

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – U. S. POSTAL SERVICE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

*The Florence Mining News*, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume XI, Number 40 [Saturday, September 26, 1891], page 5, column 1

THE postmaster of Iron Mountain has received official notice that the **county of Dickinson has been formed** and that it contains the postoffices [*sic – post offices*] of **Floodwood, Foster City, Granite Bluff, Hardwood, Iron Mountain, Metropolitan, Norway, Quinnesec, Randville, Sagola, Vulcan and Waucedah.**

## RAILROAD POST OFFICES

*The Menominee Range*, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 7 [Thursday, May 9, 1889], page 5, column 2

### **Personal and Social.**

Joe Rayome has been appointed mail agent between Houghton & Mackinaw City, on the D.S.S. & A. and has already assumed his new duties. Joe has many friends in this city who rejoice in his preferment.

*The Menominee Range*, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 13 [Thursday, June 20, 1889], page 1, column 2

Jos. Rayome, at present mail agent on the D.S.S. & A. road, was called to Milwaukee last week for a preliminary civil service examination. The final examination will take place in about four months, and from all accounts Joe's chances of passing are very flattering. After a short visit with his parents here he left on Saturday to resume his "run" between Houghton and Mackinac City.

## FOSTER CITY

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 22 [Wednesday, May 6, 1925], page 3, column 4

### **Postoffice Test For Foster City**

Examinations for the postmastership of Foster City will be held soon at Escanaba, according to a notice issued [*sic – issued*] by the United States civil service commission. The position pays \$843 a year and any citizen of the United States who resides within the territory supplied by the Foster City office may take it. Applications should be made to the Escanaba post office and the date of the examination will be sent to the applicants.

## IRON MOUNTAIN

**Date Established: May 17, 1880**

### **POSTMASTERS**

Reuel O. Philbrook, 1880  
John Frederick, 1882  
Charles E. Parent, 1882  
Hugh McLaughlin, 1887  
George F. Seibert, 1889  
Carl Schuldes, 1894  
Alfred Cruse, 1897  
Hugh McLaughlin, 1914  
Leo H. Mortensen, 1922  
Charles Hallman, 1923  
Charles Dillon, 1934.

*The Menominee Range*, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – U. S. POSTAL SERVICE

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

XI, Number 6 [Thursday, May 2, 1889], page 1, column 3

A WELL directed assault upon the position of postmaster of Iron Mountain, *[sic]* is being made by one of our republican *[sic – Republican]* business men *[sic – businessmen]*, and THE RANGE heartily wishes him success. His petition bears the name of every prominent republican *[sic – Republican]* business man *[sic – businessman]* in the city and we think he will get there without a doubt. This applicant becomes an applicant at the presistent *[sic – persistent]* and earnest solicitation of his friends. The above is not intended to cast any reflection upon our present excellent postmaster, but under the present political situation it is natural to look for a change. That's all.

*The Florence Mining News*, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume XI, Number 40 [Saturday, September 26, 1891], page 5, column 1

THE postmaster of Iron Mountain has received official notice that the county of Dickinson has been formed and that it contains the postoffices *[sic – post offices]* of Floodwood, Foster City, Grnaite Bluff, Hardwood, Iron Mountain, Metropolitan, Norway, Quinnesec, Randville, Sagola, Vulcan and Waucedah.

*The Iron Range*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XIII, Number 34 [Thursday, November 12, 1891], page 1, column 2

THERE is no difficulty in renting good store rooms in this city. John R. Wood's block is hardly complete before tenants are found ready to move into it. Every store room is rented. M.C. Gleason has the first, J. Bitterly the second, Louis Newberger the third, the post office will move into the

fourth, Mrs. Copeland has the fifth and the Iron Mountain Insurance Agency the sixth. The Robbins block was rented with equal promptness, Mr. Mitchell moving into the spare store there, and Graham and Hunting will occupy Eskil's store room. In Fisher's block the rooms are already spoken for, and we have no doubt Anderson's building will find a tenant as soon as it is ready.

