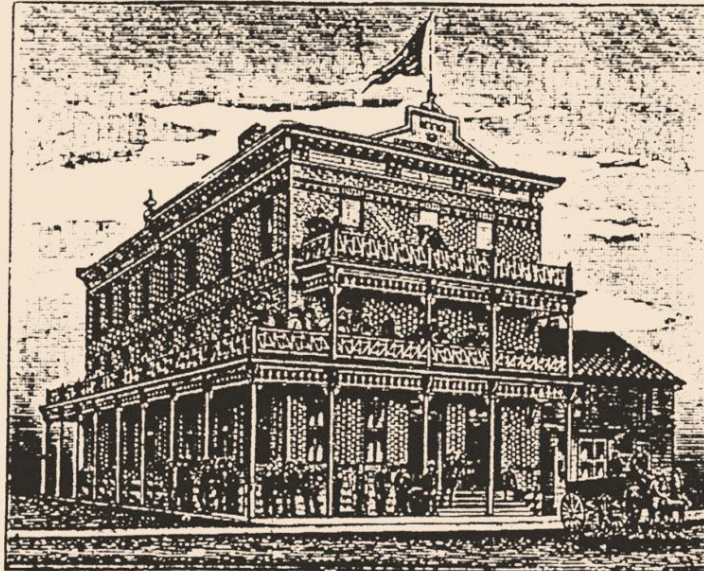


MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 89: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 101-125 WEST B STREET

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian



Commercial Hotel,

W. H. JENKINS, Proprietor.

The only First-Class Hotel in the City.

House Heated by Steam.

Good Sample Rooms for Commercial Men.

Iron Mountain, — — — Michigan.

This advertisement for the **Commercial Hotel, 101-105 West B Street**, Iron Mountain, appeared in Iron Mountain's weekly newspaper *The Menominee Range* in a special supplement for Thursday, **July 4, 1889**, lithographed by the Calvert Lithograph Company of Detroit, and is the earliest known representation of the hotel. Sample rooms signified a more refined bar setting for serving alcoholic beverages. [Menominee Range Historical Museum]

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[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 89th installment of Menominee Range Memories, a series of articles by William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation historian, now available on the Dickinson County Library's website, is titled "Downtown Iron Mountain – 101-125 West B Street."

23: SOUTH SIDE OF 100 BLOCK WEST B STREET

History of 101-105: In his biographical sketch in *History of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan*, published in **1883**, **Vivian Care Chellew** (1854-1914), who built Iron Mountain's **Commercial Hotel** in **1887-1888**, noted:

VIVIAN CHELLEW, *butcher*, was born in Cornwall, England, **March 24, 1854**, and came to the United States in **May, 1873**, and located at Copper Falls, Lake Superior; in the mines for a short time; then went to Calumet, and entered the green grocery business; then to Osceola, in the butcher business; later, he came to Iron Mountain, where he associated himself with Mr. **H.F. Fisk** [**Henry G. Fisk**] in the butcher business. He was married to Miss **Mary A. Moyle**, of Calumet, in **May, 1880**. [Iron Mountain, page 499]

In the **1900** U.S. Census for Lawrence Township, Teller County, Colorado, **Vivian C. Chellew** and his wife **Mary A. (Moyle) Chellew** (1844-xxxx) were listed as residents. He died **March 15, 1914**, in Victor, Teller County, Colorado.

Ground was broken for the construction of the **Commercial House** on **September 1, 1887**. The plans for **Vivian C. Chellew's** hotel were drawn by a Milwaukee architect, and the contract was awarded to **J. Bonnett & Son, of Whitewater, Wis.**, who sent **Frederick H. Strup** to supervise the construction of the building.

The hotel, fronting on West B Street, measured 34 x 80 feet and was 38 feet high – three stories of solid brick.

The first floor consisted of a 20 x 30-foot office and a 30 x 47-foot dining room with built in china closet and two fireplaces. The old **Phinn Hotel**, a wooden structure which previously stood on the site, housed the kitchen. There was a large front entrance to the bar, the billiard room, bathrooms and barber shop in the basement.

The second floor had 11 "sleeping rooms" averaging 10 x 13 ½ feet in size and a 20-foot square parlor with a fireplace.

There were 15 "sleeping rooms" on the third floor averaging 10 x 13 ½ feet in size.

The entire building was heated by steam, lit by gas and provided with hot and cold water.

Vivian C. Chellew stated at the grand opening, held on Tuesday, **January 17, 1888**, that his cost for the building, furnishings and equipment was over \$25,000.

According to the **January 21, 1888** edition of *The Diamond Drill*, the weekly newspaper of Crystal Falls, Iron County, Michigan, at the time, the opening ball held at Iron Mountain's **Commercial Hotel** on Tuesday, **January 17, 1888**, was so important and impressive that the story included columns 3-5 on page one and columns 1-4 on page five, under the following headline. Considered "the grandest social event that has ever transpired on the Menominee range" by the

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editor, the complete account is reproduced below:

A GRAND AFFAIR.

THE MOST BRILLIANT EVENT OF THE SEASON.

The Opening Ball of the Commercial Hotel a Phenomenal Event of Pleasure.

A Good Account of the Reception – The Address – Programme – Menu – Committees – Guests – Minute Description of the Hotel and Furnishings – In the Basement – An Interesting Chapter Relative to Hotels. Biographical sketches. Notes of Interest.

As predicted the grand opening ball of the Commercial house, at Iron Mountain on Tuesday evening, was the grandest social event that has ever transpired on the Menominee range. In fact nothing that ever occurred at all approaching the proportions of the reception and it is looked upon as a phenomenal event of pleasure. The elements seemed to conspire for the benefit of the affair and the evening was mild and beautiful and the young moon shown out with exquisite brilliancy. The attendance

was simply wonderful. Every business house in the city had a representative and almost every lover of dancing donned his best and with his best girl on his arm was on hand for the good time which they knew was sure to follow. Almost every town on the range was represented, and many more people from other towns would have been present had they known how well able the vast hotel was to take care of them. In fact it was a grand reunion of the people of Iron Mountain and contiguous towns, under the auspices of one of the most popular landlords in the Upper Peninsula, aided by an efficient hotel manager. Invitations to the number of one thousand had been sent out and fully eight hundred of them met with personal responses. At about eight o'clock the vast throngs of joy-expectant guests commenced to arrive and it was ten o'clock before they all reported; in fact they continued to pour in until the halls, parlors, office, dining room and even the kitchen were full. The grand dining room which is forty-seven feet long and forty feet wide, was used as a ballroom and was beautifully decorated in a manner appropriate to the occasion. **Mr. Chellew** [Vivian Care Chellew (1854-1914)], the proprietor, was taken ill on the morning of the opening and was therefore unable to be on hand to receive his guests, but the several reception committees left nothing undone. Just previous to the commencement of the ball Mr. Chellew's physician gave him leave of absence from his bed for a few minutes and he was carried in and placed in a big arm chair at the head of the dining room, while **Dr. J.M. Mead** [Dr. James M. Mead (1834-1890)] made the appended brief

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address, which did not tire his listeners and was right to the point:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. – Unexpectedly I am called upon to open this reception. I did not come here expecting to officiate in that capacity but now that I am to do it will be as brief as possible, because I was once young myself and know that you are on nettles to commence dancing and I don't blame you. Our worthy landlord, Mr. Chellew, who built this magnificent hotel, one of the finest edifices north of the city of Milwaukee, was taken violently ill this morning and is unable to share the the [sic] joys of the evening, but let me say right here on this occasion, that in erecting this grand building he has done a great thing for Iron Mountain, the Menominee range and the whole upper country and his enterprise should be supported in solid style and we all of us hope that he will make millions of dollars, and become a bloated bond holder. He is certainly deserving of a rich reward for his pluck and energy. On behalf of Mr. Chellew and his estimable wife I extend to you one and all a cordial and hearty welcome and want you to pitch in, know every body and have a good time. If there is anything more to say I don't know how to say it. Now go in for a rousing good time and I'll help you.

*When the doctor began speaking it was nine o'clock, and simultaneously with the clatter of his pumps on the floor so he alighted from the music stand and the Iron Mountain orchestra inaugurated the festivities with a grand march which was led by **Josiah Harris** [1835-1904] and **Mrs. V.C. Chellew** (1844-xxxx), Many were the elegant and costly costumes worn, a*

*description of which would be impossible for want of space. A feature of the affair was its excellent management and unanimity of spirit throughout. The magnitude of this party is hard to conceive by ones not in attendance, as there were present over eight hundred guests – the beauty and bravery of Iron Mountain. The program which was arranged by **Dr. J.D. Jones** [**Joel Dart Jones** (1859-1930)], of Iron Mountain, one of the acknowledged dancers of the Upper Peninsula, was as follows:*

- 1 – Grand March and Waltz.*
- 2 – Quadrille.*
- 3 – Schottische.*
- 4 – Lanciers.*
- 5 – Waltz.*
- 6 – Quadrille.*
- 7 – Polka.*
- 8 – Waltz Quadrille.*
- 9 – Quadrille.*
- 10 – Waltz.*
- 11 – Quadrille, Ladies' Choice.*
- 12 – Schottische.*
- SUPPER.*
- 13 – Waltz.*
- 14 – Basket Quadrille.*
- 15 – Polka.*
- 16 – Double Scotch Reel.*
- 17 – Schottische.*
- 18 – Quadrille, Masonic.*
- 19 – Waltz, Ladies' Choice.*
- 20 – Lanciers, Saratoga.*
- 21 – Quadrille, "Old Dank Tucker."*
- 22 – Schottische.*
- 23 – Quadrille.*
- 24 – Medley.*

The program was finished at four o'clock and upon request of the quests several

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more dances were put on which did not end until an hour and a half later. It was the intention to spread tables for supper, but owing to the vast assemblage it was deemed advisable not to do so from the fact that the tables would necessarily have to be placed in the dining room and that would take up too much valuable time and upon [the] suggestion of **Manager [Louis A.] Clapp** the supper was served “pic-nic” fashioned, which was highly satisfactory to all present as it required comparatively very little time to take care of all present. Scores of young folks became waiters and the large supply of edibles were distributed throughout the house and done away with in [sic – within] a remarkably short space of time. The waiters deserve credit for the manner in which they got around – no one was missed – they had their hands full but were fully equal to the emergency. Following is the

MENU

Cold roast turkey
 Cold roast beef
 Cold boiled ham
 Bread and butter
 Ham sandwiches
 Turkey sandwiches
 Cheese Pickles
 Drop cakes
 Marble cake
 Fruit cake
 Cream cake
 Pork cake
 Currant jelly cake
 Cocoanut [sic] cake
 Chocolate Cake
 Oranges, apples, bananas,
 Muscatel grapes.

Tea. Coffee. Cider.

