IRON RIVER, Iron County: From its beginning the location of the profitable Nanaimo Mine, then in Marquette County, and its post office, opened on April 21, 1882, with John McDonald as its first postmaster. The settlement was first called Nanaimo. Influenced by the rapid flow of miners and homesteaders to the area, the bachelor brothers, Donald C. and Alexander MacKinnon, acquired land here about 1878, and had J.A. Van Cleve plat the village as Iron River, which was registered September 20, 1881. James Innis built an inn in 1881, the first permanent structure. Iron River was given a station on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, and its post office was renamed Iron River on September 8, 1882 with Albert E. Steller as postmaster. The post office was transferred to Iron County on June 16, 1884. Iron River was incorporated as a village in 1885 and as a city in 1926. Named from its location in an iron ore region.

Iron River from Stambaugh Hill, ca. 1908: Postmarked August 24, 1908, this tinted halftone postcard view shows Iron River from Stambaugh Hill. The steeple of St. Agnes Catholic Church can be seen to the right of center, and the public school with its red-tinted roof is visible to the right of the church. The large building with the red roof to the left of center was the Boyington Hotel, located on Genesse Street. [William John Cummings]
Iron River from Stambaugh Hill, ca. 1940-1950: This unused postcard view of Iron River, dating between 1940 and 1950, was also taken from Stambaugh Hill. [William John Cummings]
Iron River Birdseye View with First Lutheran Church, ca. 1940-1950: Another unused postcard view dating between 1940 and 1950 is identified as a “Birdseye View of Iron River, Mich.” The First Lutheran Church is at lower right. [William John Cummings]
Iron River Birdseye View, ca. 1940-1950: Yet another unused postcard view dating between 1940 and 1950 is identified as a “Birdseye View of Iron River, Mich.” [William John Cummings]
Main Street (Genesee Street), Looking West, Iron River, ca. 1909: Postmarked August 10, 1909, this black-and-white halftone postcard view, identified as Main Street (Genesee Street) in Iron River, looks west. A drug store is visible at the left and the large glass window on the second story of the next large structure served as a skylight for the photographer’s studio, probably operated by either Olaf Hansen or E.A. Van Buren. E.A. Van Buren operated a photographic studio in 1910 on Genesee Street at First Avenue. He operated his studio for 24 years, closing in 1934 to enter the resort business in Crystal Falls. The Boyington Hotel with the two-story porch, located farther west at the corner of Genesee and Second Streets, was operated by Andrew Jackson Boyington. [William John Cummings]
Main Street (Genesee Street), Looking West, Iron River, ca. 1914: Postmarked August 20, 1914, this black-and-white halftone postcard shows Genesee Street (Main Street), Iron River, looking west. The sign for a drug store is barely visible at the left and the large glass window on the second story of the next large structure served as a skylight for the photographer’s studio, probably operated by either Olaf Hansen or E.A. Van Buren. The Boyington Hotel with the two-story porch, located farther west at the corner of Genesee and Second Streets, was operated by Andrew Jackson Boyington. [William John Cummings]
Main Street (Genesee Street), Looking West, Iron River, ca. 1910: Postmarked April 12, ca. 1910 [date not printed], this tinted black-and-white halftone postcard depicts Carnival Week on Genesee Street (Main Street) in Iron River, looking west. The Boyington Hotel was located on the corner of Genesee and Second Streets. The banner over the street advertises cigars, reading “Smoke Iron River’s Favorite Cigars.” Note the ice cream cone stand at the right. [William John Cummings]
Main Street (Genesee Street), Looking West, Iron River, ca. 1955: Postmarked August 12, 1955, this postcard view shows Genesee Street (Main Street), Iron River, looking west. Businesses identified include the Boyington Hotel at the intersection of Second Street and J.J. Newberry Company which opened in July, 1931, and was enlarged to twice its original size in February, 1948, at 211-215 West Genesee Street, on the south side (left) of the street. On the north side (right) of the street, Melstrom’s Walgreen Agency Drugs, opened by Earl Melstrom at 216 Genesee Street in early March, 1941, can be seen next to Quirt Hardware Store. [William John Cummings]
