

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – BUSINESS DISTRICT 1879–1942 – MERRITT AVENUE

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

39: EAST SIDE OF SOUTH MERRITT AVENUE

**[MERRITT AVENUE, RUNNING ALONG
THE MILWAUKEE & NORTHERN
RAILWAY, FORMS THE DIVIDING LINE
FROM WHICH THE STREETS RUNNING
EAST AND WEST ARE NUMBERED.]**

101 – XXX – 2010

History: Lester L. Combs, a laborer recorded as Lester L. Combo in alphabetical listing, lived at this address with wife Sadie B. Combs/Combo in 1935. There was no listing for this address in 1939, but in 1941-1942 James A. Hooper was listed here.

105 – XXX – 2010

History: In 1892-1894 Mrs. Ellen Foster, widow of John Foster, lived here. This may be the same house recorded above at 105 North Merritt Avenue. There was no listing for this address in 1939 or 1941-1942.

107 – XXX – 2010

History: The German House, Reinhart Gothe, proprietor, sold “liquors and cigars” at this address which was also the residence for the proprietor in 1907-1908. Robert Gothe, a student, also boarded at the German Hotel at that time. In 1913 the German Hotel was run by William Gothe, who lived here with wife Maggie Gothe, and Lena Gothe, a “domestic” or maid. The listings and names for 407 Merritt Avenue below make one

suspect this is the same place with an erroneous address, mistaking “107” for “407.” There was no listing for this address in 1939 or 1941-1942.

203 – XXX – 2010

History: George H. Munro advertised “Plumbing steam and gas fitting. Buildings fitted with hot water, steam and hot air conveniences. Agent for the Furman Boiler” at this address in 1892-1894. The only other listing for this address was “vacant” in 1913.

205 – XXX – 2010

History: In 1892-1894 Joe Dabritt, a laborer at the Chapin Mine, resided in a residence near the alley at this address. There are no other listings for this address.

207 – XXX – 2010

History: In 1907-1908 the names Mrs. Hannah Doerfler and Ludovici Girodo appeared in the street index, but neither name appeared in the alphabetical listing. There are no other listings for this address.

305 – XXX – 2010

History: The City Jail was at this location in 1892-1894, but no other listings were found in the city directories for this address except “vacant” in 1913.

***407 – GOLDEN COMB BEAUTY
SALON, HAIR DEPOT, TANGLES
HAIR CARE – 2010**

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History: The **German Hotel**, operated by **Marsch & Gothe** (**John Marsch** and **Fred Gothe**), in 1892-1894 at this address boasted “Good accommodations [*sic* – accommodations] by the day or week. A fine bar of wines and liquors in connection.” Both of the proprietors resided in the hotel at that time. In addition, **Chris Gothe**, who worked at a brewery, and **Peter Marsch**, a laborer, both boarded at the German Hotel at that time. The German Hotel was listed at 407 Merritt Avenue in 1902-1903, but there was no record of proprietors. Fred Gothe’s name was not found in the directory and John Marsch worked in railroad construction and had a sales stable at 220 East Hughitt Street at that time. The entries for the German House and the German Hotel appeared with the address 107 Merritt Avenue in 1907-1908 and 1913, respectively.

An article in the December 2, 1920 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* as follows marked one of the earliest accounts of raids during the Prohibition Era under the headline POLICE AND SHERIFF RAID: Police and Sheriff Make Raid at American Hotel:

*The police and sheriff departments worked hand in hand late yesterday afternoon and made a raid at the **American Hotel** on Merrit [*sic* – Merritt] avenue, formerly known as the **German Hotel**, and confiscated three cases of bitters and six quart bottles of some kind of wine. The seals on the bottles of bitters were broken when found by the authorities[.], this, in itself, constituting a violation of the liquor law. The liquor was placed in a sleigh and taken to the county jail. The raid was made by **Sheriff Farrell**, **Undersheriff Frank***

