

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 68: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 201-223 EAST LUDINGTON STREET

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian



This tinted postcard view of the **200 block of East Ludington Street** looking east is postmarked **July 12, 1912**. According to the 1913 city directory on the south side of the street (right) the following businesses can be seen: **203, C.F. Wallberg**, merchant tailor; **207, Farmers' Home Hotel & Saloon**, A.E. "Emil" Carlson, proprietor; **209, Victor E. Lundin**, tailor; **213-215, John Obermeyer**, plumbing and heating; **217, Iron Mountain Electric Light & Power Company/Peninsula Power Company** (Otto C. Davidson, president; Lewis T. Sterling, secretary-treasurer, George Irving, superintendent; **219, Charles W. Palmer**, switchman, residence; **221, Smith & Anderson** (James W. Smith and David Anderson), architects; **221 ½, R.F. and Mae Dundon**, residence; southeast corner of East Ludington Street and Iron Mountain Street, **Swedish Mission Church**. [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.]

William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation historian, now available on the Dickinson County Library's website, is titled "Downtown Iron Mountain – 201-223 East Ludington Street."

History of 201: In **1902-1903 August Williams** had a confectionery store here and lived up the street at **217 East**

The 68th installment of Menominee Range Memories, a series of articles by

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Ludington Street. There was no listing for this address in **1907-1908** or in **1913**.

In **1925** **J.A. Minnear & Son** (**J.A. Minnear** and **William H. Minnear**) operated their real estate and insurance business here.

Joseph H. Thomas sold sewing machines at this location in **1935**.

There was no listing for this address in **1939** or **1941-1942**.

In **1946** **Aimone's Barber Shop**, owned by **Peter Aimone**, was located at this address and the **Michigan State Liquor Store**, managed by **Joseph LaFave**,

operated at **201 ½ East Ludington Street**. There were no further listings from **1946 through 2000**.

History of 203: In **1892-1893** **Miss H. Brown** operated a millinery shop here. **Victor E. Lundin**, a tailor, worked at this address in **1902-1903**. By **1907-1908** **A. Wallberg** was found in the street index and **C.F. Wallberg** was listed under "Cleaning and Pressing" and "Merchant Tailoring" at this location in the business directory. However, neither name appeared in the alphabetical listing for **1907-1908**. **C.F. Wallberg** was here in **1913**.



Posing for the photographer in **C.F. Wahlberg's** tailor shop at **203 East Ludington Street** in about **1906** were, from left to right, **Albert Sundquist**, **Mr. Nelson**, **C.F. Wahlberg**, **Emil Carlson** and an unidentified man. Wainscoting covered the walls and sides of the counter and a hand-crank telephone hung on the wall behind the unidentified man. *[Dick Ferris/Gene Derwinski]*

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Budhadin Kahn operated a restaurant at this location in **1925**. **Thor Liengh**, a music director, sold musical merchandise at this address in **1935**, and also operated the **Iron Mountain Sign Company** here. By **1939** **Dr. Joseph L. Clement**, an eye specialist, practiced at this address, and was still listed here, as an optician, in **1941-1942**.

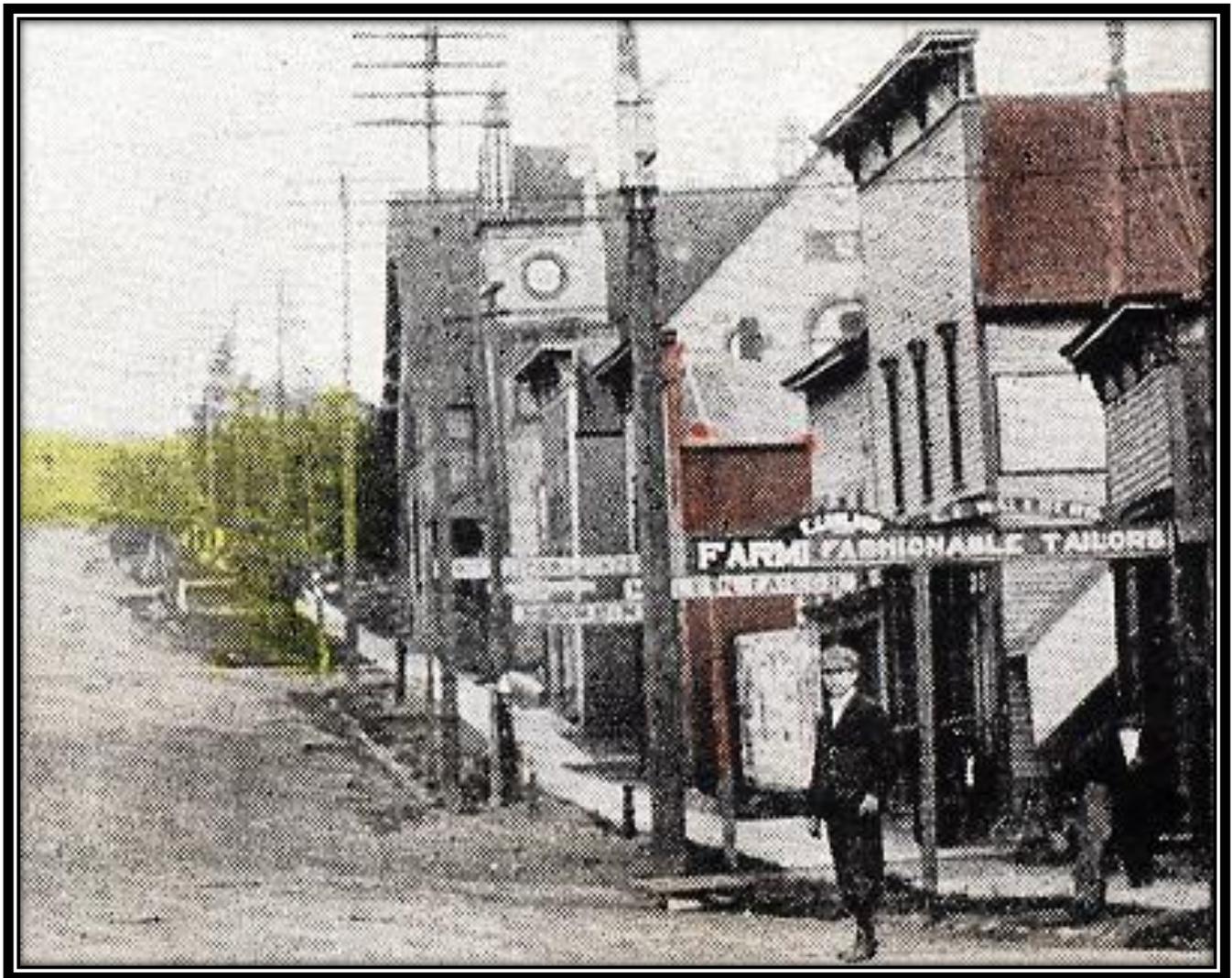
In **1946** there was no listing for this address.

From **1959 through 1964** the **Frank O. Morett Insurance Agency** was located here.

There was no listing from **1966 through 1970** for this address.

Bon Voyage Travel Agency, Inc. (**Don M. Pearce**, president) provided “complete one stop travel arrangements” at this location in **1971** and **1972**.

There were no listings for this address from **1973 through 2000**.



