewed from across the street. Look at the brick work on the second floors of these buildings. Not only did the masons use different colored brick to add interest to these façades, but they also created texture, depth, shadow and delightful detail with their creative use of one of the simplest, oldest building materials available.

**FIRE:** At about 1 o'clock Tuesday morning, December 18, 1888, one of Iron

Mountain's worst fires destroyed thirteen wooden buildings. According to accounts taken from the December 22, 1888 editions of Norway's *The Current* and *The Florence Mining News*, the fire broke out in Silverman, Davy & Levy's general store shortly before 1 o'clock, and rapidly spread to the surrounding buildings. The alarm was given and quickly responded to by the efficient volunteer brigade, but although three streams were quickly brought to play, in the flammable nature of the building and the prevalence of a strong wind made it impossible to stay the flames until the following business and dwelling houses had been destroyed: **Peter Baptiste** (loss, \$5,000, saloon and buildings; insurance, \$2,750); **Phil Bender's** barber shop (loss, \$100); **David Bergeron**, justice of the peace office (loss, \$150); **Thomas Buzzo's** saloon (loss, \$250) and boarding house; **Michael Carrigliotti's** double saloon (loss, \$3,000, buildings); **D. Conterini**, saloon (loss, \$200); **John Friedrich**, building (loss, \$2,500; insurance, \$1,000); **Edwin Freeman**, saloon and livery barn (loss, \$3,500); **M. Goldman & Co.**, notions (loss, \$300); Grenfell, candies, etc. (loss, \$235); **Christopher Grossbusch**, general store (loss, \$4,000; fully insured); **Edward J. Ingram**, druggist, goods (loss, \$500; fully insured); **H.N. LaDuke**, boarding house (loss, \$2,500; insurance, \$1,500); **Mrs. Manning**, boarding house (loss, \$800); **V. Nomilini**, saloon (loss, \$1,000); **Gust Pederson**, shoe shop (loss, \$150); **Peterson**, household goods (loss, \$150); **Silverman, Davis & Levy**, dry goods store (loss, \$5,000; insurance, \$4,000); **Fred Smith**, building (loss, \$1,000); **C. Sundstrom's Locomotive Bakery** (loss, \$150); **William Sundstrom**, general store (loss, \$8,000; insurance, \$4,500). The figures for losses (\$49,485) and insurance

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

coverage were quoted from Iron Mountain's *The Menominee Range* by *The Florence Mining News*. **Tullgren's** brick building was the only building remaining intact in the whole block.

The article in *The Current* noted: "Had it not been for the recent snow it is probable that many more buildings would have been destroyed. Even now the blow is a severe one and it is a question if some of the sufferers will be able to resume business. It has been asserted that the new volunteer fire company was unexperienced [*sic – inexperienced*], and some reflections have been cast upon its manner of handling the fire. Perhaps this may be true, but during a short visit immediately after the fire we noticed some ice coated volunteer brigade men who have often done able and valiant work at fires in days gone by, and we cannot think that they have lost their cunning or their grit. It is often easier to stand by and criticise [*sic – criticize*] the work of others than it is to improve upon it. The writer has 'been through the mill' and knows that being a volunteer fireman is one of the most thankless jobs on earth."

According to *The Florence Mining News* reporter, "With but one or two exceptions, the burned buildings were mere fire-traps, and but for the losses sustained by some of the uninsured victims, the conflagration was a good thing for the city. The fire was bound to come sooner or later, and if it had occurred at almost any other season of the year, it is fair to presume that an infinite amount of other valuable property would have been sacrificed to the destructive fire fiend. The roofs of the buildings were laden with snow on Tuesday morning, which materially aided the department in staying the progress of the flames as soon as the wooden rookeries were consumed. Nothing could save them.

The fire was in the last block on the principal street, at the northwesterly end of the street, where the track running up to the Chapin mine cuts off the street. A portion of the same ground has been burned before. The loss is estimated at about \$50,000, though it is likely it will come considerably under this amount when the adjusters complete their work. Nearly all of the heaviest losers were adequately insured. The fire is believed to have been of incendiary origin and the hand of suspicion ominously points to certain individuals of Iron Mountain as the authors. Actual proofs of guilt are lacking at present and no arrests have yet been made." *The Florence Mining News* also congratulated "**Ed. Ingram**, Iron Mountain's leading druggist, over his fortunate escape. Ed recently moved out of one of the burned rookeries into an elegant brick store, thus happily saving himself a heavy loss. He lost a few goods and fixtures, however, but the loss is covered by insurance.

## \*101-125 – FONTANA'S SUPPER CLUB – 2010 (Geline's Rib Cage – 1980)

**History 101\*:** **Gust Pederson** repaired shoes at this address in 1892-1894. In 1902-1903 **Sam Anderson** was found in the street listing for 101-103 South Stephenson Avenue, but was not found in the alphabetical listing. **Mrs. P.A. Lagerfelt** ran a boarding house, probably on the second floor, at 101-107 South Stephenson Avenue in 1902-1903. **Perry Morrison** did "cleaning and pressing" here in 1907-1908. There was no listing for this address in 1913 or in 1925. In 1935, the **Beckstrom & Greenquist Decorating Company**, operated by **Harold C. Beckstrom** and **David E. Greenquist**, was

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

located here. The Beckstrom & Greenquist Decorating Company was listed at 103 South Stephenson Avenue in 1939, but was probably still located at this address. By 1941 this address was not listed, but 103 South Stephenson Avenue was listed as “vacant.”

**History 103\*:** In 1902-1903 **Sam Anderson** was found in the street listing for 101-103 South Stephenson Avenue, but was not found in the alphabetical listing. **Mrs. P.A. Lagerfelt** ran a boarding house, probably on the second floor, at 101-107 South Stephenson Avenue in 1902-1903. There is no listing for this address in 1907-1908. This address was listed as “vacant” in 1913. In 1925 **Fred. H. Gustafson** ran a garage at this address and **Louis Johnson** sold automobiles. **Louis Johnson** operated a garage here in 1935. The building located at 103-107 was known as the **Chapin Building**. The **Beckstrom & Greenquist Decorating Company**, operated by **Harold C. Beckstrom** and **David E. Greenquist**, was listed at this address in 1939, but had been listed at 101 South Stephenson Avenue in 1935. In 1941 this address was listed as “vacant.”

**History 105\*:** **Mrs. P.A. Lagerfelt** ran a boarding house, probably on the second floor, at 101-107 South Stephenson Avenue in 1902-1903. There is no listing for this address in 1907-1908. This address was listed as “vacant” in 1913. There was no listing for this address in 1925 or 1935. By 1939 the **Nelson Garage**, **Axel Nelson**, proprietor, was located here, and was still listed at this location in 1941.

**History 107\*:** **George Emma** ran a saloon at this address in 1892-1894. **Mrs. P.A. Lagerfelt** ran a boarding house, probably on the second floor, at 101-107 South Stephenson Avenue in 1902-1903. In 1907-1908 **Raffaele Corsi** sold wine and liquors and resided at this location with his wife **Lena Corsi**. **Alex Vespa**’s name appears in the street listing, but not in the alphabetical listing in 1907-1908. This address was listed as “vacant” in 1913, but **Michael Oswald**, working as the agency organizer for the **Prudential Insurance Company** at 110 East Ludington Street, was found at 107 ½ South Stephenson Avenue in the street index, probably living upstairs, but in the alphabetical listing was shown to reside with his wife **Theresa Oswald** at 105 South Stephenson Avenue. This address was named the **Chapin Building** in 1925, and served as a residence for **Willis J. Wilson**, an autoworker, and his wife **Mary J. Wilson**, **Ronald Wilson**, a machinist, and **Vada Wilson**, a student, as well as **Mrs. Exilda Belfi**, widow of **Willam Belfi**, **Dorothy Belfi** and **Eli Belfi**, an autoworker. **Louis Johnson** ran a tavern in this portion of the Chapin Building, (103-107 South Stephenson Avenue) in 1935, and also resided here. By 1939 the **White Star Tavern**, operated by **Louis Johnson**, was operating here, and was still located at this address in 1941 under the same ownership.

**History 109\*:** In 1892-1894 **L.A. Rouse** operated a barbershop at this location. There was no listing for this address in 1902-1903. **John Blixt** ran a barbershop here in 1907-1908. In 1913 **Casper Wilt**, a painter, resided at this address. There was no listing for this address in 1925. The **City Flower Shop** occupied 109-113 South Stephenson

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Avenue in 1935, run by **Ida M. Quilici**, advertising “Plants, Ferns, Cut Flowers, Corsages, Wedding Bouquets and Funeral Designs a Specialty.” In 1939 and still in 1941 the City Flower Shop, operated by **Mrs. James (Ida) Goulette**, was still located here. **Cyrilla Grocery**, operated by **Americo Pelliccioni**, was also listed at this address in 1941.

**History 113\*:** **John Virsella** ran a saloon at this address and also lived here in 1892-1894, as did **Natale Rutolanti** in 1902-1903. There was no listing for this address in 1907-1908. **Theodore H. Firme**, a plumber, conducted his shop here in 1913.

On Saturday evening, August 30, 1924, the **Blue Bird Café** was formally opened at this address, having actually been open for business on Wednesday, August 27. The proprietor, **E. Elli**, stated in the August 27, 1924 edition of the *Iron Mountain News* that the café would accommodate 400 persons and had “in connection a dance floor” that would be open every evening.

The building’s interior had been entirely remodeled over a period of some months, and represented “an investment of from \$28,000 to \$30,000.” In addition to 24 booths there were a number of tables on both the main floor and the balcony which encircled the interior. The dance floor accommodated “from 30 to 40 couple with comfort.” A 10-piece orchestra played for the formal opening on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, and a five-piece orchestra was to be engaged for every evening from that time on.

**George Wilde**, an “expert chef who was a member of **Sherry’s** staff for 10 years in New York,” was the manager of the new establishment and was to be in charge of the cuisine. According to Wilde, “strict

decorum” was to “be maintained at all times and nothing but clean entertainment and dancing” would be allowed.

Apparently the new restaurant had some difficulties with staff and management changes. An article in the May 8, 1925 edition of the *Iron Mountain News* recorded a lawsuit filed by **Thomas F. O’Connell**, former chef at the **Bluebird Restaurant**, for \$300 which he “alleged was due him for labor performed.” The trial occurred on the afternoon of May 7, and “a jury of six men” allowed O’Connell \$125 for back wages. O’Connell, the plaintiff, was represented by **Ray Dundon**, and **Edward Murphy**, the defendant, was represented by **Ray E. MacAllister**. In the 1925 directory Edward Murphy, of Escanaba, was the owner of a restaurant at 119 South Stephenson Avenue which was listed as “vacant.”

**James A. Mitchell** ran **The City Cash Market** here in 1925, featuring “fancy and staple groceries and meats.” The **City Flower Shop** occupied 109-113 South Stephenson Avenue in 1935, run by **Ida M. Quilici**, advertising “Plants, Ferns, Cut Flowers, Corsages, Wedding Bouquets and Funeral Designs a Specialty.” In 1939 and still in 1941 the City Flower Shop, operated by **Mrs. James (Ida) Goulette**, was still located here.

**History 115\*:** **Wallner & Barnardi** (**Joseph Wallner** and **Frank Banardi**) operated a saloon here in 1892-1894. Frank Banardi also lived at this address, as did **Peter Battosti**, a miner, at that time. **Traveggio & Saratoni** (**Emanuel Traveggio** and **Louis Saratoni**) operated a saloon at this location in 1902-1903, and also lived here. **Robert Quilici**, listed at this address in 1907-1908, sold liquor, cigars and ran a pool room, as well as residing here with his wife **Magdalena**

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

**Quilici and Feore Orellio.** In 1913 Robert Quilici was still at this location, operating a saloon and residing here with his wife “**Batiste**” Quilici.

The May 1, 1925 edition of the *Iron Mountain News* announced that the **Coney Island Red Hot** stand had opened for business at 115 South Stephenson Avenue. The interior of the restaurant had been remodeled and new fixtures installed. In addition to a lunch counter, booths and tables were provided. The establishment specialized in red hots and childe con carne. **Sam Saltis**, of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and **A. Pappas**, of Marinette, Wisconsin, were the proprietors. Neither of these men were listed in the 1925 directory

By 1925, during the Prohibition era, **Camilla Tiglint** sold soft drinks here. Robert Quilici and his wife Lena Quilici resided upstairs, as well as **Adam Quilici**, **Ida M. Quilici**, a bookkeeper, and **Viola F. Quilici**. **The Crystal Lunch** was located here by 1935 and was still here in 1939, operated by Viola Quilici. Robert Quilici still resided here in 1935, as did Viola Quilici. By 1941 the business was known as the **Crystal Inn**, but was still operated by Viola Quilici. **James Goulette**, a member of the Michigan legislature, lived here with his wife **Ida (Quilici) Goulette** in 1941.

**History 117\*:** In 1892-1894 **C.A. Petterson** dealt in “hardware, stoves, tinware, watches, clocks, jewelry, sewing machines, pianos and organs” at this address, and **Edward Peterson** also ran a saloon here at this time. J.A. Clancy, an architect, had his office at this address in 1892-1894, advertising “Designing and superintending the construction of public buildings a specialty.” **J.A. Sundstrom** ran a hardware store on this site in 1902-1903, and **Pietro D’Inocenzi** and **Andrio**

**D’Inocenzi**, both miners, boarded upstairs. In 1907-1908 **Otto Anderson** was named at this address in the street listing, but not in the alphabetical listing. By 1913 the **Iron Mountain Light and Fuel Company**, **Thorton B. Anderson**, superintendent, had its office here. **Noel H. Turner**, of the **International Construction Company**, and his wife **Margaret Turner**, lived upstairs at 117 ½ South Stephenson Avenue in 1913. **Louis A. Fox** had a clothing store here in 1925, and also lived at this address with his wife **Minnie Fox**. **Frank F. Goodenbour**, a helper, and his wife **Sarah L. Goodenbour**, also resided here in 1925. Louis A. Fox was still operating the clothing store at this location in 1935, residing here with his wife **Mary Fox**. Louis Fox, now the proprietor of the **Fox Fish Company**, lived here with his wife **Minnie Fox** in 1939. By 1941 **Beckstrom & Greenquist Decorating Company**, operated by **Harold C. Beckstrom** and **David E. Greenquist**, was located here.

**History 119\*:** In 1892-1894 **William P. Bray**, “a resident of this city since 1881,” was a Justice of the Peace and sold insurance at this address. **Christopher Grossbusch**, a “Dealer in Fruit, Confectionery and Vegetables, Notions, Toilet Articles, Toys, Cigars, Tobacco, etc.” at 417 South Stephenson Avenue, lived here in 1892-1894. There was no listing for this address in 1902-1903. In 1907-1908 Christopher Grossbusch, retired, is identified as living at this address in the street listing with his wife **Magdalena Grossbusch**, but the alphabetical listing places them at 123 South Stephenson Avenue. Christopher Grossbusch, city treasurer, and his wife **Madeline Grossbusch** still lived here in 1913,

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

together with **Clara A. Grossbusch** and **Mary B. Grossbusch**. **Edward Murphy**, a resident of Escanaba, Michigan, ran a restaurant here in 1925, but the street listing noted the location was “vacant.” This address was vacant in 1935. By 1939 the **Hoyle Sign Service**, operated by **Robert C. Hoyle**, was located here, and the owner lived here with his wife **Audrey Hoyle**. By 1941 the business was known as **Hoyle’s Sign Art Supply**, and the owner and his wife still lived at this address.

**History 121\*:** **S. Rusky** ran a general store at this address in 1892-1894. **Frank Grossbusch** sold confectioneries and furniture at this address in 1902-1903, and lived upstairs with **Annie Grossbusch**, who also worked in the store, **Christ Grossbusch**, **Clara Grossbusch**, and **Mary Grossbusch**. In 1907-1908 the **Gately-Wiggins Company**, “complete house furnishers,” managed by **Patrick Downey**, occupied the first floor, while **Charles Grossbusch**, a furniture dealer, and his wife **Lena Grossbusch** resided upstairs, as well as **Anna Grossbusch**, **Clara Grossbusch**, a stenographer, **Frank Grossbusch**, **Madelen Grossbusch**, a stenographer, **Mary Grossbusch** and **Minnie Grossbusch**, a clerk. The Gately-Wiggins Company, selling clothing and furniture, was still located at this address in 1913 with **John Williams**, manager. There was no listing for this address in 1935, 1939 or 1941-1942.

**History 123\*:** In 1907-1908 **Christopher Grossbusch**, retired, was identified as living at this address in the alphabetical listing with his wife **Magdalena Grossbusch**, but the street listing places them at 119 South Stephenson Avenue.

There were no listings for this address in the city directories for 1892-1894, 1902-1903, 1913, 1925 or 1935, 1939 or 1941-1942.

## 125 – XXX – 2010

**History:** In 1892-1893 **Merritt Bros.** (**Samuel Merritt** and **Mathew Merritt**) ran sample rooms here, as “Dealers in fine wines, liquors, cigars and fresh beer.” They assured “Gentlemenly [*sic* – *Gentlemanly*] treatment at all times. **Richard Magor**, a miner, also resided at this address in 1892-1894. **Michael Borgo**, who ran a saloon in 1902-1903 at 107 West Fleshiem Street, was found in the street listing for this address. **Louis Sjostrom** was listed as selling “liquors and cigars” at this location in 1907-1908, and as operating his saloon here in 1913. There was no listing for this address in 1925, 1935, 1939 or 1941-1942.

**\*127-129 – AMERICAN POSTAL PRESS ASSOCIATION, labor organization – 2010, GREAT LAKES INSURANCE, Jeffry P. Couper, owner – 2010, R.C. PETERSON LAW OFFICES – 2010, RAINSOFT, water treatment equipment service, Michael Zaio, manager – 2010, UPPER PENINSULA OFFICE FURNISHINGS – 2010 (Vacant – 1980; formerly Michigan Consolidated Gas Company)**

**History 127:** **Louis Zaio** operated a saloon at this location in 1902-1903, and **P.A. Tremontin**, agent, resided here. In 1907-1908 **Basilio Fedrizzi** sold “wines,

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

liquors and cigars” at this address and also lived here with his wife **J. Carlota Fedrizzi**. **Charles W. Johnson** operated a saloon at this location in 1913.

**History 129:** George Frederick Seibert and **Mr. Schaller** opened Iron Mountain’s first drug store on the northeast corner of South Stephenson Avenue and East Brown Street in 1881, but this business was destroyed by fire. Seibert was one of Iron Mountain’s earliest inhabitants, and kept a journal of a trip he made on foot between Menominee, Michigan, and Vulcan, Michigan, in 1879 which was printed by the Mid-Peninsula Library Federation in Iron Mountain in 1976.

In 1902-1903 Ella Seaburg ran a millinery shop at this location. **Mrs. Hattie Morgan** operated a millinery shop here in 1907-1908, and Laura Morgan worked as a milliner here in 1913.

**History (127-129):** An article in the December 3, 1914 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* noted that Edward G. Kingsford, the local and Upper Peninsula agent for the Ford Motor Company, had moved his office and repair shops to “the large building north of the office of the Oliver Iron Mining Company on the corner of North Stephenson Avenue and Fourth Street. The building had been thoroughly repaired and equipped with a plant of machinery for general repair work. The shop was in charge of a machinist who was foreman of a large Milwaukee Ford garage for a number of years. A complete line of supplies was in stock and gasoline and oils could be purchased. The building on East Hughitt Street, former headquarters for Kingsford’s garage, was to be used as a storage warehouse. Kingsford planning to erect an electric sign at the new

Stephenson Avenue location containing the word “Fords,” and about eight lamps were to be used in its construction.

In the February 8, 1917 issue of the *Iron Mountain Press* another major change of location was noted. **Edward G. Kingsford**, Upper Peninsula agent for the Ford Motor Company, had purchased lots 125, 127 and 129 at the northeast corner of Stephenson Avenue and East Brown Street on February 6, 1917. The deal, termed by the newspaper “one of the most important business deals consummated in Iron Mountain in many years,” assured the erection on the property of a business block at a cost of not less than \$20,000.

The deal was closed through the Commercial Bank, owners of lots 125 and 127. The adjoining lot on the north was owned by **Louis Sjostrom**. At the time the property was occupied by three frame buildings. The corner building was occupied by **Fornetti & Aimone** as a barber shop, the next by **Frank Caviani** as a saloon, and the third by **Louis Sjostrom**, the owner, as a saloon.

The corner lot had an interesting history. Some twenty odd years before it was purchased by the **Chapin Mining Company** with plans to erect a handsome building to be occupied by a bank which the mine management intended to organize. The lot cost the company about \$10,000. The bank was never organized due to the retirement of **Mr. Cady**, who was general manager at that time. Later the lot was purchased at a greatly reduced price by the **Kramer Brothers**, who in turn sold it to the **Commercial Bank**.

By the terms of the sale, Kingsford would not secure possession of the property until the first of May, when the saloon licenses of the two tenants would expire. Kingsford’s goal was to sell the

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

three frame buildings then occupying the property, or, if they weren't able to be sold, to wreck them as expeditiously as possible. The terms of the sale were private.

The building to be erected by Kingsford was to be one of the most substantial in the city. It was to be fireproof throughout constructed of brick, stone, steel and concrete.

The building was to have a frontage of sixty-nine feet on Stephenson Avenue and a depth of one hundred and twenty feet. It would be two stories in height with a full-sized basement. The basement would have a height of not less than ten feet in the clear and would have an entrance on East Brown Street. The main or street floor would be employed for offices, show rooms and stock rooms. The machine shop would be on the second floor. Much new machinery was to be added to this department. A portion of the second floor would also be utilized for storage purposes. Cars would also be able to be stored in the basement. The three floors would be connected by a freight elevator of sufficient capacity to easily handle the largest car. The heating plant would be located in the basement.

Kingsford estimated the cost of the building at not less than \$20,000. It was stated, however, that no expense would be spared to make the structure the best and most modern automobile service station north of Milwaukee. Work of excavating was to commence as soon as Kingsford secured possession of the property and construction work would be rushed to the limit.

An article in the April 5, 1917 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* stated that the plans for the large garage to be erected by Edward G. Kingsford at the corner of Stephenson Avenue and East Brown Street

would soon be ready for the contractors. Because it was "practically impossible to secure an early delivery of structural steel," it was decided to substitute other fireproof materials. Kingsford expected to sell the larger of the three buildings, a well-built structure then on the site. The small building was to be used for storage purposes while the garage was being erected and the third one was to be either sold or wrecked. Building operations were to commence as early as possible in May.

On May 3, 1917, about the time construction was to begin on the new Kingsford garage, the following article appeared in the *Iron Mountain Press*: "Many new automobiles are being sold here this spring and the demand for light delivery trucks is very large. During the past ten days, **Edward G. Kingsford**, agent for the **Ford**, has received and sold over sixty cars. He has orders booked for many more. **Johnson & DeGayner** have sold a number of **Overlands** and are expecting three carloads. Nearly a dozen new trucks have appeared on the streets during the past few weeks.

Just over two years earlier, in an article in the July 1, 1915, edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* stated: "**Edward G. Kingsford**, the district agent, received another large consignment of Ford automobiles during the week and the demand is still unsupplied. To date, in the local market, Mr. Kingsford has sold sixty cars and expects to sell at least twenty more. In the district for which Mr. Kingsford is the general agent, 360 cars have been delivered to purchasers to date."

On September, 2, 1915, the *Iron Mountain Press* reported: "District Agent Kingsford, of the Ford Motor company, is doing a 'land office business' just at present. During the past ten days he has

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

received five carloads of Ford automobiles. The total consignment was over thirty cars. The cars reach here in ‘knock-down form’ and are erected at Mr. Kingsford’s shops.

The **Kingsford Motor Car Company Auto Sales** (**Edward G. Kingsford** and **Edward S. Kingsford**) occupied this site in 1925 and was still there in 1935, selling “Ford and Lincoln Motor Cars, Trucks and Tractors.” The Kingsford Motor Car Company was still here in 1939 and 1941-1942.

## **5: EAST SIDE OF 200 BLOCK OF SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE**

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

### **EARLY IRON MOUNTAIN.**

Mr. **Charles Parent** should have the credit of having been the first general merchant as he came here in Nov. 1879, bringing a stock of general merchandise and and *[sic]* commenced business in a tent. He was accompanied by his half-brother **William**. Their families were still in Marinette. He soon had a building in readiness, located on Stephenson Ave. between Ludington and Brown Streets. He was second postmaster. He continued business here many years and was a highly respected resident of the city until his death.

**R.C. Philbrook** commenced building about the same time as Mr. Parent. He put in a stock of general merchandise (general

merchandise at that time included liquors). He was the first postmaster.

In Jan. 1880, **Andrew Boyington** and family came, Mrs. Boyington being the first woman in Iron Mountain. Mrs. William Parent did not come until April, 1880, a short time after the arrival of **Thomas Hayes***[?]* wife, and Mrs. Charles Parent came in July, 1880.

Mr. Boyington bought two lots and erected a two story *[sic – two-story]* frame building. He was engaged in business here about two years and then removed to Iron River where he has since lived.

**History:** This area was rebuilt after a terrible fire destroyed several buildings in 1883. Because of that fire the city appointed a new fire warden and an ordinance was amended so that only stone or brick buildings could be erected in the business district.

**FIRE:** At about 10 o’clock on Friday evening, January 26, 1883, a fire broke out on the 200 block of South Stephenson Avenue. The following report is from the Saturday, January 27, 1883 edition of *The Florence Mining News*: An extensive conflagration occurred at Iron Mountain Sunday night last, commencing at about ten o’clock. The fire began in the upper story of **Oliver & Penglase’s** saloon building, occupied by **Mrs. Hartman**, a widow lady, as a boarding house, and was caused by the fall and explosion of a lamp. Despite all efforts against it, the flames soon enveloped the building, and spread to the adjoining places, which were **Laing Bros.** meat market, **Wm. Andrew’s** clothing store, **William Parent’s** saloon, and the confectionery store owned by an old man commonly known as “The Old Dutchman,”

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

and they were all destroyed together with their contents. An Indian by the name of **Steve Nichols** was severely injured while engaged in fighting the fire and was carried from the scene in an insensible condition, with his face scorched and his eyesight seriously injured. The loss is estimated at \$10,000. Andrew's loss is covered by \$2,000 insurance, Parent's by \$1000 and Laing Bros'. by \$700. Other property destroyed was uninsured. Oliver & Penglase will commence the erection of a three-story brick building at once, and it is altogether probable that all will rebuild. It was expected that **Charley Ross's** saloon, **Philbrooks'** [sic – *Philbrook's*] and **Parent's** stores, and **Jenkins'** hotel, situated in the same block, would also be destroyed, and all were speedily emptied of their contents, with the exception of the store of Philbrooks, the proprietor locking the door and preferring to trust his stock to the mercy of fire rather than to that of thieves. Much of **C.M. Parent's** stock was stolen, while Ross misses ten boxes of cigars and a keg of beer.

**NOTE:** **W.L. Laing's** meat market, **William Parent's** saloon and **William Pengalze's** saloon were located on Stephenson Avenue near Brown Street where the **Asp and Olson Store** (*Charles Asp, proprietor, notions and confections, 207 South Stephenson Avenue in 1913*); **Oscar Sand's** saloon (*Oscar and Hilda Sand, saloon, 203 South Stephenson Avenue in 1913*) and the **Wills and Carbis Meat Market** (*Thomas Wills and William J. Carbis, groceries and meats, 201 South Stephenson Avenue in 1913*) stood in 1914, according to the Women's Club History of Iron Mountain compiled in that year.

At this time there was no fire protection, so a bucket brigade was formed across the

street to a creek and they passed the water in pails to the fire. **Steve Nick**, an Indian, laid on top of **R.O. Philbrook's** building and kept wet blankets on it until the fire was out, saving the balance of the block. A number of people thought they would help themselves to what they wanted after the fire. One man filled the inside of his clothes with Peerless Chewing Tobacco, and, when he tried to button his coat, the buttons all came off, according to the Women's Club History of Iron Mountain.

**201-233 – FIRST NATIONAL BANK & TRUST OF IRON MOUNTAIN-KINGSFORD – 2010** [Occupies the entire east side of the 200 Block of South Stephenson Avenue.]

**201 – (Vacant – 1980; formerly K-B's Pets; S & H Green Stamp Store)**

**History:** In 1892-1894 **William Hocking** ran a boarding house and sample rooms, serving "fine wines, liquors, cigars and bottled goods." He advertised the "finest beer always on tap" and stated that "gentlemanly treatment" was "assured at all times." From 1902-1903 through 1907-1908 **Oscar Hersell** sold liquors and cigars here.

An article in the April 21, 1910 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* reported that **Wills & Carbis** (**Thomas Wills** and **William J. Carbis**), "meat and produce dealers," had purchased the Oliver brick building at the corner of South Stephenson Avenue and East Brown Street and would be occupying the new business site in the near future. The following week, the April 28, 1910 issue of the *Iron Mountain Press* detailed the improvements being made by Wills & Carbis as follows:

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

## **Many Improvements.**

*Wills & Carbis are remodeling their brick building at the corner of Stephenson avenue and East Brown street, for a meat market. A new front will be put in with a corner window. The three plate glasses in the front and corner windows will each be ninety by one hundred inches in size. The basement is being enlarged to forty by forty-five feet and a new hardwood floor will be laid in the market. A chemical refrigerator, with a cooling capacity of 10,000 pounds of ice in twenty-four hours, will be installed and operated by an eight-horse-power electric motor. It is expected that the building will be ready and the fixtures installed by June 1st. When completed it will be the most up-to-date market in the city.*

**Wills & Carbis** sold meats and vegetables at this address in 1913, having moved from 203 South Stephenson Avenue. In 1925 the **Holland Furnace Company**, managed by **Nels T. Johnson**, was located here. By 1935 **William J. Carbis** was operating a grocery store here and was still here in 1939. By 1941-1942 the business was the **Carbis I.G.A.**, operated by **Frank Carbis**.

