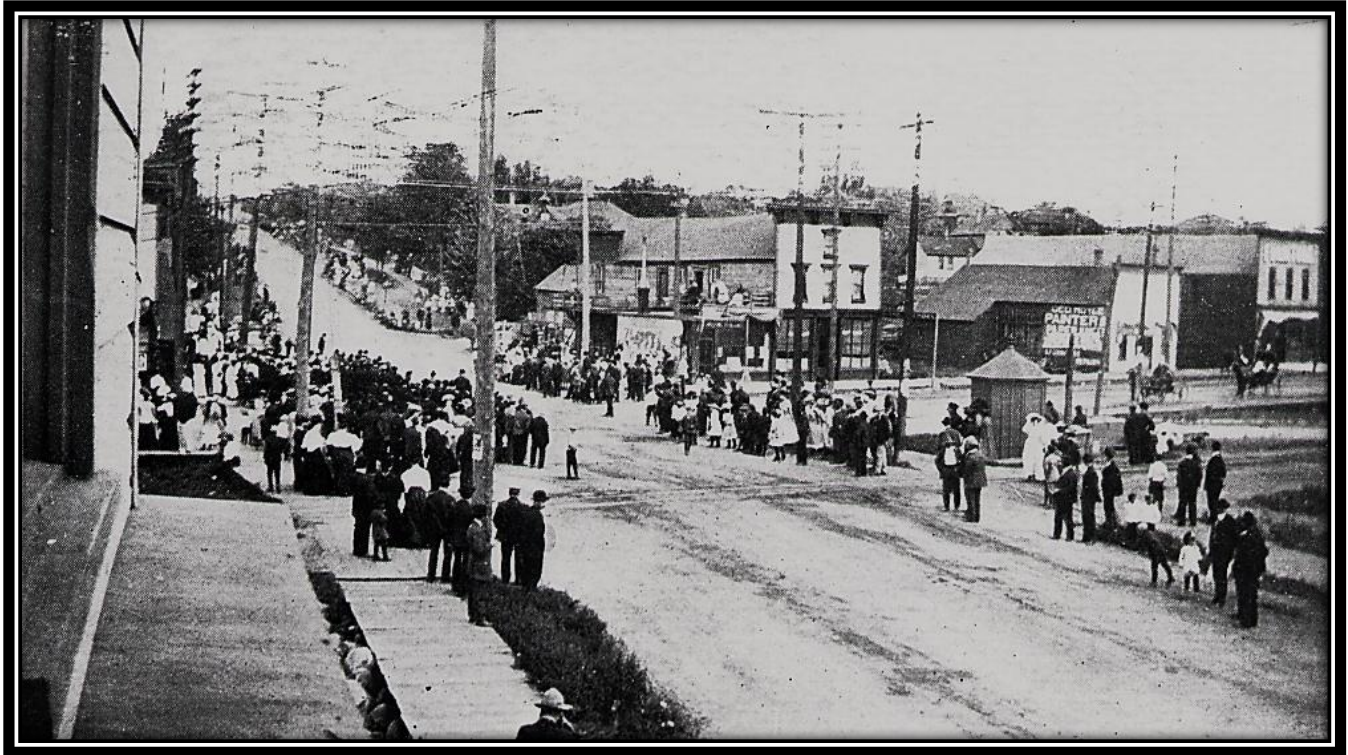


# MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 57: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 601-629 SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian



This postcard view documents the **first annual hill climbing contest** sponsored by the **Menominee Range Automobile Club** on **September 2, 1907**. The course was up **East B Street** from **Stephenson Avenue** to **Superintendent Elwin F. Brown's house** at the **Pewabic Mine**. Buildings visible on the east side of the 600 block of South Stephenson Avenue east of the B Street intersection included **601, John Niklas**, merchant tailor; **603, Moy A. Lon**, laundry; **615, George Hoyle**, painter and paper hanger (occupying the former shop of **A. Richter**, cigar manufacturer, and **A. Swanson**); and **619, Charles Gunnarson**, furniture dealer. *[William John 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.]*

The 57th 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 – 601-629 South Stephenson Avenue."

In **1892-1894** only two addresses appeared on this block, as the 500 block of South Stephenson Avenue was basically the end of the downtown commercial district at that time. Ten years later there were four addresses listed in the **1902-1903** directory on the east side of the 600 block. By **1907-1908** the number had grown to six addresses, but by **1913** the number was down to four addresses. In **1925** there were only three establishments with addresses on this block, but by **1935** eight businesses were located here.

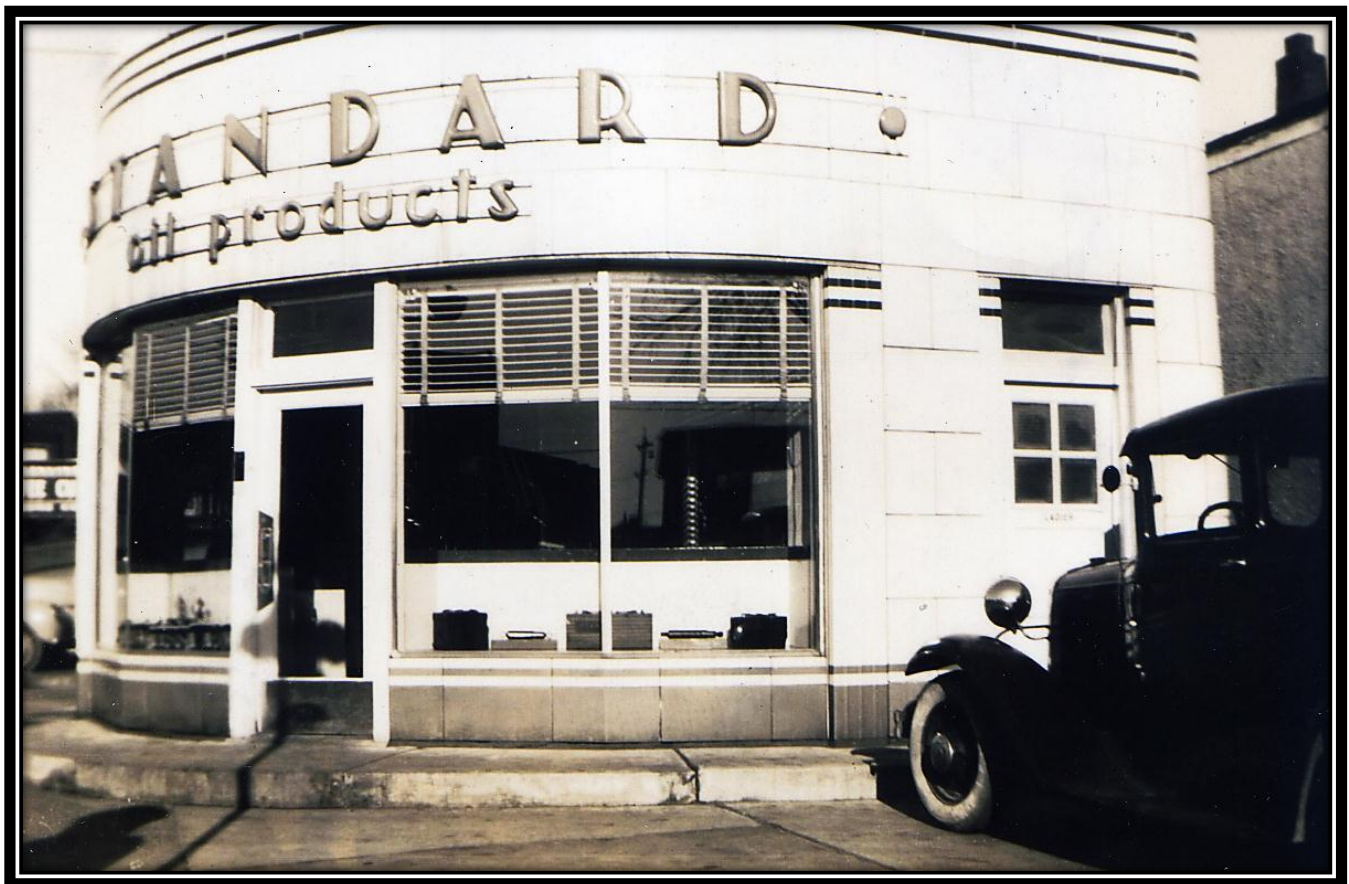
# MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 57: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 601-629 SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

