

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 86: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 100-120 EAST B STREET

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian



The evergreen arch which crosses Iron Mountain's **East B Street** near the Chicago & North-Western Railway tracks in this historic photograph, looking west, was erected for the celebration of Dickinson County's formation held on Saturday, June 13, 1891. The day before, the six-year-old son of **William H. Hancock**, who was watching workmen erect the arch, was run down while attempting to escape from a speeding delivery wagon. The **Milwaukee & Northern Railway Depot** is at the left, the **Commercial Hotel** is in the center and **Charles E. Parent's** house can be seen toward the end of the south side of the 100 block of West B Street. The two-story building at the right within the arch was called the **McKinney Flats**, located on Carpenter Avenue, and contained a number of stores. The building to the right of the arch is the **Central House**, located at **106 East B Street**. *[Mr. and Mrs. Ken Pavey]*

[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 86th 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 – 100-120 East B Street."

The division of streets indicated by "East" or "West" is determined by the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul (formerly

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the Milwaukee & Northern) railroad tracks from which the numbering of buildings originates. Thus, addresses east of the tracks begin numbering in that direction and addresses west of the tracks occur in that direction.

History of 100 and 102: It would appear that the address **100 East B Street** and **102 East B Street** often referred to the same site in the early city directories.

In **1892-1894** **Josiah Hitchens** (1847-1927), a marble cutter, worked at **100 East B Street**.

Josiah Hitchens was born near Liskeard, Cornwall, England, in **March 1847**. He worked with his father, who was a stationary engineer, and then developed an interest in marble working. Without serving an apprenticeship he became an expert in carving and engraving tombstones.

Josiah first married **Mary Jane Honeycombe**, daughter of **William and Elizabeth Honeycombe**, who died March 22, 1873. Josiah and Mary Jane had one son, **John Howard Hitchens** (1873-1946).

Josiah married **Elizabeth Ann Honey** (1854-1939), daughter of **Thomas and Mary Honey**, and they had two children, **Josiah "Si" Hitchens, Jr.** (1883-1952) and **Elsie Ruth Hitchens** (1892-1956).

Josiah immigrated to the United States in **1886** with his second wife and two sons, settling in Wharton, New Jersey, where he found employment in a marble shop.

In **1889** the family moved to Iron Mountain and operated a stationary engine at the Chapin Mine for about a year and then established a marble yard which he conducted successfully for several years.

In later years he manufactured medicinal salves which were popular locally, commonly known as Hitchen's Salve.

There was no entry for **100 East B Street** in the city directories for **1902-1903**, **1907-1908**, **1913** or **1925** nor was there a listing for **102 East B Street** in **1892-1894** or **1902-1903**.

In **1907-1908** **Mike Mitchell's** name appeared in the street index for **102 East B Street**. However, the alphabetical listing identified Mike Mitchell as selling "confectioneries, ice cream and fruits" at **421 South Stephenson Avenue**.

By **1913** **John Anegon** operated a confectionery shop at **102 East B Street**.

According to an article in the **October 21, 1921** edition of the *Iron Mountain News* **Christ Anegon & Company, Inc.**, a firm made up of four local businessmen, were to open a new restaurant on B Street which would be located in the building then being constructed by **Joseph Cordy** (1868-1931). Members of the firm included **Christ Anegon** [**Christ D. Anegon** (1891-1979)], manager, and **Arthur Mitchell** [**Arthur D. Mitchell, Sr.** (1889-1947)], proprietors of the **Iron Mountain Candy Kitchen** at **102 East B Street**, and the proprietors of the **Liberty Candy Kitchen**, located at **401 South Stephenson Avenue**.

The following information from the October 21 article provides detailed plans for the new restaurant:

***Christ Anegon & Co.**[.] incorporated, a firm made up of four local business men, has made definite arrangements to open a restaurant in the building on East B street being constructed by **Joseph Cordy**, of this city. A large order has already been placed for interior furnishings and decorations and when everything is completed, booths, counters, mirrors and cut glass fixtures, the restaurant will be the most up to date and convenient in the upper peninsula, the owners declare.*

The building is at present under construction and will be completed in about

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six weeks. The main floor and the basement will be occupied by the lunchroom while the rooms on the second floor will be rented out as offices. **Christ Anegon**, manager, announces that the doors will open for patrons about the first of the year. Every need in connection with a restaurant will be anticipated. The booths which will be installed on two sides will be finished in mahogany. A partition will be made across the rear end of the building,

closing off the kitchen from the restaurant proper. All counters and tables in the booths will be of marble. Several refrigerators will be installed for the preservation of milk and other foods during the summer months. The proprietors of the **Liberty Candy Kitchen** are also included in the firm besides Christ Anegon, manager[,] and **Arthur Mitchell**, proprietors of the **Iron Mountain Candy Kitchen**, on East B street.



In **1913** **John Anegon** operated a confectionery shop at **102 East B Street**. Note the number "102" above the door. By **1921** **Christ Anegon** and **Arthur Mitchell** ran the **Iron Mountain Candy Kitchen** here. [Julia Cini]

In the **February 28, 1924** edition of the *Iron Mountain News* "**Mitchell & Anegon**, proprietors of the **St. Paul Candy Kitchen**, announced...the completion of plans for the

enlargement of their establishment." Twelve additional booths were to be installed, and the room in the rear then used for storage and manufacturing

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purposes was to be remodeled to accommodate the new booths. The walls of the entire store were to be changed and “paneled oak and plate glass” would replace the all-glass decorations then in use. The plan also included changing the ceiling, covering it with plate glass panels.

Thieves broke into the basement of the **Anegon confectionery store** at **102 East B Street** on the evening of Saturday, **May 16, 1925**, according to an article in the May 18, 1925 edition of *The Iron Mountain News*, making off with “eight large jars of maraschino cherries, a number of jars of crushed fruit and a complete shaving set.” Entrance was gained through a basement window, and the thieves were unable to get into the confectionery store on the first floor. Authorities suspected “more than one was implicated” due to the amount of merchandise taken.

The sale of the **Joseph Cordy** building at **102 East B Street**, occupied by **Christ Anegon** and **Arthur Mitchell**, owners of the **Anegon confectionery store**, was announced in the **May 28, 1925** edition of *The Iron Mountain News*. The deal – which had been pending for some time – was closed the previous day for a price of \$22,000. The article noted that the building was “a one-story brick structure” and was “advantageously located for the confectionery business, being next to the **Braumart theatre**.” The building did not occupy the entire lot, the rear portion being owned by **Brauns & Thomas (August E. Brauns and Martin D. Thomas)**, who had planned to use it in the original plans for the Braumart Theatre. No changes in the building were planned at the time except for beautifying the exterior.

There was no listing for **102 East B Street** in **1925, 1935** or **1939**.

The **1941-1942** city directory listed the **Metropolitan Life Insurance Company** at

this address with **H.V. Henry [Herbert V. Henry (1898-1970)]** serving as manager.

In **1935** the **Iron Mountain Grill** was operated at **100 East B Street** by **Christ Anegon** and **Arthur B. Mitchell** and was still listed here in the **1939** and **1941-1942** city directories. In the **1946** city directory the Iron Mountain Grill was owned by Christ Anegon.

By **1959** **Robert “Bob” Jacobs [Robert Samuel “Bob” Jacobs (1923-1993)]** operated **Jacobs Restaurant** at **100 East B Street**. In **1961** the business was listed as **Jacobs Tasty Foods** under the same ownership and in **1963** was again listed as **Jacobs Restaurant**.

From **1964 through 1967** **Willie P. Erickson** operated **Erickson’s Restaurant** at this location. **James C. Perino [James Charles Perino (1894-1985)]**, a lawyer, also had his office here from **1964 through 1966**.

In **1969 and 1970** **Willie P. Erickson** operated the restaurant as **Erickson’s Olympic Restaurant**, as Erickson had been an Olympic skier. In **1971** **Erickson’s Restaurant & Lounge** was the name under the same ownership. In **1972** and **1973** ownership changed to **Evelyn Leanna** and the restaurant was open 24 hours daily.

In **1974** the building was listed as “vacant” and there was no listing from **1975** through **1977**.

From **1978 through 1982** **Edward D. Jones & Company** provided “investment securities, group and individual life insurance and estate planning” with registered representatives **U. Frank Asselin [Urgel Frank Asselin, Jr. (1926-2003)]** and **Randall K. Carollo**.

In **1984** **Blunt, Ellis & Loewi, Inc.** had a stock brokerage office in this location with **U. Frank Asselin**, branch manager, and **Terrance J. Barnes**, investment broker. From **1985 through 1987** **Blunt, Ellis &**

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Loewi, Inc. remained at this address with **U. Frank Asselin** (1985-1987) as branch manager, **Terrance J. Barnes** (1985), **Katherine Hart** (1985-1987) and **Christopher L. Coughlin** (1986-1987) as investment brokers.

From **1988 through 1990** the **Asselin Financial Group**, consisting of **U. Frank Asselin**, president (1988-1990); **Christopher P. Coughlin** (1988), **Katherine Hart** (1988), **Jeff Prenevost** (1989), operated here as investment brokers, offering “investment securities, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, commodities, tax free and insured investments.”

From **1991 through 1998** **C.W. Willman Financial Services**, owned by **Clare W. Willman**, had their office at this address. In **1999** the firm was **Willman Consulting** (Clare W. Willman) and **Aid the Living** with **Clare W. Willman**, president, serving as a personal credit consultant. In **2000** **Willman Consulting** was still located here, as well as **Krause Financial Services**, owned by **Dale M. Krause**, attorney, and **Packerland Brokerage Services** (no owner listed).

In **2010** the **Ganz Group**, financing consultants, was located at **100 East B Street**.

There was no listing for 102 East B Street from **1946 through 1971**.

In **1972** and **1973** the **Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad freight station and chief clerk's office** were listed at this address. In **1974** the building was listed as “vacant” on one level, but still housed the **Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad freight station office** until **1979**.

From **1980 through 1993** the **Escanaba & Lake Superior Railroad freight station office** was located here.

In **1975** **Bobby's Snack Time**, managed by **Robert Stewart**, was in business at 102 East B Street.

In **1979** and **1980** **Sherri L. Lindeman** operated **The Underground Lounge** in the basement at **102 East B Street**. In **1981** **Alwilda A. McConnell** was listed as owner of The Underground Lounge, and from **1982 through 1987** the owners were listed as **Louis D. and Alwilda McConnell**.

From **1988 through 1997** **Susie's Underground**, a tavern owned by **Susan M. Barglind**, operated in the basement level of **102 East B Street**. In **1998** **Neil Barglind** and **Carl J. Strehlow** operated the Underground Lounge here.

There was no listing in **1999**.

In **2000** **Polly's Underground Pub** was located in the basement of **102 East B Street**, but no owner was listed. **Polly's Underground Pub** was still listed in **2010**.

History of 104: **Charles Cherney** (1863-xxxx), a photographer, worked at this location in **1892-1894**.

There was no listing for this address in **1902-1903**, **1907-1908**, **1913** or **1925**.

Floyd Duchaine worked as a barber at this location in **1935**.

