

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

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

36: WEST SIDE OF 100 BLOCK OF SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

There are no recorded addresses in the city directories on the west side of the 100 block of South Stephenson Avenue.

33: WEST SIDE OF 200 BLOCK OF SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

208 – XXX – 2010

History: Peter Jedda, Sr. ran a saloon at this address in 1892-1894, and his son, Peter Jedda, Jr., also worked in the saloon as a bartender. Both father and son also lived here. There was no listing for this location in 1902-1903. Raffale Ambrosecchia, a driller, resided here with his wife Mary Ambrosecchia in 1907-1908, and they still lived here in 1913, when Rafaele's occupation was listed as a miner. There was no listing for this location in 1925, but by 1935 John Basso lived here with his wife Adeline Basso, and Mrs. Frances Rauhut, widow of William Rauhut, also resided at this address. There was no listing for this address in 1939, but John J. Basso was living here in 1941-1942.

30: WEST SIDE OF 300 BLOCK OF SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

There were no businesses noted on the west side of the 300 block of South Stephenson Avenue in the city directories for 1892-1894, 1902-1903, 1913, 1925, 1935, 1939 and 1941-1942, except for the **Chicago & Northwestern Depot**, located at 332 South Stephenson Avenue (1913 directory), and later 320 South Stephenson Avenue (1939 and 1941-1942 directories).

**302 – POOR BOY ROYS,
restaurant - 2010**

**310 – STEVENS DECORATING
COMPANY, Joe Stevens, owner -
2010 (The Athlete's Choice – 1980,
formerly Smitty's Sporting Goods,
formerly Bert Harvey Sporting Goods)**

History: An article appearing in *The Florence Mining News* noted that the **Chicago & Northwestern Depot in Iron Mountain** was more like a pigpen than a depot in 1885. The editor of an Iron Mountain newspaper stated that the analogy was literally true, as pigs were wallowing in the mud under the depot. The article stated: "The stench that arises some days is enough to knock the baggage truck off the platform. The reason that no one falls off the platform in front of the in-coming train is because they become so paralyzed by the horrible smell that they stagger up on the side of the depot and the conductor and brakeman have to rush out and drag the passengers on board the train. Once in awhile they get an invigorating whiff from a

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petroleum tank car standing on the side-track that braces them up wonderfully. No more frightful calamity could ever happen to a mortal than to be found dead around that depot!”

Another article, appearing in the April 25, 1889 issue of *The Menominee Range* read: “THAT miserable little tinder box dignified with the title of the C. & N.W. depot must go. It is a wonder to us how it is that an enterprising concern like the company could think of maintaining such an unsightly, incommodious, and discreditable hovel as its depot in a city like Iron Mountain. Is there no positive danger of the people arguing, ‘as the depot, so the company’?”

On December 22, 1889, the new station house for the **Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company** was opened in Iron Mountain. An article appearing in *The Menominee Range* stated: “The new C. & N.W. depot was opened to the public last Sunday, and now that it is entirely complete, its beauty, neatness and convenience makes it all the more striking in comparison with the dingy old shanty that has served as a depot so long. The old depot is being remodeled and fitted up into a convenient and commodious freight house. The office will be in the south end of the building, where a hardwood floor is being laid, and where such counters, desk, etc. will be placed as may be required for the ready dispatch of business.”

On the Chicago & Northwestern, a passenger could reach Chicago from Iron Mountain in twelve hours. Six passenger trains arrived and departed daily in the early 1890’s in Iron Mountain. In addition, three freight trains reached the city daily. Ore trains are not included in this schedule.

Architecture: This relatively small building holds a wealth of architectural detail – for example, notice the different patterns in the wall cladding, the tiny round-top windows on the gable ends of the roof, the shaped rafters and the chamfered roof ridge.

332 – MICHAEL’S FINE JEWELRY, Michael L. Frankini, owner – 2010

History: [Find article regarding Ochietti’s Jewelry.]

