

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

ARMORY HALL Iron Mountain

The Menominee Range, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 8 [Thursday, May 16, 1889], page 1, column 4

Kendal's "Pair of Kids."

One of the largest and best pleased audiences that ever assembled in Armory Hall applauded and laughed immensely at Ezra Kendall last evening in his latest play, "A Pair of Kids." There is no plot worth mentioning to the play, merely a frame work [*sic – framework*] to give Kendall scope to display his oddities, mirth provoking actions and speeches. Arthur Dunn as "Flip," and Jennie Dunn as "Pearl, a cash girl," the pair of kids[,] sing very nicely and dance their way into the good graces of an audience, while Gilbert Sarony as "Polly Dofunny" is also a good part of **[need to copy remainder of this article]**

BIJOU THEATRE 104-106 West Ludington Avenue Iron Mountain

The Daily News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume _____, Number _____ [Saturday, November 27, 1982]

Bijou was first movie theater

By BILL CUMMINGS

The Bijou Theatre, located at 104-106 West Ludington Street at the present site of the Recreation Lanes and Lounge, was

probably Iron Mountain's first theater to regularly feature motion pictures.

According to the Iron Mountain Press, the Bijou was the site of the St. Joseph's Church Fair during the week of November 16, 1908. However, the theater was first listed in the 1913 Iron Mountain city directory, with Martin D. Thomas serving as manager.

Across the street from the Bijou, where the post office now stands, was the A.J. Rundle Hardware Store and Rundle's Opera House, in all probability the Bijou Theatre's biggest competitor. While the Iron Mountain Press regularly featured news articles regarding the performances at Rundle's Opera House, as well as frequent reviews, the Bijou Theatre's first advertising campaign apparently began in March of 1911.

Advertisements noted the Bijou's doors opened at 7:30 p.m. for the two evening performances scheduled at 8 and 9 o'clock. Music was provided by the Brooks Orchestra at that time. On March 30, the advertisement noted "The Harmony Four" would appear, as well as "One Illustrated Story." By June, the Bijou billed itself as "The Home of Good Photo Plays" and noted 3,000 feet of moving pictures were shown at each performance.

In the spring of 1921, Manager Thomas announced the extensive renovation of the theater which included a new stucco front, an entrance and lobby area and two "toilet rooms." The "auditorium" had been completely remodeled, now boasting a "composition incline floor" and 600 opera chairs of the latest design, as well as "one of the very latest picture machines." Even a new heating plant "of ample capacity" had been installed in the basement. In short, the Iron Mountain News article noted that "no expense has been spared to make the house comfortable, sanitary and safe."

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As these unidentified youngsters awaited the opening of the Bijou Theatre's doors for a Saturday matinee performance, they probably were dreaming of winning one of the plump gobblers in the crate, offered as door prizes. Although the photograph is undated, it was taken before 1921, when the theater was extensively remodeled. *[Menominee Range Historical Museum Photo]*

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 12, Number 13 [Thursday, August 22, 1907], page 8, column 2

Bijou Theatre.

Three nights of high-class repertoire and up-to-the-minute vaudeville will be the rule at the Bijou Theatre, starting Monday, Aug. 26th, at which time the McPhee Imperial Stock company open their engagement. The plays are all new and guaranteed by the management. The stock company that can boast of specialists that can be featured are scarce. McPhee Imperials do not have them, but have the kind that pleases the people. This department is headed by the invincible Brothers Spaulding, Parisian novelty acrobats, who stand in a class of their own. The opening play, "For Her Brothers' Sake," is a new comedy-drama of the pleasing kind, overflowing with the best of comedy, a beautiful story, prettily told by a company of players equal to the best. Prices, 15, 25 and 35c [cents].

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 12, Number 35 [Thursday, January 23, 1908], page 8, column 4

BRIEF CITY NEWS.

First masquerade of the season at the Bijou roller rink this evening. A good time is assured.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 47 [Thursday, April 13, 1911], page 5, columns 5-6

[ADVERTISEMENT]

THE BIJOU

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

The Home of Good Photo Plays

BROOKS' ORCHESTRA

Two Shows Each Night

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 16, Number 22 [Thursday, October 19, 1911], page 1, column 1

New Theatre.

J.E. Becknell, who has been conducting the Bijou for several years, is arranging to open a new popular price theatre. He has leased the building on East Hughitt street lately occupied by J.F. Cowling and will remodel the same at once. The place is conveniently located for theatre purposes. Mr. Becknell's management at the Bijou has been very successful and he proposes to make the new house a model from the point of safety.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 16, Number 22 [Thursday, October 19, 1911], page 1, column 1

Leased the Bijou.

Martin Thomas has leased the Bijou and will take possession the first of the month. Mr. Thomas has been connected with the house in various capacities – from manager to electrician – for a number of years. He will leave for Chicago to-morrow [*sic – tomorrow*] evening to arrange for his films and other attractions. Mr. Thomas promises to conduct the house along first-

class lines and his management should be successful.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 16, Number 24 [Thursday, November 1, 1911], page 4, column 2

BRIEF CITY NEWS.

Martin Thomas is now in charge of the Bijou Theatre, assuming the management yesterday. During his recent visit to Chicago he arranged for some extra good films.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 20, Number 19 [Thursday, September 23, 1915], page 8, column 3

To Remodel Theatre.

Within a short time, the work of transforming the Bijou into a modern opera house will commence. The building will undergo many changes and when the work is completed it will be large enough to accommodate the largest road attraction. The present wooden floor, which is elevated, will be taken out and the new one built of concrete. The present stage will be greatly enlarged and extended to the rear of the building. It will have an opening of forty feet and will be fifty feet long. A loft will be constructed on top of the structure, will be [*sic – which will*] permit the use of drop scenery. The building will be equipped with a balcony and a new ventilating and heating system. A canopy will be built over the entrance. The new house will seat comfortably 800 people. While the work of construction is going on the building formerly used by the Marion theatre will be

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used by the management of the Bijou for motion picture shows. Many of the Bijou opera chairs will be transferred to the Marion.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 20, Number 36 [Thursday, January 20, 1916], page 1, column 5

Matinees for Children.

The Woman's [*sic* – *Women's*] club has made arrangements with Manager Thomas for a special matinee for children at the Bijou Theatre each week, commencing next Saturday. The pictures will be of an educational nature and special prices will maintain. Next Saturday, in addition to the educational films, the fair story of Cinderella will be produced as well as a comedy. The club plans to have one of their members deliver a talk explanatory of the pictures.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 20, Number 37 [Thursday, January 27, 1916], page 1, column 2

Bijou Changes.

A.E. Brauns, owner of the Bijou Theatre, has engaged the Foster Construction company to superintend the work of rebuilding and modernizing that place of amusement. The work will be done in accordance with plans drafted by Architect Charlton, of Marquette, who has designed nearly all the leading show houses of the peninsula. In addition to many interior improvements, including a greatly enlarged stage, the main floor will be lowered to the street grade and a commodious gallery will be provided. Provision will also be made for a large exit on the west side of the

building. The work will commence as soon as the weather conditions will permit.



The remodeling of the Bijou Theatre to a “modern opera house” began in the spring of 1916, and included replacing the elevated wooden floor with a concrete one, as well as enlarging and extending the stage to the rear of the building. The stage opening was to be 40 feet, and the stage 50 feet long [*deep*]. A loft was constructed on top of the structure to permit the use of drop scenery. Frank Parent's saloon at 102, listed as “vacant” in 1913, can be seen in the background. [*William J. Cummings Photo*]

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 20, Number 39 [Thursday, February 10, 1916], page 1, column 2

Triangle Pictures.

Manager Thomas, of the Bijou, has closed a contract for the production of the features of the Triangle Film company at his house. The incorporators and principle producers of Triangle plays are D.W. Griffith, producer of “The Birth of a Nation,” the most conspicuous photoplay success yet achieved, Max Sennett and Thomas H.

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Ince. Mr. Griffith was regarded as a premier producer even before he brought out "The Birth of a Nation," and many of the innovations that have largely revolutionized photoplay production in the past year or two, including the fade away and the double exposure, were worked out by him. In the employ of the company are a notable galaxy of stars, and its offerings have won the highest approval from disinterested critics, to many cities the first releases of these programs have been offered at prices ranging from fifty cents down and at the Kinckerbocker in New York the scale has been from \$2 down. Manager Thomas says that he hopes to maintain the usual prices of admission at his house.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 20, Number 48 [Thursday, April 13, 1916], page 1, column 4

Bijou Improvements.

It is expected to commence the work of remodeling the Bijou at an early date. The house will be lowered to the street grade and will be provided with a canopy entrance. Large side exits will be arranged for and modern heating and ventilating systems will be installed; also a retiring room for ladies. As planned, the main auditorium will have a seating capacity of 500 and will have the latest opera chairs. The gallery will seat 300. Architect Charlton, of Marquette, has made the plans and will superintend the work.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 1, Number 3 [Wednesday, April 13, 1921], page 2, columns 7-8

BIJOU THEATRE IS

SOON TO BE OPENED

Early in May Manager Thomas Will Begin Work at Colonial

The exterior alterations to the Bijou Theatre are nearing completion and manager Thomas hopes to open the house about the first of May. The alterations will include a new stucco front of a pleasing design, a new entrance and lobby and two toilet rooms. The auditorium has been entirely remodeled. It has been provided with a composition incline floor and will be furnished with the latest opera chairs – 600 of them and one of the very latest picture machines. A new heating plant of ample capacity has been placed in the basement. No expense has been spared to make the house comfortable, sanitary and safe. With the Bijou open, Manager Thomas will close the Colonial in order that it may be decorated anew and remodeled in some respects. A notable change will be made in rearranging and enlarging the lobby. It is proposed to place the ticket office in the center, which will greatly expedite the sale of tickets. Manager Thomas has in mind some changes in the balcony arrangement that will tend to the comfort of patrons.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 1, Number 11 [Friday, April 22, 1921], page 2, column 1

BIJOU THEATRE TO OPEN NEXT MONDAY

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Wallace Reid, in “The Dancin’ Fool,” Opening Attraction

The Bijou theatre, the remodeling and redecoration of which is practically completed, will open Monday, featuring Wallace Reid in “The Dancin’ Fool,” according to M.D. Thomas, manager of both the Bijou and Colonial theatres. Beginning next week the Rex stock company will open at the Colonial, featuring a number of popular plays on the week’s bill.

The Colonial will be closed for a complete remodeling and interior redecoration May 29. The improvements planned by Mr. Thomas will transform the theatre into one of the most attractive playhouses in this section. The partitions at the rear and at both sides of the entrance will be torn out, widening both the foyer and the rear of the theatre proper. The stairs at the left of the entrance, leading to the balcony, will also be torn out and a new and wider flight built in.

New Seats In Balcony.

All new seats will be placed in the balcony, with the addition of a loge box arrangement similar to that used in a number of the more modern picture theatres throughout the country. The loge boxes will accommodate private theatre parties and are used, largely, for that purpose.

New Simplex projectors will be placed in both the Bijou and the Colonial theatres. The Simplex is the best motion picture projector now in *[sic]* the market, and the type used for both local theatres will be somewhat similar to that used in the new Delft theatre, at Marquette, said to be the best equipped motion picture theatre in the district.

When completed the Bijou will seat approximately 700 persons, and the Colonial 900. Idealite screens – the latest innovation in motion picture screens – will be installed in both theatres. Manager Castell, of the Colonial orchestra, will organize a second group of musicians for the Bijou.

Features At Colonial.

It is Mr. Thomas’ plan to use the Colonial largely, *[sic]* for showing of the larger feature picture *[sic]*, as well as the road shows, with lighter attractions at the Bijou, which will be a motion picture theatre only. The first attraction booked for the Colonial after the redecoration is complete is “Something to Think About,” an intensely interesting screen drama and one which is showing to capacity houses throughout the country. In connection with this film Mr. Thomas has planned an advertising scheme which will, it is confidently expected, give the residents of Iron Mountain “Something to Think About” besides the actual story of the film.

Wally Reid at Bijou.

In “The Dancin’ Fool” Wallace Reid is particularly amusing and entertaining as a youth who invades the “wicked city” in search of employment. He has a distinct liking for “jazz” music and the dance, which characteristically carries him through a series of entertaining episodes, much to the disgust of his staid old uncle. The wind-up, in which Wallie exploits his uncle’s stock in trade – earth jugs – by a clever advertising scheme, and his rather abrupt rise to fame, constitutes a story which is unusually interesting. Bebe Daniels makes an excellent dancing partner for Wallie – which is an added attraction.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain,
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Year, Number _____ [Wednesday,
November 16, 1921], page 6, column 1

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

OPENING OF BIJOU AWAITS BUSINESS

No demand Now For Two Movie Houses, Manager Thomas Declares

Except for intermittent exhibitions, such as the Swedish films to be shown within a few days, the doors of the Bijou theatre will remain locked until business improves, Manager Martin Thomas declared today. Present conditions do not warrant the operation of another theater here, he avers, and the newly outfitted show house will remain dark.

The Bijou was completely remodeled and refitted last spring and two expensive motion picture exhibiting machines installed. The machines alone represent an investment of more than \$1,000, not including the electric equipment necessary to run them.

Open For Few Days

Following the completion of the alterations the theater was opened to the public but remained open for only a short time as business was not sufficient to keep both the Colonial and Bijou going. The theatre was closed and with the exception of one or two evenings when it was used as a lecture hall, has remained dark.

"As soon as business picks up and I find demand for another house, I will reopen the Bijou," Manager Thomas asserted, "but not at the present period of depression. I confidently believe, however, that before the winter is over the Bijou will be running continuously. When the theater is opened I plan to exhibit pictures of the same high

caliber as those now being shown at the Colonial.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, _____ Year, Number _____ [Wednesday, November 30, 1921], page 2, column 1

BIJOU TO BE OPEN TWO DAYS A WEEK

About Christmas time, according to Manager M.D. Thomas, the Bijou theater will be opened for motion pictures Saturday and Sunday nights. The variety program, at present being shown at the Colonial, will be transferred to the other playhouse and a feature will take its place. Thus, patrons who are following the serial may see it Saturday night, and then see the feature Sunday, or the reverse. In fact, they may even see both shows the same evening.

Divergence in the tastes of the theater's patronage is responsible for the change. Some people do not care for the serial and the varied program; others prefer it to a feature. Under the new system, they can take their choice.

Changes are also anticipated in the variety program. The Harold Lloyd comedies, the serial, and possibly Aesop's fables, *[sic]* will be retained, but interest in other "shorts," Mr. Thomas says[,] do not warrant their continuance, and a feature will be substituted.

BRAUMART THEATRE **East B Street** **Iron Mountain**

The Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 2, Number 182 [Friday, November 17, 1922], page 1, column 5

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Work Will Start in Spring

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. 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.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, _____ Year, Number _____ [Monday, February 18, 1924], page 1, columns 7-8; page 2, column 1

THEATRE BUILDING HERE TO COST \$250,000

Big Project Announced By M.D. Thomas; Construction

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, 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 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.

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.

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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.

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]* 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 *[sic – arrangements]* for financing the undertaking have been completed.

Ready By Fall.

Construction work will began 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 ap-

NEW THEATRE TO BE ERECTED HERE BY THE COLONIAL

**\$250,000 Project Is An-
nounced Today by
M.D. Thomas**

(Continued from page one.)

plications 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

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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.

“Increased patronage at the Colonial theatre and population growth have enabled us to go forward with this new project,” Mr. Thomas declared. “We expect to give Iron Mountain a theatre of exceptional beauty for a city of this size. It will be modern in every respect and operated upon a popular policy. We appreciate very much the patronage that has been accorded the Colonial and Bijou theatres and in return want to give the city a theatre that it can well be proud of.

“We believe that the new building will be a valuable addition to the business district of Iron Mountain. It is a move forward in the development here and marks part of the transition in the character of our business district.”

Stops Other Plans.

Reports have been current for some time that the Colonial company would go forward with the building project this year but Mr. Thomas’s statement today is the first definite announcement on the subject. It has been known that other theatre companies and individuals were prospecting the field here with the idea of building a theatre but in the face of the Colonial company’s decision and the size of the project it is thought whatever plans or proposals may have existed otherwise will be abandoned.

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.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain,
Dickinson County, Michigan, _____

Year, Number _____ [Wednesday, May
21, 1924], page 2, column 3

THEATRE PLANS SENT BUILDERS

Delay Encountered In Ob- taining Use of Part Of Alley

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

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain,
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DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

September 2, 1924], page 6, columns 4-5

AWARD CONTRACT FOR PLAYHOUSE

Work on New Theatre Scheduled to Start Tomorrow

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 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.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, _____ Year, Number _____ [Wednesday, January 28, 1925], page 2, column 1

NEW THEATRE TO HAVE BIG ORGAN

Expensive Instrument Is Purchased From Wur- litzer Company

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.

Electrically controlled and operated, the system permits use of two manuals, embracing saxaphones [*sic – saxophones*], traps 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

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and other details being taken into consideration.

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.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, _____ Year, Number _____ [Monday, February 9, 1925], page 2, column 2

NEW THEATRE OPENS IN APRIL

**Select Name of Braumart
for Playhouse; Will
Seat 1,000**

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.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, _____ Year, Number _____ [Monday, March 23, 1925], page 3, column 1

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 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.

Latest Achievement

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

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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, 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.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, _____ Year, Number _____ [Friday, March 27, 1925], page 3, column 1

NEW PROJECTOR PUT ON DISPLAY

Latest Type Machine In Braumart Theatre Equipment

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

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

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.

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.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 4, Number 304 [Wednesday, April 8, 1925], page 3, column 1

MUST RENT SPACE FOR VENTILATOR

Projects Into Alley Way; City to Demand \$10 Yearly

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.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 8 [Monday, April 20, 1925], page 1, column 6; page 3, columns 1-2

New Braumart Theatre To Be Opened Tomorrow Night; Special Program Prepared

Finest Amusement House North of Milwaukee Will Be Turned Over To Public

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 up-to-the-minute improvements in the technique of motion picture projection.

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

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

(Continued on Page 3, Column 1)

NEW BRAUMART OPENS TUESDAY

Special Program Prepared For Dedication Of New House

(Continued From Page One)

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. 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

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

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 performing *[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.

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.

Noted Organist Coming.

A special and unique opening program has been prepared for the Braumart. Among the attractions will be Ambrose Larson, noted nationally as an organ player. Larson 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 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 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 that were a part of every household. To

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

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.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 10 [Wednesday, April 22, 1925], page 3, columns 3-4

NATIONAL ANTHEM OPENS BRAUMART

2,000 Persons Attend Premiere of New Theatre Last Night

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 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, 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 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.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5,

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Number 13 [Saturday, April 25, 1925],
page 3, column 2

Leon Goulard Held on Charge

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 hearing.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain,
Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5,
Number 13 [Saturday, April 25, 1925],
page 3, column 3

MILLINERY SHOP IS OPENED TODAY

Stronge & Warner Co. Has Place in Braumart Building

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.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain,
Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5,
Number 19 [Saturday, May 2, 1925],
page 6, column 2

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

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Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5,

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Number 35 [Thursday, May 21, 1925],
page 6, column 2

Lundell, Riley End Partnership

The dissolution of the partnership of William Riley and Richard Lundell, 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 and the shop will hereafter be conducted by Lindholm and Lundell.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain,
Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5,
Number 36 [Friday, May 22, 1925], page
2, columns 5-6

WORK STARTED ON STORE BUILDING

Owners of Braumart The- atre Erect Structure Next Door.

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 Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain,
Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5,
Number 41 [Thursday, May 28, 1925],
page 6, column 1

CORDY BUILDING SOLD FOR \$22,000

Purchased by Owners of Anegon's Confection- ery Store

Sale of the Joseph Cordy building, 102 East B street, occupied by the Anegon confectionery store, to Christ Anegon and Arthur Mitchell, owners of the store, was announced today.

The purchase price was \$22,000. The deal has been pending for some time and was closed late yesterday.