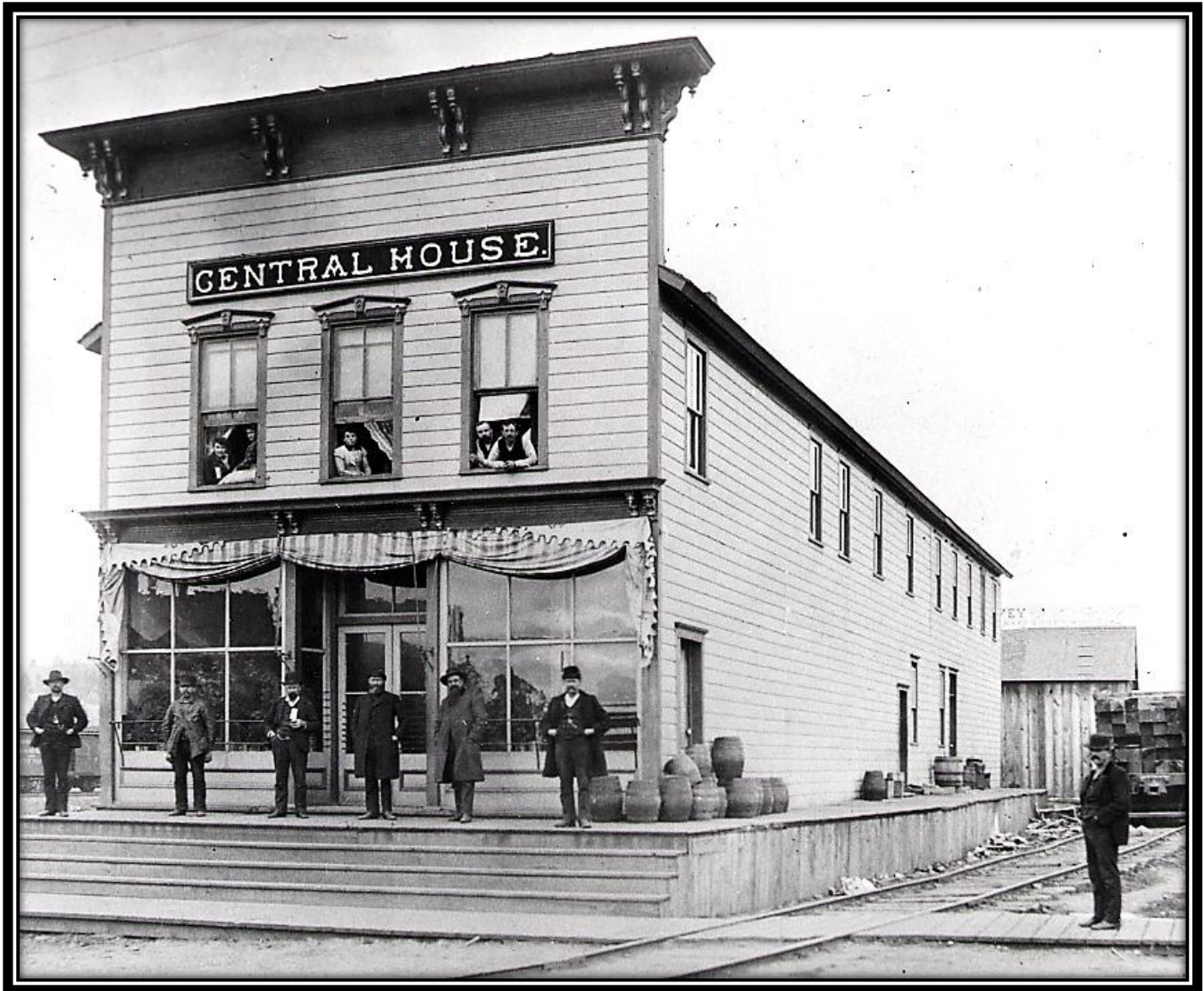
The **1939** city directory placed the **Braumart Theatre**, under the management of **Edward Hickey**, at this address (the **Braumart Building**), as well as the **Brauns & Thomas Company**, owned by **Martin D. Thomas** [**Martin Dawe Thomas** (1889-1968)].

The **Braumart Theatre** was listed at 106 East B Street in the **1941-1942** city directory, and **Ray Durham** and **Ledger J. Archambeau** (1900-1965), attorneys, were listed at 104 East B Street.

In **2010** **Timber Products Michigan**, managed by **Michael Fox**, offered wood products at 104 East B Street which was a part of the **Braumart Building**.

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The **Central House**, a hotel and saloon, was operated at **106 East B Street** (probably **110 East B Street**) by **Joseph Wenzel** in **1892**. Note the proximity of the train tracks to the hotel building and the platform to facilitate loading and unloading railroad cars. The hotel was located across the street from the **Milwaukee & Northern Railway Depot**. This photograph probably dates between **1890 and 1900**. *[Menominee Range Historical Museum]*

History of 106: The **Central House**, a hotel and saloon, was listed at this location in **1892-1894** and was operated by **Joseph Wenzel** [**Joseph Lawrence Wenzel** (1849-1905)], who also lived here.

In **1902-1903** **John Parmentier** [*sic* – possibly **Parmenter**] was listed as the proprietor of the **Central House**, apparently

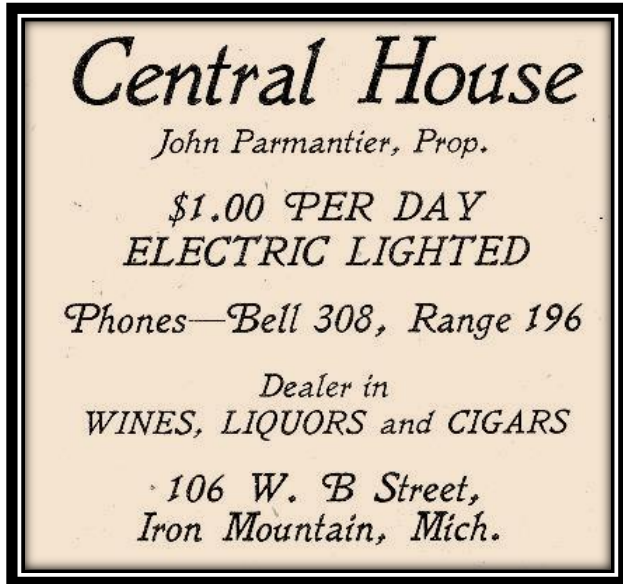
the only structure on the 100 block of East B Street at the time.

The **Central House** still operated at this address in **1907-1908** with **Joseph Cordy** (1868-1931), the proprietor, also residing here. The hotel and saloon still appeared to be the only building on the block. In **1913** Joseph Cordy was still the proprietor

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of the Central House which was also his residence.



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*. The address should read **106 East B Street**.

An article in the **November 17, 1922** edition of *The Iron Mountain News* showed an ownership change for this property as follows under the headline **BRAUNS CLOSES BIG LAND DEAL: Buys Central House And Several Lots on East B Street**:

August E. Brauns has purchased the property on East B street known as the **Central house** and the vacant lots on the west from **Joseph Cordy**. The consideration is private, but the deal is one of the largest real property transactions to be closed in some months. The property has a frontage on East B street of over 92 feet and extends back to the alley more than 125 feet. Included in the deal is the Central house, a large frame structure, now tenanted by **Casmir Recla** [Casimiro

Giovanni "John" Recla (1883-1971)]. The Recla lease has more than a year to run. It is understood that Mr. Brauns will improve the vacant property. A year ago, a report was current that Marquette capitalists intended erecting a moving picture theatre on the site.

[NOTE: Undoubtedly **106 East B Street** was actually located where **110 East B Street** is now located, as early photographs of the **Central House** show the train tracks on the east side of the building. There was no listing for this address in the **1925** directory. Thus, this site at **106 East B Street** would have been vacant when the construction of the **Braumart Theatre**, occupying **104-106-108 East B Street**, began in **September 1924**.]

History of the Braumart Theatre Complex – 104-108 East B Street: The following article appeared on **February 18, 1924** in the *Iron Mountain News* under the headline "**Theatre Building Here to Cost \$250,000 – Big Project Announced By M.D. Thomas; Construction Work Will Start in Spring – New Colonial Theatre Company Building to Be Located on 'B' Street; Will Contain Offices and Stores**":

Construction of a combined theatre, office and store building costing approximately a quarter of a million dollars will be started here in the spring by the **Colonial Theatre company**, it was announced today by **M.D. Thomas** [Martin Dawe Thomas (1889-1968)], manager. The project has been under consideration for several months and it has now been definitely decided to go forward with it, Mr. Thomas said.

The **Colonial Theatre company**, composed of **A.E. Brauns** [August E. Brauns (1868-1934)] and **Mr. Thomas**, owns and operates the **Colonial and Bijou theatres in Iron Mountain** and the **Garrick, Bijou and Orpheum at Fond Du Lac, Wis.**

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Dating from **1936**, when the movie “The General Died at Dawn” was released, this photograph shows the **Iron Mountain Grill** was operated at **100 East B Street** by **Christ Anegon** and **Arthur B. Mitchell** at the far left and the **Braumart Theatre**, located at **104-108 East B Street**, which was constructed between **September 1924 and April 1925**. [City of Kingsford]

Located on B Street

*The new building will be located on East B street between the **Cordy building** and **Anegon’s candy kitchen**.*

This property was purchased about a year and a half ago by the theatre company at what was considered to be a very reasonable price and since that time has grown considerable [sic – considerably] in value.

Capacity of 1,200

No name has as yet been selected for the new theatre. It will have a seating capacity of 1,200, making it perhaps the

largest in the upper peninsula. The Colonial theatre seats 900. As far as beauty of design and equipment are concerned the theatre will surpass any north of Green Bay. It will be devoted solely to the exhibition of moving pictures.

The building is expected to be the most imposing in Iron Mountain and the architectural design has been placed in the hands of a well known Detroit firm which does similar work for the Ford Motor company.

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The structure will be two stories in height and of brick fireproof construction. It will have a full basement that will be finished and leased for business purposes. A central heating plant will serve the entire building.

*The property has a frontage on B street of 96 feet and a depth of 130 feet. The **Anegon candy kitchen**, however, extends back only part of this depth and the unoccupied ground in the rear, 29x60 feet, is included in the theatre purchase, making the total width in the rear 125 feet. This space of 125x60 feet will be devoted to the theatre proper.*

Stores In Front.

The front part of the main floor of the building will be divided into two or three stores with a depth of 70 feet and allowing a width of about 20 feet for the theatre lobby. The lobby will be in the form of a vamp [sic – ramp] that will extend back 70 feet to the auditorium. It will run north and south and parallel to it will be the stores. The auditorium will run east and west.

It is planned to model the lobby after those in the large cities. In the front will be the box office and the runway back of that will be fittingly decorated and equipped.

Although plans are not definite as yet, the seats in the auditorium will probably face west. The auditorium will also have a mezzanine floor upon which will be located the projection booth.

No provision will be made for showing other than motion pictures at the theatre. Road show companies will be played at the Colonial theatre.

*Special feature pictures will also be presented at the Colonial where a one show a night and reserved seat policy may be put into effect. No plans have been made regarding the **Bijou theatre** after the new showhouse [sic] is opened. It may be*

closed or kept open, depending entirely upon conditions at that time.

The contract for the construction of the building will be awarded within 60 days, Mr. Thomas declared. It is expected that the total investment will approximate \$250,000 and arrangements for financing the undertaking have been completed.

Ready By Fall.

Construction work will begin as soon as the weather is favorable and the hope is held that the theatre will be ready for use by fall. The store fronts will be the most modern in the city, it is claimed, and special attention will be paid to obtain the utmost in natural light on the interior. Although applications have already been made to lease the stores, no contracts have yet been made, according to Mr. Thomas. It is expected that there will be lively demand for the stores and no doubt leases will be signed during the next several weeks.

The second floor of the building will be arranged to suit tenants. It may be turned either into office rooms or fixed up suitable for lodge requirements. The suggestion has also been made that it include a large dance hall but it is doubtful if this will be carried into effect.

The new theatre will make the Colonial company one of the largest of its kind in this territory, and equaling in size the Delft Theatres Inc., which operates in Escanaba, Iron River, Munising and Marquette and at one time considered entering the field here.

*In the **May 21, 1924** edition of the Iron Mountain News, under the headline “**Theatre Plans Sent Builders – Delay Encountered In Obtaining Use of Part Of Alley**”, Manager Martin Thomas provided an update on the new theater construction, as follows:*

*Plans and specifications for the new theatre building to be erected on East B street by the **Colonial Theatre company***

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have been forwarded to contractors desiring to bid for the work, it was declared today by **Martin Thomas**, manager of the theatre company.

The project has been delayed to some extent by the time necessary to secure use of five feet of the blind alley in the rear of the property. The council granted the request of the company, vacating spent today at the company's log- required alterations in the plans as the building will be extended five feet. [NOTE: It appears some missing lines here, but is transcribed as printed.]

Despite the delay in starting work it is hoped to have the theatre ready for occupancy some time [sic – sometime] in September, Mr. Thomas said. The building will also include two or three stores and office quarters on the second floor. The auditorium will be located in the rear at right angles with the entrance which will be on B street. When completed it is expected to be the best theatre in the upper peninsula.

In the **September 2, 1924** edition of the Iron Mountain News, under the headline "**Award Contract For Playhouse – Work on New Theatre Scheduled to Start Tomorrow**", Manager **Martin Thomas** announced the beginning of construction, as follows:

The contract for the new theatre to be built on B street by the Colonial theatre company has been awarded to the **Foster Construction company**, of Milwaukee, and work on the building will be started tomorrow, according to an announcement made today by **M.D. Thomas**, manager of the theatre company.

It is hoped, Mr. Thomas said, to have the building enclosed before cold weather arrives. It is expected that it will be ready for occupancy [on] the first of the year or shortly thereafter.

Several changes have been made in the plans as given out by Mr. Thomas last spring. Instead of the auditorium being in the rear of the building and parallel lengthwise with the street, it will run north and south.

The **auditorium** will be 73x90 feet. In front of it and in the center will be the **foyer**, 25x30 feet, and on each side a **shop** 25x40 feet. In addition, **another store**, 26x120 feet, will be included in the same building, which will have a total area of 96x120 feet.

The cost of the entire project, including the theatre equipment, is estimated by Mr. Thomas at \$200,000, or \$50,000 less than when the plans were originally drawn. Considerable time has been spent, however, in awarding contracts in order to secure the best possible price for a fireproof building. This contract has been awarded on a basis that will be more economical than was originally expected.

The auditorium will not have a **balcony**, as was first planned, but will seat 1,200 persons, or 300 more than the **Colonial theatre**. The **stage** will be 15x40 feet.