Architecture:

27: WEST SIDE OF 400 BLOCK SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

[NOTE: There was nothing listed on the west side of the 400 block of South Stephenson Avenue in 1892-1894. Only one shop was found on this block in 1902-1903, and there was nothing listed on this block again in 1907-1908, 1913, 1925 or 1935.]

400 – DOMINO’S PIZZA, Dan Cahee, owner/ANTONIO’S PIZZA – 2010 (Giachino’s Men’s Wear, formerly Wright’s Men’s Wear – 1980)

History: The building described here was located at 115 East Hughitt Street, on the southwest corner of East Hughitt Street and South Stephenson Avenue. The side of the building constructed for the Nelson Morris & Company was facing the 400

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block of South Stephenson Avenue. In 1892-1894 **William S. Laing** dealt in wholesale meats at this address. He was also a partner in **H.H. Laing & Company** (**H.H. Laing**, **W.S. Laing** and **D.M. Laing**), “dealers in rough and dressed lumber, sash, doors, blinds, mouldings, etc.,” at 102 West A Street. **William S. Laing** was an agent for **Nelson Morris & Company**, wholesale meat dealers with offices in Chicago, East St. Louis, Kansas City and St. Joseph, Missouri, in 1902-1903 at this location. However, by 1907, **William J. Cudlip** served as agent for Nelson Morris & Co., “packers and provisions.” In 1913 William J. Cudlip was the local manager for **Morris & Co.**, wholesale meats, erroneously listed at 109 instead of 115 East Hughitt Street, and Cudlip still served in the same capacity for the same company at the same location in 1925. By 1935 **C. Walter Westrin** served as branch manager for **Armour & Co.**, another wholesale meat firm. Many early residents remembered how ice was hauled to a small door on the uppermost story facing Stephenson Avenue and then packed in sawdust to keep the contents cool during the warmer months.

There was no listing for this address or any address on the west side of the 400 block of South Stephenson Avenue in the 1939 or the 1941-1942 city directories.

406 – XXX – 2010

History: In 1902-1903 **C. Lupori** sold “confections, etc.” at this address.

408 – SHIRT TAILS, screen printing, John Benzie, owner – 2010

History:

410 – B.K. ENTERPRISES ENGRAVING, trophies, awards and medals, Brenda Mattson, owner – 2010

History:

426 – CARLSON WAGONLIT TRAVEL, travel agency, Linda Van Beek, president – 2010 (Colenso’s, 426-430 South Stephenson Avenue – 1980)

History: Brothers **Max Dworsky** and **Paul Dworsky** were building their new store in Iron Mountain when **John R. Colenso** and **Margaret E. “Peg” Colenso** paid a visit while on vacation in June, 1948. John Colenso had corresponded with the Dworsky brothers earlier in the year regarding the purchase of their men’s clothing business.

Work on the Dworsky brothers’ new building in June had not progressed beyond the basement walls, and Stephenson Avenue was, in Peg’s words, “just a huge deep ditch with no light standards and the only sidewalk was on the east side of the street.” At that time a new four-lane highway was under construction through the city.

During their stay, the Colensos were surprised to find friends who had located in Iron Mountain, serving as store managers of **S.S. Kresge Company**, the **A & P** grocery store, the **J.C. Penny Company** and the **Montgomery Ward Company**. These friends and other businessmen in the area urged them to locate in Iron Mountain, even though John had signed a contract

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with **Foley Brothers Department Store** in Houston, Texas.

By September, 1948, the Colensos had made the decision to buy the business, and Colenso's became one of the premiere clothing stores in Iron Mountain and the surrounding area. One-third interest was eventually held by **Irving Hoffman**. Due to health issues, he wanted to sell his share, and **C. Todd Colenso**, the oldest son of John and Margaret, returned to Iron Mountain in July, 1975, to assist in running the store. Daughter **Sherry (Colenso) Dillard** worked at the store until her husband's employment ended with the closing of the **Groveland Mine** and they moved to Tuscon, Arizona. Youngest son **Kim Colenso**, also worked at the store, but was forced to move to a drier climate for health reasons in the late 1970's. With the opening of the **Midtown Mall** and the **Birchwood Mall** in Kingsford, business waned and Colenso's Inc. closed its doors permanently on January 31, 1981.