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

The building is a one-story brick structure and is advantageously located for the confectionery business, being next to the Braumart theatre. The building does not occupy the entire lot, the rear part of which is owned by Brauns & Thomas[,] whose original plans were to use it for the Braumart.

No changes in the building are planned at this time, according to the new owners, although they will beautify the exterior.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, _____
Year, Number _____ [Thursday, July 9, 1925], page 3, column 1

NEW ORGANIST IS WELL RECEIVED

Headliner Playing Inde- finite Engagement At Braumart

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

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, _____
Year, Number _____ [Friday, July 17, 1925], page 2, column 2

ORGAN RECITAL SUNDAY EVENT

Zorn Will Present Pro- gram at The Braumart Theatre

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 – possible line missing]*

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:

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

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, _____

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Year, Number _____ [Tuesday, October
6, 1925], page 2, columns 5-6

BRAUMART SHOE SHOP IS READY

Formal Opening of Es- tablishment Will Be Held Tomorrow

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 and Wilfred Collette, of Iron Mountain, are on the staff of the shop.

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

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Year 6, Number 304 [Thursday, April 7, 1927], page 3, column 1

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.

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 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,

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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.

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.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, _____ Year, Number _____ [Wednesday, July 29, 1935], page 3, column 1

COLONIAL TO BE REOPENED AFTER BEING IMPROVED

Braumart Will Also Undergo Extensive Re-modeling Program

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,

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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.

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 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.

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 with 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

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Braumart one of the most modern-equipped theaters north of Milwaukee.

Both the Braumart Theatre and the Colonial Theatre were “modernized” in 1935, just a year before these two photograph were taken. “A new glass front, finished in royal blue with chromium trim,” was added to the Braumart, “with a new ticket office constructed of blue glass and chrome and extended to the sidewalk line. A new marquee of enameled steel with clusters of electric lights and neon tubing” was constructed overhead. The theater name was inscribed in electric lights across the front of the marquee in a combination of both neon and silhouette letters. “The General Died at Dawn” came out in 1936, starring Gary Cooper and Madeleine Carroll. *[City of Kingsford]*



The Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain-Kingsford, Dickinson County, Michigan, 32nd Year, Number 38 [Saturday, May 24, 1952], page 3, column 1

Thomas Co. To Construct New Drive-In

Bids for the construction of a 400-car drive-in motion picture theater on property situated near the intersection of highway US-2-141, southeast of the city, by the Thomas Theater Co., Inc., of Iron Mountain, will be accepted not later than June 15 at the company's offices, in this city, Martin D. Thomas, president, announced here today.

Plans, Thomas said, call for completion of the theater by Aug. 1 of this year, when it will be opened to the public. This is the

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

program announced a few years ago by the company president, but which, he said yesterday, was halted by government restrictions on theater-building. "These restrictions have now been lifted," Thomas said, "and we are ready to go ahead."

The 40-acre tract purchased by the company is situated just east of the highway intersection, where US-141 cuts off to Niagara, Wis. As quickly as the contract is awarded, grading of the tract will be started in preparation for the installation of equipment.

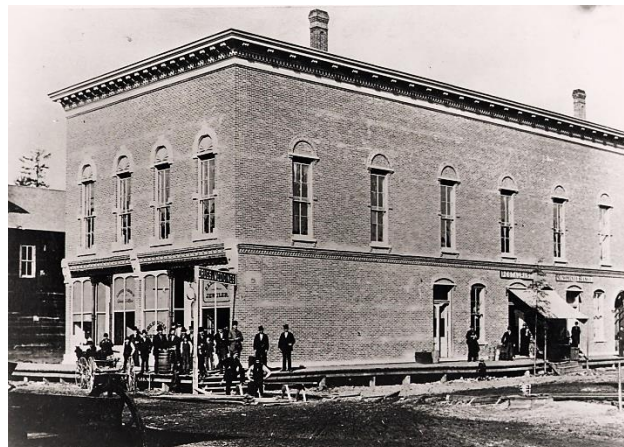
"We believe there is a demand for an out-door theater in this area," Thomas said, "and we plan to make it a good one – modern in every respect."

Another Development

Beginning Wednesday, June 4, the Thomas Theater Company will also take over full operation of theaters in Iron Mountain and elsewhere in which, for the past 15 years, the Fox-Wisconsin Amusement Enterprise Corporation, of Milwaukee, has been associated with the Thomas company. Besides the Braumart and Colonial, in Iron Mountain, this development affects also theaters in the Copper Country and in Stevens Point and Janesville, Wis.

In addition to the above-mentioned houses, Thomas Theaters also operates theaters in Ironwood, Menominee, Marinette and Hurley, Wis., and has interest in theaters at Madison, Wis. In all, the Iron Mountain company either operates, itself, or is associated with others in about 20 theaters throughout upper Michigan and Wisconsin.

BUELL'S OPERA HOUSE Quinnesec



The Florence Mining News, Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin, Volume I, Number 6 [Saturday, February 5, 1881], page 3, columns 3

HON. JOHN L. BUELL, is fitting up his Opera House, at Quinnesec, in the most approved style. The stage, including the green room, will be 18x45 feet. The entire stage scenery is being made in Chicago and the drop curtain will represent a magnificent view of the Lower Quinnesec Falls. This painting, as we are informed, will be well worth the price of an ordinary admission ticket.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume III, Number 18 [Saturday, April 28, 1883], page 1, column 4

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

A LABORATORY is being fitted up in the Opera House block, at Quinnesec, by Mr. Buell, who has secured the most improved apparatus for testing iron, gold, silver, and lead ores.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 19 [Thursday, October 6, 1904], page 5, column 2

QUINNESEC ITEMS.

The two main spans of the new bridge are completed, and the bridge men will celebrate the event by giving a dance at Buell's Opera House to-morrow *[sic – tomorrow]* night. Two hundred invitations have been issued and a good time is anticipated.

The Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 112 [Friday, August 21, 1925], page 3, columns 1-4

Suspect Arson In Fire That Destroys Quinnesec Building

Third Blaze Within Month Destroys Buell Structure; Iron Mountain Department Summoned

The hand of a "firebug" is suspected in the destruction by fire last night of the Buell building in Quinnesec, a struction *[sic – structure]* about which clung more or less

romantic traditions of the ore boom of 1879 in the Quinnesec district.

Discovered by workmen returning shortly after 11 p.m. from the Ford plant in Iron Mountain, the fire had already gained such headway that saving the building was out of the question.

The blaze which burst forth in the front from the ground level to the roof, *[sic]* worked havoc with the electric wires, putting out of commission the electric pump that provides the community water supply. Water was then obtained from a storage tank.

Iron Mountain Department Aids.

Iron Mountain fire department No. 2 worked until about 3 o'clock this morning directing its efforts chiefly to saving the surrounding buildings which were menaced by sparks, flying torches and falling wires.

A telephone pole within radius of the flames was burned to cinders and stood a smouldering *[sic – smoldering]* torch menacing the fire fighters until an early hour this morning when telephone linemen cut it off at the base.

A second pole affected by the flames leaned far over and hung dragging the net work *[sic – network]* of wire above with its weight. Repair men were working to set it right this morning.

Telephone service between Iron Mountain and Escanaba was cut off while the lines in the fire zone were unapproachable. Service was resumed about an hour after repair crews were able to work in the damaged section.

Third Fire In Month.

The brick building, situated on the through highway between Iron Mountain and Norway, is the third within a month in Quinnesec to burst into flames, the fire in each instance occuring *[sic – occurring]* about the same time late in the evening.

The other two buildings in which fire broke out are the old abandoned school

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

house, long unoccupied and practically a ruin, and the old abandoned school house, long unoccupied and practically a ruin, and *[sic – lines repeated]* the old John McKenna residence, also deserted.

The store building which today was still smouldering *[sic – smoldering]*, was fully occupied until two days ago when a soft drink parlor, of which Roy Beauchamp, of Quinnesec, was the proprietor, was padlocked by federal officers. By padlock proceedings the portion of the building occupied by the soft drink place was to be closed for one year and the building itself was under injunction prohibiting its sale.

Dance Hall On Second Floor.

A dance hall comprised the second story and in the rear of the structure were the real estate offices of the McKenna Brothers, Parnell and Ed.

A star sedan owned by Roy Beauchamp and a big Studebaker owned by Leo Brasspfenniaks *[sic – Brasspennicks]* parked in the rear of the structure were removed without damage.

The fire is thought to have originated behind the bar in the soft drink place, though no definite grounds for this belief have been shown.

The owner, George Meehan, of Iron Mountain, who purchased the place at a cost of about \$8000 *[sic – \$8,000]* a year and a half ago, had not been informed of the destruction of the building until after 10 o'clock this morning. The loss was covered with about \$8000 *[sic – \$8,000]* insurance.

Built in 1879.

The building was erected in 1879 by John L. Buell, according to an old settler of the district. This was at the time of the boom in Quinnesec and Norway when the Cundy mine was opened.

For about five years saloons, dance halls and drug stores flourished and prospered, he declared, after which the

prosperity died and since that time has never been a paying property.

It was pointed out by persons grouped about the smouldering *[sic – smoldering]* ruins that of the few business places in the little community, the building, though the largest was the one which could be destroyed with least loss or crippling of trade.

BUTTERFLY THEATRE

102 East Main Street

North Side [Chapin Location]

Iron Mountain

The Daily Tribune-Gazette, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Forty-Ninth Year, No. 78 [Tuesday, April 13, 1920], page 1, column 7

“MOVIE” PATRONS PLEASED WITH “THE BUTTERFLY”

The new movie theatre, “The Butterfly,” owned by Americo Sonaglia and Jim Givogre, had its real opening last Saturday night and large crowds were present at both shows. The program was a very good one and pleased everybody.

The theatre has a seating capacity of about three hundred and is a neat and cozy place. The building was remodeled and everything put in the right condition to make it an inviting place for a movie theatre.

The management have *[sic – has]* closed contracts with the leading film companies for motion pictures that will meet with the approval of all. Among the companies who will furnish pictures for “The Butterfly” are as follows: Universal, Pathe, Metro and the Robinson-Coe.

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Two shows will be given each night and matinees on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

Mr. Sonaglia and Mr. Givogre, proprietors, are Iron Mountain young men and are popular. The former is a veteran of the World war and the latter spent several years in the United States Marine corps.

"The Buttery" is located at 102 Main street, Chapin location.

The management will make it an aim to conduct the theatre in a creditable manner at all times and give the public the best of service.

CAPITOL THEATRE **409 West Breen Street, Breitung** **Kingsford**

The Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 23 [Thursday, May 7, 1925], page 6, column 1

BREITUNG TO HAVE \$60,000 THEATRE

Construction Work Al- ready Started; Ready In August

Construction of a new theatre building has been started at the corner of Breen and Roseland streets, Breitung, by G.W. Brassington, a resident of the community. The structure will be completed during the summer months and will represent an investment of approximately \$60,000.

The building, which is to be a semi-fireproof structure[,] will be 70x120 feet, and two stories high with a full mixed basement.

A dance hall will be located on the second floor.

Forms for the foundation are now nearing completion and it is expected that concrete will be poured the early part of next week.

The heating and ventilation plants will be housed in the basement. It is also planned to arrange quarters in the basement for a billiard room and barber shop.

The main floor of the theatre will have a seating capacity of approximately 600 persons and a balcony will accommodate 250 more. The stage will be sufficiently large to have home talent and traveling vaudeville attractions.

The building will rest on a 16-inch re-inforced concrete foundation, and will be of steel, brick and tile construction. The dimensions of the auditorium will be 60x96 feet.

It is expected that the theatre will be opened late in July or the early part of August. Interior decorations will be a feature, according to Mr. Brassington, who has already contracted for the work.

Mr. Brassington is a former superintendent of schools, having had charge of the schools at Alpha for four years, and also holding a similar position in the lower peninsula. At the present time he is engaged in building and electrical contracting.

The Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 205 [Thursday, December 10, 1925], page 2, column 1

NEW THEATRE IN VILLAGE AREA IS FINE STRUCTURE

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

\$68,000 Building Will Have Accommodations For 1,000 Persons

Interior decorations and installation of seats are the only things that remain to be completed in one of the finest buildings in the village of Kingsford area. This is the new Capitol theatre, located at 409 West Breen street, being erected by G.W. Brassington, electrical contractor and a former superintendent of schools in Alpha.

Mr. Brassington is planning on having his formal opening within two or three weeks, possibly at Christmas time. He is now completing his plans for his initial program which will include a feature motion picture. It is also intended to have a several piece orchestra for regular programs and vaudeville on various occasions.

The theatre is of brick and tile with steel re-enforcement throughout. It will cost approximately \$68,000 and will accommodate about 1,000 persons, 750 on the main floor and the remainder in the balcony.

The interior designing is being done by the Bond Decorating company, of Iron Mountain. The decorations will be one of the outstanding features of the show house.

The front part of the building is divided into a lobby and two small stores.

The Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 216 [Thursday, December 24, 1925], page 2, column 1

NEW THEATRE IN BREITUNG TO BE

OPEN NEXT WEEK

Projection Machines And Seats Are Being Installed

Formal opening of the new Capitol theatre on Breen avenue, Breitung, will be held early next week, it was stated today by G.W. Brassington, owner.

Two Simplex projectors, of the latest type, and a motor generator for the machines, were being installed today in the operating booth, which is to be modern in every respect. Installation of seats, more than 900 of them, was also in progress this afternoon.

Mr. Brassington has already engaged a seven-piece orchestra for the opening week. The feature movie attraction and the remainder of the program will be announced within a few days.

One of the features of the theatre will be the interior decorations, which were designed by the Bond Decorating company, of Iron Mountain.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 222 [Thursday, December 31, 1925], page 10, columns 1-2

FORMAL OPENING OF NEW CAPITOL EVENT TONIGHT

Breitung Motion Picture Theatre One of Best In District

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

The new Capitol theatre on Breen street in Breitung, completed at a cost of \$68,000 and one of the most attraction motion picture houses in the district, will be formally opened at 7 o'clock tonight.

A special program, the feature of which will be "The Man on the Box," a Warner production starring Syd Chaplin, one of the screen's most celebrated character comedians, has been booked for the occasion.

The theatre has been in the process of construction for months and represents an achievement in decorative effect and arrangement. The building is of brick, tile and steel, and has a length of 118 feet and a width of 56 feet.

Seating Capacity of 1,000

Accommodations are afforded for 1,000 patrons, with 750 seats on the main floor and 250 in the balcony. Seats are of a comfortable type and arranged for utmost convenience and the minimum of fatigue.

The lobby of the theatre is small, but very attractive. It is furnished in antique copper and gold blaze, the same color scheme being carried out in the auditorium. A chandelier with branches of sparkling lights is suspended from the center of the lobby ceiling.

The foyer, long and narrow, gives access to the main floor, balcony and two offices located in the front of the building.

The decorative theme in the auditorium has been excellently executed, embracing dignity of tone with a subdued but attractive effect. The lower part of the walls has a cane stone finish, the color blending with lattice work concealing four radiators recessed in the wall on each side. These are surmounted by large panels with tapestry designs.

Drapes Are Attractive

Drapes of the screen and stage are especially effective. The proscenium arch drape is a rich rose colored [*sic – rose-colored*] velour with gold and blue trimmings. The theatre's monogram is in the center.

The next drape, which appears to merge with the arch, is of blue velour interwoven with garlands of silver. On each side of the stage are lofts in which it is later planned to install an organ. Drapes in harmony with those on the stage cover these openings.

The screen is 13x16 and of gold fibre [*sic – fiber*]. Its cost is about \$500 and it is one of the best that can be obtained. Projection equipment is also thoroughly modern and includes two Simplex motion picture machines, motor generator, and other appliances.

Indirect lighting is used entirely in the auditorium. Even the fixtures are concealed and diffulge [*sic – diffuse*] a soft radiance that will not distract the eye.

Owned by Brassington

The Capitol is owned and will be managed by G.W. Brassington, electrical contractor in Breitung and a former superintendent of the schools in Alpha.

He intends to exhibit only the best programs and at present plans to steadily employ a 10-piece orchestra. The theatre will be open daily.

A large attendance is expected for the formal opening tonight. Two performances will be given, the first at 7 o'clock and the second at 9 o'clock. There will also be a special program at each performance by the Ford Motor company band.

Feature Picture

The feature picture, which is booked for three days, is a late release and shows Syd Chaplin at his best. In one sequence Syd impersonates a flirtatious maid, and with his features disguised with wig and make up, proves quite an attractive picture. The picture is an adaption [*sic – adaptation*] of

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

the novel and play from the pen of Harold MacGrath. The story concerns the romantically amusing adventures of Bob Warburton, young, wealthy and charming, who hires out as a coachman. Theodore Lorch, Helene Costello, David Butler, Alice and Kathleene Calhoun and Charles F. Reisner, director, are included in the supporting cast.

The Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, _____
Year, Number _____ [Wednesday,
November 13, 1929], page 3, column 1

CAPITOL THEATRE SOLD FOR \$13,500 BY BANK AGENTS

Phelps Men Buy Structure From Liquidation Committee

Sale of the Capitol theatre, Breen avenue, Breitung, to E.I. Weed and Clyde Neldberg, of Phelps, Wis., was announced today by Dan Boyle, acting secretary of the liquidation committee of the former American Security bank.

The purchase price was given as \$13,500, and the new owners have already taken possession. Although operation of the theatre will not be suspended, it is understood that Weed and Neldberg are planning extensive remodeling and improvements. New seats will be installed, the old ones having been removed some time ago by the company that sold them, the claim having been made they were never fully paid for. Since then benches

and chairs have been used to accommodate the audiences.

The liquidation committee of the bank took over the theatre on October 24 when the owner, George W. Brassington, failed to meet obligations that were owing.

Erected Several Years Ago.

The theatre was erected by Brassington several years ago during the Ford boom and its cost was estimated at between \$30,000 and \$40,000. Designed to seat nearly a thousand persons, with the balcony, the structure was a very substantial addition to the business district in Breitung.

The Ford slump and consequent losses in population reacted seriously against the venture, and there was difficulty in keeping the playhouse open. Lease of the theatre to new managers was followed by a dispute for possession of the building, and the removal of the seats was regarded as one of the outgrowths of this controversy. Since that affair Brassington has been operating the house.

Mr. Weed, one of the new owners[,], has had considerable experience in managing theatres, and has been operating a house at Phelps, Wis.

The Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 215 [Saturday, December 21, 1929], page 2, column 5

CAPITOL TO BE OPENED SUNDAY; NEW EQUIPMENT

Considerable Sum Has Been Spent In Im- proving Theatre

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

HISTORY OF THE COLONIAL THEATRE

Compiled by William J. Cummings, 2010

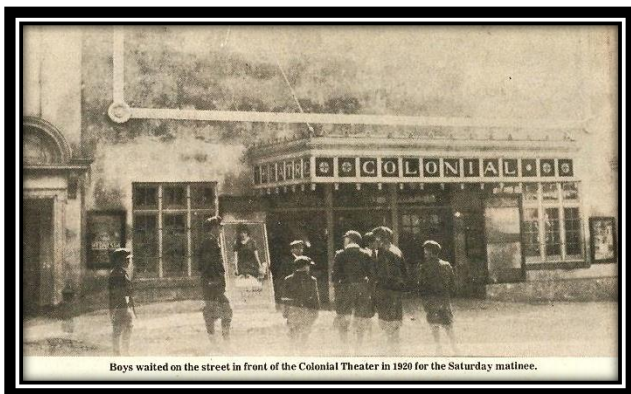
Formal reopening of the Capitol theatre, Breitung, under the management of its new owners, will be held tomorrow, with a matinee and two evening performances.

The house has been entirely renovated and about \$8,000 spent in improvements. These include a new heating plant, ventilating system, talking picture equipment, different lighting arrangement, new seating equipment and other features.

The opening picture will be "The Sophomore," starring Eddie Quillan and Sally O'Neill. It is a story of college life, with unusual twists, and this is its first showing in this district. The picture is a sound film. There will also be short subjects.

The Capitol has been practically closed since the new owners purchased it about six weeks ago. Originally they planned to spend about \$4,000 in improvements, but doubled that amount in order to bring the theatre entirely up to standard. The house, of brick construction, was erected several years ago.

