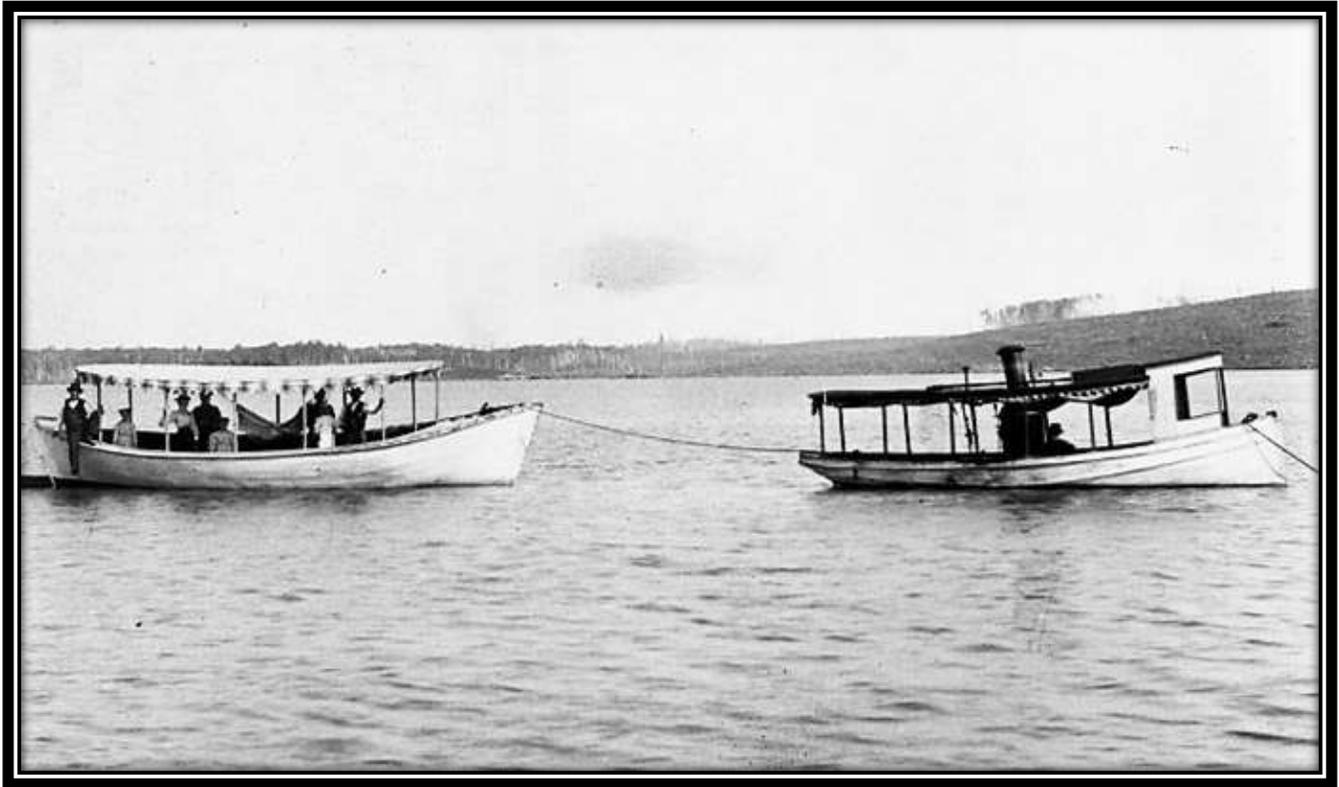


MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 36: THE ROARING TWENTIES – OTHER DANCE HALLS, PAVILIONS AND RESORTS IN DICKINSON COUNTY, MICHIGAN

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian



As early as the summer of 1891, Dick Flaherty provided excursions around Lake Antoine in his steam yacht and had a fleet of fourteen small boats for rent for picnic parties. Lake Antoine's Shady Island resort was established by Theodore Firme in the summer of 1896. Pictured is the steam yacht and boat which transported picnickers from the shore to the island. [William J. Cummings]

[NOTE: Dates, placed chronologically, are highlighted in boldface red letters for easier reading, and names of individuals and places are highlighted in boldface black letters to facilitate finding information.]

The 36th installment of Menominee Range Memories, a series of articles by William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation historian, now available on the Dickinson County Library's website, is titled "The Roaring Twenties – Other Dance Halls, Pavilions and Resorts in Dickinson County, Michigan."

