
# Minnesota Works Progress Administration: Writers Project Research Notes.

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Grand Rapids History
Summer - House
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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 small 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.

1839 While he didn't come to Grand Rapids until 1839. He did come to part

1886 of what is now Itasca county in 1886. In that year he came to a log-
ging 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 steam-
boat 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.

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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

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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 fough they were honest. The lumberjacks would sleep, when the hotels were full, on the saloon and lodging house floors. They made considerable sums of money on 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

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

Grand Rapids Herald Review
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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,

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

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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 Miley 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.

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.

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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 river-men, 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

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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 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 He ald 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.

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.

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.

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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 resident and a strong enthusiast for the possibilities of Grand Rapids.
1894 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

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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 Glad-

1898 stonetook a chance and in 1898 he was elected auditor.

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 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 packer were not large men. As a general rule, they were small rather 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

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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

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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.

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.

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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 tim 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

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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.

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

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wed. Sept. 16, 1936, Vol. XLVI-11
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"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.

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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 Holinan 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. 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.

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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 uponthe 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 drive , 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.

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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

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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.

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,

(Cont'd)

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

(Cont'd)

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."

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
G. Hause
Nov. 20, 1940

"Grand Rapids Weekly Eagle:"

First issue on July 3, 1890 - continued until July 1, 1891 or possibly earlier.

The first publisher was the Eagle Publishing Co. Who published the paper from its first issue through Dec. 20, 1890 and following.

Published by M. Stone from Sept. 20, 1890 to July 1, 1891 or possibly earlier.

The newspaper room has only one issue, that of July 3, 1890, that is to say Vol. 1 - No. 1.

Grand Rapids Herald Review
P. 1. Col. 1- Vol. XLIX - 41
Wed. April 17, 1940.

"Looking at a box of rayon shirts and shorts the other day reminded Henry Ranfranz of the early years in Grand Rapids. He could not help but recall the days of woolen shirts and drawers, some of them red and others made from blankets.

Mr. Ranfranz is, in very truth, a pioneer merchant. Very few have in the county longer. He came in 1898 from Rochester, where things were very much different than up in this neck of the Woods. His brother was operating a restaurant on whiskey row. Henry Ranfranz helped him.

In those days saloons never closed. Those who drank also needed food. Restaurants were open all of the time. Those were the days when lumberjacks came in by the hundreds, turned their checks over to the bartenders and left town, broke, for the drive. Among the characters of the day was Dave Chambers, better known as 'Nigger Dave.' He was a famous cook and had many important customers. In addition he was quite a church man. On Sunday he would dress up in a long tailed coat, high hat, patent leather shoes and proceed with a gold headed cane to

the Presbyterian church where he worshipped. He was also a good contributor to the church. He was in Grand Rapids ten years or more and died here.

After a year or so in the restaurant Henry Ranfranz went to work for John Metzger, the butcher. He delivered meat about town. Then he was employed by the Kremer Brothers, Arthur and Al, who had a store where Robinson's Jewelry is now found. John Beckfelt, the pioneer merchant of the community, used to walk by this store every morning and because the windows appeared well he hired Henry Ranfranz to go to work in his store. There about ten years was spent.

The Beckfelt store employed a dozen or more clerks and business was good. The mercantile business of those days was with the Indians, the loggers and the lumberjacks. Patronage from the village itself was small compared to the volume with the outsiders.

There was a large business in game before the days of game laws. The Indians used to tire of venison and would trade deer carcasses for pork and oleomargerine. The market for venison used to be about five cents a pound and the Beckfelt warehouse would have 25 or more frozen deer in the late fall and early winter. The Indians also brought in ducks by the sackful. The traveling men from the cities used to bargain for the game and it would be shipped, sometimes a carload at a time, to St. Paul.

Another product for which there was demand was tobacco. John Beckfelt would buy a solid carload of tobacco in those early days. Great quantities were chewed in the lumber camps and there was demand for Spearhead and Climax. Peerless was the favorite brand for smoking. In addition snuff was sold in vast amounts. It was generally carried in earthly jars which would hold a pound. Strange as it may seem there was also a large demand for candy of the cheaper kinds and large amounts

of chocolate went into the woods. These were before the days of fresh fruit and modern cans and packages. Everything was in bulk and came and went in cases and barrels.

Henry Ranfranz left John Beckfelt to work for William O'Donnell, another well known merchant of the early days. After a year or to he was married and in about 1912, started together with the late William King and Fred Breid, a clothing store at Cohasset. That community was active then but within a short time Mr. Ranfranz was back at Grand Rapids where he has been ever time."

Itasca County Independant
Sat. Dec. 27, 1902 Vol. 1-9
P. 1. col. 2-3

"Grand Rapids' Greatest Industry.

For many years the great water power at our door went undeveloped, and the rushing waters that should have been turning the wheels of industry, raced past on their way to the Gulf of Mexico with never a turbine, dam or water-wheel to hinder. But along in 1897 during the incumbency of H. D. Powers in the mayor's office, the business men began to think over the wilful waste of such splendid material, and Mr. Powers, who had experience in the line of water power development at Brainerd, did some earnest missionary work in the good cause which bore abundant fruit later on. The matter was discussed pro and con from that time on, but nothing definite was done till the council appointed a company of citizens to try to induce some manufactoring company to locate here.

This committee was composed of the following named gentlemen; D. M. Gunn, John Beckfelt, L. F. Knox, D. W. Doran, George F. Meyers, John Costello and H. D. Powers, afterwards organized the Grand Rapids

Grand Rapids Notes
Nov. 20, 1940.

Itasca County Independent
Sat. Dec. 27, 1902 Vol. 1-9
P. 1. col. 2-3

Water Power and Boom Co. and obtained a state charter in 1899. The officers of the new company were; D. M. Gunn, president; John Beckfelt, vice president; L. F. Knox, treasurer; H. D. Powers, secretary.

Having obtained a charter from the state, the next step was to get a bill through congress giving them the right to construct a dam across the Mississippi, and in that matter Hon. D. M. Gunn did yeoman service; making a trip to Washington and devoting his sole attention to the work till it was crowned with success. Their bill through congress and the sanction of the national government thus obtained, the company proceeded to obtain a survey of the flowage of the proposed dam, and insituted condemnation proceedings, of which the village bore the expense - and never in it's corporate life did Grand Rapids invest money so wisely and so well. All things being now in readiness, the company began negotiations with the manufactoring concerns, the representatives of several of which came here to look the prospect over; and finally came into communication with the gentlemen who are operating the great paper mill here today. Ere long the Itasca Paper Company of Grand Rapids, Minn., came into being; and work on the dam and great mill was in progress. To be exact work commenced in November, 1900 and continued without intermission till it was completed, and the first sheet of finished paper came off the rollers in February, 1902. The plans for the whole work were drawn by Mr. J. C. Jacobson, of Grand Rapids, Wisconsin, a gentleman without a superior as an architect in the northwest, the work of construction was all done under his supervision and stands today a splendid testimonial to his perfect mastery of his profession.

The mill itself is a massive structure of brick, stone and iron

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mainly, wood being used as sparingly as possible, and it is as near fire-proof as mortal ingenuity can devise. To give an idea of its' dimensions we will state that the great paper room, which holds the mammoth paper machine, going through which converts the pulp into the finished paper, is 208 ft x 70 ft., and even that great space is but a part of the gigantic whole. The beater room is 96x96; the wood room is 72x16, and other rooms in proportion. This great industrial institution is under the most skillful guidance, the foreman of each department being a master of his craft and a man of long experience, and tried and proven worth. At the head and in control of the whole mill, is Mr. Charles G. Oberly, a gentleman whose life has been spent in the paper manufacturing business, who has learned every process in it by actual experience and who ranks as one of the very best men in the trade. Mr. Oberley superintended the setting up of the whole of the machinery now in use in the mill, and that he did his work thoroughly is proved by the fact that it has run almost every day - and 24 hours is a paper mill day - since the mill started up without a single serious break.

The mill yard and all outside work is under the charge of Mr. Fred Lindaner, and if constant hustling will keep things going they will never stop in this department. In the wood room, which is in charge of Mr. Peter Van Stephout, there are a circular saw and five C. A. Lawton Co. barking machines, made at De Pere, Wis., and capable of barking and cutting into proper lengths ready for the grinding machines, 25 cords of wood per day of ten hours. Mr. Van Stephout holds a record of never failing to keep the grinders going while there

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was wood in reach, and is as fine a judge of wood for pulp as the business ever developed.

The grinding room where the wood is made into pulp by hydraulic pressure, is under the charge of Mr. Max Alpine, an old hand at the paper trade and famous as an expert in his line, is equipped with six grinders of the new American pattern made by the Globe Iron Works of Dayton O. and has a grinding capacity of 25 tons of wood pulp in 24 hours.

The three beater machines are in charge of Messrs. Anthony Zenninger and Charles Bent, both of whom understand their business thoroughly, and alternate day and night in charge of the beater room. The great paper machine, a wonderful 120 inch combination of wheels, cogs and the like, so complex that a layman can scarce describe it, but working with such precision as to seem almost endowed with though, is under the joint charge of Messrs. Louis Jorgenson and Thomas Grignon; one of whom is in charge of it and command of its crew during each 12 hours of the day. Mr. Jorgenson, perhaps as well known to our good people by his title of 'Old Reliable' earned as first base of the local nine; is just as reliable in the mill as on the ball ground, and the grade of paper that he and Mr. Grignon, who matches him in all respects, turn out will equal the product of any mill in the United States.

The dam which stores and holds the water that drives the mill machinery, with the exception of the paper machine which is driven by steam; is a most substantial structure; was built under the sole direction of Mr. Luther Lindaner and built to resist any flood the Father of Waters is ever likely to roll down upon it. The power is conveyed through 31 turbines and has as yet been equal to all demands upon it. In addition

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to the water power, the company has a superbly built and equipped steam plant which runs the paper machine and heats the whole mill. The steam is generated in three tubular boilers 72x16 in dimensions, made by E. R. Gustavus of Oshkosh Wis., and furnishes motive power to a splendid Corliss engine, 22x48 built by the Twin City Iron Works of Minneapolis. The engineer in chief of the the steam plant is Mr. Robert Grignon, a machinist and engineer of long experience and unquestioned ability; and Messrs. George Ulrey and Marcus Wilkes alternate in direct charge of the great engine.

Mr. Thomas Kells is millwright and superintendent of construction in all the companys building operations, and is now engaged in supervising the building of a shingle mill which the company proposes to run next season. Mr. Kells is an artist at his trade, as every interviewer of his handiwork will be swift to admit.