*The Iron Range*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XIII, Number 37 [Thursday, December 3, 1891], page 1, column 3

THE post office was moved Monday night to its new quarters in Wood's stone block, just above Bitterly's jewelry store. The room is larger and of course cleaner and therefore pleasanter to visit, but its cleanliness is only a temporary excellence. It won't be long, probably, before it, like the one just vacated, will look as though some one *[sic – someone]* had mopped the walls and ceiling with a rag dipped in mud, unless Mr. Wood gives the room an annual coat of whitewash.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 12, Number 5 [Thursday, June 20, 1907], page 1, column 4

## Renumbering Necessary.

It has been the practice of some of our foreign born citizens, in moving from one house to another, to take the street number with them. As a result confusion reigns supreme in some parts of the town, and a number on a house has no significance. It has become necessary to renumber the entire city, and the authorities will take the necessary steps in a short time, it is expected, Postmaster Cruse having explained conditions to the board of public works.

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – U. S. POSTAL SERVICE

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

*Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 14, Number 51 [Thursday, May 12, 1910], page 1, column 5*

## LEASE IS SECURED

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### POST-OFFICE TO OCCUPY TWO OF CITY BUILDING STORES.

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#### Lease Executed for a Term of Ten Years – A Strictly Up-to-Date Outfit of New Fixtures.

Due to the persistent efforts of Postmaster Cruse, the postal authorities down at Washington have decided to provide Iron Mountain with a post-office [*sic – post office*] worthy of the city.

During the week a lease for a period of ten years has been executed by the City of Iron Mountain, party of the first part, to the United States of America, in this case party of the second part, for the store room now occupied by the post-office [*sic – post office*] and the one adjoining on the west, now occupied by the C.T. Hampton Commission company, in the city hall building.

The lease is for a period of ten years and your Uncle Samuel has agreed to pay into the strong box of the City of Iron Mountain the sum of \$950 per annum, a total sum of \$9,500 for the period covered by the lease. As the city building originally cost the city only \$8,000, your Uncle Samuel will more than pay for the structure during the life of the lease. And in noting this pleasant fact we should not lose sight of the other rentals, past, present and future, and the additional large one, that the

city government has ample room in the building for all its needs.

In executing the contract the City of Iron Mountain has agreed to make many improvements, including much new furniture and additional fixtures. The wall between the two store-rooms [*sic – store rooms*] will be removed. This will provide a lobby more than twice as large as the present one, the exact dimensions named being thirty-five [*feet*] east and west and twenty-seven feet north and south. The private office of Postmaster Cruse will be in the front west side with an entrance from the lobby.

The financial department will extend in a semi-circle along the west side. The money order department first, then two stamp windows, registry, a letter case, general delivery projecting a few feet into the room, paper boxes, followed by 212 automatic keyless private boxes and drawers. The carrier windows extend along the north end of the present quarters with a private entrance from the lobby, with work-room [*sic – workroom*] in the rear. The carriers are also provided with a rest-room [*sic – restroom*].

The arrangement is one that will enable the clerks to handle the large Sunday and holiday crowds in comfort and expeditiously [*sic – expeditiously*], and will give our city a post-office [*sic – post office*] second to none in the peninsula.

*Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 45 [Thursday, March 30, 1911], page 5, column 3*

#### Will Not Close.

Until he secures an expression from patrons, Postmaster Cruse will not comply with the general order from the postmaster-general, which provides for the discontinuing of Sunday mail service at the

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

carrier windows. The order was to have become effective next Sunday. The sentiment of the people is now being sounded and Postmaster Cruse will comply with the wishes of the majority. In case it is decided to close, the Sunday work inside the post-office [*sic – post office*] will not be materially changed by the new order, but as the clerks who work on Sunday get a day off during the week, they are not in the same position as the carriers, who have in the past been on duty seven days a week. The general delivery window will be open as usual and stamps will be sold.

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 25 [Saturday, May 9, 1925], page 6, columns 3-4

## VILLAGE TO HAVE SUB POSTOFFICES

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### Two Stations Will Be Es- tablished Soon, Says Hallman

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Establishment of two sub-stations of the Iron Mountain postoffice [*sic – post office*] in the village of Kingsford within the next two weeks was announced today by Acting Postmaster Charles Hallman.

Bonds have already been filed with the postal department and it is expected that the official announcement will be received here from Washington in the next few days, Mr. Hallman declared.

One of the sub-stations will be located at the Buchman Drug store in Breitung while the other will be at the John Williams store in Kingsford Heights. The owners of the stores will have charge of the sub-

stations, having already signed the necessary certificates.

The assistants at the sub-stations will have the authority to transact all postal business pertaining to the offices with the exception of dispatching of mail. Letters and packages may be mailed at the respective sub-stations but later will be brought to the Iron Mountain postoffice [*sic – post office*] where they will be dispatched. Stamps, money orders, stamped envelopes, registers and special delivery stamps will be sold at the sub-stations.

