

# MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 47: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 321-331 SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian



Taken in the **mid-1890s**, this view includes the **Swedish Mission Church** on the **southeast corner of East Ludington Street and Iron Mountain Street** at the left, the **N.P. Hulst High School**, built in **1892** on **Madison Avenue** near the center, and the **Swedish Baptist Church** on the **southeast corner East Hughitt Street and Iron Mountain Street** on the right. The **Chicago & North-Western Railway Depot's rooftop** is in the foreground. In **1892-1894**, businesses along this block, from left to right were: **301-303, Hancock & Sundstrom**, hardware store; **305, N.C. Schudes**, clothing store, and **Joseph Bitterly**, jewelry store; **307, Michael Carey**, cigar store and factory; **309, Jonah Orrison**, agent for the **Atlantic Dynamite Company**, and **Sophus Mortensen**, photographer; **311, John J. Cole**, gentlemen's clothing; **313, Moriarity & Allen (James Moriarity and W.B. Allen)**, fashion sample rooms (saloon); **317, Mathias Swanson**, jeweler; **319, R. Frezinsky**, clothing store; **321, Clinton W. Montgomery Block** (triangle at top of roofline), **John T. Spencer**, grocery store; **323, Arthur Uddenberg**, druggist, and **A.I LeVeque**, jeweler and watchmaker; **327, The Fair, A.M. Oppenheim**, proprietor, general store (large billboard-like sign); **331, The Paris Store, Abe Sackim** (just visible at the right); and **333** (not visible), **Margaret Seibert**, drug store, **George F. Seibert**, manager. *[Menominee Range Historical Museum]*

*[NOTE: Dates, placed chronologically, are highlighted in boldface red letters for easier reading, and names of individuals and places are highlighted in boldface black letters to facilitate finding information.]*

The 47th 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 – 321-331 South Stephenson Avenue."

**History of 321:** Built in **1887** at **321 South Stephenson Avenue** by **Clinton W. Montgomery**, a brick manufacturer, the **Montgomery Block** was one of **Iron Mountain's** early business blocks. In **April**

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**1889**, Montgomery purchased the **Adams House**, a hotel belonging to the **Jacques Brothers**, for \$4,400. This frame property adjoined his brick building, and the editor of *The Menominee Range* hoped Montgomery would remove the wooden structure and extend his “handsome brick block.”

**John T. Spencer**, a “dealer in fruits and vegetables, provisions, confectionery and notions,” operated two stores in **1892-1894**, one in the **Montgomery Block** and the other at **118 West B Street**, where he also lived.

An article in the **May 7, 1891** edition of Iron Mountain’s *The Menominee Range* made mention of many business moves, including the **Montgomery building**, as follows:

*THE draymen about town had plenty of work on Friday last and all day long great loads of furniture, store fixtures, etc., were passing to and fro on the streets. **May 1** is considered all over the country to be a general moving day and it seems to be an established fact that more people move on that day than any other day in the whole year. In this city there were more removals than usual and many businessmen are comfortably ensconced in their new quarters while others are making preparations to become settled. The **Montgomery building** which was formerly occupied by the saloon of **J.H. Williams**, will be taken up in a few days by the **Bee Hive store**. The building is being remodeled this week and when completed will make one of the finest stores in town, the old front having been torn out and substituted by one of plate glass. **Williams’ saloon** now occupies the building recently erected by **Sol. Noble** on **Ludington street**. **Edward St. Arnauld** has vacated the building he occupied on **Stephenson avenue** and has removed his saloon to the*

***Gingras & Trepanier building** on **Hughitt street**. **J.R. Johnston** will occupy the vacated room with his tailor shop and gents’ furnishing store. The room is being newly refitted and papered and will make a good stand for Mr. Johnston’s business. The **City Shoe Store** has been removed from **Brown street** to a stand on Stephenson avenue where **Joseph Parry** and **A. Lieberthal & Co.** were stationed. This will now be an exclusive boot and shoe store and will be managed by Mr. Parry and **Fred Hunting**. The building vacated by them on Brown street will be occupied by **A. Uddenberg** as a drug store. **A. Lieberthal & Co.** will remove their store to the building now occupied by the **Bee Hive**, but later in the year they will remove to the store now taken up by **Sam Rusky**, who in turn will go to the Bee Hive’s present location.*

An item in the **May 27, 1897** edition of the Iron Mountain Press noted:

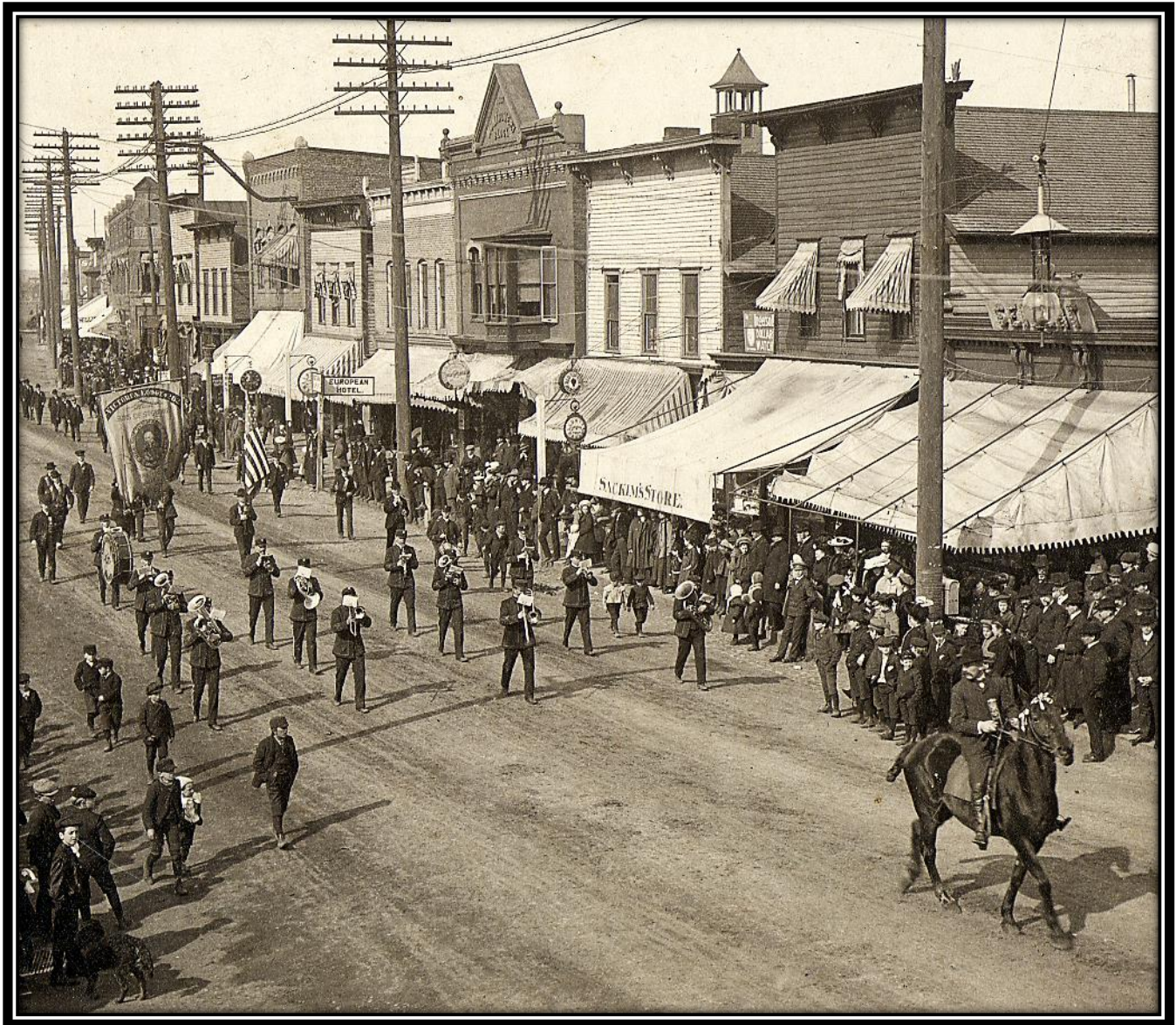
***John J. Cole** has moved his stock of goods to the **Montgomery block** on **Stephenson avenue**.*

