

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 58: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 201-207 EAST FLESHIEM STREET

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian



The south side of the **200 block of East Fleshier Street** is visible in the lower corner at the far left this detail of a photograph taken in about **1899**. In the 1902-1903 city directory the three stores were identified from left to right as **207 – Hallberg & Osterberg (Peter Hallberg and Charles J. Osterberg)**, bakers; **205 – S.P. Sandmark**, jewelry store; and **203 – Anton Swanson**, saloon and boarding house. Note the sign painted on the south side of the building which might be advertising Battle Creek Flour. The buildings on the east side of the **100 block of South Stephenson Avenue** are also shown. [See Menominee Range Memories 41 and 42 for detailed accounts of these businesses.] Note the small building to the left of the five-store, two-building brick structure. The **Swedish Mission Church** is visible on the **southeast corner of East Ludington Street and Iron Mountain Street**. The two-story, light-colored building located at **218 East Brown Street** was the **Sheerin House**, a hotel operated by **Frank Sheerin** by **1892**. **Anton Miench** operated the property as the **Hotel Miench** in **1902, 1907** and **1913**, at that time under the management of **Peter Engberg**. [Keen S. Scott]

[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 58th 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 – 201-207 East Fleshier Street."

History of 201: There are no listings for this address in the city directories. The lot remained vacant.

History of 203: **Anton Swanson** operated a saloon and boarding house at this address in **1902-1903**. In **1907-1908** **Emil Larson** sold liquors and cigars, living

here with his wife **Christina Larson**. In **1913**, Emil Larson was listed as a miner, and still resided at this address with his wife Christina Larson.

In **1925** **Loia & Betti (Dominic Loia and Hector Betti)** operated a boarding house at this location. By **1935** the **Calcaterra Taxi Company**, **Peter Calcaterra**, president, was located here. By **1939** the downstairs portion of this address was listed as "vacant" and the upstairs was the residence of **Joseph Osciezonek**, who worked for the W.P.A., and his wife **Dorothy Osceizeonek**.

By **1941-1942** **Guido R. Stocker**, who worked at or owned the **Riverside Tavern**, and his wife **Emma Stocker** lived upstairs, while the **Quality Biscuit Company**, **Rudolph Brinsko**, manager, and the **United Roofing & Siding Company**, **Carl Blum**, a partner, and **Harold Blum**, a

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salesman, were located on the first floor. By **1946** the **United Roofing & Siding Company** was still at this address, and **Carl Blum** was the proprietor. By **1959** and through **1961** this property was listed as vacant.

By **1963** the **Carlson Supply Company, Inc.**, **Carl T. Carlson**, president, occupied this site and remained through **1970**. In **1971** and **1972** the address was listed as vacant, but in **1973** the **Carlson Supply Company** (**Carl T. Carlson**, president; **Henry Goulette**, vice-president) sold heating and air conditioning equipment wholesale here. The building was again vacant from **1974** through **1976**.

In **1978** the **Brave Bull Office Building** was located here. The **Brave Bull Tavern**, operated by **Wayne Goulette and Janice**

L. and Wade Geline, was located at **115 South Stephenson Avenue**.

In **1979** the **Athletic Club & Lounge** used this building, possibly for storage or office space, but the business itself was located at **115 South Stephenson Avenue**, operated by **Al Bolan**.

In **1980** **Geline's Rib Cage** used this building, possibly for storage or office space, listed under **Wade and Janice Geline**. **Geline's Rib Cage** was a restaurant located at **115 South Stephenson Avenue**, owned by **Wade Geline**.

By **1981** the building was vacant. From **1982** through **2000** there was no listing for this address. In all probability the building was razed by 1982 and the space incorporated into parking for the restaurant.