In addition to all its other equipments, the company has a machine shop of its own and can repair any breakage that does not require absolutely new castings. This shop, which is furnished with the most modern iron working machinery, is in the capable hands of Mr. Robert Grignon, chief engineer and machinist of the mill. and what Bob can't make or repair, can't be made or repaired outside of an iron foundry.

The company has its own electric lighting plant, with 300 incandescent and six arc lights, and therefore suffered none from the recent light famine. The mill as it stands today, including the dam, represents an expenditure of about $300,000 dollars in cash, a very large proportion of which was spent in Grand Rapids for labor. The plans of the Paper Company contemplate an addition to the building at an early date and the eddition of another paper machine to the capacity, which will bring the

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cost of the plant well up to half a million of dollars. The company employs from 100 to 125 men and girls and has a monthly pay-roll of from $5,000 to $6,000. It furnishes a cash market for all the spruce, balsam and poplar suitable for grinding that our farmers can haul and all in all, is the greatest blessing we of Grand Rapids have to be thankful for. The company of which the official title is the Itasca Paper company is composed of the follwoing gentlemen:

| | |
|---|---|
| Frank F. Becker | President |
| Luther Lindaner | Vice President |
| H. G. Becker | Secretary |
| A. C. Bossard | Treasurer and Manager. |

Messers. F. F. Becker and Luther Lindaner are residents of Kaukanna, Wisc., while Messrs. Bossard and H. G. Becker reside here. The books of the company are in the charge of H. G. Becker; while Miss Mamie Bossard, daughter of the company's manager, is the stenographer of the concern. We are glad to record that under its able management, the first year of the mill's existence has been a most prosperous one, and the greatest difficulty, or rather difficulties, the company has had to contend with have been occasional lack of sufficient wood to grind and cars in which to ship paper out."

Sat. May 16, 1903 Vol. 1-29
P. 1. col. 4.

"When the world was created Grand Rapids was furnished with a pretty a town site as lies out of doors anywhere. And when the first town builders came along they had eyes for beauty and acted according. Our little city is laid out beautifully. Our streets are wide and the noble standing pine on every one of them give the town a beauty that is

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P. 1. Col. 4.

unexcelled by any town in Minnesota, and equalled by very few. The three lovely lakes on the outskirts of the town, and the country between them afford a magnificent natural park needing but scant expenditure to make it a 'thing of beauty for ever.' Most of our residence buildings come up to the natural beauty of their surroundings. Our public buildings are as handsome and commodious as can be found in most cities, and taking things altogether we have one of the most beautiful little cities in the State, of which we ought to be proud and doubtless are. And we also have the ugliest, dingiest city hall in seventeen states, of which we are not proud to any great extent. Just why the council does not renovate that grievious old eye-sore, we cannot tell - and wish it would."

Sat. Apr. 8, 1905 Vol. III - 24
P. 4. Col. 2.

"Grand Rapids is one of the prettiest, cleanest appearing towns in the northern part of the state. That does not mean that the appearance of the town is particularly clean, but that in comparison with the other villages of this section, it compares very favorably. Still, on a closer inspection, we notice that there are innumerable places where the owners either haven't had time or have not thot /sic/ of removing the offensive appearance of the refuse that naturally accumulates in a winter. We'ed like to see all who read this accept the friendly suggestion, and do a stunt with the rake, fork and wheelbarrow. It will make your premises and your particular part of town present a natty appearance and reflect credit upon yourself and your town, to say nothing of the increase in value that it will make on your property. Clean up your yards."

Itasca County Independent
Sat. Jan. 20, 1906.
p. 5. Col. 3. Vol. IV - 13

"To Move Circulating Library - Grand Rapids' Carnegie Library is about completed now requiring only the installation of the fixtures and the new books to make it ready for the public. We are informed that the fixtures and the books will not arrive before the first part of next month, and that it will not be before the 12 th of 15th that the librarian and board will have the fixtures in and the books properly catalogued so that the building can be thrown open to the public. Secretary Dickinson, however, informs the writer that the circulating library, and the books which the library association have of their own will be removed from the library room of the central school where they have been kept up to the present time, to the new library building where Mrs. Huntly will hold forth on Saturdays as heretofore for the accommodation of the patrons of this branch of the library until the new building is formally occupied.

The library board has been planning on opening the new library with appropriate ceremonies, but as yet it has not been decided what will be done in regard to the matter."

p. 4. Col. 2.
Sat. May 25, 1907.

"While our town has bonded itself to raise money with which to build roads, it would be well for our farmers to remember that there are other ways of getting a good road than by getting it from the town. And the best way is to use the implement commonly known as the 'split-log drag' on the roads in the neighborhood of one's place of residence. We understand that the township of Grand Rapids is soon to put a team on the

p. 4. Col. 2.
Sat. May 25, 1907

roads of the township with a drag to keep the roads in good condition. A most commendable move and co-operation of the farmers would help a whole lot."

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 canoe tipped over, so were forced to subsist on young ducks occasionally killed with their paddles, on turtles, a few small fish, and on what blueberries 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 breecholoth. 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 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

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 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

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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 prpposed 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,

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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

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"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."

C. H. Hause 11/8/40

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

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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."

G. H. Hause 11/8/40.

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Mr. Sumner (Hause)
Nov. 18, 1940.

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Wed. Mar. 1, 1939 -Vol. XLVIII-34
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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, Sr., 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 1880 of people born from 1875 to 1880, and Mr. Becker, who by then had acquired 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 Forks, they found that the steam-boat, which made a trip from Grand Forks to Winnipeg once each two weeks when the water was high enough, had gone the day before. Trans-portation 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 some-times up to his waist.

For a number of years there was no railroad train reach-ing 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 deals with 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 bbility 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

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 five 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 hand 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.

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."

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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."

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."

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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.

Wed. Dec. 21, 1938
p. 1. col. 1.

"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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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.

Wed. Dec. 21, 1938
p. 1. col. 1.

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."

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.

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.

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.

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 monument 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/ 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 oil 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 potatoe 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 developements as time goes on. As the years pass since the time of the arrival of the 'last load' of big scale logging days, Grand Rapids and the surrounding territory should continue to develop over a wide front."

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 Yyons, 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."

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.

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'

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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."

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.

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.

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. L. 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."

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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

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 associated 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 1886. 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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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."

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.

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.

(Cont'd)

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

(Cont'd)

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."

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"Pokegama has doubtless had a more romantic history than any other lake in this section. On this page is presented a photograph of what was believed to be the first frame structure ever built on the shores of this lake. It was not the first house for probably there have been log structures on the shores of Pokegama for a hundred years. It was the first frame building, as far as can be known. Fred Willman, who now resides at Cut Foot Sioux, lived on it as a boy. On another page in the paper is a description of an event of about forty years ago. The house was located on Moose Point.

We do not know who the earliest settlers on Pokegama may have been. Mr. Willman remembers that Duncan Harris lived at the lake at that time and that the late Mike Jordan was also a resident of that section.

Black's Arm to Pokegama, that area which extends eastward from the Pokegama bridge, was named for William Black, who lived on a farm at the extreme east end of the lake. For some years he operated a farm there for Sam Hamilton, an early-day logger.

Jo Gould lake was named for Jo Gould, an early settler on this lake which lies between Pokegama and the Mississippi river. The point extending between the river and this lake was called Pokegama Point in the earlier days and it played an important part in the life of the section before Grand Rapids was established. Two men who became prominent in Grand Rapids lived on Pokegama point. One was Bob McCable who later moved to the Rapids and another was Al Nason, very well known to the older residents of the community. Both of these men had reputations for great physical strength and were among the leaders of their time.

George Galbreath well remembers an early trip on Pokegama. He came up the Mississippi river on a steamboat in 1884 and desired to cross the lake which he then saw for the first time. He was to cross with some Indians who were drunk. They walked to the lake and embarked in birchbark canoes at about the site of the golf course. The Indians were singing or quarreling but did not let their condition interfere with getting safely across the lake in their frail canoes. Across the lake on Moose Point was a large log house belonging to Charles Lyons, an Indian. When the party reached that house it was decided to have a dance. A man by the name of Burns, who lived further down on what now is called Sherry's Arm, was summoned to bring his fiddle. He made music for the white and redskins to dance until he got drunk and fell onto his fiddle and broke it. Then the young Indians took up some pans and beat upon them with sticks for the continuance of the dance. Mr. Galbreath went outside and rolled himself up in his blanket in the grass and went to sleep while the dance was in progress. When he woke up in the morning the Indians were lying around drunk and the house was completely burned.

HAUSE

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While we are speaking of Pokegama lake we should like to give some better information concerning the meaning of the word Pokegama. Several have assumed that Pokegama meant 'Spider.' However, the Chippewa term for spider is entirely different. Finding this to be the case we sought the most definite information upon the meaning of this word. Thus we wrote to M. L. Burns, superintendent of the Consolidated Chippewa Agency at Cass Lake, and a man well informed in all Indian affairs. The term Pokegama refers to the fact that the lake is found off from the main course or channel of the Mississippi river. Mr. Burns describes its meaning in the following way:

"The word has varied meanings but the right meaning I believe is 'off from the main course or channel,' in the same waters only located off to one side. No doubt this has reference to the Mississippi river, Pokegama, off to one side. Pokega, meaning a trail deviating from the main highway, being a part of the system only being located off the main course.'

The change of the meaning of the word Pokegama will make considerable difference with some stories which might be told about the lake. It was thought that by the fact that the lake had so many arms spreading out from the main body of water that it resembled, in a general way, a spider. Evidently a wrong conception of the meaning of the word has prevailed. In this the Herald-Review has shared.

Most of the lakes in this region do not have Indian names. Of course there is Pokegama, Wabana, Winnibigoshish. The reasons for more ordinary names to lakes is that this immediate section was not a prominent Indian country. The Chippewas did not come onto the Prairie and the Bigfork rivers as they did not like this section as well as the country further to the west. Pokegama, however, was a favorite lake with the Indians as it is with the white men. It was lined with great timber. It possessed the finest of fishing. It had attractions of many kinds for the red man.

A book could be written about Pokegama lake and the people who lived near to it. It would be a very interesting book with many elements of lasting romance. With many scores of miles of shore line, Pokegama has many features which mark it as one of the outstanding lakes in Minnesota."

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Grand Rapids
Herald Review
July 6, 1932
P. 7, Col. 1.