At the time the new theater was built, talking motion pictures, or "talkies" had not been introduced. Thus, the announcement of the purchase of a pipe organ in the **January 28, 1925** edition of the Iron Mountain News, under the headline "**New Theatre to Have Big Organ – Expensive Instrument Is Purchased From Wurlitzer Company**", as follows, was not surprising:

Contracts for purchase and installation of a **Wurlitzer-Hope-Jones electrically operated pipe organ** were let yesterday to the **Rudolph Wurlitzer Co.**, of Chicago, by the management of the new theatre being erected on East B street.

The organ [is] of the same make as the ones in the Chicago theatre, Chicago, and the New State theatre in Minneapolis, and represents a considerable investment.

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*Electrically controlled and operated, the system permits use of two manuals, embracing saxaphones [sic – saxophones], traps [drums, percussion] and a complete assortment of “effects”. According to **Frank H. Marshall**, representing the Wurlitzer Co., the organ will be equivalent to a 35-piece orchestra.*

It is the latest type Mahogany horseshoe console, Mr. Marshall said, and will be “tailor made” for the new theatre here, with acoustics, size of the house, the chamber and other details being taken into consideration.



The Braumart Theatre's Wurlitzer Hope-Jones Unit Orchestra organ would have been similar to the one pictured here which was built in **1925**.

The organ, it was said, will eclipse any in use north of Milwaukee and will be the equal of any in theatres of similar size in the country.

The contract calls for delivery March 1 and for installation by March 15. A corps of workmen from New York will arrive here about the first of March to install the organ, Mr. Marshall said.

In the **February 9, 1925** edition of the Iron Mountain News, under the headline

“New Theatre Opens in April – Select Name of Braumart for Playhouse; Will Seat 1,000”, a tentative opening date and the name of the theater were announced, as follows:

*With the grand opening of the new **Braumart theatre** tentatively set for April 4, workmen are today bending all their efforts toward speeding the work on the \$200,000 building so that the plans of its owners can be realized.*

Plaster work will begin on Wednesday of this week and as soon as that is completed a floor will be laid. The temporary scaffolding is to be torn away tomorrow and the coating of the walls started.

*Announcement has been made of the selection of a name for the theatre. It is to be formally christened the **Braumart**, derived from the names of the two principal owners, **A.E. Brauns and Martin D. Thomas**, on the opening night.*

As soon as the plastering is completed and the floor laid, decorators will begin their work of beautifying the interior of the structure. The theatre will hold approximately 1000 persons and is to be modern in every way the plans reveal. Two stores and a number of offices will also be housed in the building.

News of the building progress continued to be of great interest to the public and detailed accounts were published in the Iron Mountain News, as evidenced by the following item in the **March 23, 1925** edition, under the headline **“Braumart Organ Is Received Here – Instrument in New Theatre Finest North of Milwaukee”**:

*When the new Braumart theatre is opened next month it will have a part of its equipment a **Wurlitzer-Hope-Jones Unit orchestra**, one of the finest instruments of its kind that is manufactured today.*

The organ which, when installed, will be without question the best north of

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*Milwaukee, has been received here, and the console, or keyboard, is on display in the window of the **McLogan-Pearce Music company**.*

Installation of the instrument has already been started and is to be completed by the

time that the theatre is ready for opening. In conjunction with the organ the concert orchestra now playing at the Colonial will be transferred to the Braumart and the two will alternate in playing the pictures.



A clown stood in front of the **Braumart Theatre** advertising the movie “**3 Ring Circus**” in **1954 or 1955**. Notice the ticket booth located between the two sets of double doors and the clothing on display in the store window on the right. The American comedy film, starring Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis and directed by Joseph Pevney was shot from **February 17 to March 31, 1954**, and released on **December 25** by Paramount Pictures. The supporting cast includes Joanne Dru, Zsa Zsa Gabor, Wallace Ford, Sig Ruman, Nick Cravat and Elsa Lanchester. [Tom and Liz Renn]

Latest Achievement

The Wurlitzer organ is conceded to be the latest achievement in instruments of this kind.

Among the instruments and effects produced by it are the contra viol, tuba

horn, clarinet, flute, viol, piccolo, tambourine, sleigh bells, xylophone [sic – xylophone], triangle, bass, cello, bass drum, kettle [sic – kettle] drum, snare drum, cymbals, bird, auto horn, fire gong, steamboat whistle, hore [sic – horse] hoofs,

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tom tom, chinese [sic – Chinese] block, electric door bell, the human voice and all the other combinations usual to the ordinary type of organ.

The console contains the keyboards, stop tablets and combination buttons which are made to open and close the electric circuits that, in turn, control the maze of pipes and expression devices through the relay board, the union board and the switch board.

Combination Selection

The union board enables the organist to select any combination or set of pipes in the organ from either of the two keyboards and by such combination to quadruple the expressive capacity of the instrument.

They [sic – The] keyboards have two touches. One touch forces the keys down a certain distance and with this finger pressure the organist brings into play part of the organ. Then, by pressing down the keys still further, an entirely different expression is brought into action, according as the organist may arrange the stops. This is the famous double touch or second touch that makes a two manual instrument as facile as a four manual in the ease and dexterity [sic – dexterity] with which the player may control the expressive mechanism.

The Relay Board

The relay board is both electrical and pneumatic. By depressing the keys, the small pneumatic bellows in the relay board are brought into action which, in turn, actuate magnets under each pipe, thus opening valves admitting air.

The amount of wiring in an organ is shown by the fact that the instrument being installed in the Braumart contains more than 100 miles of wire.

The organ pipes and sound producing units will be concealed in chambers built behind two huge grills, one on each side of

the proscenium opening in the Braumart. Egress of sound from the organ will be by graduated shutters opened out in different degrees at the will of the organist.

The pipes in the instrument range in size from those not larger than a small flute to others as large in diameter as a telephone pole.

Under the headline “**New Projector Put on Display – Latest Type Machine In Braumart Theatre Equipment**”, another detailed account appeared in the **March 27, 1925** edition of the *Iron Mountain News*, as follows:

*One of the two motion picture projection machines to be installed in the new Braumart theatre has been placed on display in a window of the **Parent clothing company** and is attracting much attention.*

*The machine is the latest model **Simplex, manufactured by the Precision Machine company**, of New York. This make of projector is used by nearly all the larger theatres in the country and is **also in use at the Colonial and Bijou theatres.***

The Braumart projectors are equipped with the newly developed reflecting type of arc lamps. The machines are entirely automatic, two motors being needed to operate each.

Electric current will be supplied to the projectors by either of two motor generator sets which will change the ordinary city line voltage into the 55-volt direct current required.

Several spotlights will also be installed in the theatre, including one in the booth and others concealed in the ceiling above the orchestra pit. One of the lights is also on display at the Parent store.

The theatre screen will consist of a linen sheet with a thin surface of white rubber, the advantage of this type being that pictures are as distinct when viewing from the side as from the center.

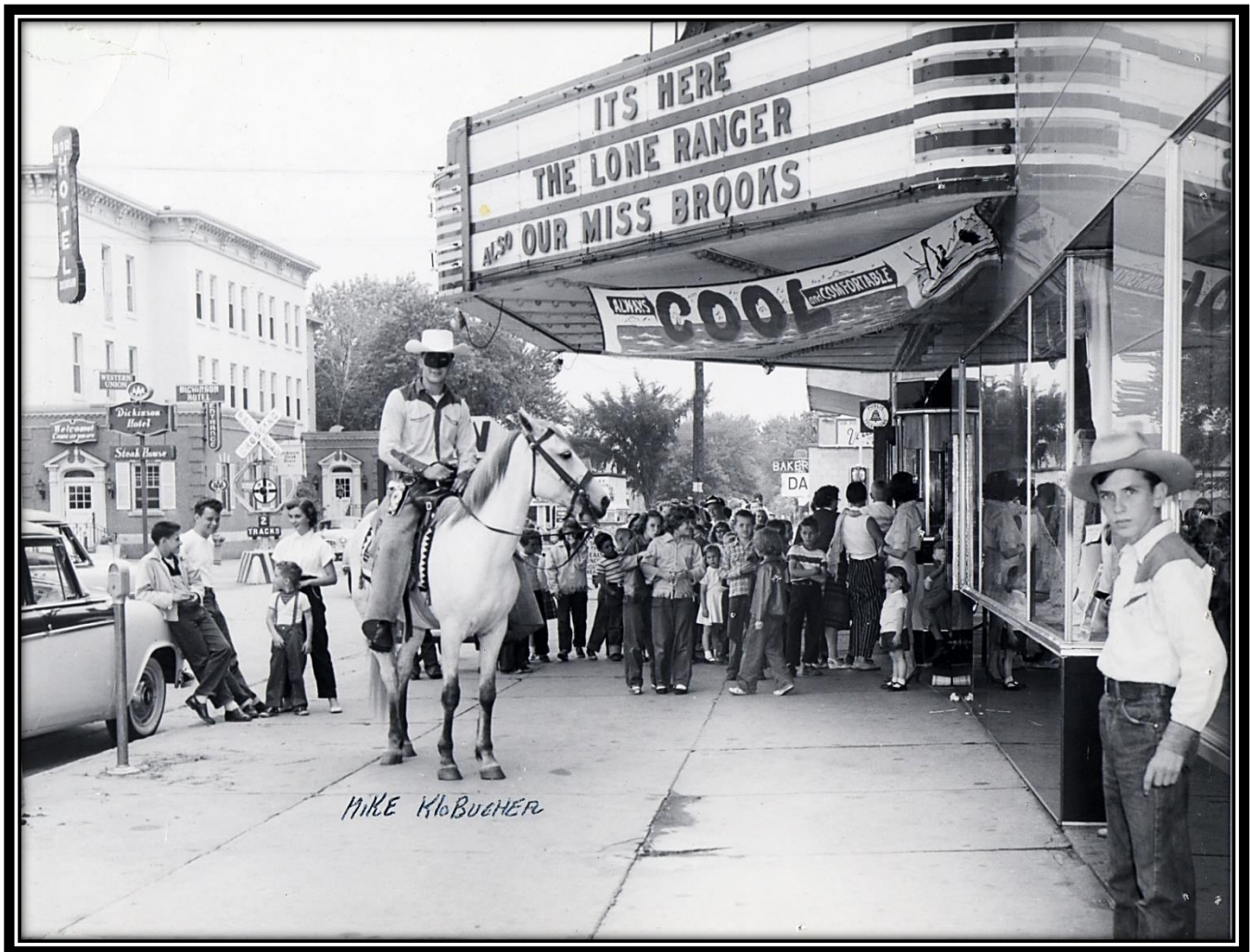
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The booth at the theatre is the first of the new “Denver” type to be installed in Michigan and is the last word in safety and convenience.

As the **Braumart Theatre** neared completion, the City of Iron Mountain required a lease for the ventilator which

would extend over the alley, as noted in the following article in the **April 8, 1925** edition of the *Iron Mountain News*, under the headline “**Must Rent Space For Ventilator – Projects Into Alley Way; City to Demand \$10 Yearly**”:



“The Lone Ranger” [Mike Klobucher] appeared in front of the **Braumart Theatre** in **1956** to promote the movie of the same name. “**Our Miss Brooks**” was also playing. The **Dickinson Hotel** can be seen in the background. Based on “The Lone Ranger” television series, starring Clayton Moore (the Lone Ranger) and Jay Silverheels (Tonto), “The Lone Ranger” was the first of two theatrical features based on the popular TV series of the same name, the other one being “The Lone Ranger and the Lost City of Gold” (1958). “Our Miss Brooks” was an American situation comedy starring Eve Arden as a sardonic high-school English teacher.

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Beginning as a radio show broadcast on CBS from 1948 to 1957, the show was adapted to television (1952–56), becoming one of the medium's earliest hits. *[Tom and Liz Renn]*

Martin Thomas and A.E. Brauns, owners of the new Braumart theatre, which is nearing completion on B street, will be notified by the city that they must enter into a lease with it for building a ventilator in the rear that projects over the alley-way.

The price was set by the city council last night at \$10 per year and the lease will be made out for a period of 10 years with a privilege of renewal. According to the council's resolution, the theatre owners are obligated to pay \$100 in advance.

The original plans for the theatre building called for the structure to extend five feet into the alley, which is not used for traffic. The plans were altered, however, and the wall was built on the boundary line.

In order to build a ventilator, the contractors were obliged to extend it on to the alley-way. For this, leases must be secured.

The opening of the **Braumart Theatre** on Tuesday, **April 21, 1925**, was announced in the **April 20, 1925** edition of the *Iron Mountain News*, under the headline **"New Braumart Theatre To Be Opened Tomorrow Night; Special Program Prepared – Finest Amusement House North of Milwaukee Will Be Turned Over To Public"**, as follows:

After being in the course of construction for several months, the new Braumart – the upper peninsula's theatre de luxe – will be formally opened tomorrow evening.

The curtain will rise on the first show at 7 o'clock, dedicating the Braumart to its daily task of entertainment.