This view shows the **200 block of East Hughitt Street**, looking east, taken from **South Stephenson Avenue**, and probably dates between **1946** and **1950**. The service station at the far left at the **northeast corner of East Fleshier Street and North Stephenson Avenue** was the **G. Bertoldi & Sons** filling station, managed by **Theodore Meilleur**, by **1925**, and the **United States Tire Shop**, vulcanizers, owned by **James Negro** and **Louis Sacchetti** by **1925 through 1941-1942**. By **1946** **James Negro** was the owner of **Negro's Tire Service** at this location. On the north side of the **200 block of East Fleshier Street**, **Ed Moreau & Son**

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(Edward and Leo Moreau), were feed dealers at 210 East Fleshier Street in 1935 but were listed as the Moreau Coal Company by 1939 and again in 1941-1942. By 1946 this was the Rocconi Fuel Yard, owned by Albert V. Rocconi. The sign on the building behind the gas station reads “Rocconi Fuel” which helps date this photograph. Not much is visible on the south side of East Hughitt Street. The building west 203 East Hughitt Street appears probably is the building at the far right the photograph below. A portion of the north end of the 100 block of South Stephenson Avenue shows a storefront. By 1939 Nelson’s Garage, owned by Axel Nelson, was located at 105 South Stephenson Avenue and the White Star Tavern, owned by Louis Johnson, was located at 107. By 1941-1942 103-107 South Stephenson Avenue was listed as the Chapin Building with 103 being “vacant,” 105 was Nelson’s Garage and 107 was the White Star Tavern, then owned by Otto Sallman. By 1946 there was no listing for 103, but Nelson’s Garage was still at 105 under the same ownership. Oddly, the White Star Tavern, still run by Otto Sallman, was listed at 103 in the alphabetical and street indices but probably was located at 107. Note that the ground floor level of the building still had its original store front. [William J. Cummings].



Supposedly taken in 1975, this photograph shows four business places located on the south side of the 200 block of East Fleshier Street. According to the 1975 city directory, the

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following businesses were on this block from left to right: **207**, apartments; **205**, **The Blue Room Antiques (Paul G. and Margaret Campbell)**; **203**, vacant. The third building from the left – **203** – housed the **United Roofing & Siding Company** in **1941-1942** and again in **1946**. There were no other listings. The building at the far right poses a bit of a mystery. There are no numbers other than **207**, **205** and **203** listed on the south side of East Fleshiem Street. The structure appears to be similar to many buildings constructed during the Ford Boom of the 1920s, and obviously appears to have been used for automotive purposes with the garage door. The car on the left is a 1969 Chevrolet Chevelle and the car on the right is a 1969 Chevrolet Caprice. The car at the far left is not identified. *[City of Iron Mountain]*

History of 205: In **1892-1894** **Robert J. Hancock** and **William Sundstrom** ran a hardware store here. **S.P. Sandmark** ran his jewelry store at this location in **1902-1903**, also residing in the building, as did **William Simms**, an engineer, who lived upstairs at that time.

In **1907-1908** the lower portion of the building was listed as “vacant,” but **William Sims** still lived upstairs with his wife **Bessie Sims**, as well as **Joseph Sims**, a miner, **Percy Sims**, a plumber, and **Viola Sims**, a student. The building was again listed as “vacant” in **1913**. There is a listing for William and Elizabeth Sims at 205 ½ which probably indicates the second floor.

However, according to **August Lilja**, owner in **1980** and a native of Iron Mountain’s North Side, the building was used as an opera house at one time, and a Swedish lodge known as the **North Star Lodge (Norsjenan Lodge No. 15)** met here. One would gather from the **1905-1906** and **1907-1908** city directories that this building was used as a lodge hall during those years, and probably longer. There was a stage area in the building, and **Ole Skratholt**, the famed Swedish comedian, appeared on this stage, and in later years played to audiences at the **Colonial Theater** at **209-211 East Ludington Street**. Cooking facilities and a dining room were located in the basement.

In **1925** **Charles C. Swartz** manufactured El-Como cigars here, but the

building was again listed as “vacant” in **1935** and **1939**.

Clyde G. Yeadon’s name appeared in the **1941-1942** street listing, but in the alphabetical listing he was found with his wife **Dorothy Yeadon** at **600 Quinnesec Street**, where they operated the **Yeadon Sign Company**. The building was again listed as vacant in **1946**.

By **1959** **Dale’s Manufacturing Company**, owned by **George H. Dale**, manufactured cabinets and was still at this address in **1964**. From **1966** through **1972** the building was listed as vacant.

In **1973** **Blue Room Antiques**, owned by **Paul and Margaret Campbell**, did business on the ground floor, but the upstairs was listed as vacant. In **1974** **August R. and Madge A. Lilja**, owners of the building, lived upstairs.