Main Street (Genesee Street), Looking West, Iron River, 1956: This colored postcard view, copyrighted in 1956, shows Genesee Street (Main Street), Iron River, looking west. The Boyington Hotel, on the corner of Second Street, was covered in asphalt siding when this photograph was taken. Malmgren’s Walgreen Agency Drug Store can be seen midway down the north side (right) of the street. Located at 311 Genesee Street, construction of the new Red Owl grocery store began November 15, 1946, and James McLead opened the new store February 28, 1947. [William John Cummings]
Main Street (Genesee Street), Looking East, Iron River, ca. 1914: Postmarked April 15, 1914, this postcard view shows Genesee Street (Main Street), Iron River, looking east. The sign over the small shop between the two buildings with diamond-shaped windows in the attic reads Escanaba Steam Laundry Cleaning & Dye Works. Note the early automobile parked in front of the brick building and the advertising signs on the wall of the building at the left. [William John Cummings]
Main Street (Genesee Street), Looking East, Iron River, 1914: This postcard view, copyrighted by E.L. Nasser in 1914, shows Genesee Street (Main Street), Iron River, looking east. Note the Empire Theater advertising vaudeville on the south side of the street in the right corner and the early automobiles. [Iron County Historical Museum]
Main Street (Genesee Street), Looking East, Iron River, ca. 1917: Postmarked May 3, 1917, this black-and-white halftone postcard shows Genesee Street (Main Street), Iron River, looking east. The First National Bank (left), located at the corner of Third and Genesee Streets, was completed in August, 1909. Automobile traffic seems to have replaced the horse and buggy and wagons as the preferred mode of transportation. [William John Cummings]
Main Street (Genesee Street), Looking East, Iron River, ca. 1926: Postmarked July 23, 1926, this postcard view shows West Genesee Street (Main Street), Iron River, looking east. Businesses identified include Pryne, The Woman’s Shop; Miners’ State Bank which opened in 1912 and constructed its building in 1913; Joseph’s Tog Shop, and the First National Bank, at the intersection with Third Street. Note the early automobiles parked along the street. This photograph was taken by the Iron River Studio, Iron River, Mich., as noted in the lower left corner. [William John Cummings]
Main Street (Genesee Street), Looking East, Iron River, ca. 1937: Postmarked May 28, 1937, this postcard view shows Genesee Street (Main Street), Iron River, looking east. Businesses identified on the north side (left) include Skog’s Dress Shop and Beauty Parlor, opened in 1925 by Mrs. Hilding (Esther Skog) Swanson and Mrs. Andrew E. (Bertha Skog) Johnson; The Dutch Pantry, operated by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gibbs in the 1930’s and 1940’s; Miners’ State Bank, constructed in 1913; and the First National Bank. Businesses on the south side (right) of the street include Mertins Café, formerly the Majestic, then Davidson’s, which was sold to Mr. and Mrs. H.W. Mertins in August, 1926; the Light & Power Company; and the J.C. Penny Company which opened August 22, 1924, under the management of Waino Lahti and was expanded in 1948. [William John Cummings]
First National Bank, Northeast Corner of Third Street and Genesee Street, Iron River, ca. 1909: Postmarked April 14, 1909, this tinted black-and-white halftone postcard shows the northeast corner of Third and Genesee Streets, Iron River. The First National Bank operated from February, 1907, to March, 1933, when the bank holiday closed all the banks in the country. The bank building, designed by a Green Bay firm, was completed in August, 1909. The Iron River National Bank was opened in April, 1934, with Earl J. Van Ornum as president. The bank has been remodeled a number of times. The Reporter Building was next door to the bank building. Edward P. Lott, a local attorney, founded the Iron River Reporter, the first issue appearing on August 29, 1885. The paper was operated by Lott for two years and was then purchased by Pat O'Brien and the name changed to the Iron County Reporter, and shortly thereafter to the Iron River and Stambaugh Reporter. From 1887 to 1921 the Iron River and Stambaugh Reporter operated as a weekly and a bi-weekly. It became The Reporter in about 1969, retaining that title until October, 1970, when it again became the Iron River Reporter. [William John Cummings]