**203 – (K & G Appliance and Gas Company, 203-207 South Stephenson Avenue – 1980)**

**History:** **Jay W. Hoose** and **E.H. Eaton** operated the **J.W. Hoose & Company** store here in 1892-1894. Their meat market specialized in “fresh, dried, salted and smoked meats and sausages,” and also provided “game and fish in season.” **Hoose & Gage (Jay W. Hoose**

and **Fred Gage**) also had a livery sale and boarding stable at 100 West B Street at this time, advertising “general teaming and first class livery turnouts at reasonable prices.” In 1902-1903 **Thomas Wills** ran a “meat market, provisions, etc.” at this address, but by 1907-1908 the establishment was known as **Wills & Carbis (Thomas Wills and William J. Carbis)**, offering “gro. meats, fruits and vegetables.” In 1913 **Oscar Sand** ran a saloon at this location, and also lived here with his wife **Hilda Sand**. **George Hoyle** worked as a paper hanger, painter and sign painter at this address in 1925, also specializing in “window glass, paints, picture framing” and particularly “sign writing.” George Hoyle was selling paints from this address in 1935, and **Robert Hoyle**, his son, worked as a sign painter and lived here, probably upstairs, with his wife **Lillian Hoyle**. George Hoyle’s business was called the **Hoyle Paint Shop** by 1939, and still was listed under that name in 1941-1942.

**207 – (K & G Appliance and Gas Company, 203-207 South Stephenson Avenue – 1980)**

**History:** In 1892-1894 **G.A. Malmgren**, a druggist, was a “Dealer in Drugs, Medicines, Toilet and Fancy Articles, Paints, Oils, Wall Paper, Books, Stationery, Cigars, Confectionery and Druggists’ Sundries,” at this location, and his advertisement further noted “Prescriptions accurately compounded.” In 1902-1903 **Louis Sjostrom** ran a saloon here. In 1907-1908 **Asp & Olson (Charles J. Asp and Mr. Olson)** sold “confectioneries, cigars, tobaccos and stationery” at this address. The firm was still listed here in 1913, selling “notions and confectionery.” Charles J. Asp was listed

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

as proprietor both in 1907-1908 and in 1913. **Arthur C. Frankini** ran a jewelry store at this site in 1925, and still had his store at this location in 1935. By 1939 the **Farm Produce Market**, **Alice Lund**, manager, operated here, and was still located here in 1941-1942 with **William and Georgiana Nicholson** listed as owners. **Herbet J. Keller**, a cashier and clerk at the **State Surplus Store**, also lived here with his wife **Florence Keller** in 1941.

**211 – (K & G Appliance and Gas Company, 203-207 South Stephenson Avenue – 1980)**

**History:** In 1892-1894 **John Hicks**, billed as “the popular newsdealer” at this address, sold “Confectionery, notions, fancy articles, etc. Rubber stamps made made to order.” **Gust Pederson** was listed as a “boot and shoe repairer” here in 1902-1903, and was still operating his shoe shop at this site in 1907-1908 and again in 1913. **Robert J. Scholke** ran his tailor shop at this address in 1925, but by 1935 **August Pederson** again ran his shoe repair shop here, still working at this location in 1939 and 1941-1942.

**213 – (K & G Appliance and Gas Company, 203-207 South Stephenson Avenue – 1980)**

**History:** In 1892-1894 **Rabey & Thomas (John Rabey and William Thomas)** specialized in “staple and fancy groceries, fruits, canned goods and vegetables, etc.” at this address. **J.A. Johnson** operated a confectionery shop and resided here in 1902-1903. In 1907-1908 **Moses Khoury** was selling “confectioneries, fruits and ice cream, etc.”

at this location which was also his residence. **Ray Porter** ran a variety store and resided at this address with his wife **Edith Porter** in 1913. In 1925 **The Columbia Restaurant**, operated by **John Corombos** and **Stephen Papas**, was serving patrons here. By 1935 the **Farm Produce Market** was conducted at this location by **William Nicholson**, of Waucedah, Michigan, and **Elmer Lund**, of Norway, Michigan. By 1939 the **K & G Refrigeration Service Company**, operated as a partnership by **Alfred J. Klungness** and **Henry Goulette**, was located here, still listed here in 1941-1942.

**215-233 – WOOD BLOCK, INCLUDING ORIGINAL FIRST NATIONAL BANK, OTHER BUSINESSES LOCATED IN THE ORIGINAL WOOD BLOCK AND LOTS ADDED FOR THE DRIVE-IN BANKING FACILITY (1980)**

**History 215-233:** The building encompassing 221-233 South Stephenson Avenue was known originally as the **Wood Block** when constructed in 1888. Various business places were housed at 221 South Stephenson Avenue, 225 South Stephenson Avenue and 229 South Stephenson Avenue. As the First National Bank grew, those addresses were gradually incorporated into the bank proper. In 1978 the bank purchased additional property to the north of the original building for a drive-in banking facility, including 215 South Stephenson Avenue and 219 South Stephenson Avenue.

**History 215:** An article in the March 14, 1885 edition Norway’s weekly

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

newspaper *The Current* provided the following information:

*Lieberthal Bros. & Co., of Iron Mountain, Mich., have opened a merchant tailoring department in connection with their large stock of clothing, dry goods, boots and shoes, etc. They carry a large assortment of imported and domestic cloths to select from, and guarantee a perfect fit or no sale. Give them a call for your spring suit.*

In 1892-1894 **D.H. Lieberthal** ran a clothing store in the brick building he constructed here in 1888. This was not necessarily the site of Lieberthal Bros. & Co. noted in the above article. In 1902-1903 the **Rusky Brothers (Samuel Rusky and Julius Rusky)** operated their general merchandise store, known as **The London Store**, at this location. The firm was still in business here in 1907-1908, listed as a "department store," and again in 1913, listed as offering "general merchandise." In 1925 **Walter and Ambrose C. Strand and Mrs. Bertha Strand**, widow of **Eric C. Strand**, operated **Strand Brothers Furniture Company** in the north half of this building, advertising "The House of Quality" and selling "Furniture, Rugs and Stoves," and **Charles T. Stolberg** operated his tailor shop, advertising "Merchant Tailor, Altering, Pressing and Cleaning," in the south portion. Both **Strand Brothers Furniture Company** and **Charles T. Stolberg**, tailor, still occupied this site in 1935. In 1939 the **Strand Furniture Company**, a partnership between **Ambrose C. Strand** and **Walter Strand** was still located here, and was still listed at this address, again as **Strand Brothers Furniture Company**, in 1941-1942, as was **Charles T. Stolberg**, owner of the **Stolberg Tailor Shop**.

**History 217:** **Dundon's Actual Business College**, **Ruth F. Dundon** and **Richard F. Dundon**, proprietors, was listed at this address in 1939, and was again listed at 217 ½ in 1941-1942.

**History 219:** In 1892-1894 **Charles E. Parent** was still occupying the brick building bearing his name, constructed at this address in 1888. He dealt in "dry goods, carpets, boots, shoes, gents' furnishings, groceries, provisions, flour, feed, crockery, glassware and general merchandise." **Charles E. Parent** was considered by some to have been the first merchant in Iron Mountain, as he arrived in November, 1879, bringing a stock of general merchandise and setting up business in a tent. He located on Stephenson Avenue between Ludington and Brown Streets shortly thereafter, very possibly on the same location as his store. In 1902-1903 **Anderson & Sundstrom (Charles E. Anderson and Ferdinand Sundstrom)** ran their general merchandise store in this building. **The Electric Theater** operated at this location in 1907-1908. **Eugene DeGayner** ran **The Club**, offering billiards, pool and a bowling alley, at this location in 1913. **Mitchell Hardware (Harry H. Mitchell, Thomas Mitchell and William Henry Mitchell)** was located here in 1925, having moved that year from 207 South Stephenson Avenue, and was still listed at this address in 1935, 1939 and 1941-1942. The building was sold to the First National Bank in 1977, when **Thomas and Harry Mitchell** retired, and was razed in 1978 when the drive-in bank was established.

**History 221:** In 1892-1894 the **Wright Brothers (Jason K. Wright and**

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

**Anson Francis Wright**) dealt in “dry goods, groceries, flour, feed and general merchandise” at this location. An article in the February 29, 1896 edition of *The Range-Tribune* announced The Continental, a new clothing store, opened that day “in Wood’s block, 221 Stephenson avenue, with a complete line of clothing, hats, caps and gents’ furnishing goods.” According to the newspaper account, the firm’s motto was “Quick sales and small profits.” **The Continental Clothing Store** was owned and operated by **Charles Delaporte & Son**, of Green Bay, Wisconsin, with **William Delaporte**, the “& Son,” serving as manager. The firm had a “well-established reputation for square dealing” and had “come to stay.” The article also mentioned that this location was “Corning’s old stand” in the Wood Block. This would have been **George T. Corning**, who operated a hardware store at 104 East Brown Street in 1892-1894, and was evidently back at that address in 1902-1903, when **Corning & Barron** (George T. Corning and **Thomas H Barron**) ran a hardware store at that location which was still in operation there in 1913.

The Continental Clothing Store evidently didn’t “come to stay,” as **Louis Kahn** sold wholesale and retail liquors here in 1902-1903. By 1907-1908 **Louis Johnson** was selling liquors and cigars at this address, and he ran a saloon here in 1913. By 1925 the First National Bank had incorporated this space into its portion of the building. Still a part of the bank in 1935, the **E.J. Electric Company**, **John Johnson**, a barber, and **Henry R. Miller**, a plumber, were operating their respective businesses from the building’s basement.

**History 225:** **John J. Cole** dealt in “dry goods and carpets” from his store at

this location in 1892-1894. The portion of the original 1888 structure would encompass the area below the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> second-story windows when counting from left to right when viewing a photograph of the original Wood Block. Cole also had a store at 311 South Stephenson Avenue at this time, where he sold “Clothing, hats, caps, gents’ furnishings, boots, shoes, etc.” In 1902-1903 **Louis Stoekly** worked as a druggist at this address.

**C.E. Anderson** operated a general merchandise store here in 1907-1908. An article in the September 19, 1912 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* announced a new business partnership between C.E. Anderson and Jerome E. Strong as follows:

### ***Takes a Partner.***

*C.E. Anderson, who has been engaged in the general merchandise business in this city for the past eighteen years, has sold an interest in the business to J.E. Strong, and the firm will be known as C.E. Anderson & Co. Mr. Strong, for the past eight years, has had charge of the dry goods department of the J.T. Mason store at Niagara. He is thoroughly conversant with every detail of the dry goods business and his genial and pleasant ways will be a drawing card in the business of the new firm. Since leaving the Mason store Mr. Strong has resided with his family at Quinnesec, but has now moved to this city and will reside on East B street. Mr. and Mrs. Strong will be welcomed in Iron Mountain society.*

In 1913 the **C.E. Anderson Company** (**C.E. Anderson** and **Jerome E. Strong**) dealt in general merchandise at this location, and had another shop at 202 East Ludington Street. By 1925 the **First**

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

**National Bank** had incorporated this space into its portion of the building which was still a part of the bank in 1935.

**History 229:** In 1892-1894 **Edward J. Ingram** dealt in “drugs, medicines, paints, oils, glass, books and stationery, cigars and fancy goods,” and **Charles E. Steller** was a jeweler at this address. The portion of the original 1888 structure would encompass the area below the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> second-story windows when counting from the left to right when viewing a photograph of the original Wood Block. **Hansen & Johnson (John Hansen and Gust Johnson)** ran a dry goods store here in 1902-1903, but had moved to 311 South Stephenson Avenue by 1907-1908, as this portion of the building had been incorporated into the First National Bank by that time, remaining a part of the bank in 1913, 1925 and 1935.

**History 231-233:** The bank occupied this address from the beginning on the ground floor. **John R. Wood**, president of the **First National Bank**, let the contract for his building on April 2, 1888, and the building was occupied before the end of the year. Wood had purchased the **Jenkins Hotel** which stood on the northeast corner of Stephenson Avenue and Ludington Street. **Henry W. Jenkins** built the hotel in the fall of 1881, and the building was considered Iron Mountain’s finest hotel. **Dr. Joseph Addison Crowell** and his bride lived there upon their arrival in Iron Mountain in 1882. Wood had the hotel moved to East Hughitt Street, east of the **Robbins Block**, where the north portion of the city parking lot is located today. He rented it as a hotel, but the building

mysteriously burned the night of July 4, 1888.

## **History of the First National Bank of Iron Mountain-Kingsford:**

The First National Bank of Iron Mountain was organized on the evening of October 10, 1887 following the collapse of the Merchants’ and Miner’s Bank. The following article from the October 15, 1887 edition of *The Florence Mining News* provides a detailed account of what happened, including a typical lengthy headline: **UNHAPPY DEPOSITORS – FAILURE OF THE BANK AT IRON MOUNTAIN – J.L. Edwards, Proprietor of the Merchants and Miners’ Bank Makes An Assignment – A Large Number of Poor People Among the Depositors – A National Bank Organized – A Large Budget of Interesting Social and Personal Gossip.**

*Great excitement existed at Iron Mountain and other towns on the range this week over the failure of the **Merchants’ and Miners’ Bank** of the former place. The collapse of the concern was sudden and altogether unexpected, and hundreds of depositors, the majority of whom are poor people, will probably lose nearly all of their money. The Range estimates the liabilities of the defunct institution at from \$10,000 to \$15,000, and says that **J.L. Edwards**, the proprietor, owns and has an interest in several tracts of valuable mineral lands and will probably be able to pay his debts dollar for dollar. It is reported, however, that the liabilities will aggregate fully \$35,000. If this proves to be the case, it is extremely unlikely that the unfortunate depositors will realize more than from 25 to 50 cents on the dollar. At last accounts Edwards was said to be in Chicago, where he went to*

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

endeavor to raise money on his lands in order to meet his obligations. **Richard White**, who runs butcher shops in this city and at Iron Mountain, was among the heaviest losers. He is said to have lost \$2,600. The day before the failure Mr. White purchased a draft for \$1,400 on a Chicago bank, and the money was not forwarded. **Rundle Brothers**, the well-known Iron Mountain hardware dealers, also lost a considerable sum. The bank was originally started at Norway by **Chas. L. Anderson**, who afterwards moved it to Iron Mountain, and a year or two ago sold out to Edwards. The Green Bay Advocate says that a suspicion is expressed that the latter has skipped to Canada with the available funds. The assignment was made to **J.S. Shafer**.

Iron Mountain, like many other towns, has had enough of irresponsible private banking institutions, and hereafter the people of that enterprising burg will do business only with national banks. The **First National Bank of Iron Mountain** was organized last Monday evening, with the following incorporators: **A.F. Wright**, Quinnesec; **John Perkins**, **F. Copeland**, **D.F. Mullens**, **B.W. Jones**, **E.S. Roberts**, Vulcan; **John R. Wood**, Appleton, Wis.; **Oliver Evans**, **A.D. Moore**, **H. McLaughlin**, **Wm. Oliver**, **W.S. Laing**, **R.P. Tuten**, **E.P. Foster**, **J.T. Jones**, **G.T. Corning**, **E.J. Ingram**, **C.E. Parent**, **H.E. Pearse**, Iron Mountain; **J.B. Maas**, **Samuel Mitchell**, **Edward Lobb**, Negaunee. Mr. Evans is a son-in-law of **H.D. Fisher**, of this city, and the other gentlemen are well and favorably known in Florence. The board of directors is composed of John R. Wood, A.F. Wright, H.E. Pearse, Oliver Evans, John Perkins, Wm. Oliver, W.S. Laing, C.E. Parent and Samuel Mitchell. The officers of the new bank are as follows: John R.

Wood, president; A.F. Wright, vice-president; H.E. Pearse, cashier; Oliver Evans, assistant cashier. The capital stock is \$50,000. The bank will probably be ready for business by the first of November. A national bank is needed in Florence, but until one is organized, many of the local business men will most likely patronize the new concern at Iron Mountain.

**FIRE:** An article in the April 4, 1889 edition of *The Menominee Range* reported a narrow escape from a tragic fire in the Wood Block as follows:

**Dickie Silverwood**, one of the occupants of the Bank building, on Friday night, thought he smelt [sic – smelled] fire somewhere in his vicinity, and a very short investigation led him to believe that the fire was in the next room, which is occupied by **Justice Bergeron** as a courtroom. When he entered that room he found it filled with smoke, and a glowing red spot in the floor near the wall showed him where the mischief was at work. A few buckets of water soon quenched the smouldering [sic – smoldering] fire, which had already eaten a large hole right through the floor, above **Wright Bro's store**, besides blistering the base board [sic – baseboard] panelling [sic – paneling]. **Dave Bergeron** says he can only account for the affair by presuming that two Jewish peddlers, who were taking out garnishee warrants before him late in the afternoon, and who smoked cigarettes persistently all the time, must have thrown the ends of their cigarettes into the sawdust-filled papier-mache spittoon, and that these had smouldered [sic – smoldered] until they had at last eaten through sawdust and spittoon, and done the damage now reported.

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

**History (Continued):** The First National Bank of Iron Mountain opened its doors on Tuesday, November 1, 1887. Ten years later **John R. Wood** sold his interest in the First National Bank building, often referred to as the **Wood Block** (not to be confused with the **Wood's Sandstone Block** at 206-216 East Ludington Street) to **Jay W. Hoose** and **Edward W. Eaton** for \$20,000. An article in the November 4, 1897 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* also reported that the property consisted of the three stores on Stephenson Avenue and the eleven offices above, the building occupied by **Brauns & Van** and the city council rooms. The new owners had to assume the existing mortgage for \$10,000 in addition to the money paid to Wood. At the time of the purchase **Hoose & Eaton** ran a meat market at 203 South Stephenson Avenue.

In an article appearing on August 2, 1900 in the *Iron Mountain Press* readers learned that “the counting room of the First National Bank” was “to undergo many alterations in the near future” to “add to the attractiveness and convenience of the institution.” The fixtures then in use would “be replaced with others of a more modern design” that would extend directly across the room. The new fixtures were “of oak finished in the natural wood,” and were “expected daily from the factory.”

One of the bank's biggest renovations occurred in 1921. The September 30, 1921 edition of *The Iron Mountain Daily News* provided an in-depth account of the changes made in Iron Mountain's oldest banking institution with the following headline: **Bank to Open Its New Home Tomorrow.**

*Thirty-four years of successful banking will be celebrated tomorrow evening when*

*the remodeled First National bank is thrown open for the inspection of the public. The formal opening will take place between 8 and 11 p.m., and will be accompanied by music and refreshments.*

*Completion of the remodeling has given the bank the right to claim itself the handsomest banking house in the upper peninsula, and probably the finest north of Milwaukee. For facilities, it is unexcelled anywhere.*

*Work on remodeling of the interior of the institution has been in progress since last December, under the supervision of **F.E. Parmelee & Son**, architects and superintendents. Progress has been necessarily slow in order to cause the minimum interruption to business and least disturbance of the original structure.*

*This is the third time the bank has been remodeled since its founding in 1887. In 1900 it was remodeled, and in 1906 remodeled and enlarged.*

## **Beautiful Interior.**

*Passing through the bronze doors under an arch of Bedford stone, the visitor is struck with the beauty of the banking house. The finish is white marble; the woodwork, such of it as is visible, is of mahogany; the ceiling is finished in cream and old ivory, and antique lighting fixtures furnish soft illumination. The hangings are of ecru silk, hung in luxurious folds, and the grill work of the cages and about the vaults is of oxidized bronze.*

*Directly in front of the entrance, across the lobby, is the executive office, separated from the lobby proper by marble wainscoting. Within are the four mahogany desks of the bank's officers. The floor is covered with a velvet carpet in a rich but dignified pattern.*

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

*Back of the office is the officers' private consultation room, with a desk and two chairs.*

## **Fine Vault Equipment.**

*Turning to the left from the executive office, the visitor is confronted by the tall grill surrounding the massive vaults. Of these there are five; [sic – :] three on the ground floor and two in the basement, giving the bank the best vault equipment north of Milwaukee.*

*First is the cash vault. This is protected by two steel doors, the first two inches in thickness, and the second an inch and a half. Back of these there is the day gate, and, before a burglar could get at the bank's bonds and specie, he would have to penetrate the four-inch door of the cash safe, and another door, almost as thick, guarding the inner compartment. The vault has a three-quarter inch steel lining.*

*Next is the book vault, and behind it, behind what is believed to be the most massive door in the upper peninsula, is the safety deposit vault for customers. Four hundred boxes are already in place, and space is provided for 1500.*

*Interest centers, however, about the vault itself. In addition to the 18 inches of reinforced concrete in which all vaults are sheathed, the safety deposit vault interior is lined with half-inch steel. The door, including the bolt-work, is fourteen inches in thickness, and weighs about ten tons, although it is so precisely balanced that it may be moved with one hand. It is a product of the **Diebold Safe & Lock Co.**, of Canton, O. Two combinations and three time locks insure its safety.*

*To enter the vault, a rubber covered "gang-plank" is provided, which must be lifted when the door is closed. The day-gate, used during business hours, cannot be opened without sounding an alarm gong,*

*and, at night, jack-knives back into the vault to allow the heavy main door to be closed to within about a quarter-inch of its limit by hand, then eccentrics, spun by a wheel, force it inward, making a hermetic seal. The bolts are always left in the locked position during the day, so that, in case of a possible holdup, the bank force could not be locked in the vault, as even the most painstaking burglar would scarcely take time to work the combination.*

*One of the cellar vaults will be utilized for old records, which are so filed that they can be located at a moment's notice. The other has been fitted with shelves, which will be at the disposal of customers for the storage of furs or other valuables too bulky for the safety deposit boxes.*

## **Coupon Booths.**

*Just beyond the safety deposit vault are four coupon booths. Like the rest of the interior woodwork and furniture, they are finished in mahogany. In each a chair is placed beside a glass shelf, so that anything which drops to the floor from the deposit box will be instantly noticeable. Scissors are provided in each booth for cutting coupons.*

*At the rear of the banking house is the women's retiring room, with chairs, table, couch and desk, finished in willow. A washroom and toilet adjoin. To the right are the men's and women's cloak rooms, and the men's washroom. To the left is a private telephone booth, and beyond it a storeroom.*

*To the left of the lobby, facing Stephenson avenue, is the bookkeeping room, where statements will be kept. This room, however, will contain no machines; the stenographers, and adding and bookkeeping machine operators will have another compartment between the coupon booths and the cages. Of the latter, there*

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

are seven, with mahogany woodwork and oxidized bronze grills.

## **Directors' Room.**

A surprise awaits the visitor when he enters the directors' room. Unlike the remainder of the banking house, the woodwork here is of Circassian walnut, with a hardwood floor. A paneled walnut wainscoting extends about the walls, and the beams of the ceiling are in the same finish, with electric fixtures at the intersection, and a large antique fixture in the center.

The most striking feature of the room, however, is the huge mahogany table in its center, with room for a dozen mahogany arm-chairs around it.

All the departments of the bank are connected by an intercommunicating telephone system, and the banking house is steam-heated by radiators with pneumo-thermostatic control.

The drapery, linoleum, curtains and hanging are by **Gimbel Brothers**, of Milwaukee; the furniture by the **Northwestern Furniture company** of the same city; the decorating by the **Bank Decorating company**, of St. Paul.

## **Handsome Offices.**

The office suites on the second floor were also remodeled, and are now second to none in the district. The main corridor is reached by two stairways, one on Stephenson avenue and the other on Ludington street. Both the stairways and the corridor are finished in two shades of buff, with paneled wainscoting of gumwood, which is the finish of all doors and other woodwork. The ceiling is in cream, and the floor is covered with linoleum in panels of red and brown.

Occupants of the office suites are **C.D. Symonds**, attorney; **O.F. Brauns**, dentist; **G.H. Boyce**, oculist; **The Miller Insurance**

**agency; the Pewabic company**, and the **Mineral Mining company**. The entrance to the **Elk's club rooms** also opens off the corridor. Washrooms for men and women are provided.

The interiors of the offices are no less attractive, the walls being finished in soft tones with stencil decorations around the border, and the ceilings in buff. Floors are of hardwood.

## **Credit Due Officers.**

All credit for the success of the institution is due to the able leadership it has had since it was founded almost 34 years ago, October 10, 1887. The first officers were **John R. Wood**, president, **A.F. Wright**, vice president, **H.E. Pearse**, cashier. The directorate consisted of **Oliver Evans**, **W.S. Laing**, **Charles E. Parent**, **John T. Jones**, **William Oliver**, **A.F. Wright**, **John Perkins**, **Samuel Mitchell** and **John R. Wood**. The original capitalization was \$50,000, which was raised to \$100,000 Dec. 17, 1906.

**M.A. Northrop** was elected cashier Jan. 12, 1892, and was succeeded June 3, 1895, by **A.D. Eldridge**. **Charles Ewing** followed Mr. Eldridge November 24, 1897, and was, in turn succeeded by **R.S. Powell**, April 9, 1901. Mr. Powell held office until **F.J. Oliver**, the present incumbent, was elected cashier, Feb. 18, 1919.

**W.S. Laing** succeeded **J.R. Wood** as president August 20, 1897, and held office until his death in 1905, when **E.F. Brown** assumed the presidency, which he has held ever since.

Of the present officers, President **E.F. Brown** first was elected a director in 1897, although he had been long affiliated with the bank as a stockholder. As stated above, he was elected [sic – elected] president in 1906 [sic – 1905 – ?], and has held office since.

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

**J.C. Kimberly**, vice president, was elected to that office January 11, 1910, to succeed his father, **J.A. Kimberly**.

**W.J. Cudlip**, vice president, was elected a director January 8, 1907, and vice president January 14, 1919.

**F.J. Oliver**, cashier, first entered the service of the bank January 15, 1899. He was made assistant cashier January 8, 1907, and cashier February 18, 1919. June 17, 1919, was elected a director.

**Joseph W. Franson**, assistant cashier, became affiliated with the institution July 12, 1910, and was made assistant cashier upon his return from army service, July 8, 1919. **Leo H. Mortenson**, who took Mr. Franson's place in April, 1918, when the latter was called to the colors, was made assistant cashier the same date.

## **Present Directorate.**

The present directorate of the bank consists of **J.C. Kimberly, A. Bjorkman, W.J. Cudlip, R.W. Pierce, Jr., E.F. Brown, R.C. Browning, G.P. Fugere, R.T. Miller, W.E. Hallenbeck, J.W. Hoose, and F.J. Oliver.**

A glance over the list of names of the officers and directors, past and present, shows that all are men of substance, and of sound business sense. Under their management the bank has grown from a small establishment to an institution with resources of over two million dollars[.] Its remodeled home is one of which the bank and the community it represents may well be proud, and under the same efficient leadership which it has always had, there is not the slightest doubt that the institution faces a long and prosperous future.

In the October 3, 1921 issue of *The Iron Mountain Daily News* a follow-up article on the opening of the new bank recorded the following:

Five thousand people, according to estimates based on the number of souvenirs distributed, attended the formal opening of the remodeled First National bank Saturday evening. They came from all parts of this district, Florence, Crystal Falls, and Iron River, Niagara, Norway, Vulcan and Loretto. Some businessmen stated that they did the biggest out-of-town business of any Saturday night in months.

Before the doors were opened at 8 o'clock there was a large crowd waiting to be admitted, the first five minutes of the reception filled the lower floor to capacity. Lines were organized as the only effective way of handling the huge number of visitors. Accordingly, they went from the lobby to the bookkeeping room; thence past the women's retiring room into the directors' room, around the table and out, up past the coupon booths and the huge new safety vault, whose construction and use was explained, to the executive office, where souvenirs were distributed, and thence out. Souvenirs consisted of thermometers, mounted on wood bases in mission finish, with aluminum name plates, four-foot tape measures in celluloid cases bearing a picture of the lobby, and quill pens with varicolored plumes. Officers and employes [sic – employees] of the institution who were on hand to explain all points, were recipients of constant congratulations on the excellence of their new quarters.

Throughout the evening **Castel's orchestra**, located in the northwest corner of the lobby, furnished music, which, with the artistically placed baskets of flowers, gave the whole affair the air of a gala occasion.

Upstairs, tenants of the office suites were also holding open house, while, in the **Elks' club rooms**, ice cream, coffee and

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

*waters were being served to all visitors. Like the bank proper, the second floor drew much favorable comment from the guests.*

*Until 11 o'clock the procession continued without stop. When the doors were finally closed, it was estimated that a number greater than half the entire population of the city had visited the institution.*

*"We are building for the future," said F.J. Oliver, cashier. "We have been told this evening that ours is the finest banking house north of Milwaukee. We meant it to be such; we meant to erect a building that would keep pace with the promised growth which, we feel, is certainly coming to Iron Mountain."*

## BUSINESSES AND OFFICES LOCATED IN THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING [THE WOOD BLOCK] FROM 1925-1941

**1925:** Businesses listed in the basement of the First National Bank Building, 221 South Stephenson Avenue, in the 1925 directory included: **Mette Electric Company**, (Walter F. Mette, Joseph P. Peterson and Edward *[sic – Edmond]* J. Poirier, proprietors, "Electrical Contractors, Fixtures and Supplies"; **John Johnson**, barber. On the second floor, the offices were occupied as follows: Rooms 1 and 2, **Symonds & Rahm**, (Charles D. Symonds and Paul Rahm), attorneys; Room 3, **Dr. Otto F. Brauns**, dentist; Room 4, **The Miller Agency**, **Carl G. Miller**, owner, general insurance; Room 5, **Dr. Joel D. Jones**, dentist; Room 6, **Dr. George H. Boyce**, physician; Room 7, **Dr. D. Boyce**; Room 8, **Mineral Mining Company**, **Edwin F. Brown**, secretary and general manager, and **Pewabic Company**, miners, **Edwin F. Brown**, manager.