# "A WILD COUNTRY - FORTY YEARS AGO

## Government Botanist Learned of Indians, at First Hand at Pokegama.

The following account of the adventures of early settlers on the shore of Pokegama lake was printed in Minneapolis paper of 1889 or 1890. The date was not given on the clipping which is still in the possession of Fred J. Willman of Cut Foot Sioux Inn. Mr. Willman found the clipping and the photograph which is reproduced on the front page this week, while looking through an old trunk which had belonged to his mother.

Some of the statements made by the government botanist, Dr. Sandberg, are slightly misleading. It must be remembered that he was a stranger here, and not familiar with local conditions as they existed more than forty years ago.

Here is his account of early homesteading:

'Two brave Minneapolis women and a stout hearted 16-year-old lad all alone in the wilderness, with no neighbors but an old hermit and a rum frenzied band of ghost dancing Chippewa - that was the rather unusual state of affairs which Dr. J. H. Sandberg, the government botanist, ran across in his latest wanderings through the wilds of northern Minnesota. The women were holding down valuable pine claims for their husbands and were 'roughing' it all that the term implies.

The doctor has just returned from his two week's trip to the Lake Pokegama country in Itasca county, and he tells a most interesting story of his experiences. The present terminus of the Winnipeg road is at Grand Rapids in Itasca county and almost ten miles from the lake.

It is a wild pine country, almost uninhabited by man, and Dr. Sandberg's surprise can be imagined when he found, on the farther lake shore two Minneapolis matrons, one accompanied by her 16-year-old-boy, holding down claims of 160 acres of pine land each. The rough experience they had with the Indians not long ago will be read with interest in Minneapolis. The ladies are Mrs. John R. Willman, of 22 5th St. N. E., and Mrs. Frank Thomas, Mrs. Willman's neighbor. Mr. Willman is a miller in Pillsbury A mill, and will be remembered as a witness in the now famous Heilpern case. Heilpern at one time boarded at his house. Last spring early the men went to Pokegama and staked out their claims. Not being able personally to occupy them for the six months necessary before a title can be secured they left wives as deputies, with young Willman as guardian of them.

A couple of rough shanties were hastily constructed, not far apart, on the lake shore and rudely furnished. Here the women and boy have been since spring and here they will remain until late in the fall.

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Dr. Sandberg went by railroad to Grand Rapids and overland from Grand Rapids to the lake. Here he found an old hermit who, until the advent of the Minneapolis people, was the only human being within a radius of 10 miles. At the hermit's house he by accident met young Willman, who promptly took him across the lake to his mother's cabin. The doctor's surprise was complete when he saw the ladies and heard their story.

The Indians from Leech Lake reservation spenda portion of each summer on the shore of Lake Pokegama, hunting and fishing. All the country round the lake formerly belonged to them, but was bough by the government. The Indians, in reality, have no right at the lake, but as they had always been peaceable and quiet and there were no white people for them to annoy, they were tolerated by the authorities. Messrs. Willman and Thomas, it seems, remained at the lake several weeks, building and furnishing the cabins and laying in provisions. The Indians were camped only a short distance from the shanties and as long as the men were on the ground, were as friendly and agreeable as could be desired. The night following the departure of the men for Minneapolis, however, the Indians inaugurated a ghost dance and all got gloriously drunk. In a frenzied state they visited the two cabins, flourishing and recklessly discharging firearms, and notified the lone women to leave within three days or be killed. All night they kept up their orgies near the house, and their loud cries effectually drove sleep from the squatter's eyes.

In the darkness the son put off in a boat and made his way first to the hermit's house and then to Grand Rapids, where he told his story. The sheriff, a half breed, collected a posse of citizens and went to the cabins. Where they remained for almost a week, on guard night and day with Winchester rifles. The Indians in the meantime had become sober, and the sight of the armed men called them to their senses. They humbly admitted their fault, pitifully begged forgiveness and faithfully promised in the future to behave themselves and not molest Mrs. Willman and Mrs. Thomas. With this understanding that they were permitted to remain and not ordered back to the reservation.

The Indians had a final ghost dance the night the sheriff and his men arrived, before they knew of their arrival. During the melee several of the braves and squaws were seriously cut about the face and body with hunting knives. The medicine men did not presume to bind up the wounds given in a ghost dance, and so the Willman boy, aided by the citizens of Grand Rapids, enacted the role of surgeon most successfully.

Dr. Sandberg remained as the guest of the two Minneapolis ladies during his two week's stay and on his return was the first one to bring news of their adventures to Minneapolis. Their husbands, as may be imagined were horror-stricken and prepared to leave for Lake Pokegama at once. The doctor, however, assured them that all danger was past, and they will defer their trip for several weeks.

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The feelings of the two women during the Indian uprising can be better imagined than described.

The land that has been claimed by the Messrs. Willman and Thomas is heavily stocked with first-class pine, which will readily sell for from $5,000 to $8,000. A young man named Lawrence, living just above Dr. Sandberg's store on 5th St. N. E., near Central avenue and across the street from Willman's, was recently offered $5,000 for some land he had claimed on this lake.

The women now think the danger is over and are resolved to stay until the six months are up, having stayed this long. When they went to the lake both were in poor health and the 'roughing it' has worked wonders for their health, much to the joy of all the members of both families."

Note

Mr. Sumner:-

This will be all of the special items asked for both as the column and the article on toto.

Hause

Daily Minnesotian a. m. 2 2 May 27, 1858

V 16

St. Paul Public Library Sept. 13, 1938

"Steamboat Navigation in the Upper Mississippi"

"****As intelligence has reached her that the 'NORTH STAR' had passed Crow Wing sometime since, there exists no doubt in my mind that by this time she has reached Grand Rapids, or succeeded perhaps in reaching the Falls of Pokegama.

"About twenty miles above Crow Wing are the French Rapids, and ten miles above them are Rabbitt Rapids. At the present stage of water they are navigable by even large steam boats.

"The current in the Rapids is about eight miles an hour and if the North Star is a steamboat of any propelling power will doubtless succeed in getting through."

William A. Rice

21 S. M.

Summer

Grand Rapids Herald Report
Summer
July 25, 1940

EARLY COMERS TO ITASCA COUNTY AS A SUMMER RESORT --STEAMBOATS ON "POKE."

Sept. 2, 1931

"These people (the Simmonses and Adamses) were among the first to discover Itasca county as a place to spend a delightful summer. J. H. Simmons and C. L. Simmons and W. H. Adams came to Wabana in 1904 and 1905. Every summer for a quarter of a century has been spent at their houses there which now consists of six cabins. Mr. Simmons tells us that over 100 people visited the group this summer.

"Twenty-five years ago it was a much different journey to come to Wabana than it is now. The trip to Grand Rapids was made by train and at the train they were met by Dave Cockran of Wabana who took them out to the lake in a lumber wagon. It was a big, heavy lumber wagon and it was a four or five hour trip through the trails and over the corduroy to Wabana. When they reached the Cockran place a boat was taken across the lake and the final journey was made up the hill with packs and bundles.

"Dave Cockran ran what was called a 'hotel' but by most people termed a 'stopping place' on Wabana. His large buildings were placed where trails and water met. In the summer came the visitors to rest and fish and in the winter the loggers came. Many people gathered around Dave Cockran's board. The evenings were spent in visiting and telling stories. The stories were not always confined to the truth. The fish that were caught became bigger, the feats of strength and labor became

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(continued)

larger as the evening wore on but Dave Cockran is dead, his hotel burned and most of the stories have been forgotten.

"Dave Cockran was interested in houseboats. He had one on Wabana that was propelled by a launch. However, his transportation activities were not confined to Wabana. He had a steamboat on Pokegama lake and took people for rides. Before the days of the automobile there were many boats and launches on Pokegama lake. Dave Cockran's steamboat took the larger parties and puffed its way around Pokegama and into the Mississippi. What has become of the boat we do not know. Its rotted bulk is probably lying around the shores of the Mississippi some where.

"It is a fact that there were some real steamboat days on Pokegama lake. Not only was there Dave Cockran's pleasure cruiser, but there were boats whose purposes were more serious in life. C. M. Erskins had two boats on Pokegama. His first was the 'Eagle', put in operation about 25 years ago and the larger boat was the 'Wyoming.' Dunn & Marcia, who ran a lumberyard at Cohasset, also had a steamboat on the Mississippi and John Main also had one. These boats were used in towing logs and rafts across the lake. The Erskins - Stackhouse boat used to go as far as Leech river and bring down logs. A steamboat was a common sight, not only on Pokegama and along the Mississippi, but up on the Bigfork and on other lakes where there was considerable of the work of the day to be done.

"A houseboat is not a new thing up in Itasca county and along

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its rivers. Its use for pleasure may be new but a boat on which people lived was the headquarters of those who took the drives of logs down the rivers. For 60 years this boat was called the wanagan. Perhaps somebody can enlighten us upon the source of this name. The wanagan followed up the drive and in it the men lived and ate. In it was not only the cook and his supplies but there was plenty of socks and tobacco for sale. The drive was hard, wet work and the wanagan was a welcome haven at night. Every crew on the drive had its own wanagan and the cook was the master of ceremonies."

Fishing on wanagan anecdote:

"C. M. Erskine says that the busiest man he ever saw on a wanagan was Fred McKay, (now living in Grand Rapids?) who worked for Mr. Erskine for a period of about 20 years. The drive was coming down the Mississippi and the wanagan was tied up at the point where Vermilian brook enters the Father of Waters a few miles west of Cohasset. It was the spring of the year and the pike were beginning to run and as Mr. Erskine approached the wanagan he noticed an unusual activity. It was Fred McKay engaged in the combined task of frying doughnuts and catching pike. He had a fish pole out one end of the boat and the doughnuts were frying on the stove. The fish were biting very well. He would take a fish off the line, throw the line back, then he would rush to the stove and turn over the doughnuts in the fat. Then he would run back to the pole and pull in another pike and thence back to the stove and take out the doughnuts. Thence back for another fish and then again to put in a new batch of doughnuts. This was continued until there were fish

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and doughnuts sufficient for the crew that night. Fred McKay is now looking after the Pokegama golf course (?)"

Grand Rapids Herald Report
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Sept. 9, 1931

First school north of Bigfork.

"Down in Arthur Zaiser's new store is a picture hanging on the wall. It is a picture typical of this section, a log cabin set back among great pine. It is the original Zaiser homestead in the Bigfork country. A. L. Zaiser, F. C. Whitely and Victor Knight all went into the country along the Bigfork in 1900. They walked in from Deer River on their first trip and Mr. Zaiser walked back to Grand Rapids. That was nothing unusual, by the way, for everyone walked if they wished to get anywhere in Itasca county 30 years ago.