Architecture:

430 – UES COMPUTERS, INC. – 2010 (Colenso's, 426-430 South Stephenson Avenue – 1980)

History: There was no listing for this address in 1892-1994, 1902-1903, 1907-1908, 1913, 1925, 1935, 1939 or 1941-1942.

24: WEST SIDE OF 500 BLOCK SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

500 – NORTHERN MICHIGAN BANK & TRUST – 2010, BATH AGENCY, real estate, David R. Bath – 2010, FSC CONSTRUCTION, general contractors – 2010, GARDNER CLAIM SERVICE, insurance adjusters, James Gardner, owner – 2010, LANDSTAR RANGER, INC., trucking, Lindley Johnson, manager – 2010, MICHAEL J. PIETILA AGENCY, insurance – 2010, SUPERIOR REPORTING SERVICE, INC., court and convention reporters, Genevieve Angeloff, president – 2010, DAVID B. VANHOLLA, MD, physician and surgeon - 2010 (Wells Fargo Bank, Commercial National Bank)

History: Originally housing the **Commercial Bank**, downtown Iron Mountain's most prominent building opened for business on Monday, December 23, 1929.

Organized thirty-seven years earlier, in March, 1892, the Commercial Bank opened its doors with a paid in capital of \$50,000 and a total of \$77,232.99 at the close of the first day's business. At the time the new bank opened in 1929, its resources totaled \$2,929,541.27, and the capitalization stood at \$100,000.00.

The bank's first president was **Jesse Spaulding**. Other original officers were **Francis A. Brown**, vice-president; **Oliver Evans**, cashier and director, and **Anson F. Wright**, **Herbert M. Pelham**, **E.L. Parmenter, Sr.**, **Frank C. Smart**, **Mandel Levy** and **J.F. Hancock**, directors.

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At the time the new bank opened **O.C. Davidson**, superintendent of the **Oliver Iron Mining Company** on the Menominee and Gogebic Ranges and one of the leading mining men of the country, was president of the bank. **Wilbur W. Thompson** served as cashier, and it was largely through his insistence and counsel that the board of directors was convinced of the advisability of erecting the new building.

Other officers of the bank then were **William Kelly**, vice-president; **Edward G. Kingsford**, vice-president; **Frank O. Morett**, assistant cashier; and **Edward F. Sandercock**, assistant cashier.

In addition to Davidson, Thompson, Kelly and Kingsford, directors of the bank then included **Medio J. Bacco**, contractor; **Festus C. Cole**, owner of the **City Lumber Yard**; **C.H. Baxter**, professor at the **Michigan College of Mines and Technology**, Houghton; **Henry G. Neuens**, retired pioneer businessman; and **Raymond Turner**, prominent attorney.

The building occupies the entire 500 of Stephenson Avenue with a depth of more than 30 feet. The structure is six stories high plus the basement, but to increase the illusion of height the architectural lines that predominate are perpendicular. Only two floors, the first and mezzanine, extend the full length of the block, with the center section of four stories having somewhat the appearance of a tower. This center section was designed for rental offices.

Constructed of concrete, brick and steel, upon opening the building was described to be “of solid construction and fireproof.” Little wood was used in construction, and nearly all of that was in adornment, such as wainscoting when the building opened. Door frames and like trims were metal, and the movable partitions in the office quarters were also of the metal.

The architects for the building were **A. Moorman & Company**, of Minneapolis. The company specialized in bank buildings, and took charge from “the first blueprint to the final placing of the inkwells on the desks.”

The architects awarded all individual contracts and supervised the erection and equipment of the structure. Their representative on the job was **George J. Morrison**.

The general construction contract was held by the **Phelps-Drake Company**, and work was begun in the spring of 1929, as soon as the basement excavation had been completed by **Joseph Mongrain**.