The committees in charge of this well-managed, well-arranged and brilliant affair were: Arrangement – **Dr. J.M. Mead, E.J. Ingram** [Edward J. Ingram (1861-1893)], **F.E. Crocker** [Frank Eugene Crocker (1856-1923)], **John Friedrick, C.W. Ingram** [Charles William Ingram (1866-1889)]. Floor managers – **Dr. J.D. Jones, T.B. Catlin, Thos. Rundle** (1857-1891) and **J.H. Verhalen**. Reception committee first floor – **H.M. Pelham Herbert Maury Pelham** (1859-1920)] and **Rans Hammond** [Ransom Lotrip Hammond (1858-1918)]; second floor, **Miss Etta Minnis, Miss Allie Wicks, Miss Maggie McLelland, Dr. W.J. Spencer, F.J. Trudell** [Fabian J. Trudell] and **A.F. Sneider**; third floor, **Miss Cora Rundle, Miss Minnie Flaherty** [Mary Frances “Minnie” (Flaherty) Kingsford (1866-1943)], **Miss Sadie Gray, W.P. St. John, J.A. Bruce** and **O.F. Spencer**, and the manner in which they acquired themselves aided materially in the success of the entertainment. Of course it is impossible to give the names of all who were present as some estimated that there were nearly one thousand guests in attendance, but those from the Menominee range towns were: **Crystal Falls – J.H. Bower** and wife, **D.C. Lockwood** and wife, **P.P. Smith** and wife, **C.M. Atkinson** and wife, **Sumner Hopkins** and wife, **Miss Myrtle Rowley, Dr. H.W. Allen, Max Berlowicz. Florence – Wm. Saucry, Patrick Baker, Mr. Jenkins. Stambaugh – Mrs. Robt. Barclay, A.F. Corcoran. Norway – Dr. Wright, Will Keating** and others. **Quinnesec – J.F. Wright** and wife, **A. Mellen** and wife.

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THE HOTEL.

*The dimensions of this building on the ground are 34 x 80 feet, thirty-eight feet in high [sic – height], three stories and of solid brick and equipped with all of the modern improvements and will cope with any hotel north of the city of Milwaukee. The building is situated near **the Milwaukee & Northern depot** and fronts thirty-four feet on B street, and is the most sightly building in the city. The **first floor** is divided as follows: Office, 20 x 30 feet, off from which is a wash room supplied with four marble bowls and hot and cold water, coat room, dining room 30 x 47 feet with a china closet. The dining room is provided with two fire places, and is well lighted, wood blinds regulating the flow of light into the room. The kitchen is in the old **Phinn hotel**, a wooden structure which stood on the site of the new hotel and the rooms of which will be assigned to the use of regular boarders, none but transient customers will be given sleeping apartments in the brick structure. The office is a model of convenience, doors leading to the cloak room, wash room, front hall and a wide entrance to the billiard room and bath rooms and barber shop below, is provided with a fire place, a large table desk and one of the finest oak counters in the land, and elegant rich upholstered chairs. In the hall way from the ladies entrance is a sofa for the benefit of guests who become too tired to get up the stairs. The entire first floor is wainscoted with highly polished oak and the main newell [sic – newel] post is thirty six feet high. The floors are of maple and the whole of the lower floor would put to shame many of the finer hotels in the cities. It is*

*estimated that nearly two hundred guests could be taken care of in the dining room which is provided with large square tables elegantly furnished with silver and china; a neat cane seat chair is used. The **second floor** is cut up into eleven sleeping rooms that will average 10 x 13 ½ feet in size, a parlor on the front twenty feet square and two six foot halls. A fire place is in the parlor on the mantle-piece of which is a rare assortment of vases and ornaments and above is a large French plate mirror set in oak. The curtains are of costly lace and the furniture is black walnut highly polished and mounted with silk plush in variegated colors; the carpet is silk velvet and very beautiful and the feeling to the foot is that of walking over a bed of feathers. The painting on the bed rooms is different in each room and the Brussels carpet made to match as near as possible. Each room is elegantly furnished with oak, cherry or mahognay [sic – mahogany] furniture, consisting of two chairs, bedstead, commode and dresser with French plate mirror. The bed is furnished with springs and all-hair mattress, making it a heaven [sic – haven] of rest for the tired traveler. The halls are carpeted with Brussels and the stairs likewise, being padded under. At the south end of the hall is a bath room supplied with everything to make it complete. This floor is heated with radiators. The **third floor** is divided into fifteen sleeping rooms, no two painted alike and furnished similar to those on the floor below and carpeted with Brussels. The rooms average in size about 10 x 13 ½ feet and the halls six feet wide. Over the doors on the second and third floors are transoms*

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or lintels molding a 16 x 20 inch glass and provided with a novel transom lift; the doors are 7 x 2 feet and eight inches. The door leading into the dining room from the office is a large double door. The windows for the front door are 28 x 46 inches and on the second and third floors are 28 x 36 inches and arranged on a balance. The entire building is heated by steam, lighted by gas and provided with hot and cold water and an inspection will show that nothing is wanting; its appointment and equipage [sic – equipage] being equal to the best in the land. There are no doubt many things the writer neglected to note in his trip through the hotel but enough has been obtained to give the readers of this journal an idea of its elegance and greatness.

IN THE BASEMENT.

The basement is divided in this manner. On going down stairs from the office you find yourself in a room 30 x 30 feet in size in which is contained one of the most exquisite bars on the range and presided over by a prince of good fellows, **Pitt Drake** (1839-xxxx), a biographical sketch of whom is given elsewhere. You see a billard [sic – billiard] table, pool table and a twelve foot bar of finely polished wood and a back bar with a large French plate mirror in which you can do as Burns prayed he could, see himself as others see him. The back bar is beautifully ornamented with colored glasses, bottles and other things which go to make a bar room attractive. A National cash register is in use, and by which bartenders will be unable to gain a competency in a few weeks. It is a novel affair and cost nearly \$200. Here you can find the best of liquors and cigars; cigars

from \$55 to \$100 per thousand and whiskies up to \$8 per gallon, an article as smooth as oil and it can be partaken of in large quantities without swelling your head four sizes to [sic – too] large for your hat; the best of champagne and other fancy drinks are kept in stock. A mammoth ice box stands in the wall near the bar from which sparkling ales, porter and beer flow in abundance on demand. Adjoining this is a liquor room 8 x 12 feet in size, a card room 10 x 10,

(CONCLUDED ON FIFTH PAGE)

[same stacked headline as on page one] two halls from the side entrance, a barber shop 16 x 20, complete with all its appointments and presided over by two dexterous wielders of the blade, Messrs. **S.A. Rouse**, proprietor[,] and **F.A. Thede**; next two bath rooms 5 x 11 feet, a 5 x 11 foot room in which is located the Wilkes' heating apparatus, then the cellar which is 16 x 30 feet. Nothing has been left undone.

A water tank on the third floor supplies the entire house and each room is provided with two electric bells one to and one from the office so arranged that in case of fire every bell in the house can be sounded and in cases where guests are down for calls will be a great saving of shoe leather for the bell boy as the electric bells can be sounded from the office. The floors above are also connected with the office by a speaking tube.

The plans for this model of elegance and convenience were made in Milwaukee and the contract for the building awarded to **J. Bonnett and Son**, of Whitewater, Wis., and the manner in which they acquitted [sic – acquitted] themselves is evidence that

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*they are men of their business. The building was done by Mr. **Fred. H. Strup**, of Whitewater, Wis. He is a person of ability and rare judgment and a gentleman of high standard, and during his brief stay in Iron Mountain has made many friends and has been given other buildings to erect and will as soon as he arranges his affairs at Whitewater, remove to Iron Mountain where he will make his home. In the construction of this hotel he has erected a lasting monument to his taste, energy and talent and one that will serve him many a good turn. To complete the building on time it was necessary for his men to work early and late and he was not found wanting but turned in and from the time of his commencement put in from fourteen to eighteen hours every day. He is a very pleasant gentlemen [sic – gentleman] and one with whom it is a profit to become acquainted. **Geo. W. Sperbeck**, also of Whitewater, has the credit for the finely finished condition in which the building was turned over to the owner, he doing all of the painting and oiling and did it in a manner that shows a skill born of long practice and possessed by but few; he is not a dauber but a painter and knows his business from the word go. He will also take up a residence at Iron Mountain, where the work mentioned has made a good business for him.*

MR. CHELLEW INTERVIEWED.

The reporter was shown into Mr. Chellew's private apartments on the morning after the ball and found him, though feeling much better than on the previous evening, still confined to his bed. In answer to numerous questions the

*gentleman said: "I first conceived the idea of erecting a hotel in this city last summer. I could see that the place would soon be in need of better hotel accommodations and the more thought I gave to the matter the more determined I became to build a hotel that would not only meet the wants of the people for the time being but for a long time to come, and besides being an institution that will last. I went to work to perfect arrangements, first buying the **old Phinn hotel and the lots on which it stood**, then followed the making of plans and getting things in readiness to build. All of the preliminaries were completed and the first ground turned **September 1, 1887**. We have worked hard and steady and I do not flatter myself in saying that I have given Iron Mountain an industry to be proud of. The expense I have been to is very great but I trust that the people will appreciate my efforts. This building, furnishings and equipage [sic – equipage] has cost me upwards of \$25,000 and I have not yet finished it. The building is so arranged that when trade demands such a move I can put an addition on in a very short time. I want to thank my many friends for their kindness on this occasion and I assure you that I am appreciative."*

BIOGRAPHICAL

***Vivian C. Chellew**[.] the public-spirited proprietor of this grand hotel[,] was born in Cornwall, England[,] on the twenty-fourth day of March, 1855 [sic – 1854], and at this writing is only thirty-three years of age. In **1873** at the age of nineteen years he became imbued with the idea that America offered far better advantages to a young man than did old England and he emigrated*

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to glorious America where he soon partook of the push and energy characteristic of the American people and struck out for himself. He first went to the Lake Superior region and engaged himself as a miner in the **Copper Falls copper mine, Keweenaw county, Mich.** After working there awhile he went to the **Cliff**, then the **Allauzy** [sic – **Allouez**] and his last mining work was done in the **Calumet & Hecla mine**. He then begun [sic – began] buying and selling live stock [sic – livestock] on a small scale and in **1876** went into the meat market business on his own hook at the **Osceola mine** location, where he remained five years. In the year **1881** he sold out his interests at that place and came to **Iron Mountain** and went into the meat business with **Henry G. Fisk** and a little later on bought Mr. Fisk's interest and continued the business alone until during last summer he sold out and turned his attention to hotel matters. On the twenty-second day of May, 1880[,] he was married to Miss **Mary A. Moyle**, an estimable [sic – estimable] young lady of Osceola. Mr. Chellew's great success in life is due to his urbane bearing, gentlemanly manner, accommodating ways and sterling business qualities and the city of Iron Mountain is to be congratulated on having such a gentleman within its confines. He has done more for the city than any one man and his enterprising spirit should be encouraged in a substantial way.

Louis A. Clapp, the manager of this hotel[,] is a dandy with a big d. He is a hotel man second to none any where [sic – anywhere]. His calling is hotel business and he was born for just that one purpose and is not fitted for much of anything else.

In securing this gentleman to take charge of the hotel and its business Mr. Chellew did the crowning act of his great work. Mr. Clapp was born at Cleveland, Ohio, May 21, 1856[,] and is now thirty-two years old and well preserved for as many of his years. When four years of age he went to live with his grand parents [sic – grandparents], **Mr. and Mrs. C.D. Clapp**, at Bollston Springs, Saratoga county, New York. From there he went to Troy, in the same state, and resided with his parents who had removed there, and the following eleven years were taken up with school matters[,] he in that time obtaining an excellent education and fitted himself for business life. He put in a year or so in the Adirondack country and then with his parents removed to **Manistique, Mich.**, where he was employed in a responsible capacity by the **Chicago Lumber Co.** His father still resides there and has full charge and general management of that company's merchandise business and is a large share holder [sic – shareholder] in the concern. In **1879** Lou went to **Escanaba**, where he secured a position as head clerk in **P.N. Cardozo's** clothing and dry goods house; remained in the store but a short time and went railroading in the capacity of fireman for the **Chicago & North-Western Railroad Co.**, and later held a position in the merchandise dock at that place. In **1881** he began his hotel work and has been at it ever since. One year he in company with another gentleman did business for themselves in the **Ludington house** and later he took charge of the **Oliver house**, which position he resigned in the **spring of 1887** and went to **Crystal Falls** where he

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filled the clerkship of the **Lockwood house** and remained until he received a call to the **Commercial house**. He was married to Miss **Nellie Stonehouse**, one of Escanaba's fair and popular young ladies[,] on **September 1, 1883**[,] and one son, **Frankie**, has blessed the union and is a chop of [sic – chip off] the old block. With Mr. Clapp as its manager the success of the new hotel is practically assured as he is well known and a great favorite with the traveling public.