The Braumart will rank as the finest amusement house north of Milwaukee, embodying as it does the most modern type of construction and the various and op-to-the-minute improvements in the technique of motion picture projection.

Although having no balcony, the main floor of the big auditorium will seat 1,000 persons. Four aisle ways provide easy access to the seats, which are deeply cushioned and adjusted so as to give the utmost comfort. The aisles are heavily carpeted and entrance to them is gained through French doors leading off from the long foyer, which is arc shaped.

Inset at several places in the wall dividing the foyer from the auditorium are groups of three arched windows fitted with stained glass that reflect in various tints the soft glow of the indirect lighting system.

Exceptional Decorations.

The true beauty of the theatre is fully appreciated in the auditorium. Decorations are in practically all of the well known tints and shades and a tapestry effect has been executed in the panels on the side walls. Pilasters along the walls are all highly decorated and each bears the well known sign of the theatre – the mask of comedy and the mask of drama.

Heating engineers declare that the Braumart has a perfect system for supplying a comfortable degree of heat although the ventilation system will be constantly driving in a great amount of fresh air drawn from the outside. Radiators are recessed in the side walls, above the heads of the audience, and are concealed by grill work.

In the angles formed by the two walls as they shape inward to the proscenium arch at the front of the theatre are two large grills, one on each side of the stage. A false work gives them the appearance of boxes but they conceal the large chambers in which the organ equipment is installed.

Special Screen.

The proscenium arch represents an exceptional example of interior decorating.

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It opens upon the stage, which is only a few feet wide as the theatre will be devoted entirely to motion picture programs. A special screen with a thin white rubber surface has been installed. The screen is of a type that will receive the picture rays in such a manner that no counteracting and distracting rays will be given off.

At each side of the stage and located about 10 feet above the floor is a large chamber containing the organ equipment. The instrument purchased for the Braumart is a Wurlitzer-Hope-Jones and is the largest and most completely equipped in the upper peninsula and northern Wisconsin.

The equipment includes hundreds of pipes and a variety of orchestra instruments, all electrically controlled from a keyboard in the orchestra pit. These chambers are covered by the grill work previously mentioned and large shutters in back of the grill automatically regulate the amount of sound that reaches the audience.

Fresh Air Driven In.

The ventilation system of the theatre is unusual and very effectively installed. Instead of the customary process of extracting impure air by means of suction fans, a big fan located in the basement drives fresh air into the theatre under high pressure and this forces the bad air out through the vents. The fresh air is distributed through a series of ventilators in the top of the proscenium arch and is so well adapted that a waft of cigaret [sic – cigarette] smoke in the rear of the theatre is instantly caught up and whirled away.

As the Braumart will feature its orchestra and organ concealed lights have been placed in the ceiling so as to flood the orchestra pit for special numbers that are given.

The projection booth is located on the second floor of the building and access to it

is gained only by using the stairway that leads to the offices in the front of the structure. There is no direct stairway from the theatre proper to the booth. Everything in the booth is electrically controlled and emergency apparatus has been installed so that if there is an interruption of the power supply on one line it can be transferred to another.

Automatic Light Regulators.

The equipment includes two Simplex projection machines, both of which can be controlled at three stations in the booth. The machines are even equipped with individual motors that automatically regulate the adjustment of the carbon arcs. In old style lamp houses the light was given directly to the screen through a series of lenses. The lamp houses on these machines, however, incorporate a new process of reflecting the light, thus doing away with bluish and brownish spots upon the screen.

In addition, there is a spotlight machine and other equipment to make the projection perfect. The operator is even relieved of the task of rewinding the reels, electricity also preforming [sic – performing] this job.

The booth is absolutely fireproof and the portholes in front are guarded by automatic steel trap gates that will drop when the temperature reaches a degree sufficient to melt a short strip of metal fuse attached to each projector.

Has Offices and Stores.

*In addition to the theatre, the Braumart building includes a group of well lighted offices and two stores. Reservations for the offices, construction of which have is [sic] not completed, have already been made and they will be occupied by the **Fuller Brush company, Union Oil company, J.I. Corn Real Estate company** and **E.J. Dundon**, attorney.*

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*The stores will be occupied by the **Riley and Lundell haberdashery** and the **Stronge & Warner Millinery company**.*

*The name Braumart was derived from a combination of the names of the owners, **A.E. Brauns** and **Martin D. Thomas**. It is*

*a part of the chain of theatres included in the **Colonial theatre group**, which takes in the **Colonial** and **Bijou** theatres here and four houses located in **Fond du Lac, Wis.***



The banner held by a uniformed usher and **Frank Osteroth**, theater manager, at the **Braumart Theatre** in the **late 1950s** noted the **Penny's Movie Party**. Judging from the young audience, the matinee may have been sponsored with free admission. Note the architectural appointments of the theater's auditorium. Beginning in the **mid-1950s** the local Parent-Teacher Associations (P.T.A.) of the various school districts sponsored Saturday matinees. Students could purchase a card with ten perforated ticket strips for one dollar. The ticket strips were torn off from bottom to top. The Saturday matinees contained a serialized story, such as "Flash Gordon," a cartoon and the feature film. One of the highlights was an afternoon of cartoons in an era when children's programming on television was not extensive, except for Saturday mornings. [Tom and Liz Renn]

Noted Organist Coming.

A special and unique opening program has been prepared for the Braumart.

*Among the attractions will be **Ambrose Larson** [sic – Larsen], noted nationally as an organ player.*

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Larson [sic – Larsen] played the organ for the opening of the famous Capitol theatre in Chicago and stopped every performance during the first week. He has been engaged for two weeks here.

The program will open with an overture, then a film announcement and dedication. This will be followed by Larson's [sic – Larsen's] solo numbers on the organ. Then will come the latest "Our Gang" comedy release, "Mysterious Mystery," which was reviewed last week in the Chicago Tribune by Mae Tinee, who urged her followers to be sure and see the picture. The feature film offering will be "Charlie's [sic – Charley's] Aunt", a late comedy release.

To close the program a novelty in "three dimension" projection has been prepared. It is known as plastigrams. The effect will be the same as produced when gazing at a picture through the old time stereopticons [sic – stereopticons] that were a part of every household. To execute the illusion, specially prepared colored lenses will be distributed to each person in the audience.

The box office will open tomorrow evening at 6 o'clock, the doors will open at 6:30 and the first show will start a half hour later. A second show will also be given at 9 o'clock. The regular schedule of the theatre will include a daily matinee starting at 2:30 o'clock. This will begin Wednesday.

On Wednesday, **April 22, 1925**, the Iron Mountain News described the opening of the new **Braumart Theatre** under the headline **"National Anthem Opens Braumart – 2,000 Persons Attend premiere of New Theatre Last Night"**, as follows:

The strains of The Star Spangled Banner coming from both orchestra and organ last night marked the formal opening of the new Braumart theatre.

Two thousand persons witnessed the opening shows and all were struck by the

beauty and richness of the new playhouse. A special program for the occasion added considerable [sic – considerably] to the favorable impression created upon the audience.

Doors of the theatre were opened at 6:30 o'clock but an hour before that time there was a long queue of persons lined up to the box office, which opened at 6 o'clock. The house, which seats 1,000 persons, was completely filled 10 minutes before the starting of the first show, which was at 7 o'clock.

But those who came inside the theatre early had plenty to occupy their attention until the curtain parted over the screen. Rich draperies on the organ lofts, the beautiful trappings of the stage and the decorations and fittings of the auditorium kept the audience well occupied.

Larson [sic - Larsen] Stars

Following the national anthem the program continued with a special number by the Braumart concert orchestra. This was followed by a "trip through the mighty Wurlitzer", an organ log – a combination of organ and stereopticon slides – that put the big instrument through all its paces.

Ambrose Larson [sic – Larsen], noted organist who has been secured for a limited engagement at the Braumart, presided at the keyboard and was greeted with rounds of applause at the conclusion of the number. Then came [the] dedicatory announcement by the **Brauns & Thomas company**, owners of the Braumart.

When this had finished lenses were distributed through the audience for the presentation of the plastigram pictures which give three dimension effect – height, width and depth. So realistic were the pictures that there were those in the audience who "ducked" when an actor poked a long stick in their direction, or pointed a gun at them as he walked

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forward. An “Our Gang” comedy and a feature film concluded the program.

So great was the demand for admittance that a number of persons were turned away at the second show, which started shortly after 9 o'clock. It was by far the most

auspicious event of its kind ever seen in Iron Mountain. And the audience conceded that there are few theatres in the country in towns of like size that can compare with the Braumart.



Patrons stacked canned goods in bushel baskets and on a table in the lobby to gain admittance to the **Braumart Theater** prior to the Christmas holidays to help the less fortunate. Santa Claus and two uniformed ushers helped, and **Frank Osteroth**, theater manager, stood in the back at the left. This photograph probably dates to the **late 1950s**. [Tom and Liz Renn]

In the **April 25, 1925** edition of the *Iron Mountain News*, under the headline “**Leon**

Goulard Held on Charge”, the following article appeared:

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Leon Goulard, director of the Braumart theatre orchestra, is being held in the Gogebic county jail at Bessemer on a serious charge preferred by an Ironwood woman. Goulard was arrested here by the Gogebic sheriff but has not yet been arraigned for [a] hearing.

In the same edition of the *Iron Mountain News* the opening of one of the Braumart Theatre stores was announced under the headline **“Millinery shop Is Opened Today – Stronge & Warner Co. Has Place in Braumart Building”**, as follows:

*The new **Stronge & Warner millinery shop** in the Braumart theatre building was opened today.*

*The shop will carry a complete line of millinery. It is in charge of **Mrs. J.M. Record** and her associate, **Miss Lucille Applegate**.*

The interior of the shop is finished in French gray, the fixtures being touched off with a strip of red. Walls are of a dull brown.

A large show window provides ample room for the display and also floods the shop with light.

Organist **Ambrose Larsen**’s recital at the **Braumart Theatre** was announced in the **May 2, 1925** edition of the *Iron Mountain News* under the following headline: **“Expect Many at Larsen Recital – Wurlitzer Will be Given Real Test Tomorrow Afternoon.”**

*The big Wurlitzer organ in the new Braumart theatre will get a real initiation tomorrow at the recital to be given by **Ambrose Larsen**, noted nation wide as an organist.*

Larsen is just concluding a two weeks’ engagement here and the concert, which will start at 1:15, is expected to be largely attended because of the following that he has already built up by his work at the organ.

The organ, the finest in the upper peninsula and the northern part of Wisconsin, combines instruments, all of which will be worked in at the recital.

The program follows:

*Light Cavalry Overture.....Suppe
Prelude in C Minor.....Rachmaninoff
To Spring.....Grieg
Largo.....Handel
Humoreske.....Dvorak
Elegie.....Massenet
Andantino.....Lemars
Rustle of Spring.....Sinding
The Rosary.....Nevin
Somewhere a Voice Is Calling.....Tate
Tannhauser March.....Wagner*

In the **May 21, 1925** edition of the *Iron Mountain News*, under the headline **“Lundell, Riley End Partnership”**, a change in ownership in one of the Braumart Theatre’s stores was announced, as follows:

*The dissolution of the partnership of **William Riley** [William A. “Bill” Riley (1891-1934)] and **Richard Lundell** [Richard Carl “Dick” Lundell (1898-1975)], who were associated in the recently opened **Braumart shop for men** on East B street, was announced today. The partnership will formally terminate on **May 29**. Riley’s interests have been disposed of to **City Clerk Harold C. Lindholm** [Harold Carl Lindholm (1898-1979)] and the shop will hereafter be conducted by **Lindholm and Lundell**.*

Organist **George J. Zorn**’s first program was reviewed in the **July 9, 1925** edition of the *Iron Mountain News*, under the headline **“New Organist Is Well Received – Headliner Playing Indefinite Engagement At Braumart”**, as follows:

***George J. Zorn**, organ artist who has been headlined at the Rivoli and Tivoli theatres in New York city, is playing an*

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indefinite engagement at the Braumart theatre.

Zorn gave his first program yesterday and was greeted with considerable applause. Special programs will be arranged during his appearance here.

Zorn has an artistic touch and brings into play every part of the big Wurlitzer instrument. His combination effects are unusually good and patrons at the Braumart last evening heard reproductions on the instrument that have not been brought into use before.

In the **July 17, 1925** edition of the *Iron Mountain News*, under the headline “**Organ Recital Sunday Event – Zorn Will Present Program at The Braumart Theatre**”, the following article announced a program by the famed organist:

*A musical treat is in store for Sunday afternoon when **George Zorn**, solo artist, will give an organ given to a messenger boy on the recital at the Braumart theatre. [sic –*

Mr. Zorn, who came here recently, has already established a local reputation for his unusual ability and many persons have been looking forward to a recital by him.