In the **June 3, 1897** edition of the Iron Mountain Press, under the headline “**Hassel Embarrassed**”, the following article appeared:

*The dry goods establishment of **Ellis Hassel**, in the **Montgomery block**, was closed on a chattel mortgage held by **Lauerman Bros.**, of **Marinette**, last Monday. The mortgage is for \$1,874. Mr. Hassel came to the city about a year ago and engaged in business in a small way in the **Catlin building** on **Brown street**, moving about four months ago to **Stephenson avenue**. He was enterprising and was thought to be doing a successful business. His failure is a surprise to his most intimate friends. Mr. Hassel informs his intimates that he intends going to Europe as soon as his affairs are settled.*

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The **Victoria Lodge #262 of the Order of the Sons of St. George**, a Cornish fraternal group, marched past the **300 block of South Stephenson Avenue** in formation behind a band in about 1905. The man on horseback leading the procession may have been **Jack Eslick**. **Seibert's Drug Store** (George Frederick Seibert) stood at the corner (333) before **1892**. **Sam Cudlip**, a long-time employee at Seibert's, was running **Cudlip's Drug Store** in the same building by **1925**. The building was razed in **1969**. At **327-331 Abe Sackim** ran **The Paris Store**, a clothing store, prior to **1902**. The business was the **Abe Sackim Company** by **1920** and was still operating in the **1950s**. Note the "Sackim Store" name on the awning. In **1892 A.M. Oppenheim** operated **The Fair** at **325-327**, selling dry goods and clothing. A photo dating prior to **1892** shows the **Rundle Brothers** operating a hardware and mining supply store here. In **1913 Joseph De Concini** ran **The Bank Buffet** at **323**. **B. Kramer & Company** operated a billiard parlor and sold cigars and liquor at this site in **1907**. At **317-319**

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**John I. Khoury** ran **The Boston Store**, selling clothing, in **1913**. In **1907** **Khoury's** store only occupied **319** and **Archie Lanquette** ran a restaurant at **321**. By **1907** **Rahm & Will Jewelers** (**Gust Rahm** and **Louis J. Will**) were operating at **313** (today **315**). By **1925** the **Fugere Brothers** sold men's furnishings and shoes at **311-315**. In **1913** **Gust P. Johnson** ran a dry goods store at **311** and was in partnership with **John Hanson** here in **1907**. **Michael Khoury** sold fruits and confectionery at **305** by **1913** and was still there in **1925**. **G.F. Gensch** ran his hardware store at **301-303** in **1913**. **William G. Sundstrom** had a hardware store here by **1902** and was still operating in **1907**. **Rian's Hardware** was here by **1925**. [*Menominee Range Historical Museum*]

Another article in the **June 3, 1897** edition of the *Iron Mountain Press*, under the headline "**A New Store**", stated:

*Dan H. Lieberthal has decided to return to Iron Mountain and engage in business. He has leased the **Montgomery brick block** for a term of years, and the building is now in the hands of carpenters for an extensive refitting. Mr. Lieberthal expects to be in shape to receive customers on Saturday. Since leaving Iron Mountain he has been engaged in business in **Dawson, Minn., and Ironwood.***

A third article involving the **Montgomery building** appeared in the same edition of the *Iron Mountain Press*, under the headline "**Will Rebuild Their Store**", as follows:

*Hancock & Sundstrom, the hardware merchants, are engaged this week in moving their stock of goods to the **Montgomery block**. It is the intention of the company to rebuild the store they have occupied for so many years. A stone foundation and basement will be put under the store and other improvements made that will add much to the appearance of the corner.*

In the **October 28, 1897** edition of the *Iron Mountain Press*, the following article appeared under the headline "**Sundstrom Moves**":

*A.J. Sundstrom, the hardware merchant, who has occupied the **Cameron building, N. Stephenson avenue**, ever since he engaged in business here, is*

*moving this week to the **Montgomery block**, opposite the **Chicago & Northwestern depot**. This is an excellent stand, convenient to all parts of the city, and the removal will undoubtedly result in an increase in business. Mr. Sundstrom informs The Press that he intends adding largely to his stock of goods and will receive in a few days a splendid line of china, crockery and glassware, which will be displayed on the second floor. He will make a specialty of this line and invites the public to inspect his stock.*

The two Montgomery blocks, the brick block and the frame block, both burned on Tuesday morning, **January 11, 1898**. At the time of the fire, the Montgomery blocks were occupied by **D.H. Lieberthal**, clothier; **A.J. Sundstrom**, hardware; **E. Mattson**, confectionery; and **C. Corneilson**, baker. The *Iron Mountain Press* termed the fire "the most destructive fire in the history of Iron Mountain, resulting in the almost total destruction of the Montgomery brick and frame blocks and the damaging of the Allen building." The loss totaled over \$33,000. The **Allen Building** had **A.E. Smith**, saloonkeeper, as a tenant.

Shortly after one o'clock **Policeman Bray** discovered fire in the basement of the brick building occupied by Mr. Montgomery as an undertaking establishment. An alarm was at once turned in and the company responded with their usual promptness. **Chief Harvey**, with the assistance of his

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men and many volunteers, soon had nine streams of water pouring torrents of water upon and into the buildings but owing to the difficulty of locating the flames it was not extinguished until six o'clock. In the meantime nearly 500,000 gallons of water had been consumed. Chief Harvey pronounced the fire to have been one of the most vicious he ever had to fight, and "had it not been for the efficiency of our fire department and water works system the business portion of our city would have been wiped out of existence."

