Hotels

HISTORY OF PLUSH EARLY HOTELS

By Mrs. Reycraft

Mrs. Reycraft Tells History Of Plush Early Hotels Here

Started Resorters Coming in 1870's

A capacity audience heard about the beginnings and the history of the early hotels in **Petoskey** at the November meeting of the **Little Traverse Regional Historical Society** in the **Library** of the **Petoskey Junior High School** last night.

It was a fascinating, well researched story told by **Mrs. D.H. Reycraft** who, with her late husband, owned and operated the **Perry Hotel** for many years.

Petoskey was but a clearing in the wilderness of **northern Michigan** when the first hotel was built in 1873, the year the **Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad** was being constructed into **Petoskey.** A **Doctor Little** and his brother built the establishment and named it the **Rose House** in honor of **H.O. Rose,** one of the founders of the village. It was located at the corner of **Railroad and Lake Street** where the present **Elks Temple** now stands.

The **Rose House** was sold in 1887 to **Charles Persons** who renamed it the **Occidental.** It then boasted of 294 rooms and was one of the finer hotels in **Petoskey** before it burned and was replaced by the brick building which is now occupied by the **Elks Club.**

Mrs. Reycraft's research showed that in 1875 **D.J. Cushman** built the **Cushman House** across the street from the **Occidental.** It was finally enlarged so that it extended from **Lake to Mitchell Streets** with a porch 254 feet long facing the **Park** along the railroad right of way. The **Cushman House** was two stories high and the roof was supported by large, attractive ionic columns.

In 1882 the **Arlington Hotel,** which could accommodate 300 guests in elegant splendor was built to the west of the railroad tracks overlooking **Little Traverse Bay**, about where the city tennis courts are now located. It was a very "plush" resort hotel for its day with thick carpets throughout the rooms, excellent dining facilities and offered first class entertainment for its guests.

Mrs. Reycraft said that all of the big resort hotels in those days had orchestras which played for dancing at least two evenings each week.

At one time the advertisements of the **Arlington Hotel** boasted that it could accommodate more guests than the **Grand Hotel on Machinac Island.**

In 1895 the **Imperial Hotel** was built at the **Corner of Bay and Division Streets** where the new **City County building** now stands.

The **Perry Hotel** was built in 1899 at the corner of **Bay and Lewis Streets,** by **Dr. Perry.** It was the first brick hotel built here. It was later purchased by the **Reycraft** brothers, **Doctors John** and **George** in 1922 with the intention of converting it into a hospital but plans were changed and the **Reycraft** family operated it as a hotel until it was purchased in recent years by **J.R. Davis** and is now operated as the **Perry-Davis.**

Over the years, several additions and improvements have been made to the original **Perry Hotel** and it is now the only one of the many big resort hotels in **Petoskey** still standing and operating as a hotel.

Some of the other smaller hotels Mrs. **Reycraft** mentioned in her talk were:

Bay Shore House, a Bath House near Mineral Well Park.

National Hotel, at Petoskey and Bay Streets, in the 300 block.

Banghart Hotel, at Petoskey and Bay Streets, later named **The Chippewa** and still standing.

The City Hotel, on Mitchell Street, later enlarged and named the **Clifton Hotel.**

Petrie House, at 220 Mitchell Street.

Exchange Hotel, at Lake and Petoskey Streets.

The Ozark at **Lake** and **Clinton**.

The Pacific House, on Howard near Mitchell Street.

Heartel Inn, later named the **Grand Hotel** on W. Lake Street at Bear River.

Oriental Hotel, later named **Clark's Tavern**, on Lake Street overlooking the Pere Marquett Park.

The **Jewel Hotel**, midway between Petoskey and Bay, View.

The **American Hotel**, first building on Mitchell Street east of Railroad.

Deutsches Gast House or **"Farmer's Home"** on W. Lake Street.

Mrs. Reycraft told how it was fashionable to come to **Petoskey** by train or boat and stay all summer at the several resort hotels in the **Petoskey** area. Many came for relief of hay fever and stayed until the first frost.

The larger hotels offered a complete social program, excellent food, and each one had its own orchestra for dancing and other entertainment.

"These hotels were rated as some of the finest resort hotels in the country in their day and they attracted many of the socially prominent families of the world whose descendants and friends have stayed in this area and built summer homes," **Mrs. Reycraft** said.

A few postcard pictures of the old hotels were shown to those staying after the program.

Society President **Seberon Litzenberger** announced that members who want to help with the annual Christmas party at the **Holy Childhood School** in **Harbor Springs** on Wednesday, December 11, may do so by sending their cash contributions to P.O. Box 162, **Petoskey.**

Extracted Petoskey News-Review
Thursday, November 14, 1968, page 12

PETOSKEY HOTELS

PETOSKEY HOTELS

The Occidental, Cushman House, Ozark, Clifton House, American House, Lake View House, Farmers Home, Tracy House and Wenks House.