"The Zaiser homestead later became the first school north of Bigfork. The children walked through trails in the woods for many miles. The Knight, Merrifield and Guttry children were among the first to attend this school. Its floor was of poles and the water came through in wet weather. The first teacher was Catherine Costello, now Mrs. Orrin Patrow. Where there was one school in the whole country north and east of Bigfork then, there are now about a half dozen. Buses take loads of children over good roads into high school.

"In the earlier days most of the schools in District One were of log. Now (1931) there are hardly any left and those few have been boarded up on the outside or plastered up on the inside. District One has a log school house up at Stingy lake and two or three others not in continuous use. While there may be some tears shed over the passing of the little red schoolhouse, few bemoan the passing of the log school. But in the earlier days it was symbolic of progress.

Sept. 23, 1931

Early days in Canisteo mining district and Bovey

"When the Canisteo mining district was opened up, it lead to the same excitement and interest that the development of a new mining field always produces. There is nothing more romantic than minerals and no parts of the United States have more interesting history than do the mineral sections, whether they be coal, copper, gold or iron.

"The first people in the Canisteo district were the loggers, though much virgin timber still stood on the townsite of Bovey a quarter century ago. A few farmers had come into the country. Then came the drillmen, the Reien Brothers, Trebilcock, Cole and McDonald. The drills used cordwood for their boilers before the days of the railroad, in 1905.

"Bovey began as a busy drill camp in 1904. The village itself was not founded by industrialists or merchants. The first people to begin business in Bovey were bootleggers, who later became saloonkeepers when a license could be secured. These early business men built shacks, cut back the woods, took a few stumps out of the middle of the street. The demand was for hard liquor and plenty of it.

"It has always been said that the first merchant of Bovey, Erik Johnson, came in with his stock of goods on his back. That is literally true. Mr. Johnson was in business in Nashwauk and hearing that men around Bovey needed shoes he filled a pack sack with shoes and socks and walked in. Later he established himself in a tent and then a shack. His was the first commercial enterprise in Bovey and Mr. Johnson has been there since.

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"The first people who came found Bovey seriously lacking in places to sleep and eat. Next to the place where the Witmas Hotel now stands was a rooming house. One ordinary sized room had a bed in it. Six men slept crosswise on the bed at night, were rolled out in the morning and six more took their places in the daytime. One of the early boarding houses had sawdust on the floor and men slept on the floor and their money would fall out of their pockets. When the floor was swept up the sawdust was always sifted for the money it would bring. One sweeping has been known to have produced over $50. Money was plentiful even though wages for common labor were but $1.90 a day.

"People came from all ends of the earth to Bovey. Again that statement is literally true. There were Finns, Bulgarians, Italians, Scandinavians, Cousin Jacks. Many men were needed under the shovels and upon the dumps in the early days of the Canistec. They all brought with them their national traits. One that seemed to be very much in common was the desire to drink and Bovey had 26 saloons that all might be served. T. J. Kingston, now a Bovey merchant, had the task of maintaining order in Bovey for seven years. Peter Westerlund assisted him. Bovey residents take some pride in the fact that while the town rioted and drank there were no murders.

"The foreigners all had guns. They would drink and then step out in the street and shoot their revolvers into the air. This was disturbing to those few who may have wished to sleep and one of the early

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mayors gave orders to the police force to take guns away from all who were not citizens. The first night out officers, Kingston and Westerlund picked up two bushel baskets of guns. On another occasion Mr. Kingston went to a boarding house where there were 40 men and there took peacefully 26 Iver and Johnson revolvers. Most of the residents of Bovey did not wish to become mixed up with the law. Those who were fresh from the old country had a heap of respect for a uniform. * * *

"Some of the farmers were around Bovey about ten years before the drills came in. Herman Gran and his family came into the Trout Lake country following the panic of 1893. * * * B. E. Benson came in early and in 1894 toted in on his back to Grand Rapids a sack of rutabagas which he traded to E. C. Kiley for a year's subscription to the Herald-Review. Swan Rydberg came in at about the same time. He took a wagonload of potatoes to Grand Rapids in 1897. It took him three days to make the trip, working hard all of the time, and he could not sell the potatoes after he had brought them to the county seat. Among other pioneers were Matt Saari, Berge Bergeson, Abel Kuluvara, J. W. Snyder and some other hardy folks to which the present generation ought to pay high honor.

"Bovey was an ambitious town. It incorporated into its village limits a whole township of wealth and then allowed most of it to be taken away into the neighbor town of Coleraine. After many years of supplication and struggle some of it came back. In the meantime, because Bovey was poor in municipal wealth she started to build trade. The Farmer's Day had a humble beginning but everyone who exhibited in the very early days

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(continued)

won a prize or two. The judges saw to that."

This "Farmer's Day" was an annual event in Bovey, started about 1910 with a little exhibit in one building. In 1931 there were 240 exhibits and vegetables and things from the farm stretched for two blocks with the overflow at the curb.

Oct. 7, 1931

Pioneers of Bowstring and Pokegama

"Duncan McDougal took up a homestead on Bowstring Lake along about 1894. Three or four of the families now in that section had preceded him, but the country was very, very new. The way to get there was to walk out of Deer River to Little Bowstring Lake or the creek and then take a boat down. The lake and the Bigfork river, which flows out of it, was the artery of commerce and communication 40 years ago. When winter came, the early settlers walked all of the way.

"There are two things that Mr. McDougal remembers particularly about the early days on the homestead. One was the heavy snows that seemed to fall the first few years. Winter would set in early and stay late and it seemed to bring blankets of snow much heavier than have been seen in these later days.

"The next feature about homesteading in the early days was the complete lack of money. There was no such thing. No one had any. It was hardly recognized as a medium of exchange, because it was so scarce. Neighbors worked with each other, if help were needed. Neighbors gave to each other from their meager possessions. A family who lived four or eight miles away was a neighbor. Those early days laid the foundation for the development of the land, the homes, the people, the schools, the highways of a great county.

"Pokegama is the Indian word for spider. The lake was named

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(continued)

Pokegama because it resembled a spider with its many legs. We call the legs arms, and have named these arms after various people.

"Black's arm was named after one of the early settlers on the east end of the lake. Poole's arm was named after John W. Poole. This owner of property was more fortunate than some. Iron ore was found on it. * * *

"Sherry's arm was named after James Sherry. * * * He ran a 'stopping place', a saloon, and logged in the earliest days. He was strong physically and was considered the 'fightenest' man in this neck of the woods. He hired good lumberjacks, worked hard in the woods, had few scruples and paid his men off with hospitality over the bar. So run the stories of the earlier days. * * * James Sherry worked, fought and drank. His place of business is gone. He is gone. But his name will last a long time for people will fish, shoot ducks, and boat on Sherry's arm to Pokegama. * * *

"A quarter or a half century ago, very few people ascended the Mississippi to its source. Only the daring took the canoe trip to Lake Itasca and a few came in on the crude roads. Now tens of thousands of people each year come to see the source of the Father of Waters. * * * The mines in northern Minnesota also attract attention. * * *"

Oct. 21, 1931

## Origin of the word "Itasca"

"What is the origin of the word 'Itasca?'

"Of course Itasca county is named after Lake Itasca. When this great county was named it extended from Lake Superior to the source of the Mississippi. It was named from the lake then within its borders. But boundaries changed. The name of Itasca still stayed with the county, though the lake is 75 or a hundred miles away.

"It was * * * in 1832 that Henry Rowe Schoolcraft discovered the source of the Mississippi. He came up past the falls of Pokegama, through Red Cedar Lake which he had named Cassina 12 years before, and then through the winding stream to the beautiful lake from which the Mississippi springs.

"Naturally he wished a name for his discovery. He called it Itasca. For many years the name was not applied to the lake by most people familiar with it. It was still called Elk Lake, the name given to it by the Indians who knew it long before the white man came. Finally, the name Itasca became more common. When it did, the question was asked as to the origin of the word.

"Historians disagree. The last quarterly publication of the Minnesota Historical Society has two articles on the name Itasca. One is by E. C. Gale, the other by Irving H. Hart. They present some new stories.

"Explorer Schoolcraft had a minister with him on his famous trip.

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(continued)

The Reverend William T. Boutwell many years after the discovery wrote that he suggested the name for the lake. He said that Schoolcraft took the Latin words 'Veritas Caput', meaning the 'true head' and by lopping off the first and last syllables of the words when combined framed the name 'Itasca.' The minister's words were always taken as the true explanation.

"But in 1855, 17 years before the Boutwell explanation, Henry W. Schoolcraft wrote of his explorations. These writings have been overlooked. In this story Schoolcraft tells of the name as follows:

I inquired of Ozawindit the Indian name of this lake; he replied 'Omushkos' which is the Chippewa name for elk. Having previously got an inkling of the mythological and necromatic notions of the origin and mutations of the country which permitted the use of a female name for it, I denominated it 'Itasca.'

That is not all. It seems that Schoolcraft was not only an explorer but a man of letters. On discovery of the beautiful lake he wrote a poem. It consists of two stanzas. The last two lines of the first stanza are as follows:

As if, in Indian myths, a truth there could be read,
And these were tears, indeed, by fair Itasca shed.

"And who is Itasca? There is an old Indian legend w ich tells about her. It seems that Itasca was the daughter of Manabazho, the Spirit God of the Chippewas. She was wood by Chebiado, the keeper of the souls of the

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dead, but would not go with him. On her refusal the bad one tears her away from her home and family. A great storm comes on to protect her, but too late. Itasca was killed and buried in some heaps of sand near the lake which now bears her name. The rills that flow from the rocks and sand to make up the lake are Itasca's tears as she cries for home and friends.

"That is a very pretty story. We should like to think that it is the origin of a famous word. We would rather that the name Itasca come from Indian love of the Chippewa country than from the Latin dictionary.

"However, there is still another explanation. In a government report Schoolcraft gave a number of Indian names which might be used in denominating part of the public domain which was then being explored very rapidly and needed names. He then suggested the name I-T A S-C A, from 'Ia' which means 'to be', from 'totosh' which means the origin and 'ka' a terminal inflection. And to further complicate the matter he added that this name had been applied to the lake in which the Mississippi rises.

- "There is the story of the name. You may have a Latin, a Chippewa or a synthetic name, whichever your fancy may take. Personally, we like the story of the Chippewa maid. But irrespective of origin, Itasca is a very beautiful name.