The Pine Gardens and **The Nightingale**, covered in the previous two Menominee Range Memories columns, were only two dance hall pavilions on the **Menominee Iron Range**.

Information on other dance halls, pavilions and resorts is quite limited. This Menominee Range Memories column will provide an overview of some of these popular places which were frequented by many area residents and visitors during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

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SHADY ISLAND Lake Antoine

Shady Island, located on the south side of **Lake Antoine** and later known as **Bugni's Island**, was one of the earliest resorts to be mentioned in area newspaper columns.

In the **July 9, 1891** edition of *The Iron Range*, an **Iron Mountain** newspaper formerly called *The Menominee Range*, the following article appeared:

*ON Monday, while **Dick Flaherty** was taking a party around **Lake Antoine** in his small steam yacht, the rudder became detached and it was not without considerable difficulty that he reached his boathouse, as the wind was strong and when the accident happened he was on the north side of the lake. The damage has been repaired and the little steamer is ship-shape once more. Mr. Flaherty now has a very pleasant place at the lake and has fourteen small boats which he rents to picnic parties and others. His enterprise at Lake Antoine is becoming quite popular and is proving a lucrative business. Parties wishing good boats should not fail to call on him.*

In the **July 23, 1896** edition of the *Iron Mountain Press*, the following item appeared under "Brief City Newsites":

*"**Shady Island**" is the name of a beautiful resort which **Theodore Firme** has fitted up at **Lake Antoine** for picnic parties. It is convenient to the city, the street cars running within a few hundred feet of the entrance. There has long been a demand for such a resort, and it is to be hoped that Mr. Firme's enterprise will be appreciated by the various organizations in the city.*

A week later, the *Iron Mountain Press* reported:

*The **People's church Sunday school** held their annual picnic at **Shady Island, Lake Antoine**, last Saturday afternoon and had a delightful time. Early in the forenoon the children paraded [down] **Stephenson avenue**, from the church to **B street**, returning to **Ludington street**, where they took the street cars for the Island. The procession was headed by the **City band** and attracted much attention.*

Another item in the same edition noted: *The German Singing society is picnicking at Shady Island today.*

The following item appeared under "CITY NEWS ITEMS" in the **July 23, 1898** edition of *Iron Mountain's The Daily Tribune*:

*The **Presbyterian church and Sunday School** will give a pic-nic to Shady Island Wednesday, to which all are invited. The charge for the round trip will be five cents for children over seven, and ten cents for adults, children under seven transported free, if with parents. Ice cream, etc., will be sold on the grounds. Lemonade will be free. Come and bring your lunch and have a merry time with the children. Carriages will leave the church at eight and again at nine o'clock, a.m.*

In *Scrapbook Memories of Dickinson County, Michigan*, published in 1993, an article titled "A Homemaker in a Happy Home" contained the following except from **Ann Wentarmini's** reminiscence, noting she "liked to dance and remembers a popular dance hall called **Benzo's Hall** on **Sixth Avenue** (now **Fifth Street**) and also a dance hall on the island in **Lake Antoine** where it was fun getting there by boat." Ann was born **July 28, 1898**, along with a

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twin brother **Angelo**, to **Charles (Carlo) and Elizabeth (Serena) Formenti**.

In a presentation made at the **March 22, 2012** meeting of the **Dickinson County Genealogical Society** by **Don and Nancy Bugni** regarding **Bugni's Island**, Don noted the following regarding **Shady Island**:

The dance hall was located on the north side of the island about two-thirds of the way down from the bridge. There are poplar trees there now which are different from the other trees on the island.

John Tyler Jones, one of **Iron Mountain's** leading pioneers and early mining superintendent of the **Keel Ridge Mine** and the **Hamilton Mine**, as well as the inventor of the **Ardis Furnace** on the city's **North Side**, operated a launch which provided transportation for young people to the dance hall on the island. The Jones family residence, located at **703 Grand Boulevard** on the North Side near **Lake Antoine**, was built in **1890** and still stands.

In **1911** **Domenic Negro** purchased a grocery store from **Louis Zaio** at **526 Fifth Street**, calling the general merchandise store **Domenic Negro & Sons**, managed by **Domenic Negro, Jr.**, with the aid of his brothers and sisters.