The program will start at 1:15 o’clock preceding the regular matinee. It will be as follows:

<i>Raymond Overture.....</i>	<i>Thomas</i>
<i>Roses of Picardy.....</i>	<i>Wood</i>
<i>Cavatine.....</i>	<i>Raff</i>
<i>Kiss Me Again.....</i>	<i>Heroert</i>
<i>Tales of Hoffman.....</i>	<i>Offenbach</i>
<i>Lustspiel.....</i>	<i>Kela-Bella</i>
<i>Intermission</i>	
<i>Poet and Peasant.....</i>	<i>Von Suppe</i>
<i>Ave Marie.....</i>	<i>Shebert Wilhelm</i>
<i>(Violin Solo on the Organ)</i>	
<i>Quartette from Rigoletto.....</i>	<i>Verdix [Verdi]</i>
<i>Schubert Serenade.....</i>	<i>Schubert</i>
<i>Kashmiri.....</i>	<i>Woodford Finden</i>
<i>Zampa.....</i>	<i>Herold</i>

The announcement of another Braumart Theatre store opening appeared in the **October 6, 1925** edition of the *Iron Mountain News*, under the headline “**Braumart Shoe Shop Is Ready – Formal Opening of Establishment Will Be Held Tomorrow**”, as follows:

*The **Braumart shoe shop**, one of the most attractive in the upper peninsula, will be formally opened tomorrow.*

*The shop is located in the new addition of the **Braumart theatre building** and occupies quarters that have been attractively designed and laid out.*

Fixtures are of mahogany and of the most modern style. Equipment includes 24 upholstered seats for customers and eight fitting stools to match. There are also several display tables. Men’s and boys’ shoes will be carried on one side of the shop and the other half will be devoted exclusively to women’s footwear.

An exceptionally large stock will be carried, more than 3,000 pairs now being on the shelves. Both staple and fancy footwear will be shown and hosiery, rubbers and accessories will also be shown. Only standard makes of shoes are being carried and boxes will be individually labelled [sic – labeled] with the name of the shop.

*The store is owned by **R.J. Reynolds**, formerly of Watertown, S.D. Mr. Reynolds is an experienced shoe expert, having been a salesman for a number of years. He also conducted a store at Rochester, N.Y.*

His investment here is about \$20,000, it was stated.

*Two experienced clerks, **Dan Constantini** [possibly **Dante Constantini** (1892-1958)] and **Wilfred Collette**, of Iron Mountain, are on the staff of the shop.*

Final decorations for the opening tomorrow were being made this afternoon.

In the **April 7, 1927** edition of the *Iron Mountain News* a style show presented at

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the Braumart Theatre was described as follows under the headline **“Style Show at Braumart Wins Public Praise – So Successful An Extra Performance Will Be Given”**:

A style show so interesting that it even held the rapt attention of the men, a style show so abounding in revelations of

fashion’s latest creations that it drew audible “ahs” and “ohs” from the feminine contingent in the audience, and a style show so all-around good that it was genuinely entertaining – that was the offering at the Braumart theatre last evening.



Icicles and snowflakes adorned the concession at the **Braumart Theatre** prior to the Christmas holidays in the **late 1950s**. Santa Claus and **Frank Osteroth**, theater manager, were being helped by the clerks. [Tom and Liz Renn]

Iron Mountain may be more than 1,200 miles from New York, but the gowns,

dresses, coats, hats and shoes exhibited last evening were convincing proof that in

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fashion at least the city is located on Broadway.

More than a score of models participated in the display, which advanced in a steady rhythmic manner. A runway, built out over the front seats, brought the models within close vision of the audience, so that every detail of the latest modes could be examined.

Extra Performance.

So popular was the public response to the show that it will not only be given again this evening, but an extra performance is to be held tomorrow night.

Although last night's show was not scheduled to start until 8 o'clock, the theatre was packed 20 minutes before and hundreds were turned away at the door.

To attempt to describe the gowns, dresses and coats would be to engage upon a well nigh [sic – well-nigh] interminable or impossible task. It is sufficient to remark that they were without exception exemplary achievements in design, workmanship and chic appearance. And the models exhibited them in a graceful and artistic manner. Approaching from the right side of the stage, each would walk to the center, thence out on the runway, revolve slowly and then saunter off to the left exit.

*Four children, **Billy and Slater Harding**, twins, **Dickie Erdlitz** and **Juliet Huguet**, were especial [sic – special] attractions.*

Feature Pictures.

*In connection with the style show was a "leader" picture depicting the contrast between the modes and customs of **1914** and those of the present day. It showed, among other things, a Henze-Tollen wagon loaded with real beer and a group of men who held in their hands bottles of the same beverage.*

The scene was a pathetic [sic] reminder to many and received a generous ovation.

*Then several young ladies appeared in front of **Morgan's millinery shop**, which was a popular establishment in the Iron Mountain of **1914**, and gave first hand views of the latest in headgear.*

[NOTE: The **1914 film footage** from the "leader" picture shown at the Braumart Theatre during the **early April 1925 style show** mentioned in the above article were given to the Menominee Range Historical Museum. They were professionally reformatted to 16mm film from 35mm film in **2014** and a DVD presentation titled "**The Way We Were: Iron Mountain, Michigan – 1914**" was produced by **William J. Cummings**. Reminiscent of attending a movie in 1914 with ragtime piano music in the background and title cards to explain the visuals, the presentation recalls a pre-"talkie" cinema experience.

The entire reformatted century-old **1914** film footage forms about 15 minutes of the 70-minute DVD, available at the Dickinson County Library in Iron Mountain.

The **Henze-Tollen Brewing Company's** beer wagon and young women posing in front of **Morgan's millinery shop**, mentioned in the above article, are included. **Laura M. Morgan** (1889-xxxx), daughter of **Francis Harvey "Frank" Morgan** (1863-1929) and **Harriet Malina (Bump) Morgan** (1858-1936), and sister of **Myrtle Irene Morgan** (1899-1978), was a milliner with a shop located at **129 South Stephenson Avenue** in **1913**. The family lived at 602 A South Carpenter Avenue, and Frank was a carpenter.

Footage includes overall views of Iron Mountain; miners at the **Chapin and Pewabic iron mines**; the **Von Platen Lumber Company**; commercial district businesses; **Pine Grove Golf Course**; **Hydraulic Falls (Big Quinnesec Falls)**; the 1914 Fourth of July parade and celebration and the first "aeroplane" flight

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on the Menominee Iron Range which was a feature of the Fourth of July festivities.

Lieutenant Roy Newell Francis (1886-1952) was the pilot of the "aeroplane" which took off and landed at Iron Mountain's "baseball grounds" on the West Side, now the location of Iron Mountain High School's football stadium. The pilot's name on the plane's tail which came to Iron Mountain by rail was the clue originally necessary to identify the year.]

The feature picture of the program, **Colleen Moore** in "**Orchids and Ermine**", was an especially appropriate and happy selection. The theme coincided perfectly with the style show and the picture itself is one of real mirth and interest.

The style show was sponsored by the Iron Mountain Woman's club and its direction was in the hands of **Mrs. A.G. Buchman** and **Mrs. Melville Kelly**. Its unqualified success was largely due to their ardent work and it is likely that the club will make it an annual event.

The participating merchants were as follows: **A. Sackim company**, **Levy-Unger company**, **Oshins**, **Woman's Fashion shop**, **Gift and Tot shops**, **Vogue Hat shop**, **Style shop**, **Braumart hat shop**, **Mary Ann shop**, **L.J. Will jewelry store**, **Men's store**, **Braumart shoe shop**, **Fugere Bros.**, **The Bootery**, **Braumart beauty shop** and the **Beauty shop**.

The exact time that the Braumart Theatre and the Colonial Theatre began showing "talkies" has not been established.

An article appearing in the **June 15, 1961** edition of *The Iron Mountain News* at the time the **Colonial Theatre** had been sold and was to be razed noted that the first sound films were shown at the Colonial in **1933 or 1934**. The Braumart Theatre may have also introduced "talkies" at that time, or audiences may have already been enjoying this innovation.

There was no listing for **104-108 East B Street** in *Polk's Iron Mountain and Dickinson County Directory* **1925**, although construction on the **Braumart Theatre** began **September 3, 1924**, and the grand opening was **April 21, 1925**. The **Cordy Building**, at **110 East B Street**, was the only listing on the 100 block in the **1925** directory.

Businesses listed therein were: the **P.H. Davis Tailoring Company**, **Emil Thorelius**, district agent; **Hugh McLaughlin** (1846-1934), insurance and real estate; **James W. Smith**, architect; **McLogan-Pearce Music Company**, **Irving G. Pearce**, president and manager, **L.G. Hillyer**, vice president, **C.W. Weidleman**, secretary-treasurer, selling pianos, Victrolas and radios; **Van Laanen Insurance Agency**, **John E. Van Laanen** [**John Edward Van Laanen** (1896-1947)], proprietor; **Itzoff [sic – Itzov] Clinical Laboratory**, **Theodore A. Itzoff** [sic – **Theodore Andrew "Ted" Itzov** (1890-1984)], proprietor; and **Arens & Duchaine** (**Walter Arens** [**Walter Alfred Arens** (1886-1949)] and **Floyd Duchaine**), barbers.

According to *Polk's Iron Mountain (Dickinson County, Mich.) City Directory* **1935**, the **Braumart Building**, in addition to the **Braumart Theatre**, under the management of **Lawrence D. Thomas**, contained the following professional offices and businesses: **Braumart Beauty Shop**, **George Chrest** [born **Kavork Kashadoorian**, name changed (1888-1954)], proprietor; **Dr. James L. Browning** [**James Leonard Browning** (1902-1992)], physician and surgeon; **Kathryn Colburn** (1885-1968), women's wear; **Portrait Studio**, **Beatrice Johnson** [**Mrs. Beatrice J. Archie**], photographer; **Upper Peninsula School of Beauty Culture**, **George Chrest**

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[born **Kavork Kashadoorian**, name changed (1888-1954)], proprietor.

A modernization program for both the **Braumart Theatre** and the **Colonial Theatre**, operated by the **Braumart Theater Company**, was undertaken in the **summer of 1935**.

An article in the **July 29, 1935** edition of the *Iron Mountain News*, under the headline “**Colonial to Be Reopened After Being Improved – Braumart Will Also Undergo Extensive Remodeling Program**”, announced that the **Colonial Theatre** would open with a matinee performance on Monday, **August 3, 1935**, as follows:

*When the modernization program now in progress at both the **Braumart and Colonial theaters**, operated by the **Braumart Theater company**, is complete, the community will have two theaters which should compare favorably with any of their size in the state of Michigan.*

*The **Colonial theater** will be opened with a matinee performance Monday, August 3, and will be operated regularly thereafter. Both the exterior and interior of the theater have been rebuilt and redecorated along new and modern lines.*

Attractive Decorative Scheme

*All decorating of the Colonial, inside and out, is being done by the **Bond Decorating company** of this city. The exterior is a terra cotta base, trimmed in dark brown. The terra cotta will be “high-lighted” to bring out a more effective blend with the trimming.*

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

The general effect, both inside and out, is very attractive and the design was prepared by the Bond company.

New Sound Equipment

*High intensity lamps, a new generator, a new **wide range Western Electric sound system** and an improved screen will bring the projection and sound equipment up to the highest approved standards.*

The new marquee at the front of the theater is being provided with hundreds of electric lamps and many feet of neon tubing to present a striking color effect.

Seats recently removed from the Braumart to make room for new ones will provide added comfort for patrons of the Colonial. All of the seats have been re-conditioned.

The Colonial will operate on the same schedule as now prevails at the Braumart, which will be closed while being re-fitted. Although the new seats have already been installed at the Braumart, the general program has only begun there.

*Work on the Braumart will start the day the Colonial opens – **August 3 [1935]**. Improvements to be effected there will include the tearing down of the electrical signs, the marquee, display frames and ticket office, and a complete remodeling of the entrance.*

A new glass front, finished in royal blue with chromium trim, will be built at the Braumart, with the new ticket office constructed of blue glass and chrome and extended to the sidewalk line. Overhead will be a new marquee of enameled steel, with clusters of electric lights and neon tubing.

The new marquee at the front of the theater is being provided with hundreds of electric lamps and many feet of neon tubing to present a striking color effect.

The theater name will be inscribed in electric lights across the front of the

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marquee, in a combination of both neon and silhouette letters. The display frames, or attraction boards at either side of the theater lettering, will be set at an angle and will be visible from both the front and sides. Silhouette letters will stand out from the background of illuminated opal glass, and the marquee will be considerably larger than the present one, extending almost across the entire front of the theater.

Improvements will also be made in the lobby, which will be finished with a blue glass wainscoting, terminating in a chrome trim. New chrome display frames will be installed, as well as modern lighting fixtures. Large circular French mirrors will be set in the side walls.

A new suite of rest rooms [sic – restrooms] will be reached by a wide, curving stairway extending down from the foyer. This stairway will lead directly into a carpeted lounge fitted with modernistic chrome furniture. To the right of the lounge will be situated two ladies' rooms, finished in shades of pale green and brightly illuminated. One room will be fitted as a dressing and smoking lounge.