### Two Carrier Routes

In an effort to further extend efficient service, the rural carrier route in the village has been divided into two sections. The new route is to be started on June 1 and bids for the position must be filed in the Washington office by May 12. Postmaster Hallman stated today that he has already received 12 applications [*sic – applications*] for the job which have been forwarded to the proper postal authorities. Some of the applicants have filed with the acting postmaster while others forwarded their applications direct to Washington.

Those desiring to bid for the position are requested to mail their applications tonight in order that they may be received at Washington by next Tuesday. Bids received after that date will be automatically disqualified, Mr. Hallman said.

The establishment of the two sub-stations and the new carrier route will, it is believed, relieve the congestion at the postoffice [*sic – post office*]. Residents of the village, at the present time, must go to the postoffice [*sic – post office*] for postal business and as a result long lines are formed before the windows.

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 45 [Wednesday, June 3, 1925], page 2, column 2

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – U. S. POSTAL SERVICE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

## BETTER MAILING DRIVE IS OPENED

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### City Contributes Share to Work of Dead Letter Office

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In an effort to prevent the millions of disappointments caused by undelivered letters and to save the \$1,740,000 spent every year to look up addresses on misdirected letters and parcels, the local postoffice [*sic – post office*] is co-operating with every other postoffice [*sic – post office*] in a campaign of education this week, which is known as “better mailing week.”

“Yes, it happens right here in our own Iron Mountain, as it does everywhere else,” said Postmaster Charles Hallman in announcing the plans made to teach the people the better way to mail during “Better Mailing Week.”

“Iron Mountain contributes its share to the 21,000,000 dead letters and more than 800,000 parcels which, because of incomplete addresses, can not [*sic – cannot*] be delivered to the person to whom they are addressed,” Mr. Hallman declared.

“Every day,” said the postmaster, “letters come to the local office which have been sent to other cities or towns but which the postal people have been unable to deliver. Do you know that 21,000,000 went to the dead letter office last year, that 803,000 parcels accompanied them; that 100,000 letters go into the mail in perfectly blank envelopes; that \$55,000 in cash is removed annually from misdirected letters; that \$12,000 in postage stamps is found in letters; that \$3,000,000 in checks never reach intended owners?”

“These figures should be considered by the public,” added the postmaster.

“Perhaps even the man that never makes a mistake is the victim at times. The best of us forget addresses and names of towns.”

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, \_\_\_\_\_ Year, Number \_\_\_\_\_ [Thursday, June 18, 1925], page 2, columns 1-3

## **Business Gain Gives City Fastest Growing Postoffice In Country**

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### **Staff Pressed to Keep Pace With Work; Money Orders Volume Nears Million Mark.**

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If phenomenal increase of business, added labor, the rapid appointment of clerks and carriers to keep pace with the mushroom-like growth of Iron Mountain and substation districts, in postal service, is a fair indication, Iron Mountain may be sad [*sic – said*] to have the fastest growing post office in the United States today. The authority for this statement is no less than the district postal inspector.

The postal situation is unique in that the revenue and receipts, although multiplied many fold since the arrival of the Ford interests four years ago, have not grown proportionally with the tremendously increased labor and overflow of post office quarters.

### **General Delivery Problems Difficult**

The general delivery department which does a very small volume of business in the average office, has become one of the most difficult of the problems of the local office to handle. This is due partly to the extraordinary number of transients and floaters attracted by the Ford boom.

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The city's inability to provide paving, sidewalks, lights, and other urban improvements to keep up with the myriad of outlying residences and buildings, which have sprung up almost overnight, is another reason for the heavy general delivery call.

The same absence of sidewalks in some districts within the city provides the only check on the demand for carrier delivery.

The addition of five carriers, two clerks, and two new star routes, which represents almost a hundred per cent increase in the working force, has made no appreciable difference in easing the arduous labor of giving the public service.

Star routes cover suburban areas, and are let by contract.

## Pay Increase Brings Applicants

The recent increase in remuneration for postal employes [sic – employees], [sic] resulted in an unprecedented number of 21 applicants for the civil service examination **need to finish copying information in this column** Postmaster Hallman said, and a new clerk appointed.

## Receipts Grow

The local office failed to achieve first class, which is based on revenues, at the end of the last fiscal year, by the narrow margin of about \$400.