This detail of the postcard photograph postmarked **July 12, 1912** shows businesses located on the **south side of the 200 block of East Ludington Street**. Note the **Farmers' Home Hotel**, the two-story building second from the right. *[William J. Cummings]*

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History of 207: Davey & Eaton, a saloon owned by **Josiah Davey (1848-1915)** and **Fred Eaton**, had “sample rooms” here in **1892-1894**, featuring “fine wines, liquors, cigars and fresh beer. Free lunches served.” In **1902-1903** **Emil Larson** ran a saloon at this address, as did **Emil Carlson** in **1907-1908**. By **1913** Emil Carlson was proprietor of the **Farmers’ Home Hotel** and saloon at this location.

There were no listings for this address in from **1925 through 1946**.

From **1959 through 1964** **Rita & Geno’s Tailors**, **Mrs. Rita M. Provencher (1901-1980)** and **Geno Fontecchio**, proprietors, operated at this address. In **1964** Mrs. Rita M. Provencher was listed as the owner. From **1966 through 1969** **Rita’s Tailor Shop**, Mrs. Rita M. Provencher, proprietor, was in business at this address.

From **1967 through 1971** **American Cablevision** was under the management of **Bernard J. Mainville**, advertising “There’s more to see on cable TV.”

In **1970** **Bon Voyage Travel Agency, Inc.**, **Don M. Pearce**, owner, also did business here.

Dr. Theodore B. Fornetti (1921-2013), dentist, had his office here from **1972 through 1980**. In **1974** he was joined by his son, **Dr. Ted J. Fornetti**, and in **1978** another son, **Dr. Anthony J. Fornetti**, joined the practice.

In **1981** **205 East Ludington Street** was listed as vacant.

There were no listings for this address from **1982 through 2000**.

History of 207: There were never any listings for this address.

History of 209: In **1892-1894** **Robert Drechsler** operated a tailor shop on this site which was also occupied by **Sing Kee’s Chinese Laundry**, advertising “first class and prompt work” and noting that “all

work left at this laundry will be well washed and neatly ironed at reasonable prices.” Sing Kee also resided here, as did **Fred Eaton**, of **Davey & Eaton (Josiah Davey and Fred Eaton)**, who operated sample rooms next door at **207 East Ludington Street**.



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

An item in the **June 20, 1889** edition of *The Menominee Range* stated:

IRON MOUNTAIN can now boast of a Chinese steam laundry – the only one of its kind in this part of the country. The fixtures have just been put in by Sing Kee, the Hughitt street washee-washee.

Apparently **Sing Kee** moved to this address from **Hughitt Street** by **1892-1894**. As was typical of the times, sensitivity was totally lacking when referring to many ethnic groups.

John Blixt had a barbershop here in **1902-1903**. In **1907-1908** **William Cruz (1852-1921)** manufactured cigars at this address. **Victor Emil Lundin (1864-1929)** was a tailor here in **1913**.

History of the Colonial Theatre

In its **May 18, 1916** edition, *The Iron Mountain Press* announced that **August E.**

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 68: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 201-223 EAST LUDINGTON STREET

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Brauns was to erect “a theatre second to none north of Milwaukee” on the property opposite the city hall building on **East Ludington Street**, then occupied by two frame buildings and known as the **Farmers’ Hotel**. Brauns purchased the property, having frontage on East Ludington Street of 60 feet and a depth of 75 feet which extended to the alley, from the **Commercial Bank** during the week. There was also an alley on the west side.

The proposed theatre building was to cover the entire property with the main entrance on Ludington Street and exits on the side and rear alleys.

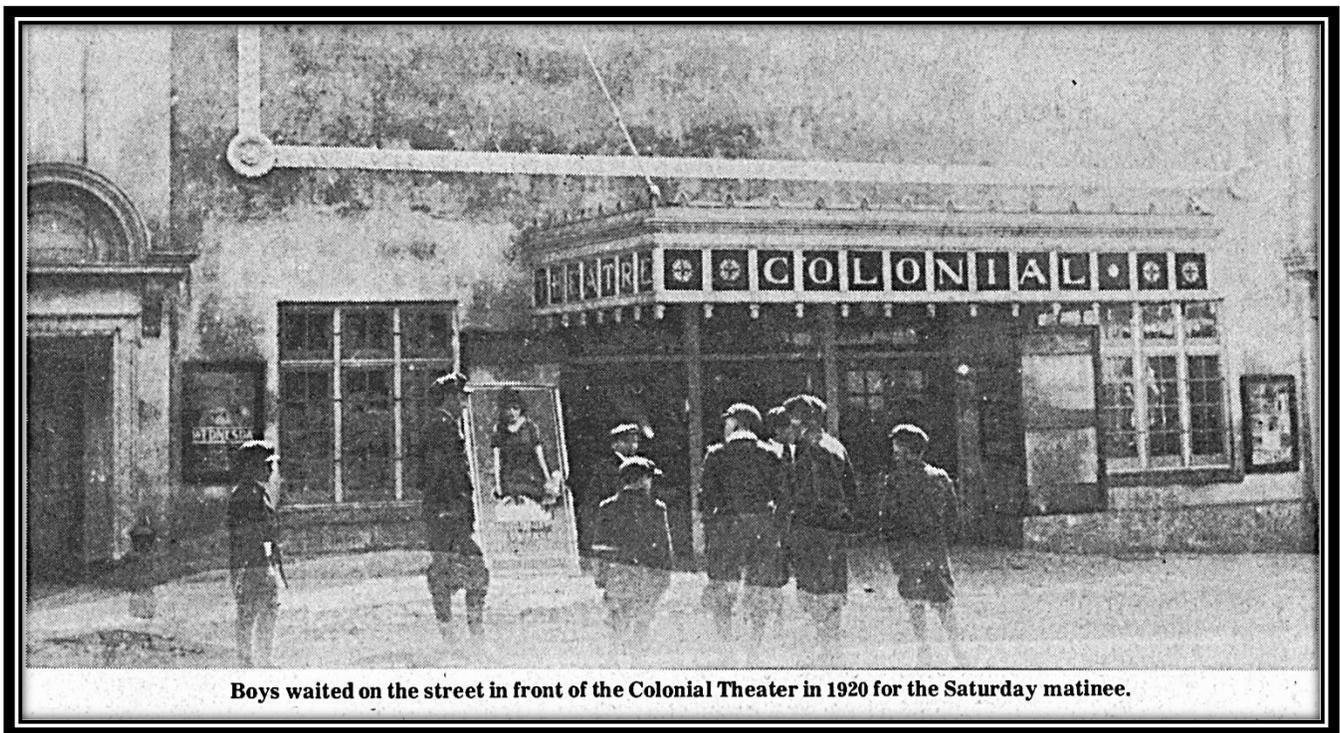
Architect Charlton, of Marquette, was commissioned to draft the plans for the theatre with instructions to design “a house second to none in the Upper Peninsula,”

containing “everything modern and up-to-date in accordance with the state’s sanitary and safety laws.”

Plans were to construct a theatre which would be able to show a higher grade of motion pictures, and also have a stage sufficient to accommodate larger theatrical companies.

Martin D. Thomas, then manager of the **Bijou Theatre** at **104-106 West Ludington Street**, was to manage the new house.

By **June 8, 1916**, Contractor **Anton Meinch (1867-1936)** was removing the frame buildings which Brauns had sold to **Joseph Tamborini (1856-1929)**, and excavating for the new “opera house” was to commence as soon as the buildings were moved.



Boys waited on the street in front of the Colonial Theater in 1920 for the Saturday matinee.