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**History of 601:** In **1892-1894** R.P. Helson sold “fruit, game and fish” at this address. Rasmussen & Strong (P. Rasmussen and John Strong) sold and repaired bicycles here in **1902-1903**. John Niklas, a merchant tailor, worked here in **1907-1908**. In **1913** Axel Swanson, a shoemaker, worked and lived at this location. There was no listing for this address in **1925** or **1935**.

While there was no listing for this address in **1935**, there was a listing for a

Standard Oil Company filling station at the southeast corner of South Stephenson Avenue and East B Street, but no further information was provided. By **1939** Herbie’s Service Station was operated here by Herbert Hughes and was still listed at this address as Herbie’s Standard Service Station under the same ownership in the **1941-1942** city directory, as was the Blackstone Taxi Company, also owned by Herbert Hughes. There was no listing for this address in the **1946** city directory.



Owned by Rudy “Red” Lundholm, Sr., Lundholm’s Standard Service was located on the southeast corner of South Stephenson Avenue and East B Street. This photograph dates to **about 1950**. Note the early automobile to the right. [Sue (Lundholm) Wilson]

By **1961** Ward P. Grubb operated Ward Grubb’s Standard Service at this address. By **1963** William H. Rice was owned of

Bill’s Standard Service here. From **1964 through 1966** Ronald A. Cerasoli ran Ron’s Standard Service at this location.



# MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 57: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 601-629 SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

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From **1967 to 1969** John W. Vallery operated **Vallery's Standard Service** at this address.

From **1970-1972** the address was listed as vacant and there were no listings after that date.



Owned by **Rudy "Red" Lundholm, Sr.**, **Lundholm's Standard Service** was located on the southeast corner of **South Stephenson Avenue and East B Street**. The garage door opened on East B Street. This photograph dates from **about 1950**. [*Sue (Lundholm) Wilson*]

**History of 603:** **Thomas Blackney**, a miner at the **Pewabic Mine**, was named in the street index at this address in **1892-1894**, but in the alphabetical listing he was residing at 602 South Stephenson Avenue, across the street, probably a misprint. In **1902-1903** **Moy A. Lon** ran a Chinese laundry at this location and resided here, still operating his laundry and living here in **1907-1908**. In addition, **Samuel Doney**, a blacksmith, resided at this address in **1907-1908** with his wife **Mary A. Doney** and

**Lillie R. Doney**, a student, as did **Arthur Clairmont**, a bartender, and his wife **Minnie Clairmont**. The surname was spelled **Claremont** in the street index and **Clairmo** in the alphabetical listing. **Moy A. Lon** still did "hand laundry" at this address in **1913**, and **Matt J. Arbour**, a plasterer, lived here with his wife **Mary Arbour** and **Lee Arbour**, a deliveryman.

There was no listing for this address in **1925, 1935, 1939, 1941-1942 or 1946**.

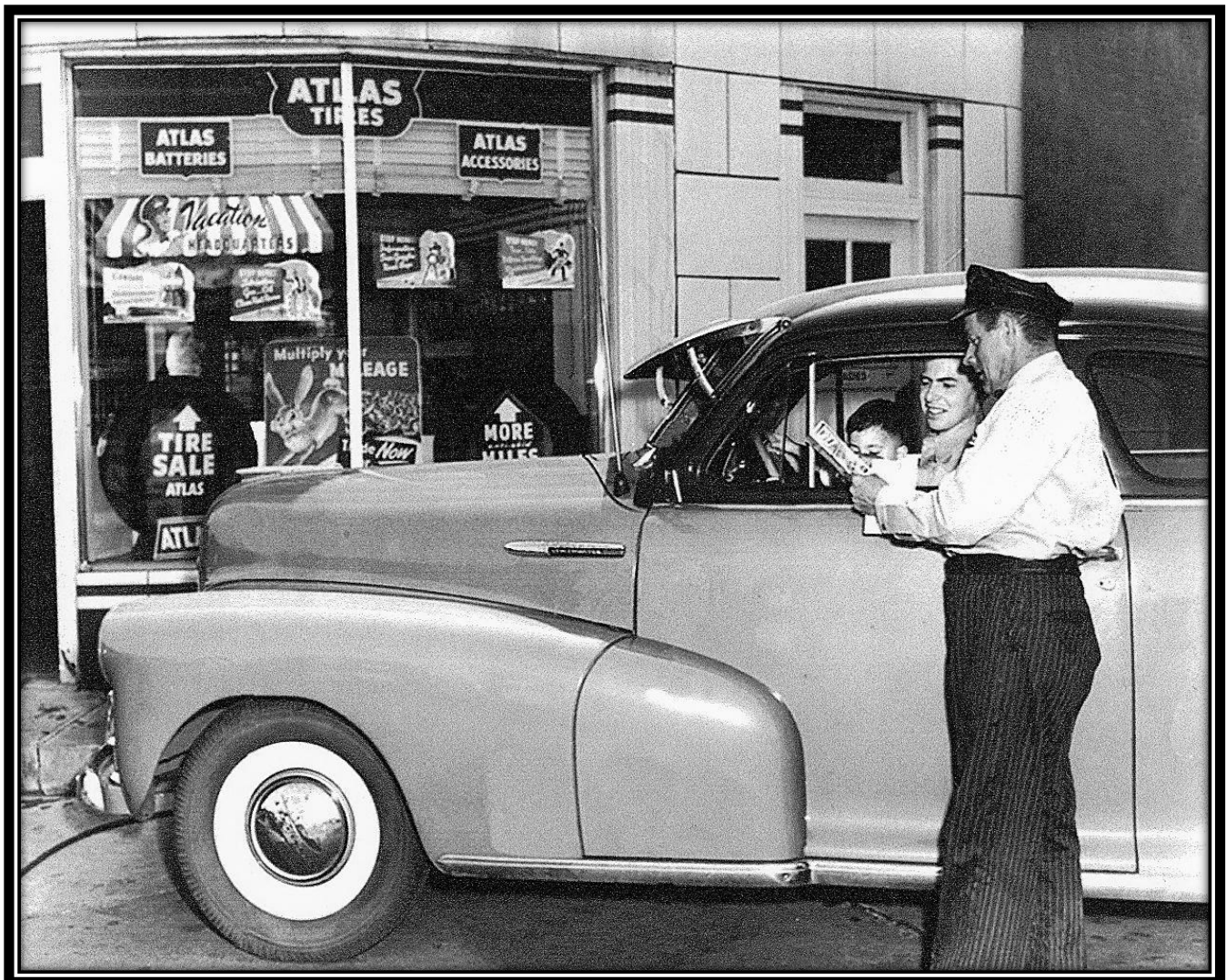


# MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 57: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 601-629 SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