Petoskey City Record
Thursday, January 9, 1879

As there promises to be a large influx of emigrants and swarms of visitors to our famous resorts next season, intent upon business, pleasure, or the benefits to be derived from inhaling our pure, life-giving, and disease-dispelling atmosphere, and quaffing draughts of clear and crystal *aqua pura* from our hundreds of bubbling springs and babbling brooks, abounding with that handsome and most toothsome of the genus fish, the far famed speckled trout, we have been at some pains to condense a few facts relative to the hotel accommodations to be had in Petoskey, for the hungry and sleepy hordes, who are already devising plans and arranging programmes for next seasons' observance. We will first preface this article by remarking that as a general rule no place in the country so much frequented, is so free from the class of vicious and dangerous hotels as is Petoskey. The rates charged are reasonable, and the stranger once established is as free from intrusion and molestation as though he stood within the precincts of his own home. This is due to the fact that many of the hotel proprietors are gentlemen of previous experience and character in the business, and have taken great pains to sustain a high standard of excellence, realizing that a tourist or visitor hospitably entertained and comfortably provided for, is not only liable to seek the same locality again, but also to recommend and persuade his friends to avail themselves of the same facilities.

THE OCCIDENTAL

Being the pioneer hotel, will be the first on the list. It is a large three-story structure, commenced five years ago last New Year's, by the late Dr. Little, who came here from Canada, and with far-seeing sagacity commenced the erection of a hotel, which is now the Occidental. Is was at that time considered a wild, chimerical scheme, its proportions being far in advance of what the country seemed to warrant or would require for many years to come. The opening of this reservation for homestead purposes in April, 1875, soon exhibited the wisdom and forethought of Dr. Little, as the speculator, land agent, and actual settler found rest and accommodation after their weary and toilsome trip on the slow and often belated trains of the G. R. & I. R. R., the track of which, although having since attained a high degree of excellence, was at that time in a very imperfect condition. For months, the Rose House, as it was then called, in honor of one of our most prominent and enterprising citizens, H. O. Rose, Esq., was piled, stacked, filled and jammed from foundation to ridge with an eager, scrambling and exacting crowd, who here found accommodations, which considering the well nigh ceaseless torrent of travel, and the uncertainty of procuring the necessary supplies, were very creditable. Dr. Little having built up an enviable record as a first-class landlord, and an intelligent, public-spirited, and enterprising citizen, died at Grand Rapids, while on a trip to Florida, for the benefit of his health. The hotel then passed for a short time into the hands of Dr. Little's brother, and from thence to D. C. Bradley. The hotel is now kept by Mr. Charles B. Persons, a gentleman whose lifetime has been spent in catering for the public, and who thoroughly comprehends everything pertaining to the hotel business. Under his administration the Occidental has achieved a reputation second to none in the country, and is receiving a large share of the public patronage. Being immediately opposite the railroad depot, and therefore convenient of access to this class it has become a great rendezvous for railroad men, which, from the fact of this being the terminus of the road, and the point from which numerous trains are made up, frequently has a large number of train men stopping here. The Occidental has 40 sleeping rooms, although in a case of emergency, by the use of cots and other appliances, 150 sleepers can be accommodated. The dining room has eight tables, which will accommodate 48 guests. No bar is kept on the premises, which is a feature of most of the public houses of Petoskey, but Mr. Persons makes a specialty of fine cigars, and lovers of the weed cannot fail to find among his numerous

PETOSKEY HOTELS

The Occidental, Cushman House, Ozark, Clifton House, American House, Lake View House, Farmers Home, Tracy House and Wenks House.

brands something suited to their taste. A few of his leading brands are the "E. C. T.," "B. S. T.," "Santiago," "K. C. B," and "Kuppenheimer's Own." The Occidental is also the headquarters for both man and beast of one line of Cheboygan stages, the Charlevoix stages and one line of Little Traverse stages. From the Occidental, as from several of the other hotels, all parts of the bay and town are plainly conspicuous.

THE CUSHMAN HOUSE

Was built in 1874, by D. J. Cushman, a veteran hotel keeper, and previously from Otsego, Allegan county, who has been its proprietor and popular landlord from its inception up to the present time. The Cushman House is now the largest hotel in Petoskey, being 50x104 feet, and three stories in height. Mr. Cushman was reluctantly compelled last summer, night after night, to turn people away for want of a place to stow them. He has partially provided against this in the future by building a large addition in the rear of his house, the rooms of which are finished with the exception of plastering, which will be done in the spring. None of these rooms are less than 12x18 feet, and will be furnished with all the modern appliances which minister to the comfort and convenience of the traveler, and will be perfect in ventilation and other necessary essentials. Mr. Cushman is noted for his quiet, undemonstrative manner, and while attentive to the wants of his guests, does it in such a systematic, matter-of-fact way, devoid of all excitement and bustle, that he wins the heart of his patrons, and is voted a success from the very outset. The Cushman has 65 rooms, and table accommodations for 80 guests, which is soon to be increased to an even 100. In connection with the hotel is a large and spacious barn. One line of Cheboygan stages and one Little Traverse line make this hotel their headquarters.