The **Colonial Theatre**, built in the **summer and early fall of 1916**, occupied **209-211 East Ludington Street**. The new theater opened Saturday, **December 16, 1916**. This photograph appeared in an edition of *The Iron Mountain News* during the Iron Mountain Centennial and is the only photograph found to date showing this important part of our history. [Keith Houtari]

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 68: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 201-223 EAST LUDINGTON STREET

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An article in **October 26, 1916** edition of *The Iron Mountain Press* stated that the new opera house would “be illuminated with one thousand electric lamps, many of them of large power.” The brick masons had finished work on the building and the scenery loft was almost enclosed. Plumbers were then engaged in installing the heating, ventilating and water systems. The ventilating system was to include all that was “new and modern.”

The **Colonial Theatre**, described in the **December 14, 1916** edition of *The Iron Mountain Press*, as “Iron Mountain’s beautiful new play-house,” opened Saturday evening, **December 16, 1916** with “Poor Little Peppina,” starring **Mary Pickford**, America’s sweetheart in motion pictures.

For the grand opening all seats in all departments sold for twenty-five cents. The usual admission prices for motion performances were: main floor, 15 cents; balcony, 10 cents; and box seats, 25 cents. Seats in boxes could be reserved for all occasions.

The Colonial was constructed of tile with a covering of grey stucco. The front had “a most artistic design” with 60 feet of frontage on East Ludington Street. At the alley, the building was 75 feet wide, and the total depth was 120 feet.

The main auditorium had a bowl-shaped concrete floor and could be flushed directly into the sewer system, “ensuring the utmost cleanliness.” There were 550 upholstered opera chairs of the latest design on the main floor, while the balcony contained 360 opera chairs “of comfortable design.” There were three boxes, each with a seating capacity of seven persons. The chairs in the boxes were “of a neat wicker pattern.” Thus, the theatre had a seating capacity of 931, affording everyone “an unobstructed view of the entire stage.”

The stage had an opening 32x18 feet with a height of 50 feet from the floor to the gridiron and was 30 feet deep. It was arranged so the largest attractions could be booked. The dressing rooms were large and comfortable and there were toilet rooms for women and men.

The “machine operating room” (projection booth) was located in the front of the house directly under the balcony. It was fire-proof in every respect, ample in size, well ventilated and equipped with two of the latest motor driven machines (projectors).

The entrance to the theatre was very roomy, featuring “an artistic tile floor” and mahogany swinging doors. To the left of the lobby was a rest room for ladies with a toilet. The men’s restroom was on the right. Both were equipped with sanitary fixtures.

The ventilating system consisted of “what is known as the force system with which all modern theatres are now equipped,” while the heating plant had what was known as “the down draft boiler system.”

The plans for the theatre were made by **Architect Charlton**, of Marquette, and the building was erected under the supervision of **Hans Nelson**.

An article appearing in the third edition of Iron Mountain’s new newspaper, *The Iron Mountain Daily News*, dated Wednesday, **April 13, 1921**, an article announced that the exterior alterations to the **Bijou Theatre** were nearing completion. The Bijou reopened on Monday, **April 25, 1921**, and the **Colonial Theatre** closed for a complete remodeling and interior redecoration on Friday, **May 29, 1921**.

The remodeling project included removing the partitions at the rear and at both sides of the entrance and widening both the foyer and the rear of the theatre

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 68: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 201-223 EAST LUDINGTON STREET

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proper. The stairs at the left of the entrance which led to the balcony were to be torn out and a new and wider flight built to replace them. In addition, all new seats were to be placed in the balcony “with the addition of a loge box arrangement similar to that used in a number of the more modern picture theatres throughout the country.” The loge boxes were mainly used to accommodate private theatre parties.

New Simplex projectors and Idealite screens were placed in both the Bijou and Colonial theatres at the time of the remodeling.

When the remodeling was completed, the **Colonial Theatre** seated 900 patrons and was used largely for showing larger feature pictures, as well as road shows. The **Bijou**, accommodating 700 patrons, was used only for lighter attractions and was a motion picture theatre only.

Just two years later the **Colonial Theatre** was once again redecorated. An article in the **June 30, 1923** edition of *The Iron Mountain News* reported that “the Colonial Theatre will within the next several weeks be transformed into the prettiest theatre in Cloverland, according to plans for remodeling and redecorating the interior.”

A contract for the work was closed by **Martin Dawe Thomas (1889-1968)**, manager, and the **Decorative Supply Company** and **Andrew Jasinski & Company**, both firms being located in Chicago.

The plans called for a large amount of decorative plaster work, including pilasters on the side walls and fancy moldings around the proscenium. The theatre was to be thoroughly renovated, the color scheme of the painting consisting of old rose and gold and gray. **Ernest Bond**, local decorator, was associated in the work.

The box office was removed and a new one built in the center of the lobby. New

entrance doors were installed and the outside canopy rebuilt and painted.

The entire gallery of the theatre was equipped with new seats and repairs were made to the seats on the first floor. In addition, all aisles were thickly carpeted and new lighting fixtures installed throughout.

In **1925** the **Colonial Theatre** occupied **209-211 East Ludington Street**. **August E. Brauns** was the president and **Martin D. Thomas** was the secretary-treasurer of the **Colonial Theatre Company**.

A modernization program for both the **Braumart** and **Colonial** theatres, operated by the **Braumart Theater Company**, was undertaken in the **summer of 1935**. An article in the **July 29, 1935** edition of the *Iron Mountain News* announced that the **Colonial Theater** would open with a matinee performance on Monday, **August 3, 1935**.

Both the exterior and interior of the theater had been rebuilt and decorated along new and modern lines.

All decorating of the Colonial, inside and out, was “designed and executed” by the **Bond Decorating Company**. The exterior had a terra cotta base, trimmed in dark brown. The terra cotta was “high-lighted” to bring out a more effective blend with the trimming.

Inside the decorative scheme was worked out in a grayish-tan theme, with mulberry paneling, trimmed in gold. The wainscoting along the walls was of gray-tan, the outer panels of mulberry, with gold borders, and the inner panels of light green. The ceiling was finished in ivory, and the same grayish-tan motif prevailed in the balcony and corridors.

High intensity lamps, a new generator, a new wide range Western Electric sound system and an improved screen brought the projection and sound equipment up to

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 68: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 201-223 EAST LUDINGTON STREET

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the highest approved standards. The new marquee at the front of the theater contained hundreds of electric lamps and many feet of neon tubing to present a striking color effect.

Seats, all reconditioned, which had recently been removed from the **Braumart** to make room for new ones, provided added comfort for patrons of the **Colonial**.

The Colonial Theatre was still here in **1939** with **Russell McNamee** serving as manager. By 1941-1942 **Alfred Wright** was listed as the manager and by **1946** **Charles Nelson** held that position.

The **Colonial Theater**, closed in **June 1952**, was reopened on Christmas Day of that same year with **Frank Osteroth**, of Hancock, a Korean War veteran, named manager. An article in the **December 16, 1952** edition of the *Iron Mountain News* also noted that redecorating and cleaning of the theater under Osteroth's supervision was underway in preparation for the December 25 opening.

There were no listings for **209 East Ludington Street** from **1959 through 2000**. The area of **209-211 East Ludington Street** is now occupied by a city parking lot.

History of 211: In **1902-1903** **Sol Noble's** blacksmith shop was located at this address and he boarded at the **Wabash Hotel**, run by **Mrs. D. Jarvis** upstairs at **319 South Stephenson Avenue**. There was no listing for this address in **1907-1908** or **1913**.

