

# MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 44: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 221-233 SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian



The camera is facing north on **Stephenson Avenue** in the **mid-1880s** in this view of the east side of the 200 block where **John R. Wood** built the **Wood Block** which housed the **First National Bank** in **1888**. **William H. Jenkins** opened his hotel at the corner of South Stephenson Avenue and East Ludington Street in **early November, 1881**. The three-story frame hotel was considered the city's finest, rooms renting for \$2.00 per day in **1885**. The fourth building from the corner in this photograph, advertising dry goods and clothing, was probably **Charles E. Parent's** store. Note the dirt streets and the board sidewalk crossing East Ludington Street. *[Menominee Range Historical Museum]*

*[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 44th 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 "Downtown Iron Mountain – 221-233 South Stephenson Avenue" which includes the Jenkins Hotel and the Wood Block which housed the First National Bank of Iron Mountain.

The **east side of the 200 block of South Stephenson Avenue** was one of the earliest developed areas in Iron Mountain's commercial district. The **Jenkins Hotel** was the first structure to stand on the **northeast corner of South**

# MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 44: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 221-233 SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

**Stephenson Avenue and East Ludington Street.**

An item copied from the **June 9, 1881** edition of **Iron Mountain's** newspaper *The Menominee Range* was published in **Escanaba's** *The Iron Port* on **June 11, 1881**, under "Range Items" as follows:

–**W.H. Jenkins** will build a **hotel** at **Iron Mountain**. –Range, 9th.

In the **November 5, 1881** edition of *The Florence Mining News*, published in **Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin**, progress on the Jenkins Hotel was noted as follows:

**W.H. JENKINS** will, about the first of next week, open his fine **new three-story hotel** at **Iron Mountain**. It is a fine building, well finished and furnished, and reflects great credit on the enterprise of its worthy proprietor. Mr. Jenkins has had experience in the hotel business, and the traveling public may rest assured that they will find there one of the best kept houses in the country. **THE MINING NEWS** congratulates the **Iron Mountaineers** that they now have one of the best public houses on the range.

Further mention of the **Jenkins Hotel** appeared in the **February 4, 1882** edition of *The Florence Mining News* as follows:

**JENKIN'S** [sic] **HOTEL** at **Iron Mountain**, has got a well earned reputation all over the country. It is well arranged, neat, and excellently furnished. No wonder it is becoming such a favorite with traveling men. **Mr. Jenkins** and his estimable wife, withal, just know how to "keep a hotel," too.

A fire broke out at the other end of the 200 block of Stephenson Avenue on **January 21, 1883**, resulting in considerable losses to businesses located there.

The **January 27, 1883**, edition of *The Florence Mining News* reported:

*The fire began in the upper story of **Oliver & Penglase's saloon building**,*

*occupied by **Mrs. Hartman**, a widow lady, as a boarding house, and was caused by the fall and explosion of a lamp. Despite all efforts against it, the flames soon enveloped the building, and spread to the adjoining places, which were **Laing Bros. meat market, Wm. Andrew's clothing store, William Parent's saloon, and the confectionery store** owned by an old man commonly known as "The Old Dutchman," and they were all destroyed together with their contents...It was expected that **Charley Ross's saloon, Philbrooks'** [sic – **Philbrook's**] and **Parent's stores, and Jenkins' hotel**, situated in the same block, would also be destroyed, and all were speedily emptied of their contents, with the exception of the store of **Philbrooks**, the proprietor locking the door and preferring to trust his stock to the mercy of fire rather than to that of thieves. Much of **C.M. Parent's** stock was stolen, while **Ross** misses ten boxes of cigars and a keg of beer.*

In **mid-October, 1887**, the **Merchants' and Miners' Bank of Iron Mountain**, a private concern, failed causing great concern for the residents of the young metropolis.

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

# MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 44: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 221-233 SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

## Budget of Interesting Social and Personal Gossip.

Great excitement existed at **Iron Mountain** and other towns on the range this week over the failure of the **Merchants' and Miners' Bank** of the former place. The collapse of the concern was sudden and altogether unexpected, and hundreds of depositors, the majority of whom are poor people, will probably lose nearly all of their money. The Range estimates the liabilities of the defunct institution at from \$10,000 to \$15,000, and says that **J.L. Edwards**, the proprietor, owns and has an interest in several tracts of valuable mineral lands and will probably be able to pay his debts dollar for dollar.

It is reported, however, that the liabilities will aggregate fully \$35,000. If this proves to be the case, it is extremely unlikely that the unfortunate depositors will realize more than from 25 to 50 cents on the dollar.

At last accounts Edwards was said to be in **Chicago**, where he went to endeavor to raise money on his lands in order to meet his obligations.

**Richard White**, who runs butcher shops in this city [**Florence**] and at **Iron Mountain**, was among the heaviest losers. He is said to have lost \$2,600. The day before the failure Mr. White purchased a draft for \$1,400 on a Chicago bank, and the money was not forwarded. **Rundle Brothers**, the well-known Iron Mountain hardware dealers, also lost a considerable sum.

The bank was originally started at **Norway** by **Chas. L. Anderson**, who afterwards moved it to **Iron Mountain**, and a year or two ago sold out to **Edwards**. The Green Bay Advocate says that a suspicion is expressed that the latter has skipped to **Canada** with the available funds. The assignment was made to **J.S. Shafer**.

*Iron Mountain*, like many other towns, has had enough of irresponsible private banking institutions, and hereafter the people of that enterprising burg will do business only with national banks.

The **First National Bank of Iron Mountain** was organized last Monday evening, with the following incorporators: **A.F. Wright**, Quinnesec; **John Perkins**, **F. Copeland**, **D.F. Mullens**, **B.W. Jones**, **E.S. Roberts**, Vulcan; **John R. Wood**, Appleton, Wis.; **Oliver Evans**, **A.D. Moore**, **H. McLaughlin**, **Wm. Oliver**, **W.S. Laing**, **R.P. Tuten**, **E.P. Foster**, **J.T. Jones**, **G.T. Corning**, **E.J. Ingram**, **C.E. Parent**, **H.E. Pearce**, Iron Mountain; **J.B. Maas**, **Samuel Mitchell**, **Edward Lobb**, Negaunee.

Mr. Evans is a son-in-law of **H.D. Fisher**, of this city [**Florence**], and the other gentlemen are well and favorably known in Florence. The board of directors is composed of **John R. Wood**, **A.F. Wright**, **H.E. Pearce**, **Oliver Evans**, **John Perkins**, **Wm. Oliver**, **W.S. Laing**, **C.E. Parent** and **Samuel Mitchell**.

The officers of the new bank are as follows: **John R. Wood**, president; **A.F. Wright**, vice-president; **H.E. Pearce**, cashier; **Oliver Evans**, assistant cashier.