The gross receipts for 1921 to 1923 show a steady normal increase as follows:

1921.....	\$29,124.06
1922.....	32,796.05
1923.....	39,501.83

The influx of population began to be felt in 1923, but in 1924, the revenues leaped to \$55,799.96, nearly \$12,000 more than the amount of revenue required to bestow on the office a first class rating. It is expected that the receipts for 1925 will run from \$70,000 to \$75,000, if not higher.

Two unusual features of the postal development here are the extra ordinarily heavy sale of revenue stamps, and the activity of the postal savings department.

Revenue stamps, ranging in price from one cent to \$10, are sold to the amount of \$300 a month. They must be affixed to documentary papers in certain business transactions, chiefly property deeds, according to the amount of money involved. One, two and three dollar stamps are more commonly sold here, and the sale of \$300 worth a month bears witness to the remarkable real estate turn over in Iron Mountain and environs.

## Postal Savings Grow

Postal savings accounts have climbed from \$9,000 to \$17,000.

The office derives no revenue from this source, nor from the money order business, which in the past year, increased from \$618,170 to \$885.696.

Still another unique condition, which is a part of the local situation, is the startling number of letters and packages which must be returned to the sender or turned in to the dead letter office, for lack of complete addresses.

An average of about 50 letters a week, after having made the rounds of the city directory, and all the clerks and carriers, goes to the home of orphan letters and packages for which neither sender nor receiver can be found.

Complete addresses, including street and number, whether or not the residence is entitled to carrier **need to finish copying information in this column** Subdivision, East Kingsford and Pinehurst.

Start route No. 3 includes Kingsford Heights, Lawndale, South Milwaukee avenue and Victoria Park.

Along the regular mail routes, and in the suburban districts, the residents have erected boxes similar to those used in rural routes. These boxes are permissible, but Mr. Hallman suggests that they be properly labelled [sic – labeled] with the name and house number of the person or persons wishing [sic – wishing] to receive mail in them. If several people make use of the

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same box, a slip of identification should be put in it. Such identification would greatly facilitate the work of the carriers and would particularly assist in the prompt handling of mail by the substitute carriers when the regulars begin their vacations after July 1.

Numbering of houses on regular carrier routes in accordance with the postal regulations should also be in order at this time, Mr. Hallman asserted.

House numbers hidden by screen doors, enclosed porches, and disguised or made scarcely legible by paint, *[sic]* are contrary to postal laws governing mail delivery, and greatly hinder the postman in giving prompt and efficient service.

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, \_\_\_\_\_ Year, Number \_\_\_\_\_ [Friday, June 26, 1925], page 11, column 3

## FIND MAIL BOXES TAMPERED WITH

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### Postmaster Issues Warning Not to Touch Receptacles

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Numerous complaints have been received by Postmaster Charles Hallman, *[sic]* that children of Breitung have been tampering with the mail in the Star route boxes.

This is a serious federal offense and any child caught at it may be taken before the judge of probate for a severe reprimand.

If warnings fail to work a cure, a reform school sentence may be imposed, according to the discretion of the judge, and the age of the child.

Older persons caught tampering with mails are eligible for a severe prison sentence.

*The Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 159 [Wednesday, October 16, 1935], page 3, column 4

## POSTOFFICE IS NEARLY READY, ENGINEER SAYS

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### Final Inspection Of new Structure Asked For October 28

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Construction of Iron Mountain's new postoffice *[sic – post office]* building on West Ludington street is rapidly nearing completion and the structure will soon be ready for occupancy, it was stated today by Ray G. Bergstrom, construction engineer for the treasury department.

The supervising engineer's office in Washington was notified yesterday that the building will be ready November 1, and final inspections have been requested for October 28.

Various changes have been made in the original plans to provide the building with a more attractive interior. One change in the screen work in the lobby has delayed completion of the structure about a week. With the exception of this all of the millwork has been received and is practically installed. In addition, most of the hardware has been installed.

### Completing Work

Painters, electricians and plumbing and heating crews are all completing their work. The tile work has also been laid in the lobby

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and other parts of the building. Woodwork is of birch with a walnut finish, and in the working portions of the building a yellow pine, finished similarly.

The new building will provide plenty of light and ventilation for the employees *[sic – employees]*.

Furniture and equipment for the postoffice *[sic – post office]* department are being received daily.