After **Jones** discontinued his launch service, **Domenic Negro & Sons** provided transportation to the island and ran a confectionery stand as an added feature.

Don Bugni also mentioned that the launch to the island departed from a flat rock or rock ledge where **Charles D. and Joyce M. Peterson's** house was located at **1020 East Grant Street**. He said that **Elmer L. Koffman**, the owner of the **National Wholesale Company** (later

Koffman's Store for Men), operated the launch in later years.

THE EAGLE'S BALLROOM North Side, Iron Mountain

According to an article appearing in the **June 29, 1979** edition of *The Daily News* – Iron Mountain Centennial Edition, adjacent to the **John Tyler Jones** home was a building which had been used as a sewing factory, a dance hall and a meeting room for the **Eagles**. At the time of the centennial it was headquarters for the **Brauman Paper Company**.

LIBERTY THEATRE/DANCE HALL Channing

Under the headline "New Theatre at Channing Opened" in the **April 22, 1921** edition of the *Iron Mountain Daily News* (Volume 1, Number 11), the following article appeared:

*With a dance attended by 160 couples, the **Liberty theatre** at **Channing** was opened this week. Dancers were in attendance from all parts of **Iron, Dickinson, and Marquette counties**, according to **Ed. Vermullen**, manager. **Johnson's orchestra**, of **Escanaba**, furnished music.*

*The new theatre is a large one, 800 seats being provided. The seats are removable, allowing the floor to be cleared for a **dance hall**, as was done at the opening. Several late motion picture features have been booked for showings in the near future, **Mr. Vermullen** declared.*

MARION THEATER/HALL 207 East Hughitt Street

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Iron Mountain

J. Elmore Becknell, who had been conducting Iron Mountain's Bijou Theatre for several years, leased the Mitchell building at 207 East Hughitt Street in October, 1911, remodeling the structure to be used as a theater.

Architect Frederick E. Parmelee was in charge of the plans for the new "popular price theatre" which would show movies at cheaper rates than the Bijou Theatre. The second floor was removed and replaced with an arched steel ceiling. A balcony was erected over the main entrance.

The new theater was under the management of Mrs. Marion Higgie and J. Elmore Becknell. A contest to name the new "photo playhouse" was held with 147 names submitted. The judges selected "The Marion" for the new theater. Three people submitted the same suggested name, and the \$25.00 prize was awarded to Hugo Ohmen, by drawing lots.

The Marion opened on Saturday night, December 30, 1911. Even with a seating capacity of 425, the attendance was so great that three shows were presented instead of two, as was planned. The house was filled to capacity with each show. The little Gerry sisters, of Chicago, aged seven and five years, furnished one of the leading features in their singing act. According to the article in the January 4, 1912 edition of the Iron Mountain Press, "Juvenile attendants are assured of the close personal supervision of the proprietors."

In March, 1913, a new gold fiber picture curtain was installed, making it possible to show moving pictures by daylight or in a well-lighted hall at night.

In the October 17, 1921 edition of *The Iron Mountain News*, under the headline "Marion Hall Now Attractive Place: New Floor Has Been Laid, and Interior Completely Refinished", the following article appeared:

Those who have attended dances at Marion hall since it has been remodeled declare that it is now one of the best, if not the best, dance halls on the range.

Remodeling was started over a month ago and completed within the past two weeks. A new hardwood floor has been laid, the stage enlarged and extended, the entire interior whitewashed and repainted and dressing rooms equipped for ladies and gentlemen. Storm doors have been installed at the entrance for cold weather.

The interior walls are finished in blue, as is the proscenium arch. A balcony, finished in gold, adorns each side of the stage. The latter has been enlarged sufficiently to accommodate an orchestra.

The new floor, large enough to accommodate 50 couples comfortably, has been surfaced and waxed until it has been pronounced the best in this vicinity. Chairs are provided around the sides.

The balcony provides a place for those who do not care to dance but to watch those who do. It, too, has been provided with chairs. A passageway leads from the balcony to the dressing rooms, which are located on the second floor of the building next to the theatre. The partition which was formerly under the balcony has been removed, allowing considerably more space on the dance floor.

Furnishing of the new hall has been attractively done. Cretonne curtains cover doors and windows. An illuminated sign to the left of the stage announces the different

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dances, while a more or less lifelike representation of the moon furnishes illumination for the “moonlight” dances.