**1935:** Businesses listed in the basement of the First National Bank Building, 221 South Stephenson Avenue, in the 1935 directory included: **E.J. Electric Company**, **Edmond J. Poirier**, proprietor; **Henry R. Miller**, plumber; **John Johnson**, barber. On the second floor, the offices were occupied as follows: Rooms 1-2 and 3, **Dr. Arthur L. Costa** and **Dr. Gemiel G. Jacobs**, dentists; Rooms 4-5, **The Miller Agency**, **Carl G. Miller**, owner, general insurance; Rooms 6-7, **Dr. George H. Boyce**, physician; Rooms 10, 11 and 12, **Symonds & Rahm**, (Charles D. Symonds and Paul Rahm), attorneys; Room 15, **F.E. Parmelee & Son** (**Fred E. Parmelee** and **Gale F. Parmelee**), architects; Room 16, **Carmelita's Beauty Salon**, **Carmelita Fiorucci**, proprietor; Room 17, **Lake States Oil Company**, **George C. Newton**, treasurer-manager; Rooms 18-19, **Prudential Life Insurance**.

**1939:** Businesses listed in the basement of the First National Bank Building, 221 South Stephenson Avenue, in the 1939 directory included: **E.J. Electric Company**, **J.E. Poirier**, proprietor; **Iron Mountain Plumbing & Heating Company**, **Henry R. Miller**, proprietor; **Reliable Beauty & Barber Shop**, **John Johnson**, proprietor. On the second floor, the offices were occupied as follows: Room 2, **Dr. Gemiel G. Jacobs**, dentist; Rooms 4-5, **The Miller Agency**, **Carl G. Miller**, owner; Room 6, **Dr. George H. Boyce**, ear, eye, nose and throat specialist; Rooms 10, 11 and 12, **Symonds & Rahm**, (Charles D. Symonds and Paul Rahm), attorneys; Room 15, **Honolulu Conservatory of Music**; Room 16, **Carmelita's Beauty Salon**, **Carmelita Mongiat**, proprietor; Room 17, **Lake States Oil Company**, **George C. Newton**, manager; Rooms 18-19, **Prudential Life Insurance**.

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

**1941-1942:** Businesses listed in the basement of the First National Bank Building, 221 South Stephenson Avenue, in the 1941-1942 directory included: **E.J. Electric Company**, **J.E. Poirier**, proprietor; **Miller Plumbing**, **Henry R. Miller**, proprietor; **Reliable Beauty & Barber Shop**, **John Johnson**, proprietor. On the second floor, the offices were occupied as follows: Rooms 1, 2 and 3, **Dr. Gemiel G. Jacobs**, dentist; Rooms 4-5, **The Miller Agency**, **Carl G. Miller**, owner; Rooms 6-7, **Dr. George H. Boyce**, ear, eye, nose and throat specialist; Room 8, **Mineral Mining Company**, **Elwin F. Brown**, manager; Rooms 10, 11 and 12, **Symonds & Rahm**, (**Charles D. Symonds** and **Paul Rahm**), attorneys; Room 16, **Carmelita's Beauty Salon**, **Mrs. Myrtle Seilta**, proprietor; Room 17, **Lake States Oil Company**, **George C. Newton**, treasurer; Rooms 18-19, **Prudential Life Insurance**, **Arthur M. Mars**, manager; Room 20, **John V. Zanardi**, prosecuting attorney.

The First National Bank moved into its new building on the east side of the 200 block of South Stephenson Avenue on Monday, May 20, 1991. The new building had been constructed in front of the original Wood Block building which was razed shortly after the new building opened.

## 9: EAST SIDE OF 300 BLOCK OF SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

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

## EARLY IRON MOUNTAIN.

Building commenced at once. **Frank Ayers**, a bachelor from Maine who had been exploring in these regions with a churn drill, was the first to have a building ready for occupancy. It was located on the southeast corner of Stephenson Ave. and Ludington St. He procured some lumber from Marinette and cut cedars in the swamp nearby for studding. He put in a small stock *[of]* "lumberjack" furnishings, including mittens, overalls, stockings, shoepacks, tobacco, liquors, etc. Later he started a restaurant, the first in the place, **Thomas Hayes** being employed as cook. He next added groceries and meats. In the spring or early summer of 1880, he sold a half interest in the business to **William Doucette**. About two months later Mr. Doucette became sole proprietor and Mr. Ayers hid himself to parts unknown.

*[NOTE: Numbering and addresses on the 300 block of South Stephenson Avenue seemed to change arbitrarily from one year to the next, as is evidenced with the entries which follow. Attempting to pinpoint locations of some businesses at specified dates is challenging.]*

**301-303 – FLEURY SINGLER & COMPANY**, accountants – 2010 **[Khoury Building]** (Daniel's House of Gifts & Cards – 1980; Hayward's)

**History:** A history presented to the **Iron Mountain Women's Club** on February 20, 1914, noted that the southeast corner of Stephenson Avenue and Ludington Street was the site of the first building ready for occupancy in Iron Mountain. According to the account given

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

then, **Frank Ayers**, of Maine, obtained lumber from Marinette and constructed a store in which he first sold lumber-jack furnishings which included mittens, overalls, stockings, shoe-packs, tobacco and liquors. He then was said to have started Iron Mountain's first restaurant at this location, hiring **Thomas Hayes** as cook, and later added a line of groceries and meats. He sold half interest in this property to **William Doucette** in 1880, and about two months later Ayers left for "parts unknown."

Whether the address indicated is 301 or 303, or 301-303 South Stephenson Avenue in the following information, the location was the southeast corner of South Stephenson Avenue and East Ludington Street.

In 1892-1894 **Hancock & Sundstrom** (**Robert J. Hancock** and **William G. Sundstrom**) ran a hardware store at 303 South Stephenson Avenue, and **Victor E. Lundin**, working as a merchant tailor here, advertised "Splendid fits and first-class work. Repairing and pressing done neatly." Hancock & Sundstrom were also listed under Sundstrom's name in 1892-1894 as running a general merchandise store at 205 East Fleshier Street, where Sundstrom also resided. **William G. Sundstrom** was independently running a hardware store at 301-303 South Stephenson Avenue in 1902-1903. **Dr. D.H. Ripley**, a dentist, and **Dr. S. Edwin Cruse**, a medical doctor, both had an office upstairs of 301 South Stephenson Avenue in 1902-1903. William G. Sundstrom still ran a hardware store, listed at 303 South Stephenson Avenue in 1907-1908, and not 301-303 South Stephenson Avenue, as in 1902-1903. **Victor E. Lundin** worked as a "merchant tailor" in 1907-1908, "over Sundstrom's hardware store," and **J. Auerbach**, an optometrist, also had his office upstairs at

the "corner of Stephenson ave. and Ludington." **Gust F. Gensch** ran a hardware store here in 1913. **John O'Hara**, a lawyer, had his office at 303 ½ South Stephenson Avenue, probably upstairs of 303 South Stephenson Avenue, in 1913, and also resided there with his wife **Martha O'Hara**.

In an article in the September 28, 1921 edition of the *Iron Mountain News* the reporter declared "one of the most important business deals in Iron Mountain business circles in some months" would occur on Saturday, October 1, 1921, when **Gilbert P. Fugere** and **Daniel J. Eck** took possession of the **Gensch Hardware Store** at the corner of Stephenson Avenue and East Ludington Street.

In closing the deal, Fugere and Eck also secured possession of the large store and basement for a term of years.

The *Iron Mountain News* article noted: "It occupies one of the most prominent corners in the city and the building has been occupied as a hardware store for more than thirty years. It was first tenanted as such by **Hancock & Sundstrom**, later by **William Sundstrom** and son, who sold the stock to **G.F. Gensch**."

The article further stated that Fugere and Eck would do business under the firm name of the **Fugere-Eck Hardware Company**. G.P. Fugere, the senior member of the firm, was one of Iron Mountain's most successful and progressive young businessmen. He was a native of Iron Mountain and a graduate of the high school. Associated with his brother **Frank Fugere**, some fifteen years ago Gilbert Fugere engaged in the shoe and gentlemen's furnishing goods, and the firm was an immediate success. Fugere was one of the directors of the First National Bank and a member of the board

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

of education at the time the Fugere-Eck Hardware Company was formed.

Eck was “an all-around tradesman,” a “good electrician and carpenter” and had some experience in merchandising. Eck was the active manager of the firm.

**Rian’s Hardware, Olaf Rian**, proprietor, occupied this historic spot in downtown Iron Mountain, listed at 301 South Stephenson Avenue by 1925, and advertising “General Hardware, Guns, Ammunition, Glassware and Tinware.” **Mrs. Amelia Erickson** worked as a milliner upstairs at 303 South Stephenson Avenue in 1925. By 1935, the **McDonald Hardware Company**, managed by **Clarence M. Tripp**, was located at 301 South Stephenson Avenue, as was the **MacDonald Hardware Company**, managed by **L.G. Jenkinson**, in 1939. The **Majestic Lunch**, operated by **Arthur Mitchell**, was listed at this address in the 1941-1942 city directory.

## \*305 – TIMELESS

### PHOTOGRAPHY, Phyllis Marion – 2010 (Bruttomesso’s Pizzeria – 1980)

**History:** The following brief article in the April 18, 1889 edition of *The Menominee Range* documents **N.C. Schuldes’** clothing store was operating at this time, probably at this address, with **Carl Schuldes** working as manager:

*C. SCHULDES’ store window has blossomed out in all the loveliness of spring millinery. Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed in such elegance as the modest lily, says Holy Writ, but the lady who is arrayed in one of the hats displayed in Schuldes’ window, [sic] will be clothed in the beauty of the lily of the field, with its eloquence and*

*loveliness made conspicuous by the milliner’s art.*

In 1892-1894 **N.C. Schuldes** ran a clothing store at this address, advertising “Fine millinery. The latest fashions. The latest styles and finest shoes in the city.” **Carl Schuldes** worked as manager for the store. At this same time **Joseph Bitterly** dealt in “Watches, Clocks, Jewelry, Silverware, Musical instruments and Optical goods” at the same location. **John Clifford** had a saloon here in 1902-1903, and **Frank Forsbusch** operated his tailor shop and resided upstairs. In 1907-1908 **William Foley** was a “saloon keeper” at this address. **Michael Khoury** operated two stores selling “fruits and confections” on Stephenson Avenue in 1913, one at this address, managed by **Abe Abraham**, and the other at 533 South Stephenson Avenue. In 1925 Michael Khoury still ran a confectionery shop at this address, and also resided here with his wife **Mary Khoury**. **Albert Khoury**, a clerk, **Anna Khoury**, a saleslady, and **Samuel Khoury**, a clerk, all worked in Michael Khoury’s shop and lived at this address in 1925, as did **Rose Khoury**, who was listed as a saleslady for Albert Khoury, but resided at this address. **Simon J. Shada**, a wholesale confectioner at 514 Carpenter Avenue, also lived at 305 South Stephenson Avenue with his wife **Estelle Shada** in 1925. In 1935 **Samuel Khoury** operated a confectionery shop at this address. **William J. Edwards** was a music dealer here in 1935, and **Ruby Edwards** worked in the store as a clerk. William J. Edwards, his wife **Ada Edwards** and Ruby Edwards all lived in Vulcan, Michigan.

## \*307 – XXX – 2010 (Camerland – 1980)

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

**History:** **Michael Carey** owned a cigar store and factory at this location in 1892-1894. **Joseph B. Eslick** ran his barbershop here in 1902-1903, and was still at this location in 1907-1908 and in 1913. **Riley's Stores**, **William Riley**, proprietor, had a News Stand at this address and at 1245 Carpenter Avenue in 1925, as well as a Smoke Shop at 307 ½ South Stephenson Avenue and a Dry Cleaning and Pressing shop at 111 East D Street. In 1935 the **Knights of Columbus Hall** was located here. While listed at 305 ½ South Stephenson Avenue in the 1939 city directory, the **Bon Ton Sweet Shoppe**, operated by **Wilbert Safranek**, was certainly located at this address. **Marian Safranek** also worked here at that time. The **Bon-Ton Sweet Shop**, under the same ownership, was again listed at 305 ½ South Stephenson Avenue in the 1941-1942 city directory, but was located here.

## 309 – XXX – 2010

**History:** **Jonah Orrison**, an agent for the **Atlantic Dynamite Company**, had his office at this address in 1892-1894, and was also the city treasurer. **Sophus H. Mortensen**, identified as the city's "leaping" [*sic – leading*] photographer, worked and resided at this location at that time, advertising "The finest scenic effects, All work done pertaining to the art." In 1902-1903 Sophus Mortensen still maintained his photographic studio here, advertising "all the latest positions, mounts, etc." **T.B. Catlin** was manager in the office of the **Michigan Telephone Company** (probably the Michigan State Telephone Company) in Room 2 (probably upstairs) at this address in 1902-1903. The **Michigan State**

**Telephone Company** maintained an office here in 1907-1908 under the direction of **A.A. Shephard**, district manager. There was no listing for this address in 1913, 1925, 1935, 1939 or 1941-1942.

## \*311 – ROBIN J. TCHOKREFF – 2010 (The Shoe Bazaar – 1980)

**History:** In 1892-1894 **John J. Cole** dealt in "Clothing, hats, caps, gents' furnishings, boots, shoes, etc." here, and also sold "dry goods and carpets" at his other store located at 225 South Stephenson Avenue at this time. **L.W. Johnson**, a jeweler and optician, ran his shop here in 1902-1903, and **Mrs. J.O. Marchand** also operated her millinery shop at this address. An article in the December 8, 1904 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* announced that L.W. Johnson intended to retire from the jewelry business, having sold "his handsome fixtures to **Rahm & Rylander** (**Gust Rahm** and **Carl Rylander**)."

**Hanson & Johnson** (**John Hanson** and **Gust P. Johnson**) sold "dry goods, shoes, clothing, furnishings, etc." here in 1907-1908. Gust P. Johnson was conducting a dry goods store at this address alone in 1913. In addition, the **Michigan State Telephone Company**, managed by **John F. Martin**, had its offices at 311 ½ South Stephenson Avenue, probably located on the second floor, in 1913.

On August 6, 1906, the **Michigan State Telephone Company** purchased stock and equipment from the **Menominee Range Telephone Company**. It is probable that the telephone company was actually upstairs of 311 South Stephenson Avenue during the entire span of years mentioned

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

here, and that the address changed from 309 to 311 South Stephenson Avenue after 1907-1908 but before 1913.

**Gilbert P. Fugere** and **Frank X. Fugere** opened their store, **Fugere Brothers**, offering “high-grade shoes and men’s furnishings,” in the **Cameron Building**, previously occupied by **Gust P. Johnson**, at the end of April, 1913. According to an article in the April 24, 1913, edition of the *Iron Mountain Press*, the “young men comprising the firm need no extended introduction to the people of Iron Mountain. For many years they held positions of responsibility with the leading business houses of the city and specialized in the lines they will now handle.” Gilbert Fugere worked for the **Levy Company** and Frank Fugere worked for **Abe Sackim** prior to forming **Fugere Brothers**. In 1925 the Fugere Brothers sold “Hats, Caps, Shoes and Men’s Furnishing Goods at 313 South Stephenson Avenue, but were also listed at this address. **Gilbert P. Fugere** was running the **Fugere Brothers** store alone, selling “clothing and shoes” at this address and “clothing” at 313 South Stephenson Avenue in 1935, as he was in 1939 and in 1941-1942, when the store was listed as **Fugere Bros. Shoes & Clothing**.

**\*313 – LINNEA & KRISTINE, retail florist and gifts, Linnea Marchetti, manager – 2010 (Jim Lynch – 1980)**

**History:** In 1892-1894 **Moriarity & Allen (James Moriarity and W.B. Allen)** were “Proprietors of the Fashion Sample rooms,” at this address, featuring “Imported and fine Kentucky whiskies, ale, porter, beer, etc.,” as well as “Imported and Domestic cigars.” **James Kinifick**, a

railroad contractor, lived upstairs at this time with **Edward Kinifick**, a laborer, and **Katie Kinifick**, a teacher at the **Brown Street School**. **Arthur Uddenberg** was a druggist and news agent at this location in 1902-1903, and **Rahm & Rhylander (Gust Rahm and Carl Rylander)**, jewelers, were also “dealers in musical instruments, sewing machines, talking machines [*phonographs*], etc.” here. **L.W. Johnson**, a jeweler at 311 South Stephenson Avenue, announced his intention of retiring in the December 8, 1904 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* which also mentioned Johnson had “sold his handsome fixtures to Rahm & Rylander. **Dr. Peter Hebert**, a physician, maintained his office upstairs in 1902-1903. Arthur Uddenberg still sold drugs, books and maintained his news agency at this address in 1907-1908 and 1913. **Rahm & Will (Gust Rahm and Louis J. Will)** were “jewelers and opticians” here in 1907-1908 and 1913, while Dr. Peter Hebert, physician and surgeon, had his office upstairs in 1907-1908.

An article in the November 16, 1911 issue of the *Iron Mountain Press* reported a robbery at the Rahm & Will’s jewelry shop as follows:

“Burglars broke into the Rahm & Will jewelry store last Thursday night [*November 9, 1911*] and carried away over \$1,000 worth of jewelry and sterling silver. Entrance to the building was made by sawing out a panel of the side door, making an opening large enough for a small man to crawl through. The night was dark and rain was falling, making the conditions favorable for the burglars. Evidently there were [*sic – was*] more than one person implicated in the burglary, and that one or more of them were on the outside watching for the police, as it would seem that the man on the inside left hurriedly, as if [*he*] had been warned,

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

because he left three watches on the show case [*sic* – *showcase*], which had been taken from the show window, and he also dropped a bracelet and necklace in the alley after leaving the building. Local talent is under suspicion of having done the work, but no positive evidence has yet been secured. A bit, brace and keyhole saw, with which the panel of the door was cut out, were found under the side of the building. Rahm & Will did not carry any insurance against burglary, although they carry almost every other line of insurance applicable to their business.”

**Hannah Hebert**, widow of Peter Hebert, resided at 408 East D Street in 1913 which is where she and her late husband resided in 1907-1908. In 1925 the **Fugere Brothers (Gilbert P. Fugere and Frank X. Fugere)** sold “Hats, Caps, Shoes and Men’s Furnishing Goods at this address, but were also listed at 311 South Stephenson Avenue. Rahm & Will still operated their jewelry store at this address in 1925. The **Michigan Bell Telephone Company**, with **James A. Martin** listed as manager, was also located here in 1925. **Huguet & Webb (Mrs. George L. “Odianna A.” Huguet and Anna L. Webb)** conducted a millinery shop at 313 ½ South Stephenson Avenue (upstairs of 313 South Stephenson Avenue) and **Mrs. Beatrice J. Archie** also worked here as a photographer in 1925. Gilbert P. Fugere was running the Fugere Brothers store, selling “clothing and shoes”, at this address and “clothing” at 313 South Stephenson Avenue in 1935. Louis J. Will, “Jewelers and Watchmakers,” also still operated at this address in 1935. **Will’s Jewelry Shop**, Louis J. Will, owner, was listed here in 1939 and 1941-1942.

**\*315 – SALLY’S SALON A HAIR DIFFERENT, Sally Budmy, owner –**

**2010 (Merle Norman and Hair Designers – 1980)**

*[NOTE: The location of businesses at 315, 317 and 319 South Stephenson Avenue is particularly confusing, and it would appear that street numbers changed over the years.]*

**History:** **Harris & Pascoe (John Harris and J.H. Pascoe, Jr.)** were dealers in “confectionery, ice cream, oysters, fruits, etc.” at this address in 1902-1903, as well as running another store at 201 West B Street. There was no listing for this address in 1907-1908 or 1913. The **F.W. Woolworth Company** was located at 315-317 South Stephenson Avenue in 1925 and the F.W. Woolworth Company, listed here in the alphabetical listing as well as in the street index sold “notions” at 319 South Stephenson Avenue under the management of **Arthur M. Larson**.

In 1935 **Arthur W. Larson** was still manager at the **F.W. Woolworth Company** store located at 315-317 South Stephenson Avenue. **Rollin’s Hat Shop**, managed by **Ada Martin**, was also listed at 315 South Stephenson Avenue in 1935, and was managed by **Mrs. P. LaRogue [*sic* – *LaRoque*]** by 1939, but owned by **P.J. Rollin**. The business was listed as **Perina’s Hat Shop**, owned by **Perina LaRogue**, in the 1941-1942 city directory.

**317 – XXX – 2010**

*[NOTE: The location of businesses at 315, 317 and 319 South Stephenson Avenue is particularly confusing, and it would appear that street numbers changed over the years.]*

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

**History:** Mathius Swanson, a jeweler at 317 South Stephenson Avenue in 1892-1894, was a “Dealer in watches, clocks, jewelry and silverware, scientific watch repairing.” He guaranteed “All work first-class in every particular and prices reasonable.”

A “New Clothing Store” was announced in the July 20, 1899 edition of the Iron Mountain Press as follows:

## ***New Clothing Store.***

*S. Mortensen, who has been connected with the Hub Clothing Store and other mercantile establishments here during the past four or five years, has leased the new Freeman brownstone building and will engage in business for himself as soon as the store is ready for occupancy. He will handle clothing, gents’ furnishing goods, hats, caps, boots and shoes, and will handle a superior grade of goods. Mr. Mortensen is a popular young man and will no doubt do a fine business.*

M. Mortensen sold “clothing, gents’ furnishings, boots, shoes, etc.” at this address in 1902-1903, as well as working as a photographer at 100 East Ludington Street. C.F. Wallberg’s tailor shop was on the second floor at 317 South Stephenson Avenue in 1902-1903. Carl Rylander, a watchmaker, no longer in partnership with Gust Rahm, worked here at 317 South Stephenson Avenue in 1907-1908. Charles W. Johnson, found at 319 South Stephenson Avenue in the street index in 1907-1908, but at 317 South Stephenson Avenue in the alphabetical listing, sold liquors and cigars at the latter location.

The Boston Store, a clothing establishment, was operated at 317-319 South Stephenson Avenue by John I.

Khoury in 1913. James Prenevost was listed as running a “pool & billiards” hall in 1913 at 317 ½ South Stephenson Avenue, probably upstairs. Leo Legendre, a lineman, lived at 319 ½ South Stephenson Avenue, probably upstairs, with his wife Edna Legendre in 1913.

An article in August 5, 1915 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* noted that “the F.W. Woolworth Company, of New York City, who operate a long chain of five and ten cent stores throughout the country,” had leased the store building then occupied by John I. Khoury and would take possession about the first of October. The building was owned by Edwin Freeman.

In the August 12, 1915 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press*, residents learned that John I. Khoury, owner of The Boston Store, was selling “high-grade footwear, clothing and furnishing goods at practically cost prices” at a sale which opened the next Saturday and continued until the first of September.

According to the article Khoury had “been forced to sacrifice his large and splendid stock due to the fact that, during his absence in the west, the building he now occupies was arbitrarily leased for a term of ten years to another concern and he was served with a peremptory notice to vacate within the month.” Khoury, unable to secure another place of business within the time limit, decided to “inaugurate a forced sale at which the cost mark will be obliterated.”

The May 4, 1916 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* announced: “The work of remodeling the Freeman building for the F.W. Woolworth Company was started this morning. Hans Nelson, of Green Bay, has the contract. The building will be extended thirty feet in the rear, making it, when completed, 30x110 feet, with a full

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

basement. A curved glass front composed of eight lights of curve plate glass will be installed. **Emil Bergquist** has the contract for the cement floor in the basement, **John Obermeyer** will install a steam heating plant and plumbing, and **W.J. Brown** the electric light wiring. The interior of the building is to be redecorated. Mr. Nelson expects to have the work completed by the 15th of next month.”

On Friday, June 16, 1916, **T.G. Young**, general superintendent of the Woolworth stores, and **E.A. Wangler**, the local manager, were in charge of the formal opening of the local store, one of over eight hundred Woolworth stores throughout the country.

In an article in the June 15, 1916, edition of the *Iron Mountain Press*, Young stated that the Iron Mountain store was “the equal of any in the chain in point of furnishings and stock, the company having expended over \$8,000 in rebuilding and enlarging the Freeman block.” He added that no city had “a more up-to-date store, the front being a very handsome one” which was “built almost entirely of plate glass, the windows being of an oval design.”

The opening was like a reception. No goods were sold and visitors received presents. The article also noted: “A feature of the store is the candy department on the left of the main entrance. It has the approval of the state and federal sanitary authorities. On Saturday the formal opening will take place with thirty clerks in attendance.”

**F.W. Woolworth Company** was located at 315-317 South Stephenson Avenue in 1925 and F.W. Woolworth Company, listed here in the alphabetical listing as well as in the street index sold “notions” at 319 South Stephenson Avenue under the management of **Arthur M. Larson**. In 1935

**Arthur W. Larson** was manager at the **F.W. Woolworth Company** store located at 315-317 South Stephenson Avenue. **Edward Freeman**, an autoworker, lived at 317 ½ South Stephenson Avenue (upstairs) with his wife **Sorrie Freeman** in 1935. The F.W. Woolworth Company was listed at 319 South Stephenson Avenue in 1939 and 1941-1942, and in all probability encompassed 317-319 South Stephenson Avenue. Arthur M. Larsen [*sic*] still served as manager during those years.

## \*319 – XXX – 2010

*[NOTE: The location of businesses at 315, 317 and 319 South Stephenson Avenue is particularly confusing, and it would appear that street numbers changed over the years.]*

**History:** **R. Frezinsky** ran a clothing store at this address in 1892-1894. **Mrs. D. Jarvis**, proprietor, operated the **Wabash Hotel** upstairs at this location in 1902-1903. **Charles W. Johnson**, found at 319 South Stephenson Avenue in the street index in 1907-1908, but at 317 South Stephenson Avenue in the alphabetical listing, sold liquors and cigars at the latter location. **John I. Khoury** sold clothing here in 1907-1908. **The Boston Store**, a clothing establishment, was operated at 317-319 South Stephenson Avenue by **John I. Khoury** in 1913. **James Prenevost** was listed as running a “pool & billiards” hall in 1913 at 317 ½ South Stephenson Avenue, probably upstairs. **Leo Legendre**, a lineman, lived at 319 ½ South Stephenson Avenue, probably upstairs, with his wife **Edna Legendre** in 1913.

An article in August 5, 1915 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* noted that “the **F.W. Woolworth Company**, of New York

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

City, who operate a long chain of five and ten cent stores throughout the country,” had leased the store building then occupied by **John I. Khoury** and would take possession about the first of October. The building was owned by **Edwin Freeman**.

In the August 12, 1915 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press*, residents learned that **John I. Khoury**, owner of **The Boston Store**, was selling “high-grade footwear, clothing and furnishing goods at practically cost prices” at a sale which opened the next Saturday and continued until the first of September.

According to the article Khoury had “been forced to sacrifice his large and splendid stock due to the fact that, during his absence in the west, the building he now occupies was arbitrarily leased for a term of ten years to another concern and he was served with a peremptory notice to vacate within the month.” Khoury, unable to secure another place of business within the time limit, decided to “inaugurate a forced sale at which the cost mark will be obliterated.”

The May 4, 1916 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* announced: “The work of remodeling the **Freeman building** for the F.W. Woolworth Company was started this morning. **Hans Nelson**, of Green Bay, has the contract. The building will be extended thirty feet in the rear, making it, when completed, 30x110 feet, with a full basement. A curved glass front composed of eight lights of curve plate glass will be installed. **Emil Bergquist** has the contract for the cement floor in the basement, **John Obermeyer** will install a steam heating plant and plumbing, and **W.J. Brown** the electric light wiring. The interior of the building is to be redecorated. Mr. Nelson expects to have the work completed by the 15th of next month.”

On Friday, June 16, 1916, **T.G. Young**, general superintendent of the Woolworth stores, and **E.A. Wangler**, the local manager, were in charge of the formal opening of the local store, one of over eight hundred Woolworth stores throughout the country.

In an article in the June 15, 1916, edition of the *Iron Mountain Press*, Young stated that the Iron Mountain store was “the equal of any in the chain in point of furnishings and stock, the company having expended over \$8,000 in rebuilding and enlarging the Freeman block.” He added that no city had “a more up-to-date store, the front being a very handsome one” which was “built almost entirely of plate glass, the windows being of an oval design.”

The opening was like a reception. No goods were sold and visitors received presents. The article also noted: “A feature of the store is the candy department on the left of the main entrance. It has the approval of the state and federal sanitary authorities. On Saturday the formal opening will take place with thirty clerks in attendance.”