The contract price today, together with the lock box equipment and lighting fixtures, amounts to \$55,176.88.

*The Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 165 [Wednesday, October 23, 1935], page 2, column 2

## DEDICATION OF POSTOFFICE IS SET FOR NOV. 3

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### Assignment of New Private Boxes Now Being Made

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Dedication services for the new Iron Mountain postoffice *[sic – post office]* on West Ludington street will be held Sunday, November 3, and the office will be open for service on the Monday following, it was stated today by Postmaster Charles Dillon.

Dillon said that details of the dedication program are not yet completed. It was first planned to have the first assistant postmaster general here, but since then Dillon has received word this will be impossible. However, the postmaster said, he has been assured a prominent official will be present from Washington.

Final inspection of the building preparatory to its being accepted by the government has been asked for October 28.

Assignment of private boxes, this installation being entirely new, is now being made at the old post office in the city hall. Box holders may call there to obtain their new numbers and keys.

*The Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 174 [Saturday, November 2, 1935], page 1, column 5 [Four photos by Archie Studio above article and headline on page 1, columns 1-5]; continued on page 3, column 1

## New Post Office To Be Dedicated With Public Ceremonies Sunday

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### Program At 2:30 P.M. Will Follow Inspection At 1 O'clock.

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Formal dedication of Iron Mountain's new post office building erected by the United States government will be held at 2:30 o'clock tomorrow afternoon with a public program. The building will be open for the transaction of regular mail business beginning Tuesday morning.

Construction of the post office and its final completion culminates an effort dating back 15 years, when petitions were first circulated asking the government for the structure. Nothing was done, however, until several years ago, when the project was first listed on the treasury's department *[sic – treasury department's]* list of proposed appropriations. Then a long period elapsed

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without further action, but finally the site on West Ludington street between Merritt and Carpenter avenues was purchased.

Eventually bids were advertised for, but were rejected when the plans were revised. Several months ago the contract was awarded to the McGough Brothers company, of St. Paul, and now, with the exception of some interior furnishings, the building is completed.

## Flag Raising Ceremony

Arrangements for the dedication program were made by Charles Dillon, postmaster. The building will be opened to public inspection at 1 p.m. At 2:30 o'clock the ceremony will begin with the raising of the flag on the standard atop the structure, with music being played by the Iron Mountain high school band. Then the program will be transferred to the interior of the building, a speaking platform having been erected in the large work room.

The principal address will be given by James J. Doheny, superintendent of rural mails at Chicago, who will represent the post office department. Appreciation for the erection of the building is to be expressed by Mayor Carl Miller. There will be a short talk by A.T. Sweet, of Iron Mountain, district WPA director, numbers by the band and songs by the chorus of the Swedish Mission church. The program is, of course, open to the public, and E.J. Dundon will be chairman. Following it the building will remain open until evening for inspection.

A dinner in honor of Doheny will be held at 6:30 o'clock in the evening at the Milliman hotel. This is also open to the public and a short program will be given.

## Cost Is \$100,000

The entire post office plant, including the site, will represent an investment of approximately \$100,000. The building and fixtures have cost to date \$56,000. Various trimmings, such as Venetian blinds for the windows, are still to be added, and while landscaping of the grounds has been

already started, it will be carried on to a considerably greater extent than is yet apparent.

The post office is in marked contrast to the quarters occupied in the city hall building for 40 years. While

(Continued on Page 3, Column 1)

## IRON MOUNTAIN'S NEW POSTOFFICE TO BE DEDICATED

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Public Program Will Be  
Held At 2:30 P.M.  
Tomorrow

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(Continued from Page One.)

the plain appearance of the exterior of the building has caused criticism, the interior is modern in every respect and the furnishings are attractive.

The design of the building is modernistic. One enters through a heated entrance vestibule, which will prevent the lobby from being chilled when the doors are opened. Floors and wainscots of the lobby are of variegated tile.

At the east end of the lobby are the money order, postal savings and C.O.D. windows. The lockboxes occupy a portion [sic – portion] of the south side and walking west one comes to the general delivery, stamp and parcel post windows and the letter and package drops. The entrance to the postmaster's office is at the west end of the lobby. This office is large and roomy and also contains a vault and lavatory facilities.

The lobby is 14 by 60 feet in size. Among the fixtures are two convenient writing stands and bulletin boards.