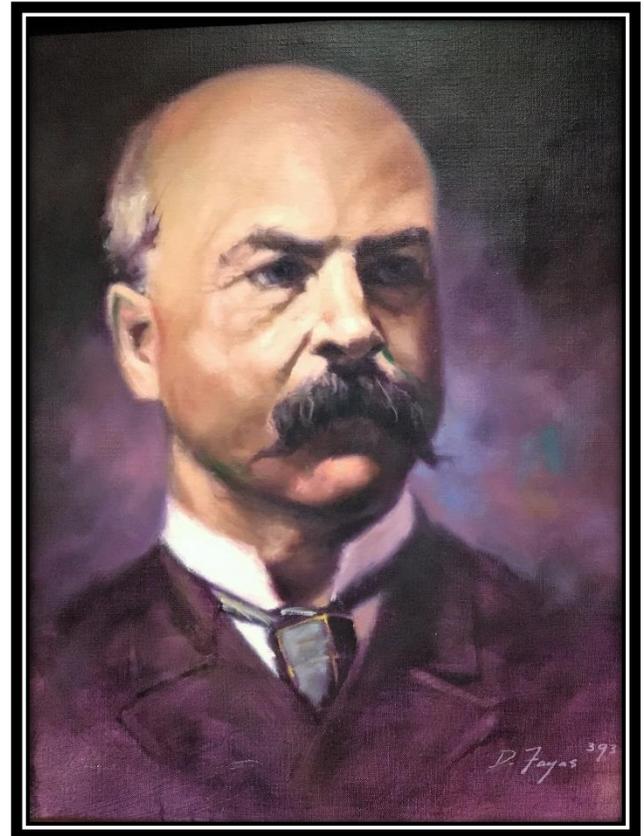
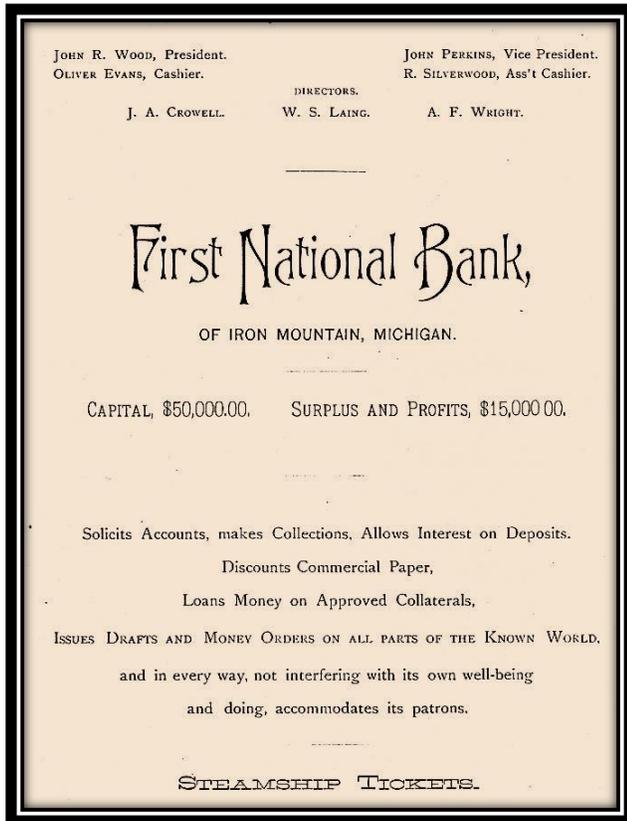
The capital stock is \$50,000. The bank will probably be ready for business by the **first of November**. A national bank is needed in **Florence**, but until one is organized, many of the local business men will most likely patronize the new concern at **Iron Mountain**.

The "Local Brevities" column in the **October 29, 1887** edition of *The Florence Mining News* it was noted: **THE NEW National Bank at Iron Mountain** will be ready for business on Tuesday next.

The **First National Bank of Iron Mountain** first opened its doors on Tuesday, **November 1, 1887**.

# MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 44: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 221-233 SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian



**John R. Wood**  
June 4, 1845 – February 11, 1913  
[Oil Portrait by Darren Fayas,  
First National Bank]

The above advertisement appeared in Walter R. Nursey's *The Menominee Iron Range: Its Cities, Their Industries and Resources* published in 1891.

**Wood**, as one of the organizers and first president of the **First National Bank of Iron Mountain**, decided to construct a two-story brick business block on the northeast corner of South Stephenson Avenue and East Ludington Street.

**John R. Wood**, a pioneer mining man on the **Marquette, Menominee and Gogebic Iron Ranges in Michigan's Upper Peninsula**, came to **Iron Mountain** at its inception in **1878**, opening the **Cornell Mine**. Wood also developed what became the **Cundy Mine in Quinnesec** and was one of the organizers of the **Sagola Lumber Company**.

In **early February, 1888** Wood purchased the **Jenkins Hotel**. Desiring only the property, Wood moved the hotel to the west side of **Iron Mountain Street** across from the present **Dickinson County Library** in **June, 1888**.

A sale to **Peter Ouderkirk**, who planned to re-open the hotel as the **Metropolitan House**, was pending when the hotel burned to the ground on **July 5, 1888**. Although Ouderkirk had moved a considerable amount of furniture into the hotel building, the property hadn't changed hands because Wood still had to link the two parts of the building together. As neither man was insured, both lost heavily. The fire was

# MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 44: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 221-233 SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

thought to have been caused by a Fourth of July rocket.

The following account appeared in the **July 7, 1888** edition of *The Florence Mining News* under the headline “The Old Jenkins House Burned”:

*Considerable excitement was occasioned in Florence Thursday morning over a rumor that two or three blocks in the business portion of Iron Mountain had been destroyed by fire. Happily, the report proved to have been unfounded. A fire, however, was discovered in the **Metropolitan Hotel**, formerly the **Jenkins House**, at 3 o'clock Thursday morning, but the flames had gained such headway that it was impossible to save the building. The structure had recently been moved in sections to its late site, and two of the sections had not been joined, leaving a space of about six inches at the top. It is thought a rocket fell in there and started the fire.*

***John R. Wood** had sold the property to **P. Ouderkirk**, to be transferred as soon as the building was in shape for occupancy. Mr. Wood's loss is \$7,000, and Mr. Ouderkirk's \$2,000, the latter being on furniture. No insurance.*

The building encompassing **221-233 South Stephenson Avenue** was known originally as **Wood's Block** when constructed in **1888**. Various business places were housed at 221 South Stephenson Avenue, 225 South Stephenson Avenue and 229 South Stephenson Avenue. As the First National Bank grew, those addresses were gradually incorporated into the bank proper.