Although a considerable amount of Sundstrom's, Lieberthal's and Mattson's stock was saved, it was in such a badly damaged condition that they would be lucky to realize hardly 25 cents on the dollar, thus suffering almost a total loss.

How the fire originated remained a mystery, but talk of incendiarism [sic] was "mere guess work."

As a result of this fire, the ordinance regulating fire limits was amended. Only solid brick or stone buildings were to be erected in the business district, and a fire warden was appointed. The city council was petitioned to lay water mains along the surface of Stephenson Avenue across the Chapin Pit to give increased efficiency.

A transcription of the article regarding this fire appears below and was published in the **January 13, 1898** edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* under the headline "A Destructive Fire".

## **A DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.**

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**The Montgomery Blocks  
Badly Damaged – A  
Loss of Nearly  
\$30,000.**

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*The most destructive fire in the history of Iron Mountain occurred last Tuesday morning, resulting in the almost total destruction of the Montgomery brick and frame blocks and the damaging of the Allen building. The loss will reach a total of over \$33,000.*

*Shortly after one o'clock Policeman Bray discovered fire in the basement of the brick building occupied by Mr. Montgomery as an undertaking establishment. An alarm was at once turned in and the company responded with their usual promptness. Chief Harvey, with the assistance of his men and many volunteers, soon had nine streams of water pouring torrents of water upon and into the buildings, but owing to the difficulty of locating the flames it was not extinguished until six o'clock. In the meantime nearly 500,000 gallons of water had been consumed. Chief Harvey pronounces the fire to have been one of the most vicious he ever had to fight, and it may be recorded that had it not been for the efficiency of our fire department and water works system the business portion of our city would have been wiped out of existence.*

*The Montgomery buildings were occupied by D.H. Lieberthul [sic – Lieberthal], clothier, A.J. Sundstrom, hardware, E. Mattson, confectioner, and C. Corneilson, baker. The Allen building had for a tenant A.E. Smith, saloon keeper [sic – saloonkeeper]. The losses are as follows:*

<i>C.W. Montgomery, brick block.....</i>	<i>\$6,500</i>
<i>“ “ frame block.....</i>	<i>5,500</i>
<i>C.W. Montgomery, undertaking goods</i>	<i>3,500</i>
<i>C.W. Montgomery, household goods</i>	<i>3,000</i>
<i>D.H. Lieberthal, stock.....</i>	<i>9,500</i>
<i>A.J. Sundstrom, stock.....</i>	<i>3,500</i>
<i>E. Mattson, stock.....</i>	<i>875</i>
<i>A.E. Smith, stock.....</i>	<i>500</i>
<i>W.B. Allen, building.....</i>	<i>150</i>

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C. Corneilson, stock..... 175  
\$33,200

*The insurance carried by the several losers is as follows:*

*MILLER AGENCY.*

Montgomery brick..... \$4,000  
 “ frame..... 1,000  
 “ furniture..... 1,500  
 Total..... \$6,500

*COMMERCIAL BANK AGENCY.*

Montgomery brick..... \$1,000  
 “ frame..... 500  
 “ stock..... 1,000

D.H. Lieberthal, stock..... 1,000  
 Total..... \$3,500

*STERLING AGENCY.*

W.B. Allen, building.....\$1,500  
 A.E. Smith, stock..... 500  
 Total.....\$2,000

Total insurance.....\$12,000  
 Total loss.....\$33,200

*It will be noticed that the loss of Messrs. Sundstrom, Lieberthal and Mattson is almost a total one. Considerable of their stock were saved, but in such a badly damaged condition that they will hardly realized [sic – realize] 25 cents on the dollar for them. Mr. Lieberthal has his stock stored in the Cameron building and Messrs. Sundstrom and Mattson are in the Wood block. The gentlemen will have the solid sympathy of the community in their misfortune.*

*How the fire originated is a mystery, but talk of incendiarism [sic] is mere guess work.*

The following item also appeared in the **January 13, 1898** edition of the Iron Mountain Press regarding **C.W. Montgomery's** plans to rebuild:

**C.W. Montgomery** is arranging to erect a fine business block on the lot occupied by the partially destroyed frame building. A merchant has agreed to lease the same for a term of five years.

In the **June 1, 1898** edition of Iron Mountain's *The Daily Tribune* in the "CITY NEWS ITEMS" column, the following appeared:

**A. Kramer & Co.** opened a new liquor store in the **Montgomery block** this noon. It is a gorgeously furnished place with a bar in a circle in the center of the large room. The firm is composed of **Abe, Ben and Meyer Kramer.**

In the "CITY NEWS ITEMS" column of the **June 9, 1898** edition of *The Daily Tribune* the following announcement appeared:

*The **Montgomery building** is being made safe by tearing it down.*

An article in the **August 25, 1898** edition of the Iron Mountain Press under the headline "TWO MORE ARE DEAD: Johnson and Symons of Co. E" the following information appeared:

*Last Monday morning the editor of **The Press** received a telegram from the **Detroit Evening News** containing the sad information that **August L. Johnson**, a member of **Company E**, had died in the military hospital at **Santiago, Cuba**, of typhoid fever. His two brothers, **Oscar** and **Charles**, employed at the **London store**, were at once informed of their bereavement, and they communicated the news to the afflicted parents who reside on **Kent street in the Chapin location**. In addition to the above named relatives the deceased also leaves two sisters who reside at home. **August L. Johnson** was a splendid type of manhood and his death in foreign lands while serving his adopted country is mourned by many friends.*

*He was about twenty-five years of age, and had been a member of **Company E** almost since its organization. Last summer, for several months, he conducted a bicycle repair shop in the **Montgomery building**.*

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This view, probably taken shortly after the turn of the century, shows the **south end of the east side of the 300 block of South Stephenson Avenue**, including **313, Moriarity & Allen; 317, M. Swanson; 319, R. Franzinsky; 321, C.W. Montgomery and John T. Spencer; 323, Arthur Uddenberg and A.I. Le Veque; 327, A.M. Oppenheim and E.A. Woodward; 329, The Paris Store (Abe Sackim and Julius Rusky); and 333, Seibert's Drug Store.** The board sidewalk in the foreground was on the west side of the street. *[Gene Derwinski/Dick Ferris]*

In **1902-1903 A.L. Kramer & Company (Abe Kramer)** ran a saloon at this location. **Archie Lanouette** was the proprietor of a restaurant at this address in **1907-1908**, and also resided here with his wife **Souvrine Lanouette**. There was no listing for this address in **1913** or **1925**.

At 8 a.m. on the morning of Friday, **November 29, 1929**, the **J.J. Newberry Store**, the company's only "chain-store" in the Upper Peninsula, opened in the

quarters formerly occupied by the **Dillon & Laughlin United Cigar Store (Charles M. Dillon and James A. Laughlin)** at **321 South Stephenson Avenue**. The resident manager was **R. Baker**. The store had been "remodeled throughout, with all new fixtures and equipment," according to the article appearing in the **November 27, 1929** edition of the *Iron Mountain News*. Although classified as a 5-25-cent store, prices in the J.J. Newberry Store ranged

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from five cents to one dollar and covered everything from hairpins to hardware. No ceremony or program of any kind had been arranged for the grand opening, but 50 girl clerks were to be in attendance.