Two new men's rooms will be provided at the left of the lounge.

About 10 days will be required for the improvements, which will make the Braumart one of the most modern-equipped theaters north of Milwaukee.



"The General Died at Dawn" came out in **1936**, starring **Gary Cooper** and **Madeleine Carroll**. Cooper's famous line – "We could have made wonderful music together." – came from this film which was set in China. This photograph, the earliest of the **Braumart Theatre** found to date, shows the remodeled entrance, marquee and ticket office, as described in the preceding article from **July 29, 1935** as follows:

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*A **new glass front**, finished in royal blue with chromium trim, will be built at the Braumart, with the **new ticket office** constructed of blue glass and chrome and extended to the sidewalk line. Overhead will be a **new marquee** of enameled steel, with clusters of electric lights and neon tubing.*

The new marquee at the front of the theater is being provided with hundreds of electric lamps and many feet of neon tubing to present a striking color effect.

*The theater name will be inscribed in electric lights across the front of the marquee, in a combination of both neon and silhouette letters. The **display frames**, or **attraction boards** at either side of the theater lettering, will be set at an angle and will be visible from both the front and sides. Silhouette letters will stand out from the background of illuminated opal glass, and the marquee will be considerably larger than the present one, extending almost across the entire front of the theater. [City of Kingsford]*



The **1939** city directory placed the **Braumart Theatre**, under the management of **Edward Hickey**, at **104 East B Street** (the **Braumart Building**), as well as the

Brauns & Thomas Company, owned by **Martin D. Thomas**.

However, the **Braumart Theatre** was again listed at **106 East B Street** in the **1941-1942** city directory, the **Braumart Building**, together with the **Braumart Barber Shop**, operated by **Floyd Duchaine**; the offices of **Dr. James L. Browning**, physician and surgeon; and the **Colburn Shop**, women's wear, operated by **Kathryn Colburn**.

When **Myrton James Fox** (1876-1941), president of the Von Platen-Fox Lumber Company, died on **May 1, 1941**, arrangements were made to hold his memorial service in the **Braumart Theatre's** auditorium on Saturday, **May 3, 1941**, at 10:30 a.m. to accommodate the large number prominent mining and lumbermen, railroad officials and members of the Upper Peninsula Division of the Michigan State Conservation Department in full uniform from Marquette and Crystal Falls.

All member stores in the **Iron Mountain Retail Merchants' Association** and some others, as well as the **Dickinson County Court House** and the **Iron Mountain City Hall**, closed from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. out of respect and to permit proprietors, clerks and local officials to attend the memorial service.

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Myrton James Fox (1876-1941)

[Menominee Range Historical Museum]

Born **January 2, 1876**, in Vermontville, Eaton County, Michigan, Fox began working in **Godfrey von Platen's** lumber yard in Boyne City, Charlevoix County, Michigan, in **1896**, starting as assistant foreman and two years later was promoted to general foreman. He was in charge of von Platen's business in Boyne City for ten years.

In **1910** Fox moved to Iron Mountain where he supervised the building of von Platen's sawmill, actively managing the business until shortly before his death. Fox became a partner when the Von Platen-Fox Lumber Company was formed in **1920** and assumed the presidency upon von Platen's death in **1924**.

In the **1946** city directory listings for the Braumart Building, **106 East B Street**, included: **Braumart Theatre, Bradley V.**

Stiles, manager; **Martin Thomas**, theater business, office; **Kathryn Colburn's Shop**; **L.J. Archambeau** [**Ledger J. Archambeau** (1900-1965)], attorney, office; **Dr. James L. Browning**, physician, office; **Ray Derham**, attorney, office; **Dr. W.H. Huron** [**Willis Herbert "Herb" Huron, Sr.** (1900-1991)], physician, office; **Abbott Fox Lumber Company**, office; **Metropolitan Life Insurance Company**, office; **Real Silk Hosiery Mills**, office.

History of 108: There was no entry for this address in **1892-1894**, **1902-1903**, **1907-1908**, **1913**, **1925**, **1935**, **1939**, or **1941-1942** or **1946**.

In **1913** **Rudolph T. Miller** [**Rudolph Theodore "R.T. Judge" Miller** (1864-1933)] sold insurance and real estate at 227 South Stephenson Avenue. This was the beginning of **The Miller Agency, Inc.**

Rudolph T. "R.T.", son of **Hans George & Caroline (Nissen) Miller** moved from his homeland of Prussia to Sweden as a child with his parents. His father was a skilled cheese maker. The family moved to Sweden where Rudolph was educated at University of Lund Law School. He immigrated to Minneapolis, Minnesota, in **1886** to the land of opportunity arriving first in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he reestablished his friendship with **Hilda Theresia Von Norman** (1864-1943). Rudolph and Hilda married in Minneapolis on **March 1, 1890**, and moved to Ishpeming, Marquette County, Michigan.

Rudolph Th. Miller was listed as a real estate dealer and justice of the peace in the **1892-1894 Iron Mountain City Directory**, with an office in Wood's Block (First National Bank), 229 South Stephenson Avenue. Rudolph's first job in Iron Mountain was a reporter for the Swedish language newspaper *The Malmberget*.

Rudolph served as Iron Mountain's city clerk (1892-1895), a justice of the peace

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(1882-1906), mayor of Iron Mountain (1909-1912), probate judge (1905-1913) and was a special agent for the Continental Insurance Company from 1912-1933. He became a U.S. citizen on **January 19, 1894**. Fluent in Swedish, German and English, Rudolph helped many immigrants with business affairs, though he never practiced law in the United States.

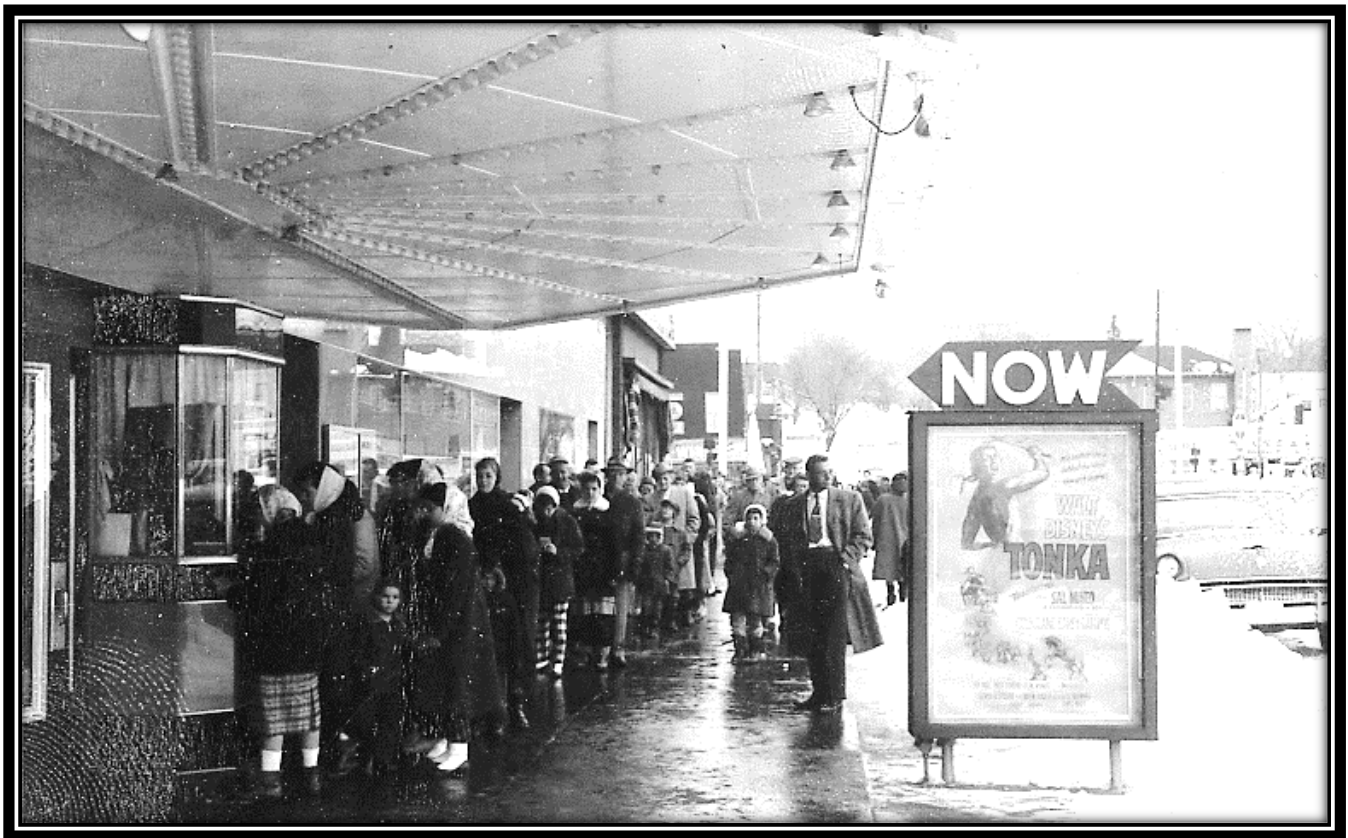
In addition to selling insurance and real estate, Rudolph sold steamship tickets.

Carl Gustav Miller (1899-1992), youngest son of Rudolph and Hilda Miller,

worked with his father in the insurance business and was owner of the **Miller Agency** by **1925** with offices in the First National Bank building at least through **1946**.

By **1961** **The Miller Agency, Inc.** was located at **108 East B Street** in the **Braumart Theatre** building with Carl G. Miller listed as president.

In **2010** **Gary Thomas** served as manager of The Miller Agency, Inc.



Crowds lined up to see Walt Disney's movie "**Tonka**" on a winter day in **1958** in front of the **Braumart Theatre**. Note the light bulbs under the marquee and the street sign with the movie playbill. [There are fingerprints on the left side of this photograph.] *[Tom and Liz Renn]*

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Clowns again promoted “**The Big Circus**”, playing at the **Braumart Theatre** in **1959**. Notice the orderly line of patrons, largely children, and the sign at the left indicating **Jacobs Restaurant** [Robert Samuel “**Bob**” **Jacobs** (1923-1993) and **Lola Ione “Pinky” (Ormiston) Jacobs** (1929-2014)], located at **100/102 East B Street**, next to the Braumart Building. “The Big Circus” starred Victor Mature as a circus owner struggling with financial trouble and a murderous unknown saboteur. Also featured in the film were Red Buttons, Rhonda Fleming, Kathryn Grant, Vincent Price and Peter Lorre. *[Tom and Liz Renn]*

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Chinese lanterns adorned the concession stand in **1961** when Rogers & Hammerstein's "**Flower Drum Song**" was featured at the **Braumart Theatre**. Mountaineer **Bill Riske**, accompanied by his date, wearing a kimono, wore his varsity jacket. The railing separating the auditorium entrance and the stairway leading to the restrooms in the basement level can be seen at the far right. The film was unusual for its time as it featured nearly all Asian American cast members, including dancers, though two of the singing voices were not Asian ones. Starring in the movie were Nancy Kwan, James Shigeta, Benson Fong, James Hong, Reiko Sato and the original Broadway cast members Jack Soo, Miyoshi Umeki, and Juanita Hall, an African American actress who previously played the Pacific Islander Bloody Mary in the Broadway and film productions of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "South Pacific". *[Tom and Liz Renn]*

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Apparently donations of food were accepted for admission to “**The Honeymoon Machine**” in **1961** at the **Braumart Theatre**. Note the long lines extending east to the end of the block. Based on the **1959** Broadway play *The Golden Fleecing* by Lorenzo Semple Jr., this American comedy film, directed by Richard Thorpe, starred Steve McQueen, Brigid Bazlen, Jim Hutton, Paula Prentiss, Jack Mullaney and Dean Jagger. In the film, three men devise a plan to win at roulette with a United States Navy computer. The scheme works until an admiral ruins their plans. [Tom and Liz Renn]

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Five young employees posed in front of the windows of the **Braumart Theatre** dressed in western gear to promote the **1962** movie "**How the West Was Won**". This American Metrocolor epic-Western film was one of the last "old-fashioned" epic films made by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer to enjoy great success. Set between 1839 and 1889, it follows four generations of a family starting as the Prescotts as they move ever westward from western New York state to the Pacific Ocean. The picture was filmed in the curved-screen three-projector Cinerama process. The all-star cast included (in alphabetical order) Carroll Baker, Lee J. Cobb, Henry Fonda, Carolyn Jones, Karl Malden, Gregory Peck, George Peppard, Robert Preston, Debbie Reynolds, James Stewart, Eli Wallach, John Wayne and Richard Widmark. *[Tom and Liz Renn]*