Pitt Drake, of the firm of **P. Drake & Co.**, owners of the **bar business**, is a real character. He was born at Sandusky, Ohio., [sic] **December 23, 1839**, and at an early age went into the office of the Register [newspaper] at that place as "devil," [printer's devil] and remained there until he became a printer. He served in the late war [Civil War] enlisting at Buffalo, in the 102d [102nd] New York Infantry and served two years under **Gen. Sherman** and was with that warrior on his famous march, and was a brave soldier. After the war he returned to the "cases" [printer's cases for holding type] and drifted all over the country, having been in every city of any importance in the United States except Boston and San Francisco. He at one time tired of life on land and applied to a vessel master at New York for a place before the mast and on a little inquiry discovered that the master of the vessel was one of his old friends and schoolmates and instead of going before the mast he was made an equal by the captain and made two trips of long duration. He landed and drifted about the country until he struck **Chicago** where he got cases on the Inter-Ocean

[newspaper] and remained there until his health became so poor that a move was recommended and he got a leave of absence for three months and came to the **Menominee range** which was just then attracting so much attention, arriving at **Quinnesec** in **1881**, where he put in his time at various vocations and his health improved to such an extent that he concluded to make the range his home. In **1883** he removed to **Iron Mountain** and took charge of the **Jenkins house sample room** [bar], remaining there until **1885**, when he went into business for himself in the **Siebert** [sic – Seibert] block. His place became very popular and he built up a good trade which has followed him to the **Commercial house**. Ten years ago he was married to Miss **Julia A. Merryman**, a refined and accomplished young lady of Detroit. Previous to his marriage he was not unlike the majority of printers and usually on a Saturday night he laid in a good supply of red paint and several brushes and decorated things until time to go to work on Monday morning, but ten years ago the 23d [23rd] of last month he stopped all of his youthful follies and turned his mind in a better channel. On the tenth anniversary of his quit he tendered a banquet to a number of his friends in honor of the occasion. He was working on the Chicago Times when **Wilber F. Story** bought it and held cases while **Governor Swineford**, of Alaska, did "subing [sic – subbing]." He spent one year in Washington in the interest of a metropolitan daily newspaper and numbered all of the statesmen from the president down as his friends. He has a great memory and is an

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animated encyclopedia of all of the political and sporting events of the past quarter of a century. He is well read, has a splendid education and is a man of the world in every sense, and a man you don't meet every day. His memory is a little at fault, however, when he states that there are only three great events that he can recall and those occur on the twenty-third, twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth of December in each year and are his birthday, anniversary of his total abstinence and Christmas. To complete the hotel it was absolutely necessary that Mr. Drake be included, as there is no man yet heard from who can command the trade and is so universally popular and well known as he is.

ABOUT HOTELS.

It was a sage utterance that declared us to be a hotel nation, a people living in hotels and there is good cause to think we have been properly characterized. Statistics show that there are more hotels in the United States in proportion to the number of inhabitants than any other country, and in point of elegance of architecture, style of equipment and magnitude of construction nowhere equalled [sic – equaled]. These questions may arise: Why do the American people require more hotel accommodation than the people of other nations? Are we of a roaming, transitory nature? Have we but little appreciation of retired domestic life? The last question may be answered negatively – nowhere among the nations of the earth does the symbol of home signify more than in our country; nowhere can be found, in proportion to population, a greater number of firesides around which

congregate united families in the full enjoyment of the delights of domestic life.

How then is the fact to be accounted for that as a nation so many and such large and magnificent hotels are required? Nervous activity is our natural characteristic; our restless spirits keep up constantly on the alert, our motive temperament is ever impelling us forward to open new channels of industry. Space is viewed by the ordinary American mind as something existing merely to be explored and distance an opposition created to overcome. Hotels and railroads are the instruments to accomplish the purposes of an energetic and expensive people. They are the concomitants of enterprise and necessarily co-existent [sic – co-existent]. This national spirit of enterprise demands the construction of hotels and of railroads to accommodate the travel of which it is productive. This is known to be the fundamental [sic – fundamental] cause for the existence [sic – existence] of so many hotels throughout our land.

The modern method of conducting commercial affairs has caused to be erected during the last quarter of a century a great many hotels, principally for the accommodation of the agents of individuals and firms engaged in commercial pursuits [sic – pursuits]; no wholesale business house is complete without its corps of "traveling men" and if we would draw our cities and towns these representatives commonly called commercial travelers and incline them to make our hotels places of necessity, as they are prone to do elsewhere under favorable circumstances, it is very important that they should be

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*provided not only with the ordinary hotel accommodations but that our hotels should be made attractive in many ways, well known to experienced hotel men. **Iron Mountain** is a growing city and its surroundings are of romantic beauty, located as it is in one of the most attractive parts of the state and nestling among the hills of a great iron region.*

*Within a few miles in either direction is to be found rugged and enchanting scenery, more particularly that of the **Menominee river**, abounding in pleasant dells, weird canyons, rippling waters and unbrageous [sic – umbrageous] glens. And near at hand is to be seen one of the most picturesque scenes imaginable, that of the **Upper Quinnesec falls** on the river first named, where waters in their mad fury, whirling, heaving and lashed into foam leap over a precipice of perhaps one hundred feet, then quietly fanned by zephyrs gentle and sheltered by majestic cliffs whose cragged sides rise high about the now limpid water at their base, flow on down to the great Lake Michigan; near by is **Lake Antoine**, one of the prettiest little sheets of water in the state and a railroad ride of six miles will take you to the beautiful summer retreat, **Spread Eagle lake**, where boats and guides are always ready to assist a pleasure seeker, [sic] then comes the massive hyrculic [sic – hydraulic] power works at the falls which is worth a days [sic – day's] ride to see, followed by the great **Chapin**, and **Ludington** and other mines and numerous other places of romantic beauty, and interesting study.*

With our mighty industries and our city surrounded by singing streams, rocky glens

and woodland glades, gleaming with refreshing verdure, thus making our city an attractive, concentrating and diverging point for tourists and pleasure seekers. In inviting tourists to the city it is only necessary to add to these natural attractions a first class hotel. And to expect them to return soon and often it is important that they should be so received that when departing they carry with them a sense of having been comfortable and happy during their sojourn in the place.

To create an impression abroad favorable to the city, with a view to introducing strangers to take their abode within the town and thus through an increase of population advance the material welfare, strangers and visitors should be received with hospitality and provided with good hotels, if depending upon hotels, while here, in order that they may be pleased and thus favorably impressed with the city and its inhabitants. In fact, to advance the growth of the community in all that pertains to the material welfare there is probably no means more conducive to that end than a first class hotel, ample in its capacity and appointments to accommodate each gnest [sic – guest] with a separate room, or a suit [sic – suite] of rooms in necessary, replete with modern improvements, and thus gratify the most fastideous [sic – fastidious] in their love of luxury and commendable desire for privacy.

An honored and respected citizen has constructed such a hotel. This fine building, as a hotel, is second to none north of Milwaukee. Mr. Chellew in so doing has not been actuated by mercenary motives. He has been controlled by a desire to fill a

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long needed want in the thrifty little city of which he has been a resident since it was a mere mining camp. He and his able assistant[,] Mr. Clapp, are fully capable of conducting this vast establishment on a scale commensurate with its proportions and this journal cannot do less than wish him success in the enterprise.

There are two classes of hotel patrons worthy of special attention on this occasion on account of their great significance in the economy of life. The first of these is known as wedding tourists – couples who have taken matrimonial vows, and who, in conformity to custom and a commendable desire to sequester themselves during the first stages of their connubial existence [sic – existence] immediately after the all-important ceremony with orange-blossom accompaniment, start out on what is called a wedding tour, a mode of procedure known to be attended with great pleasure on the part of the principals in the transaction and sometimes calculated to excite the envious smiles of observers of human nature who are so fortunate as to enjoy their presence, to say nothing about the gratification their company affords hotel keepers, though Benedicts under their ardent impulses are apt to be extravagantly generous in meeting the exigencies of the honeymoon, it nevertheless redounds to the benefit of such establishments by affording an attractive feature of hotel life through a contribution to the enjoyment of other guests. Therefore, it is to the interest of hotel managers to carefully provide for the meager worldly want of this ethereal [sic – ethereal] class of customers.

The other class of hotel patrons worthy of special mention is one that is not fashionable and is composed of comparatively few members, on account of the abnegation required as an entry, or rather to remain within its sacred precincts. Here is an opportunity for peroration, but the fact that this is a year in which the number is likely lessened to a great extent is sufficient to deter the writer from eulogizing its sublime qualities, therefore let it be merely said in addressing hotel keepers, the writer suggests as an act of humanity, that you set apart choice viands and the coziest [sic – coziest] couch for the self denying member of society known as the “old bachelor.” Remember that he has a mission to perform – if it is nothing more than serving as a bug-bear to frighten children, or as an object of contempt on the part of unsympathizing maids.

NOTES.

*Among the many elegant costumes noticed: Miss **Minnie Foster**, white silk; Miss **Aggie Hawley**, white cashmere, trimmed with white watered silk; Miss **Annie Gleason**, black silk, heavily beaded basque and ostrich tips; **Mrs. Wm. Barrett**, white watered silk trimmed with swan’s down; Miss **Jennie Horrigan**, black lace over lavender silk. There were many other beautiful costumes but a lack of space forbids the list.*

*The culinary department entire is under the supervision of **Ed. George Salmon**, who has long been at the business. He comes from Rochester, N.Y., where he officiated in a like capacity in the **Powers hotel** where the rates per day are \$5.00. His father is a hotel man at Lockport, N.Y.*

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Mr. Salmon, [sic] is an Englishman and only twenty-nine years of age but enjoys an enviable reputation.

Manager Clapp figured prominently with his white tie and Prince Albert. He met most every one present, with the exception of one or two he was most anxious to become acquainted with, but then he has other ways of making himself heard from than by talking.

*Among the prominent Iron Mountain gentlemen noticed at the reception were: **John R. Wood, Dr. J.M. Mead, H.G. Fisk, Thos. Rundle, E.J. Ingram, W.J. Spencer** and many others.*

*In securing the services of Misses **Aggie Keating** and **Nellie Murphy**, the management has two of the best dining room girls on the range.*

***Gus. Beahrsch**, of Escanaba, **A. Polderman**, of Florence, and **D.C. Lockwood**, of Crystal Falls, were visiting landlords.*

*Among those in attendance who wore a profusion of natural flowers were Misses **Sadie Gray** and **Etta Minnis**.*

***Dr. Joell Dart Jones** and **Joseph H. Verhalen** were the two best gentlemen dancers present.*

*Two popular and attractive young ladies present were Miss **Dela Felch** and **Cora Rundle**.*

*The **Iron Mountain band** was in attendance and discoursed sweet music.*

Every invitation included the freedom of the house and no costs attached.