Under the “RAMBLINGS: IRON MOUNTAIN” column in the **December 15, 1888** edition of Norway's *The Current*, the following was noted: *The **Wood block** is the busiest place in town.*

Vandalism occurred in early **Iron Mountain**, as evidenced by an article published under the headline “Wantonness.” In the **August 22, 1889** edition of *The Menominee Range* as follows:

*Some smart Aleck, who apparently is the possessor of a cheap diamond ring, has been amusing himself by cutting the plate glass in the store fronts of **John R. Wood's block**. A circle is cut in one of the lights of glass in the **bank building**, and a straight cut made nearly across the plates in **Ingram's and Wright's stores**, and also in **C.E. Parent's store**. Possibly the perpetrator of this vandalism is not aware that the injured glass is worth hundreds of dollars, but if he is discovered he will be likely to find out the value of plate glass of the size and quality of those he has thus nearly destroyed.*

Under the headline “Festive Burglars” in the **February 16, 1893** edition of Iron Mountain's *The Range-Tribune*, the following article was published:

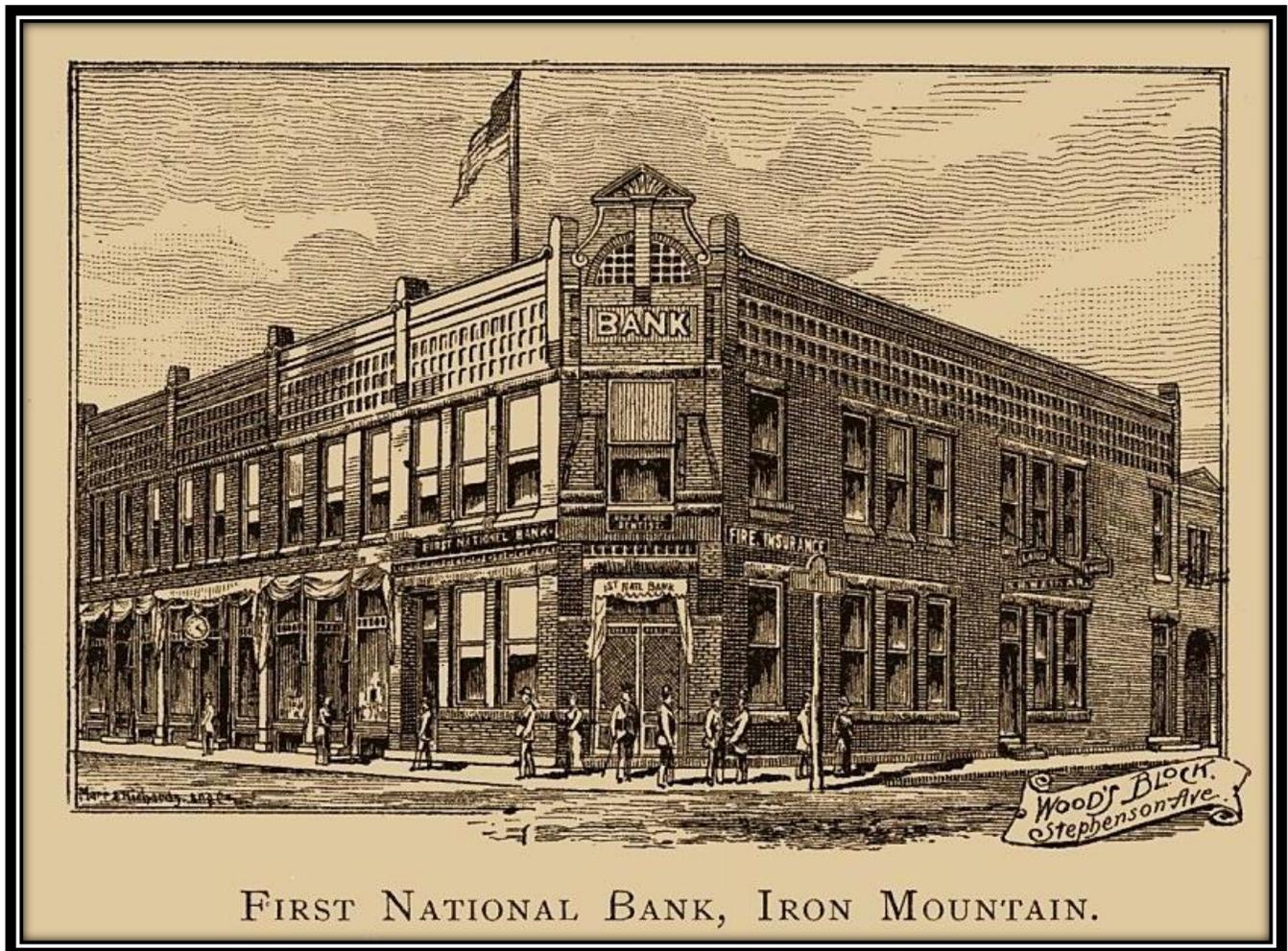
*The tailoring and gent's [sic – gents' – gentlemen's] furnishing goods establishment of **J.R. Johnston**, in the Wood block, was entered by burglars last Saturday night and a quantity of clothing stolen. An entrance was effected by smashing the glass in the back door. There was no clue to the thieves, but on Sunday afternoon, at the **Chicago & North-Western depot**, **Chief of Police Clements** overhauled a woodsman who was acting in a suspicious manner and found in his bag two coats, two pairs of pantaloons and one vest, all of which had been stolen from Mr. Johnston's stock. The fellow gave his name as **Charles Tonkins** and stated that he had purchased the goods from another. Soon after, at the place where Tonkins had been boarding, **John Shields** and **George Tebo** [sic – Theibault] were arrested. The*

# MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 44: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 221-233 SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

former had one of the missing coats in his possession and the latter a pair of pants. Both claim to have purchased the goods from Tonkins, and did so in the presence of witnesses. All three were locked up,

however, but on Monday Shields and Tebo were released upon furnishing bonds for their appearance. The examination will take place next Monday before **Justice Bergeron**.



FIRST NATIONAL BANK, IRON MOUNTAIN.

This engraving of the **Wood's Block** appeared in Walter Nursey's book *The Menominee Iron Range*, published in **1891** to promote further settlement and development of the area. Initially, the First National Bank only occupied the southwest corner of the building, and additional businesses were located on both **South Stephenson Avenue** and **East Ludington Street**. Offices were located on the second floor of Wood's Block. [William J. Cummings]

In the **February 29, 1896** edition of *The Range-Tribune*, the following business change in the **Wood Block** was noted:

**The Continental**, a new clothing store, opens today in **Wood's block, 221**

**Stephenson avenue**, with a complete line of clothing, hats, caps and gents' furnishing goods. Their motto: Quick sales and small profits.

# MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 44: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 221-233 SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

Today *Charles Delaporte & Son*, of *Green Bay*, will open the *Continental Clothing store* in *Corning's old stand [Corning's Hardware]*, *Wood block*, with

a splendid assortment of goods. The firm has [a] well-established reputation for square dealing and has come to stay. *William Delaporte* is the manager.