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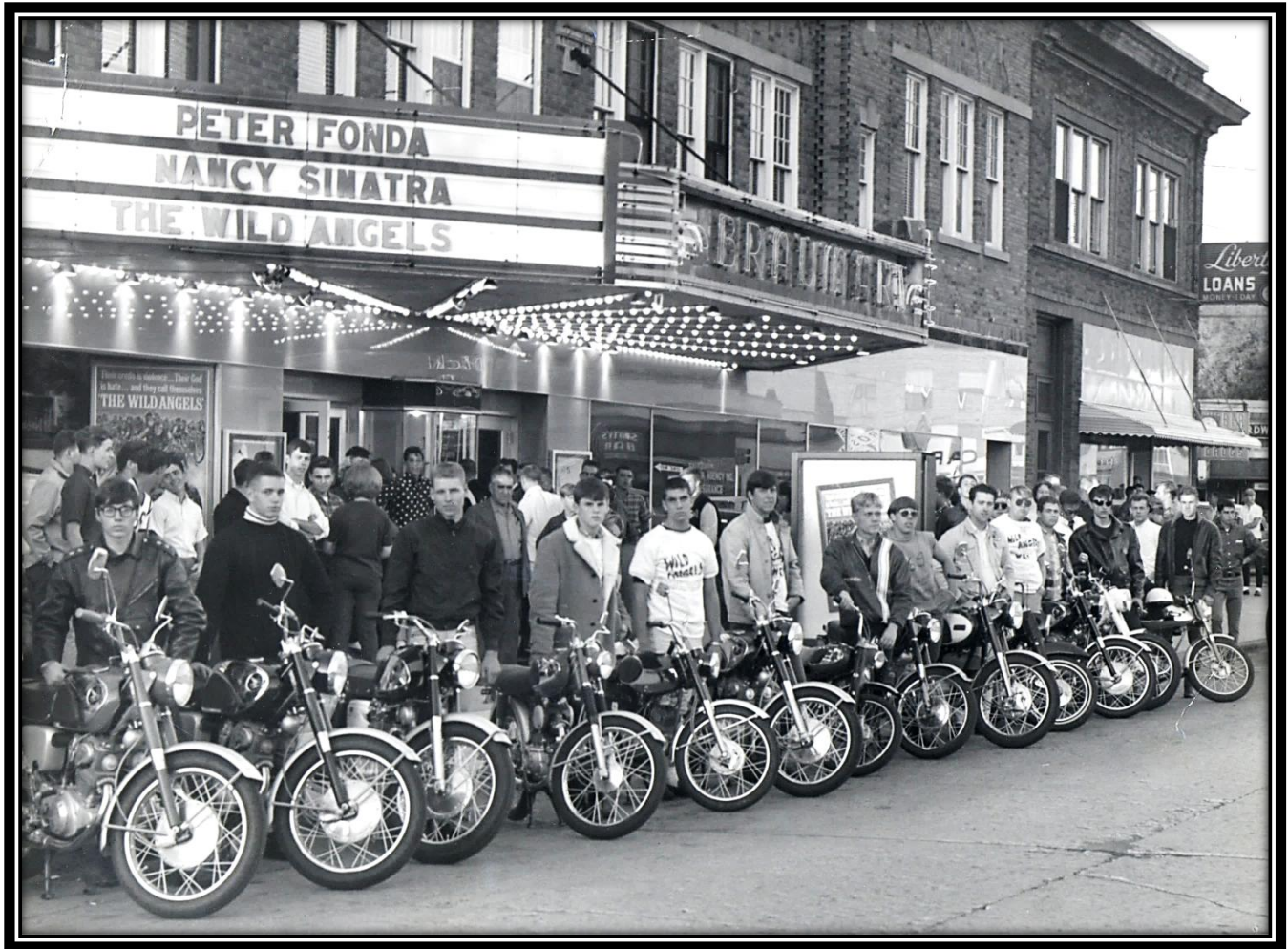
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Motorcycles appeared en force to promote **“The Wild Angels”**, starring Peter Fonda and Nancy Sinatra, which was playing at the **Braumart Theatre** in **1966**. Leather jackets, however, were missing. The marquee lights highlight the entrance. *[Tom and Liz Renn]*

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Another, closer view shows teenage boys and their motorcycles promoting “**The Wild Angels**” at the **Braumart Theatre** in **1966**. Leather jackets, however, were missing. The marquee lights highlight the entrance. In **1967** remodeling took place with rocking chair seats installed for “the ultimate in comfort.” *[Tom and Liz Renn]*

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In **1968 Braumart Theatre** patrons braved the cold to get their tickets for “**Romeo & Juliet**”, a much-acclaimed movie starring Leonard Whiting and Olivia Hussey in the title roles. Note the parking meters in front of the theater. William Shakespeare may have been upset that his name was misspelled on the marquee. The film won Academy Awards for Best Cinematography (Pasqualino De Santis) and Best Costume Design (Danilo Donati) and was also nominated for Best Director and Best Picture. *[Tom and Liz Renn]*

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The **Braumart Theatre**'s auditorium was divided into two parts in **1982**. Note that the ticket booth was no longer between the two sets of double doors, and the red "Braumart" had replaced the lighted version. In **1983** "**Mr. Mom**" and "**Risky Business**" were playing. In **April 1995**, a new eight-screen cinema opened on U.S. 2 in Quinnesec. The Braumart showed second-run films for a while and again showed some new releases before closing in **January 1996**. [Tom and Liz Renn]

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In **1983** “**Breathless**”, starring Richard Gere, and “**Superman III**”, starring Christopher Reeve, were listed on the marquee. Note that the ticket booth was no longer between the two sets of double doors, and the red “Braumart” had replaced the lighted version. [Tom and Liz Renn]

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The **Friends of the Braumart** was organized in **2007** as a theater redevelopment organization with the specific goal of purchasing, renovating and managing the **Braumart Theatre**, located at **106 East B Street** in Iron Mountain, to bring this historic downtown theater to life.

The group incorporated as a non-profit organization as of **January 2009**, with the State of Michigan. The board developed the constitution and articles of incorporation, along with by-laws and a business plan. A financial plan was finalized with the goal of hiring a restoration architect to conduct a feasibility study.

The Friends of the Braumart is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with over 400 members from ten states. The group's mission is to develop the historic Braumart Theatre into a dynamic cultural center which embraces all arts and artists. In addition, the group wants to provide cultural, educational and economic stimulus of the arts for the area, while providing a social and cultural gathering space.

The Friends of the Braumart is a partner/member of the League of Historic American Theaters, the Iron Mountain Main Street/Downtown Development Association, the Dickinson Area Partnership and the Great Lakes Center for Youth Development.

Committees including Fundraising, Public Relations, Grant Writing, Building Acquisition and Maintenance were developed to assure the success of the project.

In **2013**, the Milwaukee architectural firm of Engberg Anderson began an architectural, engineering and structural analysis of the building. This analysis showed that the building was reasonably sound and showed areas where existing features could be better utilized. Their study included schematic designs for a new Braumart Arts Center.

A donation by the Dickinson County 100-Plus Women Who Care in **August of 2013** provided a nest egg of over \$19,000 for the building purchase fund.

On **February 11, 2016**, the Friends of the Braumart realized their dream and purchased the Braumart Theatre in Iron Mountain. Northern Michigan Bank & Trust and River Valley Bank financed the purchase and initial renovations, and Dickinson County 100-Plus Women Who Care donated over \$19,000 in August 2013 which was used for the down payment. In addition, the Iron Mountain-Kingsford General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) has taken on the Braumart as their community project for the next two years. The City of Iron Mountain, Downtown Development Authority, Zonta, the

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Northstar team and the YMCA have all supported this effort.

After buying the building, members cleared out over seven tons of trash and repaired the front doors.

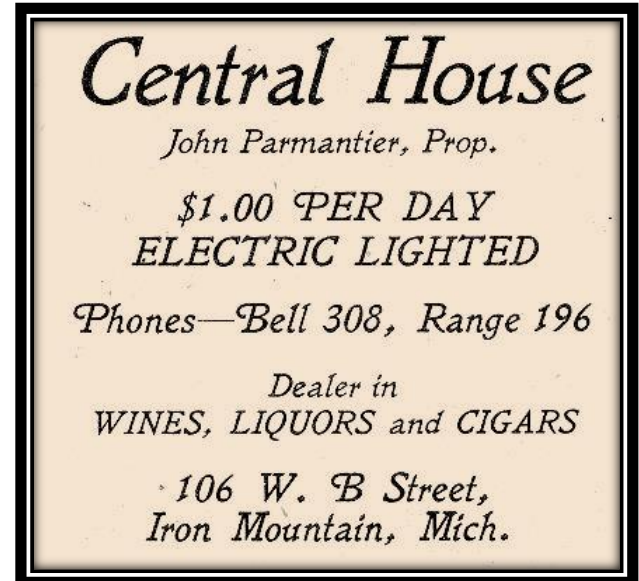
The **February 27, 2016** Open House was a huge success with an estimated 400 people stopping by to see the “before” picture of the Braumart. Musicians **Adam Hayes** and **Doug Bacon** entertained on the stage and several students from local dance studios practiced onstage and off. Art from local artists was displayed in the lobby along with preliminary designs for the future of the building. **Tony Sertich**, Executive Director of the **Pine Mountain Music Festival (PMMF)**, announced that all five events of the 2016 Pine Mountain Music Festival season were held at the Braumart between June 18 and June 26.

Architecture: The classical decoration on the façade hints at the building’s glamorous past. This building exterior is another example where brick was used in a variety of ways to add visual texture.

The architectural design was done by **Herbst & Kuenzli**, of Milwaukee. [The complete plans and presentation drawings are in the collections of the Milwaukee Public Library--Central library.] They also designed the demolished **Delft Theatre** in Iron River. They were a successor to the firm of **Charlton & Kuenzli**, of Marquette, Michigan, and Milwaukee, the architect for the demolished **Colonial Theatre** in Iron Mountain.

History of 110: [NOTE: Undoubtedly **106 East B Street** was actually located where **110 East B Street** is now located, as early photographs of the **Central House** show the train tracks on the east side of the building. There was no listing for this address in the **1925** directory. Thus, this site at **106 East B Street** would have been vacant when the construction of the

Braumart Theatre began in **1924**, probably occupying **104-106-108 East B Street.**]



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*. The address should read **106 East B Street**.

The **Central House** still operated at **106 East B Street** in **1907-1908** with **Joseph Cordy** (1868-1931), the proprietor, also residing here. The hotel and saloon still appeared to be the only building on the block. In **1913** Joseph Cordy was still the proprietor of the Central House which was also his residence.

The hotel was razed to make room for another new structure known as the **Cordy Building** next to the new theater.

An article in the **April 23, 1925** edition of the *Iron Mountain News* announced the opening of a new pool room at **106 East B Street** as follows:

B. Simonson [Berger Simonson (1883-1954)] and **M.O. Hearn**, of Cloquet, Minn., having [sic – have] opened up a new pool room at 106 East B street. Five pocket

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*billiard tables and one billiard table are included in the equipment. There is also a soda fountain and cigar counter. The new place is to be known as the **Star Billiard hall**, a large electric sign being erected this morning.*

In the **May 22, 1925** edition of the *Iron Mountain News*, under the headline “**Work Started on Store Building – Owners of Braumart Theatre Erect Structure Next Door**”, the following article was published:

*Construction work has been started on a two-story building to be erected by the **Brauns & Thomas company**, owners of the new **Braumart theatre**, in the vacant lot next to the theatre building on **East B street**.*

*The lot is 25x120 feet and the building will be the same size. The contract has been given to the **Foster Construction company**, which also erected the Braumart, and completion has been promised in 90 days.*

The cost of the building will be approximately \$25,000. Construction will be of the same type as that in the theatre. The structure will have a brown brick front while the side and back walls will be of white brick.

The building will have a full basement and the first floor will [be] designed for store purposes. Offices will be built on the second floor and will have the same stairway entrance as those on the second floor of the theatre building. This entrance is at the west side of the theatre building and gives access to a hall which will be connected with a hall in the store building. There will be room for seven offices in the new building.

A central heating plant will serve both structures.

The following businesses and offices were listed in the **Cordy Building** at **110 East B Street** in the *Polk's Iron Mountain*

and Dickinson County Directory **1925**: The **P.H. Davis Tailoring Company**, **Emil Thorelius**, district agent; **Hugh McLaughlin** (1846-1934), insurance and real estate; **James W. Smith**, architect; **McLogan-Pearce Music Company**, pianos, Victrolas, radios, **Irving G. Pearce**, president-manager, **L.G. Hillyer**, vice-president, **C.W. Weidleman**, secretary-treasurer; **Van Laanen Insurance Agency**, **John E. Van Laanen** [John Edward “Jack” Van Laanen (1896-1947)], proprietor; **Itzoff [sic – Itzov] Clinical Laboratory**, **Theodore A. Itzoff** [sic – Theodore Andrew “Ted” Itzov (1890-1984)], proprietor; **Arens & Duchaine**, (**Walter Arens** [Walter Alfred Arens (1886-1949)] and **Floyd Duchaine**), barbers.