"The Chippewas had the Mississippi originating from Itasca's tears. They also had another story, that of a great elk, the length of two canoes,

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with horns that could split a pine tree. Other elk came each year to visit him and get his advice as to where to eat during the summer. At one time some hunters from the south came. They killed the great elk with a poisoned arrow. The gods were angry. They caused a great rain to fall. The banks of the lake were overflowed and the water found its way to the south. The hunters floated over it to their own hunting grounds. That was the Mississippi. * * *

"The Mississippi still flows. Lake Itasca still sparkles as it did when Schoolcraft first found it. People have had sentiment enough to save the great trees which surround the lake. Itasca is a splendid name for a beautiful place."

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Influx of Lumberjacks - C. C. McCarthy.

"About this time of the fall and a little later, (November) 20 or 25 years ago the men came into Itasca county by the thousands. * * *

"The lumberjacks came to all of the principal points of the county to find their way to the camps where the winter was to be spent. Deer River was the busiest town of all because that community had tributary to it a great area of virgin timber. It has been estimated that as many as 1500 to 2000 men a day have come into Deer River in the fall on their way to the camps. The rush was sudden and in the spring these same men went out perhaps at a slower rate, but in the same great numbers.

"Deer River prepared for its annual flood of lumberjacks by building several hotels. In fact this town doubtless had more hotels in proportion to population than any other place in Minnesota. They were great big structures. At one time there were five of them. Andy Morrisey built the big hotel south of the tracks known as 'The Ship.' John Sullivan had another hotel. John Howard built the Northern and Jacob Mohr had another large structure. Eli Loiselle built the hotel that is now (1931) known as the Miller.

"With the exception of the Loiselle all of the other hotels went up in flame and smoke. They burned fiercely as would be expected of structures made out of pine lumber which was thoroughly dried. Fire would start and in a few minutes all would be over. It was in that way that four large buildings went suddenly into oblivion.

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"The old time lumberjacks had three seasons of travel. First they came in. Next they came down from camp about Christmas or New Years to celebrate and finally they went out. In the older days lumberjacks were steady workers. They were men who took particular pride in their skill. They were paid in proportion to the work they did. Then wages became more standard. The employment agencies sent out the men. Under this condition lumberjacks worked as though they were working for the railroad. They did just a definite amount of work for the man who could chop the best got the same wages as he who could chop the least. After a few years of this condition anybody who wished went into the woods. The labor turnover became large. Every lumber camp had its three traditional crews, one coming, one on the job and the other going. The old time lumberjack, however, was a man whose chief interest in life was to cut, saw and drink. He did all of them very efficiently.

"The hotels at Deer River could not accommodate the influx of the lumberjacks. The rooms were filled up and there is an old story that the lumberjacks were piled crosswise on the floor of Jacob Mohr's hotel. The saloons stayed open all night for both business and humanitarian reasons. It was their busy season.

"The story of the timber industry in Itasca county is one of exploitation. The timber was cut and taken. The men who cut it were exploited. Taking the lumberjack's money was the principal task of many men.

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It was not a very difficult job because most of the lumberjacks wished to get rid of their money as rapidly as possible. The first thing they did was to offer their time checks to be exchanged for money. A generous slice of the time check was taken for the favor of cashing it until a law sponsored by C. C. McCarthy of Grand Rapids, when a state senator, stopped that practice. Many of those who cashed checks over the bar had certain practices which were good for their trade. For instance, a check would not be cashed until the lumberjack had been in town two or three hours. By that time he was generally not able to count change correctly or did not care whether or not he had it at all. The lumberjack came in broke and left the country in just about the same condition. Of course, there were many exceptions to this general rule. Many lumberjacks later became important loggers. Others became good farmers. This story simply tells about the general conditions which prevailed.

"The old time lumberjacks were not only colorful, but an able group of men. Despite their proclivities for strong liquor, most of them had high standards of personal honor. The old time lumberjack followed the woods for his entire life. He might be raised in Maine. He came to Michigan and then on to the forests of Wisconsin and Minnesota. From here he went to the big woods on the Pacific coast. There may be a few of them left. The memory of them still lives among the older residents of the community and the county."

[If I require the story of the Merritt family and the iron country, I can get it all in "Seven Iron Men," by Paul De Kruif.]

E. A. S.

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November 4, 1931

## Art and Religious Rites of Chippewas

"The Chippewas of Itasca county have many arts which they have practiced for some time. Most of these arts have a ceremonial or decorative significance influenced by magic or religious beliefs. Such paintings as the Chippewas have done were inspired through ceremonial duties.

"The Indians like color. They paint their houses, when they paint them in these modern days, a sort of a light colored blue. The Indian's desire for a red blanket and colored beads was a desire for color. But in the earlier days the Indians did not have colors, in quantity with which to work.

"There has recently been placed in the National Museum at Washington the worlds only collection of specimens of the lost Chippewa art of birch-biting. This was practiced 50 or 60 years ago by certain tribes of the Chippewa Indians and the practice is now dead. The art consisted of folding a thin piece of birch bark in several places and then biting out designs with the teeth. When unfolded the back was perforated with different designs. We should say that the practice was very much like that of cutting out paper dolls and doing things which magicians do with paper when folded and cut.

"The Indian women of the Chippewa tribes of Minnesota and nearby Canada were at one time very proficient in this art. With their teeth they were able to bite out symmetrical, geometric designs, pictures of flowers,

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animals and human beings. It is said that although the art is recognized and at times practiced by women of other Indian tribes, the Chippewas were the only ones who obtained any real proficiency at it. This art, however, has completely passed away. The younger Indian women had other interests and most of the older women who knew the art have lost their teeth. Some samples of birch-biting were recently obtained from older Chippewas and have been placed in the National Museum."

There are some in Museum of Minn. Hist. Soc. St. Paul, Summer

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## Captain John Smith, aged Indian

"Captain John Smith was born on Pokegama lake. * * * The first time we ever saw Captain John Smith he was drunk and dancing around a light post opposite the village hall in Grand Rapids. He was singing some kind of an Indian song and swinging a bottle of whisky around his head with one hand. Asking who he was, we ascertained that it was John Smith and that he was an old Indian, at least 80 years of age. Ten years later he had suddenly become over 100 years of age and 15 years later, at about the time of his death, he had reached 116 years. Nobody knew how old Captain John Smith was and John Smith did not know how old he was. There were no calendars in the wigwams when John Smith first saw the light of day. The early explorers were doubtless just about discovering the source of the Mississippi.

"To inquire into the details of Captain John Smith's age is not necessary. Everyone knew that he was an old Indian. The wrinkles on his face and his nose showed very old age. Moreover he was accompanied on his trips, and particularly when he was placed on exhibition, by a grandson and this grandson was an old man. So whether or not John Smith was 100 or 116, it makes no real difference. He was old. Whatever his age, he looked it.

"The traveling men used to try to teach Captain John Smith how to play poker. They soon found out that John Smith knew more about poker than they did. Indians like to gamble. When the time comes for the Indian payments there is an especially large demand for nickels which constitute the medium of exchange in an Indian card game. Nowadays we assume that the Indians do not

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gamble as much as they used to. Their income is very limited and some of them want automobiles and silk stockings just like the white brothers and sisters do.

"Of course, Indian names and traditions cling around about everything. In Itasca county, Pokegama, Wabana and Winnibigoshish are the names of three lakes. The village of Warba is a contraction of the Indian term Warbasibi, which means White Swan. The Mesaba range gets its name from the Indian term describing the height of land or the blue topped hills. The spelling from the Chippewa should be Mis-sa-be. It was this spelling which the Merritts and others who discovered iron ore on the mesaba range incorporated into the name of the Duluth, Missabe and Northern railway.

"The Indian in Itasca county and northeastern Minnesota is not looked upon now as a curiosity but more as a problem. What to do with the Indians is an old problem. In the earlier days it was solved by simply driving them back farther into the woods. Nowadays that cannot be done. The Indian likes to harvest crops which he does not have to either sow or cultivate. He wants his harvest ready for him and when fish do not bite, ducks do not fly, the rice crop is flooded out or the blueberries frosted, the Indian has hardships. When their credit has been exhausted in the stores the white brothers who sell them merchandise petition the white fathers at Washington to send out some money and the Indians are given a payment. Usually the payment money is gone before it comes. However, such a condition is not confined to the Indian tribes.

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## Early Business Men

Charles J. Birch, Sr., (now of Duluth ?) was one of the early business men of Grand Rapids community.

"Potter and Company was one of the leading mercantile concerns of northern Minnesota. Its headquarters were at Aitkin and in 1887 it established a branch store in Grand Rapids. Its chief business was to sell supplies to the loggers who were then in the midst of extensive operations in this section. Mr. Birch came to Grand Rapids in 1887 as manager for Potter and Company's business. He remained here about a year. It was an interesting year.

"Grand Rapids was very, very new. Mr. Birch remembers (as revealed in an interview by the H. R. in Nov. 1931) that ~~C.~~ C. Knox was another merchant of the community at that time. There were three saloons on the north side of the river and one on the south. Potter and Company's store was located in the log buildings which have been owned by Leroy Wheaton for many years. In summer the steamboat, Andy Gibson, brought up the supplies from Aitkin. In winter they came in overland by sleighs.

"Mr. Birch remembers some of the events of 1887. The winter of 1887-88 was a very cold winter, for in one week the temperature was no warmer than 20 degrees below zero and the thermometer registered as low as 52 degrees. It was not only cold out of doors but cold inside the Potter and Company store.

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The desk at which Mr. Birch worked was near the stove. The ink was kept near or on the stove and it would freeze on the pen when Mr. Birch was doing some of his bookkeeping work. That winter was marked by deaths from exposure.

"One teamster was at the Potter store loading a sleigh with supplies for logging operations in the Bigfork country. He took a few too many drinks and when watering the horses wandered away from the team. A few hours later he was found with his legs frozen to the knees and arms frozen to the elbows. He was taken to La Prairie where arms and legs were amputated but the exposure and the operations were fatal.

"Spring came at last and the Mississippi had lots of water in contrast to its present condition.(written in 1931). It overflowed its banks. Men floated into Bob McCabe's saloon in canoes, would take a drink from the bar and wash it down with water dipped from that surrounding the bar.

"In 1887 there was also a smallpox epidemic which took the lives of many Indians and lumberjacks. Altogether it was a bad year. Nevertheless, Mr. Birch believed that Grand Rapids was to be the best town in the northern part of the state. He urged Potter and Company to make it the headquarters for its mercantile operations. When the company refused to do this he left its employ. He now (1931) lives in Duluth. His son, Charles J. Birch, Jr.,

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is general superintendent of the Duluth, Messabe and Northern Railroad and to a certain extent has followed in the footsteps of his father who came north to work for the Northern Pacific road in 1870.