First National Bank, Northeast Corner of Third Street and Genesee Street, Iron River, ca. 1912: Postmarked June 11, 1912, this tinted black-and-white halftone postcard view, published by Russell’s Bakery, shows the northeast corner of Genesee and Third Streets, Iron River. The First National Bank opened the doors to its new building in August, 1909. The Reporter Building was located next door on Genesee Street. Note the horse and wagon at the far left. [William John Cummings]
First National Bank, Northeast Corner of Third Street and Genesee Street, Iron River, ca. 1911: Postmarked July 5, 1911, this tinted black-and-white halftone postcard view shows the First National Bank and The Reporter building, located at the northeast corner of Genesee and Third Streets, Iron River. This postcard view was published by Emil Ammermann, the owner of Iron River's first drug store. The building in the back at the far left was a bakery, possibly Russell's Bakery, the publisher of the preceding postcard view. [William John Cummings]
First National Bank, Northeast Corner of Third Street and Genesee Street, Iron River, ca. 1911: Postmarked July 19, 1911, this postcard view shows the First National Bank and The Reporter buildings at the northeast corner of Genesee and Third Streets, Iron River. Greene’s Cafe was located on the first floor of The Reporter building. [William John Cummings]
First National Bank, Northeast Corner of Third Street and Genesee Street, Iron River, ca. 1910-1915: This black-and-white halftone postcard view, dating between 1910 and 1915, shows the First National Bank and The Reporter building at the northeast corner of Genesee and Third Streets, Iron River. Published by the Iron River Pharmacy, this view shows many of the buildings farther east on Genesee Street. [William John Cummings]
Krom’s Department Store, Genesee Street, Iron River, ca. 1910: This postcard view of Krom’s Department Store in Iron River appears to be dated 1910. Barney Krom arrived in Iron River from Watersmeet in 1897, and leased the old Bond building. His successful store quickly outgrew the building and the adjoining Gordon building was purchased, connected to the Bond building by an archway. In 1909, Barney Krom erected this large, fireproof structure. During his career he established three partnerships: the first with Joe Joseph, 1916-1918; the second with I. Malsin, a brother-in-law, 1923-1925; and the third with his son, Arthur D. Krom. [eBay]
Genesee Street (Main Street), Looking West, Iron River, ca. 1960-1970: This colored postcard view, dating between 1960 and 1970, shows Genesee Street (Main Street), Iron River, looking west. Ben Franklin was opened by Albert Sartori of Crystal Falls in 1963 in the Masonic Building at 401 Genesee Street. The Masonic Building had been occupied by the A & P grocery store for many years. Fred J. Russell operated a news agency and also sold confectionery and fruits next door. Coast to Coast Hardware and Supplies was on the next block in the Nasser Building. [William John Cummings]
Genesee Street (Main Street), Looking West, Iron River, ca. 1960-1970: This colored postcard view, dating between 1960 and 1970, shows Genesee Street (Main Street), Iron River, looking west. On the south side of the street (left) the Coast to Coast Stores Hardware and Supplies was opened by Walter Carlson in July, 1962, in the Nasser Building, and the business was given a facelift in August, 1967. The Melstrom Drug Store, relocated to 310 West Genesee in 1960, was sold to Jim and Delores Sapletal in 1967, and became Jim’s Walgreen Pharmacy. Continuing on the south side (left) of the Genesee Street the J.C. Penny Company was next to Jim’s Walgreen Pharmacy. Next was the Upper Peninsula Power Company at 319 West Genesee Street, and finally Mertins Café. Al’s and Sal’s Bar, at the corner of Genesee Street and Second Avenue (right side of street), was opened at this site by Al and Sal Dominici in March, 1967. Continuing east on the north (right) side of the street were Miners’ State Bank, the Ben Franklin Store and The Shoe Box, which opened at 414 Genesee in 1949. [William John Cummings]
Intersection of Third Street and Adams Street, Facing South, Iron River, ca. 1930-1940:
This postcard view, dating between 1930 and 1940, was taken at the intersection of Third and Adams Streets, facing south. A gas station at the corner and then a building housing the Western Union office were on the left side at the corner. The Johns Funeral Home which operated from 1912 through April, 1959, is on the right side of the street at the corner. Albert Pori and John Cain operated Cain's Shoe Shop operated at 429 Third Street in the late 1920's, and the store was also located in the Warshawsky Building for a time. The Cloverland Hotel was next door and an unidentified drug store followed. [William John Cummings]
Iron River Town Hall (also Iron River City Hall), Northwest Corner of First Street and Genesee Street, ca. 1940-1950: This postcard view, dating between 1940 and 1950, shows the Iron River Town Hall (also the City Hall), located at the northwest corner of First Street and Genesee Street. [William John Cummings]
The Iron Inn, 200 West Adams Street, Iron River, ca. 1908: Postmarked August 1, 1908, this black-and-white halftone postcard view shows The Iron Inn, 200 West Adams Street, Iron River. Cyrus H. Sensiba built the hotel in 1906, the date appearing above the doorway. W.W. Moss’ Livery ran the Iron Inn Hotel Bus. [William John Cummings]
The Iron Inn, 200 West Adams Street, Iron River, ca. 1921-1930: This postcard view, dating between 1921 and 1930, shows The Iron Inn, 200 West Adams Street, Iron River, looking west. The Iron Inn is at the northwest corner of West Adams and Second Streets. A service garage was located next door. At the corner of West Adams and Third Streets is the Delft Theater, which opened December 1, 1921. Designed by Architects Herbert and Koenzi, of Milwaukee, in the Dutch Renaissance Style, the theater cost $75,000 and had a seating capacity of 750 until the concession stand was added. [William John Cummings]
The Iron Inn, 200 West Adams Street, Iron River, ca. 1940-1950: This black-and-white halftone postcard view, dating between 1940 and 1950, shows the Hotel Iron Inn, 200 West Adams Street. The Iron Inn Hotel, the oldest brick commercial building in Iron River, was constructed in 1906 by Cyrus H. Sensiba at a cost of $25,000. The 50-room hotel was fire-proof. Sensiba sold the hotel to C.A. Robinson in 1919. C.A. Robinson expanded the hotel, constructing an 18-room addition in 1923, and the two lobby rooms at the front of the original building were added in 1928, bringing the front of the building in line with the sidewalk. Jim and Rudy Manci purchased the Iron Inn from the First National Bank in 1936. The building was named a Michigan State Historical Site in 1974. [William John Cummings]
The Iron Inn, 200 West Adams Street, Iron River, ca. 1940-1950: This postcard view, dating between 1940 and 1950, shows The Iron Inn, 200 West Adams Street, Iron River, looking west. At the left, a gas station selling Texaco products is visible. The Iron Inn is at the northwest corner of West Adams and Second Streets. A service garage located next door was Bob Loos Oldsmobile and Cadillac. At the corner of West Adams and Third Streets is the Delft Theater, which opened December 1, 1921. Designed by Architects Herbert and Koenzi, of Milwaukee, in the Dutch Renaissance Style, the theater cost $75,000 and had a seating capacity of 750 until the concession stand was added. [William John Cummings]
Olaf Hansen’s Photography Studio, 217 Adams Street, Iron River, ca. 1910: When Olaf Hansen came to Florence, Wisconsin, from Hauges, Norway, in 1886, he apprenticed as a photographer under Jorgen J. Eskil, the foremost photographer on the Menominee Iron Range. In 1890 Hansen moved to Iron River where he set up a studio at 217 Adams Street. Note the skylight and large window. [Iron County Historical Museum]
Boyington House, Corner of Genesee Street and Second Street, ca. 1882-1885: Andrew Jackson Boyington opened his hotel, the Boyington House, on November 1, 1882, at the corner of Genesee and Second Streets Iron River. His first hotel, pictured, was completely destroyed by fire on June 27, 1885. [Iron County Historical Society Photo]
Boyington House, Corner of Genesee Street and Second Street, ca. 1886: Andrew Jackson Boyington rebuilt the hotel destroyed by fire, the new hotel opening on July 1, 1886. Note that the two-story porch had not been added when this photograph was taken. A horse-drawn bus was used to bring guests from the railroad depot. Boyington stood with his arm resting on the telephone pole. [Iron County Historical Society Photograph]
Boyington House, Corner of Genesee Street and Second Street, ca. 1890-1900: When this photograph of the second Boyington House, located at the corner of Genesee and Second Streets, Iron River, was taken, the two-story porch had been added. Note the architectural details over the windows and the gingerbread decoration on the two gables. [Iron County Historical Society Photo]