THE OZARK

Is the most sightly of Petoskey's hotels, standing on a commanding eminence at the east end of Lake street. The house is very ornamental, and away from the noise and excitement which constantly prevails about the depot during the rush of visitors in the summer season. Here a person may find a cozy, comfortable, and retired resting place, and in this respect, from its situation, it surpasses any of our hotels. The house is the property of O. D. Tracy, and is temporarily closed for the winter. It will again be opened to the traveling public next May. It has 15 bedrooms, and its table has seating facilities for 32 persons.

THE CLIFTON HOUSE,

Formerly City Hotel, is located on Mitchell street, and is conducted on strictly temperance principles, J. A. C. Rowan, being the landlord. Mr. Rowan commenced his career in this country as a homesteader, and after following different lines of business, has for the last eight months, officiated as the good-natured Boniface of the Clifton. Although running a hotel is a new business to Mr. Rowan, he seems to take to it as naturally as though he were to the manor born, and has won a host of friends. He is well patronized, and receives much of the custom of the Charlevoix county towns which lie along our border, and transact their business here. Joe's beds number 12, for the accommodation of the weary one, while 32 guests can find elbow room at his table. The Clifton House was built in 1873, and is the property of Capt. Crysler, of Little Traverse.

THE AMERICAN HOUSE

Is also on Mitchell street, close to the railroad track, and is ably conducted by G. Fochtman. Mr. Fochtman has 15 rooms, containing 20 beds, while 20 hungry lads can get full and ample satisfaction in his dining room.

THE LAKE VIEW HOUSE

Is situated on Lake street, nearly opposite the Occidental, and is kept by John McNeill. This house has arrangements for sleeping 30 persons, and its tables, three in number, will also accommodate about the same. Mr. McNeill will enlarge his house in the spring to double its present capacity.

THE FARMERS HOME,

Or "Deutsches Gasthaus," as the Teutonic legend over the door has it, is not only a capital place for the entertainment of farmers, but is also hard to beat for any hungry biped in search of a good, palatable meal. Conrad with much less pretension than many of his neighbors, dishes up a repast

PETOSKEY HOTELS

The Occidental, Cushman House, Ozark, Clifton House, American House, Lake View House, Farmers Home, Tracy House and Wenks House.

that for cleanness, variety, and good cooking is not easily "laid over." This house is situated on Lake street, and long flourished under the cognomen of Lake Street House, Conrad Zoll, proprietor. Its dimensions are 22x51 feet, two stories high. Thirty lodgers can find rest with Conrad, while his table will seat 20 individuals. Mr. Zoll finds himself much annoyed for want of accommodation for his largely increasing trade, and contemplates an extension of 26 feet to his house in the spring, which will largely increase his hotel facilities. Having much demand for barn room, he will also erect a building for that purpose in the spring, immediately across the street from the hotel, having already secured the lot. Its dimensions will be 16x26 feet.

THE TRACY HOUSE

Is O. D. Tracy's down-town hotel, and is situated on the corner of Lake street and Railroad avenue. It is a popular resort, especially, for the old pioneers of this country, O. D. being one of them, having first landed here in 1874. Tracy's genial, pains-taking manner, always brings back a customer who has once patronized him. The Tracy House has 15 rooms, and 50 persons can be fed at one sitting.

THE WENKS HOUSE.

Is located on Railroad avenue, and John Henderson, is the landlord. The house will accommodate 20 persons with beds, and the tables, two in number, will seat 25.

With the Wenks House, we close our article on hotels. Our information has been hastily gathered, and some inaccuracies may have occurred. We have, however, endeavored to do justice to all concerned, from an impartial standpoint, having nothing extenuated, or aught set down in malice. Beside the hotels we have enumerated, there are numerous boarding-houses, where even the most fastidious will find no cause for complaint.

NATIONAL HOTEL

Proprietor
John George Braun

NATIONAL HOTEL

The Emmet County Democrat
Local Luncheon
Friday, April 6, 1883

National Hotel.

About the middle of this month Mr. J. G. Braun will open the above named hotel on Lake Street. The building is now completed, finished and will be furnished in first class shape. Mr. Braun will have twenty-five rooms for guests all of them pleasent and well furinished. This building has been idle for some time on account of its not being finished, but now Mr. Schluttenhoffer, the owner, has pushed it to completion. The old hotel burned on this site a few years since had a good name under the management of Conrad Zoll, and we are confident that the new National under the management of Mr. Braun will be a good place for the traveling public to be entertained.

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Emmet County Democrat
April 9, 1886

NATIONAL HOTEL,

JOHN G. BRAUN, Propr.

Petoskey, - - Michigan.

Located on Lake street half way between depot and steamboat landing.

Rates Reasonable.

Petoskey Evening News
Friday, June 18, 1926

JOHN GEORGE BRAUN DIES FRIDAY

Was Pioneer Resident of Petoskey Retired About Eight Years Ago.