COLONIAL THEATRE **209-211 East Ludington Street** **Iron Mountain**



Boys waited on the street in front of the Colonial Theater in 1920 for the Saturday matinee.

In its May 18, 1916 edition, *The Iron Mountain Press* announced that August E. Brauns was to erect "a theatre second to none north of Milwaukee" on the property opposite the city hall building on East Ludington Street, then occupied by two frame buildings and known as the Farmers' Hotel. Brauns purchased the property, having frontage on East Ludington Street of 60 feet and a depth of 75 feet which extended to the alley, from the Commercial Bank during the week. There was also an alley on the west side.

The proposed theatre building was to cover the entire property with the main entrance on Ludington Street and exits on the side and rear alleys.

Architect Charlton, of Marquette, was commissioned to draft the plans for the theatre with instructions to design "a house second to none in the Upper Peninsula," containing "everything modern and up-to-date in accordance with the state's sanitary and safety laws."

Plans were to construct a theatre which would be able to show the higher grade motion pictures, and have a stage sufficient to accommodate larger theatrical companies.

Martin Thomas, then manager of the Bijou Theatre at 104-106 West Ludington Street, was to manage the new house.

By June 8, 1916, Contractor Anton Meinch was removing the frame buildings which Brauns had sold to Joseph Tamborini, and excavation for the new "opera house" was to commence as soon as the buildings were moved.

An article in October 26, 1916 edition of *The Iron Mountain Press* stated that the new opera house would "be illuminated with

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

one thousand electric lamps, many of them of large power.” The brick masons had finished work on the building and the scenery loft was almost enclosed. Plumbers were then engaged in installing the heating, ventilating and water systems. The ventilating system was to include all that was “new and modern.”

The Colonial Theatre, described in the December 14, 1916 edition of *The Iron Mountain Press*, as “Iron Mountain’s beautiful new play-house,” opened Saturday evening, December 16, 1916 with “Poor Little Peppina,” starring Mary Pickford, America’s sweetheart in motion pictures.

For the grand opening all seats in all departments sold for twenty-five cents. For future motion picture attractions the following prices were: main floor, 15 cents; balcony, 10 cents; and box seats, 25 cents. Seats in boxes could be reserved for all occasions.

The Colonial was constructed of tile with a covering of grey stucco. The front had “a most artistic design” with 60 feet of frontage on East Ludington Street. At the alley, the building was 75 feet wide, and the total depth was 120 feet.

The main auditorium had a bowl-shaped concrete floor and could be flushed directly into the sewer system, “ensuring the utmost cleanliness.” There were 550 upholstered opera chairs of the latest design on the main floor, while the balcony contained 360 opera chairs “of comfortable design.” There were three boxes, each with a seating capacity of seven persons. The chairs in the boxes were “of a neat wicker pattern.” Thus, the theatre had a seating capacity of 931, affording everyone “an unobstructed view of the entire stage.”

The stage had an opening 32x18 feet with a height of 50 feet from the floor to the gridiron, and was 30 feet deep. It was arranged so the largest attractions could be

booked. The dressing rooms were large and comfortable and there were toilet rooms for women and men.

The “machine operating room” (projection booth) was located in the front of the house directly under the balcony. It was fire-proof in every respect, ample in size, well ventilated and equipped with two of the latest motor driven machines (projectors).

The entrance to the theatre was very roomy, featuring “an artistic tile floor” and mahogany swinging doors. To the left of the lobby was a rest room for ladies with a toilet. The men’s restroom was on the right. Both were equipped with sanitary fixtures.

The ventilating system consisted of “what is known as the force system with which all modern theatres are now equipped,” while the heating plant had what was known as “the down draft boiler system.”

The plans for the theatre were made by Architect Charlton, of Marquette, and the building was erected under the supervision of Hans Nelson.

An article appearing in the third edition of Iron Mountain’s new newspaper, *The Iron Mountain Daily News*, dated Wednesday, April 13, 1921, an article announced that the exterior alterations to the Bijou Theatre were nearing completion. The Bijou reopened on Monday, April 25, 1921, and the Colonial Theatre closed for a complete remodeling and interior redecoration on Friday, May 29, 1921.

The remodeling project included removing the partitions at the rear and at both sides of the entrance and widening both the foyer and the rear of the theatre proper. The stairs at the left of the entrance which led to the balcony were to be torn out and a new and wider flight built to replace them. In addition, all new seats were to be placed in the balcony “with the addition of a loge box arrangement similar to that used in

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

a number of the more modern picture theatres throughout the country.” The loge boxes were mainly used to accommodate private theatre parties.

New Simplex projectors and Idealite screens were placed in both the Bijou and Colonial theatres at the time of the remodeling.

When the remodeling was completed, the Colonial Theatre seated 900 patrons and was used largely for showing larger feature pictures, as well as road shows. The Bijou, accommodating 700 patrons, was used only for lighter attractions and was a motion picture theatre only.

Just two years later the Colonial Theatre was once again redecorated. An article in the June 30, 1923 edition of *The Iron Mountain News* reported that “the Colonial Theatre will within the next several weeks be transformed into the prettiest theatre in Cloverland, according to plans for remodeling and redecorating the interior.

A contract for the work was closed by Martin D. Thomas, manager, and the Decorative Supply Company and Andrew Jasinski & Company, both firms being located in Chicago.

The plans called for a large amount of decorative plaster work, including pilasters on the side walls and fancy moldings around the proscenium. The theatre was to be thoroughly renovated, the color scheme of the painting consisting of old rose and gold and gray. Ernest Bond, local decorator, was associated in the work.

The box office was removed and a new one built in the center of the lobby. New entrance doors were installed and the outside canopy rebuilt and painted.

The entire gallery of the theatre was equipped with new seats and repairs were made to the seats on the first floor. In addition, all aisles were thickly carpeted and new lighting fixtures installed throughout.

A modernization program for both the Braumart and Colonial theatres, 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* announced that the Colonial Theater would open with a matinee performance on Monday, August 3, 1935.

Both the exterior and interior of the theater had been rebuilt and decorated along new and modern lines.

All decorating of the Colonial, inside and out, was “designed and executed” by the Bond Decorating Company. The exterior had a terra cotta base, trimmed in dark brown. The terra cotta was “high-lighted” to bring out a more effective blend with the trimming.

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

High intensity lamps, a new generator, a new wide range Western Electric sound system and an improved screen brought the projection and sound equipment up to the highest approved standards. The new marquee at the front of the theater contained hundreds of electric lamps and many feet of neon tubing to present a striking color effect.

Seats, all reconditioned, which had recently been removed from the Braumart to make room for new ones, provided added comfort for patrons of the Colonial.

The Colonial Theater, closed in June, 1952, was reopened on Christmas Day of that same year with Frank Osteroth, of Hancock, a Korean War veteran, named manager. An article in the December 16, 1952 edition of the *Iron Mountain News*

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

also noted that redecorating and cleaning of the theater under Osteroth's supervision was underway in preparation for the December 25 opening.

The Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 21, Number 1 [Thursday, May 18, 1916], page 1, column 3 [NOTE: Segment of this column missing, resulting in incomplete transcription]

BUILD NEW THEATRE

A.E. BRAUNS WILL ERECT A FINE HOUSE ON E. LUDINGTON.

Modern in Every Feature, Will Seat Over One Thousand People and To Cost Over \$25,000.

Iron Mountain is to have a theatre second to none north of Milwaukee.

It will be erected by August E. Brauns, on the property opposite the city hall building, on East Ludington street, now occupied by two frame buildings and known as the Farmers' Hotel.

The property was purchased by Mr. Brauns during the week from the Commercial Bank, and is splendidly located for the purposes of a modern theatre.

The property has frontage on East Ludington street of sixty feet and a depth of seventy-five feet, extending to the alley. There is also an alley on the west side.

The theatre building will cover the entire property with the main entrance on Ludington street and exits on the side and rear alleys.

Architect Charlton, of Marquette, has the order to draft the plans for the theatre and his instructions are to _____ a house second to none in the upper peninsula. Mr. Braun's orders _____ plan an opera house containing _____ thing that is modern and up-to-date in accordance with the _____ sanitary and safety laws.

While the theatre will _____ show the higher grade _____ pictures, such as the _____ now unable to produce _____ provided with a _____ sufficient to accommodate _____ theatrical companies _____ Marquette, Ishpeming, _____ country towns.

The opera house _____ capacity of one thousand _____ main floor _____. _____ brick will be _____ -tion, and _____ make it st_____ estimated that _____ considerable more _____.

The decision _____ Iron Mountain _____ should meet _____ -tion at the ha_____. It is evidenced _____ Iron Mountain _____ Iron Mountain _____ Mr. Brauns _____ -ing his belief _____ sums of money _____ city proper, but _____ -ming resources _____ the vicinity. His several enterprises stamp him as a good citizen and in his latest enterprise he should have the hearty and undivided support of all citizens.

In this connection it is pleasing to record that Martin Thomas will have the management of the new house. Mr. Martin is in close touch with the likes and dislikes of Iron Mountain people and it is his constant endeavor to please theatre-goers and bring the better class of attractions here. With the new house he will be enabled to enlarge upon his ideas in this direction. His selection as manager will prove popular and assures Iron Mountain of a class of theatrical attractions of metropolilan *[sic – metropolitan]*. *[sic]*

No decision has been reached relative to the future of the Bijou. It may be

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

maintained as a picture house and it may be converted into a high-grade skating rink with added accommodations for balls and large gatherings.

It is expected to commence work on the new house as soon as Mr. Charlton can formulate the plans.

The Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 21, Number 4 [Thursday, June 8, 1916], page 1, column 6

New Opera House.

Contractor Meinch has commenced the work of removing the frame buildings on East Ludington street sold by A.E. Brauns to Joseph Tambourini [*sic – Tamborini*], and as soon as the removal is accomplished excavating for the new opera house will commence. Architect Charlton is now working on the plans and will have his sketches ready for submission to Owner Brauns in a few days.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 21, Number 24 [Thursday, October 26, 1916], page 2, column 4

BRIEF NEWS NOTES.

The new opera house will be illuminated with one thousand electric lamps, many of them of large power. The brick masons have finished work on the building and the scenery loft is about inclosed [*sic – enclosed*]. Plumbers are engaged in installing the heating, ventilating and water systems. The ventilating system will include all that is new and modern.

The Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 21, Number 31 [Thursday, December 14, 1916], page 1, column 1

NAMED COLONIAL

IRON MOUNTAIN'S MODERN AND PRETTY NEW PLAY-HOUSE.

The House Will Inaugurate a Picture Service Saturday Evening: A Brief Description of House.

"The Colonial," Iron Mountain's beautiful new play-house, will be thrown open to the public next Saturday evening.

The opening attraction is Mary Pickford in "Poor Little Peppina." For this occasion all seats, in all departments, will sell for twenty-five cents. For future picture attractions the following schedule of prices will maintain: Main floor, 15c; balcony, 10c; box seats, 25c. Seats in boxes may be reserved for all occasions.

The Colonial is second to no theatre in all appointments north of Milwaukee. The building is constructed of tile with a covering of grey stucco. The front is of a most artistic design. It has a frontage on East Ludington street of sixty feet and on the alley it is seventy-six feet wide. It has a total depth of one hundred and twenty feet.

The main auditorium has a bowl-shaped concrete floor and can be flushed directly into the sewer system, ensuring the utmost cleanliness. It is seated with 550 of the latest pattern in upholstered opera chairs. The balcony is seated with 360 opera chairs of comfortable design. There are three boxes, each with a seating capacity of

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

seven persons. The chairs are of a neat wicker pattern. This gives the theatre a seating capacity of 931. There is not a "poor seat" in the house, everyone [*sic – every one*] affording an unobstructed view of the entire stage.

The stage has an opening 32x18 feet with a height of 50 feet from the floor to the gridiron, and is 30 feet in depth. It is so arranged that the largest attractions can be booked. The dressing rooms are large and comfortable and there are toilet rooms for women and men.

The machine operating room is located in the front of the house directly under the balcony. It is fire-proof in every respect, ample in size and well ventilated. It is equipped with two of the latest motor driven machines.

The entrance to the theatre is very roomy. It has an artistic tile floor and the swinging doors are mahogany. To the left of the lobby is a rest room for ladies with a toilet. The toilet for males is on the right. Both are equipped with sanitary fixtures.

The ventilating system is what is known as the force system with which all modern theatres are now equipped. The heating plant is known as the down draft boiler system.

All the other appointments are of the latest in theatre construction.

The plans for the theatre were made by Architect Charlton, of Marquette, and it is in keeping with his other work in this city – of a high order.

The theatre was erected under the supervision of Hans Nelson. The work was commenced about the middle of August. Mr. Nelson was on the job early and late and the speed with which the building was erected is most creditable to his ability as a master builder and superintendent.

The house is owned by A.E. Brauns. It is a magnificent monument to his enterprise and faith in the future of our city. The

house is a beautiful one and Mr. Brauns is deserving of praise for erecting the same.

The Colonial will be managed by Martin Thomas. The gentleman has been highly successful in guaging [*sic – gauging*] the wants of Iron Mountain in an amusement way in the past, and with a modern theatre at his command he is certain to enlarge his capacity as a successful manager.

The Press wishes Owner Brauns and Manager Thomas every success.

The Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 25, Number 12 [Thursday, August 5, 1920], page 1, column 6

Another Theatre.

While in Chicago recently, Martin Thomas, manager of the Colonial, completed arrangements for the erection of another theatre building in Iron Mountain. The new house will be similar in construction to the Colonial, which is one of the best theatre buildings in the west, but will have a larger seating capacity and will embrace all that is new in the latest amusement houses. Construction will start at as early a date as possible in the spring.

The Iron Mountain Daily News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, _____ Year, Number _____ [Wednesday, April 13, 1921], page 2, columns 7-8

BIJOU THEATRE IS SOON TO BE OPENED

**Early in May Manager
Thomas Will Begin
Work at Colonial**

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

The exterior alterations to the Bijou Theatre are nearing completion and manager Thomas hopes to open the house about the first of May. The alterations will include a new stucco front of a pleasing design, a new entrance and lobby and two toilet rooms. The auditorium has been entirely remodeled. It has been provided with a composition incline floor and will be furnished with the latest opera chairs – 600 of them and one of the very latest picture machines. A new heating plant of ample capacity has been placed in the basement. No expense has been spared to make the house comfortable, sanitary and safe. With the Bijou open, Manager Thomas will close the Colonial in order that it may be decorated anew and remodeled in some respects. A notable change will be made in rearranging and enlarging the lobby. It is proposed to place the ticket office in the center, which will greatly expedite the sale of tickets. Manager Thomas has in mind some changes in the balcony arrangement that will tend to the comfort of patrons.

The Iron Mountain Daily News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 1, Number 3 [Wednesday, April 13, 1921], page 2, column 1

COLONIAL CLOSED TO CLARA SMITH HAMON

**Manager Thomas Says He
Would Not Take Pic-
ture Price Fee**

M.D. Thomas, manager of the Colonial theatre, will register an emphatic “no” in the

vote being taken among the members of [the] Michigan Moving Picture Exhibitors association to determine their stand on the Clara Smith Hamon pictures. “I wouldn’t take them if they were offered me without price and under guarantee that they would pack the house for a week,” he declared.

All the comment heard on the subject indicates that the Michigan exhibitors will be practically a unit against any attempts to capitalize the notoriety of the slayer of Jake Hamon, the former Republican boss of Oklahoma, through the medium of the picture houses. The majority of upper peninsula managers have already taken a stand against showing the Hamon pictures, which will be presented under the guise of a moral lesson designed to keep girls included “fit” [?] be wayward on the straight and narrow path.

“This moral lesson stuff reads very prettily,” Mr. Thomas remarked yesterday. “But the cold fact of the matter is that the purpose of the producers is to make molney out of the unenviable notoriety gained by an erring and unfortunate woman.

“It would be one of the most serious injuries pictures ever suffered if the attempt should meet with a cordial reception. Personally I am confident it will not. All over the country house managers have been taking a firm stand against these pictures, and I am hopeful that the prospective producers will be so discouraged by this display of sentiment that they will give up the project.”¹

The Iron Mountain Daily News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, _____ Year, Number _____ [Friday, April 22, 1921], page 2, column 1

BIJOU THEATRE TO OPEN NEXT MONDAY

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Wallace Reid, in “The Dancin’ Fool,” Opening Attraction

The Bijou theatre, the remodeling and redecoration of which is practically completed, will open Monday, featuring Wallace Reid in “The Dancin’ Fool,” according to M.D. Thomas, manager of both the Bijou and Colonial theatres. Beginning next week the Rex stock company will open at the Colonial, featuring a number of popular plays on the week’s bill.

The Colonial will be closed for a complete remodeling and interior redecoration May 29. The improvements planned by Mr. Thomas will transform the theatre into one of the most attractive playhouses in this section. The partitions at the rear and at both sides of the entrance will be torn out, widening both the foyer and the rear of the theatre proper. The stairs at the left of the entrance, leading to the balcony, will also be torn out and a new and wider flight built in.

New Seats In Balcony.

All new seats will be placed in the balcony, with the addition of a loge box arrangement similar to that used in a number of the more modern picture theatres throughout the country. The loge boxes will accommodate private theatre parties and are used, largely, for that purpose.

New Simplex projectors will be placed in both the Bijou and the Colonial theatres. The Simplex is the best motion picture projector now in *[sic]* the market, and the type used for both local theatres will be somewhat similar to that used in the new Delft theatre, at Marquette, said to be the

best equipped motion picture theatre in the district.

When completed the Bijou will seat approximately 700 persons, and the Colonial 900. Idealite screens – the latest innovation in motion picture screens – will be installed in both theatres. Manager Castell, of the Colonial orchestra, will organize a second group of musicians for the Bijou.

Features At Colonial.

It is Mr. Thomas’ plan to use the Colonial largely, *[sic]* for showing of the larger feature picture *[sic]*, as well as the road shows, with lighter attractions at the Bijou, which will be a motion picture theatre only. The first attraction booked for the Colonial after the redecoration is complete is “Something to Think About,” an intensely interesting screen drama and one which is showing to capacity houses throughout the country. In connection with this film Mr. Thomas has planned an advertising scheme which will, it is confidently expected, give the residents of Iron Mountain “Something to Think About” besides the actual story of the film.

Wally Reid at Bijou.

In “The Dancin’ Fool” Wallace Reid is particularly amusing and entertaining as a youth who invades the “wicked city” in search of employment. He has a distinct liking for “jazz” music and the dance, which characteristically carries him through a series of entertaining episodes, much to the disgust of his staid old uncle. The wind-up, in which Wallie exploits his uncle’s stock in trade – earth jugs – by a clever advertising scheme, and his rather abrupt rise to fame, constitutes a story which is unusually interesting. Bebe Daniels makes an excellent dancing partner for Wallie – which is an added attraction.

The Iron Mountain Daily News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan,

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Volume 1, Number 68 [Wednesday,
June 29, 1921], page 2, column 1

COLONIAL CLOSES; TO OPEN JULY 24

Has Been Operating at Loss For Over a Week, Says Manager

With the ending of the second performance last evening, the doors of the Colonial theatre were closed, to remain closed until July 24, when the Gifford Stock company will open a week's engagement.

"This step, while extremely distasteful, is necessary, unless we are to run up a deficit which we will not be above to overcome this fall," said M.D. Thomas, manager. "For the past week or more, we have been operating at a loss."

Mr. Thomas produced figures to show that on the last night the box office receipts were less than the film rental, exclusive of operating cost and advertising.

"The condition is general," he continued. "In Marquette, the opera house is closed, and will remain so, according to reports, until next spring. In Ishpeming, the Butler is closed; in Negaunee, the Liberty. In the copper country, seven out of nine playhouses have closed their doors. In Milwaukee, it is reported, only two theatres of any size will remain open during the summer. The Tivoli, Chicago's two million dollar motion picture house, is reported to be losing thousands of dollars a week. I see Tivoli bonds advertised for sale in the Chicago Tribune.[?]"