**William Jennings Bryan** arrived at **Iron Mountain** by special train on **October 14, 1896**, while campaigning for president on the Democratic ticket. Speaking from a stand erected for the occasion on the west side of the 200 block of South Stephenson Avenue, Bryan outlined his silver money policy to a crowd estimated at 5,000 by a reporter for *The Range-Tribune*. People watched from the rooftops and the windows of the surrounding buildings, eager to get a better look at the 36-year-old presidential candidate who was defeated by Republican **William McKinley**. An undocumented bit of local lore relates that the Republicans arranged for a train to pass through while Bryan was speaking, causing a major interruption given the magnitude of the crowd. This photograph was taken by **Jorgen J. Eskil**, from a window of the **Fisher Block [Commercial Bank]** looking east. Storefronts visible from left to right include: **215**, **The London Store**, owned by **Samuel and Julius Rusky**; **219**, **Charles E. Parent**, “dry goods, carpets, boots, shoes, gents’ furnishings, groceries, provisions, flour, feed, crockery, glassware and general merchandise”; **221**, **George T. Corning**, hardware; **225**, **J.J. Cole**, dry goods; **229**, **Edward J. Ingram**, “drugs, medicines, paints, oils, glass, books and stationery, cigars and fancy goods,” and **Charles E. Steller**, jeweler; and **231-233**, **First National Bank**. [Menominee Range Historical Museum]

# MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 44: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 221-233 SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian



Taken in the **mid-1890s**, this view of the **east side of the 200 block of South Stephenson Avenue** includes a portion of the **200 block of East Ludington Street** showing **Wood's Sandstone Block**, built in **1891**. The shaft at the upper left was part of the **Chapin Mine** complex. The two-story, light colored building in the upper center was the **Sheerin House** at **214 East Brown Street**. The single-story white building to the right was the **Brown Street School**. A horse pulling a wagon has stopped for a drink at the watering fountain carved from granite in the shape of a tree trunk. A tin cup on a chain was attached to the upper level where the water entered and there was an overflow at the base where dogs liked to quench their thirst. Supposedly this granite fountain was thrown into the Chapin Pit when no longer needed. *[Menominee Range Historical Museum]*

The *Iron Mountain Press* noted the sale of the **Wood Block** in its **November 4, 1897** edition under the headline "BUSINESS BLOCK SOLD: John R. Wood's Interest in the First National Bank Block Sold to Hoose & Co." as follows:

*At an early hour yesterday morning The Press was in possession of information to the effect that **John R. Wood** had sold his interest in the **First National Bank building** to **Jay W. Hoose** and **Edward W. Eaton**. Mr. Hoose returned on the morning train from **Appleton**, where he had been*

*conferring with Mr. Wood, and in an interview with The Press confirmed the report. Mr. Hoose says the consideration was \$20,000. The property transferred consists of the three stores on Stephenson avenue with the eleven offices above and the building occupied by **Brauns & Van** and the city council rooms. There is a mortgage for \$10,000 on the property, which Hoose & Eaton assume. A number of applications for the vacant stores on Stephenson avenue have already been filed. Hoose & Eaton will not move their*

# MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 44: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 221-233 SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

meat market to the building as has been reported, but will remain at the old stand.

[NOTE: At the time of the purchase **Hoose & Eaton** ran a meat market at 203 South Stephenson Avenue.]

An even more detailed account of the sale of the **Wood Block** appeared in the **November 6, 1897** edition of *The Range-Tribune* under the following headline:

## WOOD BLOCK SOLD

—————  
**Important Transaction in Iron Mountain Realty Circles.**

—————  
**PURCHASE PRICE WAS \$20,000.**

—————  
**J.W. Hoose and E.H. Eaton Now Own the Handsome and Valuable Structure. Deal Closed Tuesday in Appleton. New Tenants.**

—————  
One of the most important sales of **Iron Mountain** business property that has been recorded in several years was the sale Tuesday by **John R. Wood** of the handsome brick business block facing on Stephenson avenue and Ludington street and known as the **Wood Block**. The consideration was \$20,000.

Monday evening **J.W. Hoose**, of the well-known firm of **J.W. Hoose & Co.**, left on the Northwestern train for **Appleton**, where, by appointment, he met **John R. Wood**, who had just returned from the Pacific coast. It required but a short time for Mr. Hoose to state the object of his visit and before another train left for the north the sale of the **Wood Block** in **Iron Mountain** had been made and the names of **J.W. Hoose** and **E.H. Eaton** appeared

as owners. The possessions acquired by the new purchasers include all of the building, except that occupied by the **First National Bank** and the offices directly over it. This portion of the building is owned by the bank and includes the rooms occupied by **Dr. J.D. Jones**, **Attorney R.L. Hammond** and the **Michigan Telephone company**.

All other office rooms on the second floor, including the council rooms and the stores beneath, are included in the sale.

Mr. Hoose informed a reporter for the *Tribune* that he has two first class applicants for the vacant stores facing Stephenson avenue, and that they will soon be occupied by permanent tenants. The firm of **Hoose & Co.** will not occupy any part of the building.

In speaking of **John R. Wood** Mr. Hoose said that the well-known and venerable capitalist is looking the very picture of health. From what little information Mr. Hoose could glean while in **Appleton** he learned that Mr. Wood has come into possession of some valuable mining properties in the Pacific coast and **British Columbia** countries, and that his rise in the financial arena of the west is but a matter of a few months. While the two gentlemen were making out the papers for the transfer of the property Mr. Wood received a telegram calling him to **Tacoma**, where a number of eastern capitalists were ready to purchase one of his largest mines, which has been acquired within the past three months. Mr. Wood expects to be in **Iron Mountain** about **December 15**.

The purchase of the **Wood Block** by residents of this city will have a tendency to hasten the close of several other deals that have been pending for some months, and which means an active revival of the real estate business in **Iron Mountain**. A number of other deals involving central

# MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 44: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 221-233 SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

*business property are being matured and will be announced within a few days.*

*Register of Deeds Frank E. Crocker makes these remarks regarding “bargain hunters,” who have become quite a factor of late in the realty market throughout the west and particularly in **Dickinson County**.*

*“There are buyers in the market for bargains. That is an improvement in itself. The advent of the bargain hunter is recognized as one of the unmistakable and conclusive signs of the appearance of dry land again, as in the days of Noah after the flood, when the land, as we are told so graphically, was both standing in the water and out of the water. It is now beginning to stand out again, as terra firma, and those doves with their green twigs in mouth are encouraging indeed. The days of harvest are at hand once more, and the water-logged state of things is becoming dried out by the returned sun of prosperity. The ordinary buyer cannot buy as yet; he must first nurse his poor little bank account till the amount gets on the right side.*

*The times of liquidation and general saving have had this one advantage, that they have made our citizens free handed at last to put out some considerable surplus money, and the old reliable investment of real estate commends itself at once to favorable consideration, especially in the form of ‘bargains,’ of which, after any great depression like that of the past four years there is always a goodly supply. Not the ordinary owner places a less quotation on his holdings, but there are many reasons why a minority of holders will shade their valuations a little and sometimes considerable, in order to effect a quick sale after the long quiet. Perchance an estate is to be settled, or maybe there is some pressing necessity for immediate realization on a really choice property. One man’s necessity is another’s opportunity and so*

*the bargain hunter is always abroad at just such a juncture as the present, and often times his search is rewarded with a decided prize. There is more money on the market than we can place. More money is seeking mortgage investment than can be accommodated.*