In Hotel and Restaurant Business For Forty Years Poor Health Long Time

John George Braun, for forty-five years connected with the hotel and restaurant business of Petoskey, died Friday forenoon at Lockwood hospital, where he had been for the last twelve weeks. Despite the fact that his condition was known to be serious, his death came as a shock to his family and friends. He was 77 years old. Mr. Braun made many friends throughout all Northern Michigan, especially among the older residents of the region, who will receive the news of his passing with sorrow and regret.

Mr. Braun was born in Germany and came to the United States when a mere lad. He was attracted to Grand Rapids, where as an expert cabinet maker he was employed for many years. There he met and married Mrs. Braun, who was formerly Miss Margaret Dieffendaker.

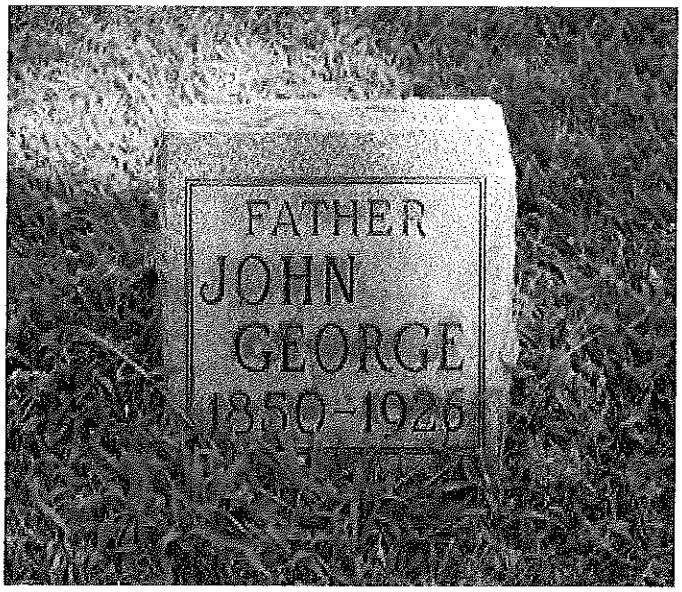
Shortly after coming to Petoskey forty-five years ago, they entered the hotel business, having the old Central hotel on Lake street. About twelve years later they built their own hotel and restaurant on Howard street. They retired from business eight years ago but always made their home here.

Mr. Braun was a member of the German Evangelical church of this city, an Elk and member of the Arbeiter society. Surviving members of the immediate family are the wife, Mrs. Margaret Braun, and one son, Philip Braun, of Flint.

Petoskey Evening News
Saturday, June 19, 1926

—The funeral of the late John George Braun will be held at 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon from the German Evangelical church. Members of the B. P. O. Elks' lodge of this city, of which Mr. Braun was a member, will attend in a body. Burial will be in Greenwood. Rev. G. C. Marbach and Rev. A. Buettner in charge.

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Greenwood Cemetery
Greenwood Road
Petoskey, Emmet County, Michigan

Section D, Block 29, Lot 11

Petoskey Evening News
Tuesday, May 14, 1935

MRS JOHN BRAUN
LONG TIME RESIDENT, DIES MONDAY

Mrs. John George Braun, one of the city's oldest residents, passed away quite unexpectedly last night at her home at 918 Baxteer street. Mrs. Braun was nearing 80 years of age and had resided in Petoskey since 1878.

Born in Waterloo, Ont., July 8, 1855 Mrs. Braun came to Michigan. She and Mr. Braun then located in Petoskey 57 years ago and operated a restaurant business on North Howard street. Their restaurant was one of the the city's famous eating places. Mr. Braun died in 1926.

Mrs. Braun was affiliated with the Petoskey Home Benevolent Society, with the Lady Maccabees and Rebekahs and a member of the German Evangelical Lutheran church, corner of Emmet and Grove streets.

Surviving is one son, Philip Braun of Flint, the only survivor of six children; her daughter-in-law, Mrs. George Braun of Petoskey and five grand children.

The funeral will be held at 2 o'clock Thursday afternoon from the German Evangelical church with burial in Greenwood.

The body will be at the Henika Funeral Parlors until noon Thursday and then removed to the church. Friends may call.



