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ITASCA COUNTY HISTORY - Early politics - Shaw

Grand Rapids Review - June 8, 1898 - Editorial

A.Rainy Lake Whine.- In a late number of the Rainy Lake Journal the following effusion appeared.

" The county commissioners down at Grand Rapids have ordered a special election to vote upon the question of bonding the county for $60,000 and curiously enough the date for voting on the same is set for June 11. The object of the bonds is to saise money to build a courthouse.

Another curious thing is also worthy of note in this connection and that is the day set for hearing the petition for organizing voting voting precincts for this city (Rainy Lake) and also at Kouchiching were set for July 8th at the same meeting of the Board.

It probably is an oversight on the part of these honorable lumber-jacks who control our affairs that the voters of this end of the county are again deprived of their right of suffrage - but we don't believe it. Neither do they want us to believe as the gause is too thin for anybody outside of a kindergarten not to penetrate their real purpose.

The truth of the matter is that the lumber-jacks aforesaid feared we might vote against the scheme, and so did not recognize our rights in the matter, nor did they care for the fact that they were voting away our money of the future, and that taxation without representation is a grevious thing that no true American will stand without a vigorous protest.

It may happen that the courts will be called upon to right the error of these astute lumber-jacks, and that their scheme may not succeed as well as they hope."

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This whine is on a par with the attacks the editor of the Journal is constantly making upon the officers of the county. He knows very well that the reason voting precincts have not been established at Kouchiching and Rainy Lake City is because the chief executive of the state whose duty it was to establish them last fall, was afraid more ringers from the Canadian border and half-breeds would take advantage of the right of franchise in those two towns than all the legal voters of those precincts combined.

Why doesn't ~~some~~ the sore headed editor of the Journal pour out his vials of wrath at our ex-governor instead of attempting to create hatred among its readers for the officers of the county.

Does the gold-booming editor know that it cost Itasca County over $3.00 apiece for every vote cast at Hannaford at last fall's election for the delivery of the poling sheets alone, to say nothing of the other costs attending the election in that part of the country?

Some of these days you will be allowed to vote, brother Bowman, and by voting early and often you will no doubt be able to remedy all of these evils that are such a bugbear to you now.

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Itasca County History - Grand Rapids early settlers - Varnum Blood

Grand Rapids Herald-Review for Jan. 13, 1926 publishes an article under the heading,"Strong Man". condensed, it is aw follows,-

Varnum Blood was raised down east. Lim Lohnson knew him and his family 60 years ago (1866) at Chateaugay, New York. Mr. Johnson remembers seeing him fight once in those days. Blood did not want to fight, but it came about this way. In the neighborhood was a fellow called "Reel Foot Hogan", a wild fighting Irishman who had club feet. At an auction someone attacked Hogan who was not known by Blood. Blood interfered, telling the unruly man to leave the poor cripple alone. At being called a cripple, Hogan attacked Blood and it resulted in a bloody battle and, though reluctant to do so, Varnum had to beat up Hogan who lost considerable prestige in the gory struggle.

Blood developed as a strong man and boxer, and traveled with the P. T. Barnum circus. His first wife was P. T. Barnum's daughter. One day in a sparring match he killed a man and quit the ring for all time.

Blood and family came to Verndale, Minnesota in very early days. At that place a bunch of men tried to give him a beating but he whipped the crowd. He weighed 225 pounds (when in Grand Rapids) and appeared to move slowly, though in fact he was very fast. He never looked for trouble but was always ready to hold up his end.

He had a farm near Grand Rapids in the early days, ran a dairy and at one time ran the village dray line. Many stories are told of his exploits of strength. It is reported that at one time while driving the dray over the then rough streets of Grand Rapids he had the bad luck to loose a barrel of whiskey off his dray. He jumped off his dray, grabbed the barrel by the chimes and lifted it back on the dray. No mean feat. He took part in many "friendly" tussling matches in the early days and you can still find old timers who claim that he was the most powerful man ever to live in the county.

When Blood left Grand Rapids, he moved west and nothing is known of his life after leaving here.

Sep 20 - 33

Grand Rapids History (Hause)
Mr. Sumner
Oct. 22, 1940

P.1 Col.1
Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wed. Sep. 20, 1933, Vol. XLIII-12

"Up In This Neck Of The Woods. - In the early days of travel between Grand Rapids and Aitkin, Joseph Tibbetts had a stopping place, and a famous one, between two the places, on the Willow River. Quite a few people gathered around that section as time went on. One day a stranger who desired to settle, thereabouts asked Josh Tibbetts what kind of people lived around in that neighborhood. Were they good people or bad people, and did they go to church, did they respect the property of their neighbors? The reply was 'There are three kinds of people right around these parts; the good people, the bad people and the Tibbettses.'

There have been many famous and large families up in this section. Probably none was better known than the Tibbetts group. There have been three generations of them up in this Neck of the Woods and the fourth and fifth is coming on. That means that the Tibbetts folks came in early.

P.1 Col.1 The Tibbetts families were the pioneers of the pioneers. They came about first. Perhaps we should describe them in biblical style. Nathaniel begot Nathaniel and Nathaniel begot William and so on. We should go back quite a ways. If we did we would go back to the woods of Maine from whence came many of the people of this ection. There was a time when four out of five men in the lumber camps of this section spoke with the twang of the down Easterner. The Maine woods made woodsmen and they followed the timber west. The first Nathaniel Tibbetts came out to Stillwater in the very early days when logging was done in

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the St. Croix and the logging was done as far north as the Rum River. The lumber was cut down at Winona and below. Minneapolis and St. Paul were little villages.

The elder Nathaniel Tibbetts had five sons. They were James, Benjamin, Nathaniel, Joshua and Moses. Certainly if names meant anything these sons would follow in the footsteps of good men of the Bible. Perhaps they did or they didn't. The fact is that they came north into a new, rough, harsh country inhabited by strong men who worked, fought, cursed and drank and the Tibbetts boys held their own and then some.

The Tibbetts group up this way came from the line of Nathaniel, the son of the elder Nathaniel, the namesake of his father. That family moved north from Stillwater into Sherburne county and as the line of civilization moved north they kept a jump ahead of it. They were all good fighters. They put that characteristic to good use. For all we know the whole family of boys went into the Union Army. Nathaniel Tibbetts and one of his brothers fought the Sioux during the early sixties and then went into the Civil War where they had plenty of action.

Nathaniel Tibbetts must have come into this section very soon after the war. At any rate when the Northern Pacific was built through at far as Aitkin, which was about in 1871, Nathaniel was there first. He homsteaded a piece of land which afterwards became the heart ~~of the~~ of the village of Aitkin and he afterwards cut hay for the contractors who were building the extension of the railroad west from Aitkin to Brainerd.

It was in the environment of a new country that Nathaniel Tibbetts raised his family. There were other Tibbetts brothers and

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their families and at one time there were over 70 of this family at Aitkin. Few are left there now.

Nathaniel Tibbetts, who lived at Aitkin, had several sons. They came further north in the earliest days and settled in Winnibigoshish- Ball Club country. These sons were William, now living near Ball Club, Eb, who lives in the West, Frank Rock and Sewell, who lived long in this section and who died here. William Tibbetts, now nearing his eighteith year, had his picture taken the other day with three of the succeeding generations. That means that there are six generations of this family who have lived in Minnesota. How the family runs to boys, which is very useful in a new country is shown by the fact that Mr. and Mrs. William Tibbetts have one daughter and six sons who are Tom, Ben, George, Jim, William and Jess.

The woods are full of stories about the Tibbetts families. Down at Aitkin there is many a story which has found its way up this far. Right around this section there are plenty of stories about what one of the Tibbetts family may have said or done. When a big family comes into a new country, they create a foundation for many a story. Here is one of them.

James Tibbetts lived at Aitkin. He served in the army during the Civil War and left it with several pairs of forceps which were used for pulling teeth. In the new country many a lumberjack had toothache. There were no dentists about and a man who could pull teeth was asked to help out. Thus it was that one day a lumberjack, said to be still alive at Aitkin, came to Jim Tibbetts with an awful pain. Jim looked his teeth over and then made a selection of what he thought were the proper forceps. He usually had to do a little trying to find out,

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but this time he took a good sized pair. Just as he was about to pull the tooth the lumberjack asked him what he charged. The price was a dollar a tooth. That was agreeable and Jim took the forceps and put the strength of a hand as big as a ham back of them. There was an agonizing struggle and out came the forceps with two teeth. The lumberjack yelled with pain - 'You have two of them, you have two of them!' Jim Tibbetts looked at the forceps and said, 'That is all right - that will be two dollars'.

G. H. Hause 10/17/40

Sept 27-33

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wed. Sep. 27, 1933, Vol. XLIII-13 P. 1 Col. 1

"Last week we told you about the Tibbetts family. We did not tell all about all of its interesting members. That would take a book.

When Aitkin was no longer the logging frontier, the Tibbetts family moved to new timber.

The boys of Nathaniel Tibbetts came north. They settled in and around Ball Club and Winnibigoshish lakes. There many of the family still live. The head of the group, the elder of the family, is William Tibbetts. He is now approaching his 80th year and most of his 80 years has been spent in the woods of northern Minnesota.

William Tibbetts first came into this immediate section when there was but one way to get here. That was to walk. One winter was spent entirely in the woods searching out and appraising timber. That winter he carried a 78-pound pack. That may not sound so much on paper, but try it on your back. Make up a pack of tent, blankets, camping equipment and food that weighs over 75 pounds and try it for a block.

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Then

Then you can understand what it is to carry it for miles over dead timber and through the woods and swamps.

William Tibbetts participated in several kinds of transportation. He rode the steamboats up the Mississippi in the summer and rode logs down streams in the spring. For some time he toted, with oxen and horses, from Aitkin to the timber country north of Grand Rapids. The old tote road followed the river quite closely for a considerable distance. At one time it went around to the east end of Pokegama lake, but the more common crossing was on the lake a little to the east of the present bridge.

Talking a little about the days of the ox in the woods. Mr. Tibbetts told us of the usefulness of this animal. For short hauls he was superior to the horse. He was slow but strong. Almost any load could be put behind six good oxen. More skill was required in handling oxen then in handling horses. It was a task to get all of the big fellows to pull together. Some men knew how. The good man with oxen took pride in his animals. He kept them in perfect condition, feeding them and brushing them with great care. An old time ox teamster took the same effectionate interest in his oxen that those who care for race horses take in their animals. But as the timber was cut further away from the rivers, the faster work of the horse became of greater advantage. Ox shoes are a curiosity today and a team of oxen is a feature for a fair.

It was about the time that the railroad was built through to Deer River, about 40 years ago, that William Tibbetts came to Ball Club.

The Ball Club - Winnibigoshish was then new and wild. The timber was virtually uncut. The Chippewas ruled. The community of Ball

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Club, which is not large today, became quite a busy enter. It might be described as 'the first drink out' in lumbering days. It was the first place at which a lumberjack, working in the pineries, could get a drink when he quit his work. Some of them stayed around Ball Club to drink up their wages. Most of them went to Deer River which had bigger and better drinking accommodations. The lumberjacks of the early days had some ambition in their drinking. If they had little money they would stop at Ball Club or Deer River. A little more permitted a trip to Grand Rapids. Those who had still more went to Duluth or Minneapolis. But Ball Club had the first chance. At times it was a very active community. We have often wondered how Ball Club lake got its name. The name came from the fact that in the early days the Indians used to play their game of La Crosse on the level areas at the south end of the lake.

When William Tibbetts moved into Western Itasca county Ball Club lake was the head of navigation, or that is the river navigation found above Pokegama dam. The boats came onto the lake bringing supplies and taking down logs. At Dumas was an active trading point.

And now we shall tell you about a city that perhaps you do not know about. Towards the northwest corner of the lake the Indians used to gather in considerable number, a hundred or more. A clearing in the woods is now the only mark of what was once quite a community. The head man, the chief, we might call him the mayor of the town, was a good sized Indian who had progressed far enough to wear the shirt, but not the pants, of civilization. This settlement became known as 'Shirt Tail City'.

The Tibbetts men were all strong, active and athletic. When a carnival would come into Deer River with its boasted boxers or wrestlers

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who would take on all comers, such of the Tibbetts family who were around home would come down and take the money. The whole family has been interested in athletics of all kinds and some have had distinguished records. Knowing this to be the case, we asked William Tibbetts a question which we felt he is qualified to answer. Who was the best man physically to ever live in this section of Minnesota? It did not take the old gentleman very long to make his answer, Al Nason of Grand Rapids.

Al Nason could wrestly, box and fight. Many a time William Tibbetts has seen him roll a 33o pound barrel of salt pork up onto his knee, then onto his shoulder and then walk off with it. Try that sometime." G. H. Hause 10/17/40

Oct 4-33

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wed. Oct. 4, 1933, Vol. XLIII-14, P. 1 Col. 1

Medical and surgical care for the lumberjack who was ill or got injured while working in the woods in the early days of logging in Itasca county was not always easy to obtain. Doctors were few and located far apart. Hospitals were far away, and not easy to reach. Crude surgery was oftentimes undertaken by the cook in a logging camp, or by some other man who had little knowledge of setting bones or pulling teeth. It was too frequently true the men died from lack of proper attention.

Nursing the sick and the injured for centuries has been the priviledge and duty of* Catholic nuns. Certain members of this great church realized the need for a public hospital in Grand Rapids which could offer to loggers, railroad men, farmers in the backwoods, and

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others, assurance of skilled care and intelligent nursing.

1898 c

In the summer of 1898, when Grand Rapids was the center of a most active logging industry, two buildings were purchased in this village by the Benedictine Sisters, of Duluth. One owned by Dr. Thomas Russell and used by him as a hospital for some years, was remodeled and additions built. It was called St. Benedict's Hospital, in honor of the patron saint of the Benedictine Sisters. The other building purchased stood on the south side of the Mississippi river, near the present C. V. Blandin residence, and was converted into an academy or boarding school for girls.

When the hospital to be known as St. Benedict's was to be opened, five Benedictine Sisters were sent to Grand Rapids by Mother Scholastica, Prioress of the Benedictine Sisters, to open and manage the hospital.

1898 c
1912 c

Many of the pioneer Sisters were engaged in service in Grand Rapids between 1898, when the hospital was opened, and 1912, when it was closed. Among them were some who will be remembered gratefully by their former patients. They included Sisters Simplicia, Amanda, Dolorosa, Jane and Caroline. At the Academy the Sisters in charge were Sisters Florentine, Leouissa, Teresa and Dorothy.

No questions were asked as to the ability of the men to pay, when they were brought to St. Benedict's hospital. Quite often they were without funds, and the labor was one of charity. As the scope of the hospital widened, and its merit became better known, thousands of men who worked in the woods bought hospitals tickets, paying a small sum each month, and directing the timekeeper to take the amount from their

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pay checks. This money from the sale of tickets financed the hospital, and enabled the purchase of necessary supplies. Every man in the camp, in many cases, had a hospital ticket, from the road monkey to the foreman. In some camps and with some companies, it was made compulsory for the worker to buy a hospital ticket, and the first money he earned, after the railroad fare from the employment agency was worked out, went to pay the dollar a month asked for guaranteed hospital services.

When the pine forests were mostly logged off, there was little need for hospitals here under management of the Sisters, so the institution was closed and the building sold. Later it was remodeled for residence purposes, and became known as Madson's Flats.

That there was a real need for the hospital in logging days is shown by the number of patients admitted. During the time that St. Benedict's hospital was in operation, it cared for 13,478 patients. These patients came sometimes from logging camps located two days drive away. Some of them came from the mining camps during the early exploration for iron ore. They were all nationalities, and suffered from many and divers diseases and illnesses, but all were given the same sort of tender, skillful care."

Oct 11-33 G. H. Hause 10/21/40

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wed. Oct. 11, 1933, Vol. XLIII-15 P.1 Col. 1

"The members of the village council are usually referred to as the 'city fathers'. The Herald-Review has made a discovery of those who may be called the 'city grandfathers.'

The grandfathers may be those who signed the original petition for the incorporation of the village Grand Rapids. That petition was

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1891 C

filed with the board of county commissioners of Itasca county on May 1, 1891. On June of that year an election was held in Beckfelt's hall and the village of Grand Rapids was legally established.

The men who signed the petition were business men of the community, workers about town and lumberjacks who were here for the summer. The petition might have been circulated much as a road petition might be passed around today. Anyone who wished might sign.

The signers of this petition were as follows:

31	L. Nelson	41	Chas. Warner
10	S. F. Ellis	37	Thos. Trainor
34	J. H. Ray	16	C. M. Johnson
4	H. Buring	13	Louis German
9	C. R. Ellis	19	Joseph Lafond
22	C. D. Lyon	14	William Hislop
18	Thos. Kelly	5	Issac Campbell
2	V. H. Blood	38	C. W. Twohey
39	F. L. Vance	28	J. C. McMillen
8	Lee Cudney	17	Chas. Kearney
3	J. A. Brown	42	Larry Whiland
30	A. F. Moore	21	W. C. Lyndale
11	M. L. Foote	27	Alphonse Meyer
1	N. Churchill	40	Chas. A. Waite
24	M. McAlpine	6	H. W. Canfield
33	T. S. Powers	26	John Mc Donald
12	W. V. Fuller	36	Ben. F. Symmes
35	James Sherry	15	Louis L. Jensen

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32 H. D. Powers
25 Robert McCable
1 F. W. Arnold
21 Alphons Lefebore
23 Anthony McAlpine
27 Laughlin Mc Kinnon

There are very few people in Grand Rapids who remember all of these men. Most of them were well known in the small community of 42 years ago. Time has carried off most of them. A few of them moved away from the village they helped to establish.

Of the entire group of 42 who helped to found the village 42 years ago, but three are living, as far as we know.

W. V. Fuller was in the lumber business in Grand Rapids in the early days and he is now living out in Oregon. H. D. Powers has served the village in some capacity every year since the government was organized. John McDonald is the only other signer of the petition still living here.

Many of the signers have died within recent years. Among them are Mike McAlpine and the late W. C. Lyndale. The list of those who died a good many years back,but who are well remembered by some of the present generation of people would be Joseph Lafond, Charles Kearney Thomas Trainor, J. A. Brown, Laughlin McKinnon and F. L. Vance.

A story might be written about each one of these early residents of the community and their experiences in a new country. V. H. Blood was reputed by many to be the strongest man to have lived in Grand Rapids. At least before coming here he was a strong man with the Barnum & Bailey Circus. F. L. Vance went from Grand Rapids to Deer River and thence up on the Bigfork and Popple rivers, where he was one of the first men in the United States to harvest and sell wild rice. Robert McCabe was one of the first white men in this country. We have written considerable

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about James Sherry, who ran a hotel here in the earlier days and logged with methods peculiar to himself. He died in recent years in the west. T. S. Powers was the father of H. D. Powers and thus father and son were both in on the beginning of the town. Every one in the community knew Mike Mc Alpine and many knew his brother, Anthony. J. A. Brown ran more lines and measured more land during the course of many years in this country than did any other man. No one was ever more active in the country and the community which he helped to form than was Charles Kearney. Louis L. Jensen was an early builder. He built the first court house for Itasca county. It cost about $600, we are told.

Looking at the names you may judge the kind of people who were here. We venture to say that many of them were Mainites. There were few Scandinavians among them, for the Norweigians and Swedes had just gotten a good start in Minnesota and most of them were making for the prairies.

The community itself was small. There was not a brick building in the community at that time. The railroad ended down at La Prairie and people of that community were ambitious for their town. In fact, La Prairie was the first incorporated village in the county and for several years had the jump on Grand Rapids. Most of the goods that came into the community came by boat and warehouses lined the river."

G. H. Hause 10/21/40

Nov 1-33

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wed. Nov. 1, 1933, Vol. XLIII-18, P. 1 Col. 1

"To the lumberjack every preacher was a 'sky pilot.' We do not know where the term originated, probably down east for it has been in use for many, many years. A minister who preached in logging camps was a 'lumberjack sky pilot.'

Itasca county and many of its citizens have known two of the most remarkable men who have ever brought the gospel to the lumber camps. About these men books have been written. They have become more than mere characters in the half historical fiction of this country but they have been great influences among those to whom they have preached. These men are the Reverend Frank Higgins, now dead, and John W. Sornberger, now active in frontier work in this section.

Many years ago Frank Higgins was pastor of a church at Barnum. One day he was invited out to see some logging operations on the Kettle River. He did not intend to preach but he was asked to talk by the men at the camp. He then gave his first sermon to lumberjacks. The men he talked to in camp came to his church at Barnum. Later Reverend Higgins went to Bemidji. There he had a pastorate and where he could give more time to work in the camps. After a year or so he gave up his work and devoted all of his time to the lumberjacks.

A book might be written about Reverend Frank Higgins. Suffice it to say for the present, that he was a man marked by great sincerity and high, practical abilities. He could preach to lumberjacks in the language they could understand. But he could not only preach and pray, but he could do many other helpful things. At least one man in Grand Rapids has seen Frank Higgins, who hated liquor as the cause of most of the trouble of the lumberjacks, buy a big drink

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of whiskey for a sick lumberjack who needed just that thing to make it possible for him to eat and go on to his work.

John W. Sornberger was born down east and spent his boyhood there. He was half Dutch and half Scotch, which ought to be a good practical combination. When a youth his father came west settling on the prairie and coming at a very early day to homestead at Pine Rapids below Grand Rapids on the Mississippi river. The father died just a year or so back at the age of 93. He had worked in the woods every winter from the time that he was 14 until about five years before his death. In other words the elder John M. Sornberger 74 continuous seasons in the pineries that is about a record.

Reverend John W. Sornberger was raised in a Christian home but as a young man he forgot some of its teachings. He entered the woods when about 18 years of age, first as a lumberjack, later as a bull cook and still later a cook at lumber camps. He well remembers coming to work in Itasca county. He hired out to C. B. Buckman to cook at a camp near Balsam Brook. That was in the fall of 1889 or 1890. Tim Desmond and Billy Lamb, both well known to the older residents of this section were the foremen on the job. With several teams and men the party came up the trail late in fall. There was no bridge across the Mississippi at that time and cold weather had made ice, but not strong enough to hold the horses. The ice was broken and the river forded, near where the present bridge is located.

In those days La Prairie thought that it was to be the county seat of the newly formed Itasca county. La Prairie was at the end of the railroad. It had a large group of energetic citizens. Its hopes for the county seat ran high until the election of 1892 when Grand

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Rapids was designated the county capitol. But at one time the people of La Prairie thought that the future of their village was secure. Petitions had been circulated for the designation of La Prairie as the county seat and they had been widely signed. One evening La Prairie celebrated. An anvil and black powder made noise. Everyone brought out his rifle and shot gun and discharged them into the air or ground. A group came up to the little village of Grand Rapids and made the residents think for a minute that the Indians were on the warpath by their shouting and shooting. Grand Rapids men went back to La Prairie and soon the celebrators heard the whistle of bullets over their heads and they took to the brush. The visit to Grand Rapids was returned. In handling the anvil one man blew off his hand. In discharging his rifle into the ground another celebrant shot off his big toe. Those were the days of lumberjacks, the frontier and strong drink.

As a camp cook and worker in the woods John Sornberger learned about all there was to know about the lumberjack. One evening he attended a meeting at which Frank Higgins preached. He decided to become a minister. He turned about on old interests and started upon a new conception of life. He studied the Bible and prepared himself for admission, in later years, to the ministry. In 1907 John Sornberger preached for the first time in these parts at Spring Lake. He was with Frank Higgins. On that same trip he preached at Big Fork and established the first church in that community. After his work at Big Fork he spent some of his time on the Mississippi, building the church at Jacobson. He established the church at Keewatin in the early days of that mining community. His winters were spent in the logging camps where he spoke to the lumberjacks nearly every day.

1907 c/

G. H. Hause 10/21/40

NOV 15-33

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wed. Nov. 15, 1933, Vol. XLIII-20, P.1 Col. 1

"One of the first men to come up into Itasca county was John Gilmore. Mr. Gilmore may be classed with the earliest of the loggers who cut pine on the upper Mississippi. His home is now in Minneapolis, but every summer he visits with friends in this section and renews the friendship of earlier days. Mr. Gilmore has a very accurate knowledge of the very earliest days of logging and a very wide knowledge of those men who cut the first pine in this territory.

When John Gilmore first came to what is now Grand Rapids he saw nothing but the fast flowing river. There was not a shanty of any kind in the present location of the village. The steamboat 'Pokegama' brought up supplies of all kinds and piled them off at the shore below the rapids. There was not even a warehouse or any kind of a cover for anything and each man looked after his own goods.

Lo Seavey built the first stopping place at the rapids. He was a good cook, did most of his own work and enjoyed a very good patronage. Mr. Gilmore recalls that the door to the dining room of the first log hotel was narrow and at the call for dinner the hungry lumberjacks made a rush for it. On one occasion Al Nason was in the group waiting for dinner and he and some of the other men became wedged in the door and it took some time to untangle them.

According to Mr. Gilmore, Joe Knowlton cut the first logs on Pokegama lake. He cut the logs for T. B. Walker, but the first lumberjacks did not get their pay. ~~There~~ first logs were cut in 1868, and S. D. Patrick, in supplementing some of the information given to us by Mr. Gilmore, tells us that for years that what is known as Black's Arm to Pokegama Lake was known as Knowlton's arm.

1868 c/

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The fact that the lumberjacks did not get their pay in 1868 was nothing new in the early history of logging, or the later history for that matter. Each year loggers failed, and generally the one who had the most business was the one who failed for the most money. In recalling the logging situation, Mr. Patrick has given us the names of the principal loggers of their day. A smaller logger gradually increased the number of his camps and the size of his activities. He would dominate the business in certain sections or on a certain part of the river for a year or two. The adverse weather, logging, driving or business activities would hit him and the largest logger became the largest failure."

G. H. Hause 10/21/40

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Aug. 26, 1940

Nov. 23, 1932

Indian Cures

Many people have wondered what the Indians did for themselves when they became sick.

"It is well known that the Indians of all tribes had methods of treating sickness. This was true of the Chippewas, all of whom had herbs and other preparations and methods when illness came. In fact, it is known that the Indians of Minnesota, Sioux and Chippewa, used over 200 different kinds of medicinal plants. Among these are the barks of various trees, various plants and berries, many of which are now used in the practice of modern medicine. There were also mechanical methods of dealing with illness.

"The Indian has a reputation for physical strength. As a matter of fact, as a race, the Chippewas are not a strong people. Disease has taken its toll of vitality. The Indians are subject to several diseases, many of them very serious.

"Chief among these is tuberculosis. This has afflicted the Indians for many generations. They had it before the white men came into this section.★ It has been particularly dangerous because of the unsanitary methods under which the Indian families have lived. One case would soon spread to the whole family. The Indians of this section have been afflicted with trachoma, the dread disease of the eyes, which has brought considerable blindness. This is now under control and whenever it is discovered doctors come from near and far to combat it. In the earlier days smallpox caused many deaths among the Indians. In addition the Chippewas had about all the ailments that afflict the white man and in the early days they recovered or died with-

★ Yet in another column this same writer states that the white man, by teaching the Indian to dress, live in a stuffy cabin, etc., aggravated their T.B.C.

out the help of the doctor.

"When an Indian became sick the first thing he did was to build himself a steam bath. He made a small framework of branches and placed blankets over it. In it he placed hot stones. He crawled in and threw water upon the stones in a manner similar in general features to the Finn bath. The result was hot steam. After two or three hours of suffocating heat, the Indian came out, usually feeling much better. This small steam bath was called the Medodo. It was a good thing.

"When the Indians of this section became sick, the old women brought out the herbs. They collected them from various plants and had them ready. With the use of the herbs and barks there was a large amount of superstition. Each Indian believed this or her preparation to be the best. In each wigwam or log house would be found some favorite medicine, carefully wrapped and put aside for future use. It might be a plant or it might be the bark of various trees. There were medicines which were taken internally and some that were ground up and laid upon the wound or the place of pain. If an Indian was sick the wise men and old squaws would assemble and talk things over. Each person believed that his cure was the only one that should be used under the circumstances. There was plenty of argument and discussion. Sometimes those who argued the best would win out.

"There was a great deal of superstition about the causes of various kinds of sickness. Paralysis, for instance, was supposed to be caused by some one who had a grudge against the afflicted person. For this these were several queer cures. *

"The Indians had headaches. Perhaps you have seen Chippewas with some blue scars at the side of the head. These are caused by their headache cure. A sharp piece of flint was used to cut the skin and into the cut a kind of medicine was placed. When the wound healed the injection left a blue scar or mark. What becomes of the

* Can't find out about any of these queer paralysis cures?

headache is not known.

"The Chippewas suffered very greatly from smallpox. They had little or no immunity from this disease. About 50 years ago (about 1882) a great smallpox epidemic spread through northern Minnesota, killing many men in the lumber camps and affecting many Indians. The Indians contracted the disease readily and usually in their efforts to escape it would travel from place to place. This exposure to the cold was very bad and many Chippewas died on the trails. The suffering among the Indians during the smallpox epidemics has been very great. Lack of proper care has led to many deaths and the Chippewas have a greater fear of smallpox than any other disease which comes among their people.

"The Indians accepted many of his hardships in a philosophical manner. He endured illness and disaster with fortitude.***

"One of the first responsibilities of the modern administration of Indian affairs was to establish hospitals and to encourage methods for the treatment of sick Redmen. *** The Indians are also encouraged to higher standards of sanitation and methods of living which will discourage the spread of various diseases that have taken such a great toll of human life in past generations.

Grand Rapids Notes
H. H. Hause
November 1, 1940

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Fortieth Anniversary Edition
Wednesday, September 19, 1934
P. 18, col. 1-4

Sept 19-34

"EARLIEST SETTLEMENT AT RAPIDS OVER CENTURY AGO.

Pike records visit with man named Grant who had a home opposite what is now village in 1805--First settlers were traders --Community founded in seventies with few straggling log houses--oxen pastured on river shore--important changes made from decade to decade.

Zebulon Pike in telling of a trip up the Mississippi river in 1805 mentions that he spent a night at the house of a trader named Grant on the Mississippi river. This place was nearly or directly the site of the present village of Grand Rapids.

About the same time, or in 1804, the Northwest company built a fur trading post on Pokegama lake and this for several years was an important center of trade with the Indians. As far as its known, there are no records which show the settlement of white people in this section prior to about 130 years ago. As far as is known, the trader Grand must be considered the first citizen of Grand Rapids.

As the years went on, traders came and went. Loggers came to what is now the site of Grand Rapids in about 1850. A town was projected at Pokegama Falls in 1857 and the plat of East and West Pokegama, as the plat was then called, is a matter of record.

We doubt if there is anyone living who has any recollection of the site of Grand Rapids before 1870. The whole country was wild. Most of it was unsurveyed. In the possession of W. B. Taylor is to be found a map made by his father N. Y. Taylor. This a map of the headwaters lakes if Winnibigoshish and Leech made in 1875 in which the only mention of settlement were the Indians living upon the lakes. The Publisher of the

(Cont'd)

Herald Review knew well Richard Gordon who spend one summer on the present site of Grand Rapids tending oxen for Clarke, Waite and McClure, the loggers of St. Cloud. Richard Gordon plated the first potatoes ever planted in this section around about the stumps at the camp and he records the fact that in 1870 only an occasional steamboat came as far as the rapids and that outside of the early loggers who came in winter, therewere no permanent residents of the community.

The Twon Starts. In the Year 1875 there was probably a little settlement at Grand Rapids, a log house or two and a stopping place. Five years later there was not much more. When Itasca county began its official existence in connection with Aitkin county in 1887, there were probably about two frame buildings in the community, one residence located near where the depot now stands and the L. F Knox store. The Knox store was located ~~of which~~ on what is now First street and Pokegama avenue. A little below near to the river would be found John Beckfelt' store of logs. Near what is now the foot of the bridge was Bob McCabe's saloon. Further up was the Kearney and Nason saloon. Still further north would be the Kearney and Nason hotel and the Kerney and Nason barn. Further up on the hill was the Al Nason residence and a log house or two. Near where the paper mill now stands was the Sherry hotel and Jim Sherry's saloon. Across the river where the Wheaton buildings are now located was found the Potter hotel and the Potter store and also south of the river was Mike Toole's saloon and Mike Tool's residence. Along the river were the wharves or platforms on which merchandise was unloaded from the boats and close to the riverwere to be found the crude log warehouses which housed the materials of the early settlers and loggers.

(Cont'd)

Ten years later would have seen quite a change in Grand Rapids. The visitors would have found a railroad, a depot, the courthouse as it now stands, a large number of frame business buildings and some brick buildings. There would have been found at that time the Central school as it now stands. The population and the activities had shifted from the river front further up the hill and houses were found in the woods as far north as Crystal lake.

Modern Changes. Another ten years and the change that was marked would not be as great as in the previous ten. Nevertheless Grand Rapids would appear differently than it did before. The visitor would have found a high school, some roads leading in various directions from the community, many homes, some of brick, a public library and sidewalks of cement. Where the Sherry hotel and slaoon stood would be found a paper mill.

The last quarter century of developement in Grand Rapids has been largely improvment upon the start which was previously made. Where the village had a few cement sidewalks a quarter century ago, the community now has miles of paving. The homes, the business buildings, the industrial plants of the community have been enlarged. A modern village hall replaces the wooden structure of former days. The improvements of man have made more apparent the natural beauties and advantages of the community until today the reputation of Grand Rapids is that it is one of the most modern and beautiful smaller communities of Minnesota and the northwest."

June 20-34

Grand Rapids Notes
H. H. Hause
November 1, 1940

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wednesday, June 20, 1934
p. 1, col. 1

There are hundreds of pioneer women in Itasca county. They came here in the early days, settled a long distance from neighbors and their contributions to the progress of Itasca county cannot be measured with words.

Mrs. Duncan Harris of Grand Rapids may be called a pioneer among the pioneers. Her husband was the late Duncan Harris who left his name on Harris township. He should have had a township named for him, for according to common knowledge, he was the first man to open up a farm on Pokegama lake or in that section immediately south of Grand Rapids. He came to Itasca long before the county was formed. In the late 1880's he started a farm about four miles southwest of Grand Rapids.

About forty years ago Mrs. Harris came to Grand Rapids. She came here by train and went directly to the Harris home. There was no road leading to her future residence and but a crude trail through the woods. It took about two hours to make four miles by horse or team. The clearing when Mrs. Harris first saw it was small, two or three acres, but as was expected, she took hold of the work not only of the house but of the farm. She helped to pile brush and did all the work that a woman's strength would permit.

There were many Indians on Pokegama in those days. True to tradition, they did not really welcome the white people. Duncan Harris and his wife were objectionable as the Indians had used the land which they had homesteaded for themselves, particularly the maple trees for sap and sugar. The Indians sent their chief Bobedosh, over to remonstrate. Duncan Harris seized a paddle and drove him away from his

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premises. After that the Indians were more friendly though there was always a good tall picket fence around the Harris home and in the Harris yard was always to be found a big cross dog.

The farm developed slowly. There were the usual hazards of a new settlement. One night the house burned, a shanty took its place and later came another house of size and comfort.

The task of making a living was not easy in those early days. Some of Mr. Harris' time was spent in the lumber camps. The principal item of income was wood and there was a good price for it in those early days. Sixteen inch dry wood sold for four dollars a cord in Grand Rapids and the principal task of most of the settlers was to supply the demand for it. Mrs. Hrris raised turkeys. In addition, the Harris home was something of a store for there was kept on hand a supply of pork, flour and other staple necessities which the I$_n$dians of the neighborhood purchased.

The whole country was covered with heavy timber, pine and hard wood. Near where camp Mishawaka now lies was built a saw mill in the early days, and Mrs. Harris' first neighbors were the proprietors of this mill. The first settler other than Duncan Harris in the whole Pokegama territory was John Huff who lived further down the lake by the trail which was used in the winter months as the main artery of transportation between Grand Rapids and Aitkin. Huff made a clearing but a great deal of his time was spent in making charcoal for which there was a strong demand by the blacksmiths of the logging section. Duncan Harris was for many years the blacksmith of the whole new settlement. Settlers did not come in large numbers for a considerable length of time and

(Cont'd)

during the first ten years of their married life the Harris family was virtually alone.

Game was plentiful, but in common with a great many other early settlers, Duncan Harris would kill none of it and the partridges, particularly, lived in peace in the Harris yard. As the years went on, the work became greater rather than less. The whole farm was put into pasture or cultivation. Mrs. Harris recalls the fact that the wolves howled every night, but despite the fact of the lonliness of the house, she remembers that she did not come to twon in Grand Rapids for a whole year. She enjoyed every minute of the pioneer life.

Duncan Harris met a tragic end about twelve years ago. He was clearing land and one of the trees which he had cut fell on him producing the injuries feom which he died. Mrs. Harris later disposed of the farm and now lives in Grand Rapids, full of the memories of nearly a generation of pioneer work.

A new country is first opened up by men. Then come the women. Much has been written about the pioneer mem and too little about the women. The women who came onto the homesteads of Itasca county in the earlier days were as brave as the men. They worked as hard and they kept the wolf from the door, literally as these animals, howled around the cabin at night. Much could be written about the earlier days, their trials and struggles and the part which women have taken in them. In these days of the telephone and good roads the older days when there was no one to see and talk to have gone far into the background."

Grand Rapids Herald-Review - Summer

Aug. 26, 1940

Nov. 30, 1932

[redacted]

Hardy Indians

Many Indians had extreme courage ~~about~~ and patience. George Galbreath tells about the most hardy Indian that he ever saw.

"A good many years ago Tibbishcogan came to Grand Rapids to trade. The Indians were not supposed to have liquor but they usually had it. Tibbishcogan became drunk and along towards nightfall stumbled into his canoe and made his way up river. That night he made himself a campfire at the mouth of Bass Brook. It was late in the fall and cold. During the night the unfortunate Indian rolled into his fire and was very badly burned. He awoke covered with flames and jumped into Bass Brook and its cold waters to put out the fire. Some of the burns were very bad. On one thigh, from hip to knee, he was burned so badly that the bones of the leg showed.

"The suffering Indian spent the rest of the night at his camping place and when light came he paddled his canoe up Bass Brook. When he came to Bass Lake he found the bay covered with ice. Going ashore he cut a heavy stick and broke the ice ahead of his canoe for a distance of about half a mile. Coming into the open lake he paddled up to the north end, where his sister, Gooseneck, lived. He staggered into her house and immediately sent her for some medicine. She went into the woods and took some of the inside bark from tamarack and young pine trees. Tibbishcogan took an old flat iron and a hammer and pounded the bark into a fine pulp. This he mixed with water and applied it to his wound. He kept this up for many weeks. He recovered completely.

"This same old Indian was tough. He later became sick with an abcess on his brain. He was taken to Bena. The doctors came down from Cass Lake, two of them.

"Tibbishcogan was placed on a cot in an empty room. One of the doctors gave him chloroform. The other began the very delicate and important operation. The first task was to cut a hole through the skull at the back of the head. The doctor had a chisel for that purpose but he had forgotten to bring his mallet. Finding no hammer he used a monkey-wrench for pounding. He made his way into the skull, put in a wire, opened the abcess and established drainage through the ear. It was a delicate and a successful operation performed under primitive conditions.

"The doctors completed their work, fashioning drainage tubes from an old hot water bag. They left for their homes at Cass Lake.

"Within three hours after the operation Tibbishcogan was downtown in Bena visiting with his friends.

"The Indians of a generation ago were strong people. They wore little clothing. Before the advent of the past two or three generations the Indians wore a breech cloth and a blanket. That was their complete clothing.

"The food of the Indians of older days was very simple. It was that which nature provided. Sometimes the Redmen had but one or two things to eat. Groups of them have been known to live on unsalted fish for a whole winter. Salt was hard for them to secure. Sixty years ago a double handful of salt would be traded for a whole hind quarter of a moose. The Indians lived upon what the country produced, its game, fish and wild rice, and acorns, the latter used both as a meal and in soup.

"Under the rigorous life of the early days only the hardy survived. Those who were weak died early in life. The Indian of generations ago was doubtless what he was supposed to be, a man of strength, courage and endurance."

Any essential changes in the Indian may be traced directly to the white man.

Hardy Indians - (continued)

Nov. 30, 1932

The early traders brought in whiskey and the Indian had a passion for it. It had much to do with the social and physical degeneration of the Chippewas. Prohibition introduced him to canned heat and the poorest of moonshine, both of which were doubtless about as good as the cheap, doctored substitutes for real liquor worked off on his great grandfather by the unscrupulous traders of those days. The white man brought the Indian diseases of many kinds. The hot, unventilated log cabin and white man's clothes were not so good for him as the wigwam and the blanket. Infection spread much more easily. For the health of the present generation of Chippewas the white man has done much but he and the civilization he brought with him was the cause of much of what the Chippewas now suffer. The white brother owes him his best services in the medical line now.

Grand Rapids Herald-Review - Summer

Aug. 28, 1940

Jan. 11, 1933

[redacted]

C. C. McCarthy

"It was natural for C. C. McCarthy to come to a wooded country because he was raised in the big woods of Michigan. *** His parents came to Michigan when all was wild. There were no roads, hardly any trails. The family possessions were brought in in a big box placed upon two wheels, for the country was too rough for a four-wheeled vehicle. The home was made of logs. It was under these conditions that C. C. McCarthy was born in Michigan in 1856, the first white child to be born in Gratiot county. ***

"The school down in Gratiot county, Michigan, was *** crude and new *** a log building with benches cut from logs. It had a puncheon floor *** It was a place of education but it did not carry its pupils very far on the path of higher education. That had to be looked for elsewhere.

"Young McCarthy was strong. As soon as his first schooling was done he started out for the big woods. In fact, he ran away to them when he was 15 years of age. He was as large as a man and stronger than most of them. He could do everything that was to be done in a lumbercamp and it was there that he learned much of great service to him in later years.

After working in the Michigan woods for a few years, he took up the study of law, under preceptors in Michigan at first, and later in a law school in Valparaiso, Indiana. He was admitted to the Michigan bar in about 1884, and decided to settle in Saginaw to practice. Saginaw was then a rip-roaring lumber town and McCarthy entered

it on a log drive. He was still working on the logs when he was elected circuit court commissioner. It paid a small stipend and permitted him to spend some time in further study and at his scanty practice. After a few years he returned to Valparaiso for further study, and then began to look around for a new field.

He had heard of Grand Rapids. Several residents of this section came from Saginaw, among them the Kremers. In the late spring of 1892 C. C. McCarthy came to Grand Rapids and looked over the new county of Itasca. *** He went to Duluth where he was admitted to the Minnesota bar, and on July 2, 1892 Mr. and Mrs. McCarthy became residents of Grand Rapids."

It was because C. C. McCarthy was raised in the woods and worked with lumberjacks, and knew them and their ways, that he took such an interest in their welfare when he became a state senator. (The manner in which Mr. McCarthy went to bat for the lumberjacks appears elsewhere in these notes)

Grand Rapids Herald-Review - Summer

Aug. 27, 1940

Dec. 28, 1932

Town Development

The history of community development is always interesting, and Grand Rapids is a good illustration of the fact. First there was just a log "stopping place" by a beautiful waterfall, and a store or two. Saloons were considered very necessary establishments in those days, and they followed the hotel and stores closely. Around this crude nucleus other frame buildings sprang up, other stores came, and more saloons. After awhile a few brick buildings appeared, and after that nearly all business places were constructed of this material. The older buildings, meanwhile were being demolished, by man and by fire, and soon the town bore no resemblance to its former self, either in character or appearance.

Likewise the people have changed. The men who followed the words occupation are gone. Mackinaws and stag pants have given way to conventional American clothing, the cream check has stepped into the prominent place formerly occupied by the lumberjack's time check. Progress.

Grand Rapids Herald-Review - Summer

Aug. 27, 1940

Dec. 21, 1932

Christmas Season

1880's

"A half century ago there was little church activity in Grand Rapids. Most of what was carried on had to do with the Indians hereabouts. Many of the denominations attempted to Christianize the Chippewas. The two churches most active in this work were the Catholic and the Episcopal. *** In the earliest days Father Bru- Bruh was the most active among the Catholics. He would come to Grand Rapids hold services in the largest home in the community and work most intensely among the Indians of the section. The name of Rev. Gilfillan is prominently identified with the work of the Episcopalians, and it is probable that the first protestant church established in the section was the Episcopal church.

"In telling about these earlier times Mrs. J. R. O'Malley speaks of what was undoubtedly the first church choir in Grand Rapids. She heard it at the Episcopal church. Some of its members had just returned from a long term of schooling at Carlisle. Among the members were Nell Burns, now Mrs. Geo. Lydick of Cass Lake*, and Mrs. Bertha Stuckslager of Grand Rapids*. Sidney McDonald and Fred Mason, now of Bena*, also sang and Anna McDonald played the organ. ***

"The Chippewas have observed Christmas for some time." (It is not known to what extent the papooses really believe in Santa Claus)

"We do not know whether or not the young Indians hang up their stockings in the wigwams, but it is a fact that the Chippewas exchange gifts at Christmas time and follow out the spirit of the day to an interesting extent. Most of the Indians of this section are nominally Christian. It will probably take more than one gener-

* still — in 1940?

ation to bring them to the fullest conception of some of the Christian beliefs. Since the white men cannot agree among themselves on the questions of religion, we would hardly expect the Indian to agree with everything that is told him, especially since he has had an intense religious feeling cultivated through many generations of the beliefs of his own people. While a large proportion of the Indians profess Christianity, there is still quite a percentage who cling to the belief of their fathers and who practice the various rites and rituals which belong to the Chippewas. ***

"Christmas in the lumber camps was a day of rest. It would be difficult to imagine the early lumberjacks hanging up their stockings or telling stories about Santa Claus. Their imaginations might well be applied to such a subject as Paul Bunyan. Santa Claus is for children.

"The Christmas season was a busy one in the lumber camps. The camps had been started in the fall and every day of work was valuable. Once in awhile a lumberjack would get away from camp and come to town where he would indulge in a few Christmas drinks. That practice, however, was very much frowned upon by the lumber companies. The lumberjacks were not to celebrate in that way until the work of the year was done. Consequently the day was observed quietly in camp. It would be a day very much as other days of rest in which the men smoked their pipes, talked things over, washed out their clothes or rested. The cook, however, knew that it was Christmas and there was usually something special to eat. If turkeys were available lumberjacks ate in style. If not, the cook always saw that there was something special in the form of meat or breads or cake."

Jan 10-40

Grand Rapids History
Mr. Sumner (Hause)
Nov. 19, 1940

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wed. Jan. 10, 1940, Vol. XIX-27
P. 1, Col. 1.

"Grand Rapids has at least one citizen who has personal recollections of Abraham Lincoln, whos birthday will be celebrated next month. He is L. D. Anthony, father of J. D. Anthony, rural mail carrier on route One out of Grand Rapids. Although Mr. Anthony was but ten years of age when he saw Lincoln, he remembers it very plainly.

1849 Born in Cold Spring, Putnam County, New York in 1849, Mr. Anthony will be 91 years of age next August. It was when Abraham Lincoln was a candidate for president, touring New York state, that the young Anthony lad met him. Mr. Lincoln was meeting the citizens of Cold Spring from the rear of a railroad coach on a special train on the Hudson River line, Boylike young Anthony climbed into the car and wriggled out to the platform to get close to Lincoln. As he did so, he stepped on someone's foot. A big man leaned over and lifted him off and asked him what he wanted. The lad replied 'I want to see Abe Lincoln.' 'I am Abe Lincoln,' came the reply, as the big man shook hands with the boys, patted him on the head, and turned to greet older citizens.

Mr. Anthony emigrated to Iowa with his parents when 14 years of age, and never returned to his birthplace. He comes of good old Colonial stock, his maternal grandfather having been a soldier for the infant United States during the Revolutionary War. In Iowa his father
1863 took a homestead, in 1863, and developed a farm. The boy grew up to know the hardships of the pioneers, and learn how to subdue the wild prairies.

Game was more plentiful in Iowa at the time of the early

Grand Rapids History
Mr. Sumner (Hause)
Nov. 19, 1940

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wed. Jan. 10, 1940 - continued

settlement than it is now in Northern Minnesota. There were deer, bear and wild turkeys in the woods. Passenger pigeons were plentiful then, and Mr. Anthony has recollections of killing them with sticks, so large were the flocks, and so unafraid of man. Fish were plentiful in the streams, and no one dreamed of the time when both game and fish would be scarce. One of the important sources of meat was the prairie chicken, often taken in traps or cages of lath or small poles in huge quantities and shipped to Chicago markets.

Although too young to take part in the Civil War, L. D. Anthony was interested in military organizations. He joined the Iowa National Guard when a young man, and rose to the rank of captain of company V. Fourth Regiment. Photographs of him in his uniform as captain are cherished family possessions.

J. D. Anthony, son of L. D. Anthony came to Grand Rapids in 1904. He had learned the trade of taxidermist, and had came here in answer to an advertisement of the late William Weitzel, local taxidermist, who wanted an assistant. Mr. Anthony had practised his trade in several states, and Canada before coming to Grand Rapids. He mounted many of the heads of Moose and deer which are still prized possessions in homes here and in other parts of Minnesota.

About eighteen years ago J. D. Anthony persuaded his father to come from Iowa and join him here. This he did, and has made his home here since."

G. H. Hause 11/12/40

DEC 27-39

Grand Rapids History
Mr. Sumner (Hause)
Nov. 18, 1940

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wed. Dec. 27, 1939 -Vol. XIX-25
P. L, Col. 1.

"On the seventeenth of next September, John P. Phillips will be eligible for membership in the 50 year club, if and when that organization is formed, for then it will be fifty years since he came, a young man just turned 21, to Itasca county. Mr. Phillips, father of Verne Phillips of the National Tea Store, brother of Carl and Al Phillips, did not walk from Aitkin, as did some of the early settlers, nor did he come by steamboat up the Mississippi, for the railroad had reached Grand Rapids by 1890, though it was to be some years before it was to be built west beyond Deer River.

Grand Rapids a half century ago looked vastly different from the Grand Rapids of 1940, according to Mr. Phillips. There were but three homes north of the railroad tracks, and just one business place. This was the log trading post operated by the late Frank L. Vance. It was located about where the Frederic Mills lumber yards are now. Between the railroad and the river there were a few stores. W. J. and H. D. Powers had ahardware store, supplying a great deal of material to the loggers. L. F. Knox and John Beckfelt had grocery and dry good stores, and there were several hotels, lodging houses and saloons.

Mr. Phillips had come to Itasca county to get a homestead covered with big pine timber, a million feet of it, for back in lower Michigan, where he grew to manhood, there were tales that such homesteads could be had in Northern Minnesoa for the taking. Getting

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wed. Dec. 27, 1939 - continued.

such a homestead was another problem, as he learned after getting here. He and a brother went far north, to the shores of Caldwell brook, now in Koochiching county, where the land was not yet opened for homestead entry, and selected some fine pine land. They erected cabins and hauled out groceries, making some improvements on the land on which they had established 'squatter's rights' until it should be opened for homestead entry. The second year they had the land, a disastrous forest fire burned over several thousand acres in that section, destroying the pine on their proposed homesteads, so they never did file on them.

The first winter he was in Grand Rapids Mr. Phillips worked in the woods for Kiehl & Derry, who had camps on Rice River. The next spring he worked on the drive which took these logs down the Big-fork river to Canada. Later he worked in the woods along Prairie river for Price Brothers, helping with driving logs down that stream each spring.

One vivid recollection which Mr. Phillips has of the early days in Grand Rapids was the work he did for Doran Brothers, father and uncle of Allen Doran and his brothers, who erected the Gladstone hotel, For the timbers and dimension stuff, logs were cut in the woods surrounding Grand Rapids, and hauled to a little sawmill owned by L. F. Knox, located about where some of the Blaudin Paper Company buildings now stand. This green lumber was in the new hotel, but all the planed lumber and finishing material was shipped in from Duluth. Mr. Phillips remembers that James Doran, who now lives Ajo,

Grand Rapids History
Mr. Sumner (Hause)
Nov. 18, 1940

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wed. Dec. 27, 1939 - continued

Arizona, was a small boy who used to climb upon the loads of logs and ride to the mill with him.

In those days there were no roads except the toteroads cut through the woods. Explorations were under way for iron ore in the vicinity of Hibbing. No railroads served the vicinity where the drills were operating, so the Longyear company, drilling for ore and digging testpits, bought their groceries in La Prairie or Grand Rapids and had them hauled by team. A four horse team was able to haul less than a ton in the summer time, and a trip to the mining camps northeast of Nashwauk took three days.

Leaving Itasca county soon after the railroad was extended west to Bemidji, Mr. Phillips worked in the woods of Beltrami county for nine years, returning to buy a farm just over the line in Aitkin county. This was one mile north of Rabey, and one mile south
1913 of Itasca county line. This he purchased in 1913, living there until ten years ago, when he decided to buy a farm north of Nashwauk. The land he is now developing, 13 miles north of Nashwauk. In a visit of several days, made at the home of his son in Grand Rapids earlier this month, Mr. Phillips was much interested in looking up sites of the buildings which stood here when he first came to Itasca county, and in seeing what had happened to some of the structures for which he had hauled material while employed in the frontier town of a half century ago.

G. H. Hause 11/12/40

Sept 27-39

Grand Rapids History
Mr. Sumner (Hause)
Nov. 18, 1940.

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wed. Sept. 27, 1939 - Vol. XIX -12
P. 1, Col. 1.

"A high compliment to the village of Grand Rapids was paid the other day by Charles Scheers, publisher of the Herald.- Tribune at Akeley, Minnesota, and also mayor of that town. He said that Grand Rapids was magnificent, and he was basing that statement upon comparison with the community of 40 years ago.

1899 It was late in the summer of 1899 that Mr. Scheers first came to Grand Rapids. A printer by trade, he came here to work on the Herald-Review where the services of a printer were sorely needed for a short time. He helped to get out the paper for a time or two and then passed on to the village of Akeley, which was then an active center of logging and lumbering operations. He has continued to maintain his interest in Grand Rapids and in Itasca county to this day and visits here as often as he can.

Charles Scheers is one of the old-time traveling printers who settled down to operate a country newspaper. He was born in Chicago within about a block of the place where the Chicago fire first started. At the age of 16 he began to learn the printing business. The chief element at that time was learning to set type, for there were no machines for this purpose. After learning the trade, he joined that great fraternity of tramp printers. There men went from place to place, staying a few days, a few weeks or a few months and then passing on, usually by foot, to another shop. Mr. Shheers estimates that most newspaper and printing offices had about one tramp printer at work to every three regularly employed journeymen. The travelers were depended upon and

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it was part of the ethics of the road for a tramp printer not to leave a position until another brother of the same fraternity had come along to take his place. Because of this condition, this roving labor was dependable.

In commenting upon his experiences upon the road, Mr. Scheers said that he worked for over a hundred different newspapers in a peroid of approximately 15 years. He learned the business in Chicago, became a journeyman in Grand Forks, North Dakota, and then started his travels, largely in a westerly direction. He worked on many newspapers in California and on the Pacific coast. He spent time in Montana and

1894 when the recruits for Coxey's army in 1894 stole a railroad train and he started for the East, Charlie Scheers was there to report the whole proceeding for the newspaper on which he worked.

The old-time traveling printer may be pictured by many as unreliable and a drunkard. This is not strictly in accordance with the facts. The qualifications of these men of the road was generally unquestioned. Many of them were the best in the business. In fact, it took certain qualifications of experience and skill to become a roving composer. As far as the drink was concerned, many of them were cursed with the excessive use of liquor. Others did not drink at all and simply roved about to see new places and new faces. Because they could travel and earn the living at traveling, they took advantage of the opportunity.

1893 In 1893 the first typesetting machines west of New York

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came to the Chicago Daily News office. Fourteen of these new machines were intalled. The printers of the day scoffed at them. They said they would never be a success. Furthermore there was no method of controlling the heat essential to melt the metal and the places where the machines were found were very hot. In fact, only girls and women would work at first on these machines. These devices however, were successful and they sounded the death knell of the traveling printer. The linotype machine made a demand for steady men of mechanical skill. That did not always fit in with the qualifications of the old-time printer. Mr. Scheers recalls that he has not seen a tramp printer for a good many years and only rarely once in several years does such a man appear in Grand Rapids.

Charlie Scheers was born with Asthma. It troubled him all of his life. In his travels he was looking for a place where there would be relief. The only such place he ever found was Akeley, Minne-
1899 sota. He thus determined to go into the newspaper business there in 1899, after he had made his visit in Grand Rapids. He established his newspapers in a town that then had approximately two thousand people. The Red River Lumber Company was operating a big mill at Akeley. It used to employ as high as a thousand men and it worked summer and winter. In the woods around that territory there would be two or three thousand more men employed. There was always business, activity and prosperity."

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Mar 15-39

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Wed. Mar. 15, 1939 - Vol. XLVIII -36
P. 1, Col. 1.

"What couple in Itasca county can boast the longest peroid of wedded life together? Up In This Neck of the Woods does not know, and is seeking information. This week is presented a sketch of one couple, who have been married almost 67 years, and who have lived in Minnesota all of that time.

Mr. & Mrs. R. A. Mc Allister, who live about half way between Grand Rapids and Blackberry, on the river road, will have been married 67 years on May 3. They were married when quite young, for Mr. Mc Allister is 86 years old, and his wife 85. The early years of their married life were spent in southern Minnesota, in Steele county, and in other locations in the southern part of the state.

This worthy couple have alarge number of descendants, and the family name is in little danger of dying out. They are the parents of eight children, of whom five are living. They have 33 grandchildren and 18 great grand children, for a total of 56 descendants. Quite a number of the members of the family live in Minnesota, other have moved to Washington and Oregon to make their homes.

Born near the Bay of Fundy, in New Brunswick, Canada, of Scotch-Irish forbears Mr. Mc Allister emigrated to Minnesota with his parents when 14 years of age, traveling by boat from St. John's on the Bay of Fundy to Boston, and then by train to Winona. West of Winona the fertile lands of southern Minnesota were then just being settled. It was in this part of the State that a few years later he married his

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wife, whose parents had come from England when young.

This worthy couple are real old settlers in Itasca county. They came to Grand Rapids 44 years ago, and soon afterward located on the land they now call home. Mr. Mc Allister has not been actively engaged in farming for he had a trade at which he worked for more than a score of years in towns through this section. He was a painter, decorator and paper hanger, and swung his brushes on many a building in Grand Rapids. At times he took contracts at Deer River and Bigfork. When a consolidated school building was constructed at Blackberry, he accepted a position as janitor, a job he held for sixteen years.

The Mc Allister family is one of the few who came to Grand Rapids in the early days in a covered wagon. Most of the early settlers either came by steamboat or by teams in the winter, but Mr. & Mrs. McAllister and their children started out from Minneapolis 44 years ago last July with a team and a covered wagon. The trip here took 19 days, as the party was held upon numerous occasions by flooded creeks. Mr. Mc Allister said that one day they only made 3 miles, but that he built two bridges that day, which took up most of the time.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Mc Allister are in very fair health, considering their years. He is occupying his spare time with writing a history of Grand Rapids in the early days. Mrs. Mc Allister is an expert at making braided rugs, and also makes a great deal of fine lace, working with thread as small as No. 80, which would tax the eye-

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sight of many women a generation younger. Both of them are eagerly waiting the coming of spring, when they can again get at work in their garden, which they both enjoy."

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Mar 1-39

Grand Rapids History
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Nov. 18, 1940.

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"Itasca county is a healthful section of the state and nation, but there are not many persons living here who are 90 years of age or more. This is largely because the county was settled by young men, who have not had time to become nonagenarious. One such man lives here, however, who came because of his health, and who found it in the pine scented woods of Itasca county.

George Becker, St., who lives on the shore of Loon Lake, some six miles southwest of Grand Rapids, was 90 years of age December 28, 1938. Mr. Becker came to Itasca county from North Dakota, when his physician advised him to move to the pine woods country to get relief from asthma. For the past 37 years Mr. Becker has lived here, being entirely free from Asthma after living here over the first summer.

1848 Born in Germany, near Bremen, in 1848, Mr. Becker came to the United States when 18 years of age. He had relatives at Cincinnati, and worked there for a year and a half, then joined an emigration to Iowa,
1877 then settling up rapidly. He farmed there until 1877, when he and another German decided to engage in the store business in Dubuque. This did not bring the success they had anticipated, however, so they sold out after about two years and moved to Minneapolis.

Free land in North Dakota was attracting a large number
1875 of people born from 1875 to 1880, and Mr. Becker, who by then had ac-
1880 quired a wife and four children, determined to have one of those free farms that Uncle Sam was giving away. He went to Grand Forks, and

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and started looking for a desireable homstead in the Red River Valley. No land was available to his liking until he got away up in the North-east part of the State, not far from where Grafton was later started. A mile and a half from the Red River, he found a good quarter section of level prairie land, and filed on it, making a few improvements.

The next spring it was necessary to move the family to the homestead. On reaching Grand ~~Rapids, they found that the steam-~~ Forks ~~Forks~~ boat, which made a trip from Grand ~~Rapids~~ to Winnipeg once each two weeks when the water was high enough, had gone the day before. Transportation for the wife and four young children was obtained with the mailcarrier, who drove a team of ponies and buckboard. There was no room for Mr. Becker, so he walked the 47 miles to their new little home in the prairie grasses. Spring rains had raised the water in the sloughs and creeks. The team was able to ford them though Mrs. Becker and the children sometimes had to stand on the seats. The father did not fare so well, however, for he had to wade, with the water sometimes up to his waist.

For a number of years there was no railroad train reaching that part of North Dakota where the Becker homestead was located. When the river was open, the steamboat which ran once a week or less brought supplies for the little country store at Acton, and in the fall loaded on board the grain which the settlers had threshed for market.

One of the harsh memories of North Dakota for the Becker~~s~~ deal~~s~~ ~~were~~ the winter blizzards. These were not one day affairs like

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those which have been seen this winter, but usually lasted three or four days, sometimes a week. All during that time it was dangerous to try to go from the house to the barn without having a rope tied to the door and the arm, so that one would not get lost. Visits to the neighbors, or to town were impossible while the winter storms raged. On one occasion Mr. Becker was carrying the mail in place of the regular mail carrier, when the sudden blizzard came up. Only the ability of his horse to find the way home in the midst of the storm saved him then he declares.

Though he was at an age when many men retire, when he
1901 came to Itasca county in search of health in 1901, Mr. Becker undertook a task which would have daunted most younger men. He bought 160 acres of cutover land on the shore of Loon Lake, and started to develop a farm. That he succeeded is evidenced by the fine fields and the well kept buildings.

At present one son, Henry Becker and his wife are living with Mr. Becker, taking care of the farm and helping him. Other sons and daughters live in this part of the state, out of the seven yet
1921 living of the family of 11 children. Mrs. Becker passed away in 1921 One son,Richard, was in the United States Army during the World War, and died in service.

G. H. Hause 11/8/40

July 27-38

Grand Rapid Notes
G. House
Nov. 8, 1940

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Wed. July 27, 1938.
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Grand Rapids may be a small inland village. Obviously the danger of border incidents which might lead to international difficulties would be unthinkable. But things were not always so. In fact, in only two out of five periods during the past 200 years have both Grand Rapids north of the Mississippi and Grand Rapids south of the Mississippi river been under the same flag.

For some time previous to the French and Indian Wars, Minnesota had been claimed by French explorers. French trappers had tapped her fur resources. French missionaries had worked among the native Chippewas. Then came the wars. France was forced to give over all land east of the Mississippi to England and she ceded her holdings west of the Mississippi to her ally, Spain. Thus Grand Rapids, if such there had been in 1763, must have been an international post.

In 1776 thirteen rebellious colonies braved the wrath of England, then the greatest power of Europe. With financial help of France and a hostile continental situation facing Britain, the spunky revolutionists managed to expell the British redcoat from the colonies and the Peace of Paris handed to the colonists the territory now in the United States east of the Mississippi. Thus north Grand Rapids changed hands and would have paid homage to the independent 13, while south of the river Villages would have continued to salute the flag of Charles of Spain.

At this time 150 years ago, the Northwest Territory was establisted and with it the principals which guided the development of the whole west and particularly the six great states formed from it, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin and, in part, Minnesota. But

legal possession means little in country where law cannot be enforced and it was not until after the war of 1812 that the United States was able to force the British Northwest Company to haul down the Union Jacks at the head of the lakes.

In the meantime Spanish power had weakened and, put in an embarrassing position by France in 1800, she ceded Louisiana to Napoleon. Huge personel empires require money and Napoleon's was no exception. Hard-pressed for funds he sold all of the country now occupied by Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, the Dakotas and the greater part of Minnesota, Montana, Wyoming and Colorado to the United States for $15,000,000 in 1803. At this price the area south of the Mississippi upon which Grand Rapids is built cost but $2.50. The purchase meant that for the first time the stars and stripes could have been flown on both sides of the Falls at Grand Rapids.

But the privilege of saluting the flag was only half the battle won. Another half a century was consumed in getting land south and north of the Mississippi into the same state or territorial government and during only three periods out of eight, including the present, was this accomplished.

North Grand Rapids went Hoosier in 1800 with the formation of the Indiana Territory. Soon after the Louisiana Territory was formed and included South Grand Rapids. Then Indiana became a state and the Illinois Territory took over the land north of the river. To complicate matters, Louisiana was admitted to the Union and south Grand Rapids became a part of the Missouri Territory in 1812. Finally the Michigan Territory was again expanded in 1834 to include Iowa, Minnesota and the Dakotas as far west as the Missouri river. Here we find that north and south Grand Rapids would have for the first time supported the same territorial government.

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But government in Grand Rapids was not destined to remain so simple for long. First Michigan became a state and the Wisconsin Territory was formed in 1876 to include the residue of the Michigan Territory. Then two years later, just 100 years ago, south Grand Rapids became a part of the Iowa Territory. For the last time the Mississippi divided the territorial allegiance of citizens of Grand Rapids, if there were any.

Sorry

Final consolidation came in 1849, following the formation of the State of Wisconsin, with the establishment of the Minnesota Territory. The population of the land where the present state is located rapidly increased in the early 1850's as treaties with the Indians pushed the frontiers of civilization westward into the Dakotas. In 1858 Minnesota was admitted to statehood and the Dakota Territory was formed from the remainder of the Minnesota Territory. Thus, final consolidation of Minnesota east and Minnesota west of the Mississippi appears to have been accomplished. At Grand Rapids the river has ceased to have governmental significance."

Aug 3 - 38

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"Old times in Grand Rapids and vicinity were depicted yesterday in the parade which was a feature of the Northwest Territory pageant. One of the history making features, however, could not be depicted in a float. This was the train service of the Great Northern Railway, which helped greatly in settling up this country, and in developing from a wilderness to its present prosperous condition.

As the Mesaba range was developed, there grew a demand for train service between Grand Rapids and the range towns. This was met by the

railway company with two passenger trains devoted to the range. One, which started from Grand Rapids and returned there, was soon nicknamed the 'Merry Widow,' after a popular song of the day. The other train, which connected with the Merry Widow at Kelly Lake, was known as the 'Wooden Shoe.'

In this old picture is part of the train crew of the Merry Widow, taken early in 1911. It is the property of M. L. Gilboe. The train made its first run in December of 1910. Standing at the door of the baggage car are M. L. Gilboe, conductor, and Bert Weeks, brakeman. Seated is Al. Durdin, baggageman, and on the ground is Mike Nurich, Known as the news butcher, who sold newspapers and magazines, candy and cigars, to the passengers. Tommy Phillips, the engineer, and Mr. Hampson, fireman, are not shown.

All of these men have passed on except Mr. Gilboe, who is still active in Great Northern service after 44 years of work for the company. He is conductor on the local freight between Swan River and Deer River at the present time, and may be seen every week day watching that careless automobile drivers do not get crashed as they speed in front of moving cars. Mr. Gilboe was conductor on the Merry Widow all the years that it was in operation, until improved highways across the range, with hourly bus service to Hibbing, took away the need for the train service.

Bert Weeks, the brakeman, lived here with his family, and after some years leased the Ogema hotel at Pokegama lake. While out in a rowboat near the hotel one day, he fell overboard and was drowned. Al Durdin, baggageman, was married while working on the Merry Widow out of Grand Rapids. But soon moved to Superior, where he later died. Mike Nurich lost all his stock of goods when the train burned while in the

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yards overnight in Grand Rapids. Borrowing money from a friend, he went west to Calgary, Canada, where he did well financially. Entering the army at the time of war, he contracted the flu and died in service.

When first put in service and for a number of years, the Merry Widow left Grand Rapids early in the morning, carrying passengers, express and mail. Because of the heavy demand for meat, poultry and dairy products in the range towns, and because much of those food products were produced along Great Northern territory to the west, there was a very heavy movement of express, almost a full carload being put on the Merry Widow every morning. The train served Coleraine, Bovey, Marble, Calumet, Nashwark, and Keewatin in Itasca county, and many of the range towns in St. Louis county as far east as Virginia."

NOV 2 - 38

Wed. Nov. 2, 1938
p. 1. col. 1.

"The Herald-Review does not know who is the oldest citizen in Grand Rapids, this immediate vicinity or Itasca county. That would be an interesting thing to know.

Some time ago this column told of the life of Andrew Walters, who is reckoned by many to be the oldest resident hereabouts. Mr. Walters will be 93 years of age on the 22nd of next February. He is well and active.

A runner-up to Mr. Walters is C. R. Jackson who is often seen on the streets and is well known to most of the people of the community. He will be 92 years of age on his next birthday, which is in the near future.

Mr. Jackson was born down in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and spent about the first half of his life there. In 1893, 45 years ago he came to

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Grand Rapids. The community was just getting well under way at that time and Mr. Jackson engaged in the hotel business, which was an especially active business in the early days of logging. He operated for a period of about ten years, the Grand Rapids Hotel, which was located in the block north of the paper mill and on the location where the new laundry is now being built. In this block at one time there were at least three hotels. One was on the corner just north of the Jackson hostelry and Jim Sherry had his log hotel further to the south near where the mill stands.

The reason for many hotels and there must have been close to a dozen of them in Grand Rapids 40 years ago, was the large amount of patronage due to logging operations. As high as a thousand men might come into the community in a day. They needed lodging, food and strong drink. Most of the hotels provided all three. Mr. Jackson said that rates at the hotel were remarkably low and yet money was made. If a lumberjack wanted a room for the night, the fee was 50 cents. However, the Grand Rapids hotel had a large number of steady boarders. The rate for room and board was four dollars a week and the table was loaded down with all that the customers would eat and most of them had good appetites.

The hotels in Grand Rapids went the way of most of the buildings which were constructed of wood. They went up in flames, often on cold nights. That is what happened to the Grand Rapids Hotel. It happened to other hotels of that immediate neighborhood. The Gladstone went upn in flames, as did also the old Pokegama which was on the site of the present hotel. In fact, visitors in hotels in Grand Rapids, Deer River and other communities always looked around for the way out in case of fire or eyed the rope which was attached to the wall near the window.

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Most everyone who traveled a great deal during the early days had one or more experiences in burning hotels.

Follwoing his experience in the hotel business in Grand Rapids, Mr. Jackson has traveled around a bit. He was on the west coast for some time and also up into Alaska. However, he always returned to Grand Rapids and considered this community his home.

Mr. Jackson never married. He says that since he has gone 92 years without a wife that he fully expects to finish up a bachelor. For a number of years he lived with his sister but since her death has lived in various places and various families of the community.

It is Mr. Jackson's theory that old age is the natural result of good health. Outside of some recent illness, Mr. Jackson has never been sick. He says that the sum of ten dollars would cover his doctor bills during his whole life. That is less than ten cents a year."

DEC 14-38

Wed. Dec. 14, 1938
p. 1. col. 1.

"One of the best Mercantile firms in Northern Minnesota between forty and fifty years ago was Tuller Bros. Nearly a dozen stores, in as many frontier towns, supplied the loggers with the materials they needed to build and equip camps, while the clerks in these stores sold goods of various kinds to the families living here. In Grand Rapids the store was Tuller Bros. In Deer River it was the same while under other names, but with the capital supplied by Tuller Bros., there were stores in Tower, in Bena, Cass Lake, Tenstrike, and other towns close to the north line of the frontier.

Interest in this long gone mercantile firm was revived this week by the finding of a large amount ~~of document~~ of documents used in bookkeeping in the Grand Rapids store. These papers were found in the attic of

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a house once occupied by Henry Tuller and family, now owned by William Robinson. Located on Pokegama avenue between Fifth and Sixth streets, the building is being remodeled into apartments. Albert Powell, doing the plumbing in the remodling work, saw the papers, and realized that they were of value to the writers of this column.

The Tuller Bros. store in Grand Rapids, back in 1894, the year that most of the papers are dated, occupied the building now housing Herb Brier's clothing store. The brothers were Henry and George. Henry was married, and with his family occupied home two blocks to the north. He died a number of years ago. George, who was unmarried, always remained single. He is now living in Bemidji.

Several men well known in later years in Itasca county got merchandising experience in the Tuller stores. The late Henry Hughes started there as a dry goods clerk, and it was with capital supplied in part by his former employer that he opened his first store in Cohasset. Frank Hughes had personel experience in the Fuller stores. A. A. Reid knows about them by actual contact. M. A. Spang served an apprenticeship as clerk for the Tuller interests, and there were others. Known as just and liberal employers, positions in their stores were valued.

In 1894, when the papers found recently were being used, there was no Great Northern railway in this section. The Duluth & Winnipeg extended from Duluth to Deer River, but according to the freight bills was operated by the North Star Construction company, not having yet been turned over to the railway company. It was two or three years after this date that the Great Northern acquired the Duluth & Winnipeg, and built between Deer River and Fosston. Freight rates were higher then than now. From Duluth the rate on crated furniture was $1.20 per hundred

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pounds. On heavy freight, like kegs of nails, it was as low as 52 cents a hundred, which seemed to be the bottom price for freight.

Tuller Bros. operated a real department store, selling everything for the home, the camp and the farm, which might be needed in a new country. It became necessary for them to protect their accounts with some of the log jobbers and to take over the timber and sell it. One receipt notes payment of $185 to J. A. Bowman Jr., covering his claims on all timber belonging to John Campbell.

Some merchandise was lower in price then. Two copies of invoices are interesting. One shows the purchase from Marshall-Wells Hardware company of Duluth of ten kegs of tenpenny nails at $1.85 a keg. Just a few days later the E. W. Backus company, later to become the present International Lumber Company, bought four kegs of tenpenny nails at $3.50 a keg, indicating at least a reasonable profit on the nails. The wholesale price of soda crackers was three and half cents a pound, while the fanciest cookies, shipped from the New York Biscuit Company of Chicago, cost the merchant fourteen cents a pound.

In those early days there was little call for gasoline, but kerosene, used almost entirely for all lighting except the main business section, was used in large quantities. One carlot shipment from the Standard Oil Company included 60 barrels of kerosene at eight and a quarter cents a gallon, and five barrels of gasoline at ten cents. Gasoline was used mostly for operating small engines, and for driving motor boats.

Dec 21-38

Wed. Dec. 21, 1938
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"There are many interesting people in Itasca County, and many good stories to be learned. One man who now lives quietly on a farm up in Arbo township has had a colorful career in three countries. This is

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p. 1. col. 1.

William Clafton, who has lived in England, his birthplace; Canada, and the United States.

Born in England more than three quarters of a century ago, Mr. Clafton grew up in a musical atmosphere. He studied piano playing, also tuning of pianos. The call of a new country brought him to the United States at the age of 18 years. Settling first in New York State, he worked in the iron mines near the Adirondack mountains. It was there he met the girl who was to become his wife, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Bullis. When his wife's parents decided to move to Minnesota and take up a homestead, Mr. & Mrs. Clafton also decided a new state would be worth trying, so came to Grand Rapids. Oscar Bullis had taken as a homestead the land now occupied by the Ralf Dethloff family in Arbo.

Arriving in Grand Rapids, Mr. Clafton soon found room for his musical talents. He was about the only really good piano player in town, 45 years ago, and the only person in this part of the state who knew how to tune pianos. Most of the pianos used here in those days were located in saloons. Which supplied music of sort for their patrons, so it was saloons that Mr. Clafton found most call for his skill as a piano tuner. He tuned instruments in Grand Rapids, LaPrairie and Deer River, ever going to towns further away at times.

As the piano player of ability in Grand Rapids, Mr. Clafton found his services much in demand. He was sought for when a player was needed at any of the shows which occasionally came to town. With the late C. E. Aiken playing the cornet, some good violin player and Mr. Clafton at the piano, a dance orchestra good enough for almost any occasion was formed. On a number of occasions such a trio supplied the music for dances in the old village hall, which was torn down to make room for the present Grand Rapids village hall. Local churches too, often needed a piano player.

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Mr. Clafton remembers well being called upon to play in the Methodist church in the morning and the Presbyterian church in the evening, of the same Sunday. The Methodist church then stood where the English Lutheran church is now located, and the Presbyterian church raised its spire where the Henler building stands.

While Mr. Clafton may not have been the first music teacher to form a class in piano in Grand Rapids, he certainly was among the first. He had a number of juvenile piano students, to whom he taught the rudiments necessary before the instrument could be mastered. One of these pupils, a boy, lived in La Prairie, and Mr. Clafton well remembers deiving down there with a horse and buggy, once a week, to hear this lad in his lessons. Though he cannot recall the name of the boy. There are doubtless men and women now living in Grand Rapids who can recall taking piano lessons from Mr. Clafton nearly half a century ago.

Mr. & Mrs. Clafton lived in a house located where the Secker grocery was built a year or so ago. The house was then owned by Mr. Bullis. Later it was occupied by Dr. Storch, and still later by a succesion of families until moved away to make room for the grocery store.

Seeking fields where his musical talent might find better expression, Mr. Clafton tools his family to eastern Canada. For some years they lived in Ottawa, and Quebec, in different towns as the need for piano tuning developed. They finally moved back into New York State, traveling with horse and buggy, as automobiles were not yet known. For some years Mr. Clafton worked as a piano tuner there, until failing eyesight and a lessened demand for his services as a piano tuner made another move seem necessary.

For the second time the Clafton family moved to Minnesota, coming to their present farm in Arbo township about 16 years ago. Here they are content to live out the sunset of an eventful life with their children,

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some of them near at hand.

Although his eyesight is very poor, Mr. Clafton's hands have not forgotten their cunning, or his memory the ability to play a piano. When he can be persuaded to sit down to the key-board, the style and character of the music he plays entirely from memory indicates something of his skill with this master instrument in the days of his youth."

May 11-38

Grand Rapids Notes
H. H. Hause
November 6, 1940

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wednesday, May 11, 1938
P. 7, col. 1-2-3

"In the railroad park at Grand Rapids stands an immense load of logs. With its typical bobsled and concrete foundation, this 'last load' serves a momument to a romantic period that once held sway in the timber region of Northern Minnesota. That period constituted the fabled lumberjack and Paul Bunyan day, when fortune smiled and a great industry hummed,--while the virgin timber crop of the state was being harvested and sold.

With the arrival of this 'last load' in the major logging operations in the Grand Rapids area, an extended period of light logging began. This latter period is still intact, and forms the basis mainly for a present-day important paper industry that has had an extensive develoopement in that region. This type of logging has become an industry in itself, that thrives as the remaining timber-lands produce a rapid growth of small timber. In the main, however, the cutover land has been converted into farms of the better and more improved types. Farm homes, diary barns and silos are prominent features of the pre-ailin [sic] prevailing landscape.

But with all, there is still a newness to the region that is refreshing. The lakes, river, and intervening timberlands create a natural paradise for tourists who frequent that territory in great numbers each year to escape summer heat and try their skill at fishing. The region is part of a great natural playground that is becoming more popular each year.

SIGNS OF PROGRESS

Those who come from outside of the state and find their way as

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far north as Grand Rapids are apt to expect to find a region given over largely to summer resorts, lakes, fish and game. It is an easy matter to picture farming as being conducted mainly as a means of feeding tourists and townspeople, but this industry, as it now stands has a much wider application.

The territory, however, is still in the midst of a transition stage. New settlers are coming in each year, farms are being improved, and new lands are cleared and put under cultivation. Grand Rapids in the past has drawn its subsistence from the lumber and mining industries, but aside from deriving income from these sources and from tourists, it is fast becoming a town that thrives in the midst of a well-developed agricultural area. Through this developement a more certain foundation is formed; for, while tourists and summer residents come and go, and other sources of income vary, the farms of the local trade area and those who operate them stay on the job the year around.

Grand Rapids is the county seat of Itasca county, which is said to be the largest county east of the Mississippi river. In the western part lies the great Chippewa National Forest, and on the eastern side, a good portion of the Mesabi Iron Range. It is claimed that there are 337 lakes within the county limits. These lakes vary in size and are well distributed over most of this wide area. Fully one-half of this number are restocked annually with pike, bass, and trout from the state hatchery. Grand Rapids is situated within easy reach of several important lakes, but still much of the trade area is better suited to farming than to developement of resort enterprises.

Agriculture in this region has had rather an uphill climb. It has been necessary to make cutover lands into improved farms. In this pro-

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cess, stump must be removed and new lands subdued, but the abundant soil resources of the region have helped greatly. Clover and alfalfa grow well, and thus is formed a magnificent support for the dairy industry, that has thrived beyond reasonable expectations.

AID FOR FARMERS

It has been fortunate indeed for the Grand Rapids region that the North Central Agricultural Farm and School is located nearby. It is situated only a mile from Grand Rapids. This institution is one of five branch experimental stations located at various parts of the state to assist in solving the agricultural problems with special attention to local conditions.

The experimental work done by the state at Grand Rapids has been very helpful to farmers of that region. Special emphasis has been placed on crops that prove most profitable under conditions existing there. Various phases of potato growing have received attention, both in the matter of market grades and seed stock. Dairying, and dairy herd improvement have constituted major lines of work. In addition also, the Agricultural School has offered a splendid opportunity to farm boys and girls to get an education to better fit themselves to become skilled in their chosen profession, and to operate farms of their own at a better profit.

In cooperation with the Extension Division of the state and the United States Department of Agriculture, county and city officials have been alert in the promotion of the well-planned agricultural program. In this connection, a live wire county agent and an assistant in home ecomics have been kept on the job constantly. A. H. Frick is

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county agent at this time, and is ably assisted by Miss Sarah Cina, as home demonstration agent. The program of this organization is comprehensive, and very helpful.

Aside from the dairy improvement projects, a very important type of work is being done in this connection with the growing and marketing of potatoes. The marketing program is outstanding. After careful grading, both seed and table stock is sold under the 'Itasca Arrowhead' label, through the Arrowhead Marketing Association. In the case of table stock, a high mark has been set. The aim is to go after the fancy market set by Idaho and other regions where fancy potatoes are grown for a special trade. The seed stock is grown mainly under certification regulations, the idea is to grab off a full-size slice of the southern market for early seed stock. This market work is carried on with more than usual care, and results should show ample rewards to the growers of the region, and bring an extra income to the Grand Rapids trade area. Sheep raising is important also, as well as the growing and marketing of alfalfa and clover seed.

All branches of 4-H club work are well organized in Itasca county, and are conducted on rather a large scale. Last year there was an enrollment of 1,575 boys and girls who engaged this work. There are 45 local groups organized, each with good enrollment. Meetings were called regularly in local centers, and countywide meetings were held in the Grand Rapids clubhouse at the experimental farm, and in the new 4-H clubhouse at the fair Grounds.

UNIQUE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Another unique feature of Grand Rapids is the local school system. Here is located the seat of State School District No. 1, said to be the

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largest organized school district in the United States. The bus system that serves this school district reaches out from 30 to 35 miles, and carries regularly 2,000 pupils. This consolidated school, drawing pupils from a wide area, is another factor that adds materially to the importance of Grand Rapids as an educational, social and trade center of increasing importance.

A strong community movement has been under way in Grand Rapids territory for a good many years. The signs of progress are numerous, and evident on every hand. Town and country are working in close harmony for the general good. Grand Rapids is no longer a one-enterprise bown, but on the contrary, draws support from a wide variety of enterprises, and a wide farm area.

CLUB IS ACTIVE

The first Commercial Club in Grand Rapids was organized 33 years ago. However, it is only nine years now since this organization began to operate on its present plan. Meetings are held regularly each month, with numerous special meetings called as the occasion demands. It is a live organization, that is working and planning constantly for the good of Grand Rapids and the surrounding region.

Much effort is placed on promoting the region as a resort center, and furthering road construction, but more and more, the importance of farm trade in the surrounding territory is being realized. Wherever, and whenever possible this organization is lending support to all movements that pertain to the betterment of farm conditions. A committee is active in the promotion of trade days of various kinds, local celebrations, and entertainment features that bring people in from farms and outlying towns.

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Grand Rapids is the converging point of six trunk highways. All trunk highways and county roads are surfaced with black top and heavy gravel, and well maintained. These roads serve a large trade area, from which farm people, especially, come to Grand Rapids to supply their needs and avail themselves of advantages offered as a social and educational center.

The region embraced in Itasca county is very large. It constitutes a territory which should lend itself to many developemeмts as time goes on. As the years pass since the time of the arrival of the 'last load' of big scsle logging days, Grand Rapids and the surrounding territory should continue to develop over a wide front."

Rec 8-37

Grand Rapids Notes
H. H. Hause
November 6, 1940

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wednesday, December 8, 1937
P. 1, col. 1

"While this column has told of the pioneers, the lumberjacks, trappers, traders, merchants and early residents of this community and county, it is not the intention to neglect the ladies. The women who came to Itasca county in the early days were pioneers, even more than the men. Many of the hardships with which they contended were harder for them than for their husbands, brothers or sons.

There are now living in the community a number of ladies who came here close to a half a century ago. Of these pioneers none has lived longer in the community than Mrs. John Beckfelt.

Mrs. Beckfelt came here in 1885. She was the daughter of Edwin McHorter who came up the river to establish a stopping place at what was then a cluster of log cabins near the Rapids. After residing in the community for some months, Mrs. Beckfelt was married. Her husband, John Beckfelt, a pioneer merchant of not merely Grand Rapids, but of a great part of northern Minnesota, had come to this section in about 1882. He had build a log store down near the river. From this he conducted a mercantile business. Mr. Beckfelt was the first postmaster in Grand Rapids and he served a territory that extended west to Fosston, east to nearly Duluth, and north to the Canadian border. For a number of years the Beckfelt home was made in the second story of the log building where the store was located.

The first white woman to make a permanent home in Grand Rapids, according to Mrs. Beckfelt, was Mrs. Katherine Lent. Mrs. Lent came to Grand Rapids as a widow in about 1883. Mrs. Lent lived the rest of her life in Grand Rapids. She was for many years in the millinery business in the community. She built the frame building in which the Gamble

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store is now found and whose second story has been used for many years by the Masonic lodge.

Second in point of residence was the late Mrs. Mike McAlpine and a pioneer lady who came at about the same time was Mrs. L. F. Knox, whose husband was also in the mercantile business in Grand Rapids. All of these early settlers came up the river from Aitkin, most of them on the Andy Gibson, the well known steamboat of pioneer days.

Shortly after 1886 or 87 a number of women came to the community. The first white child to be born in Grand Rapids was Mayme Sherry, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Sherry. James Sherry ran a hotel on the north side of the river and for many years was once of the well known men of the section. Mr. and Mrs. Knox had a daughter, Julia, who was a young child in the early days. Mrs. Beckfelt states that she believes that she was born in Aitkin rather than Grand Rapids. Another child to be born in the early times was Carrie Beckfelt, now Mrs. Grant Seaton of Coleraine.

The ladies of the days a half a century ago had little to entertain them. They visited together and spent their time knitting and in conversation. Once a week the mail would come in. That created some interest for a day or two. After about 1890 the community developed rapidly and soon there were many women and children in Grand Rapids.

When children came into Grand Rapids it created the necessity for a school. John Beckfelt led the movement to establish the first school in this section. He was not only clerk of a board of education which served a large area, but he donated time, money and property for school purposes. The first school was located about where the railroad tracks

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are now found, somewhat north of the Pokegama hotel. It was a log structure and the first teacher was Martha Maddy who later became Mrs. Warren Potter of Aitkin and who died several years ago in Grand Rapids.

In this first school in 1887 there were two white children, Emma Clough and Eva McDermid. There were also three or four Chippewa children to make up an enrollment of five or six. Within two or three years the old school had been outgrown and a new frame school was put on the present location of the central school.

Mrs. Beckfelt recalls, as a remarkable tradition of the early days, the lack of trouble and disorder. There were no fights except among the lumberjacks themselves and people were safe. For many years there was not a policeman or once engaged to enforce the laws in the community. Charles Lyons, who was a clerk in the Beckfelt store was the first constable. It was seldom that he was called.

In the early days there were no physicians in or near the community and the ladies of the town assisted at births and deaths. In about 1888 a doctor came to La Prairie. Later there was a doctor at Grand Rapids."

NOV 24-37

Grand Rapids Notes
H. H. Hause
November 6, 1940

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wednesday, November 24, 1937
P. 1, col.

"The first newspaper to be printed and published in Grand Rapids was the Grand Rapids Magnet. The first issue of this publication appeared on July 11, 1891. The publisher was A. G. Berard and he was assisted by C. L. Pratt, a pioneer attorney of the community, as editor.

c 1891

A. G. Bernard had established a newspaper at La Prairie about 1888. He thought La Prairie was to be the metropolis of all Northeastern Minnesota. With the advent of Grand Rapids as a community, he changed his mind and in a short time became as enthusiastic for Grand Rapids as he had been for its early neighbor.

In fact, Bernard was very sure that Grand Rapids was to go ahead and La Prairie was to go to pieces. In the first issue of the paper at Grand Rapids he commented of the fact that the depot at La Prairie had caught on fire. He stated that it was fortunate that it did not burn for if it had, the railroad company probably would not rebuild it.

The first issue of the Magnet in Grand Rapids devoted several columns to the wonderful prospects which were confronting Itasca county. Its song was that of all newspapers since that time. Itasca had great possibilities in agriculture, mining and timber.

The advertisements in the first issue of the Magnet were an index as to the business in Grand Rapids. Daniel W. Doran had completed the Pokegama. A. H. Grove had a drug store. Kremer and King had established an abstract and real estate office. James Sherry was running the Grand Rapids hotel. L. F. Knox advertised general merchandise and stated that he was the ticket, trade and forwarding agent for the steamer 'Faun'

c 1891

(Cont'd)

of Aitkin. Other adventisers were Potter & Company, W. C. Tyndall, and the Wells-Stone Mercantile Company, and the Itasca County Park, both of La Prairie. John Beckfield advertised his goods. W. J. & H. D. Powers were established in business. G. R. Ellis had a grocery store. Vance and Breckenridge were dealers in dry goods, groceries, hay, fish, fur and game.

A. G. Bernard ran the Grand Rapids Magnet for several years. Later he went to Walker and then further West. Within a year or two, two other newspapers came into the community. The Review was established by Graffam & Orr. Mr. Orr is still in the printing business in Duluth. E. C. Kiley established the Herald. Later he purchased the Review to make the Herald-Review of today. D. C. Anderson and his brother moved in a newspaper from La Prairie which was continued as the Itasca County Independent. The Magnet continued during most of these changes. It finally fell into the ownership of the late Henry Hughes and he sold it to the proprietors of the Herald-Review and the Independent who divided up the type and the equipment and discontinued the name and the publication.

To establish a new paper in a new country was quite an undertaking. Commercial business was small. Legal publishing, in connection with land notices, became quite substantial."

Nov 17-37

Grand Rapids Notes
H. H. Hause
November 6, 1940

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wednesday, November 17, 1937
P. 1, col. 1

The first newspaper ever to be published for Grand Rapids was the Grand Rapids Weekly Eagle. This was not printed in the community. It was established by W. W. Canfield of Brainerd and was doubtless printed down river.

1890 VI

The first issue of the Weekly Eagle appeared on July 3, 1890. It made its appearance the week that the Duluth & Winnipeg railroad came into Grand Rapids proper. It described how the railroad had been entended from La Prairie over the ravine near the present courthouse and how the driving of a spike by one of the ladies of the community celebrated the completion of the road. The depot had not been located.

The first issue of the Eagle was well received outside of Grand Rapids. The second issue was hopeful. How long the paper lasted is not a matter of record. However the Eagle came and went but its publication left some history.

The issue of July 19, 1890, described Grand Rapids.

The first building in Grand Rapids, according to the Eagle, was erected on the river bank in 1874 by L. G. Seavey, whose daughter, Mrs. J. R. O'Malley, is now a resident of the community. Warren Potter was regarded as a founder of the town for he established a trading post at about the same time. These buildings, used for many years, still stand on the Wheaton property south of the river. Another early store was that of L. F. Knox, while John Beckfelt had been postmaster about seven years when the first issue of the Eagle appeared.

1883 VI

The townsite had been surveyed and avenues and streets had been laid out by July, 1890. On the north side of the river was to be found

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the Beckfelt and Knox stores. East of these stores was the Itasca Hotel operated by Charles Kearney. A. T. Nelson had a large restaurant and refreshment place. Adjoining the Itasca and opposite the hotel stood Robert McCabe's saloon. Further west in the block opposite the present location of the paper mill office was the hotel and saloon operated by James Sherry. Next to it was the Bodega saloon. On the river bank was the steamboat landing and a steel bridge of 150 feet span had just been completed.

Also on the north side of the river were to be found the Cleveland Jewelry store, the barber shop of B. F. Sims and the office of E. R. Lewis, a civil engineer who laid out the town. In July 1890 Lewis had just completed laying out an addition for J. B. Chatterton of Minneapolis.

On the South side of the river several business houses were located. George Meyers was the manager of the Potter & Company store. M. O' Toole had a saloon and there was the Woods & Daly blacksmith shop.

The first church in the community had been organized by Rev. Thomas Finlay, a Presbyterian pastor from Duluth. This was in January, 1890. Previous to that time there had been services in various homes in the community by those of the Episcopal and Catholic denominations.

Grand Rapids was building up very rapidly. Materials for a saw mill were expected by boat from Brainerd. The National hotel was under construction. The citizens of Grand Rapids had pledged the railroad that a large hotel would be constructed. H. D. Powers was en route to Grand Rapids and the steamer Faun of Aitkin was bringing up his stock of goods. John Beckfelt had commenced grading for the building which he

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had occupied for so long. G. G. Hartley of Duluth was about to begin the construction of the building used so many years by the First National Bank of Grand Rapids. Several residences were being constructed.

There were big things talked about in those early days. The most important interest, outside of the developement of the community, was the lumber industry. In July 1890 there were still logs in Pokegama but the drive was practically completed. Over on the range mining was being carried on at the Diamond mine where drilling was in operation. H. W. Klages, the manager of the mining operations, complimented the community on the fact that a wagon road was to be constructed across the range. A bridge across the Prairie river was to built at a cost of $1,200. The comment was that it probably would be some time before the bridge was used by very many people.

The Eagle, like most frontier newspapers, devoted a considerable amount of space to promoting the town in which it was located. Praise of the advantages of Northern Minnesota, and description of the exceptional location of Grand Rapids, was generous.

The Grand Rapids Eagle did not rest very long in the community on its flight, but in its short existence, it was hopeful and interesting."

June 2-37 - 1 -

Grand Rapids Notes
H. H. Hause
November 6, 1940

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wednesday, June 2, 1937
P. 1, col. 1

"The distinction of being a resident of Itasca county longer than any other living person doubtless goes to Luther Brown of Grand Rapids. Perhaps the next man in line is James Ross, who lives on Little Vermillion lake west of Cohasset.

1882 ?

It was in the late fall of 1882, about 55 years ago, that James Ross came to this Neck of the Woods. He came up from Aitkin on a flat boat. On the boat were about 35 men bound for work in the lumber camps and about 30 tons of freight. The trip up from Aitkin took six long days. The boat was pushed all of the way up by men stand on a six inch plank along the sides. When some rapids were encountered part of the load was removed and there was plenty of pushing and hauling. Wilson and Gillespie, early loggers of this section, had the first call upon the services of Jim Ross. He came here to go to work for them. But they wished him to make another trip down and up the river. That did not suit so the young lumberjack went to work for the Bagley lumber interests, which had camps near Grand Rapids. The first job was that of transporting goods behind 4 oxen. This trip was from Grand Rapids to Prairie Lake. Immediately above the rapids on the Mississippi were some meadows on which were found a number of stacks of hay. That also had to be gotten on its way to the lumber camps to feed the oxen which were then the only beasts of burden in the woods.

The first men whom James Ross met at Grand Rapids were Bob McCabe and Mike McAlpine. The community, which has been described before, was a cluster of log buildings near the river. Back a little distance from these buildings the woods began.

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Mr. Ross well remembers one of his early trips north of Grand Rapids. It was a winter day and darkness fell in the big woods at about four in the afternoon. It had just come dark when close to his sleigh a great timber wolf began to howl. Immediately on the other side another wolf answered. Jim Ross did not know what would happen. He crawled out on the pole between two of the oxen. But the wolves did no damage except to howl.

Jim Ross has been in or near Itasca county since he landed at Grand Rapids in 1882. He worked in the woods, primarily for two or three outfits. After working for Bagley he spent some time with the Heywoods, well known loggers of the early day from Minneapolis. A number of years was spent with Lorrey & Libby, well known names of a half a century ago. Sometimes the summer would be spent at the saw-mills in Minneapolis. But James Ross never liked to be away from the woods. Later he did some logging on his own.

In the first few years of the woods James Ross spotted some land with magnificent pine on Vermillion lake. In 1898 he filed on this property as a homestead. He came to Grand Rapids for his papers and got them of I. D. Rassussen, who had then began his long term in county office. Then began the work of cutting the timber and clearing the good land. Much of the propertywas put under cultivation. In 1921 James Ross raised and marketed over six thousand bushels of potatoes.

The most interesting experience of James Ross' life in the woods was on the Bear River. Heywood, for whom Ross was employed and the Day Brothers were both logging on this river. Each had put in about four million feet. The Heywood camp thought that they would put something

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over on the Day Brothers for the two operators were not on very good terms. The Bear River does not hold much water. A dam had been constructed to conserve what there was. The plan of the Heywood was to open the dam without warning; rush out their own logs and leave the Day logs high and dry on the bank for another season.

On a certain day at noon the Heywood camp opened the dam. Fifty men were ready to take out the logs. There was great haste and excitement. However, one of the Day men was friendly with men at the Heywood camp and had visited there. He saw what was up. He made haste to warn the Days of the plan. Heywood men overtook him. They said that in war spies were hung but in this case he would be tiedup for awhile. Jim Sullivan, foreman of the Day camp discovered the man, released him and soon the Day Brothers were in action. They had onlyabout 30 men at their camp. But these men worked hard. Everyone worked. Leonard Day one of the brothers, happened to be in camp and he went to work. Jim Ross saw him riding a big log and tried to tip him off. But Len Day was a good man on logs.

In a short time the water began to go down. The Heywoods and the Days patched up their difficulties. However, half the logs on Bear river stayed where they had been put for two or three years. They were finally taken out."

Oct 13-37

Grand Rapids Notes
H. H. Hause
November 6, 1940

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wednesday, October 13, 1937
P. 1, col. 1

"One of the real old time business men of Grand Rapids was back here last week, visiting with old friends, and recalling the stirring times of almost a half a century ago. Clark Smith, now of Ogden, Utah, was the visitor, and he found but few of the men alive who assoicated with him when he entered business here in 1890.

Clark Smith became interested in stories of the new, growing town at the head of navigation on the Mississippi, Grand Rapids, while he was working for the Northern Pacific Railway Company at Brainerd in 1888. The next year he came up on a steamboat and looked the town over, and was so impressed with its possibilities that in 1890 he decided to go into business here, selling liquor and cigars. For a location he selected a building which stood about where the W. O. Gates plumbing and heating concern is now located. His first stock of goods was brought up by steamboat from Aitkin, and a number of future orders were handled in this manner. Much of the passenger transportation to Grand Rapids was also by river steamer at that time.

During the next four years, in which Mr. Smith was in business here, logging was at its height, and the town was crowded with lumberjacks in spring and fall, river drivers through the summer, and business was brisk. When he first went into business, Mr. Smith was associated with Al Nason, also well known to the early settlers. He purchased Mr. Nason's interest in the business after a time, and conducted it alone.

In 1895, becoming dissatisfied with the nature of the business he was running, Mr. Smith decided to sell. The purchasers were two men well known in the early history of Grand Rapids. The names signed to

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the transfer of property were Thomas Kelly and Lawrence O'Leary, but by their intimates, the new owners were termed 'Pig Eye Kelly' and 'Larry the Brute.' The latter received his nickname from his habit, when a logging foreman, of telling the cookee, in the early hours of the morning 'Roll out those brutes in the bunkhouse, its time to feed 'em.'

In looking around Grand Rapids for old friends last week, Mr. Smith found George Arscott, mayor of the village, who in 1890 was cooking for Barney Finnegan at the dam. Another old friend F. A. McVicar, who was a well known logging jobber in this vicinity. Fred Willman of Cut Foot Sioux was at that time holding down his father's homestead on Pokegama lake, and was another old friend of Clark Smith. During much of his stay in Itasca county on his recent visit, Mr. Smith was a guest of Mr. Willman at his Cut Foot Sioux resort. Archie McDougall was another old timer with whom he enjoyed visiting.

Among the logging firms active in the woods around here 45 years ago, Mr. Smith recalls J. P. Sims, logging near Dear lake; Hayward Brothers who operated north of Deer river; the C. A. Smith Lumber Company, who had several jobbers putting in timber; Powers & Simpson, who afterward built a logging railroad from Swan River to Hibbing; Jim Sherry, operating on that part of Pokegama lake which bears his name, and a number of others.

After leaving Grand Rapids Mr. Smith went to Minneapolis. He sold goods on the road for a time, then went to North Dakota to engage in cattle ranching. He had cattle on a large range a number of miles out from Kenmare until the influx of homesteaders cut down the wild, free

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range, and it was necessary to close out the ranch. For a time he lived in Kenmare, and held the office of mayor for a number of terms.

Railroad construction was at its peak some 35 or 40 years ago, and Mr. Smith took contracts for building grades for the Northern Pacific, the Great Northern and otherlines. He worked with animal power, using Missouri mules instead of horses, and at times had several hundred men and mules on his grading jobs.

During his trips through the west, establishing homes in several localities, Mr. Smith found time to marry and raise a family. A daughter, when grown, married a man who was engaged in wholesale and retail selling of gasoline and oil at Ogden, Utah. When his son-in-law died a few years ago, Mr. Smith took over the business, and it has a source of interest in it, as well as an opportunity to make money. His concern is known as the Atlas Oil Company, and has a large number of tank wagons hauling to other points besides supplying his retail outlets in Ogden.

Though he likes the pine woods of Minnesota, and enjoys coming here for a visit, Mr. Smith believes the West is the best place to live. Ogden has a mild climate, and irrigated lands there produce heavily of many kinds of fruit. There are several large canning factories in the town, indicating that much farm produce is canned for sale elsewhere."

Apr 21 - 37

Grand Rapids Notes
H. H. Hause
November 5, 1940

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wednesday, April 21, 1937
P. 1, col. 1

"The growth in the number of business institutions in Grand Rapids reminds us that on one corner in town groceries have been sold for about 47 years. This is the corner where the Johnson store is now found and where from the earliest times, John Beckfelt and his associates sold the necessities of life.

While rumaging around the building at the time of its reconstruction, Mr. Johnson picked up an old order book. It was that used by the firm of Beckfelt and Mather to record orders of groceries. The first entries appear on November 17, 1891. F. A. King was charged with a gallon of kerosene, a barrel of apples and five pounds of sugar. The book carrys the orders of Grand Rapids housewives well along into the early summer of 1892.

1891 c

One of the interesting things about the orders of those days is their simplicity. There was not very much variety to business in a grocery store in those days compared to these times. People bought sugar, flour, eggs, potatoes, trunips, cabbages, tea, coffee, and other simple necessities. For instance, in the whole book there is not a mention of a single item of canned goods, except one for condensed milk. The truth is that there were very few or no canned goods in a grocery store in Grand Rapids in 1891. People ate those things which could be dried or otherwise preserved.

1891 c

Another interesting feature is found in the prices of products. Some of them are very much the same as today. For instnace, the price of sugar in 1891 was approximately what it is now. Potatoes were 50 cents a bushel. They are nearer two dollars today. Eggs were 30 cents

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a dozen. Cracked corn is selling today for not far from double what it did in 1891 and a hundred pounds of flour that Beckfelt and Mather sold for three dollars now sells for approximately half as much again. Molasses was about half the price then as now and that can of condensed milk sold in February, 1892, brought 18 cents. Grand Rapids had no telephones in those days and no electric lights. A large number of orders included kerosene.

All the food and merchandise sold in Grand Rapids in 1891 was imported. The community which may now ship out eggs by the carload probably did not have a dozen hens when Beckfelt & Mather were first in business. The turnips the cabbages the potatoes which were sold here were doubtless brought up in a boat in those earlier days. Everything that the village needed was brought in.

Naturally there was a great difference in the appearance of a store in those early days and now. A store had few shelves and more barrels and boxes. Most commodities came in bulk and were divided in the store for the trade. In those days there was hardly a time when an Indian or a long bearded lumberman was not found in a store.

Many are the familiar names which appear on the order book of 36 years ago. Among those names are King, Tyndall, Cudney, Lathrop, McAlpine, Shurtleff, Kremer, Thurston, Hennessey, Johnsen, Parker, Powers, Doran, and Castleburg. The old timers may remember all of these people. There are a few of the names that are unknown to the present generation.

A merchant in those earlydays also did business with lumber camps. He sold them oats, hay, and other supplies. Beckfelt and Mather did some business of this kind. In this book are to be found the names of

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the Akeley Lumber Company, Knight and McCarthy, Colburn Brothers, Blake Brothers, and Sims. Few, if any, of these names are familiar to those of today. The records of years ago are reminders of the fact that those who are active and prominent in one generation may be almost entirely strangers to the next.

John Beckfelt was a pioneer of the pioneers. He was one of the first merchants in a vast territroy extending from Aitkin to the Canadian border. He came to Grand Rapids in the early eighties. His first store was of logs down near the river. In about 1890 he moved up among the big pines on the hill. He built the store which he occupied for so many years. For a substantial part of the time while Mr. Beckfelt was in business in Grand Rapids he was associated with Oscar L. Mather. Mr. Mather now lives in southern Minnesota.

The corner on which John Beckfelt built his store has had but two ownerships. The present owner is John A. Johnsen, who came to Grand Rapids 32 years ago. Mr. Johnsen came first as a clerk in the Henry Hilling store. Later he worked in the Dan Casher store, located in a frame building where the McAlpine Block now stands, and then he spent several years with Henry Hughes. He went to Deer River, where for seven years he was associated M. J. Baker. He returned to Grand Rapids in 1922 to establish his store and later to purchase the Beckfelt corner with its traditions of pioneer business.

March 17-37

Grand Rapids History
Sumner - Hause
Nov. 5, 1940

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wed. Mar. 17, 1937, Vol. XLVI-37
P. 1. Col. 1.

The old timers in Grand Rapids might be divided into two groups. One group would consist of those who had been in the community or the county for over 50 years. That would be but a very samll number of people. Luther Brown of Grand Rapids is unquestionably the oldest resident of this immediate section. He came here first about 65 years ago. Those who have been here a half a century or more would probably not number more than a score. They would make up an exclusive club.

Another group would consist of those who first came to Grand Rapids on a river steamboat from Aitkin. That would make up quite a substantial group of people, for the boats ran for quite a number of years after the railroad had come to the community.

John Mc Donald of Grand Rapids would belong to both groups.
1889 While he didn't come to Grand Rapids until 1889. He did come to part
1886 of what is now Itasca county in 1886. In that year he came to a logging camp near what later developed into Hill City. He helped drive logs out of the various lakes and streams of that section and returned
1889 to Minneapolis when the drive was done. In 1889 he came on a steamboat up the river from Aitkin and settled at Grand Rapids.

The reason that John Mc Donald came to Grand Rapids was that he was raised by the same community from which Mike Mc Apline came. After spending sometime at Grand Rapids in the early days, Mr. McAlpine returned to Minneapolis. He told John Mc Donald that Grand Rapids was a good town so Mr. Mc Donald came.

Grand Rapids Herald Review, Wed. Mar 17, 1937 - continued

How Grand Rapids looked a half a century ago has been told by many people. There were a few log houses and stores on either side of the river. A little below where the Riverside Hotel now stands was to be found the hotel operated by Charles Kearney. Across the road was the John Beckfelt store and a little bit further up was the store operated by L. F. Knox. Where the paper mill now stands was Jim Sherry's hotel. Across the river and down was the Potter- Casey store. There was a sufficient number of saloons and a few small log houses. Al Nason had a small frame house. When the railroad came it was moved and later became part of the Park Hotel.

1889 When John Mc Donald came in 1889 there was no bridge across the Mississippi. However, a small wooden structure was built about that year and this improved the relationship between those who lived north and those who resided south of the river. Mr. Mc Donald remembers

1889 well the Fourth of July in 1889. This was celebrated in a clearing where the hospital now stands. There was a place for folks to dance and a goodly number of squaws. The feature of the day was a race between two horses, one owned by Charles Kearney, which could really trot, and the other owned by Charles Seeley, one of the well known men of the section at that time. A track had been improvised among the trees south of the river. It was not more than a trail through the woods. The Kearney horse was a good horse and the Seeley horse was slow, but the slow horse won because the fast one wandered off into the woods. The old time friends of Mr. Mc Donald have nearly all passed on. Among these were Al Nason, Bob Mc Cabe, and Jim Sherry, all well known characters of the earlier times. Charles Kearney, John Beckfelt and L. F. Knox were three pioneer business men who have passed away. There were some well known lumberjacks at that time. Mr. Mc Donald

Grand Rapids Herald Review, Wed. Mar. 17, 1937 - continued

particularly remembers Frank Grant and his several brothers. Frank Grant was one of the strong men of the early days. On many occasions he used to demonstrate the strength he possessed in his hands and forearm. Larry Grant, one of this early group, Mr. Mc Donald still believes is living in Chisholm but all the rest of the Grant clan are dead. While those early days were rough they were honest. The lumberjacks would sleep, when the hotels were full, on the saloon and lodging house floors. They ~~made~~ had considerable sums of money in their purses but no one would steal it. As the years passed on there was a change in this direction, and gamblers, tinhorns and thieves took the place of an honest group of men whose chief fault was an easy expenditure of hard earned money.

1898 In 1898 John Mc Donald and Mike Mc Alpine purchased the Superior Hotel at Hibbing, which Mr. Mc Donald operated for two and a half years. He sold this property and returned to Grand Rapids. During the war he lived for about three years at Nashwauk. Mr. Mc Donald is now nearly 70 years of age. He was 19 when he first came into the big woods of Hill City. "

G. H. Hause 10/31/40

Feb 10-37

Grand Rapids History
Sumner - Hause
Nov. 5, 1940.

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wed. Feb. 10, 1937 Vol. XLVI-32
P..1. Col. 1.

"No mention of community builders in Grand Rapids would be complete without mentioning John Lofberg, for he has contributed much to this village in practical building. From the earliest frame con-
1894 struction, away back in 1894, up to the present time, he has taken an active part.

1860 Born in Sweden in 1860, Mr. Lofberg worked as a young man in plaster and concrete. He came to America when 20 years of age, and worked in St. Paul for a number of years, being employed as coach builder for the
1893 Northern Pacific Railway Company. When he came to Grand Rapids in 1893, the ruins of the first Pokegama Hotel were still smoking, as the building had just burned.

Grand Rapids was stretching and growing in these early years, and thence was an opportunity for a builder to find plenty of employment. The first contract was to erect a house later known as the Thornton Place, on east Seventh street. At that time this was away out in the woods, and a trail had to be cut to get in the material. George Kremer became interested in building at about this time, so for some years the firm of Lofberg and Kremer took contracts and put up buildings. One of their first contracts was a school house in Deer River, a frame building which replaced the old log school house first used there. The basement of this school was walled up with cedar blocks laid in concrete, one of the first buildings to have foundation walls of that character.

As an independent contractor, Mr. Lofberg erected the first permanent buildings on the state farm. These included barn, dairy house,

Grand Rapids Herald Review, Wed. Feb. 10, 1937 - continued

root cellars and the erection of a windmill with an 80 foot tower. Supt. Pendergast was in charge of the state farm then, the first head of the institution after the state purchased the land.

One of the most interesting pieces of concrete work erected by Mr. Lofberg is considered by him to be the immense root cellar on Island Farm, east of Fleetwood. There is no opportunity for excavation at Island Farm, as the water level is near the surface. The concrete walls had to be supported till they hardened. so ditches were dug, and filled with tamarack poles, and these used as a foundation for the heavy walls.

When paving was first proposed for Grand Rapids, concrete was just coming into favor for that purpose. Large amounts of wood block paving were being used in other towns, and some members of the village council here wanted to use wood block in Grand Rapids. The late E. N. Remer, then a member of the council, discussed concrete with Mr. Lofberg, with the result that concrete was used, and the first pavement laid, that on Third street is still in excellent condition. Mr. Lofberg did not get this contract, even though he bid on it, but did a large lot of paving afterward, including Pokegama avenue, Second street, and other sections of the concrete paving around town.

From concrete paving, Mr. Lofberg went to the manufacture of hollow tile concrete blocks, and used them extensively in building operations. One of the largest buildings constructed with this material is the dairy barn on the Sisler farm east of town. Numerous other buildings in this vicinity are also constructed from these concrete blocks.

Never afraid to tackle a job because it looked hard, Mr. Lofberg became known as a house mover. He had numerous contracts of that character, the largest building he ever moved being in Bovey. This was a

Grand Rapids Herald Review, Wed. Feb. 10, 1937 - continued

two and a half story frame structure, 48 x 74 feet in size, and it was transported without difficulty.

While contracting and building made the summer season pass quickly, there was little activity in the winter, so Mr. Lofberg engaged in logging. He was a partner with Mr. Kremer in this venture for two or three winters, then alone. He run camps in the woods for 18 winters, sometimes near Grand Rapids, at other times as far away as Shovel Lake. One winter his crew landed over 3,000,000 feet of pine.

Saw milling is the next step after logging, and John Lofberg graduated to this work. He operated mills on Pokegama, at Riley lake, north of Bovey, and at Crystal lake in Grand Rapids. A large amount of lumber used in the new town of Bovey was cut at the Lofberg mill.

Included in the concrete work which stands as a sort of monument to Mr. Lofberg's industry are numerous bridges. Some of these are over the Swan, others span different streams in the county. On none of them has he done as many bridge builders do, cast his name on the concrete face of the bridge, to indicate by whom it was erected.

G. H. Hause 10/31/40.

Jan 13-37

Grand Rapids History
Sumner - Hause
Nov. 4, 1940

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wed. Jan. 13, 1937, Vol. XLVI-28
P. 1, Col. 1.

"Among the several thousand people who make up the population of Grand Rapids there are many interesting characters. Each of them has a human interesting story, well worth telling. One of the most entertaining men to meet is also one of the oldest. We refer to Andrew Walters, who will be 91 years of age on February 22.

Although in the last decade toward the century mark, Mr. Walters retains all his faculties, and keeps fully informed on the questions of the day. An inveterate reader, he has an accomplishment envied by many younger men. He reads entirely without the aid of glasses or spectacles of any kind, reading fine print with ease. Mr. Walters says that he wore glasses for about 25 years, in middle life, when he had regained all the sight he had lost, almost at once, and is now no longer obliged to use aids to his vision. He reads several books from the public library each week, as well as daily papers and magazines.

Born in Bavaria, Germany, Mr. Walters has no memory of his native land, for he came to America with his parents when but a few months old. The family settled first at Rochester, New York then moved west to Dubuque, Iowa, where they lived for a few years. Learning of a country of fertile valleys and free land in Minnesota territory, the elder Walters moved his family by steamboat to Red Wing, where they lived for a long time. Here Andrew Walters attended school and grew to young manhood. When the family went to Red Wing the town consisted of a collection of Indian huts, a very few log houses, and one store. There was no railroad, and all travel was by steamboat on the Mississippi river.

Grand Rapids Herald Review, Wed. Jan. 13, 1937 - continued.

Grain, raised by the German immigrants in the valleys near Red Wing, was shipped down river to St. Louis on steamboats. It was all sacked, and carried on board by roustabouts, some of them negroes, some Irish and other laborers. Mr. Walters made one trip to St. Louis as a roustabout, but soon engaged in more profitable occupation, that of a riverman on the big log rafts on the Mississippi river. He worked at this job for several years.

When logging was started in Wisconsin and Minnesota, log rafts were made up at Stillwater and floated down the Mississippi to St. Louis, where the logs were sawed. This was a well paid job, for expert rivermen, who could handle the big rafts in rough water, were in demand. Tents were pitched on the raft, and the men lived there for the whole trip, which took several weeks.

Going to Minneapolis when that city was but a small frontier town, Andrew Walters signed to work on a survey party plotting the route now followed by the Northern Pacific across North Dakota, and when all travel was by team. Because of the danger from marauding bands of Indians, for this was five years before General Custer was killed by the Sioux, not a hundred miles south of where this surveying party was to work, a regiment of troops, a thousand in number, served as guards. Several hundred head of cattle were taken along with the party to serve as a fresh meat supply, with cow boys to handle them. All supplys were hauled in wagons, and the party worked under constant military guard. Mr. Walters was driving one of the supply wagons on the entire trip.

The survey party ran preliminary lines from the present site of Bismark, North Dakota, across that territory, and into Montana as far as where Billings is now located. Brushes with the Indians were not at all

Grand Rapids Herald Review, Wed. Jan. 13, 1937 - continued

uncommon, and though a few of the survey party were killed and scalped, Mr. Walters suffered no harm. He returned to Minneapolis the following winter.

When land was opened to homestead entry in Ottertail county, the elder Mr. Walters, with his family moved there, locating not far from Fergus Falls. It was from that place that Andrew Walters moved to Itasca county. He confesses himself a newcomer here, having moved to this community only about thirty years ago.

Mrs. Walters died six years ago, just after the family had observed the sixtieth wedding anniversary. There are not many living descendants, as there were but two sons born. One died in childhood, and the other is Frank Walters of La Prairie. Andrew Walters lives in town, having a room at the Heppel rooming house, as he desires to be where he can enjoy his frequent walks to the public library and other places around town.

Incidentally, Mr. Walters is a regular reader of the Grand Rapids Herald Review, beginning to take it when he first came here some thirty years ago, and remaining a constant subscriber since that time."

G. H. Hause 10/31/40.

DLC #3-36

Grand Rapids History
Sumner - Hause
Nov. 5, 1940.

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wed. Dec. 23, 1936, Vol. XLVI-25
P. 1, Col. 1.

"Operating the government of Itasca county was a much different job about 40 years ago than it is today.

c/ 1898

E. J. Farrell was elected county auditor of Itasca county in 1898. At that time the valuation of the county was about $3,300,000. There was a levy to pay the officials and operate the government. But at that time but one mill was levied for road and bridge purposes. That brought the county $3,000.

The three thousand dollars for roads and bridges in the earlier days did the simple work that was required for the reason that there was little road work which could be done. For a number of years the only roads in the county were the Prairie river road which wound its trailing way to the north and the state road which went toward Aitkin through Splithand and which generally followed the Mississippi river to the settlements further south. It was not necessary to maintain these roads for automobiles and sometimes the task was given up in summer. The county, which then included what is now Koochiching, spent about as much for highways as it would cost to build a mile or so of more modern road in these days of travel.

In the earlier days the county commissioners did not spend very much time pondering petitions for highways. Few were requested until settlement of the county increased. Instead of talking about petitions for roads, the county board put in much time granting petitions for dams on the rivers and creeks of the county. The waterways were the main arteries of transportation for the only commodity in which the county was then interested. Logs were floated north or south on the various streams.

Grand Rapids Herald Review, Wed. Dec. 23, 1936 - continued

To facilitate this work dams were necessary. To get the dams, permission had to be obtained from the county board. To investigate and grant such petitions was the principal duty of the board for many years.

In those earlier times the county had some real costs in the management of its courts. That was in milage of jurors, witnesses and public officials. For many years there was but one way for residents of International Falls to get to Grand Rapids. That was to proceed by rail to Winnipeg, thence down to Crookston and thence east to this community. The journey was, as Mr. Farrell remembers it, 562 miles, one way. At the milage rate it cost the county over $110 to bring the jurors to the county seat, or for the expenses of the county commissioner who lived at the border.

E. J. Farrell came as a young man to Superior, Wisconsin. He
1890 came there in 1890 with a brother. That was in the boom days at the head of the lakes. In due time he became a clerk at the Commercial Hotel in Superior. One of the guests at the Hotel was Dr. Ely who was a leading
1894 resident and a strong enthusiast for the possibilities of Grand Rapids. He advised Mr. Farrell to come to Grand Rapids. Thus in 1894 the community secured a new resident who became clerk of the Gladstone Hotel which was operated by D. W. Doran.

Grand Rapids was an active hotel town in those earlier days. The Pokegama was built by D. M. Gunn. The Gladstone, across the tracks and two blocks west was a substantial hotel. There was rivalry between
1896 between the two hotels, both business and political. In 1896 Mr. Doran became active in politics and during that time E. J. Farrell was active in the management of the hotel.

A young man in a hotel in the earlier days had a good chance to become acquainted. All kinds of people, from loggers to lumberjacks, came

Grand Rapids Herald Review, Wed. Dec. 23, 1936 - continued

to the hostelry. Encouraged by his acquaintence Mr. Farrell determined to enter politics. H. R. King had been county auditor since the county had been organized. He was strong politically. To run against him was considered a tough assignment for a younger man. However, the clerk at the Gladstonetook a chance and in 1898 he was elected auditor.

1898

1905

Mr. Farrell served as county auditor until 1905. Those years were important. A higher valuation was put upon the county. Minerals had also been found. People were coming to the North in search of homesteads. The county was being opened up with roads and settlements. It was natural that experience in lands and taxes should direct E. J. Farrell into real estate."

G. H. Hause 10/31/40.

Grand Rapids Notes
H. H. Hause
November 1, 1940

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wednesday, November 28, 1934
P. 1, col. 1

"Luther Brown of Grand Rapids is unquestionably the man who has lived the longest time in Itasca county. No one now living came to this section earlier, according to all that the Herald Review can ascertain.

Even if some of older pioneers had not died, Luther Brown would still have a record as the oldest, of the old settlers. He came to what is now Grand Rapids in the year 1873. The winter of that year he worked on Rice Lake, which lies west of Pokegama. He worked in the lumber camp of Butler and Lane and when the winter's work was over, he helped to take the drive down river.

For about three years Luther Brown worked in the camps in this immediate section. He then left Grand Rapids and spent about ten years at what was called 'Grub Pile.' This was the headquarters for the Wilson & Gillespie logging operations in this section. It secured its name from the fact that there was a big ~~pile of grubs~~ cache or storage of food near the logging headquarters on the river. Grub Pile was the center of operations for quite a distance surrounding it. It was located so that operations, not only in this section, but on the Swan river could be controlled by it.

After several years at Grub Pile and after Wilson and Gillespie had gone bankrupt, as did many an early logger, Luther Brown came to Grand Rapids. He has lived in the community since that time. For a number of years he was active in lumber camps. Later he became known for his work as a cruiser and his knowledge of logging and timber.

(Cont'd)

When Luther Brown first came up river in 1873 he came as far as the rapids on the boat 'Pokegama.' This boat had been used in taking materials from Crow Wing up the river to Sandy lake and Aitkin for the construction of the Northern Pacific railroad. The boat was 110 feet long and was owned by Captain Houghton, one of the men who left his name on the plat of Grand Rapids. This boat made occasional trips further north and Luther Brown came up with it. For making steam, wood was used. Since there was no wood cut and in readiness along the bank for this purpose, the boat would stop and the crew and passengers would go ashore with their axes. They would gather up and cut such dead or dry wood as could be found. That would permit the boat to make another leg of the its journey.

When Luther Brown came to Grand Rapids, no one lived here. There was not a single building of logs or frame. The big pine came down to the shores along the Mississippi river. Mr. Brown found out later that Jo Gould had a home in the timber south of the river. Gould was then engaged in trading with the Indians. Gould left his name on Jo Gould lake, the body of water which lies between the the Mississippi river and Pokegama lake. Gould might be known as one of the early residents of what is now Itasca county.

Luther Brown became known as one of the best men in the whole north with oxen. When he first came to this section, all of the hauling was done with oxen. To handle oxen required a special talent or disposition and it is stated that Luther Brown had it.

In describing the management of oxen, Mr. Brown states that one of the most important requirements is patience. The ox does not move rapidly

(Cont'd)

at any time. On the road he made a speed of about two to two and one-half miles an hour with a load. They were hitched together four or six at a time. What they lacked in speed, they made up in strength and power.

Luther Brown came to this section within a very few years after the first logs were cut on the upper Mississippi or on Pokegama lake. He saw the construction of the first homes and buildings in Grand Rapids. He saw the coming of the railroad and the cutting of timber to a point of exhaustion of the virgin pine. He today 85 years of age and is well and strong. No one in this territory has had a larger acquaintence with the earliest of the pioneers among lumbermen or woods workers. He is one the few men who has seen the developement of Itasca county from the days of the Ox to the automobile."

DEC 16-36

Grand Rapids History
Sumner - Hause
Nov. 5, 1940

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wed. Dec. 16, 1936 Vol. XLVI-24
P. 1. Col. 1.

"In the early days of this section transportation was much more difficult than today. There were no railroads. There were no highways. The only time when oxen, and later horses, could be used was in winter when the ground, swamps and lakes were frozen.

Before the days of good transportation considerable activity was carried on. Timber had to be cruised. There were those who were seeking for minerals and carrying on exploration work. A few hardy settlers had begun to appear. Merchandise, including plenty of heavy wet goods, was needed. Mail must be carried. When horses could not travel, or travel by water was too slow or inconvenient, then it was that men made packhorses of themselves. They did it for a business.

In the earlier days of Grand Rapids several men lived in the community whose sole business was that of packing for wages. Among them the best known was Jim Dempsey. He packed for many years to camps and other places near and far. He was a mighty packer strong and active.

Strange as it may seem, the professional packers were not large men. As a general rule, they were small rather than big. They were strong. The standard load was a hundred pounds. Try that on the back. A hundred pounds is not a record weight. But it is a good load for a walk through the woods and swamps and up and down hill. It was adopted as a standard because it was about as heavy as could be handled under the difficult conditions of the early times.

Sometimes the loads were very heavy. A packer once went out of Grand Rapids with a cookstove on his back. It is recalled by H. D. Powers that the stove must have weighed between 200 and 300 pounds. How the packer

ever got such a clumsy thing upon his back and kept it there was a stunt which was beyond the understanding of those who were not in the business.

An important thing in packing is to properly assemble the material. It was usually tied up in canvas or a blanket and strapped to the shoulders and another strap went over the forehead. Then the journey began.

The Chippewa squaws were famous packers of the early days. This was particularly true in carrying material from Cutfoot to the Bowstring at Inger. The general route for cruisers and timber men was by boat up the Mississippi, through Winnibigoshish, then into Cutfoot and Little Cutfoot, The material would be landed on shore. There would be much of it. There would be canoes and duffle of all kinds. There would be many pounds of food and cooking and camping equipment of all kinds.

When the material was landed the Indians would gather around. Then there would be dickering for the packing of the material through the woods for the four or five miles to Inger. The bucks might ~~might~~ be in the negotiations for the pay, but the women did the work. The money requirements were small for the amount of work to be done.

The Indian women were strong and willing and did almost unbelievable stunts in packing. A case of 10 gauge shot gun shells weighs about 75 pounds. A husky squaw has been known to carry two cases without apparent effort. Several trips might be needed to take all the material, but the work would be done easily and willingly.

The Chippewa women were not always peaceful. They would quarrel, especially when drinking, and they carried long and very sharp knives. These were used on many occasions with very bad effects.

The early Indian was strong for booze and many of the women not unlike their more modern white sisters, were crazy for liquor. One hunting and camping party at Cutfoot had a time that none will forget. Some of

Grand Rapids Herald Review, Wed. Dec. 16, 1936 - continued.

the Indian women became drunk and started to tear down the camp in search for more liquor. There were two gallon jugs in the camp. One of the party made off with one jug and hid it for future use. Another one was broken by the white men before the Indians could get it. So crazy were the squaws for liquor that they put their mouths down to the ground to get all that they could of the liquor from the broken jug.

The packer filled an important need for many years. Even after the railroad came he was needed to take material to outlying points. After the country developed the professional packer went. But the pack sack still remained to be used by nearly every homsteader and as a symbol of a new country.

The early packer was a hard working man. Judged by the standards of his day, he earned good wages. He filled a very important part in the early life of the community."

G. H. Hause 10/30/40.

July 29-36 to Sep 16-36

Grand Rapids History
(Sumner)Hause
Nov. 5, 1940.

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wed. Sept. 16, 1936, Vol. XLVI-11
P. 1. Col. 1

"Much has been said and written about the large amount of hauling done in the old logging days, both of logs and of supplies, where snow filled the woods and all transport was on sleighs. Less is said about the tote teams driven through the wilderness where there was no snow on the ground, and transportation was by means of heavy wagons, drawn by four or six horses.

Grand Rapids was the headquarters for a great deal of heavy hauling. First the logging camps were supplied, and in some cases it was necessary to haul in large quantities of provisions and material before the ground froze in the fall. Next came mining operations on the Western Mesaba, and until the Duluth, Missabe & Northern railroad was completed to Coleraine and Bovey, all freight was hauled from Grand Rapids to the two new towns and their mines.

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wed. July 29, 1936 Vol. XLVI-4
P. 1 Col. 1

Heavy mining machinery, great pumps to carry off the water encountered in opening the Canisteo and Holman pits, thousands of tons of coal for use in steam shovels and steam drills, supplies for thousands of men, all were hauled in wagons from Grand Rapids. The road used led out east from Grand Rapids, then north past the state farm, or the route where the grade was recently improved by Grand Rapids township. The Prairie was crossed just below the falls, and the old road, which followed the top of a natural ridge, led out to Coleraine and on to Bovey, the town first started.

Grand Rapids Herald Review, Wed. July 29, 1936 - continued

Hundreds of teams were used in this work, and any individual with a strong pair of horses and a good heavy wagon was sure of a job. Louis Pinette, now living in Grand Rapids, took a contract to land a large amount of coal into headquarters at Bovey. The coal was dumped on the ground at Grand Rapids, then loaded onto wagons or sleighs, depending upon the time of the year, and transported the eight miles to Bovey. This work was all right in the winter, but became a nightmare when spring thaws made the roads almost bottomless. Where one load became mired down beyond the power of the teams to extricate it, the next driver, unable to get past, was bound to assist. Bad mud holes were corduroyed with logs, which kept the wagons from miring, but added nothing to the smoothness of the road.

Roads were built with as little labor as possible. They were rough and crooked, turning aside to miss a big rock or a tree, and veering away from the steeper hills. In order to protect the driver and keep him from being tossed out and his neck broken, ingenious seats were constructed. One favorite was secured by attaching two hardwood saplings to either side of the front part of the wagon, with the seat placed across the projecting ends. Leather thongs helped keep the driver from flying into space when the wagon hit a rock or dropped into a chuck-hole, and the hardwood poles gave the seat the necessary spring.

Grand Rapids Herald Review,
Wed. July 29, 1936 Vol. XLVI-4
P. 1, Col. 1.

Passengers were hauled from Grand Rapids to Bovey in special buckboards, designed to afford some relief against the rough roads. Men, women and children, all who went between the towns in summer had either to ride in horse drawn vehicles or walk, which some preferred to do. Two women once took passage to Bovey in buckboard and when some little

Grand Rapids Herald Review, Wed. July 29, 1936, - continued

distance from town had an unpleasant experience. The wheels dropped into a deep hole in the sea of mud called a road, and when the driver spoke sharpley to the horses they gave a bound, pulling so quickly that they snapped the evener to which the singletrees were attached. The driver followed the team into the mud, then informed his passengers that he would have to walk to town to get repairs.

The weather was hot, flies and mosquitoes swarmed in clouds around the hopless women, as a pitiless sun beat down upon them. Shade of trees near at hand looked inviting, but they were marooned in a sea of knee deep mire. Finally one of the women, declaring she could stand it no longer, tucked up the long skirts typical of the late nineties, and waded ashore. The other followed, and they awaited the return of their driver with more patience. Upon their return to Grand Rapids, one of the ladies was heard to remark that she would not go to Bovey again until she could travel on a train.

When the Duluth, Missabe & Northern road was completed to Bovey, supplies were hauled in from the east. Soon afterward the Great Northern built from Kelly Lake to Gunn, and both passengers and freight were hauled by rail. There still remained a large amount of lauling to do with teams to supply the drilling outfits, and to get supplies out to places not yet reached by rails, and thousands of horses were worked on the range for a number of years, until trucks and better roads made them no longer necessary."

G. H. Hause 10/30/40.

Sept 16-36

Grand Rapids History
Sumner - Hause
Nov. 5, 1940.

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wed. Sept. 16, 1936 Vol. XLVI-11
P. 1. Col. 1.

"No man who has lived in Grand Rapids has had a greater experience in the woods and among the lumberjacks than James Duffy.

Mr. Duffy will be 87 years old in this coming February. He entered the woods when he was a boy. By the time he was 21 years of age he had become a camp foreman. He quit the woods when he was about 70 years of age. In a half centuary of activity Mr. Duffy saw both the beginning and the end of spectacular logging operations up in this Neck of the Woods.

The facts of Mr. Duffy's life are very similar to those of many other men who came to this section. He was born down in Ontario. The better part of his youth was spent down in Michigan where he entered the woods and there learned how to swing an axe. It was there that he received his first responsible positions in logging operations.

It was a long time ago that Bliss & Elliott, early time loggers in Northern Minnesota, failed and James Duffy was called from Michigan to become foreman of important logging operations at Barnum. He stayed there for a while then spent a little time in Crow Wing county. As the logging operations retreated northward, Mr. Duffy followed them. He came into Itasca county ahead of the Duluth & Winnipeg Railroad and has been here ever since.

For the larger part of his life in the woods Mr. Duffy worked with Powers & Dwyer. This firm later became Powers & Simpson. The head of it was Al Powers. Well known to the earlier residents of Grand Rapids. He was a successful logger who closed up his operations in Northern Minnesota with some money and went west to Oregon where he died some years ago.

Grand Rapids Herald Review, Wed. Sept. 16, 1936 - continued

It was with Powers & Simpson that Mr. Duffy had all sorts of logging experiences. He saw great changes in logging operations. When he first went to work in this section it was with Oxen. He had 70 head of these animals at a camp on Penace Lake. When season was over he went to the firm and expressed his dislike for Oxen. They were too slow. If an ox team got stuck in one place it would get stuck there again. He demanded horses and he got them. The second winter he got in more logs with 24 horses than he had got in the previous winter with 70 head of steers.

The travelers on pavement are familiar with Snowball Lake, just past Calumet. It is now rather hard to picture that Snowball Lake was one fringed with the heaviest of timber. It was at Snowball that Mr. Duffy had the largest camp that he had ever operated. In it were to be found 140 men and for several seasons Mr. Duffy put in up to eight or ten million feet a year from Snowball or nearby camps. These logs were taken to Swan Lake, thence they went south down the Swan River to the Mississippi and finally ended up in the hands of the Shevlin saw milling interests at Minneapolis. Again Mr. Duffy says that he didn't believe in big camps. He thinks that a logging camp should not have had over 40 to 50 men so that the work of all may be carefully supervised. When camps are too large there is a waste of time and money.

James Duffy was an enthusiastic logger. He put in long seasons at it. He would go down with the drive, perhaps spend a week or two in Minneapolis, and come right back to Grand Rapids. In the summer months there were dams to be built, animals to look after and hay to be cut. He opened his camps in the fall as early as was possible and didn't leave again until another drive was ready to make its way down the Mississippi. In the last few years of his logging experiences, Mr. Duffy worked with

Grand Rapids Herald Review, Wed. Sept. 16, 1936 - continued

Duncan Price, well known Grand Rapids logger, who had extensive operations in what is now the northern part of Itasca county.

Naturally Mr. Duffy knows the lumberjack as well as anyone. He had a great admiration for the men of the woods. He recalls such men as Tom Robinson, Bob Hartley, Jack McCormick and Frank Grant, who were excellent men in the woods and who later became camp foreman. The old-time lumberjack was a Canadian or a man who migrated from the woods of Maine or Michigan to the woods of Minnesota. Later the Swedes came into the logging camps. Mr. Duffy said they were good men. Still later a mixed variety of men came into the camps and then it was that trouble began. It required much more work to manage and supervise.

James Duffy doesn't blame the old time lumberjack for drinking. He said in those days the food in the logging camps was none too good and constituted a most monotonous diet. There was little or nothing to interest the men of the woods except their work which lasted from the earliest peep of dawn until nightfall. Naturally when lumberjacks had a chance to have a change they took advantage of it. But with all his faults in this direction, the old-time lumberjack was a manly man who deserves the highest respect for ability, energy and industry."

G. H. Hause 10/30/40.

July 22-36

Grand Rapids Notes
H. H. Hause
November 5, 1940

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wednesday, July 22, 1936
P. 1, col. 1

"Testimony concerning the virtue of the older days is usually mixed.

The early communities were filled with saloons. In the back end of every one of them was a gambling table or two. Probably a score or more of men in the earlier days of Grand Rapids made their living from cards, played honestly or dishonestly as the occasion required. But the men who gambled would not steal and those who carried currency were safe.

The lumberjack was preyed upon by a large number of men. Some sold him booze. Others took his money by cards and dice. Others stole his money from his trouser or shirt pocket when he was drunk and asleep.

Deer River as well as Grand Rapids, had its professional thieves. Charley Grant was one of them. He worked invarious saloons at Deer River. His record was not good. Hehad robbed an Indian woman at Grand Rapids and received a sentence of a year at Stillwater. He had served but about two months when he was paroled and returned to this Neck of the Woods.

Strange as it may seem, every one knew Grant's business, yet he was allowed to operate on the drunken lumberjacks. But on the night of November 30, 1900, Charley Grant met his tragic, and as was then said, his well deserved end.

Paddy Burke was a lumberjack who had earned or acquired some little money. He was drinking it up in Deer River when Grant fell in with him. Grant tried several times to extract some of the money when the men would roll around the floor in friendly or drunken brawls. Burke,

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during the course of the day, went to another place in town and took some of his money from his clothing and hid it. He kept $15 on his person and it was not long before Grant had ten dollars of that.

Towards evening Burke got tired of being pursued for his coin and tried to slip away from Grant. But Grant followed him and before long the two men were drinking together in the bar room of the Northern Hotel. The bar was filled. At least a dozen men, some of them prominent in the business life of Deer River were in the saloon. Included in this group was the village marshall. Grant had just tried to take some more money from Burke. Burke resented and threatened to fight. The men moved towards the back door. There was some scuffling. Suddenly Burke drew a gun and shot. The first shot was wild. The second shot proved fatal. The third went through Tom Murray's eyebrow. The fourth shot did not damage. Grant dragged himself out the back door to die. The marshall took charge of Burke. The sheriff was called. Lawyers for the accused man were rushed to the scene.

For some weeks there was all sorts of discussion. Public sympathy was largely with Burke. Few people really liked Grant and few any real respect for his method of making a living. The trial was held at Grand Rapids with Judge McClenahan presiding.

Witnesses for the defense testified as to the good character of Burke. The prosecution showed that he had served within two days of a five year sentence at Waupun for manslaughter. Various witnesses were called including Tom Murray with hs clipped eyebrow. One Charles Finnick was a good witness for the defense which argued that Burke shot only to defend himself against a thief. Finnick said that Grant had

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bragged that he would get Burke's money. It seemed that Grant took some pride in his profession and talked about it to quite a number of people. That did no harm to the case for the defense. It appeared that many witnesses thought that Grant got what he deserved.

The jury went out and deliberated. Quite a number of people now living hereabouts were on the jury or heard the trial. After sometime the jury reported that it could not agree. The judge sent it back for somemore thought. Finally, after 24 hours of consideration, the jury reported that it would free Paddy Burke of the charge against him. The public gathered and there was quite a demonstration when the jury reported.

The killing of Grant doubtless had its effect upon the profession of deliberate stealing of money from the pockets of foolish and drunken lumberjacks.

The truth is that the older days had their good and bad men, heroes and roughnecks. The reputation of the lumberjack is generally one of high honor. Many of those who lived with and off from him were criminals and thieves. The older residents of the county can name a dozen men who followed the same profession as that of Charley Grant."

Apr. 15-36

Grand Rapids Notes
H. H. Hause
November 4, 1940

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wednesday, April 15, 1936
P. 1, col.

"If E. J. Luther of Grand Rapids wishes to see what his handwriting of a half century ago was like he can look at the records of Itasca county. In the courthouse at Grand Rapids, are books in which he made entires as early as 1884.

Mr. Luther was born down in Pennsylvania, but came to Aitkin in the spring of 1884. He followed a brother west and that brother was county Auditor of Aitkin county in the earliest days. In the year 1884, and in some of the years immediately following, Mr. Luther was employed in the courthouse at Aitkin. Those were the days before Itasca county had been formed and when this whole territory, stretching to the Canadian border was part of Aitkin. Some of the records on which Mr. Luther worked were later moved to Grand Rapids when the county here was created.

E. J. Luther first saw Grand Rapids in May, 1884. He came up the river and looked over the new community. On the north side of the river was a stopping place where the paper mill now stands and the Knox and Beckfelt stores. South of the river were a few houses and log buildings.

After this first trip Mr. Luther spent most of his time around Aitkin but again came to Grand Rapids in 1887. At that time the community was beginning to form itself. There were then 15 or 18 buildings. Business was increasing for the supplies for the lumbering operations of the great territory to the north all came to the rapids which marked the head of navigation. In that year Mr. Luther again went north. He traveled through the woods to Little Fork. There he build a raft and went down stream to the Rainy, made his way across to Tower and then walked the old Vermillion trail back to Grand Rapids.

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When Mr. Luther returned to Grand Rapids he purchased the interest of A. G. Bernard in the Grand Rapids Magnet. Bernard established the first paper in Itasca county at La Prairie. When that ambitious village began to play out he moved his newspaper to Grand Rapids. A. G. Bernard was known as 'The Moose.' He was a large man and had a tremendously large nose. By 1897 he had lived out his welcome at Grand Rapids and moved on. Mr. Luther purchased the remaining interest in the Magnet, took in his brother-in-law, Fred Stevens and when the Alaska boom came on turned the paper over to Stevens.

In his venture in Alaska Mr. Luther did about the same as many others. He came back to Grand Rapids with just the same amount of money as he had when he left, no more, no less. He disposed of his interest in the Magnet and later the Magnet was put to death through sale of the two papers then at Grand Rapids. For some months Mr. Luther was manager of the Herald-Review for E. C. Kiley.

Following his experience as a digger of gold Mr. Luther then turned to undertaking. He took a course in embalming and at one time was the only licensed embalmer between Duluth and Grand Forks. Undertaking was not the business then that it is today. Most of the business came out of the woods and the bodies of the lumberjacks might be frozen stiff when they came into the care of the undertaker. After a reasonable success at this business it was sold to George F. Kremer.

From the earliest times Mr. Luther had been interested in timber. His eyes turned to Oregon. He went west and there homesteaded a piece of land on the Siletz Indian Reservation when that area was thrown open to settlement. This had a tremendous amount of yellow fir. In fact, many of the homesteads would have as high as 20 million feet of fir to

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each 160 acre tract. Seeing the possibilities of this timber, Mr. Luther purchased a large tract. One half of this timber was sold to Mitchell and McClure, well known loggers of the Northwest and the other half went to M. J. Clarke of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Mr. Luther considers that he had in his possession the finest stand of yellow fir in the west. He made some money on the deal, but not what he should have made had he been in position to have held the tract. Some of that fine stand of fir sold for as little as two and one half cents a thousand on the stump.

After he had returned from the west Mr. Luther went into the auditor's office here. That was in 1908, 24 years later than when he made entries into the books down at Aitkin. He remained in the county work until 1919. Then he spent a year in tax work for the Oliver Iron Mining Company and later purchased the Riverside Hotel, which he later sold to George O'Brien.

Mr. Luther should be considered a member of the half century club, that group of people who were in Grand Rapids more than 50 years ago. He has seen what has happened in five decades of interesting days."

Grand Rapids Notes
H. H. Hause
November 4, 1940

Jan 1-36

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wednesday, January 1, 1936
P. 1, col. 1

"On December 18th Charles G. Miller made his last visit to Grand Rapids as a traveling salesman.

Charles Miller began to sell paper in Grand Rapids in 1892. He sold paper to all of the new communities of Northeastern Minnesota. He saw the growth of this section and took an important part in it.

This man began his business career down in Duluth in 1871. He started a newstand to which was later added some stationery. This business grew into a retail store. It then became a wholesale house. The present concern is the Duluth Paper and Specialties Company. When Mr. Miller quit work last month, after wishing to retire for about a year, he completed 63 years of labor without the loss of a day's pay. He is in most excellent condition except that is difficult to recall names. He outranks all other traveling men in length of service to this particular part of the state.

When Mr. Miller quits his visits to Grand Rapids the community loses a friend who took an important part in one particular enterprise that has grown in importance. Northeastern Minnesota wished an agricultural experimental station. A commission was appointed to select a site for such an institution. The board of commissioners of St. Louis county was to select one member for that commission. Mr. Miller, as member of that county board, was selected to sit on the state commission and took his duties seriously. Other members of the commission to select the site and appointed from the southern part of the state said they did not care where the farm was located. They were having a good time serving on the commission. Cloquet wanted the institution. Duluth

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wished it. But Charlie Miller thought there was some good land near Grand Rapids and he and the late D. M. Gunn fixed up the deal for the designation of the farm here. Duluthdid not like it. Cloquet was sore. But the selection was a good one.

C/ 1882-3-4

Mr. Miller was a democrat. In 1882-83-84 he served in the Duluth land office. Those were the days of great excitement up in This Neck of the Woods. Iron ore had been discovered at what later became Tower. Minerals were being found on the Mesaba. The lumber barons were stealing all of the timber they could lay their hands upon. All was excitement and there was plenty to think and talk about.

In 1892 Mr. Miller was elected a member of the board of county commissioners of St. Louis county. He was elected as a democrat because people did not like the other fellow. As soon as he was elected he began work for the construction of a highway from Duluth to the range. Duluth did not want it. In fact that city said there never would be need for such a highway and opposed the bond issue which was to provide funds for it. The road, known as the Miller Trunk Highway in honor of its sponsor, cost $96,000 to build. The range was for it. Within about five years the range was against the road and Duluth had changed its position and was for it. But the construction of the Miller Trunk was considered a daring project in those earlier days and it seems that very few people really saw any use for it. In fact, the highway was not maintained for four or five years after it was constructed. It was one of the first highways to be paved and the location of this road that was first built nearly 40 years ago, is, in general, the location of the modern road bed and pavement.

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When Mr. Miller came here first in 1892 there was but one customer for a certain kind of paper that later came into universal use. That was Pig Eye Kelly who ran a saloon. His building was the only one with modern plumbing facilities.

Mr. Miller looks back upon the days of logging, wilderness and the lumberjack. He was especially interested in the moose for he has especial admiration for this monarch of the forest. The moose is a most powerful animal. He remembers that one of them t rotted along side of the railroad tracks between Duluth and Tower for several minutes one day. The train was going at least 40 miles an hour. The old moose was keeping up without effort. He was jogging along easily, striding over stumps and crashing down smaller trees as he went.

A Moose was not only fast but he was strong. In 1892 there was a lumber camp down near the river in Grand Rapids. Some one had picked up a young moose when a calf and it had grown to be a year or so old in captivity. It had a rope around its neck and was tied up to a tree. The popular sport was to see if men enough could attach themselves to the rope to hold the moose. One day, after Mr. Miller and his friends had eaten dinner at the camp. 14 good, husky men unfastened the rope and then tried to hold the animal. The young moose started to pull and the men couldn't begin to hold him. They had to snub the rope around a nearby tree. Such was sport in the early days.

Mr. Miller has made his last trip to Grand Rapids and lays aside his title as the traveling salesman oldest in service to the merchants of the community. He says that he has had lots of fun and looks forward to a rest after 63 years of work."

Grand Rapids Notes
H. H. Hause
November 4, 1940

Jan 22-36

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wednesday, January 22, 1936
P. 1, col. 1

"Very few people, except Indians, have been in this Neck of the Woods for over a half century. In fact, an accurate count might show but a dozen or so. All those who have resided here that long should form a Half Century Club and should be guests of honor at the Old Settler's dance.

John Skelly of Cohasset is a pioneer of real distinction. He came here in 1882, helped to build the community of Cohasset in the early nineties and has lived there since.

This story runs true to form for the early part of his life. He was born in Canada, where many a resident of this section was born. His earliest days were spent near Montreal. As a well grown up youth he came to Michigan where he handled the axe and saw as a professional. A friend told him about Minnesota and when he was 21 years of age he started for this state. He intended to go to Wadena. But when he was on the train a man came through who said that he wished some tie makers up this way. John Skelly had not made ties but he came along and the spring of 1882 saw him at work for Wilson and Gillespie. These early loggers later helped to lay out Grand Rapids and put their names on the map of the village. There main camp was at Grub Pile, about 20 miles southeast of Grand Rapids on the Mississippi.

In the spring of 1882 the Hartley Brothers were taking the first drive of logs out of Hartley Lake, down Hartley Brook and down the Prairie. John Skelly helped with that drive, then went to Brainerd, worked on the drive on the Mississippi for awhile then came back to

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Aitkin. That community had been started before but was still small. There were fewer than a half a dozen white women in the town at that time. The summer was put in as a carpenter on some of the earlier buildings of the town.

Then followed several years of work in this immediate section. In 1883 considerable time was spent on the government dams being built to control the water levels of Winnibigoshish and Leech. That was the time of the smallpox epidemic which killed many people of this section. The whole countryside was in fear. One night a man stumbled into the camp at the government dam. He was sick and was immediately removed to a tent with a caretaker who had already suffered from the pox. But it turned out that it was measles. However, John Skelly did not know what the next sick man might have and after the ice was out of the river he took a canoe down river. One night in the spring of 1884 he slept under his canoe at the place where Bass Brook enters the Mississippi. Little did he dream that most of his later life would be spent at that place.

In 1884 Mr. Skelly was asked to serve some papers to take possession of some logs that had been floated down the Bigfork. These were hung up at Big Falls. The trip was made from Brainerd up the river by canoe, up through Winnibigoshish and into Cutfoot lake. Then there was the portage to the Bowstring and thence down the Bigfork. It was on this trip that John Skelly made the acquaintence of Chief Busticogan, who also left his name on the map. For 34 days the traveler did not see a single white man except his guide, Joe Bonneville, who later lived near Deer lake up north and was killed by an Indian.

There were no roads in this section in those early days. The

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travelwas on foot or by canoe in summer and by horse and sled in the winter. John Skelly helped to build the first important road in this whole north country. It was the highway built from Grand Rapids to Palisade, on the Mississippi. Three thousand dollars had been set aside to cut out 65 miles of road through the dense forests and across the swamps. The summer of ~~1805~~ a was spent by John Skelly in this work. The road was cut out about 20 feet wide. Some of it could not be used to good advantage but parts of it became later highways of importance.