**F.W. Woolworth Company** was located at 315-317 South Stephenson Avenue in 1925 and F.W. Woolworth Company, listed here in the alphabetical listing as well as in the street index sold “notions” at 319 South Stephenson Avenue under the management of **Arthur M. Larson**. In 1935 **Arthur W. Larson** was manager at the **F.W. Woolworth Company** store located at 315-317 South Stephenson Avenue. **Edward Freeman**, an autoworker, lived at 317 ½ South Stephenson Avenue (upstairs) with his wife **Sorrie Freeman** in 1935. The F.W. Woolworth Company was listed at 319 South Stephenson Avenue in 1939 and 1941-1942, and in all probability encompassed 317-319 South Stephenson

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Avenue. Arthur M. Larsen [sic] still served as manager during those years.

**\*321 – PERINA’S, INC., artificial breasts, Charlotte Novak, president – 2010 (Perina’s – 1980)**

**History Before the Fire:** In 1887 **Clinton W. Montgomery**, a brick manufacturer, built the Montgomery Block, one of the city’s earliest business blocks, at this location. In April, 1889, Montgomery purchased the **Adams House**, belonging to the **Jacques Brothers**, for \$4,400. This frame property adjoined Montgomery’s brick building, and the editor of *The Menominee Range* hoped the new owner would remove the wooden structure and extend his “handsome brick block.” **John T. Spencer**, a “dealer in fruits and vegetables, provisions, confectionery and notions,” operated two stores in 1892-1894, one here and the other at 118 West B Street, where he also lived.

**FIRE:** The two Montgomery blocks, the brick block and the frame block, both burned on Tuesday morning, January 11, 1898. At the time of the fire, the Montgomery blocks were occupied by **D.H. Lieberthal**, clothier; **A.J. Sundstrom**, hardware; **E. Mattson**, confectionery; and **C. Corneilson**, baker. *The Iron Mountain Press* termed the fire “the most destructive fire in the history of Iron Mountain, resulting in the almost total destruction of the Montgomery brick and frame blocks and the damaging of the Allen building.” The loss totaled over \$33,000. The **Allen Building** had **A.E. Smith**, saloonkeeper, as a tenant.

Shortly after one o’clock **Policeman Bray** discovered fire in the basement of the brick building occupied by Mr. Montgomery

as an undertaking establishment. An alarm was at once turned in and the company responded with their usual promptness. **Chief Harvey**, with the assistance of his men and many volunteers, soon had nine streams of water pouring torrents of water upon and into the buildings, but owing to the difficulty of locating the flames it was not extinguished until six o’clock. In the meantime nearly 500,000 gallons of water had been consumed. Chief Harvey pronounced the fire to have been one of the most vicious he ever had to fight, and “had it not been for the efficiency of our fire department and water works system the business portion of our city would have been wiped out of existence.”

Although a considerable amount of Sundstrom’s, Lieberthal’s and Mattson’s stock was saved, it was in such a badly damaged condition that they would be lucky to realize hardly 25 cents on the dollar, thus suffering almost a total loss.

How the fire originated remained a mystery, but talk of incendiarism [sic] was “mere guess work.”

As a result of this fire, the ordinance regulating fire limits was amended. Only solid brick or stone buildings were to be erected in the business district, and a fire warden was appointed. The city council was petitioned to lay water mains along the surface of Stephenson Avenue across the **Chapin Pit** to give increased efficiency.

**History After the Fire:** In 1902-1903 **A.L. Kramer & Company (Abe Kramer)** ran a saloon at this location. **Archie Lanouette** was the proprietor of a restaurant at this address in 1907-1908, and also resided here with his wife **Souvrine Lanouette**. There was no listing for this address in 1913 or 1925.

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

At 8 a.m. on the morning of Friday, November 29, 1929, the **J.J. Newberry Store**, the company's only "chain-store" in the Upper Peninsula, opened in the quarters formerly occupied by the **Dillon & Laughlin United Cigar Store (Charles M. Dillon and James A. Laughlin)** at 321 South Stephenson Avenue. The resident manager was **R. Baker**. The store had been "remodeled throughout, with all new fixtures and equipment," according to the article appearing in the November 27, 1929 edition of the *Iron Mountain News*. Although classified as a 5-25-cent store, prices in the J.J. Newberry Store ranged from five cents to one dollar and covered everything from hairpins to hardware. No ceremony or program of any kind had been arranged for the grand opening, but 50 girl clerks were to be in attendance. The store eventually expanded to include the adjoining store building at 323 South Stephenson Avenue. In 1935 the J.J. Newberry Company 5-25 cent store, managed by **Clarence W. Pickering**, was located at 321-323 South Stephenson Avenue. By 1939 **Walter R. Worthington** managed the J.J. Newberry Company's store, listed at 321 South Stephenson Avenue. The store was again listed at 321-323 South Stephenson Avenue in the 1941-1942 directory with **Orville Mynster** serving as manager.

**\*323 – SALON 323, beauty salon, John M. and Deborah A. McKinzie, owners – 2010 (Fugere Brothers – 1980)**

**History:** **Arthur Uddenberg**, an "Analytical Chemist, Assayer and Druggist," was a "Dealer in pure drugs and medicines" in 1892-1894 at this address and claimed

"Prescriptions accurately compounded." **A.I. Le Veque**, "Jeweler and Watchmaker," a "Dealer in Watches, Clocks, Jewelry, Silverware, Optical Goods and Musical Instruments" here. There was no listing at this address in 1902-1903. **B. Kramer & Company (Ben Kramer)** sold liquor and cigars, and also advertised "billiards" at this location in 1907-1908. In 1913 **Joseph De Concini** ran **The Bank Buffet** at this location, also residing here with his wife **Ida De Concini**. In 1925 **Aimone & Fornetti (Peter Aimone and James Fornetti)** ran a barbershop at this location. In addition, **Dillon & Laughlin (Charles M. Dillon and James A. Laughlin)** ran a billiard parlor here, and **Adelard Page** had a boarding house upstairs, also residing there with his wife **Camillia Page**. The **J.J. Newberry Company**, a variety store managed by **Clarence W. Pickering**, conducted business at 321-323 South Stephenson Avenue in 1935. By 1939 **Walter R. Worthington** managed the J.J. Newberry Company's store, listed at 321 South Stephenson Avenue. The store was again listed at 321-323 South Stephenson Avenue in the 1941-1942 directory with **Orville Mynster** serving as manager.

## **325 – XXX – 2010**

**History:** **A.M. Oppenheim**, proprietor of "The Fair," was a "Dealer in Dry Goods, Clothing, Furniture, Boots, Shoes, Groceries, Provisions and General Merchandise," and ran his store at 325-327-329 South Stephenson Avenue in 1892-1894. Oppenheim's advertisement appears between pages 126 and 127 in the 1892-1894 city directory. **C.B. Gingras [sic – Gingrass]** operated a saloon at 325 South Stephenson Avenue in 1902-1903.

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Although **Joe De Concini**'s name appeared in the street index for this address in 1907-1908, he was found in the alphabetical listing as running a livery and selling feed, as well as liquor and cigars, but no place was given, other than his home address at 110 West Ludington Street, where he lived with his wife **Ida De Concini**. There was no listing for this address in 1913 or 1925. It is possible that 325 South Stephenson Avenue was 323 South Stephenson Avenue in those years, and also in 1907-1908.

At 8 a.m. on the morning of Friday, November 29, 1929, the **J.J. Newberry Store**, the company's only "chain-store" in the Upper Peninsula, opened in the quarters formerly occupied by the **Dillon & Laughlin United Cigar Store (Charles M. Dillon and James A. Laughlin)** at 321 South Stephenson Avenue. The resident manager was **R. Baker**. The store had been "remodeled throughout, with all new fixtures and equipment," according to the article appearing in the November 27, 1929 edition of the *Iron Mountain News*. Although classified as a 5-25-cent store, prices in the J.J. Newberry Store ranged from five cents to one dollar and covered everything from hairpins to hardware. No ceremony or program of any kind had been arranged for the grand opening, but 50 girl clerks were to be in attendance. The store eventually expanded to include the adjoining store building at 323 South Stephenson Avenue. In 1935 the J.J. Newberry Company 5-25 cent store, managed by **Clarence W. Pickering**, was located at 321-323 South Stephenson Avenue. By 1939 **Walter R. Worthington** managed the J.J. Newberry Company's store, listed at 321 South Stephenson Avenue. The store was again listed at 321-323 South Stephenson Avenue in the 1941-

1942 directory with **Orville Mynster** serving as manager.

## 327 – XXX – 2010

**History:** **A.M. Oppenheim**, proprietor of "**The Fair**," was a "Dealer in Dry Goods, Clothing, Furniture, Boots, Shoes, Groceries, Provisions and General Merchandise," ran his store at 325-327-329 South Stephenson Avenue in 1892-1894. **E.A. Woodward**, attorney and counselor at law, had his office upstairs at 327 South Stephenson Avenue in 1892-1894. **E.A. Neubauer & Company (E.A. Neubauer)** worked as "jewelers and opticians" at 327 South Stephenson Avenue in 1902-1903. E.A. Neubauer was still proprietor of a jewelry store here in 1907-1908, and was also Dickinson County Sheriff, living in the sheriff's quarters in the jail building adjoining the court house with his wife **Emily Neubauer**.

**A. Sackim Company (Abe Sackim**, president; **Ben Seaman**, secretary; **Sam Seaman**, treasurer) sold "dry goods & gents' furnishings" at 327-331 South Stephenson Avenue in 1913. There was no listing for this address in 1925, and the A. Sackim Company was listed at 329-333 South Stephenson Avenue in 1935. In 1939 and 1941-1942 there is no listing for this address. [See the History for 331 South Stephenson Avenue below for a more complete history of the A. Sackim Company.]

**329-331 – XXX – 2010 (Ben Franklin Store – 1980)**

**History 329 (325-327-329):** **A.M. Oppenheim**, proprietor of "**The Fair**," was a "Dealer in Dry Goods, Clothing, Furniture,

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Boots, Shoes, Groceries, Provisions and General Merchandise,” ran his store at 325-327-329 South Stephenson Avenue in 1892-1894. There was no listing for this address in 1902-1903 or in 1907-1908. **A. Sackim Company** (**Abe Sackim**, president; **Ben Seaman**, secretary; **Sam Seaman**, treasurer) sold “dry goods & gents’ furnishings” at 327-331 South Stephenson Avenue in 1913. The A. Sackim Company (**Abraham Sackim**, of Chicago, Ill., president; **Benjamin Seaman**, secretary-treasurer), a department store, was listed at 229-231 South Stephenson Avenue in 1925. In 1935 the A. Sackim Company, a department store under the same management and at the same address as in 1925, continued to conduct business. The A. Sackim Company was listed at 329 South Stephenson Avenue in the 1939 city directory, and at 329-331 South Stephenson Avenue in the 1941-1942 city directory. [See the History for 331 South Stephenson Avenue below for a more complete history of the A. Sackim Company.]

## 331 – XXX – 2010

**History:** In one very early photograph taken prior to 1892, the **Rundle Brothers** operated a hardware and mining supply store at this location. **Abe Sackim** ran **The Paris Store** at 331 South Stephenson Avenue in 1902-1903, selling “dry goods, clothing, boots and shoes, hats and caps, etc.” In 1907-1908 Abe Sackim was operating at the same address, advertising “dry goods, carpets, clothing, shoes and house furnishings.” **A. Sackim Company** (**Abe Sackim**, president; **Ben Seaman**, secretary; **Sam Seaman**, treasurer) sold “dry goods & gents’ furnishings” at 327-331

South Stephenson Avenue in 1913. The A. Sackim Company (**Abraham Sackim**, of Chicago, Ill., president; **Benjamin Seaman**, secretary-treasurer), a department store, was listed at 229-231 South Stephenson Avenue in 1925. In 1935, the **A. Sackim Company Department Store** (**Abraham Sackim**, president; **Benjamin Seaman**, secretary-treasurer) was still located at 329-331 South Stephenson Avenue.

**History of the A. Sackim Company:** An article celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the A. Sackim Company published in *The Iron Mountain News* for May 5, 1942 stated that in the spring of 1892, **Abe Sackim** and **Julius Rusky** established a small general store 26 feet by 75 feet in size in the mining town of Iron Mountain. This store was known as **The Paris Store**.

Information in the city directories noted **Samuel Rusky** running a general store at 121 South Stephenson Avenue in 1892-1894, with Julius Rusky working as a clerk and residing in the store. Abe Sackim’s name does not appear in the 1892-1894 city directory. However, Abe Sackim was conducting business in The Paris Store at 331 South Stephenson Avenue by 1902-1903.

Two years after the store started business in the south portion of the building located at 327-331 South Stephenson Avenue, Rusky and Sackim dissolved their partnership, the latter taking over the business which he conducted alone until the company was incorporated in 1910 with brothers **Ben Seaman** and **Sam Seaman** becoming members of the firm.

The business prospered under Sackim’s management and soon larger quarters were needed for the stock of men’s and women’s apparel, dry goods, shoes and accessories.

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

An addition for the shoe and ready-to-wear department was added to the original building at that time.

The October 19, 1911 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* contained a detailed article regarding the enlarged and remodeled store, announcing the formal opening to be held on Saturday, October 21, 1911, in conjunction with the beginning of the annual fall and winter sale.

The enlarged store had a frontage of 60 feet on Stephenson Avenue and a depth of 150 feet, occupying two floors. The new steel and plate glass front with the large display windows was a very handsome one and “added wonderfully to the general appearance of Iron Mountain’s main business street.”

There were two main entrances to the store from Stephenson Avenue. Entering the south door, to the right “the greatly enlarged dry goods and ladies’ underwear departments” was located, “containing a line of goods that is most complete and fashionable.” A large display counter was located in the center and the department containing corsets, notions and yarns was on the left. The bargain department and bed furnishings were located to the rear. The ladies’ footwear department was “to the north of the notions department.” The office and wrapping department was located behind both the ladies’ footwear department and the notions department, almost in the center of the building. The “neck-wear department” occupied a space in the front near the south entrance.

The shoe department for men and boys was located to the right of the north entrance, with men’s furnishings and underwear in the center and the clothing and hat and cap departments also on the right. The fixtures in this section of the store were all new, the very latest

inventions for the showing of goods to the best advantage, and included modern wall and floor display cases.

The department containing ladies’ cloaks and coats, suits, furs and millinery was located in the solid stone annex in the rear.

The entire second floor was devoted to carpets, rugs, curtains, china and glassware and house-furnishings.

By 1914, four years after the incorporation and 22 years after the start of the business, the quarters were again found to be too small, and the store was again expanded. This time the corporation purchased a building immediately to the north of the old store, and combined the buildings by cutting arched entrance ways through the walls. An up-to-date men’s clothing and furnishings department was then opened in the front half of the new wing, the rear of which was devoted to women’s ready-to-wear.

Shortly after this, in 1915, Sackim, due to ill health, found it necessary to move to a warm climate, turning the management of the store over to Ben and Sam Seaman. Ben Seaman and his brother Sam continued the management of the store until the death of the latter, when Ben, the older of the brothers, assumed full control.

The store continued its steady growth under the direction of Ben Seaman, and in 1925 two departments were added, in a newly-built basement. In 1925 the Economy Basement, showing lower priced merchandise, was opened, and in 1926 came the popular cash-and-carry grocery department.

The A. Sackim Company also purchased that half of the property which it formerly had under lease in 1925.

In 1935, the **A. Sackim Company Department Store (Abraham Sackim,**

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

president; **Benjamin Seaman**, secretary-treasurer) was still located at 329-331 South Stephenson Avenue. The A. Sackim Company was listed at 329 South Stephenson Avenue in the 1939 city directory, and at 329-331 South Stephenson Avenue in the 1941-1942 city directory.

In early May, 1942, the A. Sackim Company celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

At that time the store had “a staff of 35 carefully trained salesmen and saleswomen, many of whom, entering the employ of the company while still in their teens, had ‘grown up’ with the store.” The department heads were **Dan Goodman**, men’s clothing; **Arthur Chapman, Sr.**, women’s and children’s shoes; Miss **Irene Johnson**, women’s ready-to-wear; **Ben Rusky**, the Economy Basement; and **Charles Luber**, the cash-and-carry grocery department.

In observance of 50 years of business in a city where the store had become an institution, the A. Sackim Company invited its customers and friends to call. There were sales in all departments, cash awards in the amount of \$500, flowers for the women and cigars for the men. Seaman arranged to have a fortune teller at the store, giving free readings to customers. There was also free bus service to and from the store.

**333 – [BEN FRANKLIN BLOCK] AMAZING SPACE, retail florist, Ruth Timbrook, owner – 2010, BANKERS LIFE & CASUALTY COMPANY, insurance – 2010, COLENZO & CO. PC, accountants, C. Todd and Dana Colenso – 2010, JERED LLC, marine equipment and supplies – 2010, JOHN**

**MANDE & ASSOCIATES INSURANCE – 2010, MEAD & HUNT, professional engineers, Bruce Hawkinson, manager - 2010 (Lynn’s Hallmark Store – 1980)**

**History:** Since Iron Mountain’s beginnings, this site was occupied by a drug store until **Cudlip’s Drug Store** was razed in 1969. **Margaret Seibert** was a “Dealer in Pure Drugs and Medicines, Books, Stationery, Fishing Tackle, Fancy Goods, Notions, Cigars and Druggists’ Sundries” at this address in 1892-1894. **Louis Stoekley** also worked as a druggist for Margaret Seibert in 1892-1894. Her husband **George Frederick Seibert** managed the drug store at this time and also served as postmaster. George Frederick Seibert and **Mr. Schaller** opened Iron Mountain’s first drug store on the northeast corner of South Stephenson Avenue and East Brown Street in 1881, but this business was destroyed by fire. Seibert was one of Iron Mountain’s earliest inhabitants, and kept a journal of a trip he made on foot between Menominee, Michigan, and Vulcan, Michigan, in 1879 which was printed by the Mid-Peninsula Library Federation in Iron Mountain in 1976. In 1902-1903, **Seibert’s Drug Store** was listed with **George “T.” Seibert**, druggist, at this address.

An article in the August 18, 1904 issue of the *Iron Mountain Press* read as follows: “**Seibert’s Central Drug Store**, which has been doing business in Iron Mountain almost since the arrival of the first settler, has been succeeded by the **Seibert Drug Company**. The members of the company are M. Seibert, George F. Seibert and Sam Cudlip. There will be no change in the present methods of doing business, as all

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

the members of the company have been closely identified with the business for many years. The same careful attention will be given to all patrons and no effort will be spared to satisfy the public and win new friends. The company is deserving of and will have the best wishes of thousands of friends not only in Iron Mountain but throughout the peninsula. ‘May you all live long and prosper.’”

The Seibert Drug Company, operated by George F. Seibert, still sold “drugs, sundries, books, sporting goods, etc.” here in 1907-1908. In 1913 the Seibert Drug Company (Margaret Seibert, president; **Samuel Cudlip**, vice-president; George F. Seibert, secretary and treasurer) still operated its drug store at this location. Samuel Cudlip was the proprietor of **Cudlip’s Drug Store**, “Pioneer Prescription Druggist, Stationery, Candies and Tobacco,” at this address in 1925. **Genevieve Cudlip** was a bookkeeper at the drug store, living at 100 West Fleshier Street, where Samuel Cudlip and his wife **Bertha I. Cudlip** also lived. Cudlip’s Drug Store was still operating here in 1935, 1939 and 1941-1942 with Samuel Cudlip, proprietor.

## 11: EAST SIDE OF 400 BLOCK OF SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

[NOTE: The east side of the 400 block of South Stephenson Avenue has suffered at least four major fires between October 3, 1896 and February 28, 1982. There are no original buildings remaining on this block today (2010).]

## **401 – PART OF ANDERSON TACKMAN & COMPANY – 2010 (S.S. Kresge Company – 1980)**

**History:** **Kramer Brothers** (Benjamin Kramer and Meyer or Myer Kramer) were the proprietors of the **Kentucky Liquor Store** and were “Dealers in wines, liquors and cigars” at this address in 1892-1893. Kramer Brothers (Benjamin Kramer and **Mike Kramer**) continued to operate their wholesale and retail liquor business here in 1902-1903, and **George R. Sutherland**, a mining engineer, lived upstairs. In 1907-1908 **John H. McKenna** sold liquor and cigars at this location, and also resided here. **Mrs. C. Lally** appeared in the street index at this address in 1907-1908, but her name was not found in the alphabetical listing. **Thomas Seccombe** ran a saloon here in 1913, and **Peter Crete**, a fireman, lived upstairs with his wife **Meta Crete**.

Sometime between 1913 and 1924 George Vellenette established a confectionery shop at this address. An article in the April 29, 1924 edition of *The Iron Mountain News* reported an expansion and renovation as follows:

*Plans for extensive improvements that will almost double the size of the establishment were announced today by **George Villenette** [sic – Vellenette], proprietor of the **Liberty Candy Kitchen**, located at the corner of Stephenson avenue and East Hughitt street.*

*The exterior of the building is to be remodeled and painted while the interior will also be redecorated. In addition, a partition in the rear of the ice cream parlor will be removed and 14 new booths installed. This will provide accommodations for from 120*

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

to 135 persons. The fixtures will be of mahogany throughout.

Arrangements for the improvement to the building have been completed with **Mrs. Celia Guley**, of Green Bay, the owner, Vellenette said. The work will start soon and it is expected all will be completed by June 15.

The additional booths will make the parlor the largest in Iron Mountain and one of the largest in upper Michigan. The cost of the improvements will be more than \$5,000. The increase in size, Vellenette declares, is due to the rapid growth in business experienced during the last three years.

In 1925 **George Vellenette** operated a confectionery shop at this address, and **Mrs. Jessie McNicholas**, widow of **Francis McNicholas**, worked as a milliner and lived here, probably upstairs. The installation of the Liberty Candy Kitchen's new soda fountain was reported in the May 27, 1925 edition of *The Iron Mountain News* as follows:

*The Liberty candy kitchen has completed installation of a Bishop Babcock Red Cross dry system soda fountain, equipped with a Lipman full automatic refrigerating machine which does away entirely with the use of ice.*

*A wide range of temperatures suitable for every soda fountain purpose can be obtained with the machine. The variation is from 35 degrees above zero to 20 degrees below. Brick ice cream will be kept at a temperature between zero and five degrees below, while bulk will be maintained at about 10 degrees above and other drinks will be maintained at 35 above. Control of these temperatures is complete [sic –*

*completely] automatic, being accomplished through use of a thermostat.*

*Refrigeration is accomplished by the conversion of ammonia into gas, which is circulated through the foundation and returned again to the refrigerator, where it is first recondensed, then put through the same process, being used over and over again.*

*The new fountain gives the Liberty four times its former storage capacity. It was installed by **J.D. Fairchild** and is said to be the only one of its kind north of Milwaukee.*

**The Rose Shop**, selling women's furnishings, was operated by **Sander Rosenblum** here in 1935. There was no listing for this address in 1939, and it was listed as the **S.S. Kresge Company**, located at 401-403 South Stephenson Avenue in the 1941-1942 city directory with **W. Carpenter**, manager.

According to Don Khoury, local businessman and owner of the Khoury building at 407 South Stephenson Avenue, the roof of the northern portion of the S.S. Kresge Company building caved in, probably due to the weight from a late snowfall, in early May, 1996. The Khoury building had been incorporated into the S.S. Kresge Company building in 1948 through a lease agreement with access to the new business space provided through three doorways cut through the wall. The building at 401-405 South Stephenson Avenue was later torn down and the Anderson Tackman & Company building was constructed. The Khoury building remained, and still stands in 2012.

**403 – PART OF ANDERSON TACKMAN & COMPANY – 2010 (S.S. Kresge Company – 1980)**

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

**History:** **Wagner & Sundgren** (D.H. **Wagner** and **J.A. Sundgren**) ran a barbershop here in 1892-1894, advertising: "First-class workmen. Everything neat, clean and inviting. Shave 10 cents; hair cut 25 cents. Bath rooms in connection." In 1902-1903 **Moses Taylor** operated **The Hub Clothing** at this address. An article appearing in the March 9, 1905 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* reported the closure of this business as follows:

## **The Hub Store.**

*The Hub Store has been closed pending a settlement with creditors. **Charles E. Parent**, who was manager for the late **Moses Taylor**, the proprietor, states that the liabilities are considerably larger than the assets. The store has always done a large business and it is certain that, had not Mr. Taylor's death been so sudden, no difficulties would have been encountered.*

The liquidation of the stock was also reported in the April 20, 1905 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* as follows under this headline: DEAL IN CLOTHING – L. Charash Purchases the Hub Stock of Clothing:

*L. Charash, the well-known young merchant of Norway, was the successful bidder for **The Hub Clothing Store** stock of goods, which was sold at auction by **Attorney Pelham**, representing the **Taylor estate**, last Tuesday.*

*The sale was attended by a large number of buyers, no less than a dozen merchants from out of town being in attendance, as well as half a dozen local dealers, and the bidding was exceedingly*

*lively. Mr. Charash, who evidently understood his business, finally secured the line for \$8,750. Good judges tell us that the stock is worth double the money paid for it.*

*In an interview with *The Press*, Mr. Charash states that it is his intention to close his store in Norway and become a permanent resident of Iron Mountain, continuing the business of the late Mr. Taylor, his brother-in-law. He will at once purchase a large line of seasonable and fashionable clothing, shoes, furnishing goods, etc., and in order to make room for the new lines, the Taylor stock will be closed out forthwith – in other words, at just above the cost price. This means "all kinds" of bargains for the people of Iron Mountain.*

*The store will be reopened on Saturday morning next. Mr. Charash has engaged **Robert H. Sherman**, one of the most popular salesmen on the range, to assist him in the management of the store, and he wants all the people to call and see him.*

There was no listing for this address in 1907-1908, 1913 or 1925. In 1935 the **S.S. Kresge Company**, managed by **Willard J. Betz**, was located here, as it was in 1939 with **W. Harold Ross**, manager. The S.S. Kresge Company was listed at 401-403 South Stephenson Avenue in the 1941-1942 city directory with **W. Carpenter**, manager.

**405 – PART OF ANDERSON TACKMAN & COMPANY – 2010 (S.S. Kresge Company [Kresge-Khoury Building], 405-407 – 1980)**

**History:** In 1892-1894 **Kalitt & Reeves** (G.H. **Kalitt** or A.H. **Kalitt** and **John E. Reeves**) were confectioners at this location. **W.H. Sweet** worked as an

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

architect and contractor here in 1902-1903. In 1907-1908 **Charles B. Parent** was the proprietor of **The Parent Clothing Company** at this address, advertising “clothing, furnishings, trunks, valises, shoes, etc.” **The Parent Clothing Store**, Charles B. Parent, proprietor, still operated here in 1913. The Parent Clothing Store, still run by Charles B. Parent in 1925, advertised “High Grade Clothing, Fashionable Furnishings, Headwear and Footwear For Men.” **Mrs. Esther M. Taylor**, widow of **Moses Taylor** and owner of the building, lived here, and **Dr. Arthur L. Costa**, a dentist, had his office at this address. **The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company (A & P)** grocery store was located here in 1935 with **Harry E. Hanson** working as manager. There was no listing for this address in 1939 or 1941-1942. [This was the address for the A & P grocery store in the 1935 directory, but it is probable that it was actually located at 407 South Stephenson Avenue, as contemporary newspaper accounts place the S.S. Kresge store at 405 South Stephenson Avenue when it opened on November 17, 1926.]

**FIRE:** On Thursday, December 2, 1915, the buildings occupied by **Charles Parent** (405 – **Parent Clothing Store**), **John T. Carbis** (407 – **John T. Carbis Real Estate and Employment Agency**) and **Samuel Khoury** (409 – **Sam Khoury Confectionery**), on Stephenson Avenue, were totally destroyed by fire, the alarm sounding at about 2:30 o’clock. The total loss on buildings and stocks exceeded \$30,000.

The building occupied by Mr. Parent as a clothing store was owned by **Mrs. Esther M. Taylor**. It was a frame structure, two stories high. The estimated value of the

building was \$5,000 and it was insured for \$2,000. The loss was a total one.

**Cook & Pelham** owned the building occupied by Sam Khoury as a confectionery store, as well as the small office building occupied by John Carbis. The estimated value of the buildings was about \$5,000 with \$2,000 insurance, and the loss was a total one.

Sam Khoury estimated his loss on stock and fixtures at \$3,500 with \$1,000 insurance.

Mr. Parent initially was unable to give any estimate of his loss. He had one of the largest and cleanest stocks of clothing and furnishing goods in the city and the loss was almost total. Roughly estimated, the loss was between \$12,000 and \$15,000.

Mr. Carbis placed his loss at \$500 in books, maps and furniture.

The total loss on buildings and stocks will, perhaps, exceed \$30,000.

The fire was under strong headway when discovered. The frame building owned by **Mrs. Sutherland**, at the corner of Stephenson Avenue and Hughitt Street, located only a few feet north of the buildings destroyed, took fire several times, but was only damaged to a small extent.

**Mrs. Esther M. Taylor** replaced the building burned in the December 2, 1915 fire with a stone and brick building designed by **N.P. Parmelee** and erected by **G.A. Gustafson**, in the early spring of 1916. This building had a frontage of 30 feet on Stephenson Avenue and a depth of 100 feet. The height on Stephenson Avenue was 30 feet, while at the alley the height was only 17 feet. A basement 30 x 50 feet formed a portion of the foundation. The erection price in 1916 was \$6,840, but when everything was completed, the expenditure was nearly \$10,000. **Charles E. Parent**, the clothing merchant who

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

occupied the first **Taylor Building** was also the tenant in the new Taylor Building.