By **1985** **Blue Room Antiques** was under the ownership of **John F. and Beverly J. Carlson**, remaining through **1991**.

August Lilja died **May 7, 1984**, but his wife **Madge** continued living there until her death **February 2, 1994**.

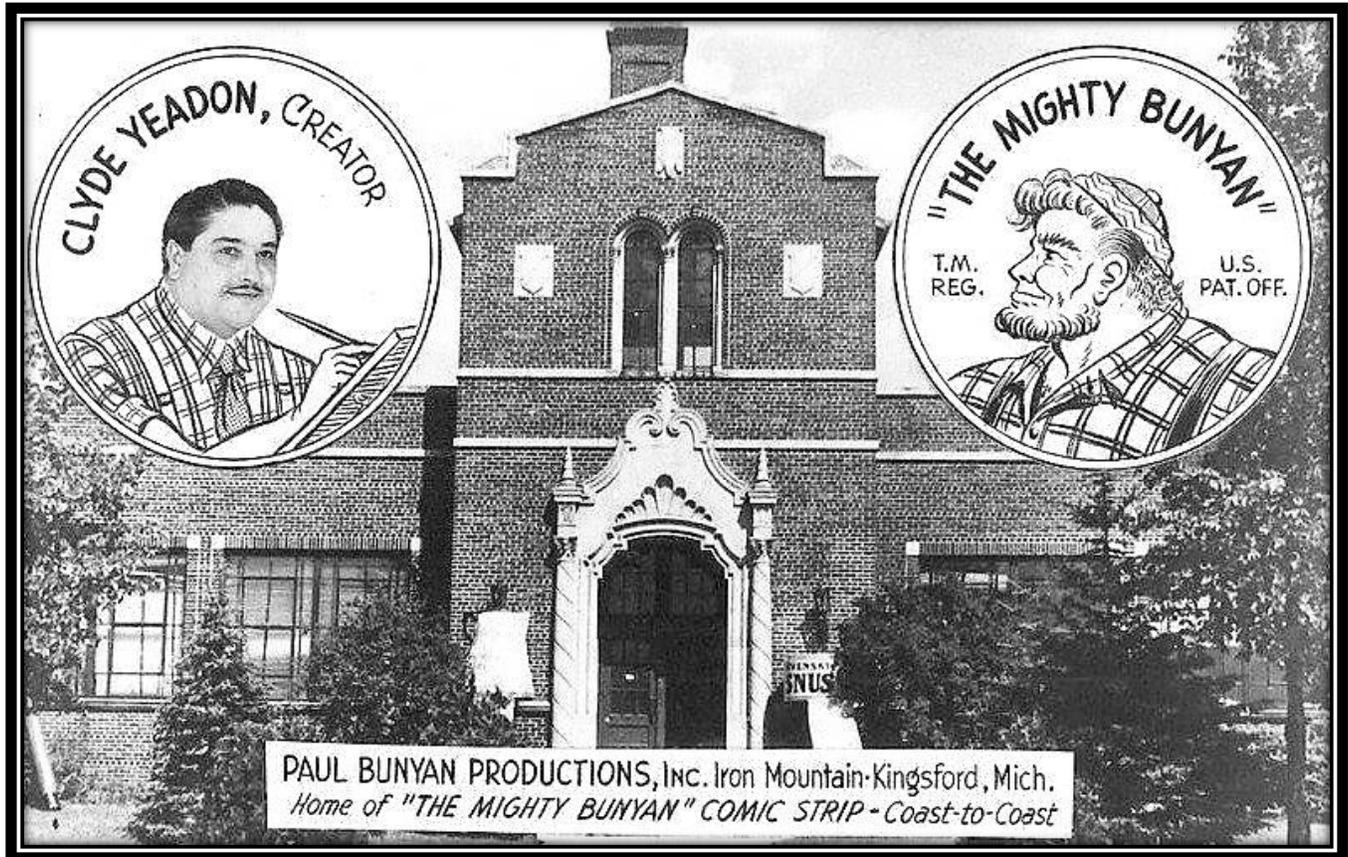
In **1996** the **International Brothers of Electrical Workers No. 219** occupied the building with **Roy K. Ross** serving as business manager. From **1997** through **1999** **Robert Koerschner** served as business manager. In **2000** no business manager was listed. The labor union still occupies this site.

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By **1999** Local 728 Pipefitters, a labor union with **Jack Peterson** listed as the

principal party, also occupied this site and was still there in **2000**.



Clyde Gordon Yeadon, born in Michigan **July 13, 1909**, who often signed with Clyde Don, was a comic book artist during the **1930s** and **1940s**. His early work included Centaur features like "Forbidden Island", "Studie" and "Terror of the Timber". He drew funny animal features and "Trinket" for Timely, "Dumm Dum the Clown" for Consolidated Book and "Stubby and Trinket" for Dell Publishing. In **1948** he did a feature called "The Mighty Bunyan" for Bell Syndicate. He worked as a freelance writer and gag cartoonist for magazines. Clyde Yeadon died in Iron Mountain on **July 8, 1955** and was buried in Channing Cemetery. The building in this postcard view is part of the **Lincoln School**, part of the Breitung Township School District, which was built in 1926 at the corner of **Jackson Street** and **Breen Avenue** in **East Kingsford**. Yeadon's name appeared in the street listing for 205 East Hughitt Street in the 1941-1942 city directory. [William J. Cummings]

The colored photograph of **205 East Fleshier Street** on the opposite page was taken in the **summer of 2010**. The **International Brothers of Electrical Workers No. 219** first occupied this building in **1996** and remain there today (**2020**). The brickwork on the second story provides an excellent example of a mason's artistry toward the end of the nineteenth century. Two original cast iron columns with ornate floral pattern designs (details pictured below) are also visible on either side of the doorway. [William J. Cummings]

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History of 207: This building could have been erected as early as **1883** and was certainly built by **1889**.

In **1892-1894** **K.J. Holmes**, a clerk in **William Sundstrom's** hardware store next door, lived here.

Hallberg & Osterberg (**Peter Hallberg** and **Charles J. Osterberg**) worked as bakers here in **1902-1903**, both men also residing in the building. By **1907-1908** the

firm had expanded to include groceries as well as bakery goods. **Peter Hallberg**, his wife **Annie Hallberg** and **Selma Hallberg**, a teacher, all lived here at that time, as did **Charles J. Osterberg**. The business still operated here in **1913**, with **Peter Hallberg**, his wife **Johanna Hallberg**, **Selma Hallberg**, a teacher, and **Charles J. Osterberg** still residing at this address, and all were still living here in **1925**.

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The **Hallberg & Osterberg Bakery & Grocery**, located at **207 East Fleshier Street**, may have been erected as early as **1883**, and was certainly built by **1889**. **Hallberg & Osterberg** (**Peter Hallberg** and **Charles J. Osterberg**) worked as bakers here by **1902**. By **1907**, at about the time this photograph was taken, the firm had expanded to include groceries as well as bakery goods. [*Menominee Range Historical Museum*]

August Lilja, former owner of this building, remembered that Hallberg & Osterberg baked their bread on bricks, and they also made Swedish hardtack, large round thin wafers with a hole in the middle, many of which were sold to the lumber camps.

In **1935** the building was listed as "vacant." **Jerry Salone**, a member of **George Corsi's Orchestra**, and his wife **Ann Salone** were listed at this address in **1939**. By **1941-1942** **Hiram J. Kelly**, a driver for **Cochran Freight Lines**, and his wife **Alice Kelly**, **Sophia Peltoma**, **Mary Sjostrom** and **Anna Skoog**, W.P.A.

foreman, Grade B, were listed as residing here. By **1946** the building was listed as vacant and was still listed as vacant in **1959, 1961** and **1963**.

By **1964** **August L. and Madge A. Lilja** were owners of this building, living here and also renting rooms. The Liljas were listed as owners through **1971**, and there were twelve apartments for rent in this structure.

In **1972** and **1973** **Nick Simone** was listed as owner of the building. From **1974** through **2000** there was no owner listed, but there were a total of fourteen apartments or rooms for rent beginning in **1973**. The building still serves as a rental unit in **2020**.

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This photograph of the apartment building located at **207 East Fleshier Street** was taken in the **summer of 2010**. *[William J. Cummings]*