*Cleveland, Chief of Police Gilbeault and Officers Corey, Constantini and Warne. Besides placing the proprietor, **Anton Lavorich**, under arrest on a charge of violation of the liquor law, the officers took three men in custody on a charge of gambling, namely, **George Meyers**, **Louis Osborn** and **Louis Mellis**.*

*Meyers was arrested a few days ago on a charge of gambling at the time the raid was made by the police at **Robert Wasevich’s** place, East Brown street.*

*All the men arrested in the raid yesterday afternoon were [*sic* – were] taken before **Justice MacDonald**. Lavorich was bound over to circuit court for trial, under a cash bond of \$500, which he furnished, [.] Osborn and Mellis were fined \$10 and costs and Meyers was fined \$25 and costs, owing to it being his second offense. All the men paid their fines.*

*Lavorich purchased the American Hotel a few days ago from **Reinhart Goethe**, the consideration, it is said, being \$8,500. He took possession at one o’clock yesterday afternoon, and within three hours afterward was in the toils of the law. The police and sheriff departments knowing of the deal and also knowing that he conducts two places of business in Gladstone and one at Escanaba, suspicioned that he would probably have some liquor at the place, so the two departments heartily co-operated and made it their business to find out. The place was filled with men when the officers entered like thieves in the night, some engaged in playing cards, and immediately looks of surprise crept all over their countenances. Those charged with gambling were placed under arrest at once while some of the officers proceeded to look around for liquor. Every nook and corner in the place was carefully searched and all the time that the raid was going on*

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the doors of the place were kept locked and no person was allowed to leave it until the authorities had completed what they came there for.

The **American Hotel, Anthony Baraga**, proprietor, operated at Merritt Avenue on the southeast corner of Hughitt Street in 1925, the owner living on the premises. In 1935 the American Hotel was listed at 407 South Merritt with a different proprietor, **Anton Loverich**. This was undoubtedly the same building that housed the German Hotel, the German House and the American Hotel listed on this site. The American Hotel, Anton Loverich, proprietor, was mistakenly listed at 405 South Merritt Avenue in the 1939 city directory, but was as the **American Inn** at this address under the same ownership in the 1941-1942 city directory.

The **Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway Depot**, located between West B and West C Streets on South Merritt Avenue, listed **James R. Peebles** as station agent in 1925. **The Milwaukee Road** was the railway's new name by 1935, but James R. Peebles was still the station agent, and the address used was 101 West B Street. James R. Peebles was still listed as the station agent for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway freight depot in the 1941-1942 city directory.

J.R. Holfeltz Company, (Jacob R. Holfeltz, proprietor), dealt in "Ice, Coal and Building Material" on South Merritt Avenue opposite the **Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway Depot** in 1925. J.R. Holfeltz Company was under the management of **W.E. Disher** in 1935, selling coal on South Merritt Avenue opposite **The Milwaukee Road Depot**. **Anna Holfeltz**, living at 602

West Hughitt Street, was listed as the widow of Jacob R. Holfeltz in 1935. In 1939 **Holfeltz & Company, Marie Henze**, proprietor, still were coal dealers on Merritt Avenue, but the business was not listed in the 1941-1942 city directory.

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27 (later 127) – XXX – 2010

History: In 1913 **John Nyman**, a bellman at a mine, lived at the north end of Merritt Avenue with his wife **Lena Nyman**. In 1925 the address was listed as 127 (27) North Merritt Avenue, and John Nyman, a miner, still lived here with his wife Lena Nyman. There was no listing for this address in 1935, 1939 and 1941-1942.