The store eventually expanded to include the adjoining store building at **323 South Stephenson Avenue**. In **1935** the **J.J. Newberry Company** 5-25 cent store, managed by **Clarence W. Pickering**, was located at **321-323 South Stephenson Avenue**. By **1939** **Walter R. Worthington** managed the **J.J. Newberry Company's** store, listed at **321 South Stephenson Avenue**. The store was again listed at **321-323 South Stephenson Avenue** in the **1941-1942** directory with **Orville Mynster** serving as manager.

In **1961**, **Martha Post**, a women's clothing store, managed by **Cordelia Fish**, was in business here. In **1963-1964** the manager was **Mrs. Doris C. Fowles** and in **1966** **Mrs. C. Myrtle Beaster** was manager.

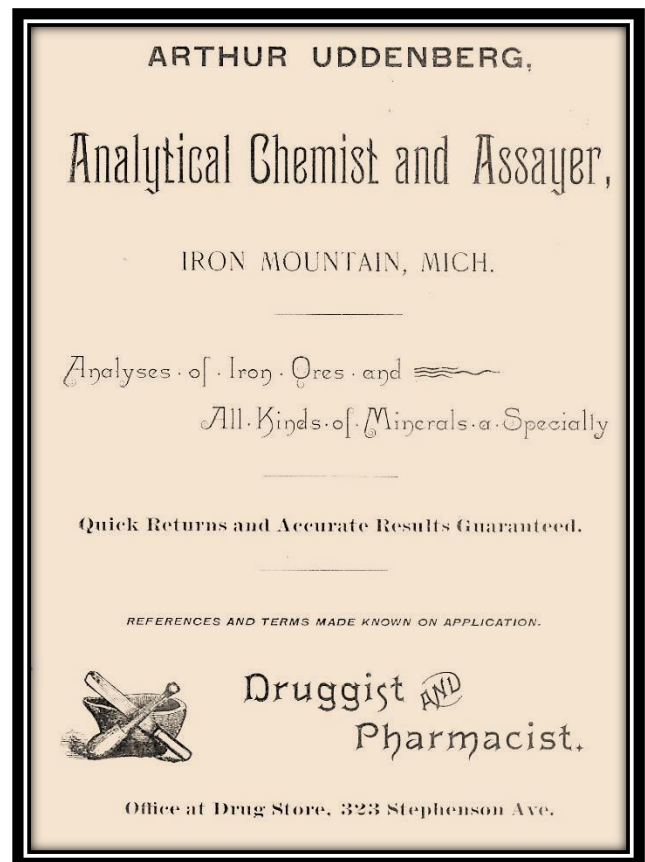
In **1967** the **Wolverine Discount Store**, **James E. Busher**, manager, was located here. In **1969** and **1970** **Norman O. Skare** was manager, and in **1971** **Robert W. Schwarz** managed the store, by then called **Wolverine Drug**.

In **1972** the business, then known as **The Drug Store**, was managed by **Randy Dubey**. In **1973** **Dennis Vincenzi**, pharmacist, was in charge of operations, and in **1974** **Jim Swetkovich** was manager. By **1976** **Gary Marsden** was listed as president of **The Drug Store**.

From **1977** through **1985** **Perina's Inc.**, **Mrs. John (Betty) Elmer**, president, and **Mrs. Perina Pastori**, vice-president, operated their women's apparel business here.

**History of 323:** **Arthur Uddenberg**, an "Analytical Chemist, Assayer and Druggist," was a "Dealer in pure drugs and medicines"

in **1892-1894** at this address and claimed "Prescriptions accurately compounded." **A.I. Le Veque**, "Jeweler and Watchmaker," a "Dealer in Watches, Clocks, Jewelry, Silverware, Optical Goods and Musical Instruments" also operated his shop here in **1892-1894**.



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

There was no listing at this address in **1902-1903**. **B. Kramer & Company** (**Ben Kramer**) sold liquor and cigars, and also advertised "billiards" at this location in **1907-1908**. In **1913** **Joseph De Concini** ran **The Bank Buffet** at this location, also residing here with his wife **Ida De Concini**.



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The **Bank Buffet** was located at **323 South Stephenson Avenue**, pictured here in about **1908**, according to information on the back of this photograph. Owner **Joseph De Concini** stands to the left of the cash register behind the bar, then an unidentified bartender, an unidentified patron, **Pete Tramontin** and **Bill Hosking** at the right. [*Menominee Range Historical Museum*]

In **1925** **Aimone & Fornetti** (**Peter Aimone** and **James Fornetti**) ran a barbershop at this location. In addition, **Dillon & Laughlin** (**Charles M. Dillon** and **James A. Laughlin**) ran a billiard parlor here, and **Adelard Page** had a boarding house upstairs, also residing there with his wife **Camillia Page**. The **J.J. Newberry Company**, a variety store managed by **Clarence W. Pickering**, conducted business at **321-323 South Stephenson Avenue** in **1935**. By **1939** **Walter R. Worthington** managed the J.J. Newberry Company's store, listed at **321 South Stephenson Avenue**. The store was again

listed at **321-323 South Stephenson Avenue** in the **1941-1942** directory with **Orville Mynster** serving as manager.

From **1961** to **1967** **Fugere Bros. Shoes** was operated here by **Julian M. Fugere** and **Philip J. Fugere**. In **1967** the business was incorporated as **Fugere Bros., Inc.** with officers **Philip J. Fugere**, president; **James A. Walker**, vice-president; and **Julian M. Fugere**, secretary-treasurer. The business was still in operation at this location in 1985.

By **2010** **Salon 323**, a beauty salon, operated was in business here with **John M. and Deborah A. McKinzie**, owners.

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The **Bank Buffet** was located at **323 South Stephenson Avenue**, pictured here in about **1909**, according to information on the back of this photograph. The first two men at the left are unidentified. The third man is **John Da Prato**, then **Ben Kramer**, bartender **Jinks Johnson**, unidentified bartender and **Joseph De Concini**, owner, behind the bar. *[Menominee Range Historical Museum]*

**History of 325-327-329:** **A.M. Oppenheim**, proprietor of “**The Fair**,” was a “Dealer in Dry Goods, Clothing, Furniture, Boots, Shoes, Groceries, Provisions and General Merchandise,” and ran his store at **325-327-329 South Stephenson Avenue** in **1892-1894**. The Fair was located on the former sites of the **Montgomery Block** and **Rundle’s Hardware Store**. Rundle’s Hardware Store moved to its new location at **105-107 West Ludington Street** (now the site of the **Iron Mountain U.S. Post Office**) in about 1888. The site of Rundle’s Hardware Store on South Stephenson

Avenue was later occupied by **The Paris Store, Julius Rusky**, proprietor.