Greenwood Cemetery
Greenwood Road
Petoskey, Emmet County, Michigan

Section D, Block 29, Lot 11

RIDGEWOOD HOTEL

Near the G. R. & U, Suburban Station
Petoskey, Emmet County, Michigan

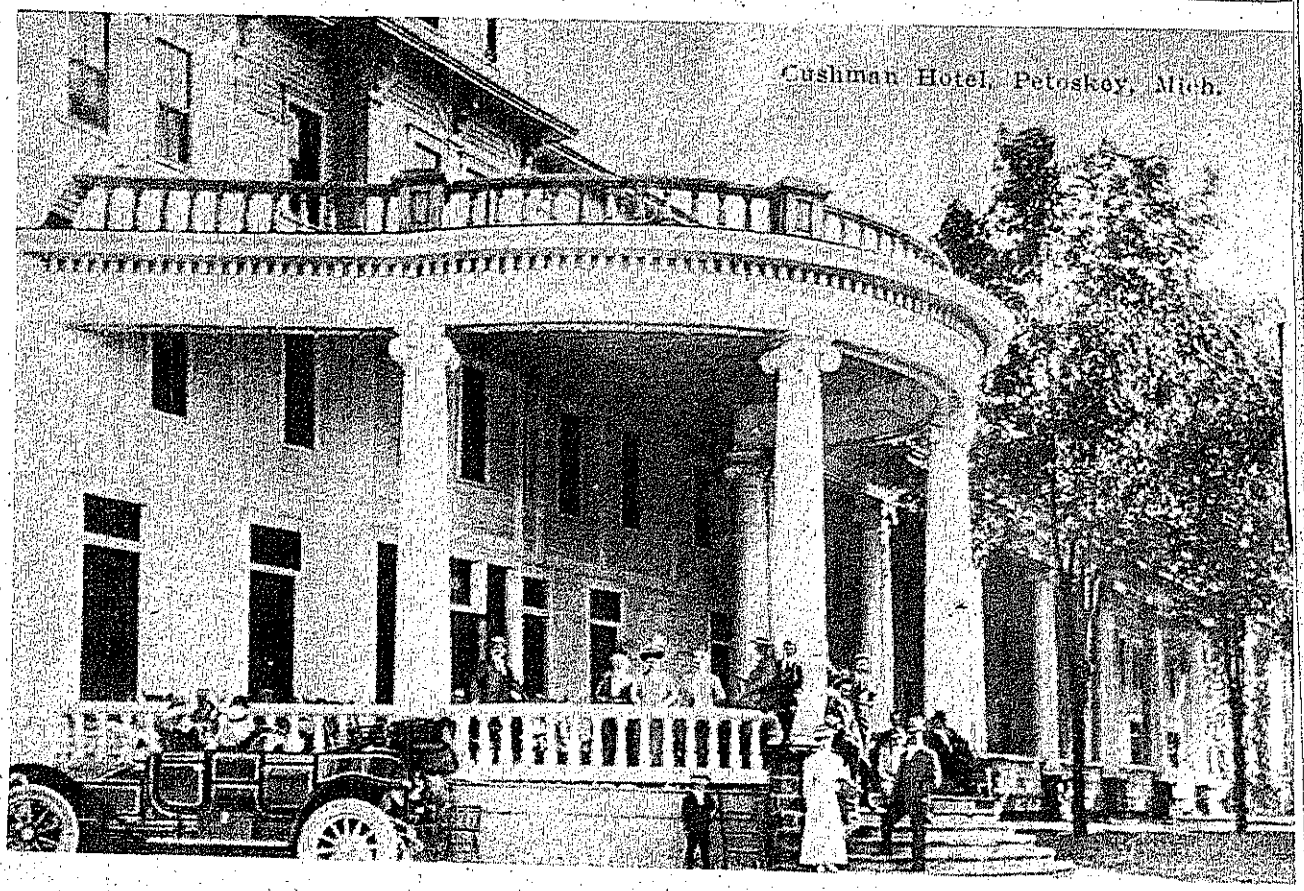
The Petoskey Record
Thursday, July 11, 1912

Something New

The "Ridgewood," Petoskey's newest and latest hotel, was thrown open to the public last Saturday. It is opposite the Cushman house and is near the G. R. & I. suburban station, and under its present management is destined to take front rank among the hotels of Petoskey. The house has recently undergone a complete transformation, has been overhauled from top to bottom and has been newly furnished throughout so that it now presents a most attractive and inviting appearance.

The house is centrally located and is really one of the prettiest small hotels in this section. The management will cater to best class of trade One pleasing feature in connection, is a small tea room, the service of which will be a la carte. A regular table d'hote breakfast, luncheon and dinner will be served in the dining room each day and the Ridgeway junior orchestra will furnish the best of music during the dinner hour. A card room has also been provided for use of the guests. The Ridgeway will be found a convenient place to rest and get a lunch and the management cordially invites the public to call and avail themselves of the accommodations provided.

Cushman's
Hotel



EARLY VIEW of the Cushman House after the huge wooden porch was added to the original structure and before the annex was built. Notice the vintage Maxwell touring car in the foreground. The photo is from a collection of early photos owned by Ray Bay of Bay's Restaurant.

Mr. Cushman was a native of Canada and came to Michigan in 1856. Since moving to Petoskey he became active in the growth and prosperity of the village. He held the office of village trustee and was a member of the Masonic order.

The hotel grew in dimensions as increasing business demanded and became a large and well appointed hotel. It was located near the depot which was just a block north of the site.

The proprietors of the Cushman in 1884 were Cushman and Judson.

After Cushman and Judson sold their interests to W.L. McManus the annex was added, running through to Mitchell-st. over the old corner building that once housed the post office and later the Royal Cigar Store. In or about 1925 the annex caught fire and everything was lost, including the Royal Cigar and other buildings.

Dr. Dean C. Burns bought the property and was going to erect a clinic there but later found the site unsuitable.

The next owner was William F. Schaller of the Northern Michigan Review. He sold it to Meyer Hardware.