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**History of 607:** There was no listing for this address in **1892-1894**, **1902-1903**, **1907-1908**, **1913** or **1925**. However, in **1935** the **Blackstone Lunch**, run by **Jacob Smith**, was located here. By **1939** the business was known as the **Blackstone Tavern**, operated by **Jacob “Jake” Smith**, and the **Blackstone Taxi Company**, owned by **Herbert Hughes**, was listed at

**607 ½ South Stephenson Avenue**. The **Blackstone Tavern** was listed at the same address and under the same ownership in the **1941-1942** city directory, but there was no listing for **607 ½ South Stephenson Avenue**. The **Blackstone Taxi Company** had moved to **601 South Stephenson Avenue**. There was no listing for this address in the **1946** city directory

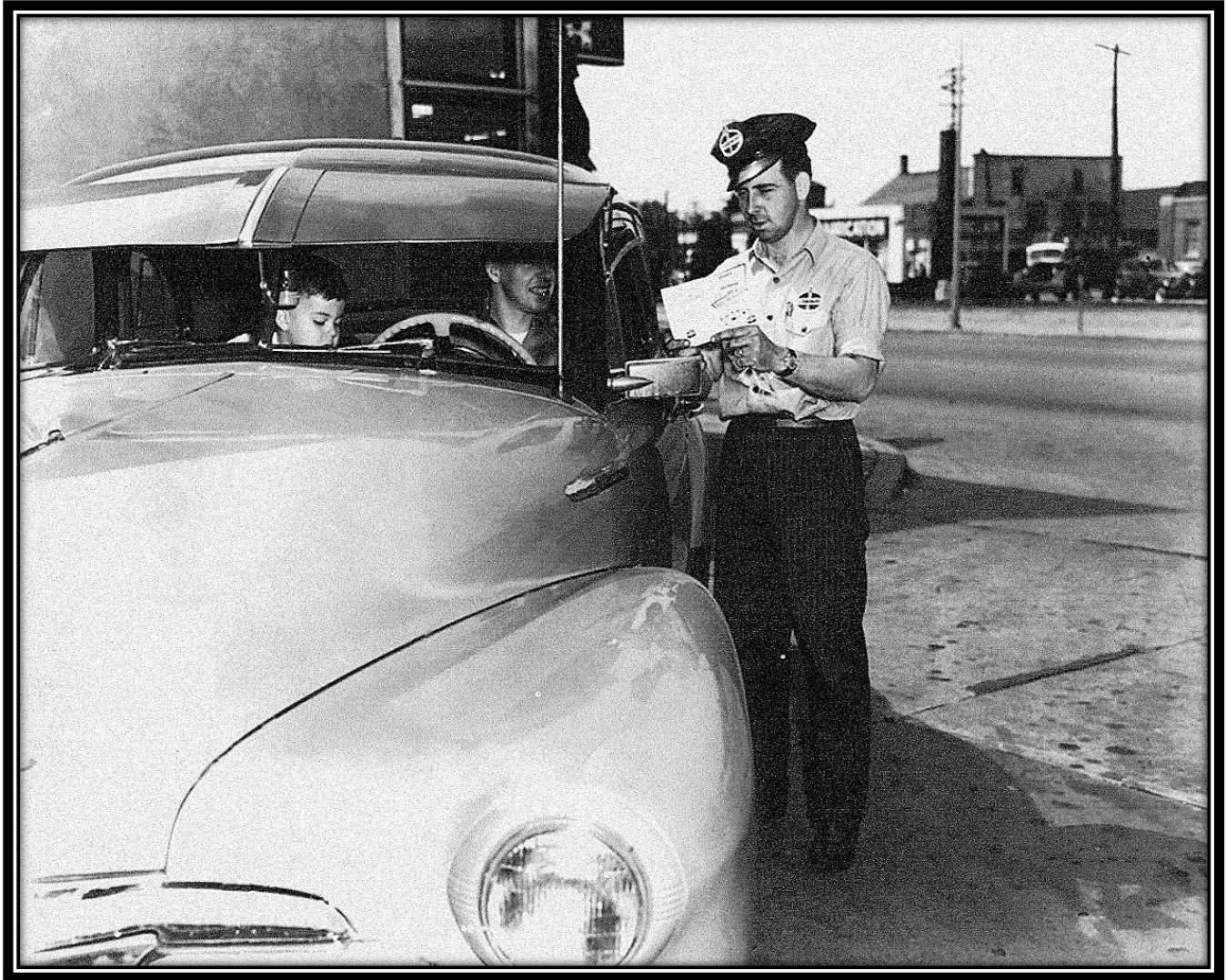


Owned by **Rudy “Red” Lundholm, Sr.**, **Lundholm’s Standard Service** was located on the southeast corner of **South Stephenson Avenue** and **East B Street**. **Rudy Lundholm, Jr.** stood by the car while **Bob and Larry Lundholm** sat inside the car in this photograph, taken in **about 1949**. [*Sue (Lundholm) Wilson*]



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Owned by **Rudy “Red” Lundholm, Sr.**, **Lundholm’s Standard Service** was located on the southeast corner of South Stephenson Avenue and East B Street. **Rudy Lundholm, Jr.** stood by the car while **Bob and Larry Lundholm** sat inside the car in this photograph, taken in **about 1949**. *[Sue (Lundholm) Wilson]*

By **1961** through **1970** **Harold J. Smith** operated **Smitty’s Bar** at **607 South Stephenson Avenue**. In **1971** the address was listed as vacant.

In **1972** the **Olympic Lounge**, owned by **Willie P. and Maija Erickson**, was in business here. From **1973** through **1975** the address for the **Olympic Lounge** was given as **609 South Stephenson Avenue**, probably a street renumbering change.

In **1976** the **Playboy Lounge**, operated by **Frank J. and Lois J. Senger, Jr.**, began business at **609 South Stephenson Avenue** and was listed there until **1981**. By **1986** the **Playboy Lounge** was listed at **607 South Stephenson Avenue** and continued at this address through **1989**. There was no listing in **1990** and **1991**.

In **1989** and **1990** **China Gardens**, a restaurant owned by **Frank J. and Lois J.**



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Senger, was listed at 611 South Stephenson Avenue. In 1991 China Gardens was owned by Ping Chang at 611 South Stephenson Avenue. The address for China Gardens changed to

607 South Stephenson Avenue beginning in 1992 and remained the same through 2000 with Ping Chang listed as the owner. Again, this may have been an address change rather than a move of location.



Owned by Rudy “Red” Lundholm, Sr., Lundholm’s Standard Service was located on the southeast corner of South Stephenson Avenue and East B Street. Rudy Lundholm, Jr. showed Larry Lundholm a tire while Bob Lundholm watched in this photograph, taken in about 1949. [Sue (Lundholm) Wilson]

**History of 609:** There was no listing for this address in 1892-1894, 1902-1903, 1907-1908, 1913 or 1925. By 1935 the Clement Optical Company, operated by

Dr. J.L. Clement, who resided in Escanaba, Michigan, was located at this address, advertising “Glasses Fitted, Eyes Examined, Acousticon Hearing Aids.”