"There was no bridge across the Mississippi at Grand Rapids in 1887. Mr. Birch was one of the men who believed that a bridge was necessary for the town. He drew up a subscription list and headed it with a contribution of $10.00 for the construction of a simple wood structure which was later replaced by the bridge which will soon give way to the new concrete arch now being constructed (1931). The first bridge across the Mississippi was built in 1888.

"Grand Rapids was a simple town 44 years ago. (that would be 1887) The saloons and the stores were the meeting places for all kinds and sorts of people. Strong men walked to Grand Rapids to wrestle with other strong men. There was plenty of work and plenty of play.

"The temperature of the winter months may not have changed much since Mr. Birch's day in Itasca. But the winters have. Then it was logging, feverish activity, the harvest season. Now much of the county settles down to tending furnace and milking cows.

"Boy scout activities are very important throughout this whole section of northeastern Minnesota. It was rather interesting to learn * * * that there is a troop of boy scouts among the Indian boys at Red Lake. * * *

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We should think that teaching an Indian to build a fire would be a rather superfluous task. However, there is very much more to the boy scout activities than hiking and camping. Indian boys can get as much out of the precepts of the order as anyone else.

"A half century ago camping and hiking were not as much pleasure as they are today. Then a man had to hike and camp in order to work and live. * * * A man who took one blanket and put a pack sack on his back and started to walk from Grand Rapids to Minneapolis in the middle of the winter, 40 or 50 years ago knew his camping and his hiking.

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Street Names, etc.

"Grand Rapids is to a very great degree the offspring of Brainerd. While some men at Aitkin, among them T. R. Foley, were interested in the establishment of the village it was Brainerd capital which bought the townsite and developed it. Among those in about 1890 who were identified with Brainerd and also with Grand Rapids were the Hartley brothers, of whom G. G. Hartley was the best known in this immediate section through a long contact with the village and the county. Others from Brainerd who helped to lay out the original townsite were Newton McFadden, a Brainerd druggist, and Frank Thompson, an official of Crow Wing county to which Itasca was so long attached.

"Leland Avenue which goes clear through the village from the top of the hill to the lake was named for Warren Leland, a Brainerd real estate man. There were two other Leland brothers, Henry and Sam, who engaged in logging and other activities in this section. Leland was quite a name in Grand Rapids in the 1880's. It is still a good name.

"The first judge of the district court to serve this immediate section of Minnesota was Judge Sleeper of Brainerd. Consequently, when the new village at the head of navigation was laid out there was a Sleeper Avenue. Hoffman was a Brainerd druggist and thus there is Hoffman Avenue. Since there are so many children up towards the north end of this street, it has been informally christened Roosevelt Avenue. If any changes in names are made, we might substitute Roosevelt for Hoffman. (Was this ever done?)

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"If northern Minnesota had a 'big shot' 40 years ago that man was C. F. Kindred of Brainerd. He owned a lot of Brainerd, including the waterworks and from what we imagine, the city hall. When H. D. Powers came to Grand Rapids he had been working as secretary of the water company which Mr. Kindred owned. Kindred also had a great deal to do with lands and was closely connected with the Northern Pacific railroad and its vast holdings. Kindred avenue was named for this man.

"C. F. Kindred was rich and powerful and wished to go to congress from the great district which included much of Northern Minnesota. He spent lots of money. If he had been elected in these days after his large expenditures there would have been an investigation. His opponent was Knute Nelson. Kindred got all of the votes, and then some, up this way, as might be expected. There were only two or three hundred voters in the whole of what is Itasca county in 1888 or thereabouts. Kindred, it is reported, got several thousand from the precincts of Itasca. While he got all of the votes from the woods, Knute Nelson took all of the Scandinavian votes from the prairies and Knute Nelson went to congress and then on up. The Norwegians and the Swedes had been so busy settling up the state that they did not realize that they had any political power until Knute Nelson showed them what they might do. C. F. Kindred deserved an avenue in a new town.

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"The name of Houghton should never be removed from an avenue in Grand Rapids. Captain Houghton ran the boats on the Mississippi river from Aitkin to Grand Rapids. He first built a small one, then a larger one and then came the Andy Gibson which was the largest and the last. To operate a boat on the Mississippi river in the early days required a great deal of practical ability, courage and a high degree of optimism. To come up stream when the water was low was a real task. Everybody pushed at the greater emergencies. In the early days Grand Rapids received everything that it got on the boats. Before the railroad came Captain Houghton was the boss of transportation up in this neck of the woods. He laid out an addition to the village and an avenue was named for him. He was both prominent and thrifty.

"Naturally the loggers left their names on the village map. Simpson avenue was named for Sam Simpson. * * * He was one of the well known characters of the day when men were rough and ready. The Delaittres left their name on Delaittre avenue. * * *

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## Visions of Grand Rapids' Founders

"As in the case of most new communities, those who platted lands at Grand Rapids had visions which have never materialized. Forty years ago this community was a great center of logging. When iron ore was found on the Mesaba range it was thought that the greatest deposits lay on the western end of the range and that Grand Rapids would be a great mining center. Irrespective of prospects, the market for town lots was good and when there is a market it must be supplied. Thus many additions to the village were laid out after the original town site had been platted. The platted areas ran up and down the river. A town three or four miles square and large enough to accommodate 50,000 people was laid out. Wild forties were sold for additions to the village and after being platted property for many years some of them reverted to cow pastures and their streets and avenues have been erased from the map."

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James J. Hill, The Great Northern, & Iron Ore

"James J. Hill and the Great Northern Iron Ore properties secured their start in the iron ore business in Itasca county. When the Great Northern Railway Company bought the bankrupt Duluth and Winnipeg Railroad, it obtained title to some ten or twelve thousand acres of land in Itasca and St. Louis counties. Later James J. Hill, after viewing the Mahoning mine and seeing the possibilities for iron ore transportation, purchased the Duluth, Mississippi River and Northern Railroad. This was called in this section, the Wright and Davis Road and it was operated by Ammi W. Wright and Charles H. Davis of Saginaw, Michigan. It extended from Hibbing through Swan River and to the Mississippi River at Jacobson. The railroad later became the Swan River branch of the Great Northern. With the purchase, went about twenty-five thousand acres of Wright and Davis lands on the Mesaba Range.

"On these lands and others, were found iron ores which Mr. Hill believed would total between four hundred and six hundred million tons. Various corporations were formed to hold these universal lands. Later the Great Northern Iron Ore Properties was created and this organization has distributed at least seventy-five million dollars to those who hold its certificates. * * *

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"In 1907 the United States Steel Corporation made leases of the Great Northern ore lands. * * * On January 1, 1915 the Steel Corporation withdrew from the operation of Great Northern properties. * * *

"The ability or the good fortune of James J. Hill has meant much to the Great Northern Railroad. Three lines of railroad reach from the Mesaba range to the line of rail which extends through Grand Rapids to Duluth. In the busy season, the trains follow each other every hour or so. Northeastern Minnesota has been a profitable section to those railroads which have been fortunate enough to have iron ore to carry * * *. In an interview with W. W. Folwell in 1907, Mr. Hill said 'There, Mr. Folwell, this map shows ore lands worth six hundred million dollars, more or less. All of this I could have kept as my own, but I have turned it over to the stockholders of the Great Northern Railway Company. No man cares less for money than I do. I have enough for myself and my family; why should I burden myself with all this wealth?'"

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## 1894 Events of Importance in 1894.

~~1894~~ was a big year in the history of Grand Rapids. On Saturday, September 15, of that year, appeared the Grand Rapids Herald which was soon to become the Herald-Review. The telephone system was completed in that year, and the waterworks were built (?) The first electric lights to glow in the village of Grand Rapids appeared on Thanksgiving night in 1894 at the time of opening the Pokegama Hotel.

The opening of this hotel was the event of events, and, in the language of the Herald, "the handsome costumes of the ladies and the tasteful attire of the gentlemen gave a very pleasing appearance to the assemblage on the eve of the opening banquet and ball. There was a bountiful Thanksgiving dinner and at 10 o'clock the first electric light glowed at the hotel. Soon the entire building was lighted with great brilliancy and cheer after cheer resounded throughout the dining room and lobby."

"The builder of the Pokegama hotel was D. M. Gunn, who for half a century has had a most important connection with Grand Rapids and Itasca county. The completion of the Pokegama was a big event in his life though it was a hard task to finance a hotel during the hard times that were in existence following the panic of 1893.

"Mr. Gunn first came to Grand Rapids in 1882. He was born in Canada. Many of those who helped to develop northern Minnesota came to the United States

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from various Canadian provinces. D. M. Gunn, after spending a season in carpenter work in North Dakota, came with three companions to Aitkin. All were planning to come into the woods to work. However, Mr. Gunn secured a job as a clerk in a hotel run by Carl R. Douglas at Aitkin and in 1882 he came to Grand Rapids to look after a hotel and stopping place that Mr. Douglas had here and which stood near the present site of the paper mill.

"Grand Rapids was very, very new in 1882. There were a few stores and saloons. If a person knew his directions properly, walking through the woods and a couple of swamps would bring the traveler to Crystal lake which for some years after the founding of the village was considered on the outskirts of town. Naturally the hotels of the early days catered to the lumberjack trade. Drunken lumberjacks were interesting for awhile but they soon grew tiresome and after a few months of service Mr. Gunn went to Brainerd. There he came in contact with the men who laid out and founded the village of Grand Rapids. Ten years after his first visit he returned to Grand Rapids as the owner of the Pokegama hotel. His first structure burned and within a few months after this disaster the new Pokegama was constructed.

"The Pokegama hotel has seen many things. Under its roofs have slept the men who have played a very intimate and important part with every activity in Grand Rapids and northern Minnesota. The Pokegama could tell many an interesting story if it could talk. Some of those stories would deal with politics. Others would concern mines and timber. Many a fish story

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has been told in the Pokegama and many are the hunters who have added to their exploits as the hospitality of the hotel has added to their comfort. If the Pokegama could tell just half of what it knows, there would be enough history to fill a library.

"It was in 1894 that D. M. Gunn was elected a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives. After some years of service there he retired from politics, but in 1904 he was brought back into public service again. This time he served two terms of four years as state senator from this district. He looked after the interests of his constituents and did not make speeches.

"When D. M. Gunn came to Grand Rapids a half century ago this coming year, there was nothing here except some trees to cut and some Indians. Since that time agriculture, as it is found today, has been developed. Since 1882 the iron ore deposits of the Mesaba range have been discovered. The villages on the western end of the Mesaba range have been built. In them are banks and Mr. Gunn is president of six of them, for since the sale of the Pokegama hotel, approximately 15 years ago, his time has been devoted to banking and to other interests. * * *

"Grand Rapids was a rough and rugged community in its earlier days. The industry which surrounded it made it that way. Many young men who came to the village and to Itasca county succumbed to the bad influence which were constantly about them. Those who did not were perhaps all the stronger and

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better as the result of a broad experience with life. From the very outset, however, Grand Rapids possessed citizens who desired to build a substantial community and the year 1894 with all of its civic achievements perhaps ranks as the most important in the entire history of the community."