A new tenant in one of the **Wood Block’s** stores was announced under the headline “New Business House.” In the **December 9, 1897** edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* as follows:

*The Press learns that **Messrs. Kullgren and Hanson**, two of the best known salesmen in the city, have leased one of the vacant stores in the **Wood block** and will engage in the dry goods and clothing business. Mr. Kullgren was formerly employed at **M. Levy & Co.’s** and Mr. Hansen [sic – Hanson] at the **Paris store**. The gentlemen are now in **Chicago** buying goods and expect to have everything in readiness for the reception of customers in about ten days.*

In the **June 14, 1898** edition of *Iron Mountain’s The Daily Tribune* the following item appeared in the “CITY NEWS ITEMS” column :

***Claus Berg** has moved his restaurant from the basement of **Sundstrom’s hardware store** to the **Wood block** and now has **Chas. Asp** as a partner. The new firm has nicely fitted up rooms and serves the public in a first class manner.*

Under the headline “New Bank Furniture” renovations in the counting room of the **First National Bank** were announced in the **August 2, 1900** edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* as follows:

*The counting room of the **First National Bank** is to undergo many alterations in the near future that will add to the attractiveness and convenience of the institution. The present fixtures are to be replaced with others of a more modern*

# MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 44: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 221-233 SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

design that will extend directly across the room. The new fixtures are of oak finished in the natural wood, and are expected daily from the factory.

In the **September 10, 1903** edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* under the headline “Wood Block Sold.” the following item appeared:

The **Wood block** has been sold by **Hoose & Eaton** to **John T. Spencer**, the transfer papers having been signed last night. The consideration was \$22,000, and it is the general opinion that Mr. Spencer has secured a bargain. The Wood block includes the stores occupied by **Louis Stoekly, Louis Kahn** and **Hanson** on **Stephenson avenue** and **Asp & Olson** and **Simpson & Vanderheyen** on **East Ludington street**. Mr. Spencer contemplates making many improvements to the building.

Under the headline “Deal Closed.” the sale of the **Wood Block** was announced in the **October 1, 1903** edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* as follows:

The deal for the purchase of the **Wood block** was closed last Monday and **Capt. John T. Spencer** is now in possession. The amount paid **Hoose & Eaton** for the property was \$22,000. Mr. Spencer contemplates making a number of improvements to the interior of the building and may add a third story in the spring.

The following item appeared under the headline “To Fisher Block.” in the **December 22, 1904** edition of the *Iron Mountain Press*:

The **Western Union Telegraph company’s** office, which has been located in the **Wood Block** ever since the building was erected, will soon be removed to the **Fisher Block**. The documents are signed and sealed and the removal will take place early in the new year. The company will

occupy the offices about to be vacated by **Attorney Waffin**.

## HISTORY OF THE STORE FRONT AT 221 SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE IN THE WOOD BLOCK

In **1892-1894** the **Wright Brothers** (**Jason K. Wright** and **Anson Francis Wright**) dealt in “dry goods, groceries, flour, feed and general merchandise” at this location.



The above advertisement appeared in Walter R. Nursey’s *The Menominee Iron Range: Its Cities, Their Industries and Resources* published in 1891.

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

**Dickie Silverwood**, one of the occupants of the Bank building, on Friday night, thought he smelt [sic – smelled] fire somewhere in his vicinity, and a very short investigation led him to believe that the fire was in the next room, which is occupied by **Justice Bergeron** as a courtroom. When he entered that room he found it filled with smoke, and a glowing red spot in the floor near the wall showed him where the mischief was at work. A few buckets of water soon quenched the smouldering [sic – smoldering] fire, which had already eaten a large hole right through the floor, above **Wright Bro’s store**, besides blistering the base board [sic – baseboard] panelling [sic

# MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 44: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 221-233 SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

– paneling]. *Dave Bergeron* says he can only account for the affair by presuming that two Jewish peddlers, who were taking out garnishee warrants before him late in the afternoon, and who smoked cigarettes persistently all the time, must have thrown

the ends of their cigarettes into the sawdust-filled papier-mache spittoon, and that these had smouldered [sic – smoldered] until they had at last eaten through sawdust and spittoon, and done the damage now reported.



This postcard view, postmarked **March 30, 1911**, shows east side of the **200 block of South Stephenson Avenue**, including the **Wood Block** on the northeast corner of South Stephenson Avenue and East Ludington Street. Note the raised band shell on the northwest corner with the city's police quarters housed below and the brick pedestrian crosswalk. The **First National Bank** occupied about one-half of the Wood Block at this time. [William J. Cummings]

An article in the **February 29, 1896** edition of *The Range-Tribune* announced **The Continental**, a new clothing store, opened that day “in Wood’s block, 221 Stephenson avenue, with a complete line of clothing, hats, caps and gents’ furnishing goods.” According to the newspaper

account, the firm’s motto was “Quick sales and small profits.” **The Continental Clothing Store** was owned and operated by **Charles Delaporte & Son**, of **Green Bay, Wisconsin**, with **William Delaporte**, the “& Son,” serving as manager. The firm had a “well-established reputation for

# MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 44: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 221-233 SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

square dealing” and had “come to stay.” The article also mentioned that this location was “Corning’s old stand” in the Wood Block. This would have been **George T. Corning**, who operated a hardware store at **104 East Brown Street** in **1892-1894**, and was evidently back at that address in **1902-1903**, when **Corning & Barron (George T. Corning and Thomas H Barron)** ran a hardware store at that location which was still in operation there in **1913**.

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

## HISTORY OF THE STORE FRONT AT 225 SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE IN THE WOOD BLOCK

**John J. Cole** dealt in “dry goods and carpets” from his store at this location in **1892-1894**. The portion of the original **1888** structure would encompass the area below the 4th, 5th and 6th second-story windows when counting from left to right when viewing a photograph of the original **Wood Block**. Cole also had a store at **311 South Stephenson Avenue** at this time, where he

sold “Clothing, hats, caps, gents’ furnishings, boots, shoes, etc.” In **1902-1903** **Louis Stoekly** worked as a druggist at this address.

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

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

In **1913** the **C.E. Anderson Company (C.E. Anderson and Jerome E. Strong)** dealt in general merchandise at this location, and had another shop at **202 East Ludington Street**. By **1925** the **First National Bank** had incorporated this space into its portion of the building which was still a part of the bank in **1935**.

# MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 44: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 221-233 SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

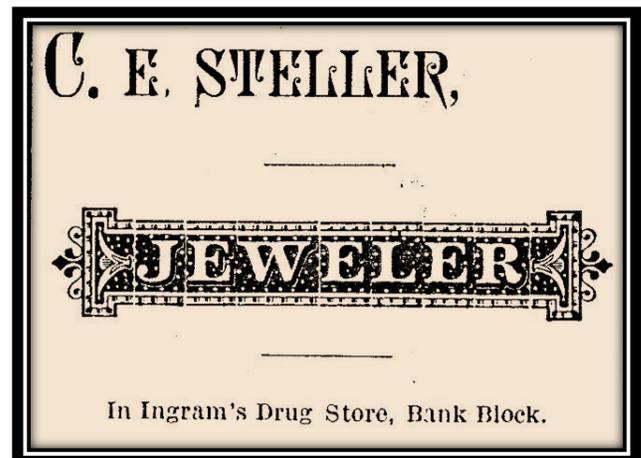
By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian



This postcard view, postmarked **November 29, 1912**, shows businesses along the east side of the 200 block of South Stephenson Avenue. The **1913** city directory lists these business as follows: **201**, Wills & Carbis, groceries and meats; **203**, Oscar Sand, saloon; **207**, Asp & Olson, notions and confectionery; **211**, Gust Pederson, shoemaker; **213**, Ray Porter, variety store; **215**, Rusky Bros., general merchandise; **219**, The Club, Eugene J. De Gayner, proprietor, billiards and pool, bowling alley; **221**, Louis Johnson, saloon; **225**, C.E. Anderson & Co., general merchandise; **231**, First National Bank. [William J. Cummings]

## HISTORY OF THE STORE FRONT AT 229 SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE IN THE WOOD BLOCK

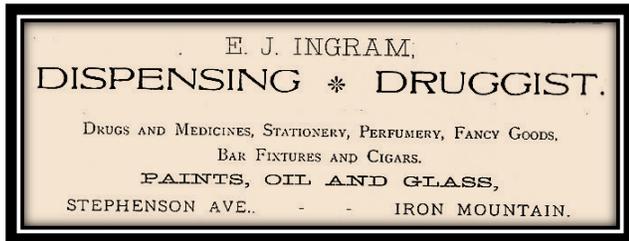
In **1892-1894** Edward J. Ingram dealt in “drugs, medicines, paints, oils, glass, books and stationery, cigars and fancy goods,” and Charles E. Steller was a jeweler at this address. The portion of the original **1888** structure would encompass the area below the 7th, 8th and 9th second-story windows when counting from the left to right when viewing a photograph of the original **Wood Block**.



The above advertisement appeared in the July 4, 1889, edition of *The Menominee Range*.

# MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 44: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 221-233 SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

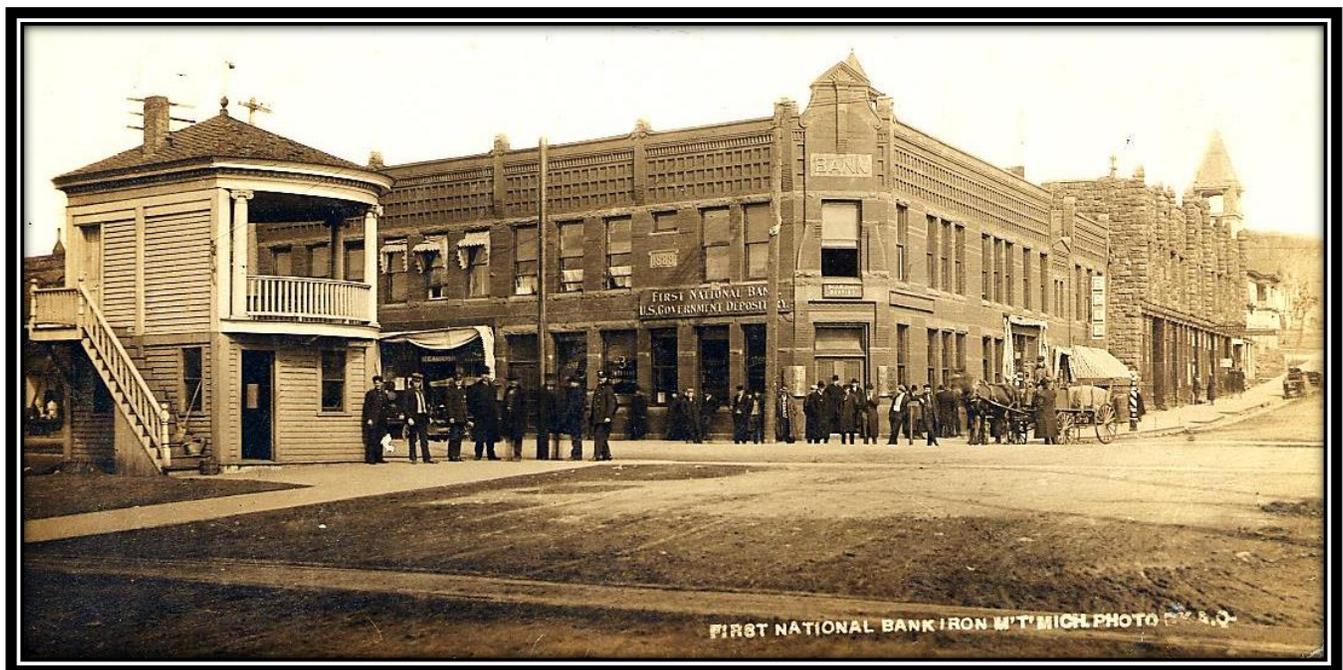
By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian



The above advertisement appeared in Walter R. Nursey's *The Menominee Iron*

*Range: Its Cities, Their Industries and Resources* published in 1891.

**Hansen & Johnson (John Hansen and Gust Johnson)** operated a dry goods store here in **1902-1903**, but had moved to **311 South Stephenson Avenue** by **1907-1908**, as this portion of the building had been incorporated into the **First National Bank** by that time, remaining a part of the bank in **1913, 1925** and **1935**.



This postcard view of the northeast corner of South Stephenson Avenue and East Ludington Street, postmarked **November 24, 1913** and taken by **Albert Quade** shows the **Wood Block**, housing the **First National Bank** and other businesses, **Wood's Sandstone Block**, housing the **Iron Mountain City Hall**, the post office and other businesses, and the **Carnegie Public Library** on **East Ludington Street**. The store located to the immediate right of the bank with the furled, light-colored awning would have been occupied by **C.E. Anderson & Co.**, a general merchandise store at **225 South Stephenson Avenue** and also **202 East Ludington Avenue**, probably where the furled awning is visible. There is also a barber pole behind the horse-drawn cart at the curb, advertising **Axel Carlson's** barber shop, also located at **202 East Ludington Street**. **Louis Stoekly's** drug store, located at **204 East Ludington Street**, is the business establishment with the awning down at the end of the **Wood Block** and west of **Wood's Sandstone Block**, where the Iron Mountain City Hall offices and the post office were located. The vertical sign above probably indicates the **B.P.O.E. (Elks) Lodge No. 700** which maintained rooms on the second floor. The bandstand, at the northwest corner of South Stephenson Avenue and East Ludington Street, also served as the police station at the lower

# MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 44: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 221-233 SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

level. **Charles A. Lundgren** served as chief of police in **1913**. The bandstand was later moved to **St. Paul Park**, on the west side of the **600 block of South Stephenson Avenue** near the **Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Depot**. [William J. Cummings]