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**Pietro Calo**, a tailor and furrier, was listed at this address by **1939**, and was still listed in the **1941-1942** city directory as the **Calo Tailor & Furrier Shop** under the same

ownership. By **1946** Pietro Calo was located at **613 South Stephenson Avenue**.



Owned by **Rudy “Red” Lundholm, Sr.**, **Lundholm’s Standard Service** was located on the southeast corner of **South Stephenson Avenue** and **East B Street**. **Bob Lundholm** (left) and **Rudy Lundholm, Jr.** (right) looked at **Larry Lundholm**, holding a brochure or pamphlet in this photograph, taken in **about 1949**. [*Sue (Lundholm) Wilson*]

In **1961** **Izzy’s Ski & Sport**, owned by **Ronald C. Israelson**, sold sporting goods at this address. By **1963** **Your Discount Center**, operated by **Paul G. Campbell**, sold general merchandise here. In **1964** ownership had changed to **Floyd B. Merritt**

and **James A. Merritt**. By **1966** the business bought, sold and appraised coins as well as selling sporting goods, toys and surplus goods under the same ownership. In **1967** the business name was changed to **Your Discount Coin Center**. The name

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was again changed to **The Big Dollar** from **1969** through **1972**. In **1972** **Floyd B. Merritt** was listed as the sole owner, selling sporting goods.

In **1973** the **Olympic Lounge**, a tavern run by **Willie P. and Maija Erickson**, was listed at this address, a change from **607 South Stephenson Avenue** in the **1972** listing. This address remained the same through **1975**.

In **1976** the **Playboy Lounge**, owned by **Frank J. and Lois J. Senger, Jr.**, opened at this location and remained in business at this address until **1981**. Beginning in **1987 through 1989** the **Playboy Lounge** was listed at **607 South Stephenson Avenue**.

**History of 611:** There was no listing for this address in **1892-1894**, **1902-1903**, **1907-1908** or **1913**. However, in **1925** the **Blackstone Taxi Company**, operated by **Charles R. Farrell** and **Howard J. Eslick**, offered “Day and Night Service, All Buick Enclosed Cars” at this location. There was no listing for this address in **1935**, **1939** or **1941-1942**.

In **1946** the **Blackstone Tavern**, owned by **Jake Smith**, operated at this location.

By **1973** the **Household Finance Corporation**, under the management of **James M. Young**, provided loans to the community, remaining at this location and under the same management through **1981**.

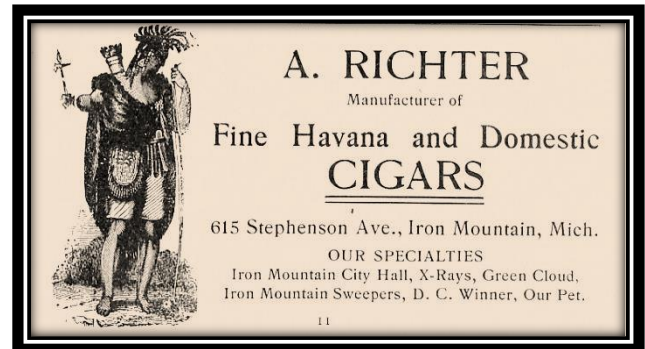
Beginning **1985 through 1988** the **Playhouse Supper Club**, owned by **Frank J. and Lois J. Senger, Jr.**, began serving a menu of “American, Italian and varied seafoods served in the most unique dining rooms in the Upper Peninsula” on Tuesdays through Sundays from 5 to 10 p.m. – in street listing at 609 and in alphabetical listing at 615

**China Gardens** was in operation at this address in **1990** with **Frank J. and Lois J. Senger, Jr.**, owners, and in **1991** with **Ping**

**Chang**, owner. Beginning in **1992** **China Gardens** was listed at **607 South Stephenson Avenue**.

**History of 613:** In **1946** **Pietro Calo**, tailor and furrier, was listed at 613 South Stephenson Avenue.

**History of 615:** There was no listing for this address in **1892-1894**. **A. Richter**, a cigar manufacturer, worked at this address in **1902-1903**, advertising the “finest grades of cigars made from the very best tobacco.” His advertisement on page 11 of the **1902-1903** directory read: “Manufacturer of Fine Havana and Domestic Cigars,” and added his specialties by name – Iron Mountain City Hall, X-Rays, Green Cloud, Iron Mountain Sweepers, D.C. Winner and Our Pet.



This advertisement appeared in the *Directory of the Cities of Iron Mountain and Norway and Villages of Quinnesec and Vulcan, Mich. with a List of the Residents of Niagara, Wis., 1902-1903*.

In **1907-1908** **Andrew Swanson**, who sold dry goods and notions at his shop at **708 Vulcan Street** on the North Side, resided at this address with his wife **Julia Swanson**. By **1913** **Charles Gunnarson** had expanded his furniture store at **619 South Stephenson Avenue** to include **615-619 South Stephenson Avenue**.



# MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 57: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 601-629 SOUTH STEPHENSON AVENUE

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The **Max A. Cohodes** building, constructed in **1922**, was located at **615-**

**621 South Stephenson Avenue** and still [2020] stands there today.



**Buchman's Drug Store**, operated by **Abraham G. Buchman**, a druggist and prescription pharmacist, was located in a portion of the **Max A. Cohodes** building at **615-617 South Stephenson Avenue** by **1925**. **Joseph H. Cohodes** operated the

**J.H. Cohodes Department Store** at **615 South Stephenson Avenue** by **1935** and was still listed here in **1939**. **The Rose Shop**, a dress shop operated by **Rosenblum Sanders**, was listed at this address in the **1941-1942** city directory.



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By **1946** the **New York Dress Shop**, also listed as the **New York Fashion Shop**, **Louis Bruno**, proprietor, operated at this location.

By **1961** the **Michigan Liquor Store**, under the management of **Joseph N. LaFave**, was found at this address, remaining through **1978**. In **1973** **Lloyd M. Brown** was listed as manager; in **1974 through 1976** **Robert J. La Rock** was manager; and by **1978** **Larry Wagner** was manager.

Beginning in **1979** **Superior Reporting Service**, a court reporting business operated by **Daniel H. Lori**, and the **Superior Title & Abstract Company** (**Daniel H. Lori**, secretary-treasurer-manager) provided abstracts of title and lawyer's title insurance. In **1981** **Superior Reporting Service, Inc.** (**Roberta Miller**, president; **Cindy Emond**, vice-president, operated their freelance court reporting service here. This business was no longer listed by **1985**.

By **1985** the **Superior Title & Abstract Company** added **Superior Microfilm**, owned by **Daniel H. Lori**. In **1986** **North Star Systems** was also established by **Daniel H. Lori**. In **1988** **Nancy B. Lori** served as president of the **Superior Title & Abstract Company**, and **North Star Systems** was under the direction of **Daniel H. Lori**, **Dennis J. Hicks** and **Annie M. Hicks**.

In **1990** **Jeffrey L. Smith** was president of the **Superior Title & Abstract Company** and **L.J. Miller** became vice-president in **1997**. In **1998** the **Iron Mountain-Kingsford Investment**, a title abstract office, was established here with **Jeffrey L. Smith**, president. This company was still at this location in **2000**.