Boyington House, Corner of Genesee Street and Second Street, ca. 1909: Postmarked July 29, 1909, this tinted black-and-white halftone postcard view, published by Emil Ammermann, is identified as “The New Boyington Hotel, Iron River, Mich.” The structure was located at the corner of Genesee and Second Streets. Note the horse-drawn “bus” used to transport guests between the railroad depot and the hotel. [William John Cummings]
Boyington House, Corner of Genesee Street and Second Street, ca. 1910: Postmarked July 7, about 1910 (year missing), this tinted halftone postcard view shows the “Hotel Boyington, Iron River, Mich.” Andrew Jackson Boyington turned the hotel over to his son, Philip Boyington, who ran the hotel for a time and then sold the hostelry to Mr. Zykowski. Mrs. Laura Zykowski, his widow, sold it to Bernard Mariani on October 1, 1946. He had the hotel demolished on July 10, 1966. [William John Cummings]
St. Agnes Catholic Church, 704 Fourth Avenue, Iron River, 1907: The first priest to visit Iron County’s mining and lumbering camps was Father Melchior Faust, of Iron Mountain. From 1882 to 1885 priests offered Mass in the school building and stayed in private homes. Iron River's first Catholic church was built in 1885. Three years later the first rectory was constructed. Father James Lenhart began his 37-year pastorate at St. Agnes on Sept. 1, 1898. He quickly rallied parishioners for a larger church. The cornerstone for the new structure was laid Nov. 28, 1901. On Dec. 8, 1954, a fire started in the kitchen area and spread quickly throughout the church, consuming the entire pine structure. Dated 1907 on the back of this halftone postcard view published by Emil Ammermann, owner of Iron River's first drug store, shows St. Agnes Catholic Church. [William John Cummings]
St. Agnes Catholic Church and Parsonage, 704 Fourth Avenue, Iron River, ca. 1912: Postmarked January 9, 1912, this real photo halftone postcard view shows St. Agnes Catholic Church and Parsonage, 704 Fourth Avenue. The cornerstone was laid November 28, 1901, and the cost of the new structure, boasting a 110-foot Gothic tower, was $15,000. Following the 1954 fire, a new brick church was constructed and was dedicated November 25, 1956. [William John Cummings]
St. Agnes Catholic Church and Parsonage, 704 Fourth Avenue, Iron River, ca. 1912: Postmarked May 6, 1912, this tinted halftone postcard view shows St. Agnes Catholic Church and Parsonage, 704 Fourth Avenue. The cornerstone was laid November 28, 1901, and the cost of the new structure, boasting a 110-foot Gothic tower, was $15,000. Following the 1954 fire, a new brick church was constructed and was dedicated November 25, 1956. [William John Cummings]
Interior of St. Agnes Catholic Church, 704 Fourth Avenue, Iron River, ca. 1907-1918: Dating between 1907 and 1918, this unused postcard view shows the interior of St. Agnes Church decorated for Christmas. The high altar in the center was donated by William Murphy, while the Blessed Virgin’s Altar at the left was donated by John McGillis and St. Joseph’s Altar at the right was donated by Joseph and Charles Malinowski. [William John Cummings]
St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Youngs Addition, Iron River, ca. 1922-1930: Dating between 1925 and 1942, this postcard view shows St. Mary’s Catholic Church and Parsonage. A growing colony of Polish-speaking Catholics organized as a congregation in about 1900, and in 1903 formed a fraternity under the patronage of St. Joseph. In 1911, eleven lots situated in the Youngs Addition were purchased for $4,000, and the first church was built by the congregation between the spring of 1910 and the fall of 1911 at a cost of $4,500. Construction of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, at a cost of $60,000, began in 1920 under leadership of Father J.F. Kulczk. The architect was I.E. Brielmaier, of Milwaukee. The church was dedicated July 9, 1922, and finally completed in 1923. [William John Cummings]