The film companies realize the crisis, too, Mr. Thomas says. "Before the depression, I used to see about three film

men a week," he said. "'With the exception two who came through here on special trips, I haven't seen one for the past six or eight weeks."

"Many of these producers and distributors don't know the war is over. If they expect to sell their product, they'll have to come down. Take Bill Hart, for example; last year he made six pictures and paid tax on an income of \$700,000. Film salesmen are paid as high as \$125 a week and expenses; agency managers get as high as \$200 a week. There's only one thing to do; that's to start using the paring knife."

The Iron Mountain Daily News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, _____ Year, Number _____ [Friday, July 29, 1921], page 2, column 4

"POLLYANNA" IS PLAY AT COLONIAL TONIGHT

"Dawn o' The Mountains" Pleased Audience Last Evening

"Dawn O' the Mountains," a play of the Kentucky hills, was the attraction presented by the Gatlord [?] Players at the Colonial theater last evening, and was well received by a large audience. The production was on the order of "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine" and the parts were well portrayed.

Tonight, the play will be "Pollyanna," a dramatization of the book which scored such a phenomenal success. The play tomorrow evening will be "One Girl's Experience."

The Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 2,

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Number 163 [Tuesday, October 24,
1922], page 2, column 3

HIST! PLENTY OF 'MOON' THURSDAY

Musical Comedy Will Be Seen at the Colonial Theatre

A creole beauty chorus, the famous Blue Devil jazz orchestra and Billie King, comedian, are the outstanding features of "Moonshine," a musical comedy that will be seen at the Colonial theatre Thursday evening.

According to advance notices, "Moonshine" is one of the best of the lighter musical comedies now on the road. It hasn't any plot to speak of but there is sufficient for a lot of tom foolery and amusement. The orchestra is composed of talented musicians.

The show is out of the ordinary in that all the performers are colored and dancing and singing are second nature to these residents of the south. The company enjoyed a long run in New York and Chicago and is at present making a tour of the upper peninsula.

The Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain,
Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 3,
Number 69 [Saturday, June 30, 1923],
page 2, column 3

COLONIAL WILL BE RE-DECORATED

Plans Call For Making It Prettiest Theatre in Cloverland

The Colonial theatre will within the next several weeks be transformed into the prettiest theatre in Cloverland, according to plans for remodeling and redecorating the interior. A contract for the work has already been closed by M.D. Thomas, manager, with the Decorative Supply company and Andrew Jasinski & company. Both firms are located in Chicago.

The plans call for a large amount of decorative plaster work, including plasters [*sic – pilasters*] on the side walls and fancy moldings around the proscenium. The theatre will be thoroughly renovated and the color scheme of the painting will consist of old rose and gold and gray. Ernest Bond, local decorator, will be associated in the work.

The present box office is to be removed and a new one built in the center of the lobby. New entrance doors are to be installed and the outside canopy rebuilt and painted.

The entire gallery of the theatre is to be equipped with new suits [*sic – suites – ?*] and repairs will be made to the seats on the first floor. In addition, all aisles will be thickly carpeted and new lighting fixtures installed throughout.

The theatre will be closed July 30 and reopened about August 20. A large force of men will be employed on the work and no time lost in making the transformation. An expert in theatre decorating who is familiar with every show house in the peninsula declares that the Colonial will without question be the best appearing of all when the work is completed.

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 4, Number 121 [Wednesday, September 3, 1924], page 2, column 1

FAMOUS MAGICIAN AT THE COLONIAL

Blackstone Here For Two Days; Carries Big Company

Blackstone, famous conjurer, and his company of assistants will be the attraction at the Colonial theatre today and tomorrow, with matinee performances. Blackstone enjoys the reputation of being one of the country's most noted magicians and carries with him elaborate settings for the performance of his tricks.

The entertainment value of the show is assured. All forms of known amusements have been called upon to contribute their share in the Blackstone amalgamation. There is magic, circus, musical comedy, revue, comedy and drama all rolled into one. Blackstone himself uses the somewhat grandiose phrase "a girliesque necromantic extravaganza." Doubtless this is as a veracious and comprehensive description as it is possible to compass in some many words.

Oriental Nights, one of the many incidents in the Blackstone program, is a colorful pageant of the far east. Camels, horses, Arabs and a whole seraglio of intriguing nautch *[sic]* girls provide an exotic setting for a series of Blackstone mysteries themselves redolent of the occult Levant.

Burned at the Cross, Blackstone's sensational crucifixion and escape from

decapitation, is an interlude in Oriental Nights.

Two double length railroad baggage cars are required to transport the paraphernalia and live stock *[sic – livestock]* of the Blackstone outfit. Twenty-eight persons, including the corps of beauty, are in the entourage. The performance is divided into two acts and 26 scenes.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 4, Number 122 [Thursday, September 4, 1924], page 2, column 1

LARGE AUDIENCE SEES BLACKSTONE

But It Doesn't See How He Performs His Tricks.

Blackstone, the famous, demonstrated to a large Colonial audience last night that he has lost none of the deftness and ability that has made him one of the foremost magicians in the country.

Aby assisted by his large company, the past master in the art of staging a necromantic exhibition have a performance that has never been equaled here by other magicians. His tricks and illusions are clever, mystifying and, as far as the audience is concerned, impossible to solve. He makes things disappear or appear with the ease of a real miracle performer.

A baggage car of equipment is carried by the Blackstone company and includes a fair sized menagerie. It is the most elaborate production of its kind ever staged here.

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

A matinee performance was given today and the closing performance of the engagement here will be held this evening.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 14 [Monday, April 27, 1925], page 2, column 3; page 8, columns 2-4 [photograph – To Be Seen In Springtime – bridesmaids performers]

ANNOUNCE CAST OF 'SPRINGTIME'

Musical Comedy to Be Given This Week At Colonial

The cast of "springtime," [a] musical comedy to be presented Wednesday and Thursday evenings at the Colonial theatre, was announced today.

Rehearsals for the play are being held both afternoons and evenings and a finished production is looked forward to. The show is being presented by the Woman's club, the John B. Rogers Producing company directing.

"Springtime" is a romantic story that covers two periods of time. Costuming will conform to the vogue of the period that is being portrayed.

The cast follows:

Priscilla, Mrs. Ellen Andrews; Elvira, Miss Florentine Beering; Primorse, Miss Jane O'Neil; Zenabia, Mrs. H.W. Martin; Abigail, Mrs. Harold Sandercock; Joyce, Miss Clara Rahoi; Desiree, Miss Rose Philips; Sue, Miss Mae Selley; Thankful, Miss Alice Meighen; Mrs. Erkins, Mrs. A.G. Buchman; Jack Wainwright, Donnell Anderson; Bobby Brewster, Henry Burton;

James Brewster, Ned Dundon; Tom Higgins, Morris Clauson; Parsons, Leo Lefebvre; Rainbow soloist, Miss Carpenter.

Master Jack, Robert Brauns; Priscilla, Catherine Gensch; Daisy, Coral Obermeyer; Vera, Elizabeth Richards.

Bridesmaids – Gwendolyn Skeels, Edna Hanna, C. Elliott, Lois Straub, Winifred Kingsford, Merle Malin, Babe Eisele and Mrs. Disher.

Wedding Guests – Jovan Basso, Ruth Vincent, Freda Peterson, Gladys Peterson, Marguerite Wallace and Lillian Williams.

Jury – Carmen Conte, Dorothy E. Bonen, Marie Zonomski, Maxine Elliott, Elizabeth Ahrens, Lucile Payant, Audrey Hess, Esther DuChaine, Grace Spencer, Jean Cudlip, Helen Reigart, Avis Anderson, Ardelle Mahoney, Helen Larkin and Myrtle Beard.

Playmates – Jeane Parmelee, Martha Thompson, Guenivere Schenl; Leslie Coffin, John Reigart, Josephine Benzo, Maxine Tomilson, Jeane Oliver, Viola Feracca, R.F. Raidle, Billie Seaman, Robert Parmelee, Elizabeth McCamant, Kathryn King, Dorothy Parent, Betty Parent, Bobby Eisele, Dickie Boll, Jean Drury, Jeannett Will and Robert Pearce.

Guest girls – Claire Boyle, Marbell Peterson, Dorothy Coffin, Eleanor Van Laanen, Marjorie Taylor and Helen Richards.

Memories – Clare Unger, Alfie Malmberg, Lorrene Tollen, Naomi Holland, Lenora Nelson, Audrey Hess, Erna Hess and Dorothy Bonen.

Futurists – John D. Boyle, Ernest Brown, Wallace Wedin, Lester Goodney, John Richards, Clyde Detra, Edgar Erickson, Edward McKelvy, Philip P. James, Orville Hitchens and Marshall Barkhurst.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5,

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Number 15 [Tuesday, April 28, 1925],
page 3, column 2

GOOD SEAT SALE FOR 'SPRINGTIME'

Woman's Club Show to Be Presented Tomorrow Evening

The advance ticket sale for "Springtime", the musical comedy which will be presented tomorrow and Thursday nights at the Colonial theatre under the auspices of the Woman's club, is growing rapidly and indications point to two capacity houses.

Rehearsals, which have been under the direction of Miss Mary Jane Casey, of the John b. Rogers Producing company, have been in progress for three weeks. More than 200 persons are included in the cast. The show has been presented in several nearby Wisconsin towns with great success but this will be its first presentation in the upper peninsula.

Additional members of the cast announced today are as follows:

Wedding soloist – Johanna Clifford.

Maids of honor and best men – Elsa Miller, Anna Goodrich, Eleanor Blixt, Adele Verville, Robert Steven and Emerson McGrath.

Society group – Antonette Van Laanen, Marjory Unger, Edith Levy, Irene Harvey, Gladys Gemlick, Edith Bennett, Olga Tramontine, Bernice Quinlan, Bert Harvey, Leo Lefebvre, William Bennett, William Sanderson, Morris Clausen, John Boyle, John Richards and H.W. Martin.

Flower girls – Joyce Israelson, Martha Betty Travis, Mary Alice King, Mary

Hanchette, Mary Jane Peterson and Helen McNichols.

Mardi Gras – Claire Boyle, Mabelle Peterson, Dorothy Coffin, Eleanor Van Laanen, Helen Richards, Clare Unger, Lorrene Tollen, Naomie Holland and Lenora Nelson.

Pillow bearers – Martin Travis and Russell Hanchette.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 16 [Wednesday, April 29, 1925], page 2, columns 4-5

CLUB SHOW TO OPEN TONIGHT

"Springtime" Due Then Anyway, If It Isn't Here Otherwise.

Indications today were that a packed house will greet the opening presentation at the Colonial this evening of "Springtime," the home talent production put on under the auspices of the Woman's club.

A novelty touch to home talent productions will be the sale of candy between the acts by high school students. The girls will pass through the aisles and distribute the candy to those desiring to make the purchase. Mayhap they'll also do a little sales talking in the old approved fashion.

The story of the play covers a period of more than 50 years and deals with the blighted romance of a scion of 1864 aristocracy and the daughter of the founder of the famous Brewster Pills. Their hopes are realized as nearly as possible in the marriage of their grandchildren in 1924.

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Special scenery and costumes have been provided for the show by the John B. Rogers Production company.

One of the features of the first act is the wedding scene in 1864, the solo part being taken by Miss Johanna Clifford. A group of 20 children dance and sing in the second act and in addition to a solo dance by Miss May Seely and the Spirits of Memory dance.

The third act depicts a temple of fun, a rag time *[sic – ragtime]* jury in a court of love ending a hilarious mardi gras *[sic – Mardi Gras]* party.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 42 [Friday, May 29, 1925], page 6, column 4

Contract Signed For Amateur Show

The Knights of Columbus have entered into a contract with the LaGrande Sisters Productoin *[sic – Production]* company for the presentation of another home talent show, "Apple Blossom Time," which will be given at the Colonial theatre December 3 and 4, it was announced today.

The same company staged the "Doings of the Bowsers" for the organization last February. The new show is heralded to be even better than the last one. The sisters will take part in the production.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, _____ Year, Number _____ [Wednesday, July 29, 1935], page 3, column 1

COLONIAL TO BE REOPENED AFTER

BEING IMPROVED

Braumart Will Also Undergo Extensive Remodeling Program

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

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

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. 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 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.

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 with 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 Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain-Kingsford, Dickinson County, Michigan, 32nd Year, Number 38 [Saturday, May 24, 1952], page 3, column 1

Thomas Co. To Construct New Drive-In

Bids for the construction of a 400-car drive-in motion picture theater on property situated near the intersection of highway US-2-141, southeast of the city, by the Thomas Theater Co., Inc., of Iron Mountain, will be accepted not later than June 15 at the company's offices, in this city, Martin D. Thomas, president, announced here today.

Plans, Thomas said, call for completion of the theater by Aug. 1 of this year, when it will be opened to the public. This is the program announced a few years ago by the company president, but which, he said

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

yesterday, was halted by government restrictions on theater-building. "These restrictions have now been lifted," Thomas said, "and we are ready to go ahead."

The 40-acre tract purchased by the company is situated just east of the highway intersection, where US-141 cuts off to Niagara, Wis. As quickly as the contract is awarded, grading of the tract will be started in preparation for the installation of equipment.

"We believe there is a demand for an out-door theater in this area," Thomas said, "and we plan to make it a good one – modern in every respect."

Another Development

Beginning Wednesday, June 4, the Thomas Theater Company will also take over full operation of theaters in Iron Mountain and elsewhere in which, for the past 15 years, the Fox-Wisconsin Amusement Enterprise Corporation, of Milwaukee, has been associated with the Thomas company. Besides the Braumart and Colonial, in Iron Mountain, this development affects also theaters in the Copper Country and in Stevens Point and Janesville, Wis.

In addition to the above-mentioned houses, Thomas Theaters also operates theaters in Ironwood, Menominee, Marinette and Hurley, Wis., and has interest in theaters at Madison, Wis. In all, the Iron Mountain company either operates, itself, or is associated with others in about 20 theaters throughout upper Michigan and Wisconsin.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain,
Dickinson County, Michigan, _____
Year, Number _____ [Tuesday,
December 16, 1952], page 2, column 3

Colonial To Reopen On

December 25

Frank Osteroth, of Hancock, a veteran of the Korean war, has been named manager of the Iron Mountain Colonial theater, which will be reopened to the public on Christmas Day. The theater was closed last June.

Mr. Osteroth, a graduate of Painesdale high school, entered the service on Sept. 26, 1950. He was trained at camps in this country and then was sent to Korea, where he fought with the 45th Infantry Division.

He was returned to the United States under the rotation plan and given his honorable discharge on Sept. 26, 1952, at Fort Custer. He was a corporal in the medical corps of the 45th division when discharged.

Starts Training

Mr. Osteroth then went to work for the Thomas Theater company, which assigned him to Hancock for training in preparation for his new assignment here.

He is now in Iron Mountain for the final stages of his training before taking charge, on Dec. 25, of the Colonial.

He today announced that he would introduce a double-feature policy at the theater, with the show bills changed three times weekly. The theater will be open every night and for matinees on Saturdays and Sundays.

Redecorating and cleaning of the theater was started today under the supervision of Mr. Osteroth.

COOTWARE'S MOVIE THEATER Bostrom Building, Norway

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain,
Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15,
Number 36 [Thursday, January 26,
1911], page 3, column 3

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

NORWAY NEWS NUGGETS

Elmer Cootware will start a moving picture show about the 10th of next month up-stairs [*sic – upstairs*] in the Bostrom building.

CUCULI'S OPERA HOUSE

Channing

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 20, Number 17 [Thursday, September 9, 1915], page 4, columns 2-4

CHIPS FROM CHANNING

Cuculi's opera house and dance hall has been completed and the grand opening will be held this (Thursday) evening. Good music will be furnished and a cordial invitation is extended to all to attend.

...

John Cuculi, one of the progressive citizens, has built an opera house. The building is 36x56 feet on the foundations with fourteen-foot studdings. The stage is 32x10 feet in size. Mr. Cuculi will install an electric lighting plant. A grand opening will be given tonight.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 21, Number 40 [Thursday, February 15, 1917], page 4, column 1

CHIPS FROM CHANNING.

John Cuculi has purchased and will install a Delco lighting plant, for use in illuminating his residence and opera house,

and also to furnish light to operate his moving picture machine.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 21, Number 42 [Thursday, March 1, 1917], page 4, column 1

CHIPS FROM CHANNING.

John Cuculi has installed his new Delco lighting system in his opera house and will have no trouble with the movies from now on.

FLANAGAN BLOCK

**425 South Stephenson Avenue
Iron Mountain**

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 8, Number 40 [Thursday, February 25, 1904], page 1, column 4

BIG BLAZE LAST NIGHT

Flanagan Building Totally Destroyed – Heavy Losses.

At an early hour this morning the Flanagan building at the corner of Stephenson avenue and East A street was almost completely destroyed by fire.

The building was occupied by Kurz Brothers, the well-known horse dealers, as a carriage, cutter and harness depot; L.N. Richard, barber shop, and A.I. Khoury, confectionery dealers.

The total loss is in the neighborhood of \$9,000. The loss of Kurz Brothers is between \$3,500 and \$4,000, with \$2,000

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

insurance; L.N. Richards, loss \$400, no insurance; A.I. Khoury, loss unknown, insurance, estimated at \$900; loss on building, owned by Judge Flanagan, of Sagola, estimated at \$4,000, no insurance.

The building was one of the first erected in Iron Mountain and was for many years used as a variety theatre.

IDLE HOUR THEATRE

Sagola

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 21, Number 43 [Thursday, March 8, 1917], page 5, column 3

SAGOLA NEWS GOSSIP

James Anderson, of Channing, will give a stereopticon and moving picture show at the Idle Hour Theatre next Saturday evening.

...

The Idle Hour Theatre, under the management of the Maccabees, is putting on two good movie shows each week, on Tuesday and Saturday nights. The Universal firms are now featured, and beginning April 10th the Vitagraph films will be shown also.

LIBERTY THEATRE

Channing

Iron Mountain Daily News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 1, Number 11 [Friday, April 22, 1921], page 3, column 2

NEW THEATRE AT CHANNING OPENED

With a dance attended by 160 couples, the Liberty theatre at Channing was opened this week. Dancers were in attendance from all parts of Iron, Dickinson, and Marquette counties, according to Ed. Vermullen, manager. Johnson's orchestra, of Escanaba, furnished music.

The new theatre is a large one, 800 seats being provided. The seats are removable, allowing the floor to be cleared for a dance hall, as was done at the opening. Several late motion picture features have been booked for showings in the near future, Mr. Vermullen declared.

MARION THEATER/HALL

**Marion Higgie and J.E. Becknell,
Proprietors**

**207 East Hughitt Street
Iron Mountain**

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 16, Number 22 [Thursday, October 19, 1911], page 1, column 1

New Theatre.

J.E. Becknell, who has been conducting the Bijou for several years, is arranging to open a new popular price theatre. He has leased the building on East Hughitt street lately occupied by J.F. Cowling and will remodel the same at once. The place is conveniently located for theatre purposes. Mr. Becknell's management at the Bijou has been very successful and he proposes to make the new house a model from the point of safety.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 16,

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Number 24 [Thursday, November 1, 1911], page 1, column 1

Our New Theatre.

J.E. Becknell, who will open the new theatre in the Mitchell building on East Hguhitt [*sic* – *Hughitt*] street, has let the contract for the improvements. The second floor is to be removed and replaced with an arched steel ceiling. A balcony will be erected over the main entrance. It is also proposed to strengthen the building and provide roomy and safe exits. Mr. Becknell declares that he will have one of the best arranged and safest playhouse [*sic* – *playhouses*] in the upper peninsula.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 16, Number 24 [Thursday, November 1, 1911], page 4, column 2

BRIEF CITY NEWS.

Architect Parmelee is at work on the plans for the new popular price theatre which J.E. Becknell will open in the Mitchell building on East Hughitt street. The plans call for a new front of a tasty design. Mr. Becknell expects to open up, [*sic*] the latter part of the month.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 16, Number 26 [Thursday, November 16, 1911], page 1, column 2

“The Marion.”