The “plug” hat delegates from Crystal Falls made a stunning appearance.

The tables will be supplied with the very best the market affords.

Mr. Chellew was taken violently ill on the morning of the opening.

It was a big time.

In **May 1889**, **William H. Jenkins** leased the Commercial Hotel.



The above advertisement appeared in Walter R. Nursey's *The Menominee Iron Range: Its Cities, Their Industries and Resources* published in **1891**.

In **1892-1894** the **Commercial House** was owned and run by **Vivian C. Chellew**, who also sold wholesale meats at 109 East Hughitt Street. Chellew also resided in the hotel.

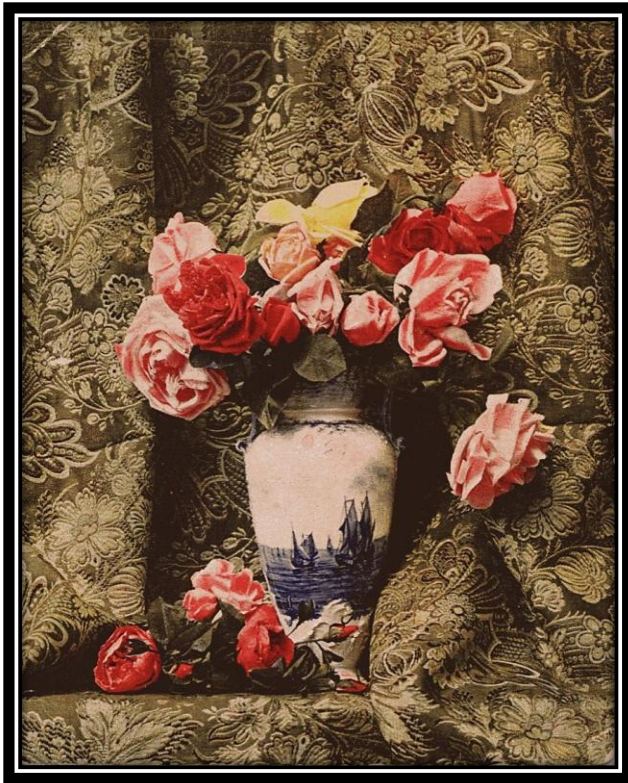
In **March 1893**, **John P. Outhwaite** leased the hotel. In **February 1896**, **Ira A. Bean** leased the hotel. In **July 1897**, **W.F. McMyler** leased the hotel. In **February 1902**, **Ira A. Bean** again leased the hotel.

The **Commercial Hotel** was located at 101-103 West B Street in **1902-1903**, operated under the management of **Ira A. Bean**, who lived at the hotel.

On **February 1, 1903**, **Frank Merrit Milliman** (1879-1956) and **Claude Henry Milliman** (1870-1935), of Belle Plaine, Iowa, became owners of the hotel which remained in their possession until **April 30, 1936**.

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The **Easter Dinner Menu** from the **Commercial Hotel** for Sunday, **April 2, 1899** contained a wide variety of elegant foods, including: **Appetizers** – New York Counts, Lettuce, Olives, Cream of Fowl Soup; **Entrees** – Scalloped Whitefish, Cream Sauce, Potatoes Natural; Young Chicken, Stuffed, Giblet Sauce, Mashed Potatoes; Cream of Small Oysters, in Toast Patties, June Peas; **Angelica Punch**; Banana Soufil, Wine Sauce; Roast Sirloin of Beef, au Jus, Browned Sweet Potatoes; Lobster Salad; **Desserts** – Lemon Pie, Green Apple Pie, Vanilla Ice Cream, Cake, Orange Jelly, Whipped Cream, Fruit, Cheese; Coffee. [William J. Cummings]

The Millimans made three additions to the structure – the first in **1907** when the **Milliman House** was the hotel's name, the next in **1913** and the last in **1921**.

According to local tradition and to **Florence Elizabeth June (Milliman) Peterson** (1912-1992), daughter of Claude Henry Milliman (1870-1935) and **Marie E. (Schultz) Milliman** (1871-1951), the three-story frame building to the west of the hotel was formerly the **Keel Ridge Hotel**. Florence recalled her father and her uncle stating the structure, or at least the bottom portion of it, had been moved to Iron Mountain from **Keel Ridge**, a mining settlement located east of Iron Mountain.

The **Keel Ridge Mine** caved in on **April 10, 1883**, and ranks as one of the area's worst mining disasters. The **Emmett Mining Company**, owners of the Keel Ridge Mine, began platting an addition to Iron Mountain on eighty acres of Section 30 where the **Hamilton Mine** was established, and moved 29 buildings from the abandoned Keel Ridge Location to that site.

An article in the *Iron Mountain Press* dated March 2, 1911, stated: In **1907**, the brothers [the Milliman Brothers] erected an

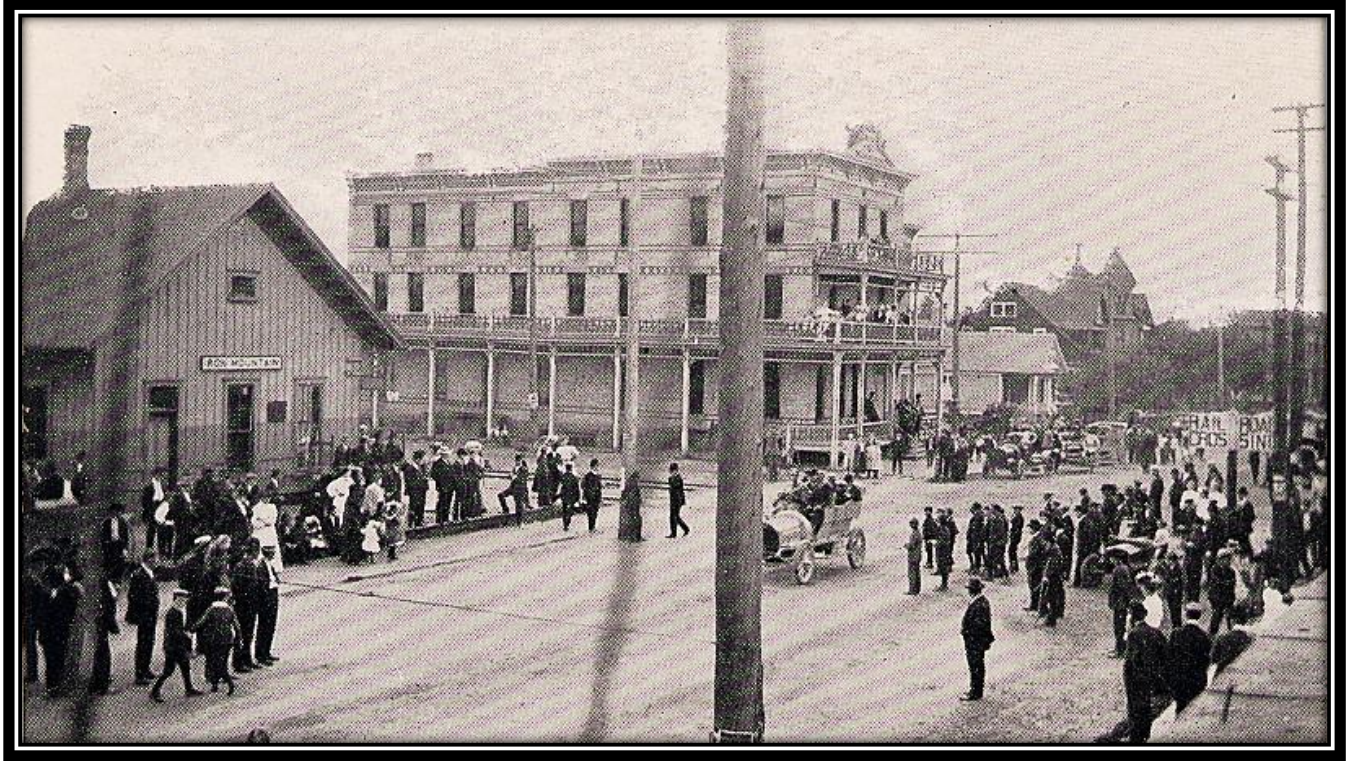
...DINNER...		
New York Counts		
Lettuce	Cream of Fowl	Olives
Scalloped Whitefish, Cream Sauce		
Potatoes Natural		
Young Chicken, Stuffed, Giblet Sauce		
Mashed Potatoes		
Cream of Small Oysters, in Toast Patties		
June Peas		
ANGELICA PUNCH		
Banana Soufil, Wine Sauce		
Roast Sirloin of Beef, au Jus		
Browned Sweet Potatoes		
Lobster Salad		
Lemon Pie	Vanilla Ice Cream	Green Apple Pie
Cake		
Orange Jelly, Whipped Cream		
Fruit	Coffee	Cheese
Sunday, April 2, 1899.		

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addition containing an equal number of guest rooms and large apartments for their

families.



The line of early automobiles processing east on Iron Mountain's **B Street** in this postcard view may have been en route to the first annual hill climbing contest sponsored by the **Menominee Range Automobile Club** on **September 2, 1907**. The course was up East B Street from Stephenson Avenue to **Superintendent Elwin F. Brown's** house at the **Pewabic Mine**. Buildings visible on the south side of the street from left to right included the **Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Depot**, the **Commercial Hotel**, operated by **Claude H. and Frank M. Milliman**, and the residences of **Andrew Swanson** (115), **Fred C. Parmelee** (119) and **J.T. Mason** (126). *[William J. Cummings]*

By **1907-1908** the **Commercial Hotel's** name had been changed to the **Milliman Hotel**, operated by the **Milliman Brothers** [**Claude Henry Milliman** (1870-1935) and **Frank Merrit Milliman** (1879-1956)], both of whom lived at the hotel with their wives – **Marie E. (Schultz) Milliman** (1871-1951), wife of Claude H. Milliman, and **Florence Belle (Stewart) Milliman** (1879-1964), wife of Frank M. Milliman.

The address was listed as **101 West B Street**, but the structure encompassed

more than one lot. In **1907-1908** the Milliman Brothers were also listed at **105 West B Street**, suggesting the Milliman Hotel occupied **101-105 West B Street** at this time.

The Milliman Brothers still operated and lived in the Milliman Hotel, listed at **101-103 West B Street** in **1913**.

The **Milliman Hotel**, still operated by the Milliman Brothers, was listed at the southwest corner of West B Street and Merritt Avenue in **1925**. In **1935** Frank M.

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Milliman, the manager of the Milliman Hotel, resided in the hotel with his wife **Florence Belle (Stewart) Milliman** (1879-1964) as well as **Florence Elizabeth June (Milliman) Peterson** (1912-1992), their

daughter, and **Marie E. (Schultz) Milliman** (1871-1951), widow of Claude H. Milliman. The hotel advertised: “Nicely Furnished Rooms, Hot and Cold Baths, Best Dining Room In the Upper Peninsula.”