Three dances have already been held in the new hall, and the **Mason school of dancing and expression** has sessions every Monday, under the direction of Miss **Frances Mason**.

Sometime between the fall of **1921** and **1925**, **Marion Hall** must have closed.

In the **1925** city directory, the **Iron Mountain Sign Company, Lieungh & Fox**, chemical manufacturers, the **Ignition Service Company, John Niklas**, tailor, and the office of the **Superior Silver Fox Ranch** were located at **207 East Hughitt Street**. Neither **Marion Higgie** nor **J. Elmore Becknell** was listed in this directory. By **1935**, the building was vacant.

LAKE MARY RESORT

Hamilton Lakes, Waucedah Township

Exactly when the **Hamilton Lakes Resort** began operation is uncertain.

An article in the **September 12, 1923** edition of *The Iron Mountain News* noted that the last dance of the season was held on Sunday, **September 9**, with **Cavi's Five** from **Iron Mountain** playing the program of dances.

Charles Juliani, manager of the resort, noted the season had been successful and outlined improvements would be started on the grounds and buildings for the next season.

Removable windows were to be installed around the pavilion, taking the place of the canvas then in use which would make it possible to conduct dances there in cold and inclement weather. Plans

also included slightly enlarging the hall and building a balcony at the rear of the pavilion for spectators.

Work on a camp site also began, as numerous tourists inquired at the resort during the summer asking for camping space. The road running into the resort was to be repaired and made wider.

In the **July 3, 1924** edition of *The Iron Mountain News*, improvements at the **Hamilton Lakes Resort** were announced.

The dance pavilion had been enlarged to accommodate 200 couples, the grounds surrounding the pavilion had been improved and the parking place increased in size.

Dances were conducted to make them “free from confusion or disturbance,” according to **Manager Juliani**. “Undesirables and persons under the influence of liquor” were “not admitted into the dance hall.”

A spot-light dance was featured at the Hamilton Lakes' pavilion on Thursday, **July 3**. The **Valley Country Club Orchestra**, featuring **Clare Arnold**, played the dance program. This was the first of a series of novelty dances to be held throughout the season.

Many **Norway** and **Vulcan** people were expected to attend the **Fourth of July** activities at the summer resort since the city was to have no celebration. The program was in the form of a water carnival, consisting of motorboat and boat races, tub races and swimming contests.

An article in the **May 29, 1925** edition of *The Iron Mountain News* noted the season opening of the pavilion at the **Hamilton Lakes Resort** on Saturday, **May 30**.

A promenade around the pavilion was a new feature, extending into the water front

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of Lake Mary on the west side and partitioned off by a railing of lattice work.

In addition, the checking room, previously located apart from the pavilion, was then under the same roof, together with the refreshment booth.

The orchestra stage had been especially designed with a sounding board arrangement that directed the music towards the dancers. Special lighting novelties, for feature dances, had also been installed.

Music for the opening dance was furnished by the **Wisconsin Serenaders, of Marinette**. The same orchestra also played at the pavilion Sunday afternoon and night. The feature of Sunday night's dance was a double orchestra, with the Serenaders and **Cavi's Seven Harmony Kings of Iron Mountain** both playing.

Dances were held on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday nights and also on Sunday afternoons.

Also new in 1925, according to Manager **Charles Juliani**, was the tourists' camp site. Camp stoves and picnic tables were arranged on the grounds and several acres had been cleared for playgrounds and other purposes.

Work to put the beach in first class condition was started and a diving apparatus was also to be installed. According to the article, the beach was considered "the best in **Dickinson County**."

UNIDENTIFIED DANCE HALL Quinnesec

The following report appeared in the Monday, **April 28, 1924** edition of *The Iron Mountain News* under the headline

"Prosecutor Threatens To Put Ban On Sunday Dances: Drinking Orgy at Quinnesec Last Night Results in Closing of Hall":

*A ban may be placed on Sunday night dances throughout **Dickinson county** as a result of an orgy of drunkenness at **Quinnesec** last night, which resulted in the closing of the **dance hall** by **Sheriff Frank Cleveland**, it was stated today by **Prosecutor Ray E. MacAllister**.*

*The **Quinnesec** dance was closed after the views of several prominent residents of the town had been solicited by the sheriff and these men and women were found to be in hearty approval of the step.*

*Two **Iron Mountain** girls, described as about 20 years of age and attractive, figured in the alleged drinking bout which caused the closing of the dance. **Cleveland** said. "These young women who attended the dance with two youths about 15 years of age, were found in a drunken condition in the rear seat of an automobile parked back of the dance hall. Several bottles of liquor had been spilled in the car," **Cleveland** said.*

The sheriff stated that an investigation showed that a large number of dancers also were under the influence of liquor in varying degrees.