The photo play-house [*sic* – *playhouse*] on east [*sic* – *East*] Hughitt street, which is soon to open under the management of Marion Higgie and J.E. Becknell, has been

named “The Marion.” This name was selected by the judges from a total list of 147 names, which were suggested by the contestants. The prize of \$25.00 was awarded to Hugo Ohmen, one of the three selecting the same name, and won by drawing lots.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 16, Number 26 [Thursday, November 16, 1911], page 5, column 5

The work of remodeling the Mitchell building on East Hughitt street for theatrical purposes is progressing rapidly under the direction of Architect Parmelee. Plans call for a tasty front and interior decoration. Manager Becknell has given Mr. Parmelee a free hand, only requesting that it be made safe and sanitary correct [*sic*].

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 16, Number 29 [Thursday, December 7, 1911], page 1, column 4

The Marion.

The work of converting the Mitchell building on E [*sic* – *E.*] Hughitt street into a picture theatre is progressing at a rapid rate. A dozen or more men are employed in the work and “The Marion” should be ready for dedication in the course of two weeks. An agreeable surprise awaits the public at “The Marion.” It will be one of the neatest and best arranged theatres in Michigan with a seating capacity of about four hundred. The house is well provided with exits and could be emptied in a couple of moments, and in addition the sanitation is all that could be desired.

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

*Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain,
Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 16,
Number 33 [Thursday, January 4, 1912],
page 1, column 4*

A Handsome Play-House.

The Marion, the new photo-play-house, was opened to the public for the first time last Saturday night. The seating capacity of the theatre is four hundred twenty-five and the attendance was so great that the proprietors, Marion Higgin and J.E. Becknell, found it necessary to give three shows instead of two, as was at first planned. During each show the house was filled to its capacity, which means that over twelve hundred people were in attendance on the opening night. The little Gerry sisters, of Chicago, aged seven and five years, furnished one of the leading features in their singing act, which brought forth encore after encore from the well-pleased audience. Taken all in all, the opening night of The Marion was a grand success and the management is deserving of great credit for supplying a new and up-to-date place of amusement for the public. The theatre is one of the best arranged and safest in the north country. Extra attention has been given to sanitation. Juvenile attendants are assured of the close personal supervision of the proprietors.

*Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain,
Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 17,
Number 45 [Thursday, March 27, 1913],
page 1, column 2*

Handsome New Curtain.

A new gold fibre [*sic – fiber*] picture curtain has been installed at the Marion theatre[.] The curtain is something new and makes it possible to show moving pictures

by daylight or in a well-lighted hall at night. Only one curtain of this kind is sold in any one place. Manager Becknell has the exclusive right to use the curtain in this city.

*The Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain,
Dickinson County, Michigan, _____
Year, Number _____ [Monday, October
17, 1921], page 2, column 2*

MARION HALL NOW ATTRACTIVE PLACE

New Floor Has Been Laid, and Interior Completely Refinished.

Those who have attended dances at Marion hall since it has been remodeled declare that it is now one of the best, if not the best, dance halls on the range.

Remodeling was started over a month ago and completed within the past two weeks. A new hardwood floor has been laid, the stage enlarged and extended, the entire interior whitewashed and repainted and dressing rooms equipped for ladies and gentlemen. Storm doors have been installed at the entrance for cold weather.

The interior walls are finished in blue, as is the proscenium arch. A balcony, finished in gold, adorns each side of the stage. The latter has been enlarged sufficiently to accommodate an orchestra.

The new floor, large enough to accommodate 50 couples comfortably, has been surfaced and waxed until it has been pronounced the best in this vicinity. Chairs are provided around the sides.

The balcony provides a place for those who do not care to dance but to watch those who do. It, too, has been provided

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

with chairs. A passageway leads from the balcony to the dressing rooms, which are located on the second floor of the building next to the theatre. The partition which was formerly under the balcony has been removed, allowing considerably more space on the dance floor.

Furnishing of the new hall has been attractively done. Cretonne curtains cover doors and windows. An illuminated sign to the left of the stage announces the different dances, while a more or less lifelike representation of the moon furnishes illumination for the "moonlight" dances.

Three dances have already been held in the new hall, and the Mason school of dancing and expression has sessions every Monday, under the direction of Miss Frances Mason.

MARY ANNE THEATRE

**Corner of West Hughitt and Stockbridge
Avenue
Iron Mountain**

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain,
Dickinson County, Michigan, _____
Year, Number _____ [Wednesday, June
18, 1924], page 1, columns 2-3

Drawing Plans For Theatre Building on Hughitt Street

Kansas City Investment Company Back of New Project Here

Plans for a new moving picture theatre building to be located at the corner of West Hughitt and Stockbridge avenue are being drawn by F.E. and G.F. Parmelee, architects, for the F. Bustler Investment

company, of Kansas City, Mo., it was announced [*sic – announced*] today.

The building will be 58x113 feet and of brick fireproof construction. It will be two stories in height, with two stores and a barber shop on the first floor and living quarters on the second.

Construction work will start within two weeks, it was said. The estimated cost of the building is \$25,000, not including the theatre equipment.

The theatre is to be operated by the Bustler company in which it was said, two brothers are associated. The plans are to be finished within a week.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain,
Dickinson County, Michigan, _____
Year, Number _____ [Thursday, July 3,
1924], page 1, column 1

THEATRE WORK STARTS MONDAY

Plans For New Structure Completed, Bustler Declares

Excavation work for the Mary Anne theatre building, which will be located on the corner of West Hughitt street and Stockbridge avenue, will begin Monday, it was said today by Frank Bustler, member of the firm of the Bustler Investment company, of Kansas City, Mo.

Plans and specifications on the structure are completed, according to Mr. Bustler, who said that the building will be 58 feet wide and 116 feet long. The cost of the combination theatre and store building will amount to \$55,000.

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

The structure will be built out of red fireproof brick with three fronts facing Hughitt street. The foyer, leading to the auditorium in the rear of the building, will also be in the front.

The second floor of the building will be divided into apartments, which are to be equipped with all modern conveniences.

The auditorium of the theatre will occupy a space approximately 75x58 feet. It will have a seating capacity of 625 and is to be an exclusive moving picture house. It is estimated that \$20,000 will be expended on equipment.

NORWAY OPERA HOUSE

**Main Street (Old Town)
Norway**

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume III, Number 35 [Saturday, September 1, 1883], page 1, column 6

FIRE AT NORWAY.

On Wednesday morning at about 2 o'clock a fire broke out at John O'Callaghan's Opera House, at the foot of Main Street, which had just been fitted up, and opened as a roller skating rink. The blaze spread unimpeded to adjoining buildings and consumed in short order William Dickie's livery, Lieverthal's clothing store, and the old Nicholson drug store, which contained some stock. The loss is estimated at \$25,000, with small insurance. The origin of the fire is shrouded in mystery.

The Current, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume I, Number 11 [Saturday, April 18, 1885], page 1, column 2

Bidders for possession of the opera house were extremely numerous last evening, the township board being deluged with proposals. Wm. Whalen was awarded the lease at \$48 per month.

...

Some of our prominent citizens are talking of erecting a large building on the old opera house site. The building, if erected, will be 46x100 feet, one story with a 20-foot ceiling, and is intended for a beer hall, concert room, roller rink, opera house, dance hall, or anything that the necessities may require the people and the people are willing to pay for. The scheme will probably take definite shape in a day or two, and if the parties interested conclude to build, the new structure will be completed and opened to the public by July 4th.

The Current, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume I, Number 12 [Saturday, April 25, 1885], page 1, column 1

The painters are now busy at work putting the finishing touches on the opera house.

The Current, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume I, Number 24 [Saturday, July 18, 1885], page 1, column 1

The painting of the opera house is finished.

The Current, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume I, Number 29 [Saturday, August 22, 1885], page 1, column 1

The council chamber, in the opera house building, has been tastefully furnished, the handiwork of that eminent

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

artist, J.B. Knight. It certainly presents a very inviting appearance.

...

Our readers should bear in mind the supper and entertainment to-night [*sic – tonight*] at the opera house for the benefit of the M.E. church. Supper served at six o'clock, entertainment begins at eight.

The Current, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume I, Number 50 [Saturday, January 16, 1886], page 1, column 1

A social hop was had at the Opera Hall last night, which, considering the notice given, was a success in every respect. About a dozen couples were present from Iron Mountain and Quinnesec, and every one [*sic – everyone*] seemed to have a good time. Come again, ladies and gentlemen, but give the committee [*sic – committee*] some idea next time as to how many are coming, and you shall not go away hungry.

The Current, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume II, Number 45 [Saturday, December 4, 1886], page 1, column 2

–The Town Hall is being thoroughly repaired and renovated by Mr. Hall, and t. Harper is building a new stage therein. Appropriate scenery has been ordered, and it will be put in as soon as it arrives. This will give Norway as fine an outfit for the accommodation of home talent or traveling troupes as any on the range, and will fill a long felt want.

The Current, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume II, Number 47 [Saturday, December 18, 1886], page 1, column 3

–The work on the new stage and scenery at the Opera Hall is almost completed, and it is thought everything will be done in time for the Abbie Carrington entertainment on the 22d. [*sic*]

The Current, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume II, Number 49 [Saturday, January 1, 1887], page 1, column 2

–Those who may desire the use of Opera Hall are requested to call on or write to the managers, Messrs. R.M. Sampson and Anton Odill [*sic – O'Dill*].

The Current, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume III, Number 11 [Saturday, April 16, 1887], page 1, column 2

–The show business has opened up in a manner which promises to make it profitable for the leasers of Opera Hall, Messrs. Sampson & Odill [*sic – O'Dill*]. We shall be pleased to note their success.

–On Saturday next, April 23rd, there will be a dance at Opera Hall, and a raffle for a horse afterwards. Music will be furnished by the Norway orchestra, and a good time may be expected.

The Current, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume III, Number 14 [Saturday, May 7, 1887], page 1, column 2

–The Social hop at Opera Hall on Saturday night was a very enjoyable affair. The horse raffled by Mr. Frank Ahlich was won by Capt. William Ross, who will keep it for his own use.

PALACE THEATER
600 Block, Main Street

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Norway

Museum Musings, Jake Menghini Museum,
807 Chestnut Street, Norway, Michigan,
July 17, 2002

By **BILL VANWOLVELAERE**
For The Current

Today they are an endangered species, but at one time every community had a family theater. Norway had the Rialto, Niagara, the Our Theater. In Iron Mountain you could see a movie at the Braumart or the Colonial. For a reasonable price you could take your family to the cinema, or send the kids when parents needed a break.

Norway's movie house was found in the 600 block of Main, the present location of the Norway Senior Citizens' Center.

In 1924 in the era of silent films Tedeodore Sophie came to Norway from Oak Park, Illinois, and together with Theophil Vandenberg[,], of Norway[,], purchased the existing Palace Theater from the Bergeron family. Renovation began immediately and the name was changed to the Rialto Theater.

A \$15,000 Wurlitzer organ was purchased and an entertainer from Chicago was hired to play the instrument. Employees at the time were: Louis Van Wolvelaere, projectionist; Nellie Powers, cashier; John Eklund and Art Salina were the ushers.

Disaster struck one early December morning in 1929. Emil Eklund, a night watchman for the Penn Mining Company at the West Vulcan mine, spotted fire at 3:20 a.m. from his elevated position and called the Norway Fire Dept. They made the four block run down Main in record time. As they hooked up the four hoses to nearby hydrants, sheets of fire were breaking through the roof. There was concern for

the movie house as well as adjoining buildings.

The origin of the fire was believed to be electrical, starting on the south wall switch box working its way up to the attic where it fed on dry rafters and tar paper. Lost in the fire was the \$15,000 Wurlitzer, but the heroics of fire department personnel saved several cases of explosive film as well as some expensive equipment.

Proprietor Vandenberg in appreciation wrote: "Every member of the Norway Fire Dept. has my sincere thanks for the efforts extended at the time of the theatre fire of Monday morning. Each man worked like a veteran at the game. Special thanks [to] Chief Dave Martin and Frank Heydens and I voice my satisfaction and give them praise for their labor. But for these two men who entered the picture booth; [sic - ,] the various machinery would have been totally ruined and I am truly grateful."

During the course of the fire, a number of vehicles were removed from the Rialto Garage, located south of [the] Rialto at the present location of [the] Credit Union. Firemen and volunteers prevented the fire from reaching the garage. On the north wall, Combs Barber Shop and second-story rooms of Sophie and Vandenberg were damaged, but not destroyed.

Total loss was estimated at \$43,950, half covered by insurance. Plans were made to rebuild.

REX THEATRE

**Corner of Breen Avenue and Hooper
Street,
Breitung
Kingsford**

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain,
Dickinson County, Michigan, _____
Year, Number _____ [Tuesday, April,

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

14, 1936], page 5, columns 6-8 [Grand
Opening Advertisement]

GRAND OPENING

REX THEATRE

Located at corner of Breen Ave. and
Hooper St., Breitung

Wed., Thurs., Friday, April 15, 16 and 17

Showing “HEADLINE WOMAN”
AND THREE SHORT FEATURES

SPONSORED BY BERT CARPENTER POST
DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS

TWO SHOWS DAILY 7 AND 9 O’CLOCK – PRICE
15c

Matinee for Childred at 4 O’clock Daily –
Price 5c

RIALTO THEATRE

Main Street
Norway

The Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain,
Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 4,
Number 302 [Monday, April 6, 1925],
page 6, column 1

RIALTO THEATRE TO INSTALL ORGAN

Contracts for Wurlitzer
Instrument; Re-decor-
ating Started

The management of the Rialto theatre
has entered into a contract for the
installation of a Wurlitzer pipe organ at the
cost of approximately \$13,000, it was
announced today by Gust Sophie,
manager.

The organ, which is known as the
Wurlitzer Hope-Jones Unit orchestra, *[sic]*
will be played here for the first time on June
15, the time called for in the contract.
Manufacture of the organ was started today
in the Wurlitzer factory at Chicago. The
contract was closed Saturday with the
McLogan-Pearce Music company.

The organ will consist of approximately
550 pipes, ranging in length from four to 16
feet, and will be equipped with facilities to
produce 42 different effects. Practically
every instrument known to music in addition
to a number of effects such as whistles,
horse hoofs, electric door bell, etc. can be
produced on it.

The unit will be installed in the northeast
corner of the theatre and will be especially
constructed for that part of the showhouse
[sic – show house]. It will be concealed
behind the stage with only the front part
visible to the audience. Miss Julia Sphe,
daughter of one of the Rialto owners, and
Miss *[sic – Mrs.]* Reginald Quayle will be
trained as organists. Miss Sophie will leave
for Chicago soon to study under a capable
instructor. Mrs. Quayle will be tutored by
the organist who will play the Wurlitzer
instrument at the Braumart theatre in Iron
Mountain, where a similar unit is now being
installed.

Interior decorations costing several
thousand dollars were started today at the
showhouse *[sic – show house]*. An
illuminated dome center piece, which will be
suspended from the center of the ceiling,
will cost approximately \$1,000. That part of
the ceiling not covered by the dome will be
decorated in beautiful scenic designs while

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

the walls will undergo similar improvements.

According to the manager of the Rialto, it is the intention to give Norway an excellent theatre. Only the best feature pictures are being booked for the next several months.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 44 [Tuesday, June 2, 1925], page 6, column 1

PIPE ORGAN TO BE READY SOON

Big Wurlitzer Instrument Expected Here Today Or Tomorrow

The \$12,000 Wurlitzer pipe organ which the Rialto theatre ordered two months ago is expected to arrive here today or tomorrow. An entire freight car is required to transport the instrument.

Two factory representatives will supervise the installation of the organ which will be placed in the northeast corner of the theatre. The room where the organ will be installed has already been prepared.

The Rialto also received assurances yesterday that the Wurlitzer company will furnish an expert organist for the first week. According to the contract entered into between the theatre and Wurlitzer people, the instrument must be installed by June 15.

Theodore Sophie, manager of the theatre, has arranged an excellent program for the opening week. The feature attraction will be an organ recital. "The Thief of Bagdad," featuring Douglas

Fairbanks, has also been booked for the three opening nights in addition to other novelties.

Miss Julia Sophie, who has been in Chicago taking lessons in playing the organ, will arrive home next week.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 216 [Wednesday, December 23, 1925], page 10, column 5

FOOD POURS IN AT MATINEE TO FILL BASKETS

Benefit Performance Is Success; Aid For 30 Families

The attendance at the matinee at the Rialto theatre yesterday afternoon made certain that the poor of Norway and Vulcan will be provided with Christmas cheer. A packed house attended the show, which was given to raise funds and collect food for destitute families.

Cash receipts totalled *[sic – totaled]* more than \$10 and food donations amounted to more than 200 items. Contributions to the Christmas baskets included candy, cookies, jelly, jams, fruit, canned goods, and vegetables.

More than 30 families will be provided with a real Christmas dinner as a result of the matinee. The cash taken in at the door and money donated by club members will be used to buy the meat roast for each needy family.

Some of the baskets were to be delivered this afternoon and others will be

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

distributed tomorrow. Mrs. Henry Ebeling, chairman of the committee of the Woman's club, which is sponsoring the distribution of baskets, stated that she had the names of 30 families to whom the baskets would be given. Families whose names have not been turned in should be reported not later than tonight to either Mrs. James O'Callaghan, president, or Mrs. Ebeling.

"We are very grateful to Mr. Sohie for turning over the theatre to the Woman's club in order that we could raise funds and collect food for our poor," Mrs. O'Callaghan said today. "It was Mr. Sophie's generosity that will enable the club to provide Christmas cheer to needy families."

The Current, Norway, Dickinson County,
Michigan, Volume ____, Number ____
[Friday, December 20, 1929], page ____,
column ____

Rialto Theatre Gutted in Early

**\$40,000 IS LOSS
SAY SOPHIE AND
VANDENBERGH**

Plan to Rebuild The Showhouse At Earliest

The Rialto Theatre, Norway movie picture show house, was destroyed by fire at an early hour Monday morning, causing a loss estimated at over \$40,000.

The blaze was discovered by Emil Eklund, a night watchman and police officer of the Penn Mining Co., who from his

elevated position at the West Vulcan property perceived the fire from that point. The hour was about 3:20[.] Eklund phoned to the fire department and the half dozen volunteer firemen were roused from their slumbers and on their way, making the short run of four blocks down [the] street in record time.

The fire had gained great headway, [sic] before their arrival, however, as through the roof great sheets of flame emitted. Hose connections were quickly made and four streams of water were directed on the fire. The pumper, stationed at the hydrant at [the] corner of Iron and Raymond streets, worked to perfection. Hose lines also extended from the Standard Oil station corner and another from Hall's Plumbing shop corner.

ORIGIN MYSTERY

The origin of the fire remains a mystery, but it is the belief of Mgr. VandenBergh [sic] that it started at the switch boxes just off the stage on the south wall of the building, at least it was in that section where the greatest inroad of the fire showed. It worked up into the attic where dry joists and beams and a tar paper roof proved ready prey, and within a couple of hours all that showed of the lower half of the structure was the walls.

One of the first tasks was to forestall a possible explosion in the movie picture booth and several cases of films were sought and removed outside. Fire Chief David Martin and Frank Heydens braved the deadly fumes around the "coop" up front and due to their heroic labors, costly machinery, though somewhat damaged, was saved.

SAVE CARS

The Rialto Garage, conducted by E.O. Hellberg and adjoining on the south, had a number of autos stored therein and for fear that the blaze would spread to it, all of the cars were shoved outside and parked for a

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

couple of blocks up and down the street. Efficient work of firemen[,] whose force was augmented by other volunteers to the number of twenty or so, kept the flames from spreading to the garage block, however.

Coombe's barber shop, adjoining the north wall[,] was somewhat head occupied by Theo. Sophie, damage therein but rooms over-smoked up and there was no co-partner with VandenBergh, was somewhat damaged. *[sic – lines inverted – was somewhat damage(d) therein but rooms overhead occupied by Theo. Sophie, co-partner with VandenBergh, was somewhat damaged.]* Messrs. VandenBergh and Sophie, in a check-up, figure their fire loss to be \$43,950 and carried insurance of about one-half this amount.