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Christmas Time

"Christmas time in Itasca county is today quite different than it was a quarter of a century or more ago.

"The most extensive observance of Christmas comes to communities where there are families, homes, schools, and plenty of children. The Christmas of the earlier days in the lumber camps was in quite a contrast to that of today. When the pine was being cut there were few homes, few churches and few women and children around about the country to make an excuse for Christmas celebration. Christmas was thus more or less of a date on the calendar.

"The holidays were busy times in the lumber camps. It was usually the best part of the year in which to cut and handle timber. The men would come in in the fall and probably work for from 30 to 60 days in making preparations and cutting. Lumber camps did not close down for Christmas though, the day was generally observed as one of rest. Some of the more thirsty among the men in camp might break away for a short drunk but it was not considered in good form to le ve the camp during the middle of the season and indulge in a long spree.

"There was very little liquor around lumber camps. Those who operated camps knew the weakness of their men and the rules against whiskey were very strict * * * Once in a while at one of the camps, especially at smaller camps which were run by individuals, some beer and whiskey would be brought in to help to observe Christmas or New Years. The quantity that was

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(continued)

brought to the camp, however, was limited. There was just enough to give a feeling of satisfaction without permitting any drunkenness.

"Christmas day was marked by some little addition attention to the appetite. There was usually a little extra food of the kinds that the men most liked on the tables. The cook also made mince pie or did a few extra things of that kind to observe the day. Sometimes some chicken or turkey would appear on the table. There was always plenty to eat in the lumber camps, particularly during the later days of logging and Christmas was marked by some additional efforts on the part of the worthy cook and his assistants.

"Camps differed very much in their natures. In some camps there was a group of men who simply ate, worked and slept. There was little or no visiting and not very much fun. At nine o'clock the lights were out and everyone was supposed to be in his bunk. Long before the winter daylight everyone was at work. At mealtime there was supposed to be no talking. Sunday was the day to sleep a little longer and do the washing, which each man did for himself on the Sabbath morning. Lumber camps were rather strict and very busy places and no wonder that when the spring breakup came the vast majority of the men wished to celebrate in the well known manner.

"However into some of the camps would come men who were talkative and friendly. Into the woods drifted many kinds of people and it was not surprising to find at lumber camps men who had had a large experience in other activities, even to the stage. S. D. Patrick tells of ventriloquists, sleight-of-

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hand men and circus performers who had in some way or other gotten into lumber camps. Naturally they used their talents to entertain others and Christmas days and Saturday evenings were marked by varieties of entertainment. In many camps there were fiddlers and there would be dances. The men who were to take the part of women tied handkerchiefs around their arms. There was dancing a large part of the night, interspersed with exhibitions of jigging, and clog dancing. Sometimes in the later days of logging, when there was a settlement in the wooded area, those who worked in lumber camps would, on Saturday evening, attend basket socials and other entertainments and many of them took quite a part in the community affairs of the wooded frontier.

"Lumberjacks could not be described as a religious people. They did not take creed or religion very seriously. Traveling ministers came to the camps and preached. Many of them, of course, did a great deal of good and they were always treated with respect. As a matter of fact, those who worked in the woods had, as far as can be known, but on general weakness. That was the desire to use strong drink. Many of those who worked in the woods became successful loggers and lumbermen. Many of them became leaders in communities and states.

"There were three distinct types of men, who came with the woods. The oldtime lumberjack was a Yankee who came from Maine or perhaps from lower Canada. He was of good American stock whose parents had followed woods work as their occupation in life. When the woods of Maine were cut these lumberjacks came to Michigan, then on to Minnesota and later perhaps went to the big

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woods farther west. Following them came the Scandinavians, the Norwegians and Swedes, strong, big men of the woods, many of whom stopped their work in camps to build and develop farms in the cutover region. Following this group came the mixed elements which the labor agencies sent out to the lumber camps. These men were everything from almost everywhere. Some of them were experienced in the woods and others were not. To the oldtime lumberjack cutting and sawing were almost a profession. He began work in the woods as a youth and followed it as long as he could swing an ax or draw a saw."

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December 30, 1931

Treaty of 1855 - Saloons

"Immediately before the world war there existed in this section a special sentiment for two things. One was to keep liquor away from the Indians, the other was to keep white people from drinking. The agitation which later resulted in the 18th amendment was at its height when it was discovered that an old Indian treaty executed in 1855 prohibited the sale of liquor in a large territory in a considerable part of which there were no Indians.

"The Indians liked liquor and the white brothers have both supplied it to him and have tried to keep it away from him. * * * In 1851 Gideon H. Pond, editor of the Dakota Friend and a man who knew the Indians told of their desire for drink as follows:

> 'Twelve years ago they bade fair to die, altogether, in one drunken jumble. They must be drunk - - they could hardly live if they were not drunk - - many of them seemed as uneasy when sober as a fish does when on land. At some of the villages they were drunk months together. There was no end to it. They would have whiskey. They would give guns, blankets, pork, lard, flour, corn, coffee, sugar, horses, furs, traps, anything, for whiskey. It was made to drink - it was good --it was wakan. They drank it, --they bit off each other's noses --broke each other's ribs and heads, they knifed each other. They killed one another with guns, knives, hatchets, clubs, fire-brands; they fell into fire and water and were burned to death, or drowned; they froze to death, and committed suicide so frequently that, for a time, the death of an Indian in some of the ways mentioned was but little thought of by themselves or others.'

"When treaties with the Indians were negotiated many of them provided that no liquor should be sold within certain areas. This was true of the treaty of 1855. However this treaty had evidently been forgotten until

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(continued)

about 1915. At that time the government was having a large amount of trouble with the sale of liquor to Indians. Not every saloon would openly sell over the bar to the Redskin. But the majority of them would and the federal agents ascertained this well known fact without much difficulty.

"To handle the situation easily and directly the old treaty was revived. It was found to include not only the territory in which the reservations were found, but it extended south of the Indian settlements, west a long ways, and east as far as Chisholm on the Mesaba range. Hibbing or Chisholm never saw an Indian except on special occasions but their saloons were closed up together with those of Grand Rapids and all of the rest of the communities on the western end of the Mesaba.

"The Indian agents did a most thorough and complete job. While public sentiment was not altogether in favor of reviving a sixty year old treaty, nevertheless, the saloon was very unpopular. People were ready to have them closed up whether or not there were Indians around. The saloonkeeper who did not voluntarily close his place was given a visit and Carrie Nation with her hatchet never did a better job of execution of bottles and kegs than did Pussyfoot Johnson's men. Beer, wine and old whiskies flowed down the sewers and broken bottles and staved in barrels were thrown into the corner. Most of the men who were in the saloon business were expecting to have to quit sometime, but they didn't expect the summons to come quite so soon. In Grand Rapids

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(continued)

there were about 20 saloons to close up, in Deer River there was about a dozen and some of the range towns in those earlier days had nearly as many saloons as they had houses.

"Some of the saloonkeepers thought there was nothing to the treaty. They argued that it was too old to have its effect but the courts sustained the actions of the Indian agents when a definite test was made. * * *

"Prohibition and Indian treaties have not kept liquor away from the Red Man. It is to be admitted that the Indian is not very discriminating in his tastes for strong drink. He does not speculate as to how old or how pure anything that is offered to him may be. If he can get it down his throat without taking the enamel from his teeth he drinks it. A very popular drink on the reservation in late years has been 'canned heat.' It can doubtless justly be said that most of the Indians have more use for their money to buy food than to buy moonshine and doubtless if it could be correctly ascertained it is probably true that the Indians of today have no stronger passion for liquor than do their white neighbors."

Grand Rapids Herald Report
Summer
July 25, 1940

January 6, 1932

Beans - Camp food.

When the French first came into Minnesota, pea soup was their principal food. Combined with salt or pickled pork into a thick soup it was a real food, easily produced.

Alexander McKenzie wrote a history of the fur trade, in which we find that when he was at Grand Rapids, in 1801, the diet of the inhabitants was a bit more varied.

"The proprietors, clerks, guides and interpreters mess together, to the number of sometimes a hundred, at several tables, in one large hall, the provision consisting of bread, salt pork, beef, hams, fish and venison, butter, peas, Indian corn, potatoes, tea, spirits, wine, etc., and plenty of milk, for which purpose several milch cows are constantly kept. The mechanics have rations of such provision, but the canoemen, both from the North and Montreal, have no other allowance here, or in the voyage, than Indian corn and melted fat. The corn for this purpose is prepared before it leaves Detroit, by boiling it in a strong alkali, which takes off the outer husk; it is then well washed, and carefully dried upon stages, when it is fit for use. One quart of this is boiled for two hours, over a moderate fire, in a gallon of water; to which, when it has boiled a small time, are added two ounces of melted suet; this causes the corn to split, and in the time mentioned makes a pretty thick pudding. If to this is added a little salt (but not before it is boiled, as it would interrupt the operation) it

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(continued)

makes a wholesome, palatable food, and easy of digestion. This quantity is fully sufficient for a man's subsistence during twenty-four hours; though it is not sufficiently heartening to sustain the strength necessary for a state of active labor. The Americans call this dish hominee."

"Baked beans have had the most important role in sustaining energy and strength for the work of the woods and a new country. The baked bean is just about as old as the nation itself. It was a standby in New England and quite a few families in Minnesota still cling to the old New England custom of baked beans, hot on Saturday evening and cold for breakfast Sunday morning.

"Beans were the outstanding food of the lumber camps. * * * Beans also combined well with pork to make that most famous partnership of pork and beans. Beans were brought into Grand Rapids for lumber camps by the ton. * * *

"No breakfast was complete without several stacks of flapjacks. It was quite a job to make enough cakes for a hundred hungry men and the cook and his assistants were on the job early. There was plenty of coffee and the tea was strong enough to tan the insides of those who were not accustomed to it.

"Wild rice was the favorite food of the Indian. Now under normal conditions the Indian can sell most of his rice for a good price, for Fifth Avenue has taken to wild rice within the past few years and what was once a drug on the market now is in good demand."

January 13, 1932

## Schools

From an old minute book of the board of education of School District No. 1, Itasca county. The book has 200 pages. In it, in long hand, are written the minutes of the board for the period from July 30, 1894 to March 11, 1903. It is evident from the minutes that the school district at that time included all of Itasca county.