Large Work Room

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

The work room for the postal employes *[sic – employees]* is about 90 by 50 feet in size. Large windows and skylights admit an abundance of natural light and there are a number of electric fixtures. At the rear is a vestibule *[sic – vestibule]* giving access to the loading platform. Here again, a double set of doors will prevent the work room temperature from being affected by opening the doors during cold weather.

The work room is much more spacious than needed at present and will accommodate a very considerable increase in business. More service windows are provided than in the old post office and they are advantageously located both for the employes *[sic – employees]* and patrons. All equipment is modern and of good quality.

At the west side of the work room are the janitors' closet and the women's lavatory. At the east side is the entrance to the money order is the entrance to the money order room, where postal savings and C.O.D.'s will also be handled. A stairway at the rear leads to the basement. Near the stairway is a refrigerated drinking fountain.

## **Lookout Gallery**

A feature that is now standard in all new post office buildings is the lookout gallery, which is entered by climbing an iron ladder way from either the basement or first floor. The gallery is enclosed and through glass apertures *[sic – apertures]* inspectors can look over the work being done at every counter and desk and every section of the work room. Inspectors are provided with keys to both the building and the doors opening to the ladder way and can enter the gallery without anyone being aware of their presence. The purpose is, of course, to guard against or detect fraud in the handling of the mails.

At the rear of the building is the large mailing platform with a wide canopy. Here the mail trucks will be loaded and unloaded.

A driveway circles the building so that there will be no difficulty in approaching the mailing platform.

The entire basement is finished. In the southeast part there is a large swing or locker room for the postal employes *[sic – employees]*. This has an asphalt floor and tile base. Off this room there is a toilet room with a white ceramic tile floor and a white glazed tile base. A slate shower with dressing room is in one part of this room.

## **Other Rooms**

There are three storage rooms for equipment, etc., and one unassigned room. The post office inspector's office is in the northeast corner of the basement. This room also has an asphalt tile floor and base and has an exterior entrance. The boiler and fuel rooms are in the southwest corner. The boiler is of the down draft type and of ample size for the building.

The plumbing and heating contract was awarded to the Harries Bros. company, of Minneapolis, while the electrical work and hanging of the fixtures was done by the E.J. Electric company *[sic – company]*, of Iron Mountain. The asphalt tile floors were laid by the Lewis Eisele company, of Iron Mountain.

The U.S. treasury department representative present during the construction of the building was Ray G. Bergstrom, construction engineer *[sic – engineer]*, whose headquarters are in Iron Mountain for the present.

The building received its final inspection yesterday by F.A. Miller, of Milwaukee, government representative. The structure will mean employment for two janitors.

Fixtures in the present post office are owned by the city of Iron Mountain, but temporarily some of them may be used in the new building as all furnishings have not yet been received. The use to be made of the abandoned quarters is not yet definite, although they may be occupied by another government department operating in

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connection with the WPA. With the removal of the post office the city will lose a renter whose check for \$275 came in regularly every month.

[CAPTION: **Iron Mountain's New Post Office Building** –Photos by Archie Studio Above are three views of Iron Mountain's new postoffice [*sic – post office*] building which will be formally dedicated tomorrow afternoon. At the left is the long lobby, with service windows and private boxes at the right and additional service windows at the far end. This picture was taken from the doorway of the postmaster's private office. At the right is the spacious working room. It is exceptionally well lighted and is large enough to accommodate a great increase in business. At the upper right hand corner of the picture may be seen a projection of the enclosed balcony from which inspectors may watch clerks without the clerks being aware of their presence. This balcony also extends over the window counters at the right. Below in the center is an exterior view of the building. Above in the center is Postmaster Charles M. Dillon, who received his appointment from President Roosevelt.]

*The Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 175 [Monday, November 4, 1935] , page 2, columns 3-5

## DEDICATION OF POST OFFICE IS EVENT SUNDAY

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**Many Attend Ceremony;  
Will Open For Business Tomorrow**

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Iron Mountain's new postoffice [*sic – post office*] was formally dedicated Sunday afternoon with a ceremony that opened appropriately with the raising of the flag while the high school band played "The Star Spangled Banner."

Despite murky skies a large crowd was present and spent considerable time going through the building, which will be opened for business tomorrow morning.

E.J. Dundon, chairman of the program, opened it at 2:30 o'clock with the flag raising outside. The standard was hauled to the top of the staff on the roof of the building by Roger Dillon, son of Postmaster and Mrs. Charles Dillon, after brief remarks by William Kinsey, county ERA administrator.