By the **summer of 1916** the **Colonial Theatre** was under construction at **209-211 East Ludington Street**. This address formed a part of the Colonial Theatre property until it was razed. [See *History of 209* above for more information.]

Apparently, the numbering system on the **200 block of East Ludington Street**

was modified, perhaps following the construction of the Colonial Theatre.

In **1946** the **Dickinson County Veteran's Counseling Center** was listed at **211 East Ludington Street** with **Frieda J. (Linkin) Engblom (1893-1988)** serving as director.

In **1959** the **Iron Mountain-Kingsford Broadcasting Company** studio for the **WMIQ Radio Station**, managed by **William C. Johnson**, was located here. Officers of the Iron Mountain-Kingsford Broadcasting Company were **Frank J. Russell, Jr.**, president; **Lester S. Staple**, secretary-treasurer; and **William C. Johnson**, general manager. The company was an affiliate of the American Broadcasting Company and the Associated Press News Service.

From **1961 through 1972** the **WMIQ Radio Station of the Iron Mountain-Kingsford Broadcasting Company**, managed by **William C. Johnson**, was located at **211 East Ludington Street**.

The address was listed as vacant from **1973 through 1975**.

From **1977 through 1980** *The Iron Mountain News* business office was located here. In **1981** the newspaper name was changed to *The Daily News*, still occupying this space as the business office.

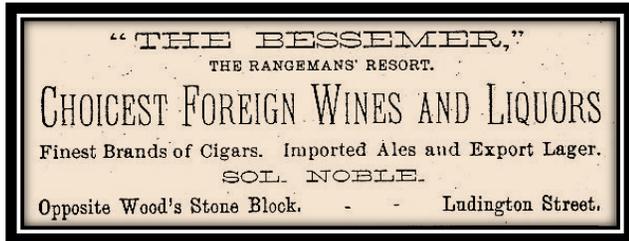
From **1982 through 2000** there was no listing for this address. The building had been incorporated into the newspaper offices.

History of 213: **Sol Noble** ran "Sample rooms" at this address in **1892-1894**. In **Walter R. Nursey's** *The Menominee Iron Range: Its Cities, Their Industries and Resources* published in **1891** Sol Noble's saloon was called **The Bessemer**, "the Rangeman's Resort," located opposite **Wood's Stone Block**, advertising "Choicest Foreign Wines and Liquors –

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 68: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 201-223 EAST LUDINGTON STREET

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Finest Brands of Cigars – Imported Ales and Export Lager.



There was no listing for this address in **1902-1903** or in **1907-1908**.

However, in **1913** **John Obermeyer** ran his plumbing and heating business at this location. It is also possible that **John Obermeyer's** plumbing and heating business, listed at this address was actually located at **215 East Ludington Street** where **Theodore Firme** had worked at the same business in **1902-1903** and **1907-1908**. Firme conducted his plumbing business at **113 South Stephenson Avenue** in **1913**.

The Style Shop, operated by **John Obermeyer** and his wife **Maud Obermeyer**, sold ladies' clothing here in **1925**.

Thomas J. Horton ran a restaurant with his wife **Elizabeth Horton** at this address in **1935**. By **1939** **Horton's Café** was managed by **Mrs. Betty Cunningham**.

The **1941-1942** directory listed **Nelson's Food Mart**, operated by **John C. Nelson**, at **211 East Ludington Street**, but that address was part of the **Colonial Theatre**, and **213 East Ludington Street**, listed as vacant, was certainly the address of this business.

In **1946** the **U.P. Office Supply Company**, managed by **Sidney "Sid"**

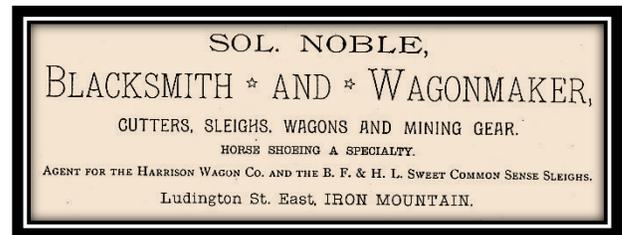
Charles Yelland (1899-1968) did business here.

There were no listings for this address from **1959 through 2000**.

History of 215: **Sol Noble's** advertisement for "single and double wagons" in the **April 18, 1889** edition of *The Menominee Range* documents his early occupancy of this site as follows:

For Sale.

Sol Noble has single and double wagons, manufactured by himself, and warranted to be strong and well made, that he will sell at reasonable prices. If in need of one don't fail to give him a call. Shop on Ludington street, opposite Wood's block.



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

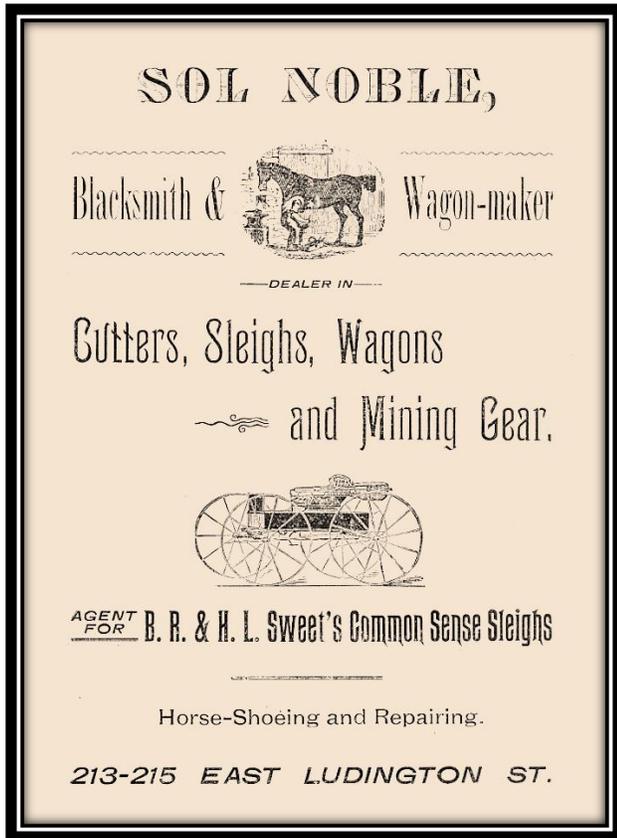
Sol Noble, a "manufacturer and dealer in wagons, carriages and sleighs" at this location advertised in *Bunn & Simmons' Iron Mountain City Directory 1892-94* also noting: "Blacksmithing and general job work. Vehicles made to order."

His advertisement in **1892-1894** noted he dealt in "cutters, sleighs, wagons and mining gear," did "horse-shoeing and repairing" and was the "agent for B.R. and H.L. Sweet's Common Sense Sleighs."

His saloon – **The Bessemer** – was located next door at **213 East Ludington Street**, just west of **Sol Noble, Blacksmith and Wagonmaker**.

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 68: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 201-223 EAST LUDINGTON STREET

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

In 1902-1903 Theodore Firm & Company, plumbers, was in business at this address. Erroneously listed at 217 East Ludington Street in the street index in 1907-1908, Theodore H. Firme, Sr. (1864-1924) still worked in "plumbing and heating" at this location at that time. There was no listing for this address in 1913. It is possible that John Obermeyer (1870-1961)'s plumbing and heating business, listed at 213 East Ludington Street was actually located here at that time, as Theodore Firme was conducting his plumbing business at 113 South Stephenson Avenue in 1913.

In 1925 the Iron Mountain Publishing Company, *The Iron Mountain News*,

Upper Peninsula Office Supply Company and Western Union Telegraph Company were all located here. The Iron Mountain Publishing Company was run by Frank J. Russell, president, and Otto C. Davidson, secretary and treasurer. *The Iron Mountain News* was produced by Thomas J. Masterson, managing editor, and William F. Russell, business manager. The Upper Peninsula Office Supply Company, a branch of the Marquette-based firm, was operated by Paul J. Gingrass, local manager. The company advertised itself as being "Commercial Stationers and Printers," selling "Wholesale School Supplies and Equipment, Wood and Steel Filing Devices and Office Furniture, Typewriters and Typewriter Supplies and Repairs for Machines of All Kinds, Sole Distributors in Dickinson County for Royal, Woodstock and Corona Typewriters." Bessie E. Anderson managed the Western Union Telegraph Company office.

In 1935 Frank J. Russell worked as editor of *The Iron Mountain News* with Thomas J. Masterson still serving as managing editor and William F. Russell still listed as business manager. Thomas J. Masterson was also managing editor and William F. Russell was business manager for the Iron Mountain Publishing Company in 1935. Sidney C. Yelland managed the Upper Peninsula Office Supply Company in 1935, and the Western Union Telegraph Company office was still managed by Bessie E. Anderson. The management of both of these businesses, located on the ground floor of the building, remained the same in 1939 and again in 1941-1942.

In 1939 the Iron Mountain Publishing Company, located upstairs, continued to publish *The Iron Mountain News* with Frank J. Russell, editor. In the 1941-1942 city directory the Iron Mountain Publishing

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 68: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 201-223 EAST LUDINGTON STREET

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Company officers were listed as follows:
Frank J. Russell, president; **Otto C. Davidson**, vice-president; **William F.**

Russell, secretary, treasurer and manager of the newspaper.



The Iron Mountain News was established on **April 11, 1921**, by **Frank J. Russell, Sr.** Pictured here is the Editorial Department office of the newly-established newspaper, taken in about **1922**. **Thomas J. Masterson**, managing editor, was at his typewriter at the left and the man wearing the hat was probably **Clyde J. McCauley**, telegrapher and sports editor. The woman at the lower left is **Violet (Serena) Tomassoni**. Russell purchased *The Tribune-Gazette* and *The Iron Mountain Press* which were merged into the new newspaper. *The Tribune* was started in **1897**, and *The Gazette* was founded in **1896**, the same year as *The Iron Mountain Press*. Thus, *The Iron Mountain News* was, in essence, a merger of three early Iron Mountain newspapers. [Menominee Range Historical Museum]

**History of
*The Iron Mountain Daily News***

Early in **1921** **Frank J. Russell, Sr.**, the publisher of *The Marquette Mining Journal*, purchased two existing Iron Mountain newspapers, *The Tribune-Gazette* and *The*

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 68: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 201-223 EAST LUDINGTON STREET

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Iron Mountain Press, which ceased publication shortly thereafter, and established a new family newspaper, *The*

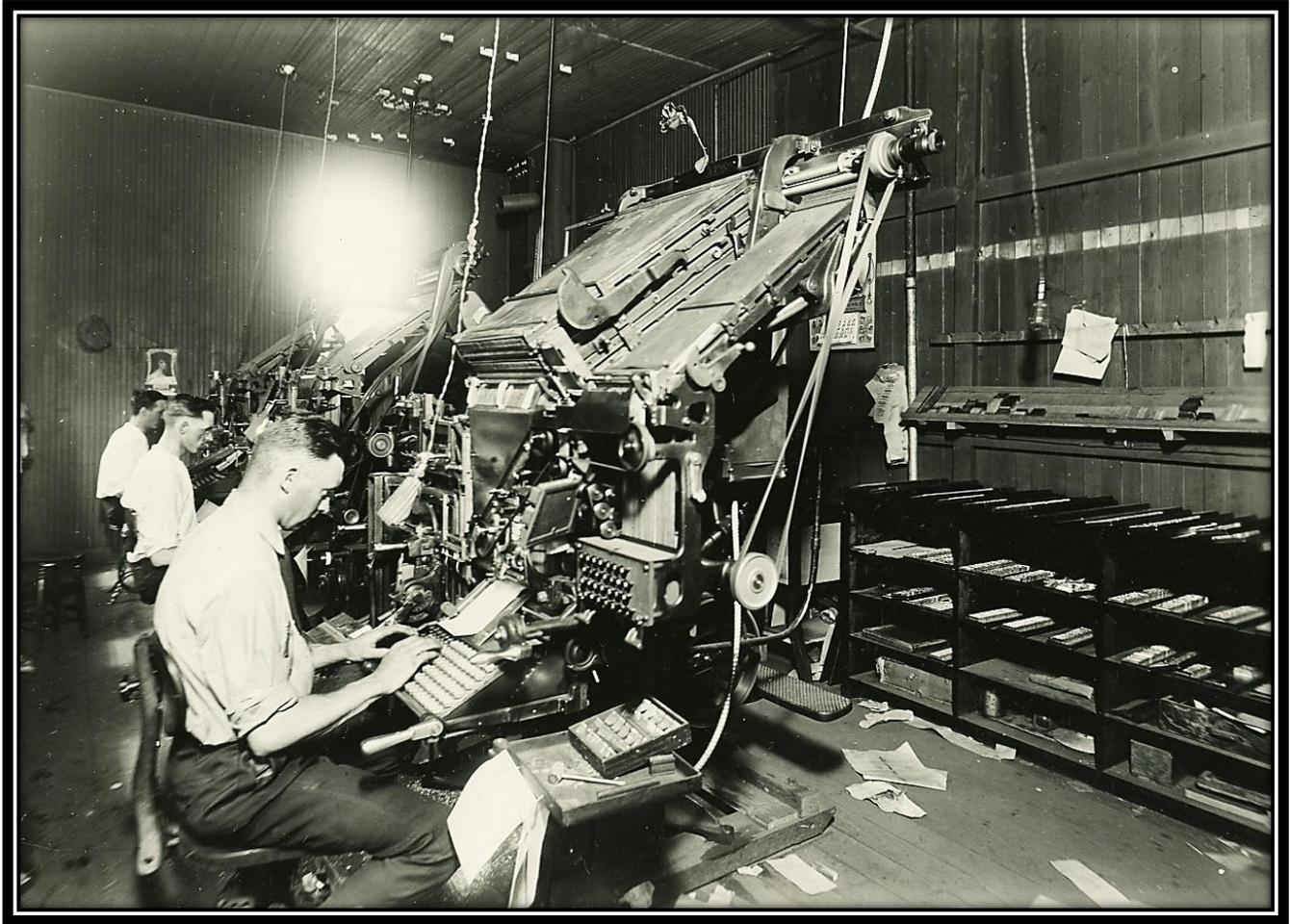
Iron Mountain Daily News, which began publication on Monday, **April 11, 1921**.



Mose Antonini (left), **Forest Extrand** (center) and **Matthew H. Doney** (right) were compositors, working in the composing room laying out pages of *The Iron Mountain News* in the **early 1920s** in preparation for printing. During much of the letterpress era, movable type was composed by hand for each page. Cast metal sorts were composed into words, then lines, then paragraphs, then pages of text and tightly bound together to make up a form, with all letter faces exactly the same “height to paper”, creating an even surface of type. The form was placed in a press, inked, and an impression made on paper. During typesetting, individual sorts were picked from a type case with the right hand and set into a composing stick held in the left hand from left to right, and as viewed by the setter upside down. Wooden printing sorts were in use for centuries in combination with metal type. Set width, like body size, was measured in points. The compositors held a composing stick and selected sorts or letters. They stood in front of two cases with the upper case containing capital letters and the lower case containing small letters, resulting in the terms “upper case” and “lower case” when referring to printed material. [Menominee Range Historical Museum]

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Albert P. Miller (front) was a Linotype machine operator at *The Iron Mountain News*, pictured here in **about 1922**. The two men in the background are unidentified. The time and effort required to manually compose the text led to several efforts in the 19th century to produce mechanical typesetting. By the end of the 19th century, several methods had been devised whereby an operator working a keyboard or other devices could produce the desired text. Most of the successful systems involved the in-house casting of the type to be used, hence are termed "hot metal" typesetting. The Linotype machine, invented in **1884**, used a keyboard to assemble the casting matrices, and cast an entire line of type at a time (hence its name). *The Iron Mountain News* began operations using "hot type" letterpress printing presses and manual typewriters. The operators typed the copy written by the reporters and "slugs" of type – literally a line of type – were automatically cast and dropped into columns. Occasionally lines fell into the columns out of order and were printed that way. The lead was melted and reused with each edition of the newspaper. *The Iron Mountain News* switched to "cold type" or an offset printing press on **March 9, 1975**. The Iron Mountain printing presses were dismantled when the **Powers Printing Company** facility began operations in **July 1977**. [Menominee Range Historical Museum]

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 68: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 201-223 EAST LUDINGTON STREET

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[**BACKGROUND NOTE:** *The Daily Tribune* began publication in **1897**, and *The Evening Gazette* was founded in **1896**. **Walter Hosking** purchased *The Daily Tribune* in **1900**. In **1905**, Hosking purchased *The Evening Gazette*, combining it with *The Daily Tribune* to form *The Tribune-Gazette*. *The Iron Mountain Press* began publication in **1896**.]

On Saturday, **February 25, 1922**, the **101 East Ludington Street** plant of *The Iron Mountain News* was totally wrecked. Publication resumed on Wednesday, **May 3, 1922**, in Iron Mountain, when the name of the newspaper was changed from *The Iron Mountain Daily News* to *The Iron Mountain News*. During the interval, the newspaper had been published at *The Mining Journal* plant at Marquette.



The remains of the **101 East Ludington Street plant** of *The Iron Mountain News* after the Saturday fire on Sunday, **February 26, 1922**. [Don Khoury]

According to the article in the **May 3, 1922** edition of *The Iron Mountain News*, when the debris of the fire had been cleared away, it was found that the big Duplex press was practically the only piece of equipment that could be salvaged, the remaining machinery having been

hopelessly wrecked by the heat and the collapse of the building. Most of the records, and a few cases of type were saved.

Before the ruins were fairly cold, wires had been sent to the offices of various machinery and equipment concerns requesting the immediate dispatch of men to Iron Mountain. Before the end of the next week, orders for a complete new plant had been placed.

Initially “rebuilding on the old site was proposed, but it finally was decided to take advantage of the larger frontage available” between **The Style Shop**, owned and operated by **John Obermeyer** and his wife **Maud Obermeyer** at **213 East Ludington Street**, and **Iron Mountain Electric Light & Power Company**, located at **217 East Ludington Street**, across from the post office,” then located in the Iron Mountain City Hall building.

Accordingly, a tract 30 by 70 feet was purchased, and excavation of that part of the basement which would house the big press started at once by **Anton Miench**, contractor. When the concrete foundations for the 45-ton machine were completed, it was dismantled and moved to its new location, covered by a temporary structure.

The permanent building was erected around it.

With the pressroom problem settled, establishment of the composing room remained a question. Temporary offices had been set up in the rear of the **Commercial Bank**, through the courtesy of that institution, but finding of quarters large enough to accommodate the typesetting machines, cabinets, imposing stones, stereotyping and other equipment promised to be more of a problem. Tentative arrangements were made for the use of the **Sundstrom block on East Flesheim Street**, but sale of the property prevented

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 68: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 201-223 EAST LUDINGTON STREET

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

*their consummation. At this time, **Payant Bros.** moved into their new building at **Merritt Avenue and A Street**, and *The News* secured the old quarters in the **Flanagan building on East A Street**.*

*Most of the mechanical force had been dispatched to Marquette to aid in getting out the paper there, the news and business staff continuing to function here. With the assistance of the employees who remained, together with some help from outside, the equipment was moved into the temporary building and set up. **Raymond Golk**, of the **Mergenthaler Linotype Co.**, came here to erect the three new typesetting machines and **J.G. Dannenfeld**, of the **Duplex Printing Press Co.**, Battle Creek, Mich., had charge of moving the big press, which he had set up in its original location to the site of the new building.*

The Iron Mountain News announced in its Friday, **January 9, 1925** edition, that its publishers had authorized **Freeman “Fred” E. Parmelee (1864-1947)** to prepare plans for a 50-foot addition at the rear of their building.

According to the article, “The addition would conform in type of construction to the present structure, with steel carrying beams for the first and second floors, steel joists and reinforced concrete floors, making the structure one of semi-fireproof type.”

There would be only a minimal amount of wood in the building. A full concrete basement was to be built, and the total floor space would measure over 6,000 square feet, all of which the publishers ultimately planned to use for their purposes.

The plans called for quarters for the office force that would take in the present editorial room and the provision of much more spacious editorial rooms than those then in use in the part of the building then occupied by the linotypes and makeup tables.

The new arrangement would relieve the badly over-crowded editorial and office quarters in use at that time and provide for the necessary increases of force in both departments.

The plans also included foundations for the sixteen page tubular press which was to be built that year by the Battle Creek Printing Press Company for *The Iron Mountain News* to be ready for delivery **August 1**, and for the stereotyping plant that would be installed in connection therewith.

In its Saturday, **February 28, 1925** edition, *The Iron Mountain News* proudly announced that beginning Monday, **March 2, 1925**, the newspaper would be daily receiving the full leased wire report of the Associated Press which would bring with it “full and complete reports of all important news events outside of Iron Mountain and market reports, including the New York closing quotations.”

The operator would take this report from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. every day, receiving it on a telegraph set installed in editorial rooms.

The Iron Mountain News began operations using “hot type” letterpress printing presses and manual typewriters. Letterpress print presses used melted lead to set the type.

In **1946** the **Western Union** office was located at this address.

In **1959** the **Iron Mountain Publishing Company**, publisher of *The Iron Mountain News*, was listed with the following officers: **Frank J. Russell, Jr.**, president, Marquette, Michigan; **Marjorie Russell**, vice-president, Marquette, Michigan; **Lester S. Staple (1909-1990)**, secretary-treasurer. Frank J. Russell, Jr. was listed as the publisher of the newspaper, **Lawrence David Tucker (1894-1966)** was the editor and Lester S. Staple was the business manager.