This postcard view of the **Commercial Hotel, 101-105 West B Street, Iron Mountain, Michigan**, was No. 18 in a series of postcards taken of the area in **1908**. The three-story building on the right, west of the original building, was originally the **Keel Ridge Hotel**, moved to Iron Mountain in **about 1907**, providing additional guest rooms as well as large apartments for the two Milliman brothers and their families. Note the date **“1887”** on the pediment above the cornice of the original building, indicating its construction date. The structure visible to the far left is the old **Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Depot** which is also visible at the far left on the panoramic postcard view on the next page.. [William J. Cummings]

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The top panoramic postcard view labeled “**West B St.**” was taken by **Nels M. Nelson** in **about 1910**. The structure of the original brick building with its porches and balconies, seen in the above detail of the panoramic view, seems to be unaltered when compared with the cut in the advertisement on page 1 of this article which appeared in the supplement to Iron Mountain’s weekly newspaper *The Menominee Range*, dated Thursday, **July 4, 1889**. The residences of **Andrew Peter Swanson** (1870-1940), **115 West B Street**; **Freeland Eland “Fred” Parmelee** (1864-1947), **119 West B Street**; and **Joseph T. Mason**, **126 West B Street**, are visible on the right side of the detail photograph above. [Menominee Range Historical Museum]

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This postcard view of the **Milliman Hotel** dates **between 1914 and 1918**, according to the stamp box. Note the large sign – THE MILLIMAN – on the top of the roof. The large addition to the hotel in lighter-colored brick was added in **1913-1914** and the wooden structure, barely visible at the far right, had formerly been located where the new addition was built and was moved farther west. [eBay]

In 1993 an adult education class published some of their reminiscences in a book titled *Scrapbook Memories of Dickinson County, Michigan*. Among the contributors was **Florence (Milliman) Peterson**, who was raised in the **Milliman Hotel**. Her contribution was called “I Remember the Sights and Sounds of Yesterday” (pages 134-138). The following are some of her recollections.

There were so many sights and sounds in Iron Mountain, the surrounding area and Dickinson County, which are gone forever, that one person couldn't possibly remember them all...But together, with each one old

enough to remember, with some input, quite a list could be compiled.

When World War I drew to a close, there were two armistices – one false and one real. What a commotion – all the whistles, bells, you name it, set off at once! The whistles at the mines, the trains, and Von Platen Fox and all the church bells in town, and I imagine the curfew too. However, before this, all the school children collected tin foil and brought it to school. I was real lucky because the clerks at the hotel [The Milliman Hotel, later the Dickinson Hotel] and the bellboys saved it for me, and I had a big cylinder of it to take to school. I can also remember the big

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American flag that hung in the dining room at the hotel, and the trains full of soldier boys going south on the St. Paul. I remember, too, going with my Aunt Florence [Milliman] and my mother to turn in their knitting at the Red Cross Headquarters in the city building.

While we're on the subject of whistles and bells, let's recall a few...How about...

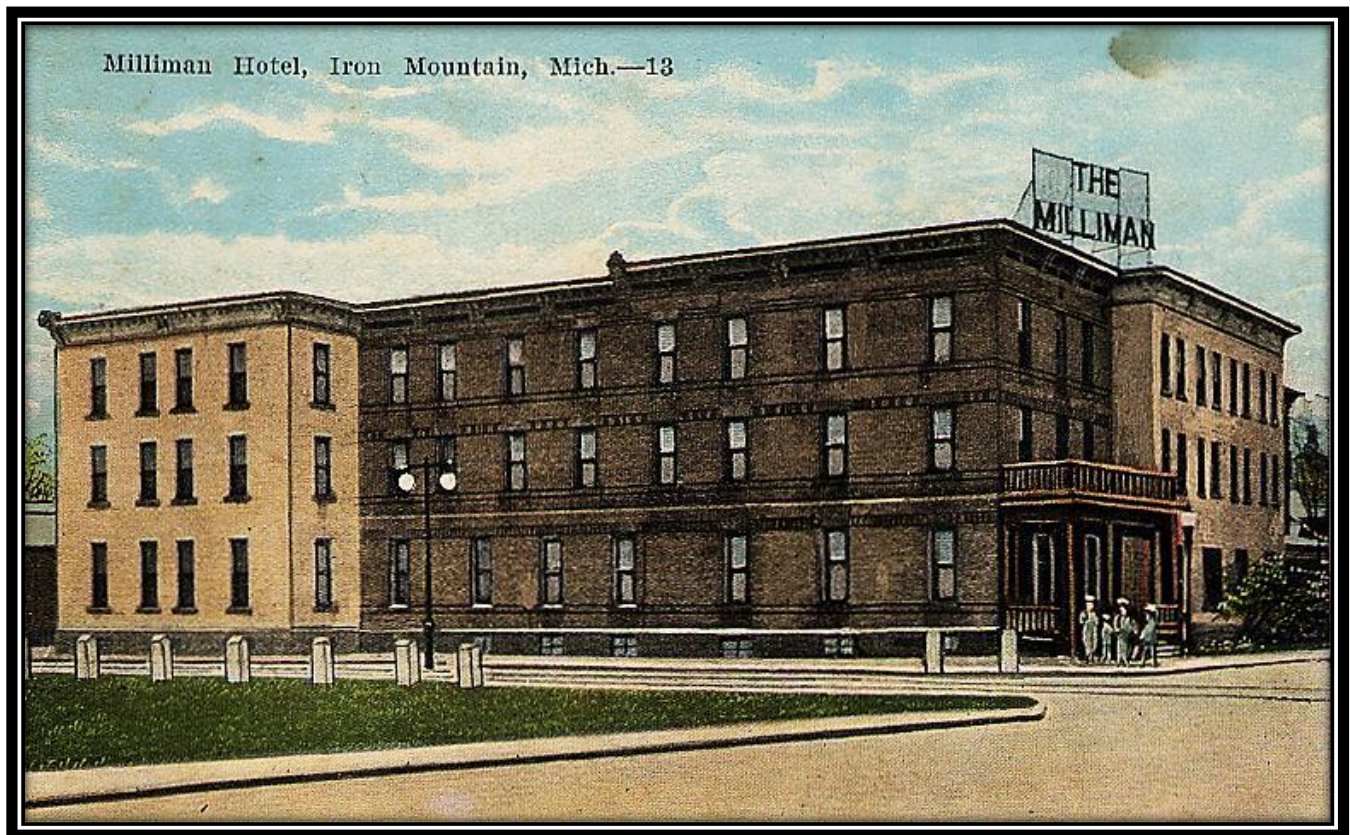
The curfew on top of the city building which sounded at 9:00 p.m. as a warning to the kids that it was time to go home. Later the whistle at the Ford Plant served the same purpose, and the last night this

whistle blew, folks all listened and remembered.

There were whistles at the mines and Iron Mountain had clocks set at "two times" – the regular time and mining time, which was a half an hour ahead of standard time.

Von Platen Fox Lumber Mill also had a whistle which could be heard at least all over the southern half of town.

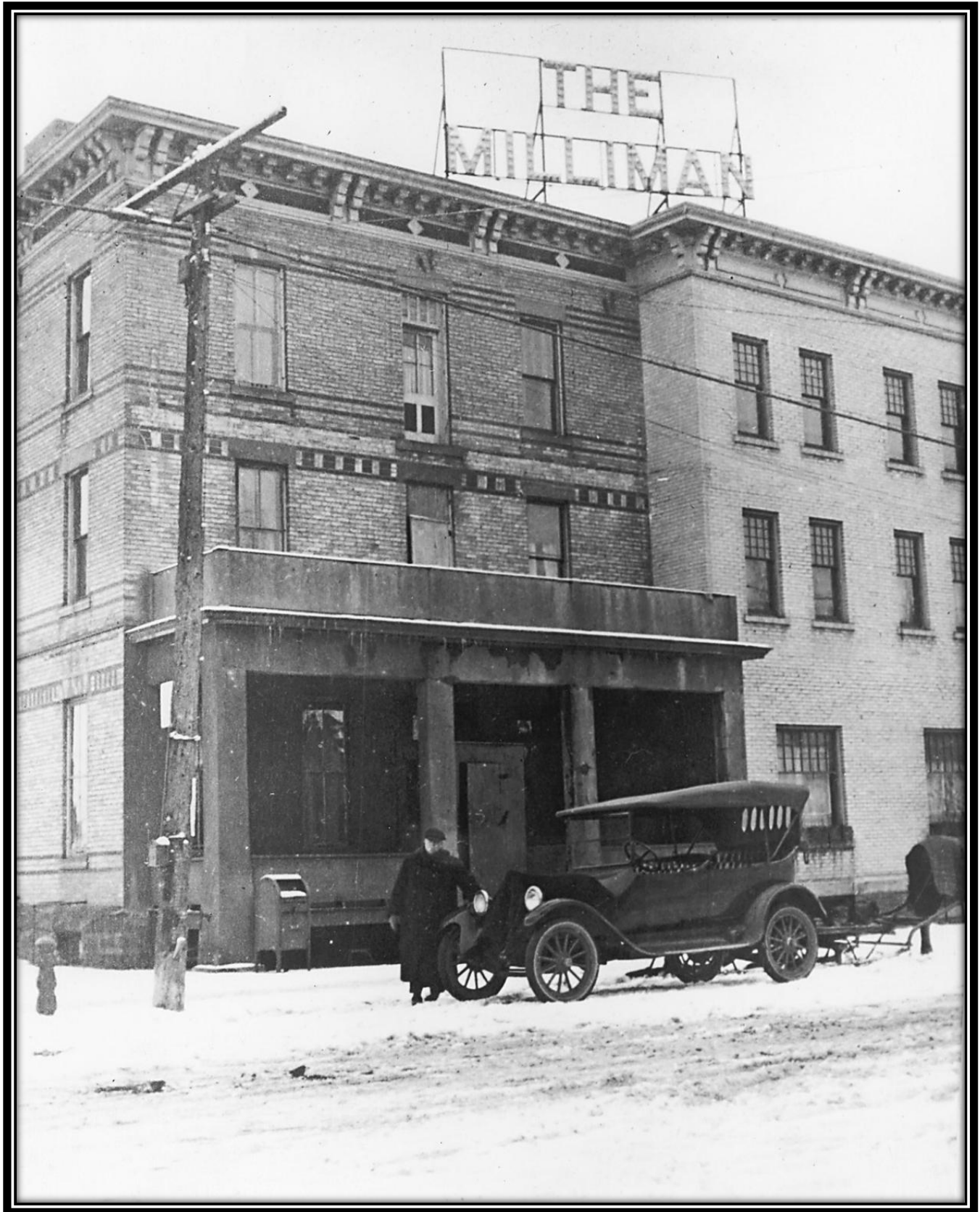
I can still, in memory, hear the bell at the old First Lutheran Church on Vulcan Street, tolling as a funeral procession made its way from downtown across the pit.



The Milliman brothers made three additions to their hotel – the first in **1907** when the **Milliman House** was the hotel's name, the next in **1913** and the last in **1923**. This colored postcard view, dating sometime **shortly after 1923**, shows the 19-room south wing addition (lighter colored structure). Later the west wing was built, containing a new dining room and 16 guest rooms. [William J. Cummings]

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This photograph of the **Milliman Hotel** shows the **1913-1914** addition to the right of the original building, a remodeled entrance and “**Pinkie**” **Carlotti** waiting for a fare with his taxi at the entrance. The brick annex, 54 x 43 feet on the foundation, was three stories high and included a full basement. A dining room and a private dining room occupied the first floor. The new dining room with mahogany woodwork and paneled walls was dedicated on New Year’s Day, **January 1, 1914**. Diners were entertained by **Castel’s Orchestra**. The dray sled and horse, visible behind the taxi, belonged to **William Pearce “Billy” Hosking** (1870-1936) and was used to bring baggage from the depot to the hotel. *[Menominee Range Historical Museum]*

In **1923** the Milliman brothers added 19 rooms, comprising the south wing, and later built a new dining room and 16 guest rooms, comprising the west wing.