Then the crowd entered the building, where a platform had been erected for the remainder of the program.

The invocation was given by the Rev. G.A. Danielson, of Our Saviour's Lutheran church.

Representing Mayor Carl Miller, Ernest brown, city attorney, expressed the city's appreciation for the government's having erected the building. Then after a band number, visiting postmasters, Postmaster Dillon and others were introduced.

### **Gives Dedication Talk**

The dedication address was given by James J. Doheny, superintendent of rural mails in Chicago. Doheny offered some interesting information regarding the Iron Mountain post office. He pointed out that it was established May 17, 1880, when Dickinson was still part of Menominee county. Receipts of the office in 1910 were \$16,242; 1920, \$24,974; 1930, \$58,454, and 1934, \$50,089.

Names of the postmasters, many of them now dead, and the years of their appointment are Reuel O. Philbrook, 1880; John Frederick, 1882; Charles E. Parent, 1882; Hugh McLaughlin, 1887; George F. Seibert, 1889; Carl Schuldes, 1894; Alfred

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

Cruse, 1897; Hugh McLaughlin, 1914; Leo H. Mortensen, 1922; Charles Hallman, 1923; Charles Dillon, 1934.

Doheny said that on November 18, 1933, the public works administration allotted \$78,700 for the building. J. Ivan Dise and his associates, W.A. Stewart and L.R. Hoffman, were selected as the architects. The construction contract was awarded by the treasury department January 18, 1935, to McGough Brothers, of St. Paul, in the amount of \$48,100, the building to be completed in 300 calendar days from notice to proceed.

The building covers a ground area of 5,980 square feet, the cubical content being 149,285 feet. The work room contains 3,700 square feet plus 400 square feet for the financial section.

## **An Old Institution**

Referring to the post office institution Doheny said it is one of the country's oldest and "one which more nearly affects the lives of our citizens than any other governmental activity."

"The American postal service had its beginning in the earliest colonial days, about 300 years ago," Doheny said, "and its influence has had a most important bearing on the wonderful development and progress of the country. It has been an indispensable aid to the commerce, business and social life of the American people.

"As early as 1639 the colony of Massachusetts appointed one of its citizens to have charge of the conveyance of private packets between Boston and England. Later on similar arrangements were made in the other colonies. In 1672 the first post road of record was established, running between New York and Boston. In 1691, steps were taken for a unified system of colonial posts and a postmaster general for the colonies was appointed by the British crown. This system was gradually enlarged and improved before the Revolutionary war.

Benjamin Franklin served as first postmaster general from 1753 to 1774 and succeeded in bringing the postal service of that time to a state of high efficiency. When he left just before the Revolution post roads were in operation from Maine to Florida and New York to Canada and the mother country. Franklin fully realized the value and strength of enlightened public opinion and under his administration newspapers and pamphlets were carried free or at a very low rate of postage. At the present time we have a similar situation whereby local newspapers are carried free in the county.

## **Broke Down Isolation**

"The colonial postal service was a tremendous factor in breaking down the isolation of the separate colonies and contributed in a large measure to the creation and crystallizing the settlement which finally resulted in the achievement of American independence. At the time of Washington's inauguration there were 75 post offices in the United States and the mails were carried over 1,785 miles of roads by post riders.

"Contrast that with the present time when we have approximately 48,000 post offices, more than 12,000 star routes traveling over 156 ½ million miles annually, 453 million miles of railroad service exclusive of electric lines, 37,000 rural routes with an annual mileage of 412 million and 28,000 miles of air routes which fly about three million miles a year.

"In addition, mail is transported by power boat on inland waterways, electric urban and interurban systems, dog sleds in Alaska, motor vehicles in larger cities and last, but by no means least, the 50,000 city and village carriers for whom the inscription on the post office building in Washington is most applicable: "Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays these carriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Doheny also discussed other developments in the postal service and in concluding stated: "We hope that this building like the flag which flies from its staff will always be to your children and your children's children a symbol of liberty, justice and opportunity which is assured to all by the great form of government handed down to us by the founders of this nation.["]

## Honored At Dinner

Last evening Doheny was honored at a public dinner meeting held at the Milliman hotel, and gave a brief talk there. Others called upon by the toastmaster, Homer Herbert, were M.J. Fox; J.A. Payant, Dickinson county Republican chairman; Charles Hallman, former postmaster; M.J. Bacco, president of the Iron Mountain board of education; Postmaster Dillon; Ray G. Bergstrom, government construction engineer on the project, and Administrator Kinsey. Stories were told by Heinle Munch.