The plumbing and heating contract was given to **Arthur Bourgeois**. The **Meyers Electric Company**, of Oshkosh, Wis., held the electrical contract.

Etched glass was made by a Chicago firm, a Minneapolis concern manufactured the light fixtures, two other northwest firms finished the tile and marble, the wrought iron cages came from St. Paul, doors from Chicago, the oil burner from California, furniture from Wisconsin and Iowa.

Face brick was obtained from the **Service & Supply Company**, of Iron Mountain; wood supplies were obtained from the **City Lumber Yard** here, and shades were purchased from the **Home Furniture Company**, of Iron Mountain.

Insofar as possible local labor was employed on the job, this being one of the provisions of the bank’s contract with the architects.

In the 1935 city directory, the Commercial Bank Building, listed at 510 South Stephenson Avenue, contained the following businesses and offices: Basement, **Angelo N. Izzo**, billiards; **George S. Sullivan**, barber; **Ruth V.**

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Lindquist, beauty shop; Room 212, **Commercial Insurance Agency**; Room 300, **Crowell & Smith** (Dr. **Joseph Addison Crowell** and Dr. **Donald R. Smith**, physicians); Room 310, vacant; Room 400, Dr. **Andrew Nelson**, physician; Room 406, Dr. **Benjamin J. Eslick**, dentist, and Dr. **Gereon Frederickson**, physician and surgeon; Room 408, **William E. Dirks**, music teacher; Rooms 410-412, **Raymond Turner** and **C. Oliver Payant**, attorneys; Rooms 500-502, vacant; Rooms 504-506, Dr. **Lloyd J. Straub**, dentist; Room 508, **Bacco Construction Company** (**Medio J. Bacco**, president; **John J. Bacco**, vice-president; **Carl I. Israelson**, secretary; **Arthur Fortier**, treasurer), general contractor; Room 510, **Upper Peninsula Credit Association**, **Donald B. Smith**, manager; Room 512, Dr. **William H. Alexander**, physician.

In the 1939 city directory, the Commercial Bank Building, listed at 500 South Stephenson Avenue, contained the following businesses and offices: Room 212, **Commercial Insurance Agency**, **N.C. Bartholomew**, manager; Room 300, Dr. **Donald R. Smith**, physician; Room 308, **Ray E. MacAllister** and **James C. Perino**, attorneys; Room 310, Dr. **Grant C. Hamm**, dentist; Room 312, Dr. **Herman Sturtz**, dentist; Rooms 400-405, Dr. **Andrew Nelson**, physician; Room 406, Dr. **Gereon Frederickson**, physician; Room 408, Dr. **Arthur L. Costa**, dentist; Rooms 410-412, **Raymond Turner** and **Ernest W. Brown** (prosecuting attorney), attorneys; Room 500, **Beauty Nook**, **Ruth V. Lindquist**; Room 504, Dr. **Lloyd J. Straub**, dentist; Room 508, **Bacco Construction Company** (**Medio J. Bacco**, president; **John J. Bacco**, vice-president; **Carl I. Israelson**, secretary; **Arthur Fortier**, treasurer), engineers and contractors;

Room 512, Dr. **William H. Alexander**, physician.

In the 1941-1942 city directory, the Commercial Bank Building, listed at 510 South Stephenson Avenue, contained the following businesses and offices: Basement, **Squinch's Bar**, **Quinto Spera**; Room 212, **Commercial Insurance Agency**, **N.C. Bartholomew**, manager; Room 300, Dr. **Donald R. Smith**, physician; Room 308, **Ray E. MacAllister**, attorney; Room 310, Dr. **Grant C. Hamm**, dentist; Room 312, Dr. **Herman Sturtz**, dentist; Room 400, Dr. **Andrew Nelson**, physician and surgeon; Room 406, Dr. **Gereon Frederickson**, physician; Room 408, Dr. **Arthur L. Costa**, dentist; Rooms 410-412, **Raymond Turner** and **Ernest W. Brown** (prosecuting attorney), attorneys; Room 504-506, Dr. **Lloyd J. Straub**, dentist; Room 508, Dr. **Hugh D. McEachran**, physician; Room 512, Dr. **William H. Alexander**, physician.