**History of 325:** **C.B. Gingras** [*sic – Gingrass*] operated a saloon at **325 South Stephenson Avenue** in **1902-1903**. Although **Joe De Concini**’s name appeared in the street index for this address in **1907-1908**, he was found in the alphabetical listing as running a livery and selling feed, as well as liquor and cigars, but no place was given, other than his home address at **110 West Ludington Street**, where he lived with his wife **Ida De Concini**.

There was no listing for this address in **1913** or **1925**. It is possible that 325 South

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Stephenson Avenue was 323 South Stephenson Avenue in those years, and

also in **1907-1908**.



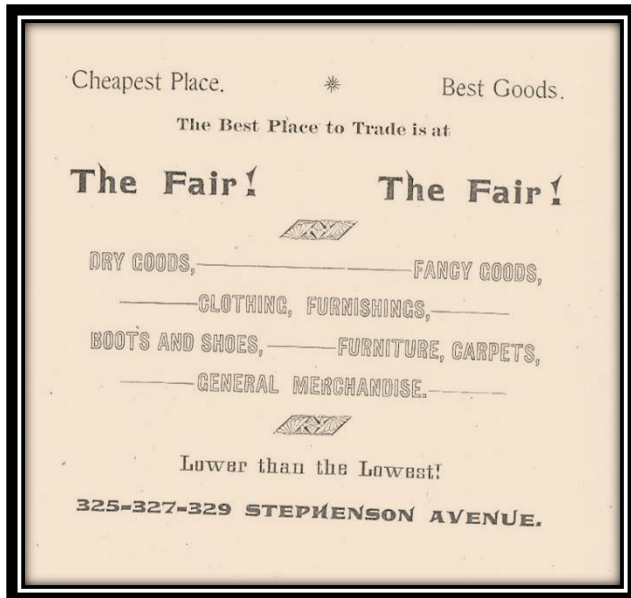
The **Aimone & Fornetti Barber Shop** was located at **323 South Stephenson Avenue** in Iron Mountain, across from the **Chicago & North-Western Railway Depot**. The barbers, pictured here in about **1920** with their customers, were **James Fornetti, Floyd Duchaine** and **Peter Aimone**. Duchaine was a partner with **Walter Arens** at **110 East B Street** by **1925**. Note the lighting fixtures suspended over each chair and the regulator clock on the wall above the mirror. [*Gene Derwinski/Dick Ferris*]

**History of 327:** **E.A. Neubauer & Company** (**E.A. Neubauer**) worked as “jewelers and opticians” at 327 South Stephenson Avenue in **1902-1903**. **E.A. Neubauer** was still proprietor of a jewelry store here in **1907-1908**, and was also Dickinson County Sheriff, living in the sheriff’s quarters in the jail building adjoining the court house with his wife **Emily Neubauer**.

**A. Sackim Company** (**Abe Sackim**, president; **Ben Seaman**, secretary; **Sam Seaman**, treasurer) sold “dry goods & gents’ furnishings” at **327-331 South Stephenson Avenue** in **1913**. There was no listing for this address in **1925**, and the **A. Sackim Company** was listed at **329-333 South Stephenson Avenue** in **1935**. In **1939** and **1941-1942** there is no listing for this address.

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The above advertisement for **The Fair**, A.M. **Oppenheim**, proprietor, appeared between pages 126 and 127 in the *Bunn & Simmons' Iron Mountain City Directory*, 1892-94

**History of 329:** There was no listing for this address in **1902-1903** or in **1907-1908**. **A. Sackim Company** (**Abe Sackim**, president; **Ben Seaman**, secretary; **Sam Seaman**, treasurer) sold “dry goods & gents’ furnishings” at **327-331 South Stephenson Avenue** in **1913**.

**History of 331:** In one very early photograph taken prior to **1892**, the **Rundle Brothers** operated a hardware and mining supply store at this location.

**Abe Sackim** ran **The Paris Store** at **331 South Stephenson Avenue** in **1902-1903**, selling “dry goods, clothing, boots and shoes, hats and caps, etc.” In **1907-1908** **Abe Sackim** was operating at the same address, advertising “dry goods, carpets, clothing, shoes and house furnishings.” **A. Sackim Company** (**Abe Sackim**, president; **Ben Seaman**, secretary; **Sam Seaman**, treasurer) sold

“dry goods & gents’ furnishings” at **327-331 South Stephenson Avenue** in **1913**.



The above advertisement appeared in the **March 28, 1889** edition of *Iron Mountain's The Menominee Range*. At this time **A.E. Robbins** was working as an undertaker at the **Post Office Building**, located between **The Fair Store**, 325-329 South Stephenson

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Avenue, and **Rundle's Hardware Store,**

331 South Stephenson Avenue.



During the **mid-1880s** an early Iron Mountain band posed in front of **The Fair, A.M. Oppenheim**, proprietor, **327**; the **Iron Mountain Post Office** (small single-story building), **329**; **Rundle Bros. Hardware Store**, **Thomas Rundle and Alfred J. Rundle**, proprietors, **331**; and **Seibert's Drug Store**, **George Frederick and Margaret Seibert**, proprietors, **333**, during the mid-1880s. The Rundle Brothers were selling hardware and mining supplies from their two-story frame building by **1885**. In **1888** they moved to their new store and opera house at **105-107 West Ludington Street**, where the **Iron Mountain U.S. Post Office** now stands. The Rundle Bros. Hardware Store was on the first floor and Rundle's Opera House was on the second floor. The small single-story structure between The Fair and Rundle Bros. Hardware Store was the site of the post office until it was moved to **Wood's Sandstone Block, 206-216 East Ludington Street** in **1891**. Judging from the advertisement from the **March 28, 1889** edition of Iron Mountain's newspaper *The Menominee Range*, **A.E. Robbins**, furnishing undertaker, embalmer and funeral director, also worked here. In **1891** Robbins built the **Robbins Block**, a large, two-story sandstone building located at **217-219 East Hughitt Street**, where he operated a furniture store and funeral parlor. [Gene Derwinski/Dick Ferris Photo – Menominee Range Historical Museum]

**History of 327-331:** The **A. Sackim Company** (**Abraham Sackim**, of Chicago, Ill., president; **Benjamin Seaman**, secretary-treasurer), a department store, was listed at **229-231 South Stephenson Avenue** in **1925**. In **1935** the A. Sackim

Company, a department store under the same management and at the same address as in 1925, continued to conduct business.

The **A. Sackim Company** was listed at **329 South Stephenson Avenue** in the

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1939 city directory, and at 329-331 South Stephenson Avenue in the 1941-1942 city directory. In the 1946 city directory, Ben Seaman was still listed as manager. Between 1959 and 1963 the A. Sackim Company was managed by Clifford M. Fugit. The lower level of the building was listed as vacant in 1964, but Clifford M. Fugit resided upstairs. By 1966 both the upper and lower levels of the Sackim building were listed as vacant.