In those early days there were very few people in Grand Rapids. There were a few log buildings down by the river and where the business part of town now lies was the densest of pine forest. In 1882 or thereabouts there was the Wakefield store in what is now Grand Rapids and stopping place or two. Pat Casey was running a store in what are now known as the Wheaton buildings. L. F. Knox was an e arly merchant, as was the late John Beckfelt. Among those who John Skelly knew best in those earliest times were Mr. Knox and Mr. Casey and also M. L. Toole, Mike Jordan, Tom and Mike McAlpine, Al Nason and Bob McCabe. In addition to these earlier residents there were a number of people who lived in the earlier community for but a few months and others who came here with regularity over a period of years.

Since the early 1890's John Skelly made his headquarters at Cohasset. He traveled around some but always came back to Itasca county. He went west to the forests on the coast but he came back. In 1902 he purchased the Skelly Hotel at Cohasset which he operated for some years. His chief business was logging and in this he was always known as a successful and efficient operator. In his logging work he was interested with his brothers, Owen and James."

Grand Rapids Notes
H. H. Hause
Nov. 1, 1940

Sept 25-35

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wednesday, September 25, 1935
P. 1, col. 1

"One of the best informed men on the habits, customs and language of the Chippewa Indians, among all who live in Grand Rapids, is George Galbreath. Coming to Northern Minnesota when a lad but twenty years of age, Mr. Galbreath soon learned that he had to learn the Chippewa language if he was to hold converse with the Indians. So well did he apply himself to the study of the language that he was soon able to converse with the Indians, and in less than two years was in demand as an interpreter.

Long years ago before the Federal goverment undertook the education of the Indians, there were schools maintained on the reservations. These schools were taught by missionaries, some of them white men and women, others Indians who had embraced Christianity and applied themselves to the study of languages. The early missionaries had made translations of the Chippewa language, and had printed a number of books. These books included a part of the Bible, several primers for teaching reading, and a joint Chippewa-English dictionary, as well as other works.

Young Indians who could be induced to go to school were taught, in schools near Leech lake, on the White Earth reservation, and on the shores of Red lake, to read and write in Chippewa. Some of these educated Indians yet remain; taking prominent places in the business affairs of their home and coummunties. When Uncle Sam started to educate the Indians, the teaching of Chippewa was stopped, and for many years there has been no effort made to keep alive the written language of the tribe by teaching it to the boys and girls. As a result there are very few of the younger generation who can read and write Chippewa,

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though all of them can read and write readily in English. The Federal scheme for educating the Indians did not include a possibility of teaching two languages, as desirable as this might have been from the standpoint of Indian history.

George Galbreath has traveled extensively in all sections where Chippewa Indians live. He finds their language to be identical in Northern Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan, but when the Chippewa tribes living in Canada are reached there are some differences. Although Mr. Galbreath was able to understand the Chippewas living a hundred miles or so north of the Soo, he found many words radically different. In North Dakota there are some Chippewas, and here they are intermingled with Crees. The Cree language is very similar to Chippewa, and Indians of either tribe can hold conversations with the other.

The Chippewa language is a musical one. Its vowels are soft and its consonants not harsh to the ear. The sound of the Chippewas in conversation has often been liked to the sound of natives from southern Europe, Italy or Spain, talking together. The Sioux, however, have a more gutteral language, harsh in tone and effect. It is stated that the Sioux, the Tetons, the Blackfeet, the Pawnees and the Commanches, all have a somewhat similar language, while the Chippewa is often thought to have been derived from the Iroquois and Delaware Indians who lived in the New England states and New York at the time of the settlement of the first colonies, three hundred years ago. One thing which seems to bear out this contention is the emblem of the turtle, used even up to a short time ago by Chippewas living in Itasca county. The turtle was also the emblem of the Delaware Indians, and chiefs of that tribe had the device of the turtle tatooed on their breasts.

Grand Rapids Notes
H. H. Hause
November 1, 1940

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It is difficult for a person ignorant of the Chippewa language to understand the system of descriptive adjectives used. Prefixes are used with a root word, to indicate different shades of meaning. For example, the word fat in English is 'Pomitty' in Chippewa. (Spelling not guaranteed.) A prefix meaning pig is used when lard is specified, and still another prefix when butter is to be described. The latter word, freely translated, means 'Fat made from the milk of the cow.'

Pokegama, as applied to the lake near Grand Rapids, means the body of water near, but not of, the big river, or main water. The same name, and for the same reason, is given to a lake in Pine county, near the Snake river there. Indian children were warned of an evil spirit, which liked nothing better than to devour bad little girls and boys. For some reason Indians living near Pokegama lake had this Wendago living on an island in the east part of the lake, hence Wendago island, Wendago park, and the Wendago school of the present day.

Winnibigoshish, that large, shallow lake lying between Itasca and Cass counties, is so shallow that its waters become roily and muddy when the wind blows strongly. Hence it was quite proper for the Indians to give it a long name, hard for some tourists to pronounce, which means 'Roily water.' The name is not derived from common language roots, however, for no part of the word Winnibigoshish means lake, water or river.

The Chippewa word for is 'Sekiagaa,' and for water is 'sebee.' By handily using the prefix meaning big, or large, the syllable 'chi,' the Mississippi river becomes 'Chi-sebee,' in Chippewa. The work Mississippi is Sioux, not Chippewa."

Grand Rapids Notes
H. H. Hause
November 1, 1940

Oct 2-35

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wednesday, October 2, 1935
P. 1, col. 1

"Many of the pioneers who have aided in the developement of Northern Minnesota have passed on, and their deeds are all that remain. Some of the, however, are still living, and are active in life. Such a one is a well known gentleman who visited in Grand Rapids last Wednesday, looking up old friends whom he had not seen for years, and delighting himself with the developement of the town which he first saw when there less than half a dozen buildings here.

The man who visited here last week is Roland H. Hartley, of Everett, Washington. Mr. Hartley has made his home in Everett for many years, except for the eight years he spent as governor of the state of Washington. He left Minnesota in 1903, and visits back have been infrequent.

Born in New Brunswick, Canada, Roland H. Hartley was one of a family of nine boys and three girls. The family later emigrated to Minnesota, and here a number of the brothers made names for themselves as they aided in the development of a wilderness area. Several other New Brunswick families moved to Minnesota from the same neighborhood as the Hartleys. One of the recollections of Roland Hartley's boyhood is the fact that he went to a little district school with Mrs. D. M. Gunn, then a small girl just entering school.

The first trip Roland Hartley made to Grand Rapids was when a worker on a Mississippi river flatboat he helped take a cargo of supplies from Aitkin to Lake Bemidji, where a company was exploring timber lands. The flatboat was towed to Grand Rapids by steamboat, but from this point to the present site of Bemidji was moved upstream and across the lakes by

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a crew of men equipped with long poles. It was a slow and tedious job, but the supplies were finally landed at their destination.

Two years later, or in 1880, some of the older brothers had organized a logging company to operate on the headwaters of Prairie river and had a camp at Hartly lake, afterward named in their honor. Ronald Hartley was placed in charge of the commisary, and had to haul the supplies from Aitkin with a four horse train. He set a record at that time for a quick trip from Hartley lake to Aitkin and return of eight days. After the logs were landed in the Prairie river waters, Mr. Hartley stayed with them and helped drive them to the Minneapolis mills where they were sawed. While engaged in this work Mr. Hartley became acquainted with all who lived in Grand Rapids, and remembers L. F. Knox and Mike McAlpine as two of the most important citizens.

Though he served his apprenticeship in the hard work of the logging caps and on the drive, the clerical side of life appealed more to Mr. Hartley, and 1884 he located in Aitkin, then logging headquarters for the north half of Minnesota. Here he became secretary and clerk for Carl Douglas. This was a full time position, night and day, for keeping the desk in the hotel was one of the duties. Working opposite to Mr. Hartley was a young man destined to leave his mark in Grand Rapids and Itasca county later. He was none other than D. M. Gunn, and a friendship was commenced which ended only with the death of Mr. Gunn.

With his brother Guilford G. Hartley, Roland laid out a part of the present village of Grand Rapids, and sold lots. Finding this profitable they went to Cass lake, brought land and platted a townsite, which they sold. Mr. Hartley lived there for several years, and the Hartley summer home as Cass lake, built of peeled Norway pine logs, was one of

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the show places of the village for many years.

In 1855 Roland Hartley went to Minneapolis, as secretary for men engaged in lumber milling. He became acquainted with David M. Clough, who was then entering politics, and later his service as private secretary. When Mr. Clough was named governor of Minnesota, Mr. Hartley was officially made his private secretary. His association with Mr. Clough lasted eleven years. During the Chippewa Indian outbreak at Leech Lake, Mr. Hartley was sent out in command of 125 men to protect the northern settlements. With his soldiers he came Deer River, where a small fort was built and part of the men left. The others prepared fortifications at Cass Lake, where they remained until all danger was over.

The business side of logging operations in Washington drew Mr. Hartley there in 1903. He continued his business succession the west, and in 1916 entered politics as a candidate for governor on the Republican ticket. He lost out in the primaries and again became a candidate in 1920, only to again run second in the Republican primary. In 1924, however, he was nominated, and elected governor of Washington by the largest majority ever given up to that time. He was again a candidate in 1928 for the four year term, and repeated his former success with an even greater majority. Since that time Mr. Hartley has not been active in politics, but admits that he is listening to calls from many places in Washington, urging him to become a candidate for governor again in 1936."

Grand Rapids Notes
H. H. Hause
November 1, 1940

Aug 28-35

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wednesday, August 28, 1935
P. 1, col. 1

"Perhaps in no other town in Minnesota are so many interesting characters found as in Grand Rapids. Here almost every man who has lived past middle age has taken part in stirring dramas of action in a new country, and has tales to tell which equal those of the wildest fiction writers, with the added virtue of being true.

In this column we tell of a few incidents in the life of Octave Audette, quiet citizen of the town, who developed a fine farm on the Pokegama lake raod, but who in his youth took part in the exploration of the wild west, in Dakota, Montana and Nebraska.

1876

Back in 1876, when a young man 19 years of age, Mr. Audette left Minneapolis and went out to Fort Abercrombie, N. Dak Montana, where he had heard that the United States Army was needing teamsters. He signed on to drive six mules, and began work on May 12, remaining with the army for five and a half months. During most of this time Mr. Audette drove the wagon which carried the personal baggage of Lieut. Lee, who was in charge of one the companies. There were 800 soldiers in the entire battalion, and a number of wagons were required to haul supplies and equipment. Mr. Audette was one of 54 teamsters, and each man was required to drive either six horses or six mules. Roads there were none, the trails used winding around the buttes and across the coulees which cut the wide prairies at frequent intervals.

During the first part of his work with the army, the detachement was busy correcting the international survey, the boundry line between the United States and Canada. This work ended at Cut Bank river, and the party turned back toward the east. Major Reno was in general command

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at this time, and it was during this portion of the march that General Custer and his entire command was killed by the Sioux Indians. While Mr. Audette has not been in the Custer command, he had seen him frequently, and mourned as did the soldiers when word came of his tragic death with all his men slain.

Wages were none too good in the army in those early days. Hired teamsters such as Mr. Audette received $30 a month and their board, but private soldiers were only paid $16 per month. But two regular meals were furnished, although the soldiers were supplied enough hard tack to keep them busy chewing between meals. As Mr. Audette remembers, the army cooks did not baking while in the field. Baked bread was served but twice during the entire summer, those occasions being when the command was near enough to an army post to get such supplies.

Meat was not at all difficult to get, for there were thousands of buffalo on the plains. At one time the officers, through their field glassed saw a cloud a dust in the distance, and though it hostile Indians coming to attack. The wagon train was directed to corral, putting the wagons on the outside of the circle and the mules and horses inside, and scouts were thrown out in front. It was soon seen that the dust was raised by an immense herd of buffalos, which had been stampeded by a prairie fire, and which were galloping across the plains. Soldiers were ordered out in front of the corral to shoot down the buffalo and cause the herd to divide, to prevent the destruction of the wagons and mules beneath the thundering herd. When twenty or more of buffalos in the lead had been piled up dead, the heard did divide, part going on either side of the soldiers. The dust rose in clouds, so that it was

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almost impossible to see, the passage of the herd requiring an hour or more. Men feasted on fresh buffalo steaks that night, without ~~strut~~ stint.

Word was received that negroes in Missouri were causing trouble to white settlers, and an army detachment was ordered there. The soldiers assigned included Lieut. Lee and his company, and Mr. Audette was directed to accompany them. Passage was secured down the Mississippi river on a steamboat, and shortly after their arrival in Popular River, Missouri, the teamsters were paid off and allowed to return home.

Born near Quebec, Canada, Octave Audette came to the United States with his parents when but five years of age. They came up the lakes to where Superior, Wisconsin, is now located, and went overland to Minneapolis. Soon after his experiences with soldiers and buffalo, Mr. Audette moved to Crookston, where he lived until the year of the Hinckley fire, when he came to Grand Rapids for the first time. Working in the woods here in the winter of 1893 and 1894, he returned to Crookston, but he had already decided to come here and live.

In his early residence in Itasca county, Octave Audette bought eighty acres of land along the Pokegama lake road, all covered with heavy timber. This he cleared and developed into a farm, which he sold a few months ago to Joseph Hauff. The land was a part of the original homestead taken by L. F. Knox, who was one of the first white men to engage in business in Grand Rapids."

June 19-35

Grand Rapids Notes
H. H. Hause
November 1, 1940

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wednesday, June 19, 1935
P. 1, col. 1

"A pioneer resident of Grand Rapids is visiting in the community. R. E. Douglas, a brother-in-law to I. D. Rassmussen is here from Seattle, Washington.

Mr. Douglas is one of the men who have always tried to get as far north as possible. He was born down at Aitkin in 1878. His father was Carl Douglas who build the Douglas House at Aitkin in the very earliest days of a community that was then the north outpost of civilization in Minnesota. In the days of his youth Roy Douglas saw the great activity incidental to lumbering operations. Aitkin was headquarters for all the logging work of the north country. The town has had as many as 400 horses stabled at one time on their way to the woods. The Douglas House would be filled with loggers and lumberjacks for weeks at a time.

In 1892 Carl Douglas moved to Grand Rapids. He engaged in logging and his first operations were on Sugar lake. R. E. Douglas attended the local schools and in about 1895 went to work for Clark Clay, well known logger who died some years ago at Bena. Mr. Douglas recounts the ability, fairness and reputation of Mr. Clay, who was well known as one of the best of the later day loggers. His operations were carried on in the woods in winter and usually there was railroad work to use men and horses in summer.

In 1898 Carl Douglas decided that Grand Rapids was hardly new enough for his pioneer inclinations so he went to Alaska. He went to Alaska. He went to the Klondike for gold. About two years later his son followed him and after six years spent on Sulphur Creek and other places in the gold country Roy Douglas returned to the United States a little worse off then he was when he left."

Jan 31-40

Grand Rapids History
Mr. Sumner (Hause)
Nov. 18, 1940

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wed. Jan. 31, 1940 Vol. XIX-30
P. 1. Col. 1.

"Grand Rapids was a rude, rough little frontier town
1881 in 1881, according to Captain Willard Glazier, who with a companion made in that summer the first canoe trip ever undertaken from the source of the Mississippi river to its mouth in the Gulf of Mexico. A full account of this trip is given in the book entitled 'Down the Great
1889 River', published by the author in 1889. A copy of the book is owned by William Perrington of Grand Rapids.

In making the trip Captain Glazier went to Brainerd from St. Paul by train, there engaging a teamster to take him and his supplies to the Indian Mission and Indian Village at Leech Lake, then went up Kabekona river, across Kabelsona lake, and then portaged, using small bodies of water wherever they were available, all the way to Lake Itasca, The book describes in detail the hardships encountered in traveling by canoe down the infant Mississippi. Supplies ran short, and the members, and the members of the party had to live on the country. They had lost most of their ammunition and their fishing tackle when a conoe tipped over, so were forced to subsist on young ducks occasionally killed with their paddles, on turtles, a few small fish, and on what blue-berries they could find.

The party had expected to find a trading post at Lake Pemidjegumaug, which the author says had been corrupted to 'Bemidji,' but the trading post there, likewise the post at Cass Lake, had been abandoned for the summer. On the shore of Cass lake they found an

Grand Rapids History
Mr. Sumner (Hause)
Nov. 19, 1940.

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wed. Jan. 31, 1940- continued

Indian garden, with corn and potatoes large enough to eat, so staved off starvation until they could reach an Indian village on the shore of Lake Winnibigoshish.

Coming down the river, the first stop was made at an Indian village at White Oak Point. The chief's name was translated 'Dull Knife,' and he and his families lived primitive style, as is evidenced by this quotation. 'The men whom we saw were almost naked, having no other garment than the breechcloth. The women wore a short gown and a blanket, the children ran about naked, with no other appendage then a belt about their loins. One of the wigwams which we visited was about fifteen feet in diameter and fully twelve feet high at the center. It was formed of poles, secured to a framework of poles. The fire was made in the middle. The sides of the interior were occupied with a frame three feet high and four or five feet wide, covered with blankets and skins, on which the inmates sit and also sleep. There is no partition to separate one part of the family from another.'

1881 Grand Rapids was reached on August second, 1881. The author says 'We reached Pokegama Falls at five o'clock. At this point the first rock stratum on the river was seen.' This is now commonly spoken of as the Government Dam. 'Making a portage around the falls, we reached Grand Rapids just before seven o'clock. 'This pioneer village consists of a hotel, two stores, a saloon and three or four private homes all built of logs. The Potter House is the first hotel encountered in the descent of the river, and is intended for the accommodation of lumbermen, who gather here during the fall and winter months.

Grand Rapids History
Mr. Sumner (Hause)
Nov. 19, 1940

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wed. Jan. 31, 1940 - continued

The bill of fare was ample, consisting of beefsteak, potatoes, raspberries and tea.' As the party bade farewell to Grand Rapids every man in town accompanied them to the bank and shook hands with them. At least one of the buildings shown in the illustration of Grand Rapids in the book is still standing, at the former Wheaton place on the south bank of the river, east of the Itasca hospital a few blocks.

As the party went on down-stream their log of progress mentions the mouth of Swan river. The steamboat 'City of Aitkin' was met on the way down, said boat being on its way to Grand Rapids. It was commanded by Captain Houghton of Aitkin. That family name is well known in Grand Rapids, being given to two additions to the village plat, and formerly to an avenue in the village.

The entire trip down the Mississippi to the salt waters of the Gulf of Mexico is graphically told. So far as known, Captain Glazier and his party were the first to undertake such a trip, certainly the first to give a detailed account of their progress. Prominently mentioned in their trip through Minnesota are the hordes of Mosquitoes along the river. Descendants of these insects continue to make their presence felt in the same manner each summer."

H. H. Hause 11/12/40

Grand Rapids Notes
H. H. Hause
November 1, 1940

May 8-35

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wednesday, May 8, 1935
p. 1, col. 1

If there is any man in Itasca county who knows more about the construction of the government dams on the upper Mississippi water than John Troop of Arbo township, This Neck of the Woods has been unable to learn his identity. Mr. Troop worked on the Pokegama, the Winnibigoshish, the leech and Sandy lake dams, and is entirelyfamiliar with their first construction, which was of massive timbers, far different from the concrete structures which now hold back the waters of the mighty river.

It was 56 years ago last December, when as a young man of 20 years of age in search of work and adventure in a new country, John Troop took a contract to cut 200 cords, near the mouth of Prairie river, for which he was to get a dollar a cord. Riding up from Aitkin with a tote team, Mr. Troop found it a busy road, for all the freight used here had to be brought by steamboat in times of navigation, or by tote teams in the winter.

When he landed in Grand Rapids, Mr. Troop found the town to consist of two small log hotels, two small log stores, and two log saloons. All were located near the banks of the river. Below the present location of the Blandin Paper company mills. In cutting cordwood and indriving tote teams, the first winter passed readily enough, and Mr. Troop remained here.

Fifty four years ago this summer, construction on the first Pokegama was started, and Mr. Troop went to work there. He remained in that work for a long time, helping shape the huge pine timbers which were fastened together with drift bolts to hold the head of water in the river. Later he went to Winnibigoshish lake, where a similar timber

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dam was constructed. Here he remained for a year and a half, or until the dam was completed. The same crew of builders went then to Leech river, and started a dam on the site of the present Federal dam. This also was of timber, but Mr. Troop did not like the exposed location, and left after working there for two months, and returned to Pokegama dam, where he worked as a cook for the small crew engaged in operations there.

All tools and equipment necessary to build dams had been brough up river on steamboats, so when the next move was to build the Sandy Lake dam, a huge barge was constructed, and about 75 tons of equipment loaded at Pokegama dam, and the whole thing floated down the Mississippi. Mr. Troop remembers that some difficulty was experienced in getting the huge barge through the rapids where the paper mill dam is now located, but nothing was lost, and the entire trip make in 64 hours. He remained at Sandy lake for many months, aiding in construction of the first dam at that location.

Returning to Grand Rapids, Mr. Tropp operated a hotel for a while. For a part of the time taking charge of the kitchen and cooking for the guests. He worked as occasion offers, and remembers well helping Amos Forsythe build the log house on his homestead. The present Forsythe farm at Cohasset.

When he desired a farm Mr. Troop bought the land he now occupies in Arbo township, on the north shore of Shoal lake. Here he has lived for more than 30 years, raising his family, and developing a fine farm, which he continues to work.

Mr. Troop has a fine memory for the old days. He was here during the Small Pox epidemic, and remembers how some of the Indians suffered greatly from that scourge. They were far more susceptible than the white

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men, and died, as Mr. Troop says, like flies. Often their shacks and wigwams were burned, with the bodies of the dead Indians in them, to prevent the spread of the spotted death.

Among the Indians whom Mr. Troop knew well, and who have taken a place in the history of northern Minnesota, where such tribal chiefs as 'Drumbeater,' 'Mosemo,' 'Anoka,' 'John Smith,' and many others.

Like other men who knew the Indians in the early days, Mr. Troop reports them honest in the main, and good neighbors. Whiskey was the worst enemy the Indians had, and after they began to use liquor they would do almost anything for further supplies of it."