*"We are going to try to put an end to affairs of this kind," declared **Prosecutor MacAllister** today. "We are going to go ahead and put the damper on all Sunday night public dances all through the county."*

Another article appeared in the Monday, **May 5, 1924** edition of *The Iron Mountain News* under the headline "**No Dance Last Night At Quinnesec Hall**" as follows:

*Members of the sheriff's staff visited the **Quinnesec dance hall** last night to learn*

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whether a dance was being staged. The hall was found dark and deserted, Sheriff Cleveland said. The dance was stopped a week ago last night following the discovery of two Iron Mountain young women in a drunken condition. The residents of Quinnesec informed the sheriff the dances were not approved of by them and the sponsors were ordered to discontinue them.

UNIDENTIFIED DANCE HALL Harding Avenue, Kingsford

In the **September 11, 1924** edition of *The Iron Mountain News*, under the headline “**VILLAGE TO HAVE NEW DANCE HALL: \$20,000 Building Is Now Being Erected For Ishpeming Men**”, the following article appeared:

Construction work on a two-story building to contain a pool room and dance hall has been started in the village of Kingsford by Edward Ulseth, Calumet contractor, for Dennis brothers, of Ishpeming.

The building, which will be located on Harding ave., is to be 28x86 feet in size. In addition there will be a wing in front 20x38 feet that will contain a store room.

*On the first floor will be located the pool room and the second floor will be given over to the dance hall and lounging rooms. The building will be of frame construction and is to cost approximately \$20,000. It will be completed about **November 1**.*

HEMLOCK HALL Breitung, Kingsford

Under the headline “**Complaints Bring Arrests At Dance**” the following article

appeared in the **December 15, 1924** edition of *The Iron Mountain News*:

There probably will be no more Sunday night dances at the Hemlock hall, Breitung, Sheriff Cleveland said today. The sheriff received several complaints from residents of Breitung last night that disorders were taking place at the dance. In company with deputies, Cleveland visited the dance and took two men, said to have been drunk, into custody. Both were released on bonds and will appear for hearing at 4:30 o'clock this afternoon.

“I do not believe the place is being run right,” Cleveland said. “I guess the only thing to do is step in and close them up on Sunday nights. We have been getting too many complaints about this place and warning seems to help none. So I guess we'll close them.”

EAGLES' HALL 200 Block of West Brown Street

The **Northern Ballroom** was on the second floor of the **Northern Garage**, built on the site of the former **Eagles' Hall** at the corner of **West Brown Street** and **Merritt Avenue**.

The following article, under the headline “**SALE OF EAGLES' HALL IS CLOSED: Price Said to Be \$10,000; Negotiate For Transportation Line**,” appeared in the **May 7, 1924** edition of the **Iron Mountain News**:

The purchase of the Eagles' hall building, located in the 200 block in [sic – on] West Brown street, was announced today by George Jacksin, manager of the Iron Range Transportation company. The price paid for the property was declared to be \$10,000. Negotiations for

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the purchase had been in progress for several weeks.

With the announcement came confirmation by Jacksin of reports that a group of Houghton men sought to acquire the bus lines operated here by the Iron Range company. Jacksin stated today that at present plans called for the remodeling of the newly acquired building as a public garage. The offices of the bus line would not be located in it, nor would a waiting station, according to present plans, he said. Jacksin admitted that in [the] event the negotiations for the sale of the bus line are not concluded the building would be used as a bus station and as headquarters for the transportation company.

Further plans for the **Northern Garage** and a second-floor dance hall were announced in the **July 15, 1924** edition of the Iron Mountain News under the headline: "NEW GARAGE TO REPLACE HALL: Modern Building Will Be Erected on West Brown Street":

*Razing of the old **Eagles hall building** at the corner of **West Brown street** and **Merritt avenue** preliminary to the erecting of a modern two-story garage of fireproof construction, [sic] will be started in a week or so, it was announced today by **George Jacksin**.*

*Jacksin will be associated with **George Davich**. Both were former partners in the **Iron Range Transportation company**. They will conduct a garage in the new building, which will be completed by **September 1**.*

*The building will be of steel and brick and is to be erected by the **Worden-Allen company**. The contract was let today. The Worden-Allen company has done a large*

*part of the construction work for the **Ford Motor company** here.*

About \$75,000 will be spent in erecting the building, Jacksin said. Work will be well under way within the next two weeks.