In **1990** the officers of **North Star Systems, Inc.** were **Anne Hicks**, president; **Dennis Hicks**, vice-president;

and **Timothy Bennett**, treasurer, a sales and service company for computer and filing systems which had moved to **628 Industrial Park Drive**.

In **1991** **U.P. Reports**, insurance investigators, was located here with **Debra Strauss**, secretary-typist. This company remained at this address through **1993**.

That same year **Lori Associates, Inc.**, **Daniel J. Lori**, president, was established, providing engraving services and selling trophies, awards, signs and other engravable items. By **1995** **Lori Associates, Inc.** sold office furniture and filing systems. In **1998** **Tab of Mississippi**, a furniture sales company, was established with **Daniel H. Lori**, president.

In **1994** **B K Enterprises** (**Brenda Mattson**, manager) was in business at this address selling trophies, awards, signs and rubber stamp and providing engraving services.

**History of 617:** There was no listing for this address in **1892-1894**, **1902-1903** or **1907-1908**. By **1913** **Charles Gunnarson** had expanded his furniture store at **619 South Stephenson Avenue** to include **615-619 South Stephenson Avenue**.

The **Max A. Cohodes** building, constructed in **1922**, was located at **615-621 South Stephenson Avenue** and still [2010] stands there today. Although listed at 615 South Stephenson Avenue in the **1925** directory, it is likely that **Joseph H. Cohodes** ran his "General Merchandise" store at this address, as **Buchman's Drug Store** was listed at 615 South Stephenson Avenue. **Gamble Stores**, managed by **Alfred W. Humphrey**, sold automobile accessories at this location in **1935**.

By **1939** **Standard Printing Company**, owned by **Paul J. Gingrass**, was located here, and was still listed at this address under the same ownership in the **1941-1942** city directory.



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The **Standard Printing Company**, owned by **Paul Gingrass** in **1946**, continued business at this address for many years. By **1961** the company was

owned by **Jack L. Gingrass**, advertising general printing, office furniture and supplies. The business was still at this address in **2000**.



The **Standard Printing Company**, located at **617 South Stephenson Avenue**, served the community for decades, and was operating here by **1939**. **Paul J. Gingrass**, standing behind the counter and nearest the camera, was the original owner of the business. Note the tin ceiling and wooden display cases. This photograph probably dates to **1950**. [Don Khoury]

**History of 619:** There was no listing for this address in **1892-1894**. In **1902-1903** **Gunnarson & Berg** (**Charles Gunnarson** and **Claus Berg**) operated two stores, one at **122 East Brown Street**, selling “furniture, paints and wallpaper,” and the other at this address, offering “furniture, wall paper and paints,” and advertising themselves as “painters and paper

hangers.” **Charles Gunnarson** also boarded upstairs at this address in **1902-1903**. Charles Gunnarson still roomed at this address in **1907-1908** and also operated his furniture business here. By **1913** Charles Gunnarson had expanded his furniture store to include **615-619 South Stephenson Avenue**.



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An article in the **July 8, 1922** edition of the *Iron Mountain News* under the headline “**ESCANABA MEN TO OPEN SHOP HERE: Buchanan Brothers Will Start Furniture, Undertaking Store announced the first occupant of the Cohodes Building**” as follows:

*Frank X. Buchanan and Joseph Buchanan, who expect to engage in the furniture and undertaking business in Iron Mountain about **October 1**, are in the city. For the past several years the brothers were associated with the **Anderson & Buchanan company**, a corporation engaged in the furniture and undertaking business at **Escanaba**, which has now been dissolved. The new firm has leased the **Cohodes building** now in course of erection. The *Escanaba Mirror* says that “Iron Mountain is to be congratulated upon acquiring two such splendid young business men to add to her roster of progressive young hustlers and community builders.”*

**Buchanan & Villemur Company** (Frank X. Buchanan, Joseph L. Buchanan and Dophis F. Villemur) operated their furniture and undertaking business at **619-621 South Stephenson Avenue** by **1925**. In addition, **Louis H. Cohodes** was selling meats and groceries at **619 South Stephenson Avenue**, according to the **1925** directory.

However, an article in the **July 17, 1925** edition of the *Iron Mountain News* announced a new location for the **Buchanan & Villemur Funeral Home** as follows under the headline “**MODERN FUNERAL HOME COMPLETED: Buchanan & Villemur Have New Establishment in City**”:

*One of the most modern funeral homes in the upper peninsula has been completed by Buchanan & Villemur, Iron Mountain*

*funeral directors and embalmers, at **1117 Carpenter avenue**.*

*The structure is modelled [sic – modeled] along the lines of the old colonial style homes and is equipped with all modern conveniences and rest rooms. In addition to the morgue there is a chapel especially designed and large enough to accommodate 50 persons.*

*The interior decorations are elaborate and cost a considerable sum.*

*The funeral home is considered to be one of the best north of Milwaukee.*

*The second floor of the building has living quarters.*

After the funeral home moved to its new location, the **Green Mill Restaurant & Waffle Shop** opened at this location according to an article in the **July 1, 1925** edition of the *Iron Mountain News* as follows under the headline “**GREEN MILL CAFÉ IS OPENED TODAY: New Shop Will Offer Chinese Dishes and Waffles**”:

*The **Green Mill Restaurant and Waffle Shop**, at **619 Stephenson avenue**, opened its doors to the public for the first time at noon today. Proprietors of the place are **John Fundas**, of Chippewa Falls, Wis., and **John Kollis**, of Iron Mountain.*

*Mr. Fundas is an experienced chef, and has a successful restaurant of the same name in Chippewa Falls.*

*Good food, including a wide range of the popular Chinese chow meins and chop sueys, will be offered.*

*In honor of the opening today the tables were decorated with tea roses.*

The **MacDonald Beauty Shop**, operated by **Mrs. Etta M. MacDonald**, was located at this address by **1935**, and was still listed here under the same ownership in the **1939** and the **1941-1942** city directories.

On Sunday, **September 17, 1944**, **The Hob-Nob**, a restaurant, opened at **619**



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South Stephenson Avenue under the ownership of Mrs. Verna Hyland and Miss Evelyn Hurlburt. The advertisement for the formal opening noted the special was a southern fried chicken dinner, and steaks and chops were also featured. The restaurant was serving regular dinners and short orders daily from 7 a.m. to 2 a.m. By 1946 Evelyn Hurlburt was manager.

By 1959 Sue Theisen operated The Hob-Nob, featuring “Sue’s Home Cooking.” By 1961 Arthur J. Gagnon owned The Hob-Nob, and by 1963 the owners were

listed as Arthur J. and Olive M. Gagnon. The advertising in the city directory read: “The Small Place With The Big Reputation For Real Home Cooking and Baking. We Specialize In Sea Foods, Home-Made Soups and Pies. Serving from 6 a.m. to 7:20 p.m. Each Weekday.”