The members of the school board in 1894 were H. R. King, E. A. Kremer and Charles Kearney, who was clerk and in whose handwriting the minutes for three or four years appear.

During the period covered by the book there were three clerks of the school district, Charles Kearney, Mary Ehle and Mrs. C. C. McCarthy. There was also quite a change in the board membership, though there were always three members, as at present. (?)

In 1895 there were 11 teachers employed in the district. Milton Todd was the principal of the schools and there were teachers for the six grades. Evidently there was no school beyond the sixth grade in 1895 for there is no mention of the employment of teachers for higher grades. In addition to the employment of teachers for the Grand Rapids schools, teachers were employed for Swan River, Cohasset, Deer River and Blackberry. Mr. Todd as principal received $85 per month. Some of the teachers received $50 per month and others $40. E. T. Carroll was later employed as superintendent of schools at Grand Rapids for $1000 a year. The budget estimate of expenses for operating the schools for a year as

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(continued)

presented to the board on July 5, 1897, was $12,600.

One of the most important pieces of business in 1895 was the erection of the new school. This school is now known as the Central School (?) The old building which had served before that time was moved to one corner of the block and bids were received for the new school during the summer. Schwartz and Spindler got the contract at $21,482. In addition there were heating and other contracts bringing the cost to around $30,000.

Poplar firewood was bought for $1.40 a cord, tamarack for $2.25, and it appears that J. M. Romans furnished some jack-pine to the school district for $1.75 a cord.

Mrs. McCarthy began her work as clerk on July 5, 1899. By that time some high school work had been established and the district required another new school. It was about three years, however, before a separate building for the high school was started. At the meeting of July 19, 1902, the budget for expenses for the district was set at $20,000 and $30,000 was set aside for the erection of a new high school. Bids were received for the school as it was later constructed for approximately $32,000 with heating and plumbing and additional costs of from $5,000 to $6,000.

In 1902 a petition was received for a school at Bigfork and schools had been established at Trout Lake, near Pokegama Lake and beginning at about this time every meeting seemed to contain a petition for a school in the outlying sections. Most of these schools were not expensive. The first Trout Lake school cost $125 and the first school constructed at Warba cost $145. A

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(continued)

school at Cow Horn Lake was built late in 1902 and in 1903 the high school at Grand Rapids was ready for occupancy.

In the winter season of 1900-1901 smallpox was very prevalent in Itasca county, and all children were required to have a certificate showing that they had been vaccinated.

Transportation was not easy then, and there was no transportation of students, or aid to those who went to school.

Grand Rapids Herald Report
Summer
July 25, 1940

January 20, 1932

Roads

"C. M. King first came to Itasca county as a homesteader in the Bigfork valley. Educated as a schoolteacher and a lawyer, he taught one of the first schools near Effie. * * * After some time at his home in Effie he moved to Deer River where he was superintendent of schools and where he practiced law.

"It was as county commissioner from the first district in Itasca county that Mr. King became best known. His commissioner district was larger than many counties of the state. It was wild and undeveloped. C. M. King had a passion for roads. * * * He pleaded for every penny the county would allow him for highway construction. He would go in debt for roads. He gave all of his personal energy and attention to highways. He worked on the road question days and evidently dreamed about it at night and it is interesting to recall the fact that several years before the trunk highway system in Minnesota was created, C. M. King told of his idea of the same plan that is now followed for financing and construction of a trunk highway system.

"Mr. King's conception of the road problem was far in advance of his time and most of the roads which he laid out are still in use because he planned that they should begin and terminate at definite places.

"Not only as an apostle of good roads was C. M. King prominent, but he was prominent in the Democratic party and he took a leading part in matters pertaining to development. He wore a long-tailed coat and a broad-brimmed hat

January 20, 1932
(continued)

and he was always going somewhere or doing something.

A story is told about C. M. King as commissioner. A long list of names was submitted by each commissioner for jury service. The rest of the commissioners looked over Mr. King's and gasped. All of them were Johnsons, 40 or 50 of them, all from district one in Itasca county."

Says the editor of the Herald-Review, in the issue of January 20, 1932:

"Personally we well remember attending a citizenship hearing in Grand Rapids some 12 or 15 years ago. A large number of Finnish people from the western part of the county were becoming citizens and R. K. Doe of Duluth, who was naturalization officer, was examining all of the prospective citizens. He asked them the usual questions as to who was governor and congressman and questions with which people are supposed to be familiar. That day C. M. King was governor, congressman, senator and everything but president of the United States. When the question was asked as to who occupied any important office the first name that came to a Finnish person from western Itasca county was that of C. M. King. Only death interrupted or could have interrupted Mr. King's service as commissioner from his district."

"The C. M. King home at Deer River, in which Stafford King, state auditor from to was raised, was a very busy home. Along about nine o'clock in the morning, even earlier, people would

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(continued)

come in to consult the commissioner. We never went to the C. M. King home that we were not asked to stay for dinner and that everyone else who came was not asked to participate in a meal. Along about 11 o'clock Mrs. King would look in from the kitchen and size up the task that was before her. The telephone or the doorbell was ringing all the time. One person would wish some relief from the county poor funds which were then in the hands of the commissioners for expenditure. Another one wished a road. There were frequent consultations about road building methods and the work which was important to many a new settler was distributed around as the commissioner thought best. A telephone message would request that Mr. King bring out some spavin cure on his next visit or do some errand for some person out in the country. The telephone preceded the road and Mr. King was not only an official but an errand boy for the whole countryside. * * *"

Grand Rapids Herald Report
Summer
July 25, 1940

## Special Note

Fur Farming in Grand Rapids.

Ascertain all about fur farming business of Mr. H. A. LeSueur and the Bunce Brothers. Anybody else in the fur farm business there?

E. A. Sumner.

January 27, 1932

Drinking Liquor

Probably no one has had a much larger experience with lumberjacks than George Arscott of Grand Rapids. For over 30 years he worked with them in the woods, cooked for them, employed them in his own timber operations.

He started almost as a boy, in Michigan. He worked there for the Itasca Lumber Company. Then he came here where he was employed by Wright & Davis, Price Brothers, Dempsey & Dougherty, and other well known early operators. For ten years he logged on his own account. He has given much time to public service. He was president of the Grand Rapids village council for some years, and a long time chairman of the board of School District No. One.

"The lumberjacks of Michigan and the early woods workers of this section were mighty men. They were from Maine, Canada, Scotland. In fact Mr. Arscott said that he had worked for eight years in the woods before he saw a Scandinavian at a lumber camp. The earlier lumberjacks were professional woodsmen from wooded countries.

George Arscott cannot speak too highly of the men of the woods. He thinks that they were the best lot of men ever assembled in any one industry. They were exceedingly loyal to their employers. That was a lumberjack characteristic. Some of them worked year in and year out for the same operator. They knew the boss and the boss knew them. They worked together on a basis of

mutual respect.

"The lumberjack was a hard worker. He gave his job all that he had. He took pleasure in being able to do a good day's work. There was competition as to who could best chop, saw or handle logs. Cutting down pine trees was a profession. It was the life work of most of the men who followed the woods. Many of them went west to the big timber when the pine of northern Minnesota had been cut, and some of the old-timers from this section could go to Oregon and Washington and see many of the men with whom they worked years ago.

"The real lumberjack was a man of most kindly disposition. A teamster would take better care of his horses than he would of himself. There was no such thing as disrespect for women. Money had little value except to give away or buy something to drink. The lumberjack's sense of humor may have been a little coarse, but it was keen and to the point. The lumberjack became a romantic character because he possessed certain very splendid and outstanding qualities on which romance could be built. * * *"

"The lumberjack had but one fault, the desire to drink. That was a common failing but Mr. Arscott says that it was not one that was confined only to the lumberjack in the early days of Itasca. Drinking was the common fault of many people. The lumberjack did more of his at one time. He worked hard all winter, came into town in the spring and in a few hours of time the strong shrewd men of the woods became about as responsible as children. Their money was spent or stolen. The weeks and months of effort went for nothing. But there was another winter ahead.

January 27, 1932
(continued)

"Some of the men did not drink, saved their money, went into business for themselves or bought land and timber. They were the exceptions.

* * *

"When logging was at its height from four to five thousand men worked in the camps tributary or near to Grand Rapids. That created a great deal of activity. Grand Rapids was busy, very busy. So was Deer River. As high as 1500 men would come into Deer River in a day during the fall when the camps were starting. Its four large hotels were filled to overflowing and scores of men slept on the saloon floors. * * *"

February 10, 1932

Rivers - Logging

"The rivers were the early arteries of transportation in Itasca county. The first logs to be cut were harvested near to the lakes and rivers and floated down to the mills as far down the Mississippi as Winona and Keokuk.

"The three important rivers in Itasca county from a logging standpoint are the Mississippi, the Prairie and the Bigfork, which flows north toward the Rainy. The first logs to be cut in this section were naturally cut on the banks of the Mississippi, loaded into the water and allowed to find their way southward.

A letter from John Gilmore of Minneapolis to his friend C. H. Marr of Grand Rapids tells how Gilmore and others came on a flatboat from Aitkin to what is now Grand Rapids in the fall of 1872. Mr. Gilmore at the time of writing that letter was one of the very few men left who had cut logs in Itasca at so early a date. There was not even a shanty of any kind on the site of Grand Rapids at that time. Gilmore was working with Gil Hanson, Andy Gibson and Wes Day and these men spotted a tote road up the Prairie river to the mouth of Clearwater brook. During that winter there was considerable activity on the Prairie. Wes Day had four camps on Clearwater brook and Hill Lawrence had two camps on the lake that was later named for him, Lawrence lake. The four men who were in charge of Wes Day's camps were Dan Day, Henry Saunders, Tom Costigan and Jim Jones. Chris Burns and Bob McCabe were working for Hill Lawrence that winter and Captain Hasty was walking boss for Lawrence.

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(continued)

Andy Gibson was a wonderfully good man in the woods, but would not take more than $1.00 a day for his work, it is said.

"The tote teams used to bring up what is described as 'forty-rod whiskey,' but the lumberjacks would steal it if they could find it on the load. William Tibbetts drove one of the teams, but he always kept a sharp lookout for whiskey thieves and very seldom was the whiskey stolen. Tibbetts did not drink, and was a safe custodian for the hooch.

William Seeley of Aitkin was in Gil Hanson's camp with John Gilmore on Clearwater. Con Dineen, another character of the early days of Itaska county, worked for Wes Day and G. G. Hartley, later of Duