

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 65: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 101-117 WEST BROWN STREET

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

[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 65th 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 – 101-117 West Brown Street."

This was primarily a residential block over the decades, and many residences were vacant or no longer existed as the years passed.

History of 101: John J.B. Orr lived here in **1892-1894** and worked as manager for R.J. Kneebone's meat market at **535 South Stephenson Avenue**. **August Johnson**, a miner, resided here in **1902-1903**. In **1907-1908** **Oscar Sand**, who operated a saloon at **111 East Brown Street**, lived here with his wife **Hilda Sand**. **Hans Nelson** resided at this address with his wife **Anna Nelson** in **1913**.

Gene J. Jacobs lived here with his mother, **Mrs. Mary Jacobs**, widow of **Eugene Jacobs**, in **1925**, and worked as a painter and decorator, advertising "Painting, Decorating, Paperhanging and Kalsomining." Gene J. Jacobs still conducted business as a painter and lived here in **1935**, as did **Frederick W. Johnson** and his wife **Marie Johnson**. Frederick W. Johnson ran a tavern at **204 South Merritt Street**.

By **1939** **Adolph G. Sorenson**, a W.P.A. worker, and his wife **Dorothy Sorenson** resided at this address, and was again listed here with his wife in the **1941-1942** city directory, then working at the **Peninsula Granite & Marble Company**.

Fred J. Sorenson, who did service work for **Henning Pearson**, also was listed here in **1941-1942**, as was **Samuel W. Hocking**, who lived here with his wife **Minnie Hocking**.

In **1946** the address was listed as vacant.

When the city directories again became available beginning in **1959** two apartments contained renters at this residence until **1982 to 1984** when there were no returns. Beginning in **1985** there were no listings for this address through **2000**.

History of 103: **Josiah Davey**, of **Davey & Eaton (Josiah Davey and Fred Eaton)**, operated sample rooms at **207 East Ludington Street**, but lived at this location in **1892-1894**. **John G. Nichols**, a tinsmith for **A.J. Rundle Hardware**, resided here in **1902-1903**. There was no listing for this address in **1907-1908**. **Claude Frickelton**, a conductor, lived here with his wife **Rose Frickelton** in **1913**. By **1925** **Henry Wilcox**, a miner, resided here with his wife **Minnie Wilcox**, as did **Thomas H. Cocking**, a miner, with his wife **Mary Cocking**. Henry and Minnie Wilcox still lived at this address in **1935**. **Samuel Hocking** and his wife **Minnie Hocking** resided here by **1939** [moving to 101 West Brown Street by 1941-1942, see above], and Minnie Wilcox again was listed at this address in **1941-1942**, together with **William Wilcox**, a barber working in **Thomas F. Berdinner's** barbershop at **714 South Stephenson Avenue**, as well as **Clarence Morrison**, a machinist at the **Ford Motor Company**, **Mabel Morrison**, a housewife, and **William H. Morrison**.

In **1946** **Minnie Wilcox** and **Anthony Merhalski** occupied the two apartments in this residence.

When the city directories again became available beginning in **1959** two apartments

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contained renters at this residence until **1972**. Beginning in **1973** there were no listings for this address through **2000**.

History of 105: **C.F. Johnson**, a miner, and **Charles Erickson**, whose name did not appear in the alphabetical listing, lived here in **1892-1894**. **M. Lavine**, a butcher, resided at this address in **1902-1903**. In **1907-1908** **John W. Erickson**, a miner, lived here with his wife **Beda Erickson**. **William Pilley**, a flagman, resided at this location with his wife **Mary Pilley**, as well as **Elmore W. Pilley**, a clerk, in **1913**.

John H. Chapman, Sr., **John H. Chapman, Jr.**, and **Mary Chapman** all lived here in **1925**.

By **1935** this address was home to **Joseph C. Trepanier**, a laborer, his wife **Marion Trepanier**, **Marie Trepanier**, a domestic, and **Theodore Trepanier**. **Clement Trepanier** [*sic* – *Joseph Clement Trepanier*], a W.P.A. worker, and his wife **Marion Trepanier** were still living here in **1939**, and again in **1941-1942**, when the listing was again for **Joseph C. Trepanier** and his wife **Marion Trepanier**.

In **1946** **Daniel Lagman** was listed as residing at this address.

Between 1959 and 1961 the house here was listed as vacant. In **1963 and 1964** **Walter G. Anderson** was listed, and **Robert Anderson** was listed in **1966**.

From **1969 through 2000** there were no listings

History of 107: **Seth Larson**, a policeman, resided here with his wife **Carrie Larson** in **1907-1908**. In **1913** **Peter Broullire**, a bookkeeper, lived at this address with his wife **Minnie Broullire**. **Frank F. Grossbush**, proprietor of the **City Furniture Store**, lived here in **1925**, as did **Mary Grossbush**. **William J. Dabb** resided at this location with his wife **Justine Dabb**, and **William Dabb**, a clerk at

William J. Carbis' grocery store at **201 South Stephenson Avenue**, in **1935**. **William J. Dabb** and his wife **Justine Dabb** still were living here in **1939**, as was **John J. Dabb**, a W.P.A. worker, all three again listed in the **1941-1942** city directory.

In **1946** the residence was listed as vacant. **Between 1959 and 1962** there was no listing, and then in **1963** this address was again vacant.

In **1964** **Charles Bruette** was listed as living here; in **1966** **Leo W. Clash** and **Kathleen Macohn** were listed at this address and in **1967** **Ernest Larson** and **Jack C. West** lived here.

From **1968 through 2000** there were no listings.

History of 109: **Seth Larson**, a policeman, lived here in **1902-1903**. There were no other entries for this address. Since **Seth Larson**, a policeman, lived at **107 West Brown Street** in **1907-1908**, there must have been an error in the **1902-1903** city directory.

History of 111: In **1892-1894** **Herman Borggren** ("The leading Baker. Dealer in all kinds of bread stuff, cakes, cookies, toast, hardtack, etc. Parties and weddings supplied. Confectionery, etc.") operated his bakery and lived at this address. **Isaac Larson**, who worked at the **Pewabic Mine**, and **Rev. Peter Munson**, pastor of the **Swedish M.E. Church**, also resided here at that time. **Isaac Larson**, listed as a baker, lived here in **1902-1903**, was again listed as a baker living at this address with his wife **Lottie Larson** in **1907-1908**, and was again listed as living at this address with his wife **Charlotte (Lottie) Larson** in **1913**, when a "bakershop" was being operated here. The bakery may have been active back in **1902-1903**, when **Isaac Larson** was first listed as a baker.

In **1925** **Lawrence A. Zeugner**, a shoemaker residing in Norway, operated

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his shop here, and the following people were residing at this address: **Mrs. Ida Johnson**, widow of **August Johnson**; **Charles E. Nesbitt**, a machine operator, and his wife **Alberta Nesbitt**; and **James A. Anderson**, a carpenter, and his wife **Eunice Anderson**.

The **Brown Street Market**, operated by **Edward C. Graefe** and **Norman O. Graefe** here in **1935**, advertised “Groceries and Meats, Delivery Service to All Parts of the City.” **Norman O. Graefe** also lived here with his wife **Sylvia Graefe** in **1935**, as did **John F. Gagnon**, an autoworker, and his wife **Marguerite Gagnon**. By **1939** Edward C. Graefe was listed as the sole proprietor of the Brown Street Market. **Elmer L. Koffman** operated the **National Wholesale Company** at this address, according to the **1941-1942** city directory. The business apparently had expanded to encompass **111-113 West Brown Street**. [See the entry for 113 West Brown Street below.]

In **1946** the **Brown Street Market** was again operating at this address with **Edward C. Graefe** and **Norman Graefe**, partners in the business. **Carl Seaberg** and **Leonard Seaberg** also resided here. In **1959** the Brown Street Market was still in business at this location, operated by **Edward C. Graefe**. **William E. Brockington** and **Edward C. Lauger** also lived here.

From **1961 through 1963** **Robert Hoviack** and **Mrs. Ann Lauger** resided here.

In **1964** the **Thrifty Pax Bake Shop**, owned by **Mrs. Elaine Anderson**, sold baked goods at this address. **Mrs. Ann Lauger** still lived here from **1964 through 1967**, but the lower area was listed as vacant. In **1966 and 1977** **Mrs. Martha J. Blixt** also lived here.

From **1969 through 1979** the **Dickinson County Senior Citizens Center**

occupied the lower level. **Gail H. Markell** was president in **1969 and 1970**. **Mrs. Edith M. Long** served as president from **1971 through 1979**. A variety of renters occupied the upstairs apartment between **1969 and 1982**.

In **1981** **Pam’s Feathered Friends**, operated by **Richard F. and Pamela J. Wittcock**, was in business here. The name changed to **Pam’s Pet Shop** under the same ownership in **1982**, offering tropical fish, saltwater fish, birds, small animals, reptiles and supplies.

Between **1984 and 1985** both the upper and lower levels were listed as vacant. Renters were listed sporadically between **1986 and 1990**.

There were no listings from **1991 through 2000**.

History of 113: **Neuens & Roell** (**Henry G. Neuens** and **Edmund F. Roell**), according to their advertisement in **1892-1894**, were “dealers in staple and fancy family groceries, flour, feed and farm produce, crockery, glassware and canned goods. Ladies’, gents’, children’s footwear [*sic*], boots, shoes and rubbers. Special agents for Wilbur’s Seed Meal” at this location. They were at the same address selling groceries in **1902-1903**, were selling “general merchandise” in **1907-1908** and were classified as a “general store” here in **1913**. **Pasquale Mansueto**, a laborer, resided in the rear of the store with his wife **Filomena Mansueto** in **1913**.

By **1925** the business was known as **E.F. Roell & Co.** (**Edmund F. Roell**, **Ewald O. Roell** and **Edward C. Graefe**), still operating as a general store selling “General Merchandise, Staple and Fancy Groceries, Dry Goods, Gold Bond Coffee, Cera Soda Flour, Usinger’s Fine Sausage and Ward’s Bread.”

The address was listed as “vacant” in **1935**. By **1939** the **National Wholesale**

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Company, Elmer L. Koffman, proprietor, was located here. Apparently, the business had expanded to encompass **111-113 West Brown Street** by **1941-1942**. [See the entry for 111 West Brown Street above.]

In **1946** the **Trinity Methodist Church** with **S.D. Kinde**, minister, was listed here, as were **Mary Ambrosia** and **James Gustafson**.

From **1959 through 1963** the address was listed as vacant, and there was no listing from **1964 through 1986**.

From **1987 through 1990** the **United Sign Corporation** (**Lee Iverson**, president; **Paula R. Iverson**, office manager) did business at this location, specializing in professional and commercial signs.

In **1991** **Precision Auto Repair** was operated here by **Al Witte** and **Mark Forgette**, automatic transmission specialists. Precision Auto Repair was also listed separately with **Gary Marsdan** at this address in 1991, advertising auto repair. However only Al Witte and Mark Forgette were listed in **1992** as operating Precision Auto Repair at this address. Between **1993 and 1997** Al Witte was listed as the sole owner of Precision Auto Repair.

There were no listings for this address from **1998 through 2000**.

History of 115: **Robert Drechsler** resided at this address in **1892-1894** and worked as a tailor at **209 East Ludington Street**. There were no further listings for this address from **1902-1903 through 2000**.

History of 117: In **1892-1894** **Edgar W. Lathrop**, a teamster lived here. **O.J. Pierson** [probably *Pearson*], a carpenter, resided here in **1902-1903**, and in **1907-1908** **O.T. Pearson**, a carpenter, lived here with his wife **Clara Pearson** and son **Paul Pearson**, a student.

In **1913** **William J. Baumgartner**, the principal of the **Farragut School**, lived at

this address with his wife **Cecile Baumgartner**. **Mrs. Eleda Johnson** resided here in **1925**, and **Mrs. Mary Ambrosia**, widow of **Ralph Ambrosia**, was living here by **1935**, and was still listed at this address in **1939** and **1941-1942**. There was no listing for this address in **1946**.

From **1959 through 1963** **Mrs. Alice M. LeClair** lived here. In **1964** **Robert LeClair** resided at this address. Other residents included **George M. Nowack**, **1966-1967**; **Clayton Powell**, **1969-1971**; vacant, **1972**; **Tom J. Piche**, **1973-1974**; **Harry L. George**, **1975-1978**; **Mrs. Ruth E. George**, **1982-1987**; no return, **1988-1989**; **Michael A. Laginess**, **1990**; vacant, **1991**; **Steven M. Harvala**, **1992-1993**; no listing, **1994**; **Precision Auto Repair, Al Witte**, auto repair service, **1995** [See 113 West Brown Street entry for 1991-1997.]; vacant, **1996**; **Kimberly S. Colavecchi**, **1997-1998**; **Chris M. Colavecchi** and **Kimberly S. Colavecchi**, **1999-2000**.