In 1969 the site was listed as under construction when the Ben Franklin Store was being built. The Ben Franklin Store was listed in the 1970 directory, and the following listings, together with managers, were: 1971 and 1972, Roland J. Bramer, manager; 1973, no manager listed; 1974 through 1978, Vincent J. Wells, manager; 1979-1982, Dwayne Callahan, manager. In 1984 and 1985 the building was listed as vacant.

## History of the A. Sackim Company

An article celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the A. Sackim Company published in *The Iron Mountain News* on May 5, 1942 stated that in the spring of 1892 Abe Sackim and Julius Rusky established a small general store 26 feet by 75 feet in size in the mining town of Iron Mountain. This store was known as The Paris Store.

Information in the city directories noted Samuel Rusky was running a general store at 121 South Stephenson Avenue in 1892-1894, with Julius Rusky working as a clerk and residing in the store. Abe Sackim's name does not appear in the 1892-1894 city directory. However, Abe Sackim was conducting business in The Paris Store at 331 South Stephenson Avenue by 1902-1903.

BEST VALUES ALWAYS, AT  
**SACKIM'S**  
IRON MOUNTAIN, MICH.

**We're Willing to be Judged**

SINCERITY CLOTHES

**By the Quality and Service of our  
\$15.00--SUITS--\$15.00**

In the first place they are equal to the usual \$18.00 and \$20.00 Suits sold elsewhere. That's a saving to begin with. Then they are SINCERITY CLOTHES, and that speaks a volume for their Style Material and Workmanship. That's the whole thing in a nutshell. Our \$15.00 Suits are guaranteed by us and by the makers, but whatever price you want to pay, we offer the best values at that figure.

**\$15.00** for a hand-made Sincerity Suit, made of stylish dark grey checked worsteds. Saville style, slightly form fitting, good serge linings, perfect fitting and warranted to retain its shape.

**\$15.00** for a beautiful all-wool black Thibet Suit, Sincerity make, double breasted style, hand-made, best wearing linings, the swell Belmont style, a very attractive and sedate suit.

BEST VALUES ALWAYS, AT  
**SACKIM'S**  
IRON MOUNTAIN, MICH.

The above advertisement for Sackim's store appeared in the May 16, 1907, edition of the *Iron Mountain Press*. The A. Sackim Company was Iron Mountain's largest department store for many years.

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Two years after the store started business in the south portion of the building located at **327-331 South Stephenson Avenue**, **Rusky** and **Sackim** dissolved their partnership, the latter taking over the business which he conducted alone until the company was incorporated in **1910** with brothers **Ben Seaman** and **Sam Seaman** becoming members of the firm.

The business prospered under Sackim's management and soon larger quarters were needed for the stock of men's and women's apparel, dry goods, shoes and accessories. An addition for the shoe and ready-to-wear department was added to the original building at that time.

The **October 19, 1911** edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* contained a detailed article regarding the enlarged and remodeled store, announcing the formal opening to be held on Saturday, **October 21, 1911**, in conjunction with the beginning of the annual fall and winter sale.

The enlarged store had a frontage of 60 feet on Stephenson Avenue and a depth of 150 feet, occupying two floors. The new steel and plate glass front with the large display windows was a very handsome one and "added wonderfully to the general appearance of Iron Mountain's main business street."

There were two main entrances to the store from Stephenson Avenue. Entering the south door, to the right "the greatly enlarged dry goods and ladies' underwear departments" was located, "containing a line of goods that is most complete and fashionable." A large display counter was located in the center and the department containing corsets, notions and yarns was on the left. The bargain department and bed furnishings were located to the rear. The ladies' footwear department was "to the north of the notions department." The office and wrapping department was located

behind both the ladies' footwear department and the notions department, almost in the center of the building. The "neck-wear department" occupied a space in the front near the south entrance.

The shoe department for men and boys was located to the right of the north entrance, with men's furnishings and underwear in the center and the clothing and hat and cap departments also on the right. The fixtures in this section of the store were all new, the very latest inventions for the showing of goods to the best advantage, and included modern wall and floor display cases.

The department containing ladies' cloaks and coats, suits, furs and millinery was located in the solid stone annex in the rear.

The entire second floor was devoted to carpets, rugs, curtains, china and glassware and house-furnishings.

By **1914**, four years after the incorporation and 22 years after the start of the business, the quarters were again found to be too small, and the store was again expanded. This time the corporation purchased a building immediately to the north of the old store and combined the buildings by cutting arched entrance ways through the walls. An up-to-date men's clothing and furnishings department was then opened in the front half of the new wing, the rear of which was devoted to women's ready-to-wear.

Shortly after this, in **1915**, Sackim, due to ill health, found it necessary to move to a warm climate, turning the management of the store over to **Ben and Sam Seaman**. Ben Seaman and his brother Sam continued the management of the store until the death of the latter, when Ben, the older of the brothers, assumed full control.

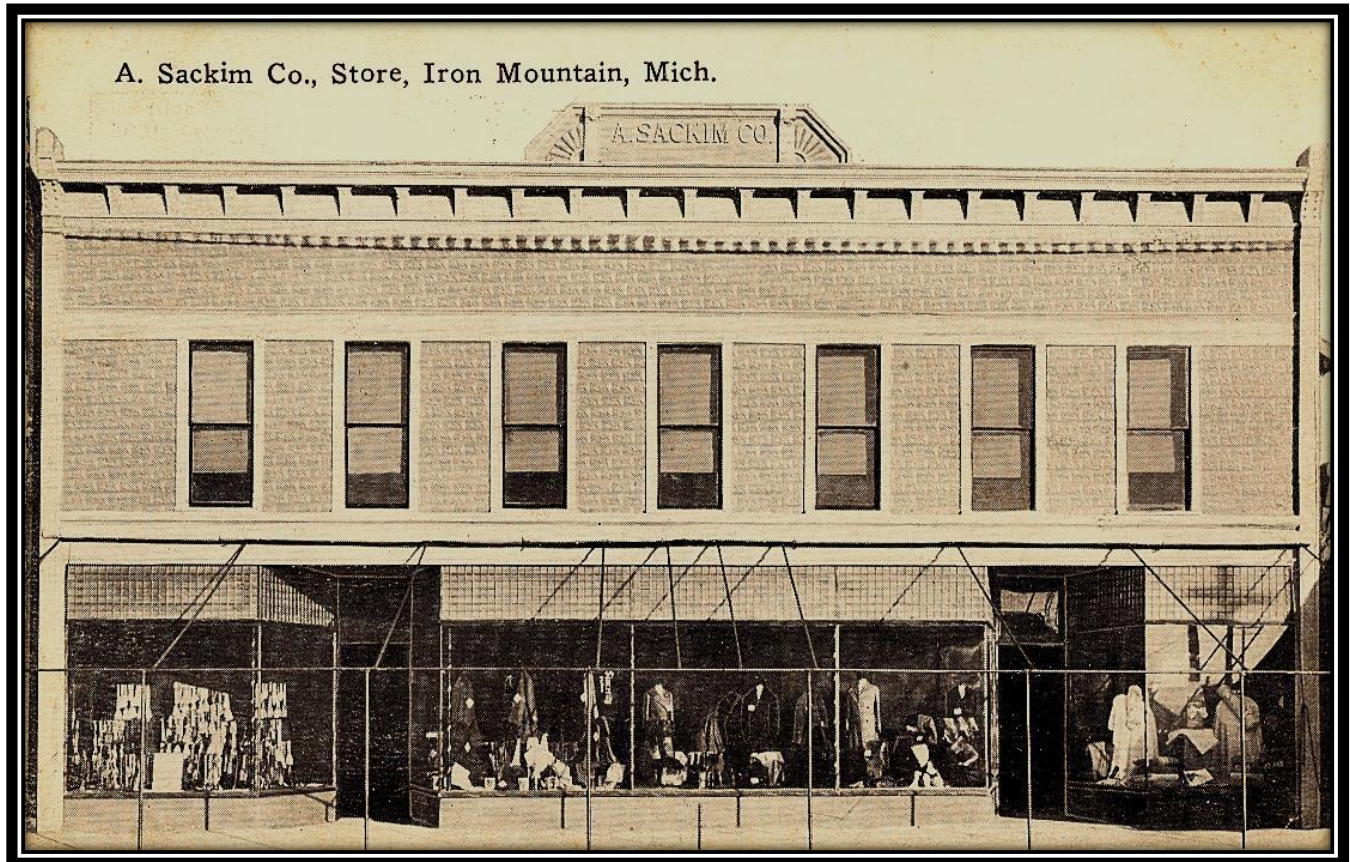
The store continued its steady growth under the direction of Ben Seaman, and in