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 68: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 201-223 EAST LUDINGTON STREET

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian



Taken in the **summer of 2010**, this photograph shows **The Voice Works** at 217 East Ludington Street at the far left, formerly home to the **Iron Mountain Power & Light Company**, the **Peninsula Power Company** and the **Wisconsin-Michigan Power Company**. **The Daily News** occupied 215 and 213 East Ludington Street, formerly home to **Sol Noble**, manufacturer of wagons, carriages and sleighs as well as blacksmithing; **Theodore Firme & Company**, plumbing; and the **Iron Mountain Publishing Company**, publisher of **The Iron Mountain News**. The Daily News building (213) at the far right was located on the site of **Sol Noble's** sample room (saloon) **The Bessemer**. The **Colonial Theatre** was located on the site where a city parking lot is now located. [William J. Cummings]

From **1961 through 1964** the officers of the **Iron Mountain Publishing Company** and administrative staff of **The Iron Mountain News** remained the same as in **1959** except for a new editor, **Elmer O. "Buck" Erickson (1915-1974)**.

In **1966** the **Panax Corporation** was listed as publisher of **The Iron Mountain News** with **Lester S. Staple** serving as secretary-treasurer-general manager and **Elmer O. "Buck" Erickson** continuing as editor.

Officers of the **Panax Corporation** were included in the **1967** listing for **The Iron Mountain News** as follows: **John P. McGoff**, president; **Michael L. Dow**, vice-president; **Lester S. Staple**, general manager; **W.H. Treloar**, publisher; **Elmer O. "Buck" Erickson**, editor.

In **1969** the officers listing was the same as above except **Ray Crandall** was now editor. In **1970** the listing was the same as **1969** except **W.H. Treloar** was not listed as publisher.

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 68: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 201-223 EAST LUDINGTON STREET

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

From **1971 through 1973** the officers listing for *The Iron Mountain News*, a member of the **Panax Corporation**, was as follows: **John P. McGoff**, president; **Michael L. Dow**, vice-president-treasurer; **Lester S. Staple**, general manager; and **Ray Crandall**, editor.

From **1974 through 1977** the officers listing for *The Iron Mountain News*, a member of the **Panax Corporation**, was as follows: **John P. McGoff**, president; **Harold “Sody” Soderberg (1923-2012)**, general manager; and **Ray Crandall**, editor.

The Iron Mountain News, the county’s only daily newspaper, switched to “cold type” or an offset printing press on **March 9, 1975**.

In **1977** *The Daily News* and *The Daily Press* of Escanaba constructed a multi-million-dollar printing facility at Powers, where both newspapers were printed. The Iron Mountain printing presses were dismantled when the **Powers Printing Company** facility began operations in **July 1977**.

As it began serving a greater regional area, the name was changed from *The Iron Mountain News* to *The Daily News* in **1978**.

As part of Panax Corp., *The Daily News* published a Sunday newspaper – the **U.P. Sunday Times**. It first appeared on the newsstands on **March 1, 1978**. It ceased publication on **July 27, 1980**.

In **1978** *The Daily News/Sunday Times* was listed as a part of the **Panax Corporation** with **John P. McGoff**, president; **Harold “Sody” Soderberg**, publisher; and **Ray Crandall**, editor. In **1979** the listing was the same except **Gregory Placin** was listed as the publisher.

In **1980** *The Daily News* was listed with **Gregory Placin**, publisher, and **Ray Crandall**, editor. In **1981** *The Daily News*

was listed with **Raymond E. Linders**, publisher, and **Ray Crandall**, editor.

In **1982** *The Daily News* was part of **Thompson Newspapers, Inc.** with **St. Claire McCabe**, president; **William M. Seymour**, vice-president, secretary-treasurer with local officials for *The Daily News* listed as **Donald Hogan**, publisher, and **Ray Crandall**, editor. The listing was the same as **1984**.

The news and classified advertising departments of *The Daily News* began using video display terminals (VDTs) in **March 1983**.

In **1985** and **1986** the following officials were in charge of *The Daily News*: **Donald Hogan**, publisher; **Blaine Hyska (1952-2015)**, editor; **Robert J. Johnson**, advertising director; and **Mike Scheopf**, circulation director.

From **1987 through 2000** **Robert J. Johnson** was publisher and **Blaine Hyska (1952-2015)** served as editor of *The Daily News*. The advertising director was **Dennis M. Gillund (1987-1988)**, **Jon Cantrell (1989-1998)**, and **Heather Summers (1999-2000)**. The circulation director was **Michael C. Schoepf (1985-1986)**, **Kent Reeves (1987-1988)**, **Jack D. O’Brion (1989-1990)**, **Scott Pierce (1991-1992)**, **Tracy Funke (1993-1995)**, **Tracy (Funke) Setner (1996-1998)** and **Gerald Newhouse (1999-2000)**.

After a computer upgrade, full computer pagination was implemented in the **spring of 1991**.

The Daily News was purchased by **Ogden News Publishing of Michigan** in **XXXX**, and is currently [2010] owned and operated by that company under the name **Ogden Newspapers Inc. of Michigan**.

History of 217: In **1892-1893** **G.A. Malmgren**, a druggist and “Dealer in Drugs, Medicines, Toilet and Fancy Articles, Paints, Oils, Wall Paper, Books. Stationery,

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 68: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 201-223 EAST LUDINGTON STREET

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

Cigars, Confectionery and Druggists' Sundries," ran his drug store at **207 South Stephenson Avenue**, advertising "Prescriptions accurately compounded," and resided at this address, as did **Alexander McDonald**, a fireman at the **Pewabic Mine**.

August Williams lived here in **1902-1903**, operating his confectionery store down the block at **201 East Ludington Street**. In **1907-1908** the **White Steam Laundry**, **J. Pattinson**, proprietor, was located at this address.

By **1913** the **Iron Mountain Electric Light & Power Company** had its office here with **Otto Conrad Davidson (1857-1943)** serving as president, **Lewis T. Sterling** serving as secretary and treasurer and **George Irving** working as superintendent. The **Peninsula Power Company** was also headquartered here in **1913** with **Otto Conrad Davidson** serving as president, **F.E. Turneure** serving as secretary and treasurer and **Lewis T. Sterling** working as the local agent for the company. In **1925** the Iron Mountain Electric Light & Power Company continued to maintain its office at this location, managed by **Victor Emanuel Engblom (1890-1952)**.

By **1935** the **Wisconsin-Michigan Power Company** was operating here with **Mitchell G. Gorrow**, manager of the Northern Division in charge and **John D. Boyle** serving as sales manager. In **1939** the Wisconsin-Michigan Power Company was located on the ground floor with **Leo Winton Wyss, Jr. (1918-1958)** serving as district manager, and General Offices *[no further explanation in the city directory, but probably general offices for the Wisconsin-Michigan Power Company]* were located on the second floor. Leo W. Wyss was listed as district manager for the Wisconsin-Michigan Power Company in the **1941-1942**

directory. In 1946 James D. Vandehev was manager for the Wisconsin-Michigan Power Company.

In **1959** the building at this address was listed as empty.

From **1961 through 1967** **Jay's Sewing Center** occupied this address with **Roy P. Bosley** and **Paul J. Bosley**, proprietors. By **1967 through 1975** the business was known as **Jay's Sewing & Music Center** under the same ownership, dealing in organs, pianos, sewing machines, television sets and stereo equipment, and also did repair service. In **1976** Paul J. Bosley was listed as operating Jay's Sewing & Music Center, but from **1977 through 1981** Roy P. Bosley was listed as the owner. *[See Menominee Range Memories 67 for more information on the Bosley family.]*

From **1967 through 1970** the **Ford Motor Company Mining Properties** maintained an office in this building with **Victor E. Kral** serving as resident manager.