Claude Milliman had been named vice-president of the **U.S. National Bank of Iron Mountain** when the bank was organized. **Charles Edward Parent, Jr.** (1877-1931), a former prominent merchant here, was elected bank president in **January 1927**, and shortly after his death on **April 28, 1931**, Claude Milliman succeeded to the presidency.

Investments due to the Depression proved unprofitable, forcing the U.S. National Bank to close on **May 23, 1932**, and with the passing of that institution went a considerable part of the holdings of the Milliman brothers, including the hotel itself.

The hotel remained in the Milliman brothers’ possession until **April 30, 1936**, when the mortgage was foreclosed.

From **May 1, 1936, to March 1, 1937**, **Alfred Keast**, former manager of the **Crystal Inn**, Crystal Falls, Iron County, Michigan, leased the **Milliman Hotel**.

Warren W. Scherer, of Crystal Falls, Iron County, Michigan, purchased the **Milliman Hotel** property from **J.F. Scherman**, receiver for the former **U.S. National Bank**, for \$48,000, at the **end of February 1937**, taking possession on **March 1**.

An open house was held on **March 4, 1939** to show the community the improvements that had been made since

March 1, 1937. Improvements included a new tap room and lounge and the installation of a modern bar and fixtures; new lobby furnishings and desk and the construction of a private office for the manager, as well as building a new main entrance to the hotel.

The old frame building, the **Phinn Hotel**, which originally housed the kitchen was razed and a new sanitary kitchen was constructed. Every room was renovated, including repainting, new ceilings, new light fixtures, re-carpeting and furniture.

The second-floor parlor and sample room [bar room] was remodeled and showers and toilets were added in many rooms.

By **1939** **Warren W. Scherer** owned the establishment, renamed the **Dickinson Hotel**, which was under the Scherer’s ownership in the **1941-1942** city directory.

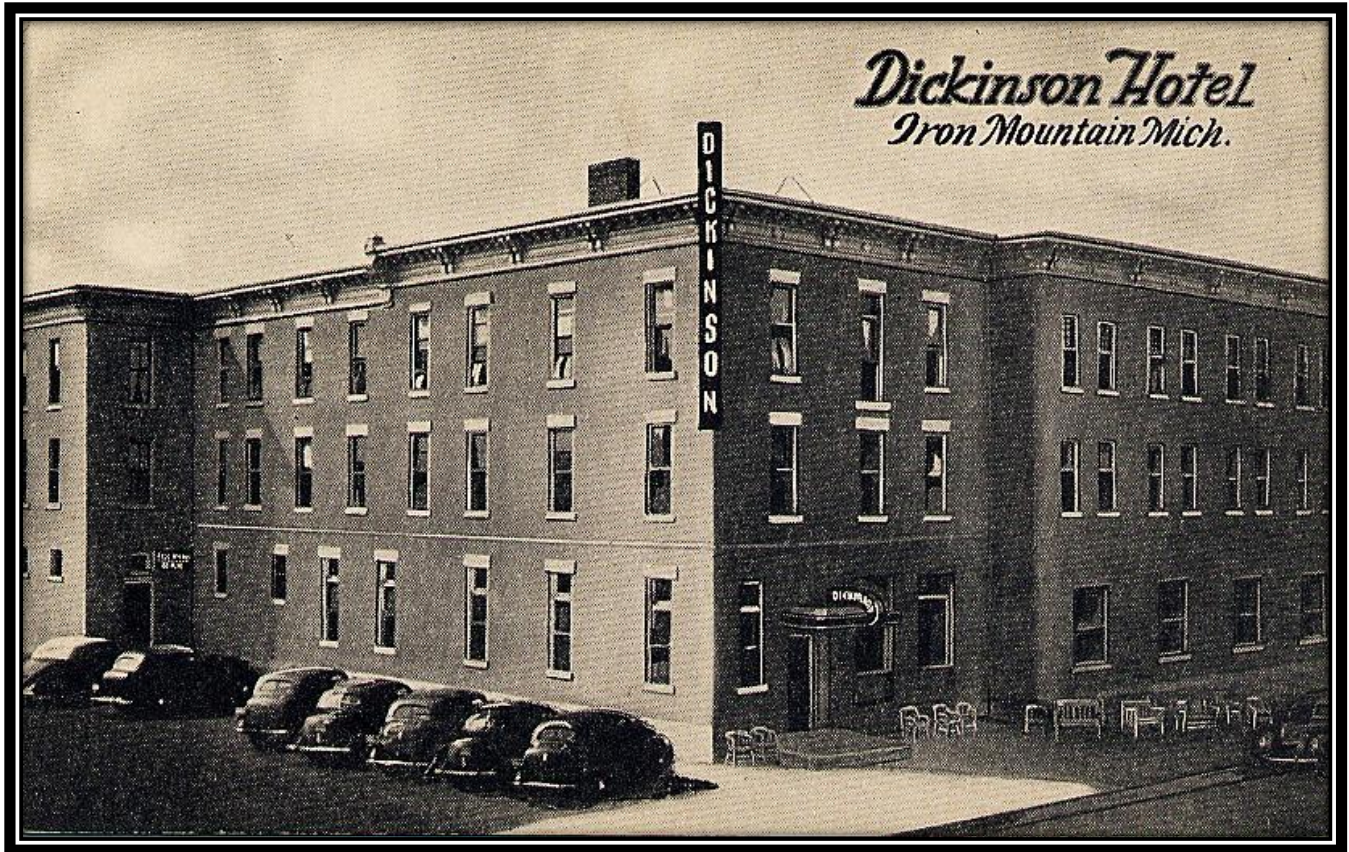
Shortly after **Warren W. Scherer** acquired the property on **September 16, 1944**, he began a remodeling and improvement program in which six old rooms were torn out to make a modern bar. Six new rooms were added and the lobby was completely refurnished.

David M. and Ethelene Kennedy began active management of the **Dickinson Hotel** on **September 18, 1944**, and were filling that position in **1946**.

In **June 1949** five separate dining rooms were fashioned with sliding doors, out of one huge, new dining room could accommodate 300 guests at one time.

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By **1939** the **Milliman Hotel** was renamed the **Dickinson Hotel** by **Warren W. Sherer**, of Crystal Falls, Iron County, Michigan, who purchased the hotel at the **end of February 1937**. Many improvements had been made by **1939**, including building a new main entrance, helping to date this postcard view to the **early 1940s**. [William J. Cummings]

A new addition housed the offices of the **Iron Mountain-Kingsford Chamber of Commerce**. The kitchen was completely remodeled.

The area beneath the lobby was completely rebuilt and remodeled to accommodate a radio studio, WIKB, and office. WIKB transmitted from the Dickinson Hotel between **October 20, 1946 and June 30, 1949**.

Two new Early American style entrances were constructed of brick to enhance the outward appearance of the hotel in **1949**. Awnings, window shutters, wrought-iron stair rails and landscaping were also added.

The **Kentucky Fried Chicken** franchise was acquired in **1961**.

David M. and Ethelene Kennedy operated the hotel until **November 26, 1969**.

The announcement of **David M. Kennedy's** sale of the Dickinson Hotel, 101-105 West B Street, to a new corporation, **Dickinson Hotel, Inc.**, consisting of **Glenn A. Anderson**, president; **Paul B. Dishnow**, secretary and treasurer; **Margie L. Anderson**, vice-president; and **Irene H. Dishnow**, director, was made **December 4, 1969**. The ownership of the **Kentucky Fried Chicken** franchise, acquired in 1961, did not change

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to Dickinson Hotel, Inc., until **September 1970** due to franchising regulations within the KFC Corporation.

On **December 21, 1979**, the stockholders of **Dickinson Hotel, Inc.**, sold the Dickinson Inn to a newly-formed corporation called the **Commercial House, Inc.** The six new owners were **Dean P. Dishnow**, president and hotel manager, **Thomas S. Beatty**, **Victor A. Bermeo**, **Frank R. DeMeuse**, **Jay F. Dishnow** and **Paul Martin Santoni** (1947-2019).

Shortly after they took possession, the grill and cocktail lounge, formerly known as the **Slalom Room**, was remodeled and reopened as **Milliman's**.

An article in *The Daily News* on **September 24, 1986**, announced the imminent closure of the **Dickinson Inn** due

to the economic climate and financial problems.

As can be seen in the annual city directory entries for the **Dickinson Hotel** from **1959 through 1975** and the **Dickinson Inn** from **1976 through 1987** listed below, the hotel was utilized by numerous civic and professional organizations as a meeting place for almost three decades.

Among those organizations were the **Beta Sigma Nu Sorority**, **Lions Club**, **Lady Lions Club**, **Business & Professional Women's Club**, **Iron Mountain-Kingsford Music Club**, **Iron Mountain-Kingsford Women's Club**, **Kiwanis Club**, **Kiwanis Ski Club**, **Kiwanis Club Auxiliary**, **Newcomers Club** and **Rotary Club**.



Warren W. Scherer took possession of the **Milliman Hotel** on **March 1, 1937**. In **1939** the famed hostelry was renamed the **Dickinson Hotel**, probably pictured here in the **early to mid-1940s**. The hotel was also frequently the venue for wedding receptions, banquets and class reunions. [William J. Cummings]

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On **September 16, 1944**, **Warren W. Scherer** sold the **Dickinson Hotel**, 101-105 West B Street, to **Lou Henry**, of Crystal Falls, and his son-in-law, **David M. Kennedy**. **Radio Station WIKB** transmitted from the Dickinson Hotel from **October 20, 1946 through June 30, 1949**, when it was moved to Iron River, Iron County, Michigan. The sign for the radio station, WIKB, can be seen above the entrance in the above photograph, helping to date this postcard view. *[William J. Cummings]*

David M. Kennedy managed the **Dickinson Hotel** and was listed as “innkeeper” in the **1959** city directory.

At that time the following amenities and businesses were listed: Listed by Duncan Hines; AAA Approved Hotel; **Dickinson Steak House**, restaurant (**David M. Kennedy**); **Slalom Room Ski Bar & Grill**, tavern; **Iron Mountain-Kingsford Chamber of Commerce** (**Eino W. Kolemäinen**, executive manager); **Western Union Telegraph Company** (**Rena R. Schmaltz**, relief manager) – hotel lobby; **Quayle’s Travel Service** (**Thomas**

D. Quayle), reservations and tickets for all types of travel, complete travel arrangements at no cost to you; **Business Associates, Inc.**, marketing research (**Thomas D. Quayle**, manager). This same listing appeared in the **1961** city directory.

The listing in **1963** was as follows: **Dickinson Hotel** (**David M. Kennedy**); **Dickinson Steak House**, restaurant; **Slalom Room Ski Bar & Grill**; **Iron Mountain Chamber of Commerce** (**William T. Lawrence**, executive manager); **Western Union Telegraph Company** (**Lily E. Peterson**, manager).

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The listing in **1964** was as follows: Dickinson Hotel (David M. Kennedy); Dickinson Steak House, restaurant; Slalom Room Ski Bar & Grill; Western Union Telegraph Company (Lily E. Peterson, manager); Rotary Club; Kiwanis Club; Business & Professional Women's Club.

The listing from **1966 through 1969** was as above with the following additions: Edward D. Jones & Company, stockbroker (Urgel Frank Asselin, Jr. (1926-2003), registered representative); Kiwanis Club Auxiliary, Beta Sigma Nu Sorority; Iron Mountain-Kingsford Women's Club; United Commercial

Travelers Club; Newcomers Club; Iron Mountain-Kingsford Music Club.