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**1925** two departments were added, in a newly-built basement. In **1925** the Economy Basement, showing lower priced

merchandise, was opened, and in **1926** came the popular cash-and-carry grocery department.



Postmarked **September 15** with only the two middle numbers – 92 – of the year, dating to the **1920s**, this postcard view shows the **A. Sackim Company Store** located at **327-331 South Stephenson Avenue**. The metal front was made by **George L. Mesker & Co.**, of **Evansville, Indiana**, one of the biggest manufacturers of metal building fronts in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and was installed in **1911**. The enlarged and remodeled store occupied the lots between the Montgomery Block and Seibert's Drug Store. [William J. Cummings]

The A. Sackim Company also purchased that half of the property which it formerly had under lease in **1925**.

The following article regarding the **A. Sackim Company's 35th anniversary** was published in the **May 11, 1927** edition of *The Iron Mountain News*:

*The A. Sackim company this week is celebrating its thirty-fifth anniversary.*

*This large department store was organized in Iron Mountain in the spring of 1892, the firm at that time consisting of A. Sackim and Julius Rusky.*

*In the fall of 1894 this partnership was dissolved, the business being continued by Mr. Sackim.*



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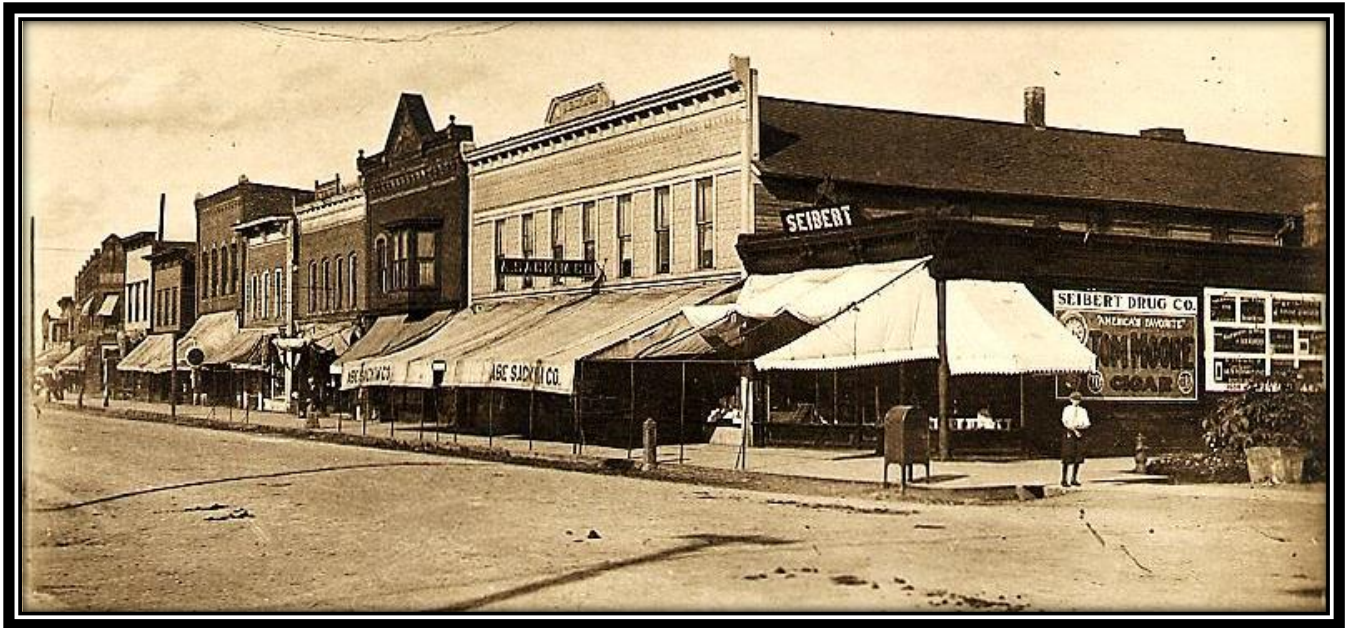
By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian



Postmarked **April 6, 1915**, this postcard view shows the **east side of the 300 block of South Stephenson Avenue**, complete with an early automobile and horse-drawn wagons. The businesses, identified from left to right in the *Directory of the Cities of Iron Mountain and Norway and Dickinson County 1913*, include: **303**, **Gust F. Gensch's** two-story frame hardware store, just visible; **305**, **Michael Khoury's** two-story frame fruit and confectionery shop (three windows), managed by **Abe Abraham**; **307**, **Joseph B. Eslick's** one-story frame barbershop with the barber pole visible at the street; **311**, **Gust P. Johnson's** two-story brick dry goods store (four windows); **313**, **Arthur Uddenberg's** two-story frame drug store and news depot (three windows) shared with **Gust Rahm** and **Louis J. Will's** jewelry store with the large watch sign; **317-319**, **John I. Khoury's** two-story brick general merchandise store, called the **Boston Store** (four windows); **317 ½**, **James Prenevost's** pool and billiards hall (upstairs); **323**, **Joseph De Concini's** two-story frame **Bank Buffet**, a restaurant and saloon, (two windows and a bay window); **327-331**, the **Abe Sackim Company's** two-story brick dry goods and gentleman's furnishing store, one of the leading department stores in the city for over 60 years (seven windows) with **Abe Sackim**, president; **Ben Seaman**, treasurer; **Sam Seaman**, treasurer; **333**, **Seibert's Drug Store**, a single-story frame building with the large awning at the corner, **George F. and Margaret Seibert**, proprietors. Across **East Hughitt Street** at **401** is **Thomas Seccombe's** two-story frame saloon and at **405** **Charles B. Parent's** two-story frame clothing store. The buildings at **305**, **307**, **311** and **317-319** still stand in **2018**. [William J. Cummings]