By 1966 Mrs. Lucille Banfield was operating The Hob-Nob. By 1969 there was no listing for this address. 1990 – no listing 1990 – no listing 1990 – no listing 1990 – no listing 1990 – no listing



This photograph shows the east side of the 600 block of South Stephenson Avenue and probably dates from the 1950's. In the 1946 city directory, the Blackstone Tavern (the Blackstone Bar in this photograph) was located at 611, operated by Jake Smith. Tailor and furrier Pietro Calo did business at 613. The New York Dress Shop, operated by Louis Bruno, was at 615. Standard Printing Company, at 617, was owned by Paul J. Gingrass. The Hob-Nob at 619 was under the management of Evelyn Hurlburt. In the 1959 city directory The Hob-Nob was run by Sue Theisen, featuring Sue’s Home Cooking, at 619. The O.K. Auto Parts Company at 621 was owned by Bud Nancarrow. In the 1959 city directory Chester Peterson ran the O.K. Auto Parts Company. [William J. Cummings]



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**History of 621:** There was no listing for this address in **1892-1894**, **1902-1903** or **1907-1908**. **Halbar [sic – Halvar] Person**, a liveryman, was listed at **623 South Stephenson Avenue** according to the street index in the **1907-1908** directory, but in the Iron Mountain, Mich., Business Directory for **1907-1908** was found at **621 South Stephenson Avenue**. Since **L.M. Hansen** had a livery stable at **623 South Stephenson Avenue** by **1913** and there was no listing for **621 South Stephenson Avenue** in **1913**, the livery stable located here in **1907-1908** and in **1913** probably occupied **621-623 South Stephenson Avenue**.

Constructed in **1922**, the **Max A. Cohodes** building was located at **615-621 South Stephenson Avenue**. **Buchanan & Villemur Company** (**Frank X. Buchanan**, **Joseph L. Buchanan** and **Dolphis F. Villemur**) operated their furniture and undertaking business at **619-621 South Stephenson Avenue** in **1925**. **Charles Farrell** ran a restaurant here by **1935**. By **1939** **David J. Confeld** sold women's clothing at **Confeld's Ladies' Apparel Shop** at this address and was still listed here in the **1941-1942** city directory.

By **1946** **Bud Nancarrow** operated **O.K. Auto Parts** at **621 South Stephenson Avenue**. By **1961** **Chester Peterson** was listed as the owner, and by **1963** **William G. Murra** was the proprietor.

From **1964 through 1966** the building was listed as vacant.

Beginning in **1967** the **Sherwin-Williams Paint Store** operated at this location with the following branch managers: **Dale Hillier**, **1967**; **Ernie J. Rudolph**, **1969**; **Larry J. DeCamp**, **1970-1971**; **Frank Auttersen**, branch manager,

and **Larry J. DeCamp**, assistant manager, **1972-1975**; **Larry J. DeCamp**, **1976**; **James Hanson**, **1978**. There was no listing in **1979**.

**History of 623:** In **1892-1894** **Timothy McNamara**, a railroad employee, lived here, as did **Nellie McNamara**, a telephone operator. There was no listing for this address in **1902-1903**. **Halbar [sic – Halvar] Person**, a liveryman, was at this address according to the street index in the **1907-1908** Iron Mountain city directory, but in the Iron Mountain, Mich., Business Directory for **1907-1908** was found at **621 South Stephenson Avenue**.

Under the headline "Closed the Stable" an article in the **April 1, 1909** edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* noted:

*The **Person livery stable**, buildings, harnesses, carriages, hearses, etc., has been sold to **Andrew Bjorkman**. The consideration was \$9,000. Mr. Bjorkman has sold nine of the horses to **Kurz Bros**. The others, together with the carriages, harnesses and the buildings, will be sold at auction next Saturday. The undertaking outfit has been removed to the **Lomprey stables** pending a deal for this sale. This sale will afford a splendid opportunity to secure first class carriages and horse furnishings at bargain prices.*

In the same column of the *Iron Mountain Press* under the headline "Business Deal" the following article appeared:

***L.M. Hansen** has purchased from **Andrew Bjorkman** at private sale the buildings lately occupied by **H. Person** as a livery stable. Mr. Hansen will remove his livery equipment to the new location next Monday. The property is well located for the livery business.*



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By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian



**Halvar Person** operated a livery stable at **621-623 South Stephenson Avenue** by **1907**. By **1909 Louis M. Hansen's Livery Stable** was located here. Note the wide door built to accommodate carriages and bobbies and the small windows on the south side of the structure which probably indicated horse stalls. [*Menominee Range Historical Museum*]

**Louis M. Hansen** previously operated a livery stable at **411-413 South Stephenson Avenue** by **1889** and was listed at this site in the **1892** city directory. He also leased the **Gage Livery Barn** at **100 West B Street** opposite the **Commercial Hotel** in **September 1899** and both sites were listed in the **1902** city directory, but in the **1905** and **1907** city directories only the Stephenson Avenue address was listed.

An article in the **May 27, 1920** edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* documented a modern addition to the **Hansen Livery Stable** as follows:

*L.M. Hansen has just received his new motor funeral car and it was employed for the first time last Tuesday. The car cost over \$4,000 and it is undoubtedly the most elaborate north of Milwaukee. It was built by J.S. Morris and was driven here from Waupun, Wis., and attracted much attention en route. Mr. Hansen has every reason to feel proud of his establishment, which had a small beginning. It includes the motor funeral car, a fine hearse, several automobiles and many good horses and carriages. It has no superior in the upper peninsula.*



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By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

Louis M. Hansen, son of Hans and Ingberg (Anderson) Larson, married Emma Olson, daughter of Gus and Nettie (Anderson) Olson, in Nadeau, Menominee

County, Michigan, on **December 14, 1898**. Born in **1851**, Louis died **November 25, 1922**.



This interior view of **Louis M. Hansen's Livery Stable, 621-623 South Stephenson Avenue**, dates to about **1915**. Note the large number of horse collars at the far left and the carriages lined up against the wall at the far right. Pictured are **Frank Lasalle** (born **April 26, 1889**, in Florence, Wisconsin—died **May 27, 1966**, in Iron Mountain, Michigan), **Alfred "Frenchy" Trudell** (born in **1866** in Canada—died **June 24, 1948**, in Iron Mountain, Michigan) and an unidentified man. There is no indication of who is who in the photograph. [*Menominee Range Historical Museum*]

An article in the **April 4, 1924** edition of the *Iron Mountain News* noted a location change for the **Blackstone Taxicab Company**, operated by **Howard Eslick** and **Charles Farrell**, as follows under the headline **"CAB COMPANY TO VACATE**

**BUILDING: Option on Hansen Property Forces Blackstone to Leave":**

*The Blackstone Taxicab company will vacate its present quarters at the corner of Stephenson avenue and C street it was announced today. The building now*

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occupied by the taxicab company is owned by **Mrs. L.M. Hansen**. An option has been taken on the property by a group of Chicagoans who have been reported contemplating building a hotel and theater here.

The Blackstone company was compelled to vacate with the expiration of its lease on the Hansen building. In view of the option, Mrs. Hansen was unable to renew the lease held by the taxicab company. The cab line will locate in the old **Marion theater building** located just east of Stephenson avenue on Hughitt street and formerly occupied by the **Yellow Cab company**. Removal to its new quarters will be started tomorrow.

Mrs. Hansen declared today that she looked for information relative to the expected sale of her property at an early date.

There was no entry for this address in **1925**.