From **1971 and 1978** the **Metropolitan Life Insurance Company's** office was here. **Rudolph M. Maki** was listed agency manager from **1971 through 1977**. In **1974** **Lee Erkkila**, **Joseph Santi**, **Jay Hunter**, **David Tauscheck**, **Kenneth Bellmore** and **Bernard Menghini** were listed as agents. In **1977** **Dennis Theisen**, **Tom Burlo** and **James Sparapani** were also listed as agents and David Tauscheck and Bernard Menghini were not listed. In **1978** **Robert L. Werner** served as agency manager with Rudolph M. Maki as a CLU sales representative and Joseph Santi, Kenneth Bellmore, **Noreen Rice** and **Allen R. Fagan** listed as agents.

From **1973 through 1975** the **Northern Adjustment Company**, operated by **Donald Ludwig**, provided insurance adjustments.

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 68: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 201-223 EAST LUDINGTON STREET

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

In **1979** the upstairs offices were listed as vacant.

From **1981 through 1984 Northern Stationers**, managed by **David Carey**, sold business machines and office supplies here.

From **1980 through 2000** there were two apartments listed upstairs.

From **1985 through 1987** the store downstairs was listed as vacant.

In **1988 La Court Upholstery & Sewing Center**, operated by **John La**

Court, offered custom sewing, sales and installation for commercial, residential, industrial and automotive projects.

From **1989 through 1992 Shirt Tales**, owned by **Todd Lindeman**, did silk screen printing and sold hats, jackets, shirts, transfers, team uniforms.

In **1993 and 1994 North Star Taxidermy** occupied this store, but no owner was listed.

In **2000 Nocerini Construction**, general contractors, occupied this address.



Taken in the summer of 2010, this photograph shows 221, 219, 217 and 215-213 East Ludington Street. The building at 221 is an apartment house, 217 a residence, 217 The Voice Works and 215-213 The Daily News. The Voice Works at 217 East Ludington Street at the far left, formerly home to the Iron Mountain Power & Light Company, the Peninsula Power Company and the Wisconsin-Michigan Power Company. [William J. Cummings]

History of 219: **Michael Tearney**, a laborer, resided here in **1892-1893**. By **1902-1903 Peter Murray**, a brakeman, lived at this address.

Charles W. Palmer (1863-1920), a railroad worker, resided here with his wife **Isabelle “Belle” Palmer** in **1907-1908**.

Charles W. Palmer, a switchman, still lived at this address with his wife “Isabell” Palmer in **1913**.

Mrs. Charles Palmer died in **February 1915** and her remains were taken to Atwater, Wisconsin, to be interred by her parents, according to an entry in Find A

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 68: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 201-223 EAST LUDINGTON STREET

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

Grave. On **November 13, 1886**, **Minnie Effie Palmer**, infant daughter of **Charles and “Bell” Palmer**, under one year of age, died in Breen Township, Menominee County (now Dickinson County), Michigan. Minnie Effie Palmer was born **November 30, 1885** in Waucedah and died of membranous croup **on October 13, 1886**, in Waucedah at ten months. She is buried in Iron Mountain Cemetery Park.



Mrs. Elizabeth Palmer, widow of Charles Palmer, still resided at this address in **1925**, according to the city directory.

In **1935** this address was listed as “vacant.”

Charles C. Rouse, who worked for the W.P.A., lived here with his wife **Lina Rouse**, as well as **Frances Rouse**, who worked in **Horton’s Café**, **Kenneth Rouse** and **Milton Rouse**, a student, by **1939**. In the **1941-1942** city directory Charles C. Rouse, listed as working in Michigamme, his wife Lina Rouse and Frances Rouse, listed as a clerk at Woolworth’s, resided here. In **1946** Charles Rouse resided here, as did **Emma Raymore**.

The house apparently was divided into two apartments for most of the years between **1959 and 2000**.

History of 221: **Joseph A. Keast**, a miner, lived here in **1892-1893**, and was still at this address in **1902-1903**, working as a miner. **Emma Keast** also resided here at that time, as did **Mary L. Keast**, a collector for the **Electric Light & Power Company**. In **1907-1908** Joseph Keast, a miner, lived here with his wife **Elizabeth Keast**, as well as Emma Keast and Mary Keast, a bookkeeper.



MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 68: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 201-223 EAST LUDINGTON STREET

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

Joseph A. Keast was born in **1847** in Cornwall, England, and died in **January 1917** at his daughter's home in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. **Elizabeth Keast**, wife of Joseph A. Keast, was born in **1848** and died **April 37, 1936** in Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin, at the home of her daughter, **Mrs. Robert McClain**.

office at this address in **1913**, and **Richard F. Dundon (1886-1956)**, proprietor of the **Actual Business College (100 East Brown Street)** and his wife **Mae Dundon** lived upstairs at **221 ½ East Ludington Street**. **Ruth F. Dundon (1896-1962)** is buried with him and identified as "MOTHER" on the tombstone below.



Smith & Anderson (James W. Smith and David Anderson), architects, had their

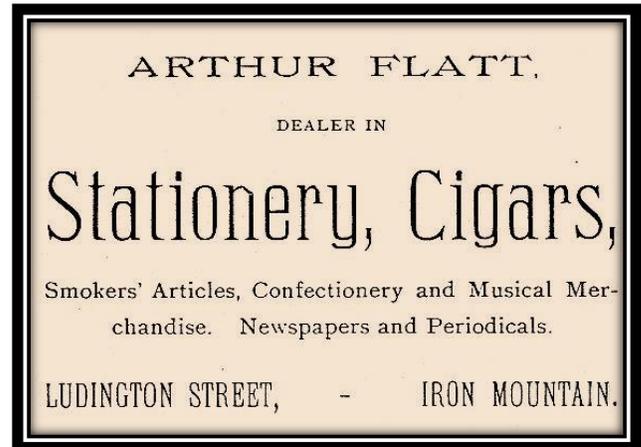
MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 68: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 201-223 EAST LUDINGTON STREET

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

In **1925** **Frank L. Sikora (1888-1963)**, a sawyer, and his wife **Helen Sikora (1889-1962)**, **Axel E. Smeths**, a machinist, and his wife **Ruth Smeths**, and **Ray L. Eastham**, manager of the **Bijou Theater**, and his wife **Winifred A. Eastham**, all resided at this address. **Frank Sikora, Sr.**, now an autoworker, still lived at this address in **1935** with his wife Helen Sikora and **Frank Sikora, Jr. (1914-1993)**, **Fred Sikora**, a student, and **Helen Sikora**, a nurse (who could be his wife or his daughter). Frank J. Sikora, working at the **Ford Motor Company**, still lived here with his wife Helene [*sic – Helen*] Sikora in **1939** and in **1941-1942**, when Frank Sikora, Jr., a sheet metal worker for the **Branz Brothers**, also was listed at this residence. **Roy E. Friestrom (1902-1986)**, a butcher at the **Farm Produce Market**, and his wife **Blanche Evelyn (McDowell) Friestrom (1901-1943)** also lived here in **1941-1942**. In **1946** Frank Sikora still resided at this address, as did **C.M. Peterson**.

From **1959 through 2000** many renters lived in apartments numbering from four to as many as six.

History of 223: **Arthur Flatt**, “Dealer in all the leading papers and periodicals, musical instruments, books, stationery, fancy goods and notions,” ran a news depot and resided at this address in **1892-1893**. There were no further listings for this address.



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