It is their intention to rebuild.

The Current, Norway, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume ____, Number ____
[Friday, January 17, 1930], page ____, column ____

New Theatre

Today the Parmalee architects are to deliver plans for the new Rialto theatre building which will be placed in the hands of contractors. As soon as bids are in, and the lowest selected, construction work will be started. It is expected to re-open about the middle of March.

In discussing the reconstruction following the disastrous fire of a few weeks ago, Theodore Sophie said today, "we are going to take out the wall back of the barber shop between the bowling alley and the theatre. Then we are going to make the stage wider. Seats are going to be the new upholstered type. We've also going to have

rheostatic changable *[sic – changeable]* lights for our stage effects. A new style curtain will also be installed. The latest voicophone *[sic – voiceophone]* equipment has been ordered and it will be equipped with new style speakers. Rest rooms, too, will add to the comfort of patrons. Ventilation has not always been what it should be in the past, and we are also going to get the best we can in that line.

"All told we are going to have one of the best little show houses in a city the size of Norway to be found anywhere in Michigan."

The Current, Norway, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume ____, Number ____
[Friday, January 31, 1930], page ____, column ____

'BIGGER & BETTER THAN EVER' SHOW TO BE READY SOON

Reconstruction Work At The Rialto Theatre

Today a corps of workmen under Theodore Gustafson is busy renovating and rebuilding the Rialto theatre, which was gutted a few weeks ago, when fire of an unknown origin almost demolished the building. With the fire insurance settlement adjusted, plans completed by the Parmalees, and the workmen now busy, it is expected to reopen about the last week of March or the first week of April, according to Theodore Sophie.

New voiceophone equipment is to be installed but there will be no organ. "We are going to try a full orchestra when we re-

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

open,” said Mr. Sophie, “and this, with first class pictures, will tell us whether Norway is a good show town, and I really think that it is.”

“There will be no balcony in the new theatre but the main floor will be bigger. Every one of the 500 seats will be fully upholstered. In fact, we are leaving nothing undone to give comfort. The heating and cooling system is to be of the very latest design so that on the hottest evenings or the coldest winter nights patrons will be able to be entertained in comfort.

“Rugs will be laid in all the aisles and we are going to have a double lobby. This will prevent drafts in the rear seats. Ladies’ rest-rooms are to be provided. The walls and ceiling will be attractively decorated and the lighting fixtures are to have especial beauty.

“Needless to say the new screen and stage settings, which are to still be selected, will be in keeping with the rest of the house.

“Our new heating plant is to be put under the Rialto Barber shop and today they are preparing to lay the foundations for the walls that have to be rebuilt.

“Yes,” continued Mr. Sophie, “when we open up we’ll have a grand reunion of the Rialto orchestra, and we’ll get the best pictures we can, not only for that night, but for all the time.”

RUNDLE’S OPERA HOUSE

**105-107 West Ludington Street
Iron Mountain, Michigan**

By Myrtle (Thompson) Bartholomew

As far back as I can remember, 1896, “The Opera House” was the entertainment center of the community. It was not a real opera house with foyer and plush seats such as Calumet could boast, but a large

hall with a well-equipped stage above Rundle’s Hardware Store.

The building was on West Ludington Street, the site of the present post office. While the entrance to the store was on Ludington, you entered the opera house through a wide door facing Milwaukee *[sic – Merritt]* Avenue and the tracks.

There was no foyer, just a broad stairway you had to climb to reach the land of enchantment. At the door you presented your ticket and as it opened you faced the ornate curtain that would presently rise to reveal a scene from the romantic world of “East Lynn” or perhaps the sad views of “Uncle Tom’s Cabin.”

Traveling companies provided the theater with one-night stands and stock companies brought a repertoire of several plays, mostly romances, for a week of entertainment.

There were also variety shows of the vaudeville type. I remember being taken to a matinee on December 24, 1897. It was my first show where I heard new songs to banjo music and saw a little girl dance. Occasional home talent productions were presented. The most elaborate of these was the annual Elks’ Minstrel, always done in black face, which today would no doubt be banned. This was the night when the local young blades had an opportunity to exhibit singing and dancing talents and a chance to try their wit in the humor of the day, “roasting” prominent citizens to the delight of everyone except, of course, the victims.

But the Opera House served many purposes other than theatrical. There were occasional concerts and lectures to stimulate the cultural life and politicians “hired the hall” to announce and defend their platforms. It was here that the senior classes from the Hulst School celebrated their commencement exercises for youth and parents, a memorable event. In those

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

days, since there were no caps and gowns for the graduates, dress for graduation was of upmost *[sic – utmost]* importance. The class was seated on the stage in full view of their world. Actually, the classes were small, that of 1908 the largest to date with 25 members and the audience was not large. The program consisted of a lecture by a college professor, intended to inspire the youth and not always a success!

Finally, the opera house was the scene of the big social events of the year, the Easter Dance, the Elks' Ball and the big private parties. For this purpose the banks of seats were moved to the side walls, the floors cleaned and waxed, plants and color brought in to add glamour and the big hall became a ball room *[sic – ballroom]* ready for the arrival of society, young and old.

I wish I could tell you more about these parties but when my sister and brother were most actively involved I was still a little girl. I do remember the popular dance was the waltz and that my sister carried her dancing slippers in a silk bag and had a beautiful white fan I wasn't supposed to touch. Her escort arrived for her in a hired hack.

From 1912 on the opera house is only a memory to me. I had gone to college in 1909 and do not remember having ever gone to anything there since. Only, when I returned to Iron Mountain in 1923, I found that Rundle's was only a fine hardware store.

[Born From Iron, pp. 110-111]



Taken in the late 1890's or possibly the early 1900's, the camera faced northwest, showing several buildings on the north side of the 100 block. The rooftop in the left foreground was Rundle's Hardware Store and Opera House (on the second floor), 101-103 West Ludington Street. In 1902, the three buildings facing the camera, from left to right, were: 108, Daprato & Rigassi (John Daprato and Charles Rigassi), grocery store; 104-106, Thomas Williams, second-hand store; 102, Frank Parent, saloon. In the upper right the First Presbyterian Church can be seen at the northwest corner of West Brown Street and Carpenter Avenue. Across Carpenter Avenue at 118 West Brown Street is T.H. Byrne's meat market, housed in the two-story white building in 1892. *[Menominee Range Historical Museum]*



DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Rundle's Opera House was located on the second story of A.J. Rundle's hardware store, located at 105-107 West Ludington Street, where the Iron Mountain U.S. Post Office now stands. The raised area on the roof would have been used as "fly" space for scenery for theater productions. This photograph probably dates between 1900 and 1910. [Menominee Range Historical Museum]

The Menominee Range, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 2 [Thursday, April 4, 1889], page 1, column 5

WE are informed that Mr. Thomas Rundle contemplates making great improvements around his property, which is now occupied by the opera house and John Saving, the merchant tailor. The sidewalk on Ludington street will be raised several feet and carried right around to the entrance of the hall, while convenient steps from the main level of the street to the new side walk will make all parts of the building easy of access, at the same time considerably enhancing the value of the whole property.

The Menominee Range, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 3 [Thursday, April 11, 1889], page 1, column 3

QUITE a crowd of men and children were attracted to Rundle's opera house last Tuesday afternoon, when Hosking's little dray horse was led up the steps to be on hand to play his part in Kerry Gow in the evening. It was proposed to stable the horse for the time being over John Saving's [*sic – Savings*] tailor shop, but when it was suggested that John might object to have stable extract dripping down on to his

clothing, the animal was moved to a position where less harm was likely to follow.

The Menominee Range, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 3 [Thursday, April 11, 1889], page 1, column 5

Sitting in Rundle's opera house last Monday evening we noticed the number of business cards on the stage drop that are already out of date. It is not two years we think since this curtain was painted, yet ten of the advertisements already represent business houses that no longer exist[,] either having suspended entirely or changed hands. For instance: McLaughlin & Devere are no longer insurance agents, having been succeeded by the Menominee Range Insurance agency; T.B. Catlin sells groceries, fruits, candies, cigars, etc., instead of furniture; Laing Bros[.] are succeeded by Hoose & Waters; L.M. Hansen, not John Minnis, is proprietor of the Iron Mountain livery stable; Verhalen Bros. left Iron Mountain a year ago or more; instead of Rundle's Bros. it is now Thos. Rundle; instead of Robbins & Blackney, it is Blackney & Son; instead of Schuldes & Carriere it is C. Schuldes, and Lieberthal & Co. have no further use for an advertisement on Rundle's drop curtain, nor have Hathaway & Flatt.

The Menominee Range, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 6 [Thursday, May 2, 1889], page 1, column 3

THOMAS RUNDLE has two bill boards put up, one on the corner opposite his store and the other opposite the Chapin shops, which will be used to advertise troupes that are to appear in his opera house.

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

The Menominee Range, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 6 [Thursday, May 2, 1889], page 1, column 3

Beach and Bowers Minstrels.

The reputation this excellent troupe had already won in this city insured them a large house at Rundle's opera house last Monday evening. It is undoubtedly the best minstrel troupe that ever came to this city, and although it may be said, possibly, that Iron Mountain is a little slow on classic music, its citizens are always ready to attest their appreciation of negro minstrels.

The Menominee Range, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 6 [Thursday, May 2, 1889], page 1, columns 4-5

Richards' Musical Tourists.

We feel justified in saying that the above named company furnished last Saturday evening, in Rundle's opera house, the most thoroughly enjoyable entertainment ever witnessed in this city. Unfortunately they came here while the Catholic fair was on, and as the latter presented so many features in which a large portion of our people were deeply interested, the Tourists suffered in consequence. They played to a small house, but a more appreciative audience was never assembled in Iron Mountain. Every number on the programme received hearty applause, and the soloists, F.W. Walters, tenor; C. Laroy Millard, 1st bass; and Charles Noble, 2d [sic – 2nd] bass; [sic] were encored after each appearance. It is unnecessary to particularize; they were all first class. Miss Grace Holingsworth appeared in a duet with F.W. Walters, and also as Tresa Allcash, in

a burlesque of Misererie in III [sic – II] Trovatore. Millard was the comedian of the troupe and created mirth with every action. His representation of Le Barron Tei Monteig was simply immense. The second part of the programme, comprising dissolving views, several of the scenes accompanied by singing by the quartet, was an appropriate ending to a strictly first class musical entertainment. THE RANGE regrets that the troupe was not more liberally patronized. Too much encouragement cannot be given to this class of entertainments.

The Menominee Range, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 10 [Thursday, May 30, 1889], page 1, column 3

Law and Crime.

Judge C.B. Grant will address the people of this city on the above subject in Rundle's opera house next Sunday evening, and a cordial invitation is extended to every body [sic – everybody] to hear him. What the judge will have to say will be of interest to every citizen of this city, and the writer, having heard the judge talk before, can assure our readers that he will say it in an entertaining and pleasing manner. Turn out, and pack Rundle's opera house to its utmost capacity. Very likely this will be the last opportunity our people will have to hear Mr. Grant speak.

The Menominee Range, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 11 [Thursday, June 6, 1889], page 1, column 1

JUDGE GRANT found it necessary to stop twice during his discourse in Rundle's hall last Sunday evening, and tell the boys

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

in the gallery to keep still. The second time some shameless hoodlum, was trying to talk louder and faster than the judge himself. We suppose the time will never come when all boys will understand that it is an evidence of good breeding to maintain a respectful silence on such occasions.

The Menominee Range, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 11 [Thursday, June 6, 1889], page 1, column 4

Coming Attractions.

Next Thursday evening the popular actor, Newton Beers, who has already appeared before an Iron Mountain audience, will be at Rundle's opera house.

The attraction of the season for our Swedish citizens will be the Swedish octette [*sic – octet*] which will appear in Rundle's opera house July 2. This will probably be one of the finest entertainments ever given in this city, and will be enjoyed by our English and American born citizens as well [*as*] by the fair haired sons and daughters of the land of the midnight sun.

King & Franklin's colossal shows and wild west, [*sic*] will hold forth in this city in a canvas tent Friday, June 21. Their advertisement appears elsewhere.

Forepaugh's "best show on earth" will spread its tents in this city July 17.

Bristol's horse show will exhibit in Rundle's opera house the 17th and 18th of this month.

The Menominee Range, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 11 [Thursday, June 6, 1889], page 1, columns 4-5

Judge Grant's Talk.

Judge Grant, some two weeks ago, informed the writer hereof that he desired to talk to the people of this city upon the subject of Law and Crime, and with the assistance of several of our prominent citizens arrangements were made for him to address them in Rundle's opera house last Sunday evening. At the appointed time the hall was packed to its utmost capacity, both on the main floor and in the gallery, and probably 1000 [*sic – 1,000*] people assembled to hear what the learned judge had to say. A choir under the leadership of K.S. Buck sang the familiar hymn "Coronation," in which the audience was invited to join, followed by reading of the scripture and prayer by ***need to copy remainder of this article***

The Menominee Range, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 13 [Thursday, June 20, 1889], page 1, column 3

THE CITY.

A very neat and attractive Opera House programme has been issued from the Journal office, with O.F. Spencer as publisher.

The Menominee Range, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 13 [Thursday, June 20, 1889], page 1, column 3

Another Good One Coming.

From the notices of them that we see in our exchanges, we feel safe in assuring our readers that the Swedish octet, which are [*sic – is*] to appear in Rundle's opera house July 2, will be one of the most classic and pleasing musical entertainments ever given in this city. Certainly if they compare with

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

the Swedish Lady Quartet that traveled through the upper peninsula some years ago they are grand, and they have the reputation of being even superior to this first class troupe. Our Swedish citizens will undoubtedly appreciate this entertainment.

The Menominee Range, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 13 [Thursday, June 20, 1889], page 1, column 4

Two Good Entertainments.

The comic opera, *Erminie*, was presented at Rundle's opera house last Friday evening by the Andrews opera company. This is one of that class of entertainments that we like to see encouraged, and they were deserving of the crowded house that greeted them. The company is a strong one, and every character was well portrayed. The music was excellent and the songs sung by the Misses Nannie Wilkinson, Florence Clayton and Laura Rhodes provoked hearty applause, as did also the duets and choruses of the company. Manager Rundle has reason to feel gratified that he was able to give the people of our city such an excellent entertainment, and that in this case at least his efforts were appreciated.

Monday and Tuesday evenings Prof. D.M. Bristol's educated horses, mules and ponies appeared in Rundle's opera house and entertained the large audience with their wonderful and comical performances. It seems that these dumb animals can be educated to display such evidence of intelligence and to be under such complete control. The novelty of the performance naturally drew large and enthusiastic audiences and the animals received applause that would be flattering to any company of human actors.

The Menominee Range, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 13 [Thursday, June 20, 1889], page 8, column 1

That favorite actress, Nellie Waters, will appear at Rundle's Opera House on Saturday evening, June 22, in a particularly strong play entitled "Criss Cross." Miss Waters has played in this city a number of times, and needs no introduction to an Iron Mountain audience. Larger crowds have greeted her on each successive appearance. Her present support is said to be very strong, and we look for an immense audience Saturday evening.

The Menominee Range, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 14 [Thursday, June 27, 1889], page 1, column 4

Criss Cross.

Miss Nellie Walters, supported by an excellent company, entertained a large audience at Rundle's opera house last Saturday evening, in her characteristically pleasing manner. This charming actress has lost none of her vivacity since she entranced an Iron Mountain audience at this same opera house about a year ago. She labored under the disadvantage of a severe cold, which, however, did not apparently mar the excellence of her performance. *Criss Cross* is a play written especially for her, and affords an opportunity for the display of her talents in different character roles. The comments of the audience, when the curtain dropped on the last scene of the play, were such as indicated by their perfect enjoyment of the play.

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

The Menominee Range, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 14 [Thursday, June 27, 1889], page 1, column 4

THE Capt. Thomas Comedy Company, which was advertised to show in Polka Dot hall last Saturday, Monday and Tuesday evenings, had the funniest time on record. When they opened up the first evening they found that the Nellie Walters troupe had monopolized the amusement loving people of this city, so they closed up and went over to Rundle's opera house and bought six tickets for the entertainment themselves. Between the second and third acts the young ladies of the comedy company were introduced and gave an exhibition of their skill as performers on the cornet and trombone, and they played very well; however, it only served to draw a six dollar house Monday evening. Capt. Thomas' [*sic* – *Thomas*] concluded to make it a free show, and gave the tickets back to the audience, and invited them to come again the next evening, but the next evening nobody came. Capt. Thomas comedy seemingly does not strike the people as being so awfully comical.

The Menominee Range, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 19 [Thursday, August 1, 1889], page 1, column 2

TOM. RUNDLE, while digging a trench in front of his store during the storm last Saturday, had the misfortune to lose a diamond pin from his necktie.

THOS. RUNDLE has had a new sidewalk laid in front of his opera house, which is about four feet above the level of the street. The street, it is claimed, has been cut down below grade, but isn't Tommy's sidewalk a little above grade?

The Menominee Range, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 19 [Thursday, August 1, 1889], page 1, column 2

The Georgia Minstrels.

This famous troupe of course drew a crowded house at Rundle's opera house last Friday evening. The music was exceptionally fine, and there appeared to be nothing the matter with Billy Kersand's mouth. Will G. Huff gave a remarkable exhibition of his skill in playing the harmonica, extracting some of the sweetest music from it we ever heard from that instrument. Will Gauze in his impersonation of the Black Patti was immense. He possesses a soprano voice and acts the part of a black prima donna with wonderful fidelity to the character. The vestibule car porters and drum majors made a fine spectacle in their peculiar drill, and altogether the show was first class in every respect.

The Menominee Range, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 19 [Thursday, August 1, 1889], page 1, column 3

ELECTRIC light is very nice, but it is also very annoying when it flickers out as it did last Friday night and leaves a large audience sitting in the dark. Manager Rundle was forced to rush over to his store and get a dozen oil lamps, make tin reflectors, etc., all of which exercise served to make him somewhat hot under the collar. The Electric Light Company appears to be unfortunate in the matter of furnishing a steady reliable light at all times, but we hope they will succeed in overcoming all difficulties in the future.

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

The Menominee Range, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 20 [Thursday, August 8, 1889], page 1, column 3

Schofield's Quintette Banjo Club

Gave a very pleasing entertainment in Rundle's opera house last Monday evening. All the vocalists were enthusiastically encored and Mr. Sisson, the funny man of the troupe, was called back in the second part, half a dozen times or more – in fact until he stepped on to the stage, pulled off his wig, bowed and shook his head, to give the audience to understand that he proposed to give the other excellent artists in the troupe a chance. Mr. and Mrs. Schofield, in their banjo duets[,] were very pleasing and responded to encores after each appearance.

The Menominee Range, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 21 [Thursday, August 15, 1889], page 1, column 3

WM. MICTHELL has moved his grocery and fruit store to Rundle's opera house building, and will keep a larger stock of goods than heretofore.

The Menominee Range, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 21 [Thursday, August 15, 1889], page 1, column 3

Duncan Clark's Female Minstrels.

Duncan Clark's Monster Combination opened to a big house at the Palace Family Theater last night, considering the very cold weather, and everyone was well paid for turning out. The show is out of the common rut of female minstrels, being organized to

cater to lady audiences. Nothing was said or done to offend the most fastidious. Any one [*sic* – *Anyone*] who can attend the opera or the Kiralfy productions need not hesitate to see this company, and they are sure of large audiences during their short engagement here. –Sentinel, Milwaukee, March 2.

They appear in Rundle's opera house, this city, tomorrow evening.

The Menominee Range, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 21 [Thursday, August 15, 1889], page 1, columns 4-6

The Visiting Firemen.