First Methodist Episcopal Church (St. Paul’s Methodist Church, Wesley Union Methodist Church), Corner of Fifth Street and Maple Street, Iron River, ca. 1938-1945: Dating between 1925 and 1940, this postcard view shows the First Methodist Episcopal Church, Iron River. The Methodists erected a church on lots donated by the McKinnon brothers, the city’s founders, the new church being dedicated early in the summer of 1900. During the pastorate of Rev. W.B. Coombe (1918-1920) the church was moved to a new basement immediately west of its original location. In 1938 the church was moved to a new location at Fifth and Maple Streets, and a short time later the name was changed to St. Paul’s Methodist Church. The Iron River Post Office was built on the site vacated by the removal of the church. On June 1, 1957, the church became the Wesley Union Methodist Church with the merger of the congregations of St. Paul’s Methodist of Iron River and First Methodist of Stambaugh. [William John Cummings]
Iron River High School, 218 Cayuga Street, Iron River, 1907: Dated 1907, this black-and-white halftone postcard view, identified as the “High School, Iron River, Mich.” Published by Emil Ammermann, owner of Iron River’s first drug store, the notation indicates the school was constructed for $35,000. [William John Cummings]
Iron River High School, 218 Cayuga Street, Iron River, 1910-1920: Another black-and-white halftone postcard, dating between 1910 and 1920 and published by Emil Ammermann, shows the Iron River High School. The contract for the new Central School was let to Newman and Johnson for $20,475 on May 21, 1904. Conover brick and adamant plaster were used in constructing the building which was dedicated April 22, 1905. The building contained ten large classrooms, an 500-seat assembly hall with a large stage on the first floor for lecture purposes, laboratory and recitation rooms, an office and a library. [William John Cummings]
Iron River High School, 218 Cayuga Street, Iron River, 1911-1915: Postmarked September 12, ca. 1911-1915 (year not printed), this sepia halftone postcard view of Iron River High School was published and copyrighted by Emil Ammermann, the owner of Iron River’s first drug store. Wings were added in 1910 at a cost of $3,600. [William John Cummings]
Iron River High School, 218 Cayuga Street, Iron River, ca. 1916: Postmarked April 27, 1916, this tinted halftone postcard view shows Iron River High School after wings were added to either end of the Central School’s original structure, the contract being let in May, 1910, for a total of $3,600. In late August, 2012, plans to transform the former Central School, at 218 West Cayuga Street, into the Apple Blossom Apartments were announced. The first floor will include commercial space and a community room in the old auditorium and the second and third floors will contain 22 apartments. [William John Cummings]
Iron River High School, Northwest Corner of Adams Street and Sixth Street, Iron River, ca. 1949: Postmarked September 4, 1949, this postcard view shows the new Iron River High School, located at the northwest corner of Adams Street and Sixth Street. The three-story brick structure, dedicated February 22, 1928, faces Adams Street. [William John Cummings]
Fourth Street, Looking North, Iron River, 1908: Postmarked April 15, 1908, this postcard view is identified as “Fourth St. North, Iron River, Mich., No. 6 1908.” This postcard view was taken looking south from the railroad tracks. St. Agnes Catholic Church dominates the block in this early view. The church’s cornerstone was laid November 28, 1901. [William John Cummings]
Fourth Street and Cayuga Street, Iron River, ca. 1910-1920: This unused tinted black-and-white halftone postcard view, dating between 1910 and 1920, is identified as “Fourth and Cayuga St., Iron River, Mich.” Early residences line the street. [William John Cummings]
Dr. and Mrs. Frank (Carrie Jacobs) Bond Home, Northeast Corner of Adams Street and Sixth Street, Iron River, ca. 1940-1950: Dating between 1940 and 1950, this halftone postcard view is identified as the “Former Home of Carrie Jacobs Bond, Iron River, Mich.” Carrie Jacobs Bond, wife of Dr. Frank Bond, her childhood sweetheart, lived with her husband in Iron River for seven years. Her husband died of injuries from a fall, and Carrie left Iron River for Chicago in 1895. She became a composer and singer of note, earning more money writing songs than any woman of her day. Perhaps her most famous song – “I Love You Truly” – was written in memory of her dead husband in the 1890’s. She composed some 200 songs, including “A Perfect Day.” She sang for Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and Warren G. Harding, and counted Sarah Bernhardt as a friend and admirer. She died in her home in Hollywood December 28, 1946. The house was originally located on the northeast corner of Adams Street and Sixth Street, across from the Iron River High School. Carrie Jacobs Bond’s home was moved to the Iron County Museum complex in Caspian in October, 1978, and restored in 1980. [William John Cummings]