The entire post office plant, including the site, represents an expenditure approaching \$100,000. All equipment is new, the equipment in the old office in the city hall being owned by the city. Contractors on the building included The Harries Bros. company, Minneapolis, plumbing and heating; E.J. Electric company, Iron Mountain, wiring and the Sacchetti Plastering company.

## KINGSFORD

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 25 [Saturday, May 9, 1925], page 6, columns 3-4

## VILLAGE TO HAVE SUB POSTOFFICES

### Two Stations Will Be Es-

## ablished Soon, Says Hallman

Establishment of two sub-stations of the Iron Mountain postoffice [*sic – post office*] in the village of Kingsford within the next two weeks was announced today by Acting Postmaster Charles Hallman.

Bonds have already been filed with the postal department and it is expected that the official announcement will be received here from Washington in the next few days, Mr. Hallman declared.

One of the sub-stations will be located at the Buchman Drug store in Breitung while the other will be at the John Williams store in Kingsford Heights. The owners of the stores will have charge of the sub-stations, having already signed the necessary certificates.

The assistants at the sub-stations will have the authority to transact all postal business pertaining to the offices with the exception of dispatching of mail. Letters and packages may be mailed at the respective sub-stations but later will be brought to the Iron Mountain postoffice [*sic – post office*] where they will be dispatched. Stamps, money orders, stamped envelopes, registers and special delivery stamps will be sold at the sub-stations.

### Two Carrier Routes

In an effort to further extend efficient service, the rural carrier route in the village has been divided into two sections. The new route is to be started on June 1 and bids for the position must be filed in the Washington office by May 12. Postmaster Hallman stated today that he has already received 12 applications [*sic – applications*] for the job which have been forwarded to the proper postal authorities. Some of the applicants have filed with the acting postmaster while others forwarded their applications direct to Washington.

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – U. S. POSTAL SERVICE

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Those desiring to bid for the position are requested to mail their applications tonight in order that they may be received at Washington by next Tuesday. Bids received after that date will be automatically disqualified, Mr. Hallman said.

The establishment of the two sub-stations and the new carrier route will, it is believed, relieve the congestion at the postoffice [*sic – post office*]. Residents of the village, at the present time, must go to the postoffice [*sic – post office*] for postal business and as a result long lines are formed before the windows.

## QUINNESEC

*The Menominee Range*, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 3 [Thursday, April 11, 1889], page 1, column 2

JOHN L. BUELL has been appointed post master at Quinnesec. The office pays about \$300 a year, we understand. Uncle Sam has better things at his disposal to offer than the postoffice at Quinnesec, but they are not located in that pleasant village.

## DELTA COUNTY – ESCANABA

*The Menominee Range*, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 17 [Thursday, July 18, 1889], page 1, column 2

CASPER C. STEPHENSON was appointed postmaster at Escanaba last Saturday. It has been an open secret for a long time that Cas. was the man, when the time came. It is now permitted us to say that the office will be removed to Harrison street, one door north of Ludington, as soon as John Semer can get the building ready. It will extend from the rear of the store

occupied by Erickson & Bissell to the alley, and the ground floor will be arranged to accommodate the postoffice, the United States taking a five years lease of it. The second floor of the building will be occupied by the Iron Port printing house. – Port.

## IRON COUNTY – CRYSTAL FALLS

*The Menominee Range*, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 18 [Thursday, July 25, 1889], page 1, column 1

ALONZO PARKS has been appointed post master at Crystal Falls, to succeed Dr. Metcalf, resigned.

## MARQUETTE COUNTY – NEGAUNEE

*The Menominee Range*, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 19 [Thursday, August 1, 1889], page 1, column 2

HONORS fall thick and fast upon Bro. Griffey, of the Negaunee Herald. He had hardly been relieved of his senatorial duties before he received the appointment of postmaster of Negaunee.

## MENOMINEE COUNTY – CARNEY

*The Menominee Range*, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 12 [Thursday, June 13, 1889], page 5, column 2 [*pages 1-2 missing from bound volume*]

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – U. S. POSTAL SERVICE

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

## **Personal and Social.**

H.H. Ballen is now postmaster at Carney, in place of A. Vanderbeiden, removed.