*The second floor will be used as a **dance hall**.*

NORTHERN BALLROOM
100-102 West Brown Street
East Brown Street and Merritt Avenue
Iron Mountain

[NOTE: *The Northern Garage and the Northern Ballroom are at the same address, 100-102 West Brown Street, in Polk's Iron Mountain City Directory 1925, page 177: "NORTHERN BALLROOM THE (George Jacksin, George Davich), Dancing and Public Entertainment 100-102 W Brown (See back cover)."*

In the **November 22, 1924** edition of *The Iron Mountain News*, under the headline "**DANCE HALL WILL OPEN NEXT WEEK: Special Decorations in New Northern Ball Room**", the following article appeared:

*The **Northern ball room**, located in the new garage building being erected at the corner of **West Brown street** and **Merritt avenue**, will be opened Thursday evening, it was announced today.*

*The dance floor is 66x100 feet in size. The hall is decorated in an attractive manner, special decorators having been secured to execute the design. A **Duluth** orchestra has been secured for the opening night. Dances will be held every evening except Sunday.*

Construction work on the entire building, which is 68-120 feet in size, has been practically completed, the finishing touches

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now being put in the interior. The building is owned by **Jacksin** and **Davich**, former owners of the **Iron Range Transportation company**.

The following article appeared in the **April 6, 1925** edition of *The Iron Mountain News* under the headline “**NORTHERN BOOKS BIG ORCHESTRAS: Biese and Victor Recorders Among Those Now Scheduled**”:

Several well known [sic – well-known] orchestras have been booked for the spring and summer season, beginning Easter Monday, at the **Northern ball room**, it was announced today.

Among them are **Paul Biese** and his **Victor recording orchestra**, **Ernie Young’s orchestra** of **Chicago**, **Coon Sanders**, the **Original Kansas City Nighthawks**, the **Southern Serenaders** and others.

Biese and his group of 16 artists are recognized as one of the country’s best dance orchestras and have been featured in many hotels, theatres, cafes and dance palaces. The orchestra was awarded a prize for its dance work and a diamond studded saxophone [sic – saxophone] was presented to **Biese**. The total value of the instruments carried by the orchestra is \$50,000.

Ernie Young’s orchestra is the first big attraction being offered at the **Northern**, its engagement opening Monday and closing Thursday night.

In the **August 11, 1925** edition of *The Iron Mountain News*, the following article appeared under the headline “**FROST PICTURES TO ADORN WALLS: Artist Will Paint Series of Scenes at Northern Ballroom**”:

Harry King, lightning artist, will paint a series of six pictures, 12 feet by 20 on the walls of the **Northern ballroom**, this week after concluding a successful week of exhibition work in a display window of the **A. Sackim store**.

The large ballroom paintings will all be representations of snow scenes in keeping with the fir trees used for decorative purposes, and the significance of the name chosen for the dance place.

Mr. King has traveled through the United States for the past 20 years doing his work in public on theatre platforms and in display windows. He will leave for a leisurely trip south, painting enroute [sic – en route], upon conclusion of his contract in **Iron Mountain**.

Under the headline “**WARMS UP FOR 24-HOUR GRIND AT BALL ROOM: One Woman Guesses Maher Will do 180 Miles in Test**”, the following article appeared in the **December 18, 1925** edition of *The Iron Mountain News*:

Frank Maher, **Iron Mountain** dancing instructor who will attempt to establish a record for mileage covered during 24 hours of continuous dancing Monday night and Tuesday, **December 21 and 22**, in the **Northern ball room** [sic – ballroom], “worked out” for four hours at the **Northern** this afternoon, in preparation for the grind ahead.

Maher will begin his test during the general dancing Monday night, some time [sic – sometime] between 10 and 11 o’clock, and will dance continuously until the corresponding hour on the following night. The pedometer which he will carry in his pocket as he dances will register every step so that at the close of the test he will

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know the exact mileage he has covered from the start.

Bring Guesses In Person

The instructor has asked that guesses as to the probable mileage which he will dance be submitted to the Northern ball room [sic – ballroom]. This may be done either by filling out a coupon appearing in The News tomorrow night or by writing the mileage on any slip of paper, signing it and taking it to the Northern ball room [sic – ballroom] at any time before the start of the test Monday night. It is requested guesses be submitted in person to avoid possible delay in receiving them through the holiday congestion at the postoffice [sic – post office].

Already numerous guesses have been received. One woman said he would cover 20 miles during the 24 hours and another made it 180. "I'd have to ride a horse to make 180 miles in 24 hours," Maher said today, "and horses are barred from the test."

*Maher invites any others who may care to accompany him in the test to come Monday night prepared to start with him. He also asks any who wish to act as partners during the test to report at the hall Monday night. The instructor plans to dance with partners if a sufficient number can be secured to provide frequent changes throughout the 24 hour period. If that cannot be done, he will dance alone. The test is being sponsored by the local post of the **American Legion**.*

In the **December 21, 1925** edition of **The Iron Mountain News**, under the headline "**MAHER ISSET TO START LONG DANCING GRIND: 24-Hour Mileage Test Will Get Under Way This Evening**", the following article appeared:

*At about 10:30 o'clock tonight **Frank Maher**, dancing instructor, will "shove off" on his 24 hours of continuous dancing, with the purpose of establishing a record in mileage covered during that time. The test will be held in the **Northern ballroom**, under the auspices of the **Thomas Uren post of the American Legion**.*

*There will be general dancing at the Northern beginning at 8:30 o'clock and Maher will start his long grind while this is going on. A committee representing the **American Legion** will be in constant attendance to check up on his progress and to take hourly readings from the pedometer which Maher will carry in his pocket as he dances.*

Guesses as to the probable mileage which Maher will cover during the 24-hour period continue to come in to the Northern. Already about one hundred persons have estimated the distance and their guesses range from 20 to 180 miles. No guesses will be accepted after the start of the test tonight, Mr. Maher said this morning, and persons wishing to submit estimates up to that time are requested to bring them to the Northern in person today or tonight.

It is not likely, Mr. Maher said, that he will be able to obtain enough partners to make frequent changes. However, several have volunteered to start with him and when they have finished the instructor will dance alone. An orthophonic Victrola will provide the music while Maher is at work alone.

The instructor is still looking for competition. "I'd like to have at least one or two start with me," he said today. "It would help a lot, for it would provide an incentive, and also they act as 'pacers' for me."

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Tomorrow morning the Northern will open for those who wish to witness the test.

Tomorrow night there will be general dancing beginning at 8:30 o'clock. The "Masked Marvels," the new orchestra at the Northern, will furnish the music.

WINTER GARDENS BALLROOM
[formerly the Northern Ballroom]
100-102 West Brown Street
East Brown Street and Merritt Avenue
Iron Mountain

Under the headline "**MANAGEMENT OF NORTHERN BALL ROOM CHANGED: Parmelees To Conduct Hall; Opening On Saturday Night**", the following article appeared in the **November 8, 1927** edition of *The Iron Mountain News*:

*The management of the **Nightengale** [sic – Nightingale] pavilion, which is owned by the **Parmelees**, has taken over the **Northern ball room** [sic – Ballroom], corner of **Merritt avenue** and **East Brown street**, and will conduct it during the winter months, it was announced today.*

*The ball room [sic – ballroom] will hereafter be known as the **Winter Gardens** and the opening has been set for Saturday night, with a special masquerade ball as the feature.*

The hall has been re-decorated [sic – redecorated] and other new arrangements made for the convenience of the dancers. A number of social functions and parties have already been booked and several well known [sic – well-known] orchestras scheduled for appearances.

In the **December 27, 1927** edition of *The Iron Mountain News* the following article appeared under the headline

"THREE HURT AS BALCONY RAIL IS BROKEN IN RUSH: Dancers Precipitated To Floor As Section Gives Way":

*Three girls were injured, two seriously, and several persons were stunned and escaped with only minor scratches and bruises when a section of the wooden railing on the balcony check-room [sic – checkroom] at the **Winter Garden** [sic – Gardens], formerly the **Northern ballroom**, gave way before a holiday jam, as the climax to a Christmas eve party hurling about 10 of the merry-makers to the floor below and throwing the home-bound party into confusion.*

*The injured, later removed to **General hospital**, were:*

*Miss **Esther Korten**, **Kimberly avenue**, left wrist fractured.*

*Miss **Frances Kascin**, **511 Quinesec street**, **Iron Mountain**, injuries to head, the extent of which have not yet been determined.*

*Miss **Mildred Lindstrom**, **156 Withworth avenue**, **East Kingsford**, cut on head.*

*Miss **Rena Manifor**, **South Stephenson avenue**, landed on both knees, sustaining bruises and scratches.*

*Others caught in the fall were **Thomas Hardgrove**, **737 Cass avenue**, **Leo Mascotte** and **Homer Cayo**. Several whose names could not be learned scrambled out of the melee, after the fall, and disappeared in the crowd before their identities could be learned.*

Dances Had Finished.

It was as the strains of "Home Sweet Home," concluding the Christmas eve festivities, were dying away that the crowd which almost packed the dance floor

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By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

surged towards both stairways leading to the balcony and checkroom, laughing and pushing their way as they scrambled for their wraps. Meeting in front of the check-room [sic – checkroom] window, the two lanes of jostling humanity struggled for a place at the window, weaving back and forth as the departing ones, laden with wraps, elbowed their way out of the oncoming mob.

Suddenly there was a crash and a thud, as eight feet of the center section of the railing gave way and the first of the victims struck the floor about 10 feet below. There was a moment's tense silence, then screams as one after another of the 10 or more who had been jammed against that part of the railing fell to the ballroom floor.

*Some leaped to their feet or rolled away from the center of the mix-up. The **Misses Korten and Lindstrom** were helped to their feet, Miss Korten gripping her broken wrist and Miss Lindstrom visibly in pain from the cut on her head. **Miss Kascin** lay quite still on the floor.*

*The injured girls were assisted into waiting automobiles and taken to **General hospital**, as others stood about rubbing their bruises and nursing minor injuries. Police assisted in quieting the crowd.*

Injury Not Critical.

***Miss Kascin** was still unconscious when she arrived at the hospital, and did not revive until early Sunday morning. Although it is known that she received a severe blow on the back of her head it is not believed that her skull is fractured.*

***Miss Lindstrom**, with a cut on the back of her head, left the hospital shortly after her injury had been dressed. **Miss Korten** stayed overnight and was taken to her home yesterday noon.*

Miss Kascin seemed comfortable this morning as she lay in her bed at the hospital, relating her experience to friends.

"It all happened so quickly that I really don't remember very much of it," she said. "I know that I was standing right against the wall, near the check-room [sic – checkroom] window. I can remember being suddenly pushed away from the wall towards the railing, and I can't recall anything after that. I don't remember being taken to the hospital, and the first I knew, after having been pushed, was when I awoke here Sunday morning."

Miss Kascin was emphatic in declaring that the crowd was pushing and jostling as it surged toward the check-room [sic – checkroom] window, and that the men and girls were bumped back and forth between the railing and the wall of the check-room [sic – checkroom].

***Thomas Hardgrove**, 21, employed at the **Triangle Gas company's** station on **South Carpenter avenue**, told much the same story.*

Landed On Side.

*"I guess I was one of the first to go over," he said. "I landed on my side and rolled over quick, to get away from the others that were falling around me. I saw **Leo Mascotte** on the floor, and saw someone tumble right down on him. Then I got up and when I turned around again others were picking themselves up and scrambling out of the way. Although I do not know the exact number who fell, I would say there were about 10."*

***Miss Manifer**, who escaped with only minor bruises, landed on her hands and knees.*

***Gale F. Parmelee**, of **F.E. Parmelee and sons [sic – & Sons]**, owners and*

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managers of the **Nightingale dancing pavilion** and who have leased the **Winter Gardens** for a five-months season, from the **Worden-Allen company**, gave his version of the accident this morning.

“The platform and railing at the **Winter Gardens** is a substantial wooden structure,” he said. “The railing is bolted to the steel girders supporting the walls and roof of the building, and is further strengthened by angle irons bolted to the uprights supporting the balcony floor.

“No ordinary pressure could have broken away any part of that railing,” Mr. Parmelee continued, “but the crowd that rushed into the narrow passageway, pushing, laughing and apparently unmindful of the scramble that resulted, was more than enough to tax the strength of an even stronger support. There must easily have been 75 or 80 people on the balcony and they were all pushing about in effort to get their wraps and get out.”