The listing in **1970** was as follows: Dickinson Hotel, Inc. (Glenn A. Anderson, (1924-2021), manager; Paul Dishnow, executive chef) Steak House, Ski Bar & Grill, Slalom Room, Cocktail Lounge); Beta Sigma Nu Sorority; Business & Professional Women's Club; Edward D. Jones & Company (U. Frank Asselin, registered representative); Iron Mountain-Kingsford Women's Club; Kiwanis Club; Kiwanis Club Auxiliary; Newcomers Club; Rotary Club; Western Union Telegraph Company (Lily E. Peterson, manager).



The Early American style brick entrances on both front corners of the **Dickinson Hotel**, 101-105 West B Street, were added in **1949**. Radio Station WIKB transmitted from the Dickinson Hotel from **October 20, 1946 through June 30, 1949**, when it was moved to Iron River, Iron County, Michigan. This postcard view probably dates prior to June 30, 1949, as the new brick entrances were completed and the radio station sign was still there. *[William J. Cummings]*

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Special ski trains and buses came to Iron Mountain to enjoy the slopes at **Pine Mountain** in the **1950s and 1960s**. Here a Trailways Bus marked “special” is parked in front of the **Dickinson Hotel** which catered to the ski crowd. **David M. Kennedy**, far right in the black overcoat and hat, did much to promote ski weekends, including a “wheeled” horse-drawn sleigh. *[Don Khoury]*

The listing from **1971 through 1973** was as follows: **Dickinson Hotel, Inc.** (Glenn A. Anderson, manager; Paul Dishnow, executive chef) **Steak House, Ski Bar & Grill, Slalom Room, Cocktail Lounge**; **Colonel Sanders Kentucky Fried Chicken**; **Beta Sigma Nu Sorority**; **Business & Professional Women’s Club**; **Edward D. Jones & Company** (U. Frank Asselin, registered representative); **Iron Mountain-Kingsford Women’s Club**; **Kiwanis Club**; **Kiwanis Ski Club**; **Kiwanis Club Auxiliary**; **Newcomers Club**; **Rotary**

Club; **Western Union Telegraph Company** (**Dickinson Hotel, Inc.**, manager).

The listing for **1974 and 1975** was the same as above plus the following: **Turner Associates, Inc.** (Noel Dean Turner (1911-1975), president), professional real estate service; and minus **Western Union Telegraph Company**.

The listing in **1976 and 1977** was as follows: **Dickinson Inn** (Glenn A. Anderson, manager; Paul B. Dishnow, secretary-treasurer); **Dickinson Inn &**

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Steak House; Slalom Room Ski Bar & Grill; Edward D. Jones & Company (U. Frank Asselin, registered representative; Randall K. Carollo, CLU registered representative) investment securities, group and individual life insurance and estate planning; Kentucky Fried Chicken, restaurant (Glenn A. Anderson (1924-2021), manager); Beta Sigma Nu Sorority; Lions Club; Lady Lions Club, Business & Professional Women's Club; Iron Mountain-Kingsford Women's Club; Kiwanis Club; Kiwanis Ski Club; Kiwanis Club Auxiliary; Rotary Club.

The listing in **1978 and 1979** was as above with the following modification: **(Glenn A. Anderson, president-manager; Paul B. Dishnow, secretary-treasurer).**

The listing in **1980** was as follows: **Dickinson Inn (Dean P. Dishnow, president; Paul B. Dishnow, vice-president; Jay F. Dishnow, secretary-treasurer), since 1887; convention center; 50 rooms; banquet facilities 15-300; Millimans Bar & Grill (1980) renovated grill; Kentucky Fried Chicken; Kiwanis Club; Kiwanis Ski Club; Kiwanis Club Auxiliary; Rotary Club.**



This postcard view of the **Dickinson Hotel's lobby** was copyrighted in **1955**. The reception desk is visible in the background. Note the bellhop reaching for a guest's suitcase. The entrance to the main dining room was to the right of the framed stand providing the schedule for mealtimes. Note the chrome standing ashtrays to the right of the seating area. [William J. Cummings]

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This postcard view shows, probably dating between **1955 and 1965**, the **Dickinson Hotel's Slalom Room – the Ski Bar and Grill** – a favorite place to gather for locals and skiers enjoying a weekend on the slopes of Pine Mountain. *[William J. Cummings]*

The listing in **1981** was as follows:
Dickinson Inn (Dean P. Dishnow, president-innkeeper; Frank R. DeMeuse, manager; Jay F. Dishnow, secretary-treasurer) convention center 50 rooms; banquet facilities 15-300; **Milliman's Restaurant and Lounge**; **Founders' Restaurant**; **Kentucky Fried Chicken**; **Kiwanis Club**; **Kiwanis Ski Club**; **Kiwanis Club Auxiliary**; **Rotary Club**.

The listing in **1982** was as follows:
Dickinson Inn (Dean P. Dishnow, president-innkeeper; Jay F. Dishnow, secretary-treasurer) convention center 50 rooms; banquet facilities 15-300; **Milliman's Restaurant and Lounge**,

tavern; **Founders' Restaurant**; **Kentucky Fried Chicken**; **Kiwanis Club**; **Kiwanis Ski Club**; **Kiwanis Club Auxiliary**; **Rotary Club**.

The listing in **1984** was as follows:
Dickinson Inn (Dean P. Dishnow, president-innkeeper; Jay F. Dishnow, secretary-treasurer) convention center 50 rooms; banquet facilities 15-300; **Milliman's Restaurant and Lounge**, tavern; **Founders' Restaurant**; **Kiwanis Club**; **Kiwanis Ski Club**; **Kiwanis Club Auxiliary**; **Rotary Club**; **Twin City Taxi (J.H. Giachino)**.

The listing in **1985** was as follows:
Dickinson Inn (Jay F. Dishnow, president;

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Jay F. Dishnow, secretary-treasurer); Milliman's Restaurant & Lounge; Founders Restaurant; Kiwanis Club; Artesan Harvest (Helen Kauper).

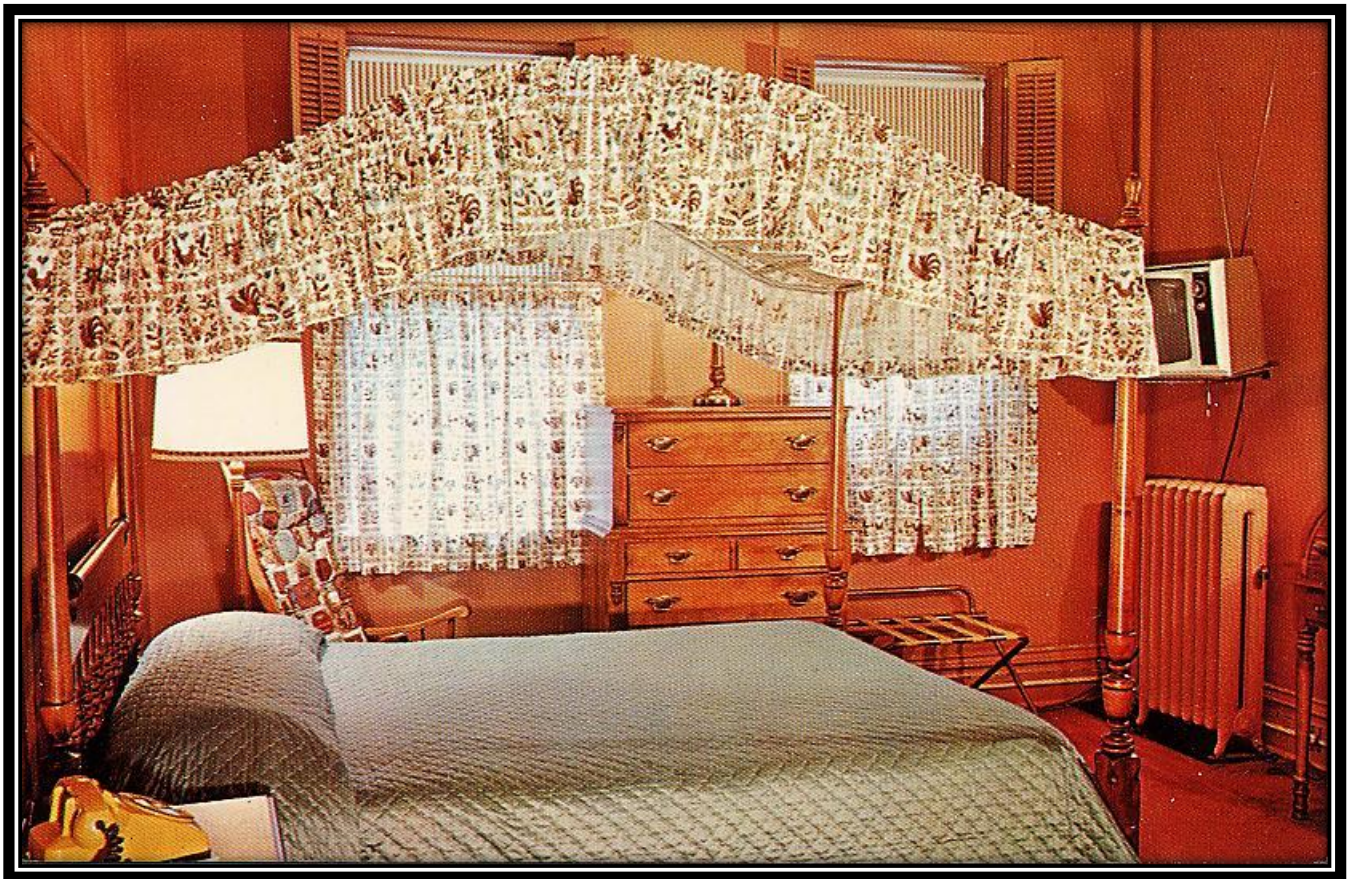
The listing in **1986** was the same as the above plus **Rotary Club**.

The listing in **1987** was as follows: Dickinson Inn (Jay F. Dishnow, president; Jay F. Dishnow, secretary-treasurer); Milliman's Restaurant & Lounge, tavern; Kiwanis Club; vacant (no Artesan

Harvest); Founders Restaurant; Rotary Club.

On Sunday, **June 7, 1987**, the Dickinson Inn ceased operation after brunch.

The **Commercial National Bank & Trust Company** purchased the hotel **June 10, 1987**, and the building was razed beginning on Saturday, **July 18, 1987**, marking the end of a century of serving the traveling public and the community.



This postcard view, probably dating between **1955 and 1965**, shows the Dickinson Hotel's bridal suite with a four-poster colonial style canopy double bed and colonial furnishings. [William J. Cummings]

There was no listing for 101-105 West B Street from **1988 to 1991**.

The **Commercial National Bank & Trust Company** constructed a new bank

building on the site of the Commercial House – Commercial Hotel – Milliman Hotel – Dickinson Hotel – Dickinson Inn for its headquarters in the **late 1980s**.

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From **1992 through 1999** the **First of America Bank Upper Peninsula NA** operated at this site. Officers listed were as follows:

1992 – **William Edberg**, president; **Bruce LeBlanc**, vice-president and consumer loans; **C. Robert Clarke** (1942-1998), vice president/commercial loans; **Darrell Radtke**, vice-president/commercial loans; **Antone Wenos**, commercial loan officer; **Judith Mixter**, mortgage lender; **Carol Carl**, assistant vice-president/mortgage loans; **Margaret Cutchins**, group branch manager; **Karin Pellegrini**, branch manager.