In **1935** **Sim's Drug Store**, **Edwin J. Sims** [Edwin Joseph Sims (1880-1941)], proprietor, and **Edward Izzo**, cigars, occupied the ground floor of the **Cordy Building**. Upstairs, the following businesses and professional offices in 1935 were: **Edward J. Dundon**, lawyer; **Dr. Claude W. Walker**, physician; the **Itzov Clinical Laboratory**, **Theodore A. Itzov**, proprietor; **Walter A. Henze** [Walter August Henze (1886-1977)], real estate; **Ellen V. Nord** (1891-1975), chiropractor.

The **1939** city directory simply listed this address as the **Cordy Building**, but the **1941-1942** city directory contained a more complete directory which included the following: **Sim's Drug Store**, **Edwin H. Morrison** [Edwin Harry Morrison (1910-1995)], manager; **Chippewa Billiard Parlors**, operated by **Louis Izzo** [Louis Salvatore Izzo (1897-1991)]; **Marinello Beauty Shop**, operated by **Mary E. Harvey**; **Vanity Beauty Shoppe**, operated by **Mary Marana**. In addition, the rooms on the second floor were occupied as follows: Room 1, **Edward J. Dundon**, lawyer;

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Room 3, Itzov Clinical Laboratory, Theodore A. Itzov, proprietor; Room 6, Ellen V. Nord, chiropractor.

In the 1946 city directory the Mancini Building, located at 110 East B Street, had the following tenants: Ellen V. Nord, chiropractor; Marinello Beauty Shop (Mary Harvey, proprietor); Liberty Loan Corporation (Paul Lirette, manager); Stephen's Jewelry Store (Steve Podgornik [Stephen Oliver Podgornik (1915-1996)], proprietor); Chippewa Billiards (Louis Izzo, proprietor); Vanity Beauty Shop (Mrs. Joseph Tavonatti [Celia Sarah Lucia (Manci) Tavonatti (1910-1977)], proprietor).

By 1959 and through 1973 Mario Pietrantonio (1907-1983) operated Uptown Billiards at this address.

Dr. Joseph L. Clement (1905-1980) was incorrectly listed as Dr. J.L. Clement, dentist, in 1959 and was listed as an optometrist in 1961.

Dr. Richard D. Cecconi, physician, had his office at this address in 1959.

In 1959 Gerald J. Laurent was in charge of the Liberty Loan Corporation here. From 1961 through 1963 Myron A. Farrington was listed as manager of the Liberty Loan Corporation. In 1964 Charles J. Carl served as manager. From 1966 through 1973 Gene M. Whippler was manager of the Liberty Loan Corporation.

From 1966 through 1971 Robert D. Brandt was regional manager for All American Life & Casualty at this address.

From 1967 through 1971 Dallas Purdue maintained an office for the H & R Block Company here.

From 1967 through 1973 Robert J. Bujold was agent for the Fireman's Fund Insurance at this address. From 1974 through 1980 Robert J. Bujold served as representative for Fireman's Fund American Insurance. From 1981 through

1984 the Fireman's Fund Insurance Company, Robert J. Bujold, representative, still operated at this location.

From 1967 through 1980 Attorney James C. Perino [James Charles Perino (1894-1985)] maintained an office here.

In 1974 and 1975 Ted Tavonatti operated Tavonatti Galleries at this address.

In 1978 John D. Payant had his law office here. From 1979 through 1981 the Upper Peninsula Reporting Service, owned by John D. Payant, did court reporting. Diane M. Zambon was added in 1981 when the firm offered medical and ledger reporting services. In 1982 Diane M. Zambon operated Upper Peninsula Reporting Services, providing court, medical and legal services.

From 1988 through 1999 Petrucelli & Petrucelli (Vincent R. Petrucelli and Nora A. Petrucelli, attorneys) provided legal services at 110 East B Street.

From 1988 through 1998 Big Brothers & Big Sisters maintained an office here with Gretchen M. Mrozinski serving as director from 1988 through 1993 and Robin Johnson serving as director from 1994 through 1997 and as executive director in 1998.

In 1992 and 1993 Corombos Investment Management, Inc. operated from this location with Theodore J. "Ted" Corombus, president, and Mary Ann Corombus, secretary treasurer.

From 1994 through 2000 Attorney John A. Torreano [John August Torreano (1945-2005)] had his office for McNeil & Torreano PC at this location.

In 1999 and 2000 Kim Soule, president of Adventure Travel & Charter, a travel agency, operated from this address. The firm was listed as Adventure Travel in 2000.

In 2010 Mark McKinnon was manager of Ameriprise Financial, offering financial

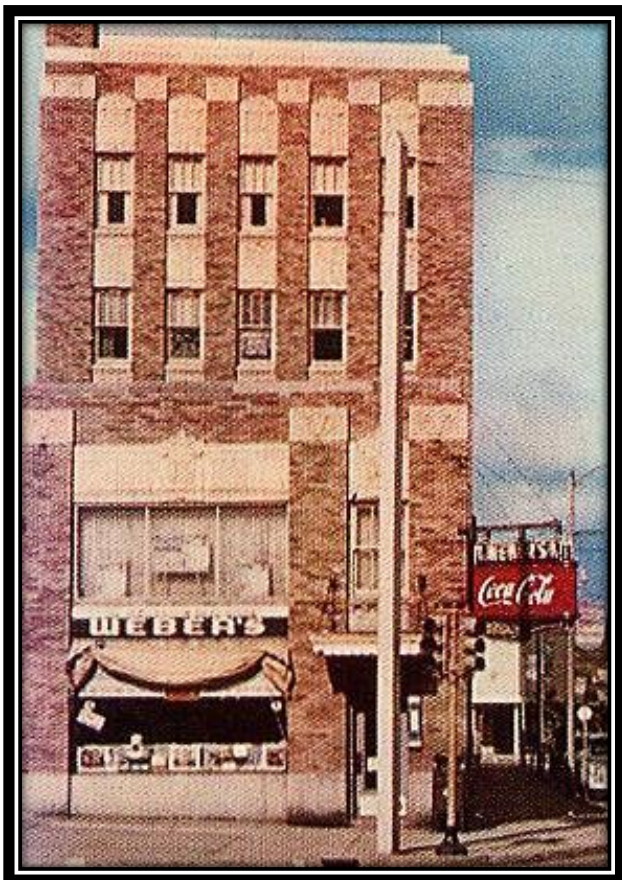
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By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

advisory services, and Attorney **Daniel F. Anderson** had his office at **110 East B Street**.

History of 112: Listings for this address are as follows and probably refer to **110 East B Street: 1980-1982 – John D. Payant**, lawyer; **1984 – Petrucelli & Petrucelli**, lawyers (**Vincent R. and Nora A. Petrucelli**).

History of 116: There was no listing for 116 East B Street in **1946**. From **1959 through 1967 Weber's Pharmacy** (**Verlin Weber, Jr.**, registered pharmacist [**Verlin Archie Weber** (1900-1983)]) was listed at this address, advertising prescriptions, cosmetics, sick room supplies, Rexall Drug Store, foundation and light lunches. This was usually listed as 120 East B Street. There were no listings from **1969 through 2000**.



This detail of a postcard view from the early 1950s shows Weber's Drug Store at 116 (120) East B Street. [William J. Cummings]

History of 120: There was no entry for this address in **1892-1894, 1902-1903, 1907-1908, 1913** or **1925**.

When the Commercial Bank opened its new building on the west side of the 500 Block of South Stephenson Avenue, *The Iron Mountain News* published a special section on the Commercial Bank on **December 19, 1929**.

Included was a detailed article regarding **Buchman's Drug Store** under the headline: **BUCHMAN STORE TO HAVE WALNUT FIXTURE LAYOUT: Establishment To Be One Of Features Of Bank Building**, as follows:

*Occupying the corner site fronting the southwest intersection of Stephenson avenue and B street, lighted by 34 windows, and with a floor space of 68 by 28 feet, the store building to be occupied by the **Buchman Drug company** is a feature of the new **Commercial bank building**.*

Every fixture – from the smallest decorative panel to the new liquid carbonic soda fountain and built-in luncheonette – will be new. Not a single "stick" used in the old Buchman store will be moved to the new. And most of the stock as well will be fresh from the packing boxes.

Windows For Display.

The main entrance to the drug store fronts on B street, but is near the intersection of Stephenson. Each of the lower windows will be equipped with decorative light fixtures and used exclusively for display. Every window will be trimmed in American walnut. One, the large display window facing B street, will be fitted for novelty and specialty displays.

The floor is of Italian tile, in red and green. The walls and ceiling are of varying light-colored tints, with the decorative

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stencils designed and applied by **Steve Portermain**, of Rochester, Minn. Portermain has planned the interior decorative scheme of many public buildings and private homes throughout the northwest.

Near the entrance, along the east wall, will be located three luncheon booths, with three more situated at the north end of the same side wall. In the center there will be a modern, liquid carbonic soda fountain and luncheonette, embodying every new feature. There is even a compartment for the preservation, at the temperature meant for them, of biologicals used in the drug business.

Decorative Cases.

Along the west wall will be the electrically-lighted and decorative cases for the display of perfumes, novelties and specialty goods. These cases, like the display windows, are to be finished in American walnut, with polychrome trimming.

Two telephone pay-stations are provided.

In addition to the six booths, four tables, at the north end of the shop, and eight seats at the soft drink counter will be available. The fountain will be 16 feet in length.

Eighteen lights, of modernistic design, with low-hanging, tapered chandeliers, will give adequate illumination, and wall lights will also be available for the luncheon booths.

Bakery Department.

At the east and south the north wall is a bakery, which will be given over wholly to the gift and art department in charge of **Mrs. Ray Hubley**. The latest in art and novelty goods will be available there. The railing, overlooking the sales floor, is hammered, wrought iron, finished in bronze and black.

All of the radiators in the store will be hidden and covered with asbestos to prevent any possibility of fire, or injury to the walnut furnishings.

A door at the rear provides access to the banking quarters and the elevator in the building.

While the Buchman store will not be open for inspection Saturday, it is hoped the installation of fixtures and stock may be completed by about January 15.

In **1935** **Buchman's Drug Store**, operated by **Abraham G. Buchman**, "Druggist and Prescription Pharmacists," was located at this address on the south end of the **Commercial Bank Building**.

An article in the **May 26, 1935** edition of the *Iron Mountain News* recorded the opening of a new flower shop, **The Blossom Shop**, in a section of **Buchman's Drug Store** as follows:

Miss **Florence Schubert** and **F.J. Milford**, of Houghton, will soon open a flower store in a section of **Buchman's Drug store** at the corner of Stephenson avenue and East B street. Although the date of opening has not yet been set orders are now being taken for Memorial day and may also be left at Buchman's drug store in Breitung. The store will be known as the **Blossom shop** and will occupy that part of the drug store facing on East B street.

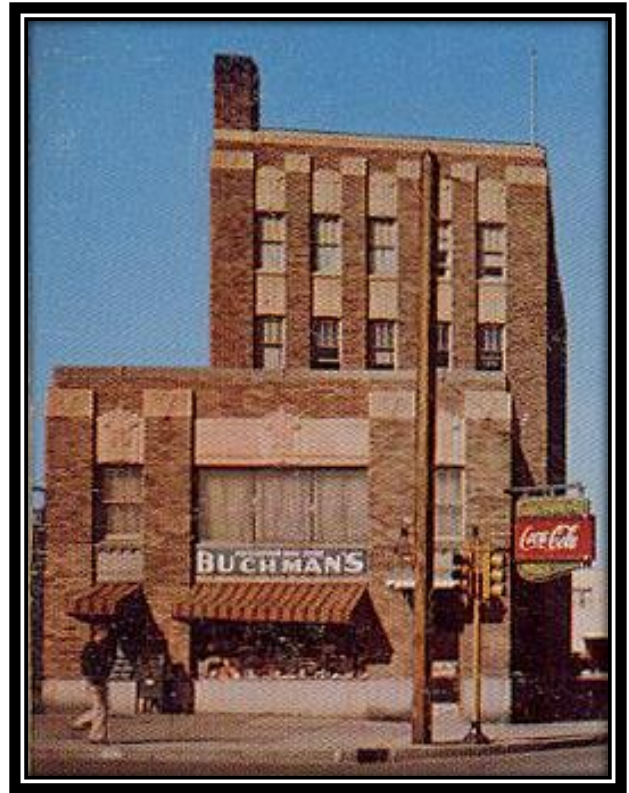
In the **1939** city directory **Buchman's Drug Store**, **Abraham G. Buchman**, proprietor, was listed at **500 South Stephenson Avenue** instead of **120 East B Street**, but the establishment was again listed under the same ownership at this address in the street index and at **536 South Stephenson Avenue** in the alphabetical listing in the **1941-1942** city directory.

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This detail of a postcard view from the late 1940s shows Buchman's Drug Store at 120 East B Street. *[William J. Cummings]*



This detail of a postcard view copyrighted 1951 shows Buchman's Drug Store at 120 East B Street.