The **S.S. Kresge Company** opened its five, 10 and 25-cent store on Wednesday, November 17, 1926, at 405 Stephenson Avenue. The store occupied the former **Parent Clothing Store**. The building was lengthened and “a new, modern front installed, with attractive display windows and a center entrance,” according to an article in the November 15, 1926 edition of the *Iron Mountain News*. New fixtures of the latest design were being received, and the store was “brilliantly lighted.” The article further noted, “One of the most interesting features of the local branch is the rest room provided on the second floor for women employees. The furniture, consisting of wicker tables, chairs and davenports, with a deep rug, has already been installed. Adjoining the rest room is the lunch room for employees living a considerable distance from the store and who bring their lunch to work. Upstairs also is the cloak room which is locked as soon as the last woman employee has checked in for work.” In the basement of the store, 857 storage bins contained merchandise systematically arranged as on the counters in the sales department.

**407 – THRIVENT FINANCIAL – LUTHERANS, financial advisory services – 2010, TREN SETTERS BEAUTY SALON, Cheryl Pietrantonio, owner – 2010, JUST MYRNA, beauty salon, Myrna McNamee, owner – 2010**

**History:** There was no listing for this address in 1892-1894 or 1902-1903. **William Carbis** appeared at this address on the street index in 1907-1908, but the

name should have been **John T. Carbis**, who sold “real estate and insurance” and also was the manager of the **Menominee Range Employment Agency** at this location. **William J. Carbis**, of **Wills & Carbis**, sold “groceries and meats” at 203 South Stephenson Avenue in 1907-1908. John T. Carbis still sold real estate and managed the Menominee Range Employment Agency here in 1913. [See the entry for 405 South Stephenson Avenue above regarding the fire which occurred on December 2, 1915 which burned the buildings located at 405-409 South Stephenson Avenue.]

In the January 29, 1924 edition of the *Iron Mountain News* the “grand opening ball” of the new Jacobs-Khoury Company building was announced as follows under this headline: Dancing To Feature Opening of New Store:

*An informal grand opening ball will be given tomorrow night by the Jacobs-Khoury company at the firm’s new building on Stephenson avenue. The building[,] located between the **Parent Clothing** and the **Levy-Unger** stores, was recently completed. Large blue and white signs, advertising the coming event[,] have been erected in the show windows of the building. They are illuminated at night by colored spotlights.*

*Reenee’s Danceland Charmers, of Menominee, Mich., have been engaged to play. The orchestra features “Al” Reenee, pianist, formerly with the **Isham Jones** orchestra and also of radio fame. The special dance numbers will include several spotlight dances.*

An article in the *Iron Mountain News* edition of February 28, 1924, announced that the **Jacobs Jewelry Store** was “ready

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

for business in its new home, on the second floor of the recently-erected **Jacobs Building**, 407 South Stephenson Avenue.” An extensive credit system was to be inaugurated according to **Sam Jacobs**, proprietor. A complete line of Brunswick phonographs, watches, diamonds and silverware was to be carried, according to Jacobs, who moved that week from the **Mercantile Building** on West B Street.

On Friday evening, March 14, 1924, the **Stern & Field Company**'s store located in the recently-erected **Jacobs Building**, 407 South Stephenson Avenue, held a musical program, inviting the public to visit the newly-opened men's clothing establishment. The formal opening of the store, specializing in men's clothing and furnishings, was held on Saturday, March 15, 1924. Members of the Stern & Field Company were **Hugo Field**, of Hancock; **Sam M. Field**, of Moorehead, Minn.; **Sigmund Stern**, of Marquette; **Herbert Field**, of Iron Mountain; and **Noe Bertrand**, of Iron Mountain. The last two men were in charge of the Iron Mountain store, the sixth and newest of a chain of stores operated by the company – four in the Upper Peninsula, one in Minnesota and one in South Dakota. The fixtures, built especially for the store by a Grand Rapids, Mich., manufacturing concern, represented an investment of approximately \$10,000 and were modern in every respect, including wall display cabinets of the latest design, attractive counters and floor display cabinets. The display windows were of the arcade type with two entrances. A special color scheme was used in the windows, being arranged by artists.

In 1925, the **Jacobs Building**, at 407-409 South Stephenson Avenue, was home to **Stern & Field (Noe Bertrand, Herbert Stern)**, men's furnishings, advertising as

“Iron Mountain's Quality Clothiers.” **George P. Leanes** operated a billiard parlor in the basement. The following tenants were located on the second floor in 1925: Room 1, **Samuel Jacobs**, jewelry; Room 2, **Mrs. E.R. Hughes**, “Millinery and Fancy Dress Goods”; Rooms 3-4, **Allan M. Buchanan**, chiropractor, “Hours 2 to 5 and 7 to 8 p.m.”; Rooms 4-5, **Joseph Weinstock**, contractor; Room 6, **Mrs. Leah Elliott**, widow of **Claude Elliott**, dressmaker; Room 7, **Alexander Urban**, insurance; Rooms 8-9, **Chamber of Commerce (Raymond V. Dudley**, president; **Merton J. Fox**, vice-president; **Lawrence D. Tucker**, secretary; **Frank O. Morrett**, **Charles Parent**, **Benjamin Seaman** and **Fred S. Seaman**, directors) and the **Boy Scouts of America** headquarters; Rooms 10-11, **Phelps-Drake Company**, (**Harold L. Senseman**, manager) contractors. [NOTE: The Phelps-Drake Company built much of the Ford Plant in Kingsford and many of the public schools erected in the 1920's.]

On Friday, June 5, 1925, **Mrs. Sam Jacobs** opened the **French Gray Shop**, handling a complete line of ladies' wearing apparel, on the second floor of the **Jacobs Building**, 407 South Stephenson Avenue. The fixtures in the store were attractively finished in French gray. In addition to the complete line of dress apparel, imported handwork and fancy work was also handled. Japanese handkerchiefs were given as favors to the first 50 customers at the grand opening.

The address for the **Great Atlantic & Pacific Company (A & P)** grocery store in the 1935 directory was given as 405 South Stephenson Avenue, but it is probable that it was actually located at 407 South Stephenson Avenue, as contemporary newspaper accounts place the **S.S. Kresge Company** store at 405 South Stephenson

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

Avenue when it opened on November 17, 1926. In 1935 **John B. Whitney**, a barber working for **A. Iver Harding's** barbershop at 105 East Hughitt Street, lived at 407 South Stephenson Avenue with his wife **Sophie Whitney**, probably upstairs. **Samuel J. Khoury** operated a billiards parlor in the basement of 407 South Stephenson Avenue in 1935. There were no other listings for 407-409 South Stephenson Avenue in that year, making the location of the A & P grocery store here very plausible. In the 1939 city directory the **Great Atlantic & Pacific (A & P) Tea Company**, managed by **Harry Hanson**, was listed at this address and there was no entry for 409 South Stephenson Avenue. In addition, the **Avenue Bar**, **Samuel J. Khoury**, proprietor, was located in the basement, and the following businesses and apartments were on the second floor: **The Grey Shoppe**, **Mrs. Maggie Jacobs**, proprietor; **Samuel J. Khoury**; **Patty's Beauty Shop**, **Mrs. Patty Whitford**, proprietor; **Donald Walters**, employee at the **Von Platen Fox Company**, and his wife **Ellen Walters**; **Edward Jacobs**, a teacher at the Kingsford Schools. In the 1941-1942 city directory the Great Atlantic & Pacific (A & P) Tea Company still occupied the ground floor of the Jacobs Building (407-409 South Stephenson Avenue) with **Gordon Hanson**, manager, and, again, there was no entry for 409 South Stephenson Avenue. In addition, Samuel J. Khoury still operated the Avenue Bar in the basement, and upstairs Mrs. Maggie Khoury continued to operate The Grey Shoppe, Patty Whitford continued to operate Patty's Beauty Shop, and **Earl H. Christensen**, a clerk at the **A & P Store**, and his wife **Blanche Christensen** resided in an apartment.

According to **Don Khoury**, the first floor was later leased by the **National Tea Foods Company (National Foods)** until 1948, when the National Tea Foods Company moved to 205 East Hughitt Street. In 1948, the **S.S. Kresge Co.** added this store to their store building, cutting three holes in the wall. **Samuel "Bokey" Khoury**, Don Khoury's father, ran the **Avenue Bar** in the basement. The Avenue Bar was supposedly the only bar on U.S. 2 to be housed in a basement.

## 409 – XXX – 2010

**History:** In 1892-1894 **Paul W. Clifford** had "Sample rooms" at this address, advertising: "Fine wines, liquors. Cigars and bottled goods. As fine as are produced." Clifford also lived here, as did **John Clifford**, who worked as a "clerk" in Clifford's sample rooms. There was no listing for this address in 1902-1903. **Khoury Brothers** were listed on the street index at this address in 1907-1908, but the only alphabetical listing at this address at that time was for **Sam Khoury**, a salesman, who lived here with his wife **Susie Khoury**. **Paul Khoury** sold confectionery and fruits here in 1913 with **Samuel I. Khoury** listed as manager. [See the entry for 405 South Stephenson Avenue above regarding the fire which occurred on December 2, 1915 which burned the buildings located at 405-409 South Stephenson Avenue. Also see the entry for 407 South Stephenson Avenue for a detailed account of the occupants of the **Jacobs Building**, located a 407-409 South Stephenson Avenue.]

**FIRE:** Damage estimated at \$1 million was caused by a fire which swept through three buildings located in the middle of the

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

east side of the 400 block of South Stephenson Avenue on Sunday night, February 28, 1982.

The three-alarm blaze destroyed the former **Ace Drug Store building (Rene Savoie, owner)**, the **Western Auto Store (Mr. and Mrs. Don Christy, owners)** and **Isabel's Ready-to-Wear (Isabel Pasten, owner)**. Firefighters were summoned at 7:13 p.m. and had the blaze under control two hours later.

All available Iron Mountain firefighters remained at the scene until 2 a.m. the next morning, when **Fire Chief Richard Raho**i sent two crews back to the fire hall and left one at the scene as the ruins of the three buildings continued to burn throughout the night.

The three buildings destroyed by the blaze were in the 400 block of Stephenson Avenue (U.S. 2). Firefighters prevented the fire from spreading to the **S.S. Kresge Company building** and the Kresge-Khoury building at the north end of the block and the **Downtown Plaza building (formerly Montgomery Ward)** at the south end sustained smoke and water damage. **Joey Jaff's Avenue Bar**, located in the basement of the Kresge-Khoury building, sustained only smoke-damage, authorities noted.

**Lt. Donald Legault**, commander of the first crew and pumper unit on the scene, said smoke was billowing from the second floor and rear of the first floor of the Ace Drug building when firemen arrived on the scene. The blaze quickly spread to the front of the Ace Drug building and then to the Western Auto and Isabel's buildings.

The fire apparently started at the rear of the Ace Drug building, according to reports from eyewitnesses. Some people had reportedly been working in the building Sunday until about 6 p.m.

Heat from the fire cracked windows in stores across the street on Stephenson Avenue. Backdrafts resulted in three explosions during the fire causing flames to flare up from the front of the Ace Drug and Western Auto buildings.

Raho*i* said arson had been ruled out as a possible cause of the blaze.

## 411 – XXX – 2010

**History:** There was no listing for this address in 1892-1894. **Louis M. Hansen** had expanded his livery stable by 1902-1903 to include 411-413 South Stephenson Avenue. Hansen also operated the undertaking parlor at 217 East Hughitt Street in the **Robbins Block**. There was no listing for this address in 1907-1908, but Louis M. Hansen's livery stable was still listed at 413 South Stephenson Avenue, and certainly still encompassed this lot. Under "Brief City News" in the March 24, 1910 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* the following item was reported: "The old livery barn on Stephenson avenue, occupied by L.M. Hansen for a long term of years, is being demolished preparatory to the erection of a brick block by Messrs. Cook and Pelham, owners of the property." There was no listing for this address in 1913, and L.M. Hansen's livery stable had moved to 623 South Stephenson Avenue. There was no listing for this address in 1925. By 1935 **The Men's Store**, operated by **Max Z. Dworsky** and **Paul Dworsky**, offered "Men's Clothing, Furnishings, Etc." at this location, and were still located here in 1939 and 1941-1942.

## 413 – XXX – 2010

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

**History:** Louis M. Hansen operated a “Livery and boarding stable” at this location in 1892-1894, and lived at 405 South Stephenson Avenue. Hanson advertised his livery and boarding stable to be “First class in every particular.” By 1902-1903 Louis M. Hansen had expanded his livery stable to include 411-413 South Stephenson Avenue, and also operated the undertaking parlor at 217 East Hughitt Street in the **Robbins Block**. Louis M. Hansen still ran his livery stable at this address in 1907-1908, and the business probably still included 411 South Stephenson Avenue. Under “Brief City News” in the March 24, 1910 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* the following item was reported: “The old livery barn on Stephenson avenue, occupied by L.M. Hansen for a long term of years, is being demolished preparatory to the erection of a brick block by Messrs. Cook and Pelham, owners of the property.” There was no listing for this address in 1913, and Louis M. Hansen’s livery stable had moved to 623 South Stephenson Avenue. There was no listing for this address in 1925, 1935, 1939 or 1941-1942.

**415-417 – DICKINSON COUNTY DENTAL LAB, JENSEN’S CHURCH SUPPLIES, NICHOLET STAFFING, NORTHERN MICHIGAN HEARING AID, TOTAL FITNESS & HEALTH CLUB, WLUC-TV, DV8 HAIR SALON, MICHIGAN CENTER FOR TRUCK SAFETY, 415 South Stephenson Avenue – 2010 (J.C. Penny Company, Inc. – 1980)**

**History (415):** In 1892-1894, **J.B. Eslick** operated a barber shop and bath

rooms at 415, advertising: “The first-class shop of the City. None but experienced and expert workmen employed. Everything new and inviting.” There was no listing for this address in 1902-1903 or 1907-1908. However, by 1913, the **M. Levy Company (Albert Levy, president; Isaac Unger, secretary-treasurer)** had expanded to include 415-419 South Stephenson Avenue, selling “general merchandise.” The **Levy-Unger Company, Ltd. (Henry M. Levy, Albert Levy, Isaac Unger)** still sold “general merchandise” at 415-417 South Stephenson Avenue in 1925. By 1935 the **J.C. Penny Company, Inc.**, occupied 415-417 South Stephenson Avenue, with **Claude A. Moore** working as manager, offering “Men’s Furnishing Goods and Ready-to-Wear.” In 1939 and 1941-1942 the J.C. Penny Company, Inc., continued to occupy 415-417 South Stephenson Avenue with Claude A. Moore serving as manager.

**History (417):** In 1892-1894 **Christopher Grossbusch** was a “Dealer in Fruit, Confectionery and Vegetables, Notions, Toilet Articles, Toys, Cigars, Tobacco, etc.” at this location, but resided at 119 South Stephenson Avenue.

The **M. Levy Company** store was one of Iron Mountain’s first large department stores, selling a variety of general merchandise, and began operating at 415-417 South Stephenson Avenue sometime between 1892 and 1898.

*The Range-Tribune* noted in its April 30, 1898 edition that “**J.E. Clancy**, the architect for the new Levy building, came up from Green Bay yesterday with the plans for the building. The firm will send out for bids for constructing same at once and they must be received by May 16. The building will be two-story, brick, and the main rooms will be

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

50x100 feet, both the lower and upper floors being occupied by the firm. It will be a modern building in every particular and will be heated by steam.”

In an article appearing in the June 2, 1898 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press*, **Contractor Joergenson**, of Green Bay, was verified as the contractor for the erection of the M. Levy & Co.’s department store. Joergenson had begun removing the old frame buildings at 415-419 South Stephenson Avenue.

The August 17, 1898 issue of *The Daily Tribune* noted that the new Levy building has reached the second story and the work will be rapidly pushed to completion, and added that the firm expected “to occupy their new building next month.”

An item in *The Daily Tribune* for August 31, 1898 announced that the “new Levy building is completed to its full height and the work of finishing the interior will be rapidly pushed. It is a very handsome structure and the firm is entitled to praise for their enterprise. **George Dehn**, the plumber, is putting in an Eagle generator for an acetylene plant and 120 burners will be used to furnish light for the building.”

On September 15, 1898, the *Iron Mountain Press* announced that **N.B. Parmelee & Son** had secured the contract for building the fixtures for M. Levy & Co.’s new department store and would have the same ready to place in position as soon as Contractor Joergenson turned the building over to the firm. At this time it was anticipated that the building will be ready for occupancy by October 15.

The October 5, 1898 edition of *The Daily Tribune* noted that the “plate glass windows for the new Levy building were placed in position yesterday and are very handsome. They cost nearly \$100 apiece and there are four of them. A traveling man

remarked this morning that there was not a handsomer store front in Chicago than the Levy front.”

However, on October 17, 1898 *The Daily Tribune* noted that “two of the large plate glass windows in the new Levy building front cracked from being set too tightly. The windows were insured and the insurance company will have to replace them.”

The following article appeared in the November 18, 1898 edition of *The Daily Tribune* under the headline: **NARROW ESCAPE: Incipient Blaze in the Levy Store Which Might Have Proved Serious:**

*Last night about 11 o’clock, while the Levy and Unger boys were working in the new Levy store on Stephenson avenue preparing to receive the stock, the electric arc lamp in the store went out and they could not work longer. They left the building and went to the old store for their overcoats and as soon as they opened the door smoke was plainly seen in the store room. A telephone call was made at once to the engine house and an investigation was made. It was found that a spark had dropped from the arc lamp in the rear of the store and set fire to a covering on a line of cloaks. It had burned clear through the covering and had communicated to the coats, which were smouldering [sic – smoldering]. It took but a few minutes for the firemen to extinguish the fire, but it was a narrow escape. If the boys had not left their overcoats in the old building, the fire no doubt would have remained undiscovered until it got a good start and serious damage would have resulted. It was a fortunate thing that it turned out as it did. The loss will amount to less than \$20.*

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

M. Levy & Co. moved into its new store on Saturday evening, November 19, 1898, and Monday, November 21, 1898.

The following article, appearing in The Daily Tribune on November 21, 1898, under the headline: IN A NEW HOME: The Firm of M. Levy & Co. Moves to Its New Quarters: ESTABLISHED NEARLY TWELVE YEARS: Steady Increase of Business – The Individual Members of the Firm – The Handsomest Storeroom in the Upper Peninsula, provides a history of the company in Iron Mountain from 1887 until the new store opened

*Early in 1887 a firm in Ft. Atkinson, Wis., doing a general merchandise business, found its trade becoming so extensive that it concluded to look up another location, invest some capital and establish a branch house. This firm was M. Levy & Co., and two of its members after thoroughly investigating many cities and towns, decided that Iron Mountain was the most promising place on the list and offered the best inducements for the investment of capital.*

*So in September 1887, a branch establishment was opened here which was a success from the start, the business increasing so rapidly and requiring so much attention that the firm took advantage of an offer and sold out its Ft. Atkinson business, giving the business here its entire attention.*

*The firm at that time consisted of M. Levy, Isaac Unger and Henry Levy. Later on the senior member's youngest son, Albert Levy, was taken into the firm, which continued business successfully in the quarters just vacated, sailing through the dull years of 1892 and 1893 without financial mishap and carrying on its books many miners out of work and who greatly*

*needed assistance, thus tiding them over until better times came.*

*Early last spring the volume of business of the concern began to increase so rapidly that steps were taken to construct a building exactly suited to their firm's demand.*

*The property adjoining the store on the North was purchased from Mrs. Amelia Pascoe and on June 1 a contract was entered into to construct a modern business block at a considerable cost, work upon which has just been completed.*

*Saturday night and this morning the immense stock of goods in the old store was moved into the new building which is handsomely fitted up with convenient counters and shelving, and modern office fixtures. The business of the concern is being conducted as usual today, and as soon as everything is in place a grand opening will be given. The whole of the building will be occupied by the firm and additional help may be needed to handle the holiday goods, a large and handsome stock of which is daily arriving. There are at present 20 people actively employed in conducting this large business. Four delivery wagons are necessary to deliver the goods to purchasers.*

*M. Levy & Co. certainly deserve [sic – deserves] great credit for investing so much capital in so fine a building but the members of the firm have confidence in the future of Iron Mountain and the handsome structure now occupied by them should be an inducement to others to invest capital in that way, which not only adds to the look of the city but would tend to increase the people's confidence in it.*

*We do not believe there is a finer store room in the upper peninsula than the one now used by M. Levy & Co. and the Tribune wishes the firm in its new undertaking that*

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

*prosperity which has characterized its business in the past.*

In the “Brief City Newsites” column of the November 30, 1898 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* mention was made that “since moving into the new store M. Levy & Co. had been compelled to employ six additional clerks.” It was further noted that M. Levy & Co. had placed an order for an immense stock of toys. Santa Claus was going to make his headquarters at the “big store” that season.

In 1902-1903 the **M. Levy & Company (Mandel Levy, Albert Levy, Henry Levy and Isaac Unger)** operated a general merchandise store at 417-419 South Stephenson Avenue. In 1907-1908 the **M. Levy Company** department store was still located at 417-419 South Stephenson Avenue with Albert Levy, Henry M. Levy and Isaac Unger involved in running the business.

By 1911, the M. Levy Company needed to expand its operations. An article in the *Iron Mountain Press* on June 22, 1911 announced:

*The M. Levy Company has leased the handsome **Cook & Pelham Block** for a term of ten years and taken possession. Carpenters are now engaged in building the counters and fixtures. It is the intention of the company to occupy the building with their grocery, china, glassware and graniteware departments. This will permit the enlargement of other departments in the company building. The office and wrapping counters will be removed to the space now occupied by the grocery department and the stairway to the second floor will be rearranged. This will give much additional space for the display of shoes, clothing and gents furnishing goods which have been*

*crowded in an inconvenient manner heretofore. **Manager M. Unger**, of this department, declares that, when he has his goods arranged in the new building, no town north of Chicago will have a neater grocery store than Iron Mountain. Mr. Unger is thoroughly informed in this branch of the trade, has a knack of displaying goods in an appetizing manner, and the business of the company is certain to increase as a result of the enlargement.*

In the July 20, 1911 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* an article noted the M. Levy Company was moving the grocery and allied departments to the new Cook & Pelham building.

By 1913, the M. Levy Company (Albert Levy, president; Isaac Unger, secretary-treasurer) had expanded to include 415-419 South Stephenson Avenue, selling “general merchandise.” The **Levy-Unger Company, Ltd. (Henry M. Levy, Albert Levy, Isaac Unger)** still sold “general merchandise” at 415-417 South Stephenson Avenue in 1925. By 1935 the **J.C. Penny Company, Inc.**, occupied 415-417 South Stephenson Avenue, with **Claude A. Moore** working as manager, offering “Men’s Furnishing Goods and Ready-to-Wear.” In 1939 and 1941-1942 the J.C. Penny Company, Inc., continued to occupy 415-417 South Stephenson Avenue with Claude A. Moore serving as manager.

**419 – XXX – 2010**

**History:** **Pawle & Berklund (Louis Pawle and Thomas Berklund)** ran a saloon at this address which was also their place of residence in 1892-1894. In 1902-1903 the **M. Levy & Company (Mandel Levy, Albert Levy, Henry Levy and Isaac Unger)** operated a general merchandise

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

store at 417-419 South Stephenson Avenue. In 1907-1908 the **M. Levy Company** department store was still located at 417-419 South Stephenson Avenue with Albert Levy, Henry M. Levy and Isaac Unger involved in running the business. By 1913, the M. Levy Company (Albert Levy, president; Isaac Unger, secretary-treasurer) had expanded to include 415-419 South Stephenson Avenue, selling “general merchandise.” The **Levy-Unger Company, Ltd. (Henry M. Levy, Albert Levy, Isaac Unger)** still sold “general merchandise” at 415-417 South Stephenson Avenue in 1925. The store probably still encompassed this lot at that time, but the address was listed as 415-417 South Stephenson Avenue instead of 415-419 South Stephenson Avenue, as it was in 1913. By 1935 the **J.C. Penny Company, Inc.**, occupied 415-417 South Stephenson Avenue, with **Claude A. Moore** working as manager, offering “Men’s Furnishing Goods and Ready-to-Wear.” In 1939 and 1941-1942 the J.C. Penny Company, Inc., continued to occupy 415-417 South Stephenson Avenue with Claude A. Moore serving as manager.

**421 – THE ADVERTISER, Jim Walker, manager – 2010 (Isabel’s Women’s Clothing, 1980)**

**History:** Originally known as the **Odd Fellows’ Building**, since the **Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.)**, **Crescent Lodge No. 370** met in their hall upstairs Tuesday evenings at 7:30, this structure was erected in about 1888. In 1892-1894, the **M. Levy Company (Mendel Levy, Henry M. Levy and Isaac Unger)** were “dealers in Dry Goods, Clothing, Gents’ Furnishings, Groceries,

Provisions, Flour, Feed, Boots, Shoes and General Merchandise,” occupying the store below the Odd Fellows Lodge. **Albert Levy** worked as the company’s bookkeeper. **William H. Mitchell** ran a general merchandise store at this location in 1902-1903, and sold “hardware, stoves, etc.” at 120 East Brown Street. The Odd Fellows Lodge was still located upstairs. **Mike Mitchell** provided “confectioneries, ice cream and fruits” at this address in 1907-1908. **Obeline Prenevost**, widow of **Xavier Prenevost**, sold confectionery goods and fruits here in 1913. In 1925 **Erickson & Johnson (Sol E. Erickson and Gust P. Johnson)** ran a grocery store at this address.

An article in the March 21, 1925 edition of the Iron Mountain News announced the opening of the **Hub Clothing Company** as follows under this headline: NEW CLOTHING STORE TO OPEN – Hub Company Located in Odd Fellows’ Building On Stephenson:

*Featuring Fashion Park clothes and carrying the best in men’s furnishings, the **Hub Clothing company** will open its doors to the trade in the Odd Fellow’s [sic – Fellows] building, 421 Stephenson avenue, early next week. **David J. Confeld** and **Meyer Rosenblum** are the owners of the new store.*

*Mr. Rosenblum, for the last six years manager and buyer of the men’s department of the **Fair Savings Bank store**, Escanaba, and formerly connected with \_\_\_\_\_ Lytton and Sons, Chicago, Glass and Liebman, Brooklyn, Henry B--- tsum, Gladstone, Mich., and the Hub stores at Gladstone and Crosby, Minn., will personally be in charge of the store here.*

*Connected with Mr. Rosenblum in a managerial capacity is Mr. Confeld, who*

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

*has been employed as a traveling auditor for the Gamble-Robinson company for several years and who for 12 years was employed by the Northwestern National bank of Minneapolis.*

*The interior of the building is being completely redecorated and in another week it is expected that much of the stock ordered for the new store will be on the shelves. The ceiling is being painted, a new lighting system is being installed and plans are made for the enlargement of the display windows within the next few months.*

*Fashion Park clothing is to be featured by the store, and Gordon hats are to be carried in the hat department. In addition, practically every known furnishing will be carried in stock, and a wide variety to choose from is promised.*

*A boy's [sic – boys'] department is planned and a complete stock of clothing for youths will be carried.*

Just over a month later the Iron Mountain News reported an attempted robbery at the new store in its April 24, 1925 edition as follows:

*An attempted robbery last night at the New Hub clothing store in the Odd Fellows building on Stephenson avenue failed to materialize.*

*It is believed that the robbers were frightened away by the proprietors who entered the building at 11 o'clock. Entrance to the building was made through the rear basement door which was sprung open.*

*Finding the door leading into the store locked, the intruders removed one of the hinges of the door and were attempting to take the other one off when they became frightened. A small hatchet was found on the stairway. The work was believed to be*

*that of youths as no man full sized could squeeze through the small opening made by springing the door.*

**The Boston Store**, a department store at this location in 1935, was run by **Archie W. Reynolds**. In the 1939 city directory the I.O.O.F. Lodge was listed upstairs of 421-423 South Stephenson Avenue, but probably only comprised 421 South Stephenson Avenue. By the time the 1941-1942 city directory was published **Oshin's Ladies' Apparel**, **Isaac H. Oshin**, proprietor, was listed at this address, and there was no listing for 423 South Stephenson Avenue. There was no listing of the I.O.O.F. Lodge.

## **423 – XXX – 2010**

**History:** **Simon Goldman** sold "notions" at this location in 1892-1894. By 1902-1903 **H.E. Smith** ran a clothing store here. There was no listing for this address in 1907-1908 or 1913. By 1925 this lot had been incorporated into the **United States National Bank**.

## **425-431 – DOWNTOWN PLAZA (Montgomery Ward Store, United States National Bank, Flanagan Block)**

**History 425:** Owned by **Patrick Flanagan**, of Norway and Sagola, the **Flanagan Block**, located at the northeast corner of South Stephenson Avenue and East A Street, was one of the first large buildings constructed in Iron Mountain, housing a number of businesses. Probably the building at 425 South Stephenson Avenue listed in the 1892-1894 city directory in which **Engberg & Flannigan (Peter Engberg and John W. Flannigan)**,

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

“Dealers in Wines, Liquors, Cigars and fresh Beer,” was located was the building known as the Flanagan Block. Their advertisement in the 1892-1894 city directory read: “Mixed drinks and bottled good served, and good treatment assured.” John W. Flannigan also resided at this address at that time.

## 427 – DOWNTOWN PLAZA – 2010

**History 427:** In 1892-1894 **Hormidas Boisvert** had a barbershop at this location, probably a part of the Flanagan Block.