Herman Meyer, sr. used much of the brick from the old Cushman annex as interior wall brick. Today the business is thriving under Herman Meyer, Jr.

On the wall of the Park Garden an outline can be seen of the old fireplace that was in the

lobby of the original Cushman House.

It is reported that when the Cushman was torn down the fireplace was saved and is in use as an outdoor fireplace somewhere in Petoskey.

THE CUSHMAN HOTEL

The Cushman House

One of the leading hotels of the famous **Petoskey** summer resort region is the **Hotel Cushman.** This hotel is open all year round, the **Annex** being utilized exclusively for summer guests. The **Cushman** has accommodation for 350 guests and has been taxed to the capacity for the 34 seasons during the summer. The **Cushman** is popular for newly wedded couples and during the spring and fall it entertains many bridal parties.

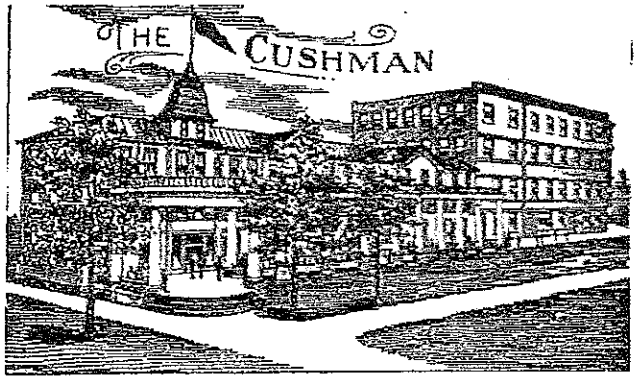
The **Cushman House** and **Annex** are recognized as the standard of excellence. The hotel is modern, rooms en suite, with private baths. Many public baths. Electric passenger elevator. Finest location, which is central to all attractions. A beautiful park extends across the entire front, facing a spacious porch with room for a thousand guests.

The **Annex** which is a four story building is a model of beauty and safety. It is a strictly fire proof structure, being constructed of pressed brick and cut stone. The rooms are large and magnificently appointed and cannot be surpassed by any hotel for comfort and location.

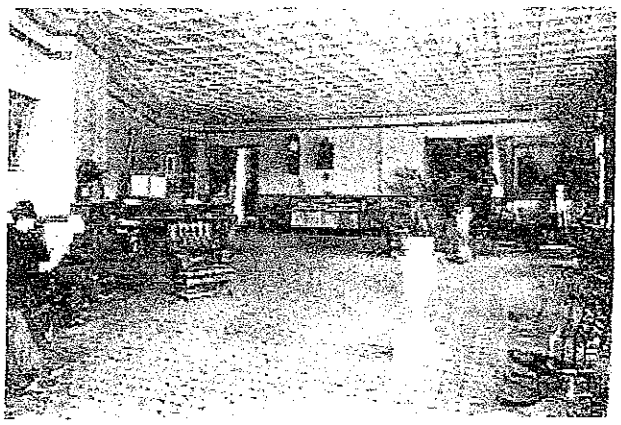
A superb orchestra furnishes music for meals and daily concerts, and semi-weekly hops are held.

The tables are supplied with all fresh dairy and garden products, which are produced on large farms, which are contracted for their entire supply. Berries and fruits are served the same day they are picked.

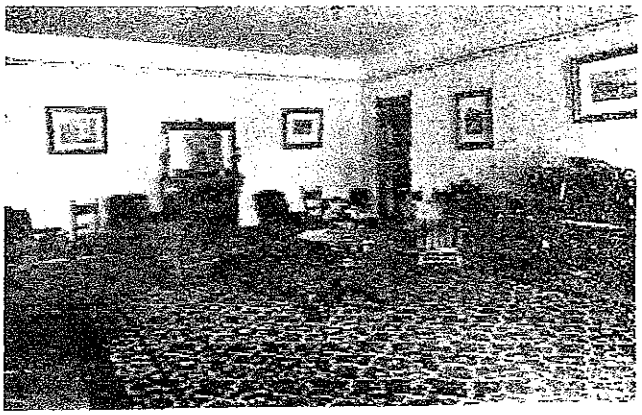
The **Suburban Terminal Station** is located within two minutes walk of the main entrance, where all trains are taken for the neighboring resorts, **Wequetonsing, Harbor Springs, Harbor Point, Roaring Brook, Charlevoix, Oden** and **Walloon Lake**, with their varied amusements, golf, tennis, boating and the like. All within a few minutes ride. Historic **Mackinac** may be reached in two hours. **Beaver Island**, former home of the **Mormon King Strang**, may be seen in outline from the main entrance, and the large lake steamers touch at **St. James, the King's** capital city.



The rates at the Cushman are $2.50 per day and up. Special rates by the week also rates for children and maids. For further information address W. L. McManus Jr., proprietor, care of the Cushman, Petoskey, Michigan



Lobby



Ladies Parlor

Article & Pictures extracted Petoskey Record, 1908
Titled Petoskey Queen of the North.

The Petoskey Record
Wednesday, July 1, 1885

The Garfield Peach Tree.

People passing by the northern end of the park in front of the Cushman House, may notice a young peach tree growing a few feet away from the fence, and wonder that it should have been planted in a place of that kind. There are associations however connected with that little tree of no small interest; and the few who know its history never pass by without thinking of the martyr, president Garfield. The day after the removal of the dying president from Francklyn Cottage at Long Branch, to Washington, Mr. Matheny, Superintendent of the Northern division of the G. R. & I. R. R., who with many other sympathizing and patriotic citizens was upon the scene of so much suffering and heroism, picked up a couple of peach stones which had fallen from the window-sill of the presidents sick room. The feverish lips and parched throat of the patient sufferer were constantly moistened and refreshed with the juices of the peach and orange, and without a doubt the fruit from which these stones came, served that purpose. Mr. Matheny brought them west planting one in Grand Rapids, and one in the Cushman Park. Both have sent up vigorous shoots which promise fine trees, and Joe Demand takes special pride in and care of the Garfield peach tree in his special charge.



Cushman House Hotel & Grand Rapids & Indiana Park in Winter, circa 1905

DAVID CUSHMAN Former Owner Of Cushman House Passes Away In Grand Rapids
Body Here Sunday For Burial in Greenwood Cemetery. Knights Templar in Charge

Extracted {Petoskey Evening News, Nov. 23, 1923

David J. Cushman, who built the **Cushman House Hotel**, and operated it for many years, died Friday at his home in **Grand Rapids.**

The body of the former **Petoskey** pioneer will be brought to **Petoskey** Sunday morning and burial will be in **Greenwood Cemetery**. Ivanhoe commandery, **Knights Templar**, will have charge of the service. The funeral party will form at **Henika's Chapel** at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon.

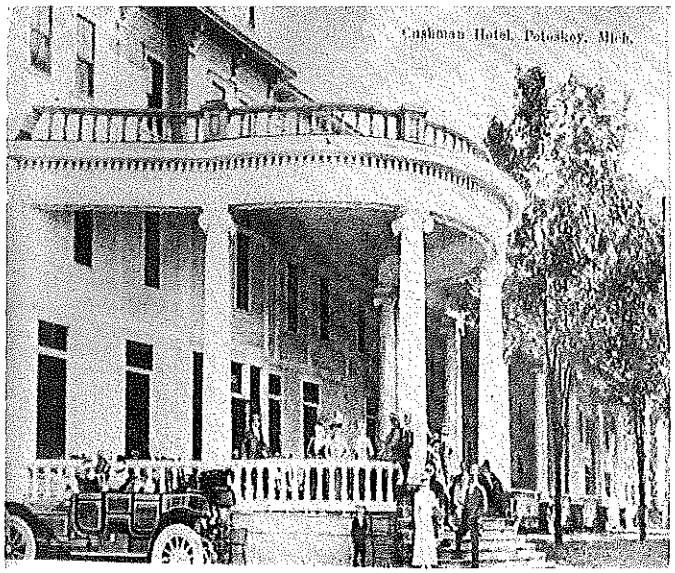
Mr. Cushman came to **Petoskey** in 1874 and erected the wooden part of the **Cushman** now used for a dining room. It was a hotel of about 25 rooms. He opened the place October 8, 1874. Later he completed the wooden structure and afterwards constructed the four-story brick annex on **Mitchell Street.**

He sold the hotel to **William L. McManus, Jr.,** in 1907, **Mr. McManus** taking possession October 8 of that year, **Mr. Cushman** having conducted the hotel for 30 years.

After selling the hotel, **Mr. and Mrs. Cushman** moved to **Grand Rapids**, where they made their home. **Mrs. Cushman** passed away four or five years ago.

Mr. Cushman was one of the most popular hotel proprietors of his day in northern Michigan, and his hotel was the center of social life in the city and community. Both **Mr. and Mrs. Cushman** contributed liberally to charity, being active in all such undertakings in the city and northern Michigan during the early days.

It is expected the body will be accompanied here by **Rev. and Mrs. F. W. Corbett**, who have been making their home with **Mr. Cushman** for nearly two years. **Mrs. Corbett** is a niece of Mr. Cushman.

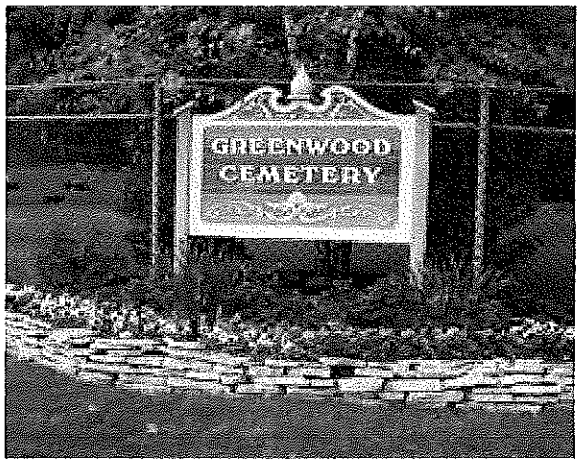


Cushman House

Extracted {Greenwood Cemetery Records}

Burial: November 22, 1923
Greenwood Cemetery
Petoskey, Michigan
Section G. Block 51, Lot 5