An article in the **July 15, 1927** edition of *The Iron Mountain News* documents the erection of the building extending from **623-629 South Stephenson Avenue** as follows under the headline "**Building To Be Erected At Hansen Corner Site: Wolfe Brothers Award Contract For Modern Business Establishment; Work Starts at Once**":

*Work on the construction of a one-story, all-brick and steel business building at **Stephenson avenue and C street**, on the site formerly occupied by the **L.M. Hansen livery**, will begin early next week, according to **G.A. Gustafson**, contractor who has been awarded the job by **Morris and Harry Wolfe**, Chicago businessmen and owners of the site. The total cost of the structure is estimated at \$35,000.*

*The announcement sets at rest a host of rumors which have been circulated for the year relative to the plans for the building.*

*According to the specifications, the structure will comprise four store sites occupying the entire lot with a full basement throughout. Three fronts, each measuring about 23 feet in width, will face Stephenson avenue, and the fourth store will occupy the corner, facing both Stephenson avenue and C street with a 40-foot width in the rear.*

## **No Second Floor.**

*There will be no second floor, with offices, as had been rumored.*

*The face of the structure will be of light yellow brick, trimmed with pre-cast stone. **William G. Pagels**, Chicago architect, designed the building.*

*The contract for the excavation of the basement will be sub-letted [sic – sublet], officials of Mr. Gustafson's firm said today, and when that task is completed the contractor will employ about 25 men on the actual construction. The contract provides that the owners of the site will supply part of the material for the structure, and the plumbing, heating and electrical contracts will also be awarded separately, it was indicated.*

## **Purchased Two Years Ago.**

***Morris and Harry Wolfe**, Chicago merchants and sons-in-law of **Max A. Cohodes**, of this city, purchased the site from **Mrs. L.M. Hansen** more than two years ago at a consideration of \$25,000. That part of the construction awarded to **Mr. Gustafson** is estimated at about \$26,000, and an estimated additional \$9,000 will go into the special material to be provided by the owners of the site and outside contracts for the fixtures.*

*In announcing the plans, the Wolfe brothers declared that they were prompted in their investment by a full confidence in the industrial future of the district, and the subsequent growth of Iron Mountain and the territory immediately adjacent. No indication was given as to the nature of the*



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*business establishments to be given first choice of the three store sites.*

*It is planned to complete the structure within three months.*

*Rumors of the contemplated building have been general since the purchase of the site by Wolfe Brothers, but it was not*

*until last week that Mr. Gustafson was given his part of the contract that plans for the structure became definitely known.*

*The building will complete an up-to-date business block between B and C streets, on Stephenson avenue, new fronts having recently been built there.*



In **early August, 1927**, brothers **Morris Wolfe** and **Henry Wolfe**, sons-in-law of **Max A. Cohodes**, began construction of their four-store single-story brick and steel block at an estimated cost of \$35,000 at the **northeast corner of South Stephenson Avenue and East C Street**. **William F. Pagels**, a Chicago architect, prepared the plans. **Anton Miench** was in charge of the excavation when this photograph was taken during the first week of **August, 1927**. A steam shovel owned by **Hill Brothers**, of **Chatham, Michigan**, was loading one of Anton Miench's trucks. **G.A. Gustafson** had the contract for the structural work of the four-store block. Note the advertisements on the east end of the **Max A. Cohodes** building for **Louis H. Cohodes Meats & Groceries**, **J.E. Cohodes General Merchandise** and a partial sign for the **Buchanan & Villemur Company** (**Frank X. Buchanan**, **Joseph L. Buchanan** and **Dolphis F. Villemur**) which operated their furniture and undertaking business at **619-621 South Stephenson Avenue** until constructing their new funeral home which opened in **mid-July 1927** at **1117 South Stephenson Avenue**, later the site of the **Tondin-Rochon Funeral Home**. **St. Paul Park**, the site of the early farmers' market, was across the street. *[Menominee Range Historical Museum]*

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A follow-up article in the **August 1, 1927** edition of *The Iron Mountain News* provides additional information as follows under the headline “**DIGGING CELLAR FOR FOUR-STORE CORNER BUILDING: Expect Business Block To Be Finished In Three Months**”:

*Anton Miench, contractor, has started excavation for the \$35,000 one-story brick and steel business building to be built at the Hansen site, [on the] corner Stephenson avenue and C street. Announcement of the project was made Friday, July 15, by Morris and Harry Wolfe, of Chicago, owners of the property.*

*While the contract for the excavation has been sub-let [sic – sublet] to Mr. Miench, G.A. Gustafson has the contract for the structural work, to the amount of about \$25,000, the balance of the \$35,000, aside from the excavation, being made up but sub-letted [sic – sublet] contracts for lighting and heating and with materials which the Wolfe brothers plan to provide themselves.*

*As explained in the original announcement, the building will be a four-store structure, with three fronts facing on Stephenson avenue and the fourth, a corner site, on Stephenson and C. The face of the building will be of light yellow brick, trimmed with pre-cast stone, according to the plans prepared by William F. Pagels, Chicago architect.*

*The Wolfe brothers are sons-in-law of Max A. Cohodes, of this city, and they purchased the site about two years ago from Mrs. M.L. [sic – L.M.] Hansen. The consideration then was given as approximately \$25,000. Shortly after the deal fire destroyed the Hansen livery barn, which occupied the property. The site was later cleared and finally made ready for the beginning of the work now in progress.*

*The excavation, it is estimated, will require little more than a week, when G.A. Gustafson will move his men and equipment on the job. It is planned to complete the structure within three months. According to reports today numerous inquiries have already been received by the Wolfe brothers from prospective tenants for the four stores.*

There was no listing for this address in **1935**, but it may have been a part of H.I. Miller's restaurant at **625 South Stephenson Avenue**. However, by **1939** **Ellen Blixt Ladies' Apparel Shop**, operated by **Ellen Blixt**, was located here, but in the **1941-1942** city directory **Ross Clothes, Inc.**, operated by **Max Steiner**, was listed at this address.

By **1946** **George Crandall** operated **Crandall's Jewelry Store** at this address.

By **1961** **Gabriel Meretsky** ran the **Pix Shoe Store** here. By **1963** **Izzy's Ski & Sport Shop**, operated by **Ronald G. Israelson**, did business at this location. In **1966** **Northern States Equipment, Inc.** (**Ronald G. Israelson**, president; **Mary J. Israelson**, secretary-treasurer) sold marine supplies.

From **1967 through 1970** the building was listed as vacant. In **1971** **Rev. John A. Landreville**, associate pastor of the **Immaculate Conception Church**, supervised **The Pit**, a teen club, at this address. By **1972** the building was again listed as vacant.

In **1973 and through 1975** **Hayward Interiors**, owned by **Mrs. Jo Hayward** and **Mrs. Carol Muraro**, mother and daughter, offered interior decoration advice and gifts.

From **1976 through 1980** **Mrs. Edith Gazza** was the owner of **Hayward Interiors**, offering complete decorating service advertising “We'll Bring Our Store to



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Your Door.” In **1981** Hayward’s Interiors moved to **531 South Stephenson Avenue**.

By **1985** Wisti & Jaaskelainen, lawyers (A.J. Wisti, Gordon Jaaskelainen, Charles Goodman and Michael Makenen) had their offices here, as did **John S. McCabe**, another lawyer, whose office remained here through **1989**.

**Wisti & Jaaskelainen** remained at this location through **2000**. In **1994** the firm was listed as **Wisti & Jaaskelainen, P.C.** (Andrew H. Wisti, Frank A. Wisti and Daniel Wisti), lawyers. In **2000** Northern Skateboard Connections was also located at this address.