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Postmarked C&NWRR Milwaukee R.P.O. (railroad post office), **June 28, 1920** [year indistinct] this postcard view shows the **east side of the 300 block of South Stephenson Avenue**, looking north. **Seibert's Drug Store**, with awnings lowered, was located on the northeast corner of South Stephenson Avenue and East Hughitt Street. The **Abe Sackim Company Store**, the largest department store in Iron Mountain at the time, was located north of Seibert's Drug Store. North of the Abe Sackim Company Store was the **Montgomery Block**, and next door to the north was the building owned by **Edwin Freeman**. [William J. Cummings]

*The firm was reorganized and incorporated April 1, 1909, two new members, Ben Seaman and Sam Seaman, being taken in. Mr. Sam Seaman died several years ago, but his brother, Ben, today holds the position of secretary and treasurer of the firm, Mr. Sackim, the original organizer, still being president.*

*From the time it was started the store has enjoyed a steadily expanding business. The original quarters consisted of one room 25x60 feet and in 1898 the first addition was built. This addition lengthened the store 60 feet, giving it a total of 120 feet. In 1903 a complete basement was constructed. In 1910 the building to the north, or the section now occupied by the men's clothing department, was acquired.*

*The store now consists of two floors and sales basement, all 60x120 feet.*

In early **May, 1942**, the **A. Sackim Company** celebrated its **50th Anniversary**.

At that time the store had "a staff of 35 carefully trained salesmen and saleswomen, many of whom, entering the employ of the company while still in their teens, had 'grown up' with the store." The department heads were **Dan Goodman**, men's clothing; **Arthur Chapman, Sr.**, women's and children's shoes; **Miss Irene Johnson**, women's ready-to-wear; **Ben Rusky**, the Economy Basement; and **Charles Luber**, the cash-and-carry grocery department.

In observance of 50 years of business in a city where the store had become an institution, the **A. Sackim Company** invited its customers and friends to call. There were sales in all departments, cash awards in the amount of \$500, flowers for the

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women and cigars for the men. Seaman arranged to have a fortune teller at the store, giving free readings to customers. There was also free bus service to and from the store.

**“Many Changes Completed At Sackim’s** In the Wednesday, **April 30, 1952** edition of *The Iron Mountain News*, the following article appeared under the headline **Store”**:

*Expressing complete confidence in the stability and economic future of Iron*

*Mountain, the management of A. Sackim Company today announced the completion of an extensive modernizing program started in conjunction with the store’s 60th anniversary.*

*“We will observe the 60th anniversary of the store throughout the year, placing special emphasis on our birthday during May – the month in 1892 when the store was opened,” C.M. Fugit, general manager, and only the third to serve in 60 years, announced today.*



This interior view of the **A. Sackim Co. Department Store**, located at **329-331 South Stephenson Avenue**, was taken in **1935**. Note the stairway at the left leading to the “Economy Basement” department which was established in **1925** for displaying lower priced merchandise. The four individuals – two women behind the counter on either side, and two men in the center – are unidentified. *[Menominee Range Historical Museum]*

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Using the **1941** city directory, businesses listed were: **301**, Majestic Lunch (Arthur Mitchell); **305**, Khoury's Beer Garden (Samuel A. Khoury); **305 ½**, Bon-Ton Sweet Shop (Wilbert Safranek); **311**, Fugere Bros. Clothes & Shoes; **313**, Louis J. Will, jeweler; **315**, Perina's Hat Shop (Perina LaRoque); **319**, F.W. Woolworth Co.; **321-323**, J.J. Newberry Co.; **329-331**, A.Sackim Co. Department Store (Abe Sackim, Ben Seaman); **333**, Cudlip's Drug Store (Samuel Cudlip). The Chicago & Northwestern Railway Company Depot was the only building on the west side of the street. The boy in the striped shirt at the far left is **John R. Calo**. This postcard view dates between **1942** and **1944**. [William J. Cummings]

The store, originally the **Sackim and Rusky store**, was founded in **1892**. The business was incorporated in **1908** as the **A. Sackim Company** and with the late Mr. **Abe Sackim** as president.

### **Ben Seaman Manager**

When the latter moved with his family from the city, the late **Ben Seaman** was made general manager in **1920** and served until the death, in Chicago, of Mr. Sackim. Mr. Seaman then was made president.

On the death of Mr. Seaman, **Mr. Fugit** was made general manager and **Lawrence Joselit, Jr.**, of Chicago, grandson of the founder of the store, was advanced to the presidency.

A large, three-layer birthday cake tonight will be placed in one of the windows of the store, signaling the opening of the May-month birthday observance. The lower layer of the cake consists of a large base; the second layer a replica of the store as it is today, and the top layer, a miniature of the smaller store which was opened by Mr. Sackim.

### **Many Changes**

Visitors to the store will note the many changes made during the recent months, including the installation of a modern, new cash register system with a complete floor audit; more sales space on the first floor, made possible by the moving of the offices

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*to the second floor; the opening of a new entrance through the men's department into the women's ready-to-wear section; relocating the men's shoe department and doubling the basement space through the conversion into floor space of an area formerly used for storage.*

*"In undertaking this project, we expressed complete confidence in the economic stability of Iron Mountain. This city will come all the way back and again be the hub of activity in this area," Mr. Fugit said today in commenting on the modernization program in the store.*

*The store has also increased its personnel and has designated key employes [sic – employees] as buyers. "By selecting employes [sic – employees] familiar with the various departments, we are assured of buyers who know what the public wants and who are able to place*

*orders in the market that will give us the best in merchandise at the most reasonable prices," Fugit added.*

## **Designated Buyers**

*Designated as buyers are **Mose Pasten**, men's clothing; **Don Cooper**, men's furnishings; **Jack Croci**, men's shoes; **Miss Isabelle King**, accessories and dry goods; **Miss Irene Johnson**, women's ready-to-wear; **Dan Poisson**, women's shoes, and **Abe Block**, the basement store.*

*"It is reassuring to note that during the 60 years the A. Sackim company has been doing business, only three managers have served the store," Fugit said.*

*There now are 27 employes [sic – employees] of the store, with an average of 10 years' employment. The oldest employe [sic – employee] has been on the payroll for 35 years.*