Civil War Veteran:
Enlisted, October24, 1863, Kalamazoo, Mi.
For 3 years
Corporal, Company K., 1st Michigan Cavalry
Discharged, March 10, 1866
Salt Lake City, Utah



Mary J. {Mills} Cushman, unknown -- 1919
Wife of David J. Cushman

DEATH TAKES MRS. D. J. CUSHMAN

Passes Away At Home In Grand Rapids

With Her Husband She Conducted Cushman House for May Years. Came to Petoskey in 1874.

A telegram from **Grand Rapids** this forenoon brought the sad news of the death of **Mrs. David J. Cushman,** at her home there at 2 o'clock this morning. She had been in poor health for several years.

Mr. and Mrs. Cushman came to **Petoskey** in October 1874, and the next year opened **The Cushman House**, which was the pioneer summer resort hotel in the north. They operated the hotel until it was purchased some years ago by **W. L. McManus, Jr.**

Mr. McManus left for Grand Rapids this afternoon.

The funeral will be held at 2 o'clock Thursday afternoon from the residence in **Grand Rapids**. The body will be placed in the vault in one of the **Grand Rapids Cemeteries** and may be brought to **Petoskey** for burial next spring.

Mr. Cushman recently underwent a serious operation at **Rochester, Minn.**, and has been in poor health.

Extracted Petoskey Evening News, Wednesday, January 1, 1919

The remains of **Mrs. D. J. Cushman** will be brought here Wednesday morning. There will be brief services at the grave in **Greenwood Cemetery** at 2 p.m. **Rev. J. W. Sheehan** in charge to which all friends are invited.

Extracted Greenwood Cemetery Records, Tues April 29, 1919
Section G, block 51, Lot 5

D. J. Cushman returned to **Grand Rapids** yesterday afternoon after bringing the body of his wife here for burial in **Greenwood Cemetery**. The burial service was held at 11 o'clock.

Extracted Greenwood Cemetery Records, Thurs. May 1, 1919

Mrs. Fred Corbett, who came here early in the week with the Cushman funeral party, returned to Lansing this morning.

Extracted Greenwood Cemetery Records, Sat. May 3, 1919

MRS. D. J. CUSHMAN A PIONEER HERE

Death Brings Sorrow to Petoskey

Came Here in 1874 And For Many Years With Husband Was at Cushman House

The announcement in yesterday's News of the death of **Mrs. D. J. Cushman**, wife of **David J. Cushman**, for many years, owner and manager of the **Cushman House**, was of more than ordinary interest to the older inhabitants of **Petoskey.**

Mary Mills Cushman was the daughter of one of the pioneer families of Kalamazoo County. She was a schoolmate and life-long friends of both **William L. Curtis** and his wife **Mary Wooden Curtis**. After coming to **Petoskey** in the fall of 1974 **Mrs. Cushman** became identified with every interest for good in the rapidly growing backwoods community, as Petoskey was for a number of years until its famous summer resort became established.

With **Mrs. Anna Little Kirkland, Mrs. J. A. C. Rowan** and **Mrs. H. O. Rose** she was one of the founders of the **Home Benevolent Association**. With these and other civic workers when it became necessary to give **Lockwood Hospital** its first big start **Mrs. Cushman** worked untiringly to raise a fund of some $2,400 for equipment of the new hospital. For thirty-five years the name **of Mrs. D. J. Cushman** was one of the first to be found in response to need. The establishment of many a cozy home has been made possible by her generosity, and the good health and education of many a boy and girl has been secured through her womanly friendship and advice to those in her employ. The removal a few years ago of **Mr. and Mrs. Cushman** to Grand Rapids was a distinct loss to the community life of the city.

Emmanuel Parish, of which **Mrs. Cushman** was a member, was the recipient of many substantial gifts from **Mr. and Mrs. Cushman** who built the rectory and later sold it to the parish.

Mr. and Mrs. Cushman decided upon Grand Rapids as their home after retiring from the management of the **Cushman House** owing to the residence of **Mrs. Cushman's** brother, **Nelson J. Mills**, of the **Grand Rapids Overalls Company**, whose death occurred several years ago. About four years ago **Mrs. Cushman** was afflicted with a stroke of paralysis and since that time she had been a constant sufferer.

Friends of **Mr. And Mrs. Cushman** will be glad to know that **Mrs. Fred Corbett**, of Lansing, a niece who has spent much of her life in the **Cushman** household, has with her husband been at the **Cushman** home for many months assisting in the care of both **Mr. and Mrs. Cushman**. The deepest sympathy goes out from the older residents of the city to **Mr. Cushman** and to **Mr. and Mrs. Corbett.**

Extracted Petoskey Evening News, Thurs. January 2, 1919

Obituaries re-copied as originally written.