## 429 – DOWNTOWN PLAZA – 2010

**History 429:** **Mrs. W.E. Richard** was the proprietor of the **Crystal Restaurant and Ice Cream Parlors** at this address in 1892-1894, advertising: “First-class in every particular. Meals served at all hours. Dealer in confectionary [*sic* – *confectionery*], cigars, fruits, etc.” **Mrs. Myra Richard** worked for Mrs. W.E. Richard and both women resided here. This business establishment was also probably a part of the Flanagan Block.

## 431 – DOWNTOWN PLAZA – 2010

**History 431:** **Thomas W. Grenfell** ran a confectionery shop at this location, probably a part of the Flanagan Block, in 1892-1894.

**FIRE:** Shortly after one o'clock on the afternoon of Saturday, October 3, 1896, a policeman discovered smoke coming from the building owned by **Patrick Flanagan**, of Norway. According to *The Range-Tribune* account of the fire in its October 10, 1896, edition, “The alarm was turned in and the department responded promptly, only to find that they had an extremely treacherous blaze to fight. Every nook and crevice seemed to be ablaze, yet nowhere could the flames be reached. The tin roof was torn off and boards were ripped from their fastenings, and every time and no matter in what portion of the building an opening was made, the red flames and black smoke would pour forth and engulf the heroic fire boys and the citizens who were assisting.

“Four streams of water were playing on the building at one time, and each moment it appeared as though the fire could not be gotten under control, and in that event the whole block would be endangered. For one whole hour the fire chief and his men worked diligently tearing up the tin roof and ripping the boards and planks in an endeavor to reach the blaze.

“Nothing definite could be gained as to the origin of the fire, but the man who first discovered the blaze gave his theory that a lighted cigarette had been carelessly thrown between the sidewalk and the building and had ignited the dry timbers between the outer and inner walls. This burned rapidly and ran the full length of the building and up to the roof before it succeeded in breaking out.

“This appears quite plausible, for each time an opening was made that very spot was found to be on fire.”

According to the newspaper account, Flanagan had “not one cent’s worth of insurance...as Mr. Flanagan has no faith in

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

insurance companies, and always figures what he saves by reason of not paying premiums.”

The building was occupied by **Frank Danielson**, grocery store; **Wade Leek**, restaurant; **John Flannigan**, saloon; and **George Monroe**, plumbing shop.

Flanagan came to Iron Mountain from Norway on Monday, October 5, “to prosecute the work of repairing his building.” He planned to “repaper and repaint the structure throughout,” estimating his loss at \$450. John Flannigan, who conducted a saloon in one of the store rooms, placed his loss at \$75, due principally to the quantity of goods stolen during the progress of the fire. Wade Leek, the restaurateur, was out “a cool \$100,” besides his profits during the time he would be out of business. George Munroe, the plumber, placed his loss at \$25.

None of the occupants carried one cent’s worth of insurance which may prove a lesson to many people who “never have a fire.”

**History (425 Continued):** In 1902-1903 **L.N. Richards** operated a barbershop at this address. His advertisement, on page 12 of the 1902-1903 directory, claimed him to be “The Up-to-Date Barber and Hair Dresser,” offering “Face Massage, Newbro’s Herpicide! The Dandruff Cure!, and Face Tonics.” There was no listing for this address in 1907-1908 or 1913. By 1925 this lot had been incorporated into the **United States National Bank**.

**History (427 Continued):** There was no listing for this address in 1902-1903. (Perhaps the numbering had been altered, and **L.N. Richards** had his barbershop here instead of at 425 South

Stephenson Avenue in 1902-1903, since **Hormidas Boisvert** ran a barbershop here in 1892-1894.)

**History (429 Continued):** **Kurz Brothers (Max Kurz)** sold “buggies, wagons, harness, etc.” at this location in 1902-1903, and also operated a sales stable at 225 East A Street. **Rudolph Kurz** worked as a clerk. The firm’s advertisement on page 41 of the 1902-1903 directory noted they offered “A Large Assortment [of] Draft and Driving Horses” and had business locations in “Iron Mountain, Escanaba, Iron River, Crystal Falls, and Powers, Mich.”

**History (431 Continued):** **Khoury & Company (J.I. Khoury)** had a confectionery shop here in 1902-1903. There was no listing for this address in 1907-1908 or 1913. By 1925 this lot had been incorporated into the **United States National Bank**.

**FIRE:** Early in the morning of Thursday, February 25, 1904, another fire almost completely destroyed the **Flanagan Block**.

According to the account in the *Iron Mountain Press* on that date, “the building was one of the first erected in Iron Mountain and was for many years used as a variety theatre.”

At the time of the fire, the building was occupied by **Kurz Brothers**, the well-known horse dealers, as a carriage, cutter and harness depot; **L.N. Richards**, barber shop; and **A.I. Khoury [sic]**, confectionery dealer.

The total loss was in the neighborhood of \$9,000. The loss of Kurz Brothers is between \$3,500 and \$4,000, with \$2,000

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

insurance; L.N. Richards, loss \$400, no insurance; A.I. Khoury [sic], loss unknown, insurance estimated at \$900; loss on building, owned by Judge Flanagan, of Sagola, estimated at \$4,000, no insurance.

In an article appearing in the March 31, 1904, edition of the *Iron Mountain Press*, Patrick Flanagan stated he would build a new brick building at the corner of Stephenson Avenue and East A Street, providing a very detailed description of the new structure. However, it was never built, the lot remaining vacant until 1921, when the U.S. National Bank was built on the site. There are accounts of an ice rink being made on this corner during the years the lot was vacant.

**History (425 Continued):** There was no listing for this address in 1907-1908 or 1913. By 1925 this lot had been incorporated into the **United States National Bank**.

**History (427 Continued):** There was no listing for this address in 1907-1908 or 1913. By 1925 this lot had been incorporated into the **United States National Bank**.

**History (429 Continued):** There was no listing for this address in 1907-1908 or 1913. By 1925 this lot had been incorporated into the **United States National Bank**.

**History (431 Continued):** There was no listing for this address in 1907-1908 or 1913. By 1925 this lot had been incorporated into the **United States National Bank**.

**History of 425-431 – The United States National Bank:** On October 21, 1920, the *Iron Mountain Press* noted that application was about to be made for a charter for another bank in Iron Mountain – the fourth (First National Bank, Commercial Bank, American Security Bank). A week later the newspaper announced that Iron Mountain’s newest bank, organized under and in accordance with the laws of the federal government, would be known as the Iron Mountain National Bank. An application for a charter was to be filed within a few days. On November 18, 1920, the *Iron Mountain Press* announced that “after a careful investigation conducted by representatives of the comptroller of the currency of the organizers of the proposed bank, and the future of Iron Mountain, a decision was reached to issue the charter.”

The organization of the Iron Mountain National Bank was completed at a meeting of the stockholders held on Wednesday evening, December 22, 1920.

The article also announced a deal had been closed for the Flanagan business property at the corner of Stephenson Avenue and East A Street for \$34,500. Erection of a new “banking house and business block” was to begin as early as possible in the spring.

Excavation for the new building began on Wednesday, April 20, 1921, to determine the depth of the remaining foundation of the old Flanagan Block and the extent to which it would have to be reinforced. Local architects **F.E. Parmelee & Son** were in charge of the plan. Parmelee estimated construction would begin within two weeks and it would take six months to complete the building.

An article in May 19, 1921 edition of the newly-established *Iron Mountain Daily*

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

News provided details on the building as follows:

Excavation was in progress today for the basement of the National Bank of Iron Mountain, which is to be erected on the vacant lot on Stephenson Avenue and A Street. Reinforcing of the present walls, and rebuilding in some places, will be started this week or early next week according to F.E. Parmelee, architect in charge of construction. As soon as materials arrive, the work of building will be rushed to completion. It is expected to have the bank ready for occupancy by November 1.

Scratch face brick, chocolate in color, with Bedford stone trim, will be the material used for the new building, which will front 62 feet on Stephenson Avenue, and will extend back 122 feet to the alley between Stephenson and Iron Mountain Streets. It will be two stories in height, and will be known as the **National Bank Block**. In addition to the banking house proper, the structure will contain three stores, a bowling alley and billiard room in the basement, and 17 two-room office suites upstairs. Nearly all those quarters have already been spoken for.

## **Will Have Handsome Front.**

Across the front of the building will be five pilasters of brick, with Doric caps and bases of Bedford stone. There will be a Bedford stone cornice across the top, and a pediment of the same material above the cornice, bearing the name of the building. The doorway will be of Bedford stone, and in a panel above it will be the motto of the institution, "The Bank of the People." The stone will also be used for inset panels between the first and second floors.

The north section of the ground floor will be occupied by a store, 120x25 feet, with deep display windows. The main entrance

will be in the center of the building, and will give on a vestibule. To the right of this vestibule is the entrance into the bank lobby, and to the rear is the stairway leading to the basement and to the upper floor.

## **Bank 62x122 Feet.**

The banking house is 62 by 122 feet, and the lobby 44:7x15:5 feet. Directly opposite the door is the combined consultation room and cashier's office, and to the left of this room space is provided for four wickets. At the rear of the lobby is the door into the banking house proper. Along the north wall are the check desks, the entrance to the ladies' retiring room, and to the men's toilet.

## **Store on "A" Street.**

In the rear of the banking houses on A Street, are the two store rooms, one measuring 27 feet in width and the other 21:8. Both are 47 feet long. A storage room is located in the rear of the wider store, also one in the rear of the store fronting on Stephenson Avenue.

On the second floor, in addition to the 17 office suites of two rooms each, lavatories for men and women will be provided. The office suites are so arranged that, while they connect, either may be entered or left without passing through the other. In addition to the main stairway back of the front entrance, a second stairway will be constructed on A Street, giving access to the second floor and the basement. In the basement, room will be provided for six bowling alleys and an equal number of billiard tables. The space under the sidewalks, according to present plans, will be utilized for candy or cigar booths.

By Friday, August 12, 1921, the *Iron Mountain Daily News* reported: The brick and stone masons have about completed the basement and division walls of the new

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

building of the National Bank of Iron Mountain. Some of the cut stones for the handsome front are being put in place. It is expected that the work will now progress rapidly as it will be possible to employ more men than heretofore. The contract for the masonry has been sublet to **G.A. Gustafson**, the well known Norway contractor, who is doing the work under the direction of Fred E. Parmelee & Son, the contracting architects and superintendents. The work now completed evidences the fact that the home of the National Bank of Iron Mountain will be the largest and finest business block on the Menominee range.

On December 14, 1921, an article in the *Iron Mountain Daily News* announced that the **J.C. Penny Company** had signed a lease for the Stephenson Avenue store in the New National Bank Block.

The store was to have a plate glass front, and would be 122 by 26 feet in size.

Plasterers were at work on the interior of the new block, applying the second layer on the walls of the second story. The woodwork was ready to be shipped as soon as the plaster was dry enough to permit its installation. The vault and safety deposit equipment was to be shipped by the York Safe Co. December 15.

In 1925 the following individuals, businesses and organizations were located in **United States National Bank Building**: **United States National Bank** (Charles Meilleur, president; Charles Parent and O.H. Milliman, vice-presidents; Russell J. Bath, cashier; Frank Stefani, assistant cashier); **J.C. Penny Company**, men's furnishing goods and ready-to-wear, Fred S. Harmon, manager; James C. Knight, lawyer; Daniel J. O'Hara, lawyer; John S. O'Hara, dentist; Harold V. Malin, dentist; Leo O. Finch, dentist; Dora J. Cote,

dentist; Ray E. MacAllister, lawyer; Elizabeth M. Twombly, dressmaker; Dr. J. Addison Crowell, Dr. George W. Belhumeur & Dr. Leslie E. Coffin, physicians; Dr. S. Edwin Cruse, physician; Dr. C.W. Walker, physician, eye, ears, nose and throat, glasses fitted; Dr. Lloyd J. Straub, dentist; Derham & Derham, lawyers (Ray Derham, Roy R. Derham); The Recreation Company, billiards, Richard P. James, basement.

In 1935 the following individuals, businesses and organizations were located in **United States National Bank Building**: Room 1, MacAllister & Brown (Ray E. MacAllister and Ernest W. Brown, lawyers); Room 2, John V. Zanardi, lawyer; Room 3, Vanity Beauty Shop (Patty Pasquantonio, Celia Mancini), "Permanent Waving, Manicuring, All Branches of Beauty Culture"; Room 4, "vacant"; Room 5, Dr. Ivar C. Johnson, dentist; Room 6, "vacant"; Rooms 7-8, "vacant"; Room 9, Dr. Dona J. Cote, dentist; Room 10, Dundon's Actual Business College, Richard F. Dundon and Ruth F. Dundon, proprietors, "Established in 1908, Individual Instruction, Every Graduate Is Successful"; Rooms 11-12, Frank G. Logic, chiropractor; Room 13, "vacant"; Room 14, The National Insurance Agency, Thompson Ross & Company, stocks and bonds, Russell J. Bath, real estate and insurance; Room 15, Derham & Derham (Ray Derham and Roy E. Derham, lawyers, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.

[\[Need to check for articles on bank opening in January, February and March, 1922, and actual closing of bank.\]](#)

By 1939 **Montgomery Ward & Company** was listed at 427-431 South Stephenson Avenue with A.R. Rosier

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

serving as manager. There was no listing of occupants on the second floor in the 1939 city directory. In the 1941-1942 city directory Montgomery Ward & Company, then managed by **Dale M. Hurlbutt**, was listed at 427 South Stephenson Avenue, and also at the corner of South Stephenson Avenue and East A Street. Again, there was no listing of occupants on the second floor.

**Architecture:** From Stephenson Avenue, the four brick pilasters on the façade with the stone entablature above suggest that this handsome building was designed in the Classical Revival style. In the early twentieth century, this building style – portrayed here in chocolate-colored brick and Bedford stone – was often used for banks and institutional buildings to give the impression of stability and solidity. The building itself conveys the message “your money will be safe here – this bank is here to stay.”

Following the 1904 fire, the site stood vacant until 1921, when the **U.S. National Bank** was built on the site. This bank failed during the Depression and later was occupied the **Montgomery Ward Company**. It is currently (2010) known as the **Downtown Plaza**, housing a number of businesses.

## **13: EAST SIDE OF 500 BLOCK OF SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE**

**501 (501-511) – IRON  
MOUNTAIN CITY HALL  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES,  
Jordan Stanchina, city manager -**

**2010 (Koffman’s Store for Men 501-507  
South Stephenson Avenue; Bellringer,  
509-511 South Stephenson Avenue –  
1980)**

**History:** **Larson & Company (John Larson)** ran a saloon here in 1892-1894. In 1902-1903 **Peter Langis** was recorded on the street index at this address, but his name did not appear in the alphabetical listing. However, his name was listed in the Classified Business Directory for 1902-1903 as running a saloon. In 1907-1908 **Peter Langis** was listed as the owner of a hotel and saloon on this site. **Dominic Serena** operated the **Iron Mountain House**, a hotel, at this location in 1913, also residing here with his wife **Mary Serena**.

**FIRE:** A fire which began at 11:45 p.m. on Tuesday, September 11, 1923, resulted in the loss of three buildings, all owned by **John Flanagan**, at 505, 507 and 509 South Stephenson Avenue (\$47,000 loss). The businesses located in those buildings were **Protegere Brothers’ Candyland** (\$5,000 loss – 501/505); **Riley’s News Depot**, owned by **William Riley** (\$2,000 loss – 507); and the **De Lima Restaurant**, owned by **Tony Fliris** (\$20,000 loss – 509).

The second floor of the De Lima Restaurant, a hotel, was destroyed. Efforts to save the furniture, clothing and other articles failed due to heavy smoke.

The merchandise in the Riley store was totally destroyed. Protegere Brothers, who also rented the upstairs of their building, suffered furniture and clothing losses as well as merchandise and fixtures on the ground floor. The new fixtures recently installed at a price of \$15,000 were only damaged by water. The fixtures in the

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

restaurant were believed to be ruined in the same manner.

**History (Continued):** In 1925 **Apostle Protegere** ran a confectionery store, probably called the **Arcade Confectionery Store** at this location in 1925, living here with his wife **Frances Protegere**.

**Angelo B. Bracco** formally opened the **Central Drug Store** in the building formerly occupied by the Arcade Confectionery Store at the corner of Stephenson Avenue and East A Street on Saturday, May 30, 1925.

The store was one of the most modern in the city, according to the article in the *Iron Mountain News* on May 29, 1925. Fixtures, valued at approximately \$6,000, were entirely of walnut. The north side of the store was lined with modern type show cases that gave full display to all merchandise. On the south side there was a row of eight ice cream booths and a marble fountain and walnut tobacco case.

The front of the building had been remodeled. The “show windows” – large plate glass windows – were considered to be extremely attractive. An excellent lighting arrangement had also been installed.

A complete line of drugs and allied articles was carried at the store. Prescriptions were also compounded in a department located in a separate room at the rear. Bracco, an experienced pharmacist, was formerly employed at the **Cudlip Drug Store**.

The Central Drug Store, **L. Jess Suino**, proprietor, occupied this site in 1935, 1939 and 1941-1942. The building was listed at 501 South Stephenson Avenue. **Arthur LaFave** operated a barber and beauty shop at this address in the basement accessible

from the south side of East A Street by an exterior stairway. By 1939 and still in 1941-1942 Arthur LaFave’s shop was called the **Veribest Barber & Beauty Shop**. In 1939 **Dr. I.C. Johnson**, a dentist, **Dr. J.C. O’Donnell**, a dentist, and **Dr. F.O. Logic**, a chiropractor, maintained offices upstairs, and Dr. Johnson and Dr. Logic were both listed at the same location in the 1941-1942 city directory.

*The Daily News*, Iron Mountain-Kingsford, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume \_\_\_\_, Number \_\_\_\_ [Saturday, October 8, 1983], page 8, columns 1-7 with photograph of store

## Koffman’s marks 25th anniversary

IRON MOUNTAIN – Twenty-five years ago a group of Iron Mountain High School varsity football players worked all day Sunday and late into the night moving the contents of Koffman’s Store for Men to its present location at 501 Stephenson Ave.

For six years prior, Koffman’s was located at 623 Stephenson Ave.

First known as the Outlet Store, the original business was born in 1944 at the site of the U.S. Post Office parking lot in the 100 block of W. Hughitt Street. Founded as an army-navy surplus store by Elmer Koffman, the father of Peter Koffman and husband of Nina Koffman, the business operated on Hughitt Street for eight years.

After several years on the north side of the street, the store was moved across the street to the building now occupied by Russ’ Saw & Power Tool Shop, where it remained until 1952.

The first move to Stephenson Avenue was to 623 Stephenson, the building now occupied by McCabe and Wisti law offices. During its first 14 years of business, the

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

Outlet Store had evolved from a surplus store to primarily a working man's store with the emphasis on work clothing, hunting clothing, camping supplies and a very limited amount of government surplus items such as army boots, machetes, fatigue pants and army blankets.

The business also underwent a name change during this period to reflect its changing character and differentiate itself from other surplus stores in the U.P. It was called Koffman's Outlet Store and later Koffman's Store for Men.

Elmer Koffman died unexpectedly in March of 1958 and the business was continued by his wife and son, who is presently running the operation. From the fall of 1958, Koffman's has had a series of expansions and remodelings at its present location.

The business now includes men's and women's dress, casual and athletic clothing and accessories, along with a comprehensive line of men's and women's shoes.

Koffman's Towne Hallmark, a full-line card and gift store, opened in the fall of 1980 adjacent to the clothing store. "This store complements the clothing store by adding a large variety of different products," stated Peter Koffman.

"There also is a rear entrance with convenient next-to-the-door parking behind Koffman's Towne Hallmark which serves the customers of our clothing and shoe stores as well."

Known as a quality men's and women's wear store, Koffman's features a large and varied selection of brand-name merchandise. There are presently 12 full and part-time employees with plans to add more for the busier shopping season.

Koffman's silver anniversary is being celebrated during the entire month of

October with a number of activities and special events. "All the people at Koffman's want to show their appreciation to our many fine customers and friends for enabling us to reach the quarter century milestone," Koffman said.

A total of \$500 in merchandise is being given away through registration in the store. Grand prize is a \$250 gift certificate. Twenty-five \$10 gift certificates are being awarded – one each day – through Oct. 31.

"Anniversary cake and coffee will be served all month and everyone is invited to stop in," Koffman said. "Twenty-five selected specials from throughout the store are being offered at great savings. Many other events are planned for the balance of the month including trunk showings by representatives of Adidas and Alalen Edmonds shoes."

For added customer convenience, Koffman's has new store hours from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. "We are aware that many of our customers have not found the 5 o'clock closing adequate," Koffman said, "and hope this new 6 o'clock closing will be helpful."

The Daily News, Iron Mountain-Kingsford, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume \_\_\_\_, Number \_\_\_\_ [Friday, May 3, 1985], page \_\_\_\_, columns \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_ [photograph by Michael Demski Photo]

## **Last stand**

Razing of the last building of the old Koffman store complex at Stephenson Avenue and A Street in Iron Mountain has been completed. The buildings were razed by Ed Gauthier & Sons Contractors of Iron Mountain. Construction of a new 10,000-square-foot Koffman store is expected to

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

begin within two weeks, with completion scheduled for late September. Photo shows razing work being done Thursday, with Commercial National Bank building in background.

**503 (501-511) – IRON MOUNTAIN CITY HALL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES, Jordan Stanchina, city manager - 2010 (Koffman's Store for Men 501-507 South Stephenson Avenue; Bellringer, 509-511 South Stephenson Avenue – 1980)**

**History:** There was no listing for this address in 1892-1894. In 1902-1903 **W.H. Moyle**, a farmer, resided at this location. [In 1892-1894 **William Moyle, Sr.**, ran a restaurant at 507 South Stephenson Avenue.] **Scandling & Soady** was also listed at this address on the street index for 1902-1903, but did not appear in the alphabetical listing. In 1902-1903 **W.H. Scandling** sold “groceries, meats, etc.” at 517-519 South Stephenson Avenue, and **Harry Soady**, a bookkeeper at the Chapin Mine, resided at 114 West C Street. There was no listing for this address in 1907-1908 or 1913.

**FIRE:** A fire which began at 11:45 p.m. on Tuesday, September 11, 1923, resulted in the loss of three buildings, all owned by **John Flanagan**, at 505, 507 and 509 South Stephenson Avenue (\$47,000 loss). The businesses located in those buildings were **Protegere Brothers' Candyland** (\$5,000 loss – 501/505); **Riley's News Depot**, owned by **William Riley** (\$2,000 loss – 507); and the **De Lima**

**Restaurant**, owned by **Tony Fliris** (\$20,000 loss – 509).

The second floor of the De Lima Restaurant, a hotel, was destroyed. Efforts to save the furniture, clothing and other articles failed due to heavy smoke.

The merchandise in the Riley store was totally destroyed. Protogere Brothers, who also rented the upstairs of their building, suffered furniture and clothing losses as well as merchandise and fixtures on the ground floor. The new fixtures recently installed at a price of \$15,000 were only damaged by water. The fixtures in the restaurant were believed to be ruined in the same manner.

**History (Continued):** In 1925 **Apostle Protegere** ran a confectionery store, probably called the **Arcade Confectionery Store** at this location in 1925, living here with his wife **Frances Protegere**.

**Aneglo B. Bracco** formally opened the **Central Drug Store** in the building formerly occupied by the Arcade Confectionery Store at the corner of Stephenson Avenue and East A Street on Saturday, May 30, 1925.

The store was one of the most modern in the city, according to the article in the *Iron Mountain News* on May 29, 1925. Fixtures, valued at approximately \$6,000, were entirely of walnut. The north side of the store was lined with modern type show cases that gave full display to all merchandise. On the south side there was a row of eight ice cream booths and a marble fountain and walnut tobacco case.

The front of the building had been remodeled. The “show windows” – large plate glass windows – were considered to be extremely attractive. An excellent

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

lighting arrangement had also been installed.

A complete line of drugs and allied articles was carried at the store. Prescriptions were also compounded in a department located in a separate room at the rear. Bracco, an experienced pharmacist, was formerly employed at the **Cudlip Drug Store**.

The Central Drug Store, **L. Jess Suino**, proprietor, occupied this site in 1935. **Arthur LaFave** operated a barber and beauty shop at this address in the basement accessible from the south side of East A Street by an exterior stairway.

**505 (501-511) – IRON  
MOUNTAIN CITY HALL  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES,  
Jordan Stanchina, city manager -  
2010 (Koffman's Store for Men 501-507  
South Stephenson Avenue; Bellringer,  
509-511 South Stephenson Avenue –  
1980)**

**History:** **S. Kaichen & Company**, operated a saloon managed by **Ben Kaichen** at this location in 1892-1894. There was no listing for this address in 1902-1903. However, in 1907-1908 **John Franklin** sold “wall paper, paints, oils and painters['] supplies, etc.” at this location. **Mrs. G. St. Onge** was named in the street index at this address in 1907-1908, but was not found in the alphabetical listing. **Mrs. William (Harriet) Tregilgas** ran a confectionery store at this address in 1913, residing here with her husband, **William Tregilgas**, and **Elizabeth M. Tregilgas**, a clerk. In 1907-1908 William Tregilgas ran a confectionery store at 507 South Stephenson Avenue.

**FIRE:** A fire which began at 11:45 p.m. on Tuesday, September 11, 1923, resulted in the loss of three buildings, all owned by **John Flanagan**, at 505, 507 and 509 South Stephenson Avenue (\$47,000 loss). The businesses located in those buildings were **Protegere Brothers' Candyland** (\$5,000 loss – 501/505); **Riley's News Depot**, owned by **William Riley** (\$2,000 loss – 507); and the **De Lima Restaurant**, owned by **Tony Fliris** (\$20,000 loss – 509).

The second floor of the De Lima Restaurant, a hotel, was destroyed. Efforts to save the furniture, clothing and other articles failed due to heavy smoke.

The merchandise in the Riley store was totally destroyed. Protegere Brothers, who also rented the upstairs of their building, suffered furniture and clothing losses as well as merchandise and fixtures on the ground floor. The new fixtures recently installed at a price of \$15,000 were only damaged by water. The fixtures in the restaurant were believed to be ruined in the same manner.

**History (Continued):** In 1925 **Oshins Ready-to-Wear Ladies' Furnishings** operated at this location under the management of **Mrs. Nellie Barkhurst**, selling “Ladies' Ready-to-Wear and Fancy Goods.” **Ellen Blixt** sold “women's furnishings” at this address in 1935, and **Mary Harvey** also operated a beauty shop here at that time. By 1939 **The Rose Shop**, operated by **Sander Rosenblum**, was located here, but the site was listed as “vacant” in the 1941-1942 city directory.

**507 (501-511) – IRON  
MOUNTAIN CITY HALL  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES,**

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

**Jordan Stanchina, city manager -  
2010 (Koffman's Store for Men 501-507  
South Stephenson Avenue; Bellringer,  
509-511 South Stephenson Avenue –  
1980)**

**History:** William Moyle, Sr., ran a restaurant at this address in 1892-1894, also residing here along with William Moyle, Jr., who was a clerk at A. Cruse & Company (A. Cruse and Robert C. Faucett), a "Meat Market" at 102 Fourth Street on the North Side, working as "Dealers in fresh, dried, salted and smoked meats. Game and fish in season." There was no listing for this address in 1902-1903. In 1907-1908 William Tregilgas ran a confectionery store here. Dr. George H. Boyce, Sr., a physician, had his offices at this location in 1913.

**FIRE:** A fire which began at 11:45 p.m. on Tuesday, September 11, 1923, resulted in the loss of three buildings, all owned by John Flanagan, at 505, 507 and 509 South Stephenson Avenue (\$47,000 loss). The businesses located in those buildings were Protegere Brothers' Candyland (\$5,000 loss – 501/505); Riley's News Depot, owned by William Riley (\$2,000 loss – 507); and the De Lima Restaurant, owned by Tony Fliris (\$20,000 loss – 509).

The second floor of the De Lima Restaurant, a hotel, was destroyed. Efforts to save the furniture, clothing and other articles failed due to heavy smoke.

The merchandise in the Riley store was totally destroyed. Protegere Brothers, who also rented the upstairs of their building, suffered furniture and clothing losses as well as merchandise and fixtures on the ground floor. The new fixtures recently

installed at a price of \$15,000 were only damaged by water. The fixtures in the restaurant were believed to be ruined in the same manner.

**History (Continued):** In 1925 Riley's Smoke Shop sold tobacco products at 507 ½ South Stephenson Avenue. This shop was a part of Riley's Stores, William Riley, proprietor, and included a Newsstand at 307 South Stephenson Avenue, another Newsstand at 1245 South Carpenter Avenue, the Smoke Shop located at this address, and Dry Cleaning and Pressing at 110 East D Street. The M & M News (Mahlberg-Masty News Company – Rudolph T. Mahlberg and Joseph J. Masty) was in operation at this location in 1935, selling newspapers and magazines, candy and gum, tobacco products and much more in a very small space. Listed at 507 ½ South Stephenson Avenue in both the 1939 and the 1941-1942 city directories, the M & M News (Mahlberg-Masty News Company) continued operation at their old stand.

**509 (501-511) – IRON  
MOUNTAIN CITY HALL  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES,  
Jordan Stanchina, city manager -  
2010 (Koffman's Store for Men 501-507  
South Stephenson Avenue; Bellringer,  
509-511 South Stephenson Avenue –  
1980)**

**History:** In 1892-1894 the Kirby House, a hotel and saloon located at this address, was operated by Louis White, who also resided here. J.P. Thomas operated a hotel and saloon at this address in 1902-1903. The New Empire Restaurant occupied this site in 1907-

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

1908. **Seth A. Larson** was the proprietor of the **Empire Hotel & Restaurant** in 1913 at this address, residing here with his wife **Lena Larson**.

**FIRE:** A fire which began at 11:45 p.m. on Tuesday, September 11, 1923, resulted in the loss of three buildings, all owned by **John Flanagan**, at 505, 507 and 509 South Stephenson Avenue (\$47,000 loss). The businesses located in those buildings were **Protegere Brothers' Candyland** (\$5,000 loss – 501/505); **Riley's News Depot**, owned by **William Riley** (\$2,000 loss – 507); and the **De Lima Restaurant**, owned by **Tony Fliris** (\$20,000 loss – 509).

The second floor of the De Lima Restaurant, a hotel, was destroyed. Efforts to save the furniture, clothing and other articles failed due to heavy smoke.

The merchandise in the Riley store was totally destroyed. Protegere Brothers, who also rented the upstairs of their building, suffered furniture and clothing losses as well as merchandise and fixtures on the ground floor. The new fixtures recently installed at a price of \$15,000 were only damaged by water. The fixtures in the restaurant were believed to be ruined in the same manner.

**History (Continued):** In 1925 **Anton Fliris** ran the **De Lima Cafe** at this location. There was no listing for this address in 1935. By 1939 **Stern's Shoes**, operated by **Louis Stern**, and the **Woman's Fashion Shop**, operated by **Mrs. Clara Michaels**, were located at this address. In the 1941-1942 city directory the Woman's Fashion Shop under the same ownership and the Peterson Shoe

Company, operated by **C. Gust Peterson**, were located here.

**511 (501-511) – IRON MOUNTAIN CITY HALL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES, Jordan Stanchina, city manager - 2010 (Koffman's Store for Men 501-507 South Stephenson Avenue; Bellringer, 509-511 South Stephenson Avenue – 1980)**

**History:** There was no listing for this address in 1892-1894 or 1902-1903. However, in 1907-1908 the name **John Semons** appeared in the street index. The only name similar on the alphabetical listing was **John Semmens**, a miner, who boarded at 209 West Fleshiem Street. In 1913 **Walter A. Arens** operated a barber shop at this address. **Venar H. Vrynolf** ran a barber shop at this location in 1925. There was no listing for this address in 1935, but **Julius Eutizzi** ran a barber shop listed at 513 South Stephenson Avenue which might have been at this location at that time. Julius Eutizzi continued his trade at this address under the name **Stogie's Barber Shop** in 1939, and was still listed at this address in the 1941-1942 city directory.

**513 – XXX – 2010 (Vacant – 1980, Gisele's Restaurant, Northwoods Restaurant)**

**History 513:** There was no listing for this address in the 1892-1894 street index, but **Mrs. S.E. Felch**, who ran a saloon next door at 515 South Stephenson Avenue, was identified as residing here in the alphabetical listing. **Thomas O'Brien** was listed as a bartender working and living at

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

the **Iron Clad** at 513 South Stephenson Avenue in 1892-1894 which could actually be Mrs. S.E. Felch's saloon at 515 South Stephenson Avenue. **Frank Powell** had a barbershop here in 1902-1903, and boarded at the **Felch Hotel**. There was no listing for this address in 1907-1908. In 1913 **Abe Luke** ran a saloon at this location. **Zenion P. Rousselle** operated a harness shop here in 1925, and **George J. Miller**, a steamfitter, lived at this address with his wife **Violet Miller**.

An article in the May 8, 1925 edition of the *Iron Mountain News* announced the opening of a new men's clothing store as follows under this headline: **NEW MEN'S STORE WILL OPEN HERE – Dworsky Brothers And Weinstein Company Lease Building:**

*Stock of the **Z.P. Rousselle** store, 513 Stephenson avenue, [sic] has been purchased by the **Sworsky** [sic – **Dworsky**] **Bros.**, owners of the **Men's store**, and **I. Weinstein**, of the **I Weinstein company**, Minneapolis, and a long term lease taken on the building, according to an announcement at the Men's store this afternoon.*

*Disposal of the stock will be made at a special sale to start about May 15, and it is expected to start work on remodeling the building the early party of June.*

*A clothing store, handling a high class and exclusive line of boys' and mens [sic – men's] clothes, furnishings, shoes and luggage[,] will be opened in the remodelled [sic – remodeled] building, adding another store to the chain now operated by the Weinstein interests.*

In the May 18, 1925 edition of the *Iron Mountain News* the following

announcement was made regarding Zenon P. Rousselle's harness shop:

*Construction has been started on a single story tile building which will be erected by Z.P. Rousselle in the rear of his former store on Stephenson avenue. Mr. Rousselle recently disposed of his stock of men's furnishings to the proprietors of the Men's store and will also rent the building to them. However, he will continue to conduct his business of harness making, awning work and auto top renewals in the new building which is expected to be ready about June 1.*

A follow-up article in the June 13, 1925 edition of the *Iron Mountain News* noted:

*The new harness shop to be conducted by E.P. [sic – Z.P.] Rousselle in a building in the rear of his old store at 513 Stephenson avenue, will be opened Monday [June 15].*

*The shop occupies a new brick one-story structure and can be reached either from A or B streets. As in the past harnesses and awnings will be dealt in and work done on auto tops.*

In the June 30, 1925 edition of the *Iron Mountain News* the opening of the **Standard Clothing Company** was announced as follows:

*The **Standard Clothing company**, occupying [sic – occupying] the Stephenson avenue building recently vacated by the Rousselle harness shop, has been formally opened for business. The story [sic – store] is carrying a complete line of men's and boys' clothing, shoes and sporting goods. An extensive line of luggage is also carried.*

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

The **Combination Lunch**, a restaurant run by **John Corombos** and **Steve Pappas**, was located here in 1935. **Julius Eutizzi** also was listed as operating his barber shop at this address in 1935, but it is possible that the barber shop was actually located at what had been 511 South Stephenson Avenue, where **Walter A. Arens** had a barber shop in 1913 and **Venar H. Vryholf** worked as a barber in 1925.

On pages 131-132 in *Born From Iron: Iron Mountain, Michigan 1879-1979*, the city's centennial book, the following article was submitted by **Ted Corombos**:

## THE COMBINATION LUNCH

From 1924 through 1951, the Combination Lunch was a landmark in the Iron Mountain area. Two brothers, John and George Corombos, came to the area to capitalize on the Ford boom. They had emigrated from Greece around 1908 to Lynn, Massachusetts, and then to Racine, Wisconsin, before coming here. A third partner was **Steve Pappas**.

Famous for the chili hot dog, the restaurant for many years was the only one in the area open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Through the Roaring Twenties, Prohibition, the Depression and World War II, the doors were always open. When it was decided to cut the hours a bit in 1948, it was necessary to buy locks for the doors, the original keys having long been lost and locks sealed from lack of use.

Many people today [1979] in their sixties and seventies remember having a late snack at the Combination after a night of dancing at the **Nightingale** or the **Pine Gardens**. More than a few brought in their own "white lightning" to spike the coffee during Prohibition.

John had one son, **Ted**, who still lives in Iron Mountain with his wife **Mary Ann** and sons **Jon**, **Mark** and **Greg**. He is an investment advisor with the firm **Corombos and Kremer, Inc.** **Mrs. John Corombos (Helen)** still lives in the family home.

George Corombos had two sons and two daughters, none of whom live in the area, but are frequent visitors to their mother **Marika's** home. **Ted G.** lives in Livermore, California; and **Bessy (Vicky)** in Cheshire, Connecticut.

The Steve Pappas family moved from the area in 1951. A son, **Peter**, lives near Milwaukee, and a daughter, **Mrs. Paul (Connie) Chardoul**, lives in Grand Rapids.

*[NOTE: In 1925 the Columbia Restaurant was located at 213 South Stephenson Avenue, and was owned by John Corombos and Stephen Pappas. George Corombos was a cook at the Columbia Restaurant at that time. The Columbia Restaurant must have been a precursor to the Combination Lunch.]*

The **Combination Lunch (John Corombos and Steve Pappas)** was listed at this address in 1935, and again in 1939 and 1941-1942.

**\*515 – CURVES, health club, Deanna Laurila, owner – 2010 (A.C. Frankini and Sons, Jewelers, 515-521 South Stephenson Avenue – 1980)**

*[NOTE: The location of businesses at 515, 517, 519 and 521 South Stephenson Avenue is particularly confusing, and it would appear that street numbers changed over the years.]*

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

**History 515:** Mrs. S.E. Felch ran a saloon at this location in 1892-1894, but resided at 513 South Stephenson Avenue. Thomas O'Brien was listed as a bartender working and living at the Iron Clad at 513 South Stephenson Avenue in 1892-1894 which could actually be Mrs. S.E. Felch's saloon at this address. In 1902-1903 John I. Khoury sold "fruits, etc." at this address. Louis Stoekly, a druggist, was conducting business at this address in 1907-1908. Louis Stoekly operated a drug store at 225 South Stephenson Avenue in 1902-1903, and Louis Stoekley worked as a druggist for Margaret Seibert at 333 South Stephenson Avenue in 1892-1894. There was no listing for this address in 1913.

**History of the American Security Bank at 515-517 South Stephenson Avenue:** On September 2, 1920, the *Iron Mountain Press* reported that Iron Mountain was to have a third bank (in addition to the First National Bank and the Commercial Bank) to be known as the **American Security State Bank** with a capitalization of \$100,000, divided into 1,000 shares at a par value of \$100 each. The stock was selling at \$120 a share.

The incorporators were A.A. Conrad, John J. Flanagan, Albert H. Hooper, Zenion P. Rousselle, Edward A. Best and James R. Spencer. Conrad was a resident of Wausaukee, where he held the position of cashier of the local bank. The other incorporators were well-known local businessmen.

In articles published October 14 and October 21, 1920, the *Iron Mountain Press* reported that the organization of the **American Security Bank** had been completed and the management expected

to open the doors for business early in 1921 with a capital of \$100,000.

Albert H. Hooper was elected president of the bank, William H. Scandling was the vice-president, and A.A. Conrad the cashier. Hooper had been a resident of Iron Mountain for about twenty-five years and had held the position of agent for the **Chicago & North-Western Railway** continuously. Scandling, one of the city's pioneer merchants, had been a director of the **First National Bank** ever since its organization. He planned to retire from the mercantile business. Conrad, the cashier, came from Wausaukee, where he was cashier of the **Wausaukee State Bank**.

The new bank had purchased the William H. Scandling property at 517-519 South Stephenson Avenue. The property had a frontage of 60 feet on the avenue and total depth of 120 feet. The bank occupied the building in which Mr. Scandling had been conducting business until the larger building was remodeled for banking purposes.

The first meeting of stockholders of the American Security Bank of Iron Mountain was held in the parlors of the **Milliman Hotel** on Saturday afternoon, October 30, 1920. The directors elected were Albert H. Hooper, William H. Scandling, A.A. Conrad, E.E. Bussing, Richard H. James, John Elmer and James R. Spencer. After adjournment, a meeting of the board of directors was held and the following officers elected: A.H. Hooper, president, William H. Scandling, vice-president, and A.A. Conrad, cashier.

The article in the November 4, 1920, issue of *Iron Mountain Press* which reported the organization included a complete description of the bank building to be erected as follows:

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

*The building to be erected by the bank will be a magnificent façade in the Doric style of architecture made entirely of white Bedford stone with considerable hand carved ornamentation. It will be a full two stories in height with a high stone pediment surmounted by a flag staff, giving the structure an appearance of a three-story structure. The entrance doors will be heavy bronze copper covered that enter into a marble wainscoted vestibule.*

*The entire face of the bank fixtures and the wall wainscoting in the main bank lobby will be of marble with a tile floor. This floor tile is of the hard Tennessee variety such as is used in the leading hotels and banks of the large cities. The lobby will be a spacious one with a marble check desk in the center, and a marble, leather tufted seat at the side. Around the lobby and vestibule there will be a base of the beautiful variegated dark imported Italian marble. The balance of marble fixtures and wainscoting will be Tennessee varvenell. This is the hardest marble known and is originally a sea shell formation from sea deposits left when the Atlantic Ocean was over the state of Tennessee, ages ago. There will be a beam ceiling.*

*The arrangement of the interior has been prepared by bank building experts working in connection with the bank directors and between them has been planned a banking home having every convenience possible for customers and employees. There will be three private offices for consultation, and the business meetings of both officials and customers. Space for two active cashiers, four tellers' windows, stenographers and bookkeepers. The president's office, customers' room and directors' room, and also the furniture will be of dark walnut. There will be a coupon booth and phone booth for the use of*

*customers desiring to inspect the contents of their safe deposit boxes in private, or desiring to carry on private local or long distance conversation. There will also be a private toilet room with porcelain fixtures and tile floor. The interior decorations will be in oil with an ornamental frieze near the ceiling in the main banking room.*

*The vault is a special type known as "a burglar proof, fire proof, shock proof vault." Since it cannot be burglarized, even when the secret of its construction is known, a special description of this most-modern type of vault building will be published at time of construction and the public will be invited to inspect the process. Since the terrible experience of a Chicago bank when a big dirigible balloon crashed through its roof, a new element has entered into requirements of safe bank vaults and that is to make them "shock proof" from either accident or attack from the sky.*

*All the equipment, even including the furniture, ink wells, cuspidors, waste baskets, mop and pail and the flag on the flag pole, have all been let to one contract, together with the erection of the building, to **A. Moorman & Co.**, bank builders, of St. Paul, Minnesota. This firm, the second largest of its kind in the country, has its own factories and designs and builds nothing but the higher class of bank buildings. Their representative, **A.C. Clausen**, has been a guest for several days at the **Milliman**, where the contract was signed last Saturday and their construction manager will be on the job to start operations in a few days. The contract calls for the completion in four months. It is the policy of the construction company to patronize local mechanics and dealers as far as possible.*

*At a meeting of the stockholders and directors of the American Security Bank on*

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

December 8, 1920, **Dr. G.W. Earle**, of Hermansville, was elected president and director of the bank, succeeding **Albert H. Hooper**, who had temporarily filled the position of president during the progress of organization. Dr. Earle also became a large stockholder, and was very much interested in the new organization. Both of Dr. Earle's sons were also stockholders in the bank. The new president had been in business in the area for about thirty-two years and was one of the strongest financial men in the Upper Peninsula at the time. He was connected with a great many banks and was also in the lumber and timber business.

After this change, the directors were **Dr. G.W. Earle, William H. Scandling, A.A. Conrad, James R. Spencer, John Elmer, Richard H. James, and E.H. Bussing**, of Marquette.

An article in the newly-established *Iron Mountain Daily News*, in its April 27, 1921, edition, noted the decorators were at work finishing the new bank, and contained a full description, as follows:

*Decorators are at work on the interior of the American Security Bank building, which, according to A.A. Conrad, cashier, will be opened for business soon after the first of the month. The new institution is attractive both in outside and inside appearance.*

*Entering through a copper sheathed out door, there is a vestibule separated from the bank lobby by another door of plate glass and walnut finished wood. Walnut is the finish of the woodwork throughout the bank.*

*To the right of the lobby is the president's office, and next to it the cashier's space. Beyond this is a double wicket, and across the rear of the lobby, two single wickets. The partition dividing the lobby from the bank proper is of*

*Tennessee marble, with a baseboard of Levanto marble. Above the marble are plate glass panels in walnut frames with iron grills part of the height. To the left of the entrance is a public writing room, which will be equipped with a settee, table, and chair, for the accommodation of patrons and others. Another settee will be provided along the north wall of the lobby. The check desk, of Tennessee marble, with glass top, will occupy the center of the lobby. Blanks will be provided in compartments below the glass top.*

### **Public Room Provided.**

*Passing back from the lobby, on the right is a public telephone booth and just beyond it a door giving access to the safety deposit vault. In the rear of the building is another public room which will be provided with a table and chairs, giving patrons privacy in which to look over the contents of their deposit boxes. A lavatory and toilet opens off this room.*

*Inside the bank proper, the main object of interest is the massive vault. The door of this vault weighs three tons, and, when closed, is hermetically sealed on corrugated rubber cushions. One layer of the door is of special steel, designed to withstand the fame of the oxy-acetylene torch.*

*Behind the door is the day gate, of ornamental steel grill work, and back of that space the 600 deposit boxes. The first unit is in place. The doors of the boxes are of half-inch special steel, and the boxes themselves are of two document length. A special hinged cover permits examination of the contents of the box without removing it.*

### **Burglar Proof Safe.**

*Another grill of half-inch bar separates this from the cash compartment. The key to this compartment will be held by one employee of the bank, and he will be responsible for it. Inside is a five cubic foot*

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

manganese steel burglar proof safe. The door of this safe resembles the breech block of a 12-inch gun. When locked into place, it, also, is hermetically sealed. In the bottom compartment is a silver chest.

The walls of the vault are 48 inches thick, of solid concrete reinforced with a network of half-inch bars. They go through to the basement, where they enclose the stock vault for the keeping of the bank's blanks and records. Above the vault door is an ornamental frame for a Western Union clock.

"Cages" of iron grillwork, which has not yet been received, will be installed about the wickets. Plenty of room will be left for the other work of the institution.

### **Attractively Decorated.**

The interior is finished with buff walls, cream ceiling, and old ivory trim. A stencil border design will be added. Lighting will be furnished by semi-indirect fixtures. The latest vapor heating system has been installed. The floor is of Tennessee marble.

Four other suites of two rooms each have been provided on the second floor and three of them have already been rented, Mr. Conrad declares.

On Saturday, May 14, 1921, the American Security Bank opened its doors to the public for inspection of the banking house and transaction of business.

Once again the Iron Mountain Daily News provided a detailed description of the facility, as follows:

The attractiveness of the interior decorations was enhanced by baskets of flowers placed on the desks and counters. Carnations were given as souvenirs to the lady visitors. Hundreds of people inspected the bank throughout the day.

### **Organized Last Fall.**

Organization of the American Security Bank was effected last October, and

construction was begun the following month. Since then, the building has been in course of construction, the interior fittings and decorating being completed last week.

Walnut and Tennessee marble make up the interior finish of the bank, while the walls are in buff, with stencil design, and the ceiling in cream, and old ivory trim. Semi-indirect art glass fixtures illuminate the building.

To the right of the entrance is the president's office, and next to it the cashier's desk. Beyond this are four wickets. To the left of the entrance is the public writing room, with desk, chair, and settee, for the use of patrons and visitors. The check desk, of marble, occupies the center of the lobby, and a marble settee is located along the north wall.

A door to the rear of the lobby gives access to the safety deposit vault, the public telephone booth and the private room where patrons may inspect the contents of safety deposit boxes at their leisure.

### **Vault Is Massive.**

Space is provided for 600 deposit boxes. One unit has already been installed, and many of the boxes rented. The sections are installed behind the great steel door, weighing three tons and built to withstand the flame of the oxy-acetylene torch, and which also seals the vault interior when closed.

Back of another iron grill is the manganese steel cash vault, five cubic feet in capacity, and as nearly burglar proof as a vault can be made. Walls of reinforced concrete, 48 inches thick, enclose the vault, which was built by the Deibold company, of Canton, O.

On the evening prior to the grand opening, **E.H. Bussing**, of Danville, Ill., formerly of Iron Mountain, and Miss **Maud**

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

L. Ward, of Marquette, were united in marriage in the president's room of the American Security Bank, the Rev. Dr. J.F. Young, of the Presbyterian Church, performing the ceremony.

On Saturday, May 14, 1921, the American Security Bank opened its doors to the public for inspection of the banking house and transaction of business. The account of the grand opening appeared in the *Iron Mountain News* of that date as follows:

*Following the completion of its handsome new home on Stephenson avenue, the American Security Bank this morning threw open its doors to the public, for inspection of the banking house and transaction of business. The bank will remain open this evening until 9 o'clock.*

*The attractiveness of the interior decorations was enhanced by baskets of flowers placed on the desks and counters. Carnations were given as souvenirs to the lady visitors. Hundreds of people inspected the bank throughout the day.*

... [NOTE: A portion of this article was a verbatim repeat of an earlier description, and has been omitted here.]

## **Green Bay Cashier Here.**

*Besides Mr. Conrad and Douglas Wheelock, bookkeeper [sic – bookkeeper], formerly of the Wausaukee State Bank, A.C. Smith, assistant cashier of the Citizens National Bank, at Green Bay, is here to attend the opening and to assist Mr. Conrad as teller.*

*Currency was received yesterday, and, after completing his examination, F.F. Bernsteine, of the state banking department, last night authorized the institution to open. The absence of the bank examiner until yesterday afternoon prevented earlier announcement of the opening.*

*The bank as organized has a capital and surplus of \$120,000. The officers are: Dr. G.W. Earle, president; W.H. Scandling, vice president; A.A. Conrad, cashier. The directors are Dr. G.W. Earles [sic - Earle], W.H. Scandling, A.A. Conrad, James R. Spencer, John Elmer, R.H. James, A.H. Hooper, F.H. Bussing, and Henry Suino.*

On Saturday, March 29, 1924, the **Wisconsin Lunch Company** opened the first of three restaurants it intended to conduct in Iron Mountain. The restaurant was located in the basement of the American Security Bank. Short order and regular meal service was offered at the new restaurant, which had accommodations for 50 persons.

In 1925 the following institutions and individuals were listed as occupants of the **American Security Bank Building**, 515-517 South Stephenson Avenue: **American Security Bank** (Isaac W. Byers, Iron River, Mich., president; G. Harold Earle, Hermansville, Mich., 1st vice-president; Albert H. Hooper, 2nd vice-president; Russell C. Hanchette, cashier; F. Dean Cardinal, assistant cashier); **B Realty Company** (Benjamin Brill, Green Bay, Wis., president; Simon R. Brown, Green Bay, Wis., vice-president; Mrs. Minnie Brill, treasurer; Clarence J. Bellows, secretary; B. Isadore Brill, salesman); **Edward J. Dundon**, attorney-at-law and counselor.

Sometime before November, 1929, the American Security Bank failed.

**History (Continued):** In an article in the *Iron Mountain News* on November 27, 1929, **Angelo B. Bracco** announced his new **City Drug Store** would open early the following week in the Stephenson Avenue site formerly occupied by the American Security Bank. At the time the

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

article appeared most of the interior decorative work was completed and workmen were setting up storage and display cases and racks.

The article described the interior as follows:

*Various up-to-date features will be included in the establishment, and all of the fixtures are new.*

*Display and storage racks along the north wall will contain, for the most part, patent and other medicines, while on the opposite wall will be displayed toilet articles, novelty goods and similar merchandise.*

*Eight class cases, ranged along the sides and in the center of the store, will display novelty and specialty goods and the cases themselves are of the new type, all electric-lighted and utilizing the space at the bottom as well as the top.*

*In the rear of the store to the right is the enclosed prescription room, with the shelves and vault already installed. Along the rear wall and in a sort of alcove are eight lunch booths, of latest design, with tapestry wall effects and mitered mirrors in each compartment.*

## **New Fountain.**

*The soda fountain is in the center at the rear – all new equipment, and while temporary swinging stools will be provided for the opening, a new style of revolving seat, with a high-back support, will be installed later.*

*At the end of the alcove to the rear-left is the telephone booth.*

*The soda fountain is of the new liquid-carbonic type, with an up-to-date cooling installation.*

*Low chandeliers, comprising the inverted-lighting system, hang from the ceiling in the sales department, and these, with the window space and the cream-*

*colored walls and ceiling, will provide ample light.*

*A plastic decorative scheme is carried out along the walls, while the ceiling is plain cream-colored.*

*On the mezzanine floor along the width of the rear, and enclosed, is the office. Copper-trimmed display windows, with marble base throughout, and a tiled entrance comprise the new front.*

In 1935 the **City Drug Store**, **Angelo B. Bracco**, proprietor, was located at 517 South Stephenson Avenue. Angelo B. Bracco was also listed as a pharmacist at Cudlip's Drug Store in 1935. On the second floor there were offices for **Dr. Charles P. Drury**, a physician; the **Dickinson & Iron County Medical Society** (**Dr. A.L. Haight**, president; **Dr. A.R. Smith**, vice-president; **Dr. Charles P. Drury**, secretary-treasurer); and the regional office of the **State Emergency Relief Administration**, **Walter M. Berry**, field representative.

In 1939 the City Drug Store continued under the same ownership. On the second floor there were offices for **Dr. E.B. Anderson**, physician and surgeon, and the **State Emergency Welfare Relief Administration Regional Office** with **Walter Berry**, Director, while **Adeline's Beauty Salon** was operated by **Adeline Beauchamp** in the basement. In the 1941-1942 city directory **Dr. E.B. Anderson**, physician and surgeon, **Dr. Francis Desalvo**, physician and surgeon, were listed upstairs and **Adeline's Beauty Salon** was still located in the basement.

**517 – XXX – 2010 (A.C. Frankini and Sons, Jewelers, 515-521 – 1980)**

**History 517:** **H. Geuting and Company**, a "Meat Market" was located

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

here in 1892-1894, working as “Dealers in Fresh, Dried, Salted, Smoked Meats and Sausages, Game, Fruit and Vegetables.”

**H. Geuting** also lived here, as did **Joseph Geuting**, who worked as a clerk in the meat market. In 1902-1903 **William H.**

**Scandling** sold “groceries, meats, etc.” at 517-519 South Stephenson Avenue. His advertisement on page 3 of the 1902-1903 directory noted he was a “Dealer in Fresh and Salted Meats[,] Poultry, Game, Vegetables and Fruits in Season, Fancy Groceries, Flour, Feed, Hay, Oats, Etc.”

**Joseph L. Desjardin** worked as a butcher at W.H. Scandling’s store in 1902-1903, and lived upstairs at 519 South Stephenson Avenue. W. H. Scandling was listed as a merchant at this address in 1907-1908, and since there was no listing for 519 South Stephenson Avenue, the store apparently remained the same size as in 1902-1903. **Nelson & Carlson (Eric Nelson and Carl J. Carlson)** ran a grocery and meat market at this site in 1913.

## History of the American Security Bank and History (Continued):

See the extensive information for 515 South Stephenson Avenue above under these headings.

An article in the March 26, 1924 edition of the Iron Mountain News announced the opening of the Wisconsin Lunch Company in the basement of the American Security Bank at this address on March 29 as follows under this headline: RESTAURANT TO OPEN SATURDAY – Will Be First of Three Wisconsin Company Plans Here

*The Wisconsin Lunch Company will open on Saturday the first of three restaurants it intends to conduct in Iron*

*Mountain, it was said today. The first restaurant will be located in the basement of the American Security bank.*

*The other two will be opened within two months, according to the management.*

*Short order and regular meal service will be offered at the new restaurant, which will have accommodations for 50 persons.*

Creditors sold the restaurant a little more than nine months later, according to an article in the January 16, 1925 edition of the *Iron Mountain News* which follows:

*The Wisconsin Lunch, located in the basement of the American security [sic – Security] bank building at 517 Stephenson avenue and taken over by creditors of Ehmed Elli, former owner of the Blue Bird café, was purchased yesterday by Stephen Thanos, of Iron Mountain, and four others, it was announced today.*

*The restaurant has not been open since the former owner left for parts unknown. It is understood that the new management will re-open the place either tomorrow or Sunday.*

*Mr. Thanos is interested in the Boston Meat market on Fourth street and also in a grocery store and meat market in Kingsford Heights.*

**519 – XXX – 2010 (A.C. Frankini and Sons, Jewelers, 515-521 South Stephenson Avenue – 1980)**

**History 519:** There is no listing for this address in 1892-1894. In 1902-1903 **William H. Scandling** sold “groceries, meats, etc.” at 517-519 South Stephenson Avenue. His advertisement on page 3 of the 1902-1903 directory noted he was a “Dealer in Fresh and Salted Meats[,] Poultry, Game, Vegetables and Fruits in

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Season, Fancy Groceries, Flour, Feed, Hay, Oats, Etc.” **Joseph L. Desjardin** worked as a butcher at W.H. Scandling’s store in 1902-1903, and lived upstairs at 519 South Stephenson Avenue. W. H. Scandling was listed as a merchant at this address in 1907-1908, and since there was no listing for 519 South Stephenson Avenue, the store apparently remained the same size as in 1902-1903. There was no listing for this address in 1913 or 1925. However, in 1935 **Caviani & Mroz (Ernest P. Caviani and Leo Mroz)** worked as jewelers at this location, and Ernest P. Caviani also dealt in music and musical instruments. There was no listing for this address in the 1939 or the 1941-1942 city directories, but in the latter directory Caviani & Mroz, Jewelers, was listed at 517, but, in actuality, was probably located here.

**521 – CHRIS HANLEY**  
**INSURANCE, Chris Hanley,**  
**manager – 2010 (A.C. Frankini and**  
**Sons, Jewelers, 515-521 South**  
**Stephenson Avenue – 1980)**

**History 521:** **William H. Scandling** sold groceries at this address in 1892-1894. **T.J. Scandling** worked as a salesman in the grocery store and also resided here in 1892-1894. There was no listing for this address in 1902-1903. In 1907-1908 **John Treneary** was found on the street index for this address, but in the alphabetical listing **John Trenarry**, a mine worker, was living at 519 South Stephenson Avenue. W.H. Scandling sold groceries at this location again in 1913.

An article in the February 28, 1924 edition of the *Iron Mountain News* announced the **Nolingberg Bakery**

**Company’s** new shop “located in the building next to the **American Security bank** on Stephenson avenue and formerly occupied by **A.C. Frankini**, jeweler.” The shop was to carry a “full line of staple bakery goods and a special line of fancy pastries.” The building had been remodeled throughout and an electric oven had been installed. The Nolingberg Bakery Company had been in business in Iron River for eleven years at this time, and had erected a new bakery building there two years prior to opening the shop in Iron Mountain. **M.F. Norlingberg**, who had been with the company since its organization, was to be in charge of the local shop. In 1925 **Elmer Nolingberg** operated a **bakery** here, assisted by **Maurice Nolingberg**, who worked as a baker. Maurice Nolingberg was probably the manager of the Iron Mountain shop noted in the newspaper article as M.F. Norlingberg, and Elmer Nolingberg the owner of the Nolingberg Bakery Company, headquartered in Iron River. There was no listing for this address in 1935, but by 1939 the **Frankini Jewelry Store** was located here, operated by **Arthur C. Frankini**, and **Dr. Francis DeSalvo**, physician and surgeon, had his office upstairs. The Frankini Jewelry Store continued to be listed at this address in the 1941-1942 city directory, and the **Blixt Dress & Gift Shop** was operated by **Ellen Blixt**, probably upstairs.

**525 – XXX – 2010 (Rembrandt**  
**Studio, 523-525 South Stephenson**  
**Avenue – 1980)**

**History 525:** The **Prosser House**, a hotel with “sample rooms,” was operated by **Peter Bhirdo** at this location in 1892-1894, advertising: “Good accomodations [*sic* –

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

*accommodations]* for the traveling public by the day or week at living prices. Fine bar of wines[,] liquors and cigars.” By 1902-1903 the establishment at this address was called the **Metropolitan Saloon** in the street index and the **Metropolitan Hotel**, operated by **R. Pizzarelli**, in the alphabetical listing. In the Classified Business Directory for 1902-1903 the name **Rocco Pizarello** appeared under “SALOONS,” so the Metropolitan Saloon is probably the correct name, and the owner probably lived on the premises. There was no listing for this address in 1907-1908 or 1913. In 1925 the **Pepps & Leanes Restaurant (Angel Pepps and George Leanes)** occupied this site, but the 1925 directory indicated that the building was “vacant.” Angel Pepps and his wife **Henrietta Pepps** lived at 216 West Brown Street in 1925, and George P. Leanes ran a billiard parlor at 407 South Stephenson Avenue in the basement of the **Jacobs Building**, and lived at 203 South Stephenson Avenue with his wife **Rose Leanes**. **E.M. Kotler** ran a grocery store at this location in 1935. E.M. Kotler lived at 518 West A Street, as did **Louis D. Kotler** and his wife **Esther Kotler**, and **Ruth Kotler** and **William Kotler**, both clerks, possibly in the grocery store at this address. By 1939 the **Gamble’s Store**, managed by **Alfred Humphrey**, was listed at 523-525 South Stephenson Avenue, but the address noted in the 1941-1942 city directory was 525 South Stephenson Avenue with **Arnold Sjodin** serving as manager.

**527 – MILLIE HILL MARKET  
LLC, grocers – moved to River  
Avenue – 2010 (Vacant – 1980)**

**History 527:** There was no listing for this address in 1892-1894, 1902-1903, 1907-1908, 1913, 1925, 1935, 1939 and 1941-1942.

**529 – XXX – 2010 (Camelot Arcade  
– 1980)**

**History 529:** There was no entry for this address in 1892-1894 or 1902-1903. In 1907-1908 the name **Peter Brette** appeared in the street index, but was not found in the alphabetical listing. **Albert P. Van Laanen** ran a saloon here in 1913, and **Anton Swanson**, the poundmaster, and his wife **Hilda Swanson** resided upstairs where Mrs. Swanson ran a boarding house. There was no listing for this address in 1925, 1935, 1939 and 1941-1942.

**531 – VACANT – 2010 (Quality  
Hardware – 1980)**

**History 531:** The **Palace Sample Rooms**, owned and operated by **Peter Calvi** at this location in 1892-1894, advertised: “A fine bar of imported and domestic wines, liquors and cigars. Fresh beer always on tap.” Peter Calvi resided on the premises. In 1902-1903 Peter Calvi still ran a saloon at this address, but no longer resided here. Peter Calvi continued to run a saloon here in 1907-1908 and 1913. The **Quality Hardware Store**, **James P. Palmer** and **Keeler L. Calvi**, proprietors, occupied this site in 1925, selling a “General and Complete Line of Hardware.” **Leslie H. Palmer** was a salesman at the hardware store. **William Rauhut**, an autoworker, resided here with his wife **Frances Rauhut** and **Frank Rauhut**, a laborer, in 1925. In 1935 The Quality Hardware Store, James P. Palmer and

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Keeler L. Calvi, proprietors, was still located here, advertising “General and Complete Line of Hardware.” By 1939 Keeler L. Calvi was the only proprietor of The Quality Hardware Store, and the same listing appeared in the 1941-1942 city directory.

**\*535 – INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE SCHOOL, translators and interpreters, Danielle D. Khoury – 2010 (City Fruit Market – 1980)**

**History 535:** This structure, probably erected by **Richard Williams** in about 1883, is possibly the oldest surviving building in downtown Iron Mountain at this time (2010). In 1892-1894, **R.J. Kneebone**, of Florence, Wisconsin, operated a meat market here with **John B. Orr** serving as manager. This business dealt in “fresh, dried, salted, smoked and dried meats and sausages, butter, eggs and vegetables.” **R.P. Helson**, who sold “fruit, game and fish” at 601 South Stephenson Avenue, just across the street, lived here in 1892-1894, and **George Bender**, a tailor working for **John R. Johnston** at 204 East Ludington Street, also resided here. **Richard White, Sr.**, ran a meat market at this address in 1902-1903, and **Dr. Henry A. Newkirk**, a physician, had his office upstairs. Dr. Henry A. Newkirk, physician and surgeon, still maintained his office on the corner of East B Street and South Stephenson Avenue in 1907-1908, his name being listed at this address in the street index. There was no listing for an occupant for the store at this location in 1907-1908. **Michael Khoury** operated two stores selling “fruits and confections” on Stephenson Avenue in 1913, one at this address and the other at

305 South Stephenson Avenue, managed by **Abe Abraham**.

According to the following article in the August 17, 1923 edition of the *Iron Mountain News* under the headline STEPHENSON AVE. PROPERTY SOLD – Abe Khoury Purchases Corner Lot at B Street, this property changed hands three times within two years:

*For the third time within two years the building and lot at the corner of Stephenson avenue and B street, occupied by the **Carom “Sugar Bowl” confectionery store**, has changed ownership, having been sold to **Abe Khoury**, 305 Stephenson avenue.*

*It is understood the purchase price for the property was \$18,500, probably the highest in proportion ever paid for real estate in Iron Mountain.*

*The property was formerly owned by **Sam Khoury**, who sold it to the **American Security bank** at a price reported to be \$15,000. At this time **A.A. Conrad** was cashier of the institution. Later, when he severed his connections with the bank he organized the **Conrad-Martin company**, which purchased the property from the American Security [bank]. The price in this instance was also said to be in the neighborhood of \$15,000. This deal occurred several months ago and the company has not disposed of the property to Abe Khoury.*

In 1925 **George M. Caram** ran a confectionery store at this location, and also resided here with his wife **Brenda Caram**. **Cashway Stores**, a grocery store managed by **Joseph Coenen**, occupied this address in 1935. In 1939 the business was listed as **Cashway Store No. 27** with **Michael J. Stern** serving as manager. **H.S. Toretti**

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

was listed as manager the Cashway Store at this address in the 1941-1942 city directory.

**William Khoury**, who, with his wife **Mary Khoury**, owned the **City Fruit Market** in 1980, began business here on April 11, 1946.

**537 – LAYLA’S BOUTIQUE**, Erin Irish, owner – changed to **DAMIAN’S COIN SHOP – 2010**, **HANSON REALTY**, Lisa Hanson, manager – 2010

## 15: EAST SIDE OF 600 BLOCK OF SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

In 1892-1894 only two addresses appeared on this block, as the 500 block of South Stephenson Avenue was basically the end of the downtown commercial district at that time. Ten years later there were four addresses listed in the 1902-1903 directory on the east side of the 600 block. By 1907-1908 the number had grown to six addresses, but by 1913 the number was down to four addresses. In 1925 there were only three establishments with addresses on this block, but by 1935 eight businesses were located here.

**601 – CHINA GARDENS  
PARKING LOT – 2010**

**History:** In 1892-1894 **R.P. Helson** sold “fruit, game and fish” at this address. **Rasmussen & Strong** (**P. Rasmussen** and **John Strong**) sold and repaired bicycles here in 1902-1903. **John Niklas**, a merchant tailor, worked here in 1907-

1908. In 1913 **Axel Swanson**, a shoemaker, worked and lived at this location. There was no listing for this address in 1925 or 1935. While there was no listing for this address in 1935, there was a listing for a **Standard Oil Company** filling station at the southeast corner of South Stephenson Avenue and East B Street, but no further information was provided. By 1939 **Herbie’s Service Station** was operated here by **Herbert Hughes**, and was still listed at this address as **Herbie’s Standard Service Station** under the same ownership in the 1941-1942 city directory, as was the **Blackstone Taxi Company**, also owned by **Herbert Hughes**.

**603 – CHINA GARDENS  
PARKING LOT – 2010**

**History:** **Thomas Blackney**, a miner at the **Pewabic Mine**, was named in the street index at this address in 1892-1894, but in the alphabetical listing he was residing at 602 South Stephenson Avenue, across the street. In 1902-1903 **Moy A. Lon** ran a Chinese laundry at this location and resided here, still operating his laundry and living here in 1907-1908. In addition, **Samuel Doney**, a blacksmith, resided at this address in 1907-1908 with his wife **Mary A. Doney** and **Lillie R. Doney**, a student, as did **Arthur Clairmont**, a bartender, and his wife **Minnie Clairmont**. The surname was spelled **Claremont** in the street index and **Clairmo** in the alphabetical listing. **Moy A. Lon** still did “hand laundry” at this address in 1913, and **Matt J. Arbour**, a plasterer, lived here with his wife **Mary Arbour** and **Lee Arbour**, a deliveryman. There was no listing for this address in 1925, 1935, 1939 or 1941-1942.

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

**607 – CHINA GARDENS  
RESTAURANT, Yung P. Chang,  
owner – 2010**

**History:** There was no listing for this address in 1892-1894, 1902-1903, 1907-1908, 1913 or 1925. However, in 1935 the **Blackstone Lunch**, run by **Jacob Smith**, was located here. By 1939 the business was known as the **Blackstone Tavern**, operated by Jacob “Jake” Smith, and the **Blackstone Taxi Company**, owned by **Herbert Hughes**, was listed at 607 ½ South Stephenson Avenue. The Blackstone Tavern was listed at the same address and under the same ownership in the 1941-1942 city directory, but there was no listing for 607 ½ South Stephenson Avenue. The Blackstone Taxi Company had moved to 601 South Stephenson Avenue.

**609 – CHINA GARDENS  
RESTAURANT, Yung P. Chang,  
owner – 2010**

**History:** There was no listing for this address in 1892-1894, 1902-1903, 1907-1908, 1913 or 1925. In 1935 the **Clement Optical Company**, operated by **Dr. J.L. Clement**, who resided in Escanaba, Michigan, was located at this address, advertising “Glasses Fitted, Eyes Examined, Acousticon Hearing Aids.” **Pietro Calo**, a tailor and furrier, was listed at this address by 1939, and was still listed in the 1941-1942 city directory as the **Calo Tailor & Furrier Shop** under the same ownership.

**611 – CHINA GARDENS  
RESTAURANT, Yung P. Chang,  
owner – 2010**

**History:** There was no listing for this address in 1892-1894, 1902-1903, 1907-1908 or 1913. However, in 1925 the **Blackstone Taxi Company**, operated by **Charles R. Farrell** and **Howard J. Eslick**, offered “Day and Night Service, All Buick Enclosed Cars” at this location. There was no listing for this address in 1935, 1939 or 1941-1942.

**\*615 – DICKINSON COUNTY  
ABSTRACT AND TITLE COMPANY,  
Chris Kallal, manager – 2010,  
SUPERIOR TITLE & ABSTRACT,  
Jeff Smith, manager – 2010**

**History:** There was no listing for this address in 1892-1894. **A. Richter**, a cigar manufacturer, worked at this address in 1902-1903, advertising the “finest grades of cigars made from the very best tobacco.” His advertisement on page 11 of the 1902-1903 directory read: “Manufacturer of Fine Havana and Domestic Cigars,” and added his specialties by name – Iron Mountain City Hall, X-Rays, Green Cloud, Iron Mountain Sweepers, D.C. Winner and Our Pet. In 1907-1908 **Andrew Swanson**, who sold dry goods and notions at his shop at 708 Vulcan Street on the North Side, resided at this address with his wife **Julia Swanson**. By 1913 **Charles Gunnarson** had expanded his furniture store at 619 South Stephenson Avenue to include 615-619 South Stephenson Avenue. The **Max A. Cohodes** building, constructed in 1922, was located at 615-621 South Stephenson Avenue and still [2010] stands there today.

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

**Buchman's Drug Store**, operated by **Abraham G. Buchman**, a druggist and prescription pharmacist, was located in a portion of the Max A. Cohodes building at 615 South Stephenson Avenue in 1925. **Joseph H. Cohodes** operated the **J.H. Cohodes Department Store** at this address by 1935 and was still listed here in 1939. **The Rose Shop**, a dress shop operated by **Rosenblum Sanders**, was listed at this address in the 1941-1942 city directory.

## **\*617 – CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH, Stephen Petry, religious leader – 2010**

**History:** There was no listing for this address in 1892-1894, 1902-1903 or 1907-1908. By 1913 **Charles Gunnarson** had expanded his furniture store at 619 South Stephenson Avenue to include 615-619 South Stephenson Avenue. The **Max A. Cohodes** building, constructed in 1922, was located at 615-621 South Stephenson Avenue and still [2010] stands there today. Although listed at 615 South Stephenson Avenue in the 1925 directory, it is likely that **Joseph H. Cohodes** ran his "General Merchandise" store at this address, as **Buchman's Drug Store** was listed at 615 South Stephenson Avenue. **Gamble Stores**, managed by **Alfred W. Humphrey**, sold automobile accessories at this location in 1935. By 1939 **Standard Printing Company**, owned by **Paul J. Gingrass**, was located here, and was still listed at this address under the same ownership in the 1941-1942 city directory.

## **\*619 – CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH, Stephen Petry, religious leader – 2010**

**History:** There was no listing for this address in 1892-1894. In 1902-1903 **Gunnarson & Berg (Charles Gunnarson and Claus Berg)** operated two stores, one at 122 East Brown Street, selling "furniture, paints and wallpaper," and the other at this address, offering "furniture, wall paper and paints," and advertising themselves as "painters and paper hangers." Charles Gunnarson also boarded upstairs at this address in 1902-1903. Charles Gunnarson still roomed at this address in 1907-1908, and also operated his furniture business here. By 1913 Charles Gunnarson had expanded his furniture store to include 615-619 South Stephenson Avenue. The **Max A. Cohodes** building, constructed in 1922, was located at 615-621 South Stephenson Avenue and still [2010] stands there today.

An article in the July 8, 1922 edition of the *Iron Mountain News* under the headline ESCANABA MEN TO OPEN SHOP HERE: Buchanan Brothers Will Start Furniture, Undertaking Store announced the first occupant of the Cohodes Building as follows:

*Frank X. Buchanan and Joseph Buchanan, who expect to engage in the furniture and undertaking business in Iron Mountain about October 1, are in the city. For the past several years the brothers were associated with the **Anderson & Buchanan company**, a corporation engaged in the furniture and undertaking business at Escanaba, which has now been dissolved. The new firm has leased the **Cohodes building** now in course of erection. The Escanaba Mirror says that "Iron Mountain is to be congratulated upon acquiring two such splendid young business men to add to her roster of*

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

*progressive young hustlers and community builders.”*

**Buchanan & Villemur Company** (Frank X. Buchanan, Joseph L. Buchanan and Dolphis F. Villemur) operated their furniture and undertaking business at 619-621 South Stephenson Avenue in 1925. In addition, **Louis H. Cohodes** was selling meats and groceries at 619 South Stephenson Avenue, according to the 1925 directory.

However, an article in the July 17, 1925 edition of the *Iron Mountain News* announced a new location for the Buchanan & Villemur Funeral Home as follows under the headline MODERN FUNERAL HOME COMPLETED: Buchanan & Villemur Have New Establishment in City:

*One of the most modern funeral homes in the upper peninsula has been completed by Buchanan & Villemur, Iron Mountain funeral directors and embalmers, at 1117 Carpenter avenue.*

*The structure is modelled [sic – modeled] along the lines of the old colonial style homes and is equipped with all modern conveniences and rest rooms. In addition to the morgue there is a chapel especially designed and large enough to accommodate 50 persons.*

*The interior decorations are elaborate and cost a considerable sum.*

*The funeral home is considered to be one of the best north of Milwaukee.*

*The second floor of the building has living quarters.*

After the funeral home moved to its new location, the Green Mill Restaurant and Waffle Shop opened at this location according to an article in the July 1, 1925

edition of the *Iron Mountain News* as follows under the headline GREEN MILL CAFÉ IS OPENED TODAY: New Shop Will Offer Chinese Dishes and Waffles:

*The **Green Mill Restaurant and Waffle Shop**, at 619 Stephenson avenue, opened its doors to the public for the first time at noon today.*

*Proprietors of the place are **John Fundas**[.] of Chippewa Falls, Wis., and **John Kollis**, of Iron Mountain.*

*Mr. Fundas is an experienced chef, and has a successful restaurant of the same [name - ?] in Chippewa Falls.*

*Good food, including a wide range of the popular Chinese chow meins and chop sueys, will be offered.*

*In honor of the opening today the tables were decorated with tea roses.*

The **MacDonald Beauty Shop**, operated by **Mrs. Etta M. MacDonald**, was located at this address by 1935, and was still listed here under the same ownership in the 1939 and the 1941-1942 city directories.

## **\*621 – CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH, Stephen Petry, religious leader – 2010**

**History:** There was no listing for this address in 1892-1894, 1902-1903 or 1907-1908. **Halbar** [sic – Halvar] **Person**, a liveryman, was listed at 623 South Stephenson Avenue according to the street index in the 1907-1908 directory, but in the Iron Mountain, Mich., Business Directory for 1907-1908 was found at 621 South Stephenson Avenue. Since **L.M. Hansen** had a livery stable at 623 South Stephenson Avenue in 1913 and there was no listing for 621 South Stephenson

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

Avenue in 1913, the livery stable located here in 1907-1908 and in 1913 probably occupied 621-623 South Stephenson Avenue. The **Max A. Cohodes** building, constructed in 1922, was located at 615-621 South Stephenson Avenue and still [2010] stands there today. **Buchanan & Villemur Company** (**Frank X. Buchanan**, **Joseph L. Buchanan** and **Dolphis F. Villemur**) operated their furniture and undertaking business at 619-621 South Stephenson Avenue in 1925. **Charles Farrell** ran a restaurant here in 1935. By 1939 **Confeld's Ladies' Apparel Shop**, operated by **David J. Confeld**, was located at this address and was still listed here in the 1941-1942 city directory.

## 623 – AFFINITY MORTGAGE SVC, Mary Robitaille, president – 2010

**History:** In 1892-1894 **Timothy McNamara**, a railroad employee, lived here, as did **Nellie McNamara**, a telephone operator. There was no listing for this address in 1902-1903. **Halbar** [*sic* – *Halvar*] **Person**, a liveryman, was at this address according to the street index in the 1907-1908 directory, but in the Iron Mountain, Mich., Business Directory for 1907-1908 was found at 621 South Stephenson Avenue. **Louis M. Hansen** had his livery stable at this location in 1913, and there was no listing for 621 South Stephenson Avenue in 1913, so the livery stable located here in 1907-1908 and in 1913 probably occupied 621-623 South Stephenson Avenue.

An article in the May 27, 1920 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* documented a

modern addition to the Hansen Livery Stable as follows:

*L.M. Hansen has just received his new motor funeral car and it was employed for the first time last Tuesday. The car cost over \$4,000 and it is undoubtedly the most elaborate north of Milwaukee. It was built by J.S. Morris and was driven here from Waupun, Wis., and attracted much attention enroute [*sic* – *en route*]. Mr. Hansen has every reason to feel proud of his establishment, which had a small beginning. It includes the motor funeral car, a fine hearse, several automobiles and many good horses and carriages. It has no superior in the upper peninsula.*

An article in the April 4, 1924 edition of the *Iron Mountain News* noted a location change for the **Blackstone Taxicab Company**, operated by **Howard Eslick** and **Charles Farrell**, as follows under the headline CAB COMPANY TO VACATE BUILDING: Option on Hansen Property Forces Blackstone to Leave:

*The Blackstone Taxicab company will vacate its present quarters at the corner of Stephenson avenue and C street it was announced today. The building now occupied by the taxicab company is owned by Mrs. L.M. Hansen. An option has been taken on the property by a group of Chicagoans who have been reported contemplating building a hotel and theater here.*

*The Blackstone company was compelled to vacate with the expiration of its lease on the Hansen building. In view of the option, Mrs. Hansen was unable to renew the lease held by the taxicab company. The cab line will locate in the old Marion theater building located just east*

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

of Stephenson avenue on Hughitt street and formerly occupied by the **Yellow Cab company**. Removal to its new quarters will be started tomorrow.

Mrs. Hansen declared today that she looked for information relative to the expected sale of her property at an early date.

There was no entry for this address in 1925. An article in the July 15, 1927 edition of *The Iron Mountain News* documents the erection of the building extending from 623-629 South Stephenson Avenue as follows under the headline Building To Be Erected At Hansen Corner Site: Wolfe Brothers Award Contract For Modern Business Establishment; Work Starts at Once:

*Work on the construction of a one-story, all-brick and steel business building at Stephenson avenue and C street, on the site formerly occupied by the **L.M. Hansen livery**, will begin early next week, according to **G.A. Gustafson**, contractor who has been awarded the job by **Morris and Harry Wolfe**[,] Chicago business men [sic – businessmen] and owners of the site. The total cost of the structure is estimated at \$35,000.*

*The announcement sets at rest a host of rumors which have been circulated for the year relative to the plans for the building.*

*According to the specifications, the structure will comprise four store sites occupying the entire lot with a full basement throughout. Three fronts, each measuring about 23 feet in width, will face Stephenson avenue, and the fourth store will occupy the corner, facing both Stephenson avenue and C street with a 40-foot width in the rear.*

## **No Second Floor.**

*There will be no second floor, with offices, as had been rumored.*

*The face of the structure will be of light yellow brick, trimmed with pre-cast stone. **William G. Pagels**, Chicago architect, designed the building.*

*The contract for the excavation of the basement will be sub-letted [sic – sublet], officials of Mr. Gustafson's firm said today, and when that task is completed the contractor will employ about 25 men on the actual construction. The contract provides that the owners of the site will supply part of the material for the structure, and the plumbing, heating and electrical contracts will also be awarded separately, it was indicated.*

## **Purchased Two Years Ago.**

*Morris and Harry Wolfe, Chicago merchants and sons-in-law of **Max A. Cohodes**, of this city, purchased the site from Mrs. L.M. Hansen more than two years ago at a consideration of \$25,000. That part of the construction awarded to Mr. Gustafson is estimated at about \$26,000, and an estimated additional \$9,000 will go into the special material to be provided by the owners of the site and outside contracts for the fixtures.*

*In announcing the plans, the Wolfe brothers declared that they were prompted in their investment by a full confidence in the industrial future of the district, and the subsequent growth of Iron Mountain and the territory immediately adjacent. No indication was given as to the nature of the business establishments to be given first choice of the three store sites.*

*It is planned to complete the structure within three months.*

*Rumors of the contemplated building have been general since the purchase of the site by Wolfe Brothers, but it was not until last week that Mr. Gustafson was given his part of the contract that plans for the structure became definitely known.*

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

*The building will complete an up-to-date business block between B and C streets, on Stephenson avenue, new fronts having recently been built there.*

A follow-up article in the August 1, 1927 edition of *The Iron Mountain News* provides additional information as follows under the headline DIGGING CELLAR FOR FOUR-STORE CORNER BUILDING: Expect Business Block To Be Finished In Three Months:

**Anton Miench**, contractor, has started excavation for the \$35,000 one-story brick and steel business building to be built at the Hansen site, [on the] corner Stephenson avenue and C street. Announcement of the project was made Friday, July 15, by **Morris and Harry Wolfe**, of Chicago, owners of the property.

While the contract for the excavation has been sub-let [sic – sublet] to Mr. Miench, **G.A. Gustafson** has the contract for the structural work, to the amount of about \$25,000, the balance of the \$35,000, aside from the excavation, being made up but sub-letted [sic – sublet] contracts for lighting and heating and with materials which the Wolfe brothers plan to provide themselves.

As explained in the original announcement, the building will be a four-store structure, with three fronts facing on Stephenson avenue and the fourth, a corner site, on Stephenson and C. The face of the building will be of light yellow brick, trimmed with pre-cast stone, according to the plans prepared by **William F. Pagels**, Chicago architect.

The Wolfe brothers are sons-in-law of **Max A. Cohodes**, of this city, and they purchased the site about two years ago

from **Mrs. M.L.** [sic – L.M.] **Hansen**. The consideration then was given as approximately \$25,000. Shortly after the deal fire destroyed the Hansen livery barn, which occupied the property. The site was later cleared and finally made ready for the beginning of the work now in progress.

The excavation, it is estimated, will require little more than a week, when G.A. Gustafson will move his men and equipment on the job. It is planned to complete the structure within three months. According to reports today numerous inquiries have already been received by the Wolfe brothers from prospective tenants for the four stores.

There was no listing for this address in 1935, but it may have been a part of **H.I. Miller's** restaurant at 625 South Stephenson Avenue. However, by 1939 **Ellen Blixt Ladies' Apparel Shop**, operated by **Ellen Blixt**, was located here, but in the 1941-1942 city directory **Ross Clothes, Inc.**, operated by **Max Steiner**, was listed at this address.

**625 – DOWNTOWN STUDIOS,**  
**Thomas S. Peters, manager,**  
**photographers – 2010**

**History:** There was no listing for this address in 1892-1894, 1902-1903, 1907-1908, 1913 or 1925. However, in 1935 **H.I. Miller** ran a restaurant at this location. By 1939 the **Fairmont Ice Cream Company**, managed by **Roland Clementson**, occupied this address. **Miller's Grill**, operated by **Margaret O'Brien**, the Fairmont Ice Cream Company, managed by **Alfred Brown**, and the **Greyhound Bus Station** all were listed at this address in the 1941-1942 city directory.

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

**627 – B’S COUNTRY CAFE & CATERING, Terri Spigarelli, owner – 2010**

**History:** There was no listing for this address in 1892-1894, 1902-1903, 1907-1908, 1913 or 1925. **Erickson & Johnson (Sol E. Erickson and Gust P. Johnson)** had a grocery store at this address in 1935 which probably also included 629 South Stephenson Avenue, as there was no listing for that address in the 1935 directory. In 1939 the **Erickson & Johnson Grocery Store**, Sol E. Erickson, proprietor, was listed at this address, but certainly included 629 South Stephenson Avenue. The **Erickson & Johnson Grocery & Meat Market (Sol E. Erickson and Gust A. Johnson)** was still listed at this address in the 1941-1942 city directory.

**629 – B’S COUNTRY CAFE & CATERING, Terri Spigarelli, owner – 2010**

**History:** There was no listing for this address in 1892-1894, 1902-1903, 1907-1908, 1913 or 1925. **Erickson & Johnson (Sol E. Erickson and Gust P. Johnson)** had a grocery store at 627 South Stephenson Avenue in 1935 which probably also included this address which was not listed in the 1935 directory. In 1939 the **Erickson & Johnson Grocery Store**, Sol E. Erickson, proprietor, was still listed at 627 South Stephenson Avenue, but certainly included 629 South Stephenson Avenue. The **Erickson & Johnson Grocery & Meat Market (Sol E. Erickson and Gust A. Johnson)** was still listed at 627 South Stephenson Avenue in the 1941-1942 city directory.

## 17: EAST SIDE OF 700 BLOCK OF SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

**\*705 – DICKINSON COUNTY COURT HOUSE AND JAIL – 2010 (Dickinson County Court House and Jail – 1980)**

**History:** Dickinson County, Michigan’s newest county, was created by an act of the Michigan State Legislature on October 2, 1891, being named in honor of the **Hon. Donald M. Dickinson**. In 1896 the Dickinson County Courthouse and Jail were constructed at a cost of \$35,000. For many years the county sheriff and his family resided in quarters provided in the jail. The turret was a part of the sheriff’s livingroom. On November 15, 1977, the Dickinson County Courthouse and Jail were listed in the Michigan State Register of Historic Sites.

**Architecture:** This magnificent structure, positioned prominently on a hill, was designed by Architect **James E. Clancy**, who also designed the Carnegie Public Library, as well as the Iron County Courthouse in Crystal Falls. The use of stone and rusticated brick and the bold, geometric massing of the building is typical of the Richardsonian Romanesque style, which is named after the American architect **Henry Hobson Richardson**. Richardson not only designed big, sturdy buildings, but also happened to be a rather big and sturdy man. This style was often used for public buildings of the late nineteenth century. Walk up the sidewalk for a closer look at the arched doorway, complete with flanking

**DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON  
MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 –  
SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE – EAST SIDE**

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]*

granite columns. Then view the Armed Services Memorial and the fortress-like sheriff's residence and former jail to the south of the courthouse.