## HISTORY OF 231-233 SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE IN THE WOOD BLOCK

The First National Bank of Iron Mountain occupied this address from the beginning on the ground floor. **John R. Wood**, president of the **First National Bank**, let the contract for his building on **April 2, 1888**, and the building was occupied before the end of the year. Wood had purchased the **Jenkins Hotel** which stood on the northeast corner of Stephenson Avenue and Ludington Street. **Henry W. Jenkins** built the hotel in the fall of 1881, and the building was considered Iron Mountain's finest hotel. **Dr. Joseph Addison Crowell** and his bride lived there upon their arrival in Iron Mountain in **1882**.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Beautiful Interior.**

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

*Directly in front of the entrance, across the lobby, is the executive office, separated from the lobby proper by marble wainscoting. Within are the four mahogany desks of the bank's officers. The floor is*

# MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 44: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 221-233 SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

*covered with a velvet carpet in a rich but dignified pattern.*

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

## **Fine Vault Equipment.**

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

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

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

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

*To enter the vault, a rubber covered "gang-plank" is provided, which must be lifted when the door is closed. The day-gate, used during business hours, cannot*

*be opened without sounding an alarm gong, and, at night, jack-knives back into the vault to allow the heavy main door to be closed to within about a quarter-inch of its limit by hand, then eccentrics, spun by a wheel, force it inward, making a hermetic seal. The bolts are always left in the locked position during the day, so that, in case of a possible holdup, the bank force could not be locked in the vault, as even the most painstaking burglar would scarcely take time to work the combination.*

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

## **Coupon Booths.**

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

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

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

# MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 44: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 221-233 SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

are seven, with mahogany woodwork and oxidized bronze grills.

## **Directors' Room.**

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

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

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

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

## **Handsome Offices.**

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

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

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

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

## **Credit Due Officers.**

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

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

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

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

# MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 44: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 221-233 SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

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

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

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

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

## **Present Directorate.**

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

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

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

*Five thousand people, according to estimates based on the number of*

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

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

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

*Upstairs, tenants of the office suites were also holding open house, while, in the **Elks' club rooms**, ice cream, coffee and waters were being served to all visitors. Like the bank proper, the second floor drew much favorable comment from the guests.*

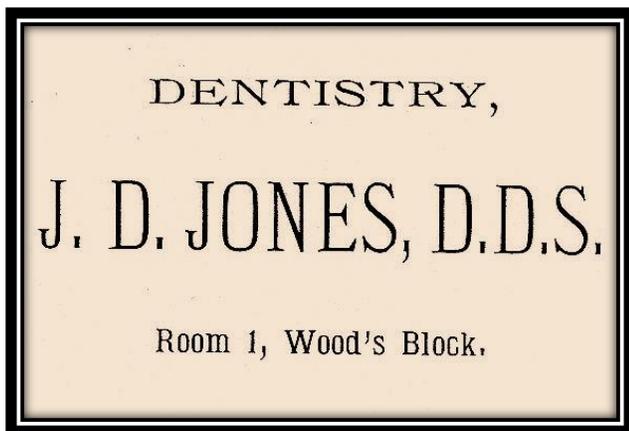
# MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 44: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 221-233 SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

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

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

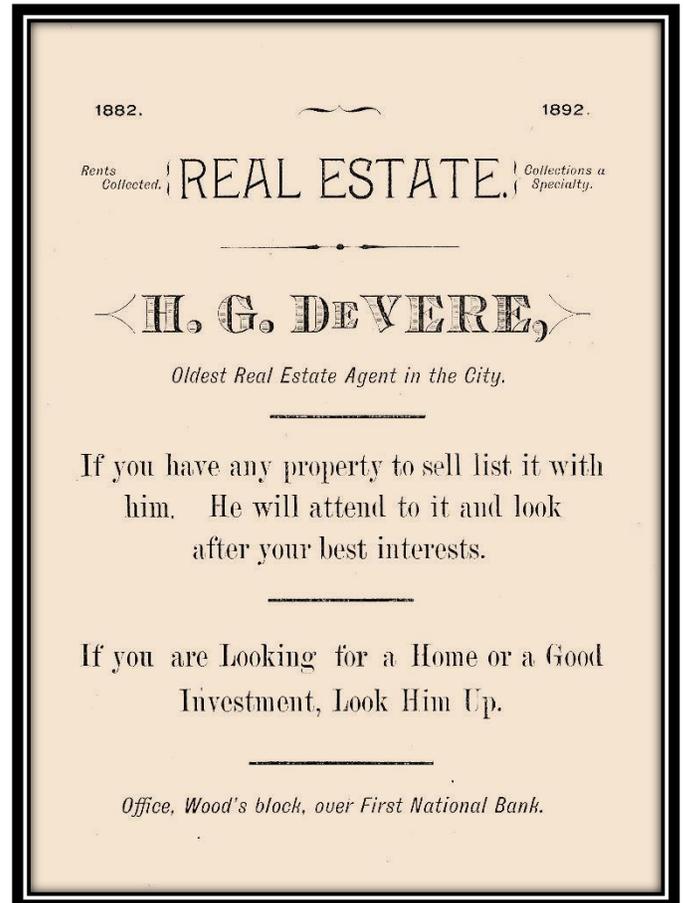
## BUSINESSES AND OFFICES LOCATED IN THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING [THE WOOD BLOCK] FROM 1925-1941



The above advertisement appeared in Walter R. Nursey's *The Menominee Iron Range: Its Cities, Their Industries and Resources* published in 1891.

**1925:** Businesses listed in the basement of the First National Bank Building, **221 South Stephenson Avenue**, in the **1925** directory included: **Mette Electric Company**, (Walter F. Mette, **Joseph P. Peterson** and **Edward [sic – Edmond] J. Poirier**, proprietors, "Electrical Contractors, Fixtures and Supplies"; **John**

**Johnson**, barber. On the second floor, the offices were occupied as follows: **Rooms 1 and 2**, **Symonds & Rahm**, (**Charles D. Symonds** and **Paul Rahm**), attorneys; **Room 3**, **Dr. Otto F. Brauns**, dentist; **Room 4**, **The Miller Agency**, **Carl G. Miller**, owner, general insurance; **Room 5**, **Dr. Joel D. Jones**, dentist; **Room 6**, **Dr. George H. Boyce**, physician; **Room 7**, **Dr. D. Boyce**; **Room 8**, **Mineral Mining Company**, **Edwin F. Brown**, secretary and general manager, and **Pewabic Company**, miners, **Edwin F. Brown**, manager.



The above advertisement appeared in the *Bunn & Simmons' Iron Mountain City Directory*, 1892-94.