1993 – **William Edberg**, president, vice-president and consumer loans; **C. Robert Clarke**, vice president/commercial loans; **Darrell Radtke**, vice-president/consumer loans; **Antone Wenos**, commercial loan officer; **Barry Rosene**, mortgage lender; **Carol Carl**, assistant vice-president/mortgage loans; **Margaret Cutchins**, group branch manager; **Karin Pellegrini**, branch manager.

1994 – **William Edberg**, president; **C. Robert Clarke**, vice-president/consumer loans; **William Jensen**, commercial loan officer; **Brady Nelson**, commercial loan

officer; **Robert Rosene**, mortgage lender; **Rhonda LaLonde**, assistant vice-president/consumer loans; **Carol Carl**, assistant vice-president; **Margaret Cutchins**, group branch manager; **Karin Pellegrini**, branch manager.

1995 – **William Edberg**, president; **C. Robert Clarke**, vice-president; **William Jensen**, commercial assistant vice-president/loan officer; **Damon Arsenault**, commercial loan officer; **Barry Rosene**, mortgage lender; **Brian Horst**, commercial loan officer; **Rhonda LaLonde**, assistant vice president consumer loans; **Carol Carl**, assistant vice-president; **Margaret Cutchins**, group branch manager; **Karin Pellegrini**, branch manager.

The listings for **1996 through 1998** were the same as **1995** with a few personnel changes.

In **1999** the **First America Bank Iron Mountain** was located here with **Margaret Petrick** serving as branch manager.

In **2000** **National City Investments** and **National City Bank** occupied this address with **Margaret Petrick** serving as manager.

The **River Valley Bank** acquired the property in **November or December 2004**.



The **Commercial National Bank & Trust Co.** constructed this building, occupying the entire south side of the 100 block of West B Street, on the site of the **Commercial House – Commercial Hotel – Milliman Hotel – Dickinson Hotel – Dickinson Inn** for its headquarters in the **late 1980s**. The **River Valley Bank** acquired the property in **November or December 2004**. This photograph dates to 2010. [William J. Cummings]

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History of 115: There was no listing for this address in **1892-1894** or **1902-1903**.

By **1907-1908** **Andrew Peter Swanson** (1870-1940), a merchant, and his wife **Julia Constance (Sundstrom) Swanson** (1877-1928) lived at this location. Andrew Swanson, the local agent for the **Prudential Casualty Company** in **1913**, still resided here with his wife Julia Swanson. In **1925** Andrew Swanson, a salesman, and his wife Julia Swanson remained at this address. Andrew Swanson still lived here in **1935** and **1939**.

Jean [sic – **Gene/Eugene** –?] **A. Fortier**, a teacher at Iron Mountain's junior high school, was listed at this address with his wife **Fern Fortier** in the **1941-1942** city directory.

In **1946** **John Hedberg** [possibly **John Iver Hedberg** (1908-1991)] resided at 115 West B Street.

There were no listings for this address from **1959 through 2000**.

History of 117: There was no listing for this address from **1892-1894 through 1907-1908**.

By **1913** **Fred E. Parmelee** [**Freeland Eland "Fred" Parmelee** (1864-1947)], an architect, and his wife **Carrie M. (Elliott) Parmelee** (1865-1932), resided here. It is probable that the listing for this couple at **119 West B Street** in **1907-1908** was in error or there was a renumbering of the street, as there was no listing for 119 West B Street in **1913**.

By **1925** **Wells Ellsworth Hallenbeck** (1868-1931), a lumberman, and his wife **Isabelle S. "Belle" Hallenbeck** (1868-1951) resided here. **Mrs. Isabelle Hallenbeck**, widow of Wells Hallenbeck, still lived at this address **from 1935 through 1946**.

From **1959 through 1963** **Romuald Henry Joseph "Romeo" Rocheleau** (1901-1993), a baker and owner of the

Home Bakery at 605 South Carpenter Avenue, and his second wife, **Ernestine Elizabeth "Erna" (McKenna) Rocheleau** (1918-2013), lived at this address.

From **1964 through 1966** **Lewis C. Rector**, a chiropractor, was listed here. In **1967** **Andrew P. Smith** lived at this location. In **1969 and 1970** **Norman O. Skare** resided here.

In **1971** **Jess Ira Pummill** (1931-1991) worked as a distributor for **Kirby Sales & Service** here. The address was listed as "vacant" in **1972**, but **Jess I. Pummill** was also listed in **1972 and 1973**. His wife was **Teresa (Burke) Pummill Wickman** (1932-2020). She was born in Kilkenny, Ireland, and they were married at Westminster Cathedral, London, England, on July 1, 1953. She married Gerald Edward "Jerry" Wickman (1926-2017) on July 29, 2006, in Iron Mountain.

There was no listing for 117 West B Street from **1974 through 2000**.

History of 119: There was no listing for this address in **1892-1894** or **1902-1903**.

By **1907-1908** **Fred C. Parmelee**, an architect, resided here with his wife **Carrie Parmelee** and **Claude Parmelee**, a student. There was no listing for this address in **1913**, but **Fred E. Parmelee** and his wife **Carrie Parmelee** were listed at **117 West B Street**, probably the address which should have been used in **1907-1908**.

There was "no listing" for 119 West B Street from **1925 through 2000**.

History of 121:

There was "no listing" for this address in **1946**.

By **1959 through 1969** **Mike's Service Station**, a gasoline station owned by **Michael Albert Errico** (1902-1996), operated at this location. He was married to **Mary Rose (Spera) Errico** (1906-1955).

In **1967** **Sheridan Smith** [probably **Sheridan J. Smith** (1930-1977)] was also

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listed. In **1969** **Charles H. Uren** was listed as manager.

In **1970** **Roy Fisher** operated **Roy's Sinclair** here.

In **1971** **Daniel C. Antonini** operated **Antonini's Arco** at this location, advertising "Arco gasoline and oils, radio dispatched trucks, towing and road service, general auto repairing, AAA Emergency Service." *[The main listing was given at 701 South Stephenson Avenue.]*

In **1972** Ed's Arco was located at this address with **Edward Nolin, Jr.** listed as manager.

This address was listed as "vacant" from **1973 through 1976**. There was "no listing" for 121 West B Street from **1977 through 2000**.

History of 123: There was "no listing" for 123 West B Street from **1946 through 2000**.



The residence of **Charles Edward Parent, Sr.**, located at **125 West B Street**, was listed in the Iron Mountain City Directory **1892-1894**, indicating it was built prior to **1892**.

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History of 125: Charles Edward Parent, Sr. (1847-1902) and Ellah Adrina “Ellen” (Bradford) Parent (1854-1924) resided at this address with their family in **1892-1894**.

Born **July 16, 1847**, in Lower Canada, Charles Edward Parent immigrated to the United States in **1865**, where he was engaged in lumbering. In **1866** he came to Michigan, settling in Menominee, where he continued in the lumber business for two years and then turned to merchandising.



This photograph of Charles Edward and Ellah Adrina “Ellen” (Bradford) Parent, Sr. was probably taken near the time of their wedding in Menominee, Menominee County, Michigan, on **December 27, 1871**. [Jayna D. Houtari]

According to the *History of Iron Mountain, Michigan* by the Iron Mountain Women’s Club, published in **1914**: Charles E. Parent Sr. should have the credit of

having been the first general merchant in the town [Iron Mountain], as he came here in November of 1879, bringing a stock of general merchandise and commenced business in a tent. His family still remained in Menominee. He soon had a building in readiness on Stephenson Avenue, between Ludington and Brown Streets.

In the *Iron Mountain City Directory for 1892-1894*, Charles Edward Parent, Sr. was a “Dealer in dry goods, carpets, boots and shoes, gents’ furnishings, groceries, provisions, flour, feed, crockery, glassware and general merchandise” at 219 South Stephenson Avenue.

In **1902-1903** Charles E. Parent, Sr., now retired, still lived here, as did Charles E. Parent, Jr. (1877-1931), their son, who worked as a bookkeeper for Moses Taylor, owner of The Hub, a clothing store located at 403 South Stephenson Avenue.

An article in the **July 12, 1906** edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* reported:

Mrs. C.E. Parent has sold her home at the corner of West B street and Carpenter avenue to Joseph T. Mason, president of The J.T. Mason Mercantile company doing business at Niagara. The property is one of the finest and most commodious in the city. The consideration was \$3,500. Mr. and Mrs. Mason come to Iron Mountain in order that their children may enjoy the privileges of our excellent schools, and they will be accorded a warm welcome by our people.

Joseph Treadway Mason (1860-1931), owner of the J.T. Mason Mercantile Company in Niagara, Marinette County, Wisconsin, and his wife Emma Angelina (Yager) Mason (1865-1943), son Jay Kelly Mason (1885-1962) and daughter Marion Isabelle Mason (1889-1981), a student, all resided here in **1907-1908**.

By **1913** Samuel Rusky (1863-1939) and Julius Rusky (1873-xxxx) (the Rusky

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Brothers), selling general merchandise at 215 South Stephenson Avenue and 613 Vulcan Street on the North Side, resided at this address with their wives – **Minnie (Pitkofsky) Rusky** (1879-xxxx), wife of Julius Rusky, and **Esther (Zakheim/Sackim) Rusky** (1864-1923), wife of Samuel Rusky, as well as **Gertrude Rusky** (1890-1988), daughter of Samuel and Esther Rusky, a clerk.

The **Rusky Brothers** (Samuel Rusky and Julius Rusky) still lived here in **1925** and ran a general merchandise store at 620 Vulcan Street on the North Side. Others listed at this address in 1925 were **Benjamin B. Rusky** (1900-1967), son of Julius and Minnie Rusky, a salesman at Rusky Brothers; **David Rusky** (1888-1952), son of Samuel and Esther Rusky, a salesman, and his wife **Helen Rachel (Vigersky) Rusky** (1895-1980); **Minnie Rusky**, Julius Rusky's wife; and **Nancy "Nan" Rusky** (1897-1984), daughter of Julius and Minnie Rusky, a saleslady.

An article in the **May 16, 1925** edition of *The Iron Mountain News* reported an ownership change for this property as follows under the headline **CLOSE DEAL FOR RUSKY PROPERTY: Ballagamba and Loia Purchase Carpenter Avenue Corner:**

*Purchase of the **Rusky** property at the southeast corner of B street and Carpenter avenue by **Victor Ballagamba**, of this city, and **Angelo Loia** (1890-1962), of Iron*

River, at a price of approximately \$27,000, was announced today.

*The deal was closed late yesterday afternoon. The new owners are undecided as to what use they will make of the property, the purchase being largely an investment on probable turnover. It is known that representatives of a Chicago firm were in the city this week negotiating with the **Ruskys** for the property for probable use as a hotel site. A small difference in price held up the deal.*

*Both **Bellagamba** and **Loia** are interested in the **Union Oil company**, which has filling stations in the city, village and at Iron River. If no other use is made of the **Rusky** corner a filling station may be built there by this company.*

***Bellagamba** recently returned from Gillett, Wyo., where he closed a deal for the purchase of 440 acres of oil lands which will be developed in the near future.*

By **1935** the **Machus Service Station**, operated by **Alexander Michael Machus** (1895-1966), was located at this site on the southeast corner of West B Street and Carpenter Avenue.

Listed as **Johnnie's Service Station** by **1939**, the business was owned by **John Fauri** [probably **John Serafino Fauri** (1913-1959)] who was still at this address in the **1941-1942** city directory.

There is "no listing" for 125 West B Street from **1946 through 2000**.