Last Saturday was a beautiful day for the firemen's tournament, as it has been called, in this city. The Negaunee Fire Company, accompanied by the Negaunee City Band, were met at the M. & N. depot on the arrival of the 6:45 train, by companies No. 1 and 2, of this city, led by the Iron Mountain City Band. Parade was formed as soon as the visitors alighted, and the procession, conducted by Chief Hancock, marched up Stephenson avenue to fire engine house No. 1, where the visiting firemen were greeted by the firemen of this city and citizens with a round of hearty cheers. During the evening the visitors were shown the sights of the city by their entertainers, who spared no pains to make them feel thoroughly at home and welcome. Saturday a large number of our business men [*sic* – *businessmen*] joined with the firemen to make the occasion a grand holiday. Late in the forenoon our home companies turned out with their machines handsomely decorated with flags and flowers, and accompanied by the Negaunee firemen, paraded the principal streets of our city. The line was halted in

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

front of Hansen & Mortensen's photograph gallery, where two excellent photographs were taken[,] which were afterwards presented by John J. Saving, with the mayor's compliments, to the Negaunee Fire Company and the Negaunee City Band. After the photographs had been taken the line of march was resumed, taking in a part of the Chapin location and then returning to engine house No. 1, where the procession disbanded.

The ball game, which was the feature of the afternoon, drew quite a crowd to the base ball *[sic – baseball]* park, and the game was called about 3 o'clock. Mr. Fisher, of Republic, was chosen umpire, and performed those arduous duties to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. The Iron Mountain boys won the toss and went to bat first, scoring one run, the Negaunee's scoring 3 runs. Foster was pitcher and Williams was catcher in the first inning and it needed only one inning to demonstrate that Williams can't catch ball. The second inning Weber pitched and Hill caught, resulting in a score of 8 for Iron Mountain and 0 for Negaunee. With this battery it was evident that the visiting firemen stood no show whatever, so in the third inning another change was made in the battery, Foster going back into the pitcher's box with Hill to catch. Foster pitched easy balls, *[sic]* that were knocked out into the field, where our boys did some excellent fielding in capturing them. In several instances the Iron Mountain players purposely fanned wind, and in other ways gave the visitors every possible advantage, while keeping up an appearance of playing ball. The trouble was that as the Negaunee company had asked for a game of ball the Iron Mountain companies supposed they would come down here with a strong team, so they got ready for them, and as the result shows they got too good a *[sic – and]* ready. Then[,] probably[,] the visiting firemen[,]

seeing themselves so much overmatched[,] got somewhat rattled, and did not do as well as they should have done. Besides[,] the members of the regular nine in this city are all firemen. Still, if the Negaunee men had had a good catcher, they would doubtless have made it very interesting for the Iron Mountaineers. The following is the score by innings.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R.	O.
Iron Mt.	1	8	6	2	1	3	1	22	21
Negaunee	3	0	2	0	2	3	0	10	21

In the evening a firemen's ball was given in Rundle's hall at which about 50 couples were present. The Negaunee band played excellent music while in this city and is one of the finest bands on the upper peninsula. The Negaunee firemen showed themselves individually and collectively, to be a nice lot of men, and we hope to see them here again in the near future.

The Menominee Range, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 41 [Thursday, January 2, 1890], page 1, column 2

The Old Year Out and the New Year In.

The two Methodist churches united with the Presbyterian church last evening in a watch service lasting from 8 till past 12 o'clock, thus praying the old year out and the new year in. At Rundle's opera house a more youthful and joyous assemblage were engaged in "Chasing the glowing hours with flying feet" in the merry dance. Probably the police court record will show that others passed from the old year to the new in a state of howling inebriety and thus we have illustrated the different tastes of different persons. But the "dusky hour friendliest to sleep and silence" found the writer hereof,

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

and probably the large majority of the denizens of this city

“As fast lock’d up in sleep, as guiltless labor,

When it lies starkly in the traveler’s bones.”

The Iron Range, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XIII, Number 23 [Thursday, August 27, 1891], page 1, column 2

SOMETHING went wrong at the electric light station last Saturday night and the audience in Rundle’s opera house was left in darkness until oil lamps were procured. The electric lights started up again in about fifteen minutes.

VREELAND’s operatic minstrels gave a very satisfactory entertainment in Rundle’s opera house last Saturday evening to a fair audience. The weather undoubtedly kept many at home who would have otherwise attended. The entertainment was first class of its kind.

A.J. RUNDLE is now the manager of the opera house and one of the improvements he has made is to put out the arc lamps that heretofore hung from the center of the ceiling and substitute a circle of incandescent lamps in its place. A row of lights also surrounds the proscenium, and the hall is now much more brilliantly lighted than heretofore.

The Iron Range, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XIII, Number 25 [Thursday, September 24, 1891], page 1, column 4

Obituary.

Died, in this city last Tuesday evening, of consumption, Thos. Rundle, aged nearly 34 years.

Mr. Rundle, though a young man in years[,] was one of the oldest residents of this city, and for years one of its most prominent business men [sic – businessmen]. Mr. Rundle was born in England and came to this country with his parents when he was about one year old, his father, the late Capt. Thos. Rundle, settling first in Ontonagon county. In 1879, when the Chapin mine had been opened up sufficiently to show that it was a valuable property, Capt. Rundle was appointed superintendent and Tom was given a place in the office as bookkeeper. In 1880 Rundle Bros. – Thomas and A.J. – bought out the hardware store of Kern Bros., and conducted the business successfully for several years. John retired from the firm about three years ago and Thomas continued it alone until failing health compelled him to retire and John again returned to this city and bought his brother’s interest in the business. The deceased has been one of our most energetic, enterprising and public spirited citizens and by hard work and strict integrity had acquired considerable competency. He made Iron Mountain real estate his bank and all his earnings were judiciously invested in good city property. At the time of his death he was the owner of the opera house block, and other store buildings and residences, the income of which will leave his family in comfortable circumstances. In May 1882, he married Miss Jennie Warner, of Muskegon, and two children, a boy and [a] girl[,] have blessed their union. Mr. Rundle was for a number of years captain of the fire company, and was always the hardest worker at a fire. It is likely that he contracted the fatal disease that terminated his life so untimely from exposures thus endured. The funeral took place this

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

afternoon, under the auspices of the Iron Mountain Lodge, F. & A.M., and was attended by an immense crowd of sorrowing friends.

The Iron Range, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XIII, Number 40 [Thursday, December 24, 1891], page 4, columns 1-2

JOHN RUNDLE has purchased of the heirs of Thos. Rundle, deceased, the opera house block, and thereby becomes the possessor of a valuable piece of property on the street destined to become one of the best business streets in the city. John has in contemplation several improvements that will add much to the comfort of the public on occasions of public gatherings. He will lower the building to its proper grade, put in steam heat, and put the stage at the south end of the hall. The stage will also be enlarged.

The Daily Tribune, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Second Year, Whole No. 582 [Thursday, May 26, 1898], page 3, column 4

Cineograph Pictures.

The blowing up of the battleship Maine will be vividly illustrated at Rundle's opera house Saturday night by the cineograph motion pictures. The pictures will illustrate several scenes on United States battleships and will be both wonderful and instructive. There will be in addition, several scenes of the Klondike country, and the fourteenth round of the Corbett & Fitzsimmons fight will be shown. The prices will be 10, 20 and 30 cents.

The Daily Tribune, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Second Year, Whole

No. 584 [Saturday, May 28, 1898], page 3, column 2

CITY NEWS ITEMS.

All the old soldiers are cordially invited to the Memorial Day exercises at the opera [sic – the opera] house Monday morning.

The Daily Tribune, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Second Year, Whole No. 593 [Thursday, June 9, 1898], page 3, column 2

CITY NEWS ITEMS.

One of the many amusing incidents in "A Breezy Time" which will be at the opera house tonight is that of a blind man singing "All Coons Look Alike to Me."

The Daily Tribune, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Second Year, Whole No. 593 [Thursday, June 9, 1898], page 3, column 4

At the Opera House Tonight.

"A Breezy Time," the new musical farce comedy which will be at Rundle's opera house tonight has one of the best casts now traveling. It has been the purpose of those interested in the production to make everyone that sees it glad that he has been there, and will not be ashamed to advise his friends to follow suit. In following out this purpose the very best talent that could be secured, the very best music that has been composed recently for the American and English variety and concert hall stage and the very best costumes and scenery that can be made by theatrical firms have been secured.

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

The Daily Tribune, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Second Year, Whole No. 594 [Friday, June 10, 1898], page 3, column 2

CITY NEWS ITEMS.

Chief Harvey gave his personal attention to the boys in the gallery at the opera house last night, and the consequence was that less noise was made. Hereafter boys who are disorderly or who “bust pop-corn bags,” are going to be put out by the police. It is a good move.

The Daily Tribune, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Second Year, Whole No. 594 [Friday, June 10, 1898], page 3, column 4

“DARKEST AMERICA.”

A Genuine Colored Minstrel Show at the Opera House Next Thursday.

The attraction at the opera house Thursday the 16th will be John W. Vogel's Darkest America, a combination of genuine colored minstrel performers which is made up of popular features and features that please the masses.

Mr. Vogel[,] with his usual good judgment, has not only selected first class talent, but has introduced a great variety of material of a novel and original character and arranged the program in an admirable manner. There is plenty of good dancing, much popular music, both vocal and instrumental, and many other features calculated to please, high class specialties, beautiful marches, etc. The company,

numbering eighty people, travel in their own train of palace cars. This is positively their only appearance in this city, and all lovers of good shows should take advantage of the opportunity and see it.

The Daily Tribune, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Second Year, Whole No. 594 [Friday, June 10, 1898], page 3, column 5

“A BREEZY TIME.”

Excellent Performance at the Opera House last Night.

Those who failed to see Fitz & Webster's “A Breezy Time” at the opera house last night missed one of the very best performances that has been seen in Iron Mountain for many years. It was not intended that there should be a deep plot in the play, it being written to introduce the specialty features of the company, which were first-class. The “three-legged sailor” was a great hit, and was very amusing. The act of the contortionist was exceedingly clever, and was loudly applauded. There wasn't a poor actor with the company, and the play which was bright, clean and funny, went along smoothly from the time the curtain went up. The singing and dancing was first-class all, the songs being new. The work of John G. McDowell, W.J. Madden, Eddie Bowers and Phil Rado, the male members of the company, was excellent. Of the lady members, Jessie Bertman deserves particular mention, while the acting of Luella Morey, Georgia Kelcey and Edith Bowers, [sic] was all that could be asked. The grand cake walk at the close of the performance was a big hit. A good-sized audience was present, but we

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

predict that when it returns next fall[,] the reputation it left in this city especially, will insure a packed house.

The Daily Tribune, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Second Year, Whole No. 594 [Friday, June 10, 1898], page 3, column 6

Most of the ladies at the opera house last night removed their hats, for which the public is very grateful. The minute a lady removes her hat in the opera house a dozen men sitting behind her inaudibly express the belief that she is an angel. We dare not publish what they say when a lady keeps her hat on.

The Daily Tribune, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Second Year, Whole No. 600 [Friday, June 17, 1898], page 3, column 5

FUN AT THE OPERA HOUSE.

One of The Largest Audiences of the Season Greeted "Darkest America."

"Darkest America" was greeted by a large audience last night, the opera house being completely filled so far as the seats were concerned, many standing during the whole performance. "Darkest America" is really a reproduction of "The South before the War," which was very popular and drew immense crowds all through the middle western states last winter.

The singing and dancing last night by the company was excellent, the orchestra music being especially enjoyed. Several very fine voices were heard, especially in the singing by the colored quartette. The fun started as soon as the curtain went up

and continued throughout the entire evening. The audience laughed until they sank back in their seats exhausted. Taken it all in all it was a good show, as the term goes now, and everyone present seems to have gotten more than their money's worth.

The Daily Tribune, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Third Year, Whole No. 620 [Monday, July 11, 1898], page 3, column 3

Tonight.

Judging from the advance sale, the "Standing Room only" sign will be displayed early at the opera house tonight when Ferris' Comedians make their bow to the amusement of lovers of Iron Mountain in their musical farce comedy, "Greased Lightning," written for laughing purposes only and admirable filling the bill; it is also the vehicle for their many musical numbers and specialties. Go and take your family, they will enjoy it as well as yourself. Tonight only, every lady accompanied by the holder of a paid 30 cent ticket will be admitted free. If you cannot get tickets for tonight, reserve them early for tomorrow night. Prices 10, 20 and 30 cents.

The Daily Tribune, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Third Year, Whole No. 621 [Tuesday, July 12, 1898], page 3, column 4

A GOOD COMPANY.

Ferris' Comedians Gave a Satisfactory Performance Last Night.

Ferris Comedians played "Greased Lightning" last night to a good sized house.

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

The play has no plot and it is not intended that there should be any, but it abounds in fun, the specialties introduced being especially good.

Tonight "Over the Garden Wall" will be given with an entire change of specialties.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 4, Number 12 [Thursday, August 10, 1899], page 1, column 6

A Wise Woman.

A Great Attraction to Be Seen at the Rundle Opera House This Evening.

Manager Rundle announces that Wilfred Clarke's great London comedy success, "A Wise Woman," presented by Marie Lamour and a well selected company of players, the leading man of which is Frederick J. Murphy, has been secured as the attraction at the opera house this evening.

This announcement will undoubtedly attract widespread attention among the theatre-goers as much of a highly complimentary manner has been written and said about this attraction. The remarkable run of 238 nights which Mr. Clarke's comedy had on its initial presentation at the Strand Theatre, London, is conclusive evidence of the popularity of the play with the public, and added to this the fact that Miss Lamour's support embraces the best available talent is sufficient assurance that the engagement in this city, without question of doubt, will be the event of its kind during the present season. Miss Lamour's talent, which the

press declare to be of a very high standard, has been carefully developed for several seasons under the guiding hand of Augustin Daly.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 4, Number 12 [Thursday, August 10, 1899], page 8, column 1

BRIEF CITY NEWSITES.

"A Wise Woman" at the opera house this evening.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 4, Number 13 [Thursday, August 17, 1899], page 1, column 4

A BREEZY TIME.

A First Class Comedy Attraction That is Deserving of Much Praise.

Manager Rundle should be congratulated on securing so good an attraction for next Saturday evening, *[sic]* as "A Breezy Time." If he always books an attraction like this the amusement loving people of Iron Mountain will have no cause to complain. Wherever this company has appeared this season the press and public have been unanimous in pronouncing their performance the very best ever seen.

"A Breezy Time" is in three acts, the plot of which is so light that it is hardly worth mentioning, although each set has been happily impregnated with everything that is new and up to date, including music, songs, dances and clever specialties, all of which

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

are introduced in an easy and perfectly legitimate manner.

The cast of “A Breezy Time” company consists of the pick of some of the foremost artists now appearing on the face comedy stage, who have the ability to depict in a fine and artistic manner the finely drawn characters in this, the funniest of all comedies.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 4, Number 18 [Thursday, September 21, 1899], page 1, column 4

MINSTREL ATTRACTION.

Booked for the Opera House For Thursday of Next Week.

Manager Rundle takes pleasure in announcing to his patrons, *[sic]* that he has secured Shepard’s Great Minstrel Jubilee for next Thursday evening, Sept. 29th *[sic – Sept. 28th]*. This popular aggregation of blackface talent has not toured the west for several years until this season. They travel in their own special train of Pullman cars. Thirty-five artists all told are in the company, and a genuine treat in old minstrelsy *[sic – minstrelsy]* is promised.

Among the many features are Ogawa’s Troupe of Royal Japanese; Lieut. Walter Allen, America’s premier ventriloquist *[sic – ventriloquist]*; Donna & Weaver, blackface travesty artists; Draper, the king of swinging wire; the Living Music Sheet, and the Poster Girls’ Cake Walk. A magnificent free street parade will be given at 2:30 p.m., and an open-air concert of the most popular overtures in the evening.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 16 [Thursday, September 13, 1900], page 8, column 2

BRIEF LOCAL MENTION.

A.J. Rundle had business in Marinette yesterday.

...

A.J. Rundle contemplates making some important improvements to the interior of his opera house.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 21 [Thursday, October 18, 1900], page 1, column 3

IRON MOUNTAIN MINSTRELS.

Invitations Will Soon Be Issued for the Third Annual Ball – Nov. 2nd is the Date.

The Iron Mountain Minstrel company has selected Friday evening, November 2nd, as the date for their third annual ball and the invitations will be issued in a few days. The ball will be held in the opera house and Wallace’s famous orchestra has been engaged for the occasion. The functions of this organization have been among the most successful of our social events and this season’s will be no exception to the general rule. Following are a list of the committees in charge:

Arrangements – Gilbert V. Carpenter, Robert H. Sherman, Max Kurz, Merton A. Sturgis, William J. Clark.

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Invitation – Art Connelly, William G. Sundstrom, Harry Soady, J.C. Chamberlain.

Floor – Herb Little, John Simmons, John Harris, Burr Catlin, Jr.

Decorations – Joseph Miller, Joseph Pascoe, Edward Lundin, Master Kahn.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 21 [Thursday, October 18, 1900], page 1, column 3

TOLD IN A PARAGRAPH.

A.J. Rundle is arranging for a grand re-opening of his opera house as soon as the improvements are completed. He has secured "Tennessee's Pardner" as a special attraction. Announcement later.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 22 [Thursday, October 25, 1900], page 1, columns 4-5

[Advertisement for Rundle's Opera House presentation of Tennessee's Pardner, with illustration]

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 24 [Thursday, November 8, 1900], page 1, column 2

Iron Mountain Minstrels.

The third performance of the Iron Mountain Minstrels was greeted by a large and appreciative audience at the opera house last evening. Every number was well rendered and enthusiastically received. The vocal selections were very much superior to those usually given by traveling

companies and the voices of the soloists in excellent condition. Several good-natured local hits were made, and Catlin's political speech was one of the specially good features of the evening. Where all were to excellent in their several parts, it is difficult to select any one or two for special mention, but we cannot refrain from speaking of little Willie Kahn, who was a host in himself, and displayed wonderful talent. He has a high, clear soprano, strong, full and round, which is capable of great things in the future.

The music was furnished by Wallace's orchestra, and, as usual, was of a high order.

Like its predecessors, the annual ball of the Iron Mountain Minstrels, which took place last Friday evening, was an unqualified social success. The arrangements for a good time were excellently planned, and about one hundred and fifty guests participated in the pleasures of the evening. The condition of the floor was perfect, and the music, furnished by Wallace's orchestra, of Marinette, was of a most delightful quality and left nothing to be desired. The refreshments were served by Mrs. Colburn in her usual dainty style.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 25 [Thursday, November 10, 1904], page 5, column 4

Repetoire Company.

The Powell Portello company, which comes to the opera house for three nights, commencing this evening[,] will present that popular drama "East Lynne," as their opening bill. A special feature is made of

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

vaudeville between the acts, consisting of illustrated songs, moving pictures, new dances, etc. The above company is well spoken of by the press in every city where it has played, and in fact is said to be one of the strongest popular priced attractions on the road. The prices will be 15, 25 and 35 cents, with one lady free this evening with each paid 35 cent ticket.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 12, Number 15 [Thursday, September 5, 1907], page 1, column 5

Opera House Opening.

The Rundle opera house, which has been in darkness for nearly two years, will be re-opened the night of October 2nd. Manager Rundle is now engaged in giving the house a thorough overhauling making everything as neat and tidy as a new gold piece. The opening attraction is the Irish Pawnbroker, a strong card. This will be followed on the 7th by Nobody's Claim. The other bookings for fall dates are the Edwards Stock company, Billy Barry's minstrels and the Devil's Auction.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 12, Number 19 [Thursday, October 3, 1907], page 8, column 3

PARAGRAPHIC CITY NEWS.

The re-opening of the opera house last evening attracted a very large audience, standing room being at a premium. The Irish Pawnbrokers was the attraction and gave good satisfaction.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 14, Number 39 [Thursday, February 17, 1910], page 5, column 5

PERSONAL MENTION.

Manager Rundle has completed arrangements to give moving picture shows at the opera house each evening, commencing to-night [*sic – tonight*], with a Saturday matinee. He has secured a first class up-to-date machine and the pictures are the latest and best.

Splendid Attraction.