Stave Factory, Iron River, ca. 1908: Postmarked September 1, 1908, this black-and-white halftone postcard view is identified as “Loading Slabs at the Stave Factory, Iron River, Mich.” The Buckeye Lumber and Stave Mill, located between Bruno Hall and the Iron River, began operation in the late 1890’s. [William John Cummings]
Bates Mine, NW and N ½ of SW and Part of S ½ of SW, Section 19, Township 43 North, Range 34 West, Iron River, ca. 1910-1920: This unused, tinted black-and-white halftone postcard view, dating between 1910 and 1920, shows the “Bates Mine, Iron River, Mich.” Located on the NW and N ½ of SW and part of S ½ of SW, Section 19, T43N, R34W, the Bates Mine opened in 1910, operated originally by the Bates Iron Company and later by the Hanna Iron Ore Company. The mine reached a depth of 2,040 feet and closed in 1947, having shipped 4,054,666 tons between 1915 and 1947. [William John Cummings]
Concrete Shaft Construction, Roger’s Mine, Iron River, ca. 1912: Postmarked August 3, 1912, this black-and-white halftone postcard view shows the “Concrete Shaft, Roger’s Mine, Iron River, Mich.” Located in the SW Sec. 21 and W ½ and NE of Sec 29 – T43N, R34W, the Rogers Mine opened in 1912, the year this postcard was mailed. It was first operated by the Munro Iron Mining Company and then the Hanna Iron Ore Company. The mine was 500 feet deep and shipped a total of 2,907,375 tons between 1914 and 1945. No ore was shipped in 1921, 1934, 1938-1939 and 1943-1944. [William John Cummings]
Diamond Drill Operation Near Iron River, ca. 1912: Postmarked August 31, 1912, this postcard view is identified as “Diamond Drill Near Iron River, Mich.” Diamond drilling was done to produce core samples to determine the location of iron ore at various depths. The full height of the diamond drill rig pictured above is not visible.  

[William John Cummings]
Miners Using Rand Drill, Unidentified Iron Mine, Iron River, ca. 1920-1930: This unused postcard view by the Iron Range Studio, Iron River, Mich., dating between 1920 and 1930, shows two miners using a Rand drill. Note the drill bits lined up against the rock wall, and the air hoses used to supply the compressed air which ran the drill.  [William John Cummings]
Shaft House, Chatham Mine, Iron River, ca. 1911: Postmarked December 11, 1911, this halftone postcard view shows the “Shaft House, Chatham Mine, Iron River, Mich.” Posing at the shaft house in preparation for a day’s work in the depths of the mine, these miners were using miner’s candlesticks with shields to work in the mine. [William John Cummings]
Hiawatha Mine, Stambaugh District, Iron River, ca. 1910: This tinted black-and-white halftone postcard view shows “The Hiawatha Mine, Stambaugh District, Iron River, Mich.” The Munro Iron Mining Company began operating the Hiawatha No. 1 iron mine in 1893. This complex grew to include several smaller mines and mining properties: the Anna Mine, North Hiawatha property, West Hiawatha property, Chatham Mine, Stegmiller property, and the east half (the producing half) of the Wickwire Mine. The Hiawatha No. 1 Mine was incorporated into the Hiawatha Group in 1943 by the Hanna Iron Ore Company. The main workings boasted 18 levels developed to a depth of 2,100 feet. [William John Cummings]
Wickwire Mine, NE-NW and NW-NE, Section 35, Township 42 North, Range 35 West, Iron River, ca. 1912: Postmarked August 29, 1912, this tinted black-and-white halftone postcard view shows the “Wickwire Mine, Iron River, Mich.” Located in the NE-NW and NW-NE, Section 35, T42N, R35W, the Wickwire Mine opened in 1911, and was first operated by the Wickwire Mining Company. The mine was 313 feet deep and shipped a total of 128,869 tons between 1911 and 1917, with no shipments in 1915. The productive part of mine became part of Hiawatha No. 1, operated by the Hanna Iron Ore Company. [William John Cummings]
Zimmerman Mine, Iron River, ca. 1910: This postcard view, dating from about 1910, shows the Zimmerman Mine, Iron River, Mich. [Internet Photo]
Steam Hauler, Unidentified Logging Operation, Iron River, ca. 1925-1942: This postcard view, dating between 1925 and 1942, shows “Modern Logging, Iron River, Mich.” Copyright by the Iron Range Studio, Iron River, Mich., a steam hauler is shown, as well as a team of horses at the left. [William John Cummings]