Architecture: The style of the day, which came to be known as Art Deco, is characterized by strong vertical lines and the feeling of motion. Notice how the vertical is emphasized on the middle section of the already-tall building. Take a minute to look at the pale yellow terra cotta relief panels decorating the façade (one is pictured on the lower right corner of this page). Art Deco artists often looked to the natural world for inspiration, and that influence can be seen here in stylized ram's heads and geometric botanicals. Can you find the eagles?

21: WEST SIDE OF 600
BLOCK SOUTH
STEPHENSON AVENUE

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There were never many buildings of any kind on the west side of the 600 block of South Stephenson Avenue. In 1892-1894, 1902-1903, 1907-1908 and 1913 nothing was listed. Finally in 1925 the **Odd Fellows Hall** appeared at 608 South Stephenson Avenue. Then, in 1935 the **Chamber of Commerce and Merchants' Credit Bureau** was located at 614 South Stephenson Avenue.

600 – DICKINSON COUNTY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, DICKINSON COUNTY TOURISM ASSOCIATION, MICHIGAN STATE TRAVEL INFORMATION CENTER – 2010

History:

608 – XXX – 2010

History: The first recorded building on the west side of the 600 block of South Stephenson Avenue was the **Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall**, located here. Originally the **I.O.O.F., Crescent Lodge No. 370** had their hall at 421 South Stephenson Avenue on the second floor of a building they constructed in 1888. There was no listing for this address in 1935, 1939 or 1941-1942.

614 – XXX – 2010

History: The second recorded building on the west side of the 600 block of South Stephenson Avenue was the **Iron Mountain-Kingsford Chamber of Commerce** which also contained the **Merchants' Credit Bureau**, located here in

1935. Officers for the Chamber of Commerce in that year were **Medio J. Bacco** (president of the **Bacco Construction Company**), president; **Russell J. Bath** (real estate, insurance, stocks and bonds), vice-president; **Frank Blair**, secretary-manager; and **Norman C. Bartholomew** (department manager, **Commercial Bank**), treasurer. The Merchants' Credit Bureau was in charge of **Mable [sic] Freeman**, secretary, in 1935. By 1939 the **Upper Peninsula Credit Association** was located here, owned by **Donald B. Smith**, and was still listed at the same address and under the same ownership in the 1941-1942 city directory. In addition, the **Chamber of Commerce, Donald B. Smith**, secretary, was located here by 1939, and was also still listed at the same address with Donald B. Smith serving as the secretary in the 1941-1942 city directory.

EARLY RETAIL MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION

In the December 22, 1910 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* an article appeared noting the need for a businessmen's association as follows:

Needed Association.

The matter of organizing an association to be composed exclusively of business men will be discussed at a meeting to be held early in the new year. The object of the organization is to bring about a unity of feeling among the merchants and to assist any movement having a tendency to material advance the welfare of Iron Mountain. It is probable that the association will embrace social features. There is need of such an organization here.

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The next mention found to date [2010] regarding an association of retail merchants appeared twelve years later in the September 21, 1922 edition of *The Iron Mountain News*, under this headline: **RETAIL BUSINESS MEN ORGANIZE: Ben Seaman Named President of New Association.**

The preliminary organization of the retail merchants of Iron Mountain was put through at a meeting held at Marion hall last evening. There was an encouraging attendance and about all the trades were represented. Ben Seaman was elected president of the association and Charles Parent, secretary.

A board of directors will be elected at the next meeting, Wednesday evening, when the organization will be completed and a constitution and by-laws adopted. The object of the association is to discuss subjects of vital interest to the business men and the city. This will include proposed new industries, matters of taxation and public improvements, and similar topics. It is also hoped to secure united action concerning closing hours of stores and the observance of holidays. Every retail business man in the city is eligible to membership.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

An article in the August 12, 1920 issue of *The Daily Tribune-Gazette* reported an attempt to organize a chamber of commerce. A meeting held the previous evening at the **Eagles' Hall**, had been "called by **Walter Henze**, chairman, for the purpose of organizing a **Chamber of Commerce** for this city. After a discussion of the aims of the organization it was

decided to hold another meeting at the council rooms" the following Monday evening "to perfect the organization and draw up a constitution and by-laws."

Sometime between the fall of 1922 and the spring of 1925, the Chamber of Commerce was established. An article appearing in the April 18, 1925 edition of *The Iron Mountain News* carried the following headline and contents: **CREDIT BUREAU SERVICE STARTS: Ratings Are Obtained On More Than 5,000 Persons.**

Notification has been sent to 58 members of the Iron Mountain Retail Merchants Credit Association that the organization is to start functioning today. L.D. Tucker, secretary of the chamber of commerce[,] having completed the file and arrangements for the new service.

Credit ratings have been obtained on more than 5,000 residents of Iron Mountain and vicinity, an average of four credit ratings being available in each case. Instructions as to the use of the new service have also been mailed and although several of the signed and paid up members have not filed their reports as yet, Tucker is hoping that these will be brought to the chamber of commerce headquarters some time next week.

May Erect Signs.

The chamber of commerce has also started plans for the erection of tourist welcome signs, which are to be placed at the north and south city limits on M 12 and at the intersection of Wisconsin highway 57 and M 12. Under present plans the cost of erection and maintenance is to be born [sic – borne] equally by the city, the Lions and the Rotary clubs and the chamber of commerce. It is expected that the first three

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named organizations will take definite action in the matter before the tourist season opens.

The signs are to be 11x30, and figures on the cast [sic – cost] have been submitted by a local sign company.

Chamber of Commerce Secretary Lawrence D. Tucker resigned in the early spring of 1925. In the April 27, 1925 edition of *The Iron Mountain News* the name of the new secretary was announced: **NEW SECRETARY NAMED BY BOARD: Appleton Man to Succeed Tucker as Chamber Official.**

*Kenneth C. Corbett, of Appleton, Wis., today was named secretary of the chamber of commerce to succeed **Lawrence D. Tucker**, who recently resigned to engage in the real estate business at L'Anse.*

*Mr. Corbett is the son of **Hugh Corbett**, secretary of the chamber of commerce*

[Need to finish copying this article.]

The following brief item found in the April 30, 1925 edition of *The Iron Mountain News* reported K.H. Corbett, the new secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, had assumed his duties: **NEW SECRETARY NOW IN CHARGE: Corbett Takes Over Work Of Chamber; Tucker Goes to L'Anse.**

K.H. Corbett, newly-appointed secretary of the chamber of commerce, has assumed charge of his duties, having arrived here yesterday from Appleton.

*Mr. Corbett succeeds **Lawrence D. Tucker**, who has entered the real estate business at L'Anse and left this morning for his new field.*

Before leaving, Tucker acquainted Corbett with the various phases of the chamber's work here and the new secretary will continue in principal [sic – principle] the policies already outlined. Corbett received his training in chamber work under his father, who is secretary of the Appleton chamber.

In the December 10, 1925 edition of *The Iron Mountain News* it was reported that the Iron Mountain Chamber of Commerce was issuing membership display cards bearing the newly-adopted Chamber insignia for display in offices and stores. Approximately 300 members were to receive the cards. The new card was of heavy, dark gray bond, bearing the following inscription: "We, as members of the Chamber of Commerce, agree that we will positively refuse to advertise in any advertising scheme, make donations, subscriptions or gifts of any nature to any cause or project that has failed to merit the endorsement of the Chamber's Solicitation Committee." Space was reserved for signature of the member countersigned with that of the secretary of the chamber. The new membership insignia portrayed a small shield, bearing the inscription "Member of Iron Mountain Chamber of Commerce," with a banner over the top on which was inscribed "All For One – One For All." Members planned to adopt the emblem in their advertising in the future.