**History of 625:** There was no listing for this address in **1892-1894, 1902-1903, 1907-1908, 1913** or **1925**.

However, in **1935** H.I. Miller ran a restaurant at this location. By **1939** the Fairmont Ice Cream Company, managed by Roland Clementson, occupied this address. Miller’s Grill, operated by Margaret O’Brien, the Fairmont Ice Cream Company, managed by Alfred Brown, and the Greyhound Bus Station all were listed at this address in the **1941-1942** city directory.

By **1946** Reynolds Radio & Electronics, Conger Reynolds and B.J. Dryer, proprietors, did business at this address.

By **1961** Izzo’s Cue Center, billiards, was run by **Louis B. Izzo** here and **Erwin Thate** was the owner of **Erwin’s Good Food**, advertising complete dinners, a private dining room and hours from 6 a.m. to 3 a.m. **Izzo’s Cue Center** operated here through **1963**.

**Erwin’s Good Food** remained through **1967**. By **1969** the restaurant’s name had changed to the **Melody Cafe**, still under the ownership of **Erwin Thate**. By **1971** the address had changed to **629 South Stephenson Avenue**.

In **1966** the House of Color Television, **Frank W. Anderson**, manager, also operated at this location, providing TV and appliance sales and service. In **1967** **Wayne E. Jackson** and **Norman Gomney** operated the business, advertising RCA Victor radios, televisions, stereos and RCA Whirlpool appliances. The business was still at this address in **1969**.

There was no listing for this address in **1970**.

By **1971** the H & R Block Company with **Dallas D. Perdue** serving as district manager occupied this address. Perdue remained as manager through **1976**. **Ro-Dal Enterprises**, an income service, also occupied this site in **1974 and 1975**.

Managers for the H & R Block Company included: **Gloria J. Tabet, 1978; Barbara Skog, 1979-1980; Barbara Linsmeyer, 1981; Bruno W. Kotula, by 1985 through 1988; Mrs. Lois J. Kotula, 1989-1993.** In **1994** **Kathy Bollone** became manager of the H. & R. Block Company, tax preparations, and in **1995** the office moved to **219 East Hughitt Street**.

In **1974** **Sandy’s Beauty Salon**, **Mrs. Sandy Marlett**, owner, began doing business at this location through **1989**. In **1986** and **1987** **Mary B. Marlette** and **Barbara Bennett** were listed as operators, but only **Mary B. Marlette** was listed in **1988**. In **1989** the business moved to **220 East Hughitt Street**.

There were no further listings for this address after **1995**.

**History of 627:** There was no listing for this address in **1892-1894, 1902-1903, 1907-1908, 1913** or **1925**.

**Erickson & Johnson** (**Sol E. Erickson** and **Gust P. Johnson**) had a grocery store at this address in **1935** which probably also included **629 South Stephenson Avenue**, as there was no listing for that address in

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the **1935** directory. In **1939** the **Erickson & Johnson Grocery Store**, **Sol E. Erickson**, proprietor, was listed at this address, but certainly included **629 South Stephenson Avenue**. The **Erickson & Johnson Grocery & Meat Market** (**Sol E. Erickson** and **Gust A. Johnson**) was still listed at this address in the **1941-1942** city directory.

By **1946** **John Bernard “Jack” Benso** operated **Benso’s Grill** at this location which was also the **Greyhound Bus Depot**.

By **1961** **Edwin E. and Mrs. Augusta Thate** were agents for the **Greyhound Lines** at this address.

In **1970** the **Melody Cafe**, operated by **Erwin E. Thate**, was located here, as was **Bob’s Radio & TV**, owned by **Robert Lindholm** and providing radio and television repair service. In **1971** the address changed from **627** to **629 South Stephenson Avenue**.

In **1971** **Hubert G. Evans** opened the **U & I Bar** at **627 South Stephenson Avenue**. In **1973** **Glenn and Frances Evans** were the owners. In **1975** **Vance Smith** became the owner. By **1978** **Joseph Danaj** operated **Poor Joe’s Bar** at this address and remained in business through **1981**.

By **1985** the tavern was known as **The Dugout**, owned by **David E. Bunnin** through **1986**.

In **1987** **Norman T. “Bud” La Roche** operated **The Coo Coo’s Nest**. The name was changed to **The Cuckoos Nest** in **1989**, remaining under the same ownership. By **1995** **Lawrence Edwards** became the owner of **The Cuckoos Nest**, remaining in business through **1998**.

There was no listing for this address in **1999**, but in **2000** the **Backdoor Bar** occupied this site, although no owner was named in the city directory.

**History of 629:** There was no listing for this address in **1892-1894**, **1902-1903**, **1907-1908**, **1913** or **1925**.

**Erickson & Johnson** (**Sol E. Erickson** and **Gust P. Johnson**) had a grocery store at **627 South Stephenson Avenue** in **1935** which probably also included this address which was not listed in the **1935** directory. In **1939** the **Erickson & Johnson Grocery Store**, **Sol E. Erickson**, proprietor, was still listed at **627 South Stephenson Avenue**, but certainly included **629 South Stephenson Avenue**. The **Erickson & Johnson Grocery & Meat Market** (**Sol E. Erickson** and **Gust A. Johnson**) was still listed at **627 South Stephenson Avenue** in the **1941-1942** city directory.

In **1971** the address for the **Melody Cafe**, operated by **Erwin E. Thate**, changed from **627** to **629 South Stephenson Avenue**. **Erwin E. and Mrs. Augusta Thate** were also agents for **Greyhound Lines**. The **Melody Cafe** and the **Greyhound Lines** continued at this address through **1979**. Beginning in **1973** **Wisconsin-Michigan Coaches**, another bus line, also used this address for its depot.

In **1980** **Russell L. and Rosalie A. Baker** took over the restaurant, renamed the **Driftwood Cafe**, which was open from 6 a.m. to 3 a.m. The Bakers also became agents for the **Greyhound Lines** and the **Wisconsin-Michigan Coaches**. The **Driftwood Cafe** was still in business in **1981** but was listed as vacant by **1985**. The Bakers still were agents for the two bus lines through **1986** with **Steven R. Baker** also added as an agent. In **1987** **Joseph J. Kmiec** became the local manager for the **Greyhound Lines** at **106 East Ludington Street**.

In **1987** **Evonne Bianco, Tina Pilot** and **Terri Bianco** opened **B’s Country Cafe** at **629 South Stephenson Avenue** with



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hours Monday through Saturday from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Homemade bread, pies and soups and daily specials were advertised.

In **1988** hours were modified to Monday to Thursday from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.

In **1990** owners were **Evonne M. Bianco, Tina Bianco and Terri Bianco**. In **1992 B's Country Cafe, Inc.** included **Evonne M. Bianco**, president; and **Terri Spigarelli**, vice-president. In **1997 Tina Verley** was listed as vice-president. The restaurant was listed as **B's Cafe** in **1999** and **B's Cafeteria** in **2000**. **B's Country Cafe & Catering** is still in business in 2020.



The **Wolfe Block** still stands at the **northeast corner of South Stephenson Avenue and East C Street**. At the time this photograph was taken in the **summer of 2010** the following businesses occupied the structure: **623 – Affinity Mortgage SVC, Mary Robitaille**, president; **625 – Downtown Studios, Thomas S. Peters**, manager; and **627-629 – B's County Cafe & Catering, Terri Spigarelli**, owner.