29 (later 129) – XXX – 2010

History: **John Powers**, a surface foreman in 1907-1908, lived on what was listed simply as "Merritt Avenue North." In 1913 John Powers, a surface boss, was again listed as living at the "north end of Merritt Avenue." In 1925 the address was listed as 129 (29) North Merritt Avenue, and **John A. Johnson**, a miner, and his wife **Anna Johnson** resided here. Again in 1935 John A. Johnson, no occupation listed, and his wife Anna L. Johnson were

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

105 – XXX – 2010

History: Antonio Sgarlotti, a laborer, resided at 105 North Merritt Avenue with his wife Jennie Sgarlotti in 1913. Another couple, Allessandro Vespa, no occupation listed, and his wife Camela Vespa also lived here at that time. In 1925 Anthony Sgorlata [*sic – Sgarlotti*], a miner, and his wife Jennie Sgorlata [*sic – Sgarlotti*] remained at this address. Another couple, Clement Leotta (Leotto in alphabetical listing), a miner, and wife Mary Leotta also lived here in 1925. Anton Sgarlatti [*sic – Sgarlotti*], and wife Joanne Sgarlatti [*sic – Sgarlotti*] still lived at this location in 1935 together with Dominic Sgarlatti, Frank Sgarlatti, Joseph Sgarlatti. This may be the same house recorded below as 105 South Merritt Avenue. There was no listing for this address in 1939 or 1941-1942.

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104 – XXX – 2010

History: Hoose & Person (Jay W. Hoose and Halvor [*sic – Halvar*] Person), did excavating and railroad construction in 1913. This address appears in the street index, but Hoose's residence at 520 West B

Street was listed as the office. There were no other listings for this address in the city directories.

116 – APRIA HEALTHCARE, home health and health care – 2010

History: There was no listing for this address in 1892-1994, 1902-1903, 1907-1908, 1913, 1925, 1935, 1939 or 1941-1942.

204 – XXX – 2010

History: C.O. Seaberg, veterinary surgeon and dentist, had his office at this address, located between Ludington Street and Brown Street, in 1907-1908. There were no further listings for this address until 1935, when Frederick W. Johnson ran a tavern here. By 1939 the White Front Tavern & Restaurant, Tito Gioacchini, proprietor, operated at 204-206 South Merritt Avenue. The business was listed as the Pas-Time Smoke Shop, Tito Gioacchini, proprietor, again at 204-206 South Merritt Avenue in the 1941-1942 city directory.

206 – XXX – 2010

History: Mrs. Anna Doerfler, widow of Frank Doerfler, resided here in 1892-1894, together with Annie Doerfler, Mary Doerfler, Frank Doerfler, an engineer, and Joseph Doerfler, who worked for George H. Munro at 203 Merritt Avenue. By 1939 the White Front Tavern & Restaurant, Tito Gioacchini, proprietor, operated at 204-206 South Merritt Avenue. The business was listed as the Pas-Time

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Smoke Shop, Tito Gioacchini, proprietor, again at 204-206 South Merritt Avenue in the 1941-1942 city directory.

Genevieve Ferzacca. **George T. Meehan** and his wife **Dollie Meehan** were listed at this address in the 1941-1942 city directory.

208 – XXX – 2010

History: This address was listed as “vacant” in 1925, and did not appear in any other city directories.

210 – XXX – 2010

History: **Walter Reimer** was listed at this address in the street index in 1902-1903, but appeared in alphabetical index as residing at 101 East Ludington Street. There were no other listings for this address in the city directories.

306 – XXX – 2010

History: In 1892-1894 **Mrs. Matilda Jettie**, widow of **Leon Jettie**, lived at this address, as did **Ole Larson**, a laborer. The name may have been misspelled, as **Mrs. Matilda Jedda**, residing at this address in 1902-1903, ran a saloon, and **Charles E. Barlament**, a bartender, was boarding here at that time. **Mrs. C. [Charles] Barlament**, was the name in the street index in 1907-1908, but in the alphabetical listing **Rosa Barlament** resided at this address. Rose Barlament, widow of Charles Barlament, was still at this address in 1913. **Mrs. Mary Brunswick** lived here in 1925. By 1935 **Mrs. Elizabeth Chaulklin**, widow of **William Chaulklin**, lived here, and another (or possibly the same) **Mrs. Elizabeth Chaulklin** operated and lived in a tavern nearby at 102 West Hughitt Street at that same time. In 1939 **Louis Ferzacca**, a W.P.A. worker, lived here with his wife

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Southeast Corner of the Ludington Mine Location, North End of Merritt Avenue – XXX – 2010

History: **St. George’s Hospital**, located on the southeast corner of the Ludington Mine Location on Merritt Avenue north of Fleshiem Street, was built in the late summer and fall of 1889 to accommodate miners not working at the Chapin Mine, who had access to medical treatment at the **Chapin Hospital**. Built by **Dr. John D. Cameron** and **Dr. J. Addison Crowell**, the hospital accommodated ten patients and was named in honor of the patron saint of the Cornish, who comprised a large segment of the city’s population. Dr. Cameron, hired by the Menominee Mining Company to care for the Chapin Mine’s employees and their families, arrived in Iron Mountain early in 1882, and was joined in November, 1882, by Dr. Crowell. They had approximately 300 miners under their care when they began to practice, but this number reached 3,400 in 1890. In that same year the Chapin Hospital, more of an office than a hospital, was built at the

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northeast end of the Chapin Pit where Park Avenue turns toward the North Side. **Allen Hopper** was the orderly, or male nurse, assigned to the hospital, and also took care of the mine's horses. The miners had one dollar deducted from their monthly pay for medical care which covered all medicines and doctor's fees. By 1891 St. George's Hospital had room for fifteen beds and nurses' quarters. Dr. William Hutchinson and Dr. Krohn were hired as assistants. An article in September 24, 1891 issue of *The Iron Range*, Iron Mountain's leading newspaper at the time, stated, "DRS. CAMERON and Crowell were notified by Supt. Cady last Friday that their services would not be required at the Chapin mine after this month, as he desired to have physicians who would devote their time exclusively to the needs of the men employed at that mine, and the position was offered to Dr. Carpenter, of Stambaugh." Apparently the time the doctors spent with patients at St. George's Hospital was not appreciated by Superintendent Cady. In 1892 or 1893, a trained nurse from Cook County Hospital in Chicago, Miss **Mary Beer**, came to Iron Mountain to nurse at St. George's Hospital. A buxom, short, heavy-set woman, Miss Beer became matron, and later superintendent of the hospital. She taught nursing to Miss **Annie Murphy** and Miss **Dora Alexander**, who also worked in the hospital. Nurse Beer was remembered as somewhat of a character. Although she was strict, the miners still liked her, and asked for her whenever they needed a nurse. She later became a school nurse, checking students for lice, and giving them baths at the **Chapin Dry**. In 1892-1894, Drs. Cameron and Crowell were listed as "Physicians and Surgeons" in charge of the St. George Hospital with office hours from 8

to 9 a.m.; 1 to 2 p.m. and 7 to 8 p.m. They were still listed as doctors at St. George Hospital in 1902-1903. The two doctors dissolved their partnership well before Dr. Cameron's sudden death on Saturday, October 3, 1908, when he suffered a fatal heart attack at his home. In 1913 Dr. Crowell was listed as the surgeon at St. George's Hospital, and Dr. S. Edwin Cruse worked there as assistant surgeon. St. George's Hospital eventually became the property of the **Oliver Iron Mining Company**, and had been operated under a lease when it was closed permanently by December, 1923, when efforts were being made to establish Iron Mountain's **General Hospital**, formerly the **Scandinavian Hospital** and then the **Westerlin Hospital**, located at 615 East G Street.

2 – XXX – 2010

History: **Henry Englund**, barn boss at the Ludington Mine, lived here in 1892-1894. There was no other listing for this address in the city directories.

4 – XXX – 2010

History: **William Williams**, a miner, resided here in 1892-1894. There was no other listing for this address in the city directories.

100 North Merritt Avenue North – XXX – 2010

History: In 1925 **Louis M. Nelson, Sr.**, a laborer, lived here with his wife **Marie Nelson**, as well as **Louis M. Nelson, Jr.**, a draftsman, and **Luella Nelson** and **Paul I. Nelson**, both listed as students. This

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address was not listed in 1935, 1939 or
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