Managers Wm. A. Brady and Jos. R. Grismer's big production of George Boradhurst's great play, "The Man of the Hour," with a special company[,] will appear at Rundle's Opera House next Wednesday evening. "The Man of the Hour" is conceded by critics everywhere to be the best American play ever written. There is not a discordant note in it, every character moves and breathes and lives – lives a natural life[.] It is a play for the people who like their strings played upon and who cling to the old beliefs about rugged honesty and love for women and home. A mere recital of the story conveys little idea of the sparkling charm there is in the play; it is full of surprises, heart interest, apt comedy and a round-up in which everybody rejoices.

The Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 17 [Thursday, September 15, 1910], page 1, column 3

Colonial Vaudeville.

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Martha Washington's Daughters' Colonial Vaudeville at the Rundle Opera house next Thursday, Sept. 22nd, under the auspices of the Women's Guild of Holy Trinity church. One hundred and twenty-five talented dames of Iron Mountain in attractive colonial costumes. A chorus of one hundred dames, assisted by the best soloists to sing the old plantation melodies and catchy tunes from the popular operas. The whole will make one of the most attractive and entertaining entertainments ever given in Iron Mountain. You must not miss it.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 18 [Thursday, September 22, 1910], page 1, column 1

Musical Comedy.

The sparkling musical comedy "Managing Mildred" is announced as the attraction at the opera house for to-morrow [*sic* – *tomorrow*] evening. The famous English Opera Singers, who made such an impression through the west last season, are featured in this comedy and will introduce the last two scenes of Verdi's "Il Trovatore" in costume. The remarkable duet, "The Miserreri" as sung by Juanita Rush and C. Picquet, has invariably been encored five or six times. "Managing Mildred" is by Walter Lockwood, a young Chicago author, and contains some twenty song hits.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 18 [Thursday, September 22, 1910], page 1, column 5

Colonial Vaudeville.

Martha Washington's Daughters' colonial Vaudeville at the opera house this evening. It will be one of the most attractive and unique entertainments ever given in the city. The musical numbers are snappy and popular. Don't miss this treat.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 19 [Thursday, September 29, 1910], page 8, column 3

Colonial Vaudeville.

The Colonial Vaudeville at the opera house last Thursday evening attracted a large audience and gave splendid satisfaction. It can be said that it was one of the most pleasing entertainments ever given in the city. Many of the "acts" were worthy of special mention, but space will not permit the extended notice the entertainment richly deserves.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 28 [Thursday, December 1, 1910], page 1, column 2

Uncle Tom's Cabin.

Speaking the universal language of the heart and reflecting, like a mirror, the innermost emotions of the mind, Stetson's "Uncle Tom's Cabin" is more than a stage play – it is [*a*] wonderful moral classic. It argues for the two really great themes that can enrage the mind of man – human liberty and the immortality of the soul. It is a play that has long been a popular favorite with the infrequent theatergoers and regular patrons alike, and wherever the Stetson company appears, it is greeted with a crowded house. There is just enough

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

pathos during the performance to show that life is not all sunshine and then comes floods of laughter which brings one away from sorrow's pall. Specialties are interspersed throughout the major number of scenes, so that the lover of high-class vaudeville is well repaid for his time and money by attending the Stetson show, which will be seen at Rundle's Opera House to-morrow [*sic – tomorrow*] evening.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 28 [Thursday, December 1, 1910], page 1, column 4

CHICAGO OPERATIC CO.

Coming to the Opera House Soon in Star Entertainment Course.

There are few musicians more generally or more favorably known through the country than the numbers of the Chicago Operatic company, which comes to this city the evening of December 16th. The individual and collective merits of the artists are unquestionable and no company now in this country has gained such notable comment from critics [*sic – critics*] of music. Aside from the brilliance of the ensemble, each of the artists has achieved no small degree of personal prominence on the concert stage.

The company is prepared to give for the coming seasons, scenes in costume from *Romeo and Juliet*, *Faust*, *Martha* and other operas, also selections from the great oratorios, as well as grand concerts.

The eminence of this company of musical artists is such that it is unnecessary to comment more fully on the exceptional character of the work it presents. Every

engagement filled by it is a red-letter event in the life of the community in which it occurs.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 45 [Thursday, March 30, 1911], page 1, column 3

“The White Squaw.”

A play that is said to have valid claim upon the admiration and patronage of votaries of the stage is “The White Squaw,” the romantic American drama, to be seen at the Rundle Opera House next Monday evening. The play is by the actor-author, Delia M. Clark, and the scenes are laid in Michigan about 100 years ago. “The White Squaw” is a story of primitive folk of simple costumes and straightforward living, and, like strings that vibrate in musical harmony, the elements of love, romance, laughter and heart interests are employed [*sic – employed*] in the making of a spoken and acted melody. There is not the slightest vestige of vice, villainy or sensation to the play, but it has already been declared to be one of the big, strong volumes in the theatrical library of America.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 45 [Thursday, March 30, 1911], page 1, column 4

Fight Pictures.

The real, original and only genuine motion pictures of the Johnson-Jeffries championship contest taken at Reno, Nev., last 4th of July, [*sic*] will be exhibited at the Rundle this evening. The pictures includes [*sic – include*] 6,000 feet of film, showing all the present and past champions and

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

sporting celebrities whom you have read of but never have had a chance to see. Performance lasts two hours. Admission 10 and 15 cents.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 50 [Thursday, May 4, 1911], page 4, column 1

Indiana Folks.

Manager Rundle takes great pleasure in announcing the engagement of the new Perry production, "Indiana Folks," which comes to our city next Saturday evening. The play deals with the rural life in Indiana in an entire [*sic – entirely*] different manner than any play of the rural order yet produced. There are no overdrawn types of characters, but each and every one is taken true to life from the inhabitants of the section **[need to finish copying this article]**

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 16, Number 15 [Thursday, August 31, 1911], page 1, column 2

Opera House Bookings.

Manager Rundle has booked the following excellent attractions for an early appearance at his play-house [*sic – playhouse*]: The County Sheriff, Fire and Flame, Messenger Boy, Lion and the Mouse, When Knighthood Was in Flower, Right of Way, the Aviator, the Traveling salesman, Uncle Josh, Gay Morning Glories and the Girl and the Tramp.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 19,

Number 40 [Thursday, February 18, 1915], page 1, column 2

New Drop Curtain.

A.J. Rundle has provided his opera house with a handsome new drop curtain. It is of the latest designs and fire proof complying with all the known laws in the premises. The Press understands that the curtain costs about \$400.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 20, Number 17 [Thursday, September 15, 1915], page 1, column 4

A DISASTEROUS FIRE.

Rundle Opera House Burns and the Loss is Largest in Years.

The well-known Rundle Opera House building was the scene last Sunday morning of the most costly fire that has occurred in Iron Mountain in over twenty year [*sic – years*]. The origin of the fire is unknown. The fire was first discovered in the southwest corner of the building at about 4:30 o'clock last Sunday morning and in a short time the entire upper floor was a mass of flames. That portion of the building in which the fire is supposed to have originated is used as a work-shop.

The fire department quickly responded to the alarm and soon had seven streams of water pouring into the upper floor. Chief LaLonde, ably seconded by Capt. John Carollo of the north end company, directed the work of checking the flames and the fire ladies [*sic – ladies*] received valuable assistance from many volunteers. That the fight was well directed is best evidenced by

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the condition of the building, the lower floor standing intact. Our city has a fire department worthy of the name. In less skillful hands the loss would have been much greater and the fire spread to other buildings in the district. It was an exceedingly hard fire to combat and had gained tremendous headway when discovered.

In combatting [*sic* – *combating*] the flames Chief LaLonde had three fingers on his left hand badly lacerated; Capt. John Carollo had his right ankle sprained, and Fireman Clemo was bruised about the body and left leg and had his right arm and hand cut.

At this writing it is not possible to give an estimate of the loss, but it will be between \$25,000 and \$35,000 and the insurance is small in comparison.

Mr. Rundle has the sympathy of the entire city in his great financial loss. He is keeping a “stiff upper lip” and preparing to resume business as soon as a settlement is reached with the insurance companies.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 20, Number 27 [Thursday, November 18, 1915], page 1, column 4

Rundle At Home.

A.J. Rundle is nearly “at home” again in his former place of business, which was badly wrecked by fire a few weeks ago. Repairs of a temporary nature, but substantial, have been made, and the place of business is now much the same as before the fire in general interior appearance. However, the stock is new and up-to-date and complete in all departments. Mr. Rundle will be pleased to welcome the old friends.

SKANDIA HALL **Norway Order of Vasa** **Norway**

The Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 155 [Monday, October 12, 1925], page 8, column 1

PROGRAM TO BE GIVEN TONIGHT

Gustav Fonandern And Company in Norway This Evening

Gustav Fonandern, famous Swedish singer and comedian, who has recorded for Victor and Columbia phonographs, will be the principal entertainer at a musical program to be given tonight at 8 o'clock at Scandia hall.

Fonandern will be assisted by three other artists, Harry Swanson, pianist; Edstrom, Swedish accordionist; and “Amanda”, the heralded vaudeville star, of Sweden. The company will play here under the auspices of the Norway Order of Vasa.

The program will consist of solos, duets, comic songs, accordion and piano music and character stories.

Mr. Fonandern has been praised highly by the press. A San Francisco critic declared: “Fonandern has a good, high baritone voice and the happy faculty of imparting to this interpretations of both classic and modern songs the atmosphere from which they sprung. He was called upon for many extra numbers. He makes a great success, and he deserves it.”

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

THOMAS THEATER **COMPANY** **Iron Mountain**

The Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain-Kingsford, Dickinson County, Michigan, 32nd Year, Number 38 [Saturday, May 24, 1952], page 3, column 1

Thomas Co. To Construct New Drive-In

Bids for the construction of a 400-car drive-in motion picture theater on property situated near the intersection of highway US-2-141, southeast of the city, by the Thomas Theater Co., Inc., of Iron Mountain, will be accepted not later than June 15 at the company's offices, in this city, Martin D. Thomas, president, announced here today.

Plans, Thomas said, call for completion of the theater by Aug. 1 of this year, when it will be opened to the public. This is the program announced a few years ago by the company president, but which, he said yesterday, was halted by government restrictions on theater-building. "These restrictions have now been lifted," Thomas said, "and we are ready to go ahead."

The 40-acre tract purchased by the company is situated just east of the highway intersection, where US-141 cuts off to Niagara, Wis. As quickly as the contract is awarded, grading of the tract will be started in preparation for the installation of equipment.

"We believe there is a demand for an out-door theater in this area," Thomas said, "and we plan to make it a good one – modern in every respect."

Another Development

Beginning Wednesday, June 4, the Thomas Theater Company will also take over full operation of theaters in Iron Mountain and elsewhere in which, for the past 15 years, the Fox-Wisconsin Amusement Enterprise Corporation, of Milwaukee, has been associated with the Thomas company. Besides the Braumart and Colonial, in Iron Mountain, this development affects also theaters in the Copper Country and in Stevens Point and Janesville, Wis.

In addition to the above-mentioned houses, Thomas Theaters also operates theaters in Ironwood, Menominee, Marinette and Hurley, Wis., and has interest in theaters at Madison, Wis. In all, the Iron Mountain company either operates, itself, or is associated with others in about 20 theaters throughout upper Michigan and Wisconsin.

TRI-CITY DRIVE-IN THEATER **Thomas Theater Company, Inc.** **Near Quinnesec**

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"We believe there is a demand for an out-door theater in this area," Thomas said, "and we plan to make it a good one – modern in every respect."

Another Development

Beginning Wednesday, June 4, the Thomas Theater Company will also take over full operation of theaters in Iron Mountain and elsewhere in which, for the past 15 years, the Fox-Wisconsin Amusement Enterprise Corporation, of Milwaukee, has been associated with the Thomas company. Besides the Braumart and Colonial, in Iron Mountain, this development affects also theaters in the Copper Country and in Stevens Point and Janesville, Wis.

In addition to the above-mentioned houses, Thomas Theaters also operates theaters in Ironwood, Menominee, Marinette and Hurley, Wis., and has interest in theaters at Madison, Wis. In all, the Iron Mountain company either operates, itself, or is associated with others in about 20 theaters throughout upper Michigan and Wisconsin.

VALHALLA ELECTRIC THEATER

Norway

The Current, Norway, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume ____, Number ____
[Saturday June 1, 1907], page ____, columns ____ [ADVERTISEMENT]

VALHALLA ELECTRIC THEATER

Complete Change of Pictures NEXT WEEK.

Popularity Contest Now on

A beautiful guaranteed gold watch will be given away on June 29th to the lady receiving the largest number of votes. Each admission ticket entitles theholder to one vote. The watch is on display at Wolff's store. See it and get in the game.

We Want The Ladies to Attend

ADMISSION 10 CENTS

VALHALLA HALL Norway

The Current, Norway, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume ____, Number ____
[Saturday, June 29, 1901], page ____, column ____

Our townsman, N.J. Blomgren, proprietor of the Valhalla of Summit avenue, and the branch Valhalla on the south side, has just completed "Valhalla Hall" which is doubtless the best finished and decorated hall designed for public use on the range. Three years ago Mr.

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Blomgren bought out what was then a small fruit and candy store on Summit avenue and all who visit his beautiful parlor and salesroom today will receive a beautiful souvenir fan. On July 3rd, there will be a dancing party at Valhalla Hall and the best music will be furnished.

VULCAN TOWN HALL AND OPERA HOUSE

Vulcan

*Vulcan, Michigan, Centennial 1872-1972,
page 41*

On October 29, 1904, Newman and Johnson started to build our present (1972) Town Hall, a brick building 40 by 70 and two stories high. On November 25, 1905, the new Town Hall and Opera House was dedicated.

The school had no gymnasium or auditorium, so the Town Hall was frequently pressed into service for basketball games, school parties and plays, recitals and recitations, grade school graduations and high school commencement exercises. As it has been built originally, the Town Hall served well; a stage at the east end and a spectator gallery at the west end made the "Opera House" an adaptable, multi-purpose structure.

WIGWAM THEATRE

**Northeast Corner of Wilson Avenue and
Edison Street, Kingsford Heights,
Kingsford
Corner of Hemlock Street and Breen
Avenue
Breitung, Kingsford**

*Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain,
Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5,*

Number 32 [Monday, May 18, 1925],
page 7, column 3

TENT THEATRE TO OPEN IN HEIGHTS

**Plan to Follow It With
Permanent Structure,
Says Manager**

A motion picture theatre in a tent is to be opened in the village of Kingsford at the northeast corner of the intersection of Wilson avenue and Edison street, Kingsford Heights.

The theatre will be conducted by the Miner Amusement company, of Rhinelander, which operates a chain of showhouses *[sic – show houses]* in northern Wisconsin. L. W. Webster *[sic – L.W. Webster]*, who has been managing theatres for the company for the last 10 years, will be in charge.

Part of the equipment has already arrived and it is expected that the first program will be offered Sunday night or as early thereafter as possible, Webster stated.

The tent is only a temporary arrangement, the manager declared. It is the plan of his company, he said, to build a modern theatre in Kingsford Heights and it is hoped to begin construction within a month.

"We are having a tent arrangement for a short time," *[sic]* in order to ascertain what size building we will construct here," Webster said. "We will draw up plans according to the patronage we receive. If a 600seat *[sic – 600-seat]* theatre is too small we will build one with a seating capacity of 800 or 1,000, but the size will depend

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

largely on the manner in which the people respond now.”

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 42 [Friday, May 29, 1925], page 2, column 4

Wigwam Theatre To Open Tonight

The Wigwam theatre, under a big tent on Wilson avenue, Kingsford Heights, will be formally opened tonight, the management announced today. Seats have been arranged to accommodate more than 225 persons. The feature tonight will be Hoot Gibson in “The Sawdust Trail” and a comedy and news reel.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 45 [Wednesday, June 3, 1925], page 3, column 2

Wigwam Theatre Tent Blown Over

More than a score of persons escaped injury Monday night when the tent under which the Wigwam theatre in Kingsford Heights is housed was blown over by a terrific wind. The stakes, holding the tent to the ground, were forced loose [*sic – loose*] and the tent was carried more than 20 feet by the storm. The tent was blown down during the second show.

The mishap was attributed to small stakes that were being used to hold down the canvas. Larger stakes were installed yesterday and the storm last night failed to move the tent.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, _____ Year, Number _____ [Thursday, June 11, 1925], page _____, column _____

Change Location Of Wigwam Theatre

The Wigwam theatre, a tent, has been moved from Kingsford Heights to a vacant lot near the corner of Hemlock street and Breen avenue, Breitung. The change was made because of the larger population to draw from in Breitung and Skidmore addition. Motion picture programs are offered nightly.

SHOWING MOVIES ON SUNDAY IN NORWAY

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 17, Number 33 [Thursday, January 2, 1913], page 3, column 2

Norway Rumpus.

The Press received a call from the Rev. Dr. Bird, of Norway, last Friday evening. Dr. Bird affirmed his charge that, upon diverse occasions, he had been threatened with violence; that he had been pushed and jostled in the presence of a policeman who refused him protection; that, after being threatened, he had found a stick of dynamite on his veranda, but it was frozen and fuseless; that the mayor had treated him ungentlemanly in presence of many and had flatly refused to entertain his complaints; that he has the unanimous support of his congregation in his crusade; that he had written Gov. Osborn his version of the trouble; that the governor had quickly

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS AND MOVIE THEATERS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

responded, informing him that the prosecuting attorney and sheriff had been ordered to suppress all lawlessness at Norway; that he has no personal feelings in the premises; that he is not seeking notoriety; that the crusade will continue regardless of threats. The trouble has finally culminated in the arrest of Joseph E. Bergeron, proprietor of the moving picture theatre. The complaint was made *[by]* Dr. Bird, who will have as witnesses of the alleged violation of the state law the pastors of the two Swedish churches. Mr. Bergeron will have his examination before a Norway justice on the 13th. County Attorney Henderson will prosecute the case and Cook & Pelham will defend. Ultimately the case will reach the circuit court. Dr. Bird intimated to the Press that Judge Flannigan might be petitioned to summons *[sic – summon]* a grand jury to investigate “matters and things” at Norway and elsewhere. The case having reached the courts, The Press refrains from further comments.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 17, Number 34 [Thursday, January 9, 1913], page 1, column 4

Bergeron Denies.

J.E. Bergeron denies that he has been arrested for keeping his Norway moving picture theatre open on Sunday, as was stated in The Press upon authority given by Rev. Dr. Levi Bird. Mr. Bergeron says that he has been summons *[sic – summoned]* to appear in Justice Rowe’s court to make answer to a charge of operating his theatre contrary to a state law. He says no warrant was issued in the action. Mr. Bergeron also believes that Rev. Dr. Bird is evincing personal spite in the prosecution and in

support of the contention says that a number of other similar places of amusement are operated on Sunday and the operators have not been molested. Mr. Bergeron will respond to the summons in his case next Monday.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 17, Number 35 [Thursday, January 16, 1913], page 1, column 2

Fined Six Cents.

J.E. Bergeron, who was summoned to appear in Justice Rowe’s court at Norway last Monday to answer to the charge of keeping his picture theatre open on Sunday contrary to the state law, was found guilty by a jury and damages in the sum of six cents were assessed. The trial attracted a large audience. It is understood that another case against Mr. Bergeron will have an airing in the circuit court, at the April term.

[NOTE: Six cents was the fine former President Theodore Roosevelt paid at about this time in a lawsuit involving the Upper Peninsula.]

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 17, Number 44 [Thursday, March 20, 1913], page 1, column 2

Theatres Still Open.

The opening of the moving picture theatres on Sunday at Norway is still a bone of contention. Mr. Bergeron continues to keep his theatre open on Sunday and each Monday notice of a suit for violation of the state law is served upon him. The suits, some twelve in number, will be noticed for trial at the April term of the circuit court. At

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

a meeting of the Norway council held last Monday evening a petition was presented praying that the theatre licenses be provoked [*sic – revoked*]. The petition was signed by Revs. Bird, Linder and Schrugren. It was tabled for future consideration.