**1935:** Businesses listed in the basement of the First National Bank

# MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 44: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 221-233 SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

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

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

**1941-1942:** Businesses listed in the basement of the First National Bank Building, 221 South Stephenson Avenue,

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

## OBITUARY OF JOHN R. WOOD (June 4, 1845-February 11, 1913)

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 17, Number 40 [Thursday, February 20, 1913], page 1, columns 3-4

### A PIONEER CITIZEN

---

### JOHN R. WOOD DEPARTS THIS LIFE AT HIS APPLETON HOME.

---

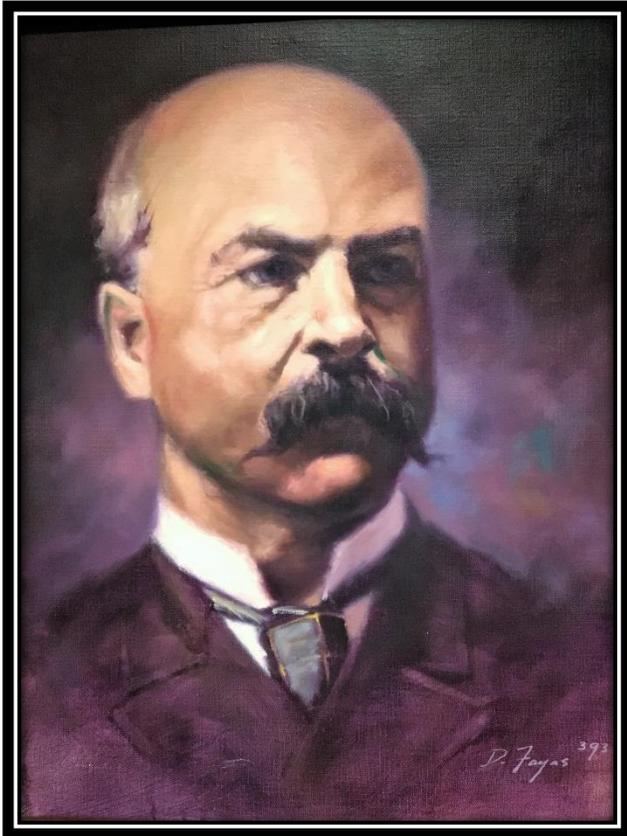
Was First President of First National Bank, Open the Cornell, Calumet, Cundy Mines.

*John R. Wood, whose death was briefly noted in our last issue, was buried at Appleton last Friday. He died at midnight on the 11th at St. Elizabeth Hospital after*

# MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 44: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 221-233 SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

*an illness of about ten days. Mr. Wood had been removed to the hospital to undergo an operation for the removal of a leg, this extreme measure being resorted to in the hope of arresting the affliction that had seized him. The treatment was of no avail, however, the patient having been in a critical condition practically all the time up to the end.*



**John R. Wood**  
**[Oil Portrait by Darren Fayas, First National Bank]**

*Mr. Wood was a prominent member of the Masonic order, a Knights Templar and a member of the knights of Pythias lodge.*

*The funeral was held at two o'clock last Friday afternoon from the home, corner of John and Meade streets. The services at the home were conducted by the Rev. John*

*Faville and the services at the grave were in charge of the Masonic lodge.*

*John R. Wood was born June 4th, 1845, n [sic – in] Lancaster, Ontario, Canada. He passed his boyhood on his father's farm and was educated in the common schools. In 1862, when but seventeen years of age, he lef [sic – left] home and came west, stopping for a few months at Bay City, Mich., where he secured employment in a salt block. In the spring of 1864, he went to the Lake Superior copper region, in the employe [sic – employ] of the St. Mary's Mineral Land company as a prospector and woodsman in search of copper. In November of the same year he returned to his home, intending to spend more time at school, but his father being well advanced in years and unable to do all of the work upon the farm, the young man spent the following year assisting with the work at his home.*

*John R. Wood was married July 10th, 1871, to Miss Bessie Houston, a native of Chatham, Canada, whose parents like those of Mr. Wood were natives of Scotland. Mrs. Wood preceded her husband in death a few years ago.*

*In his immediate family he is survived by five daughters as follows: Misses Ella and Elizabeth Wood, Appleton; Miss Charlotte Wood, instructor at the Whitewater Normal school; Mrs. O.E. Lay, Kewaskum, and Miss Ethel Wood, member of the faculty at the Iron River high school. Two brothers, James and Joseph Wood, of Ishpeming, also survive, a third, Alexander Wood, having died recently at Los Angeles, Cal., of the same affliction that caused the death of John R. Wood.*

*John R. Wood was one of the upper peninsula's pioneer mining men. During the early days of the Marquette range he did as much as any other one man in the county to develop its mineral resources. He*

# **MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 44: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 221-233 SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE**

**By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian**

*was active in his exploratory work at Ishpeming, and he was responsible for the discovery of mines on both the Menominee and Gogebic ranges, also.*

*Mr. Wood, together with his brothers, James and Joseph, the later now living in Ishpeming, and Captain Alex Wood, who died two weeks ago in Los Angeles, Cal., and whose funeral was held a week ago last Monday in Duluth, came to Ishpeming in 1869 from Lancaster, Ont., where they were born.*

*During the years that Mr. Wood lived in Marquette county he opened the St. Lawrence mine in partnership with Manville Jenks and other Ishpeming men and which some years later passed into other hands. He also opened the Calumet mine, in the Felch Mountain district. During his residence, Mr. Wood and others, including Bill and John Oliver, explored the Hollyoke silver property, north of Ishpeming.*

*Mr. Wood became a resident of Iron Mountain in 1878. He opened the Cornell property here, and he later went to the Gogebic range where he opened the Montreal property, on the Montreal river, near Hurley. He operated this property for some time and finally sold his interest for a large sum.*

*Mr. Wood organized the First National Bank here and for many years held the position of president and was active in the management. He erected the brownstone building now known as the city hall. This building served as a court-house [sic –*

*court house] for a number of years and was later converted into a hotel. Mr. Wood was also one of the organizers of the Sagola Lumber company. He also developed the property now known as the Cundy mine at Quinnesec, selling the mine to the Illinois Steel company.*

*In recent years Mr. Wood located the claims and promoted the properties of the San Antonio Mining company of Mexico. He spent five years directing operations at the property and it was as a result of hardships there, [sic] that his health was impaired.*

*This proposition is said to have been one of the best developed in Mexico [over] the last decade or more, although [it] has been idle for some time on account of the revolution in that country.*

*When but eight years of age Mr. Wood “hired out” to the Grand Trunk railroad to carry rivets used in building iron bridges, and that was the commencement of his life of earnest labor.*

*For years few were better known and none more loved in the iron mining regions than was Mr. Wood. “In my forty years of experience with mining engineers and promoters, John R. Wood was absolutely the finest man I’ve ever met,” is the expression made by Manville Jenks, of Ishpeming, for more than thirty-five years associated with in a business way or employed by Mr. Wood.*

# MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 44: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 221-233 SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian



The **First National Bank of Iron Mountain-Kingsford** moved into its new building on the east side of the 200 block of South Stephenson Avenue on Monday, **May 20, 1991**. The new building had been constructed in front of the original **Wood Block** building which was razed shortly after the new building opened. This photograph was taken in the **fall of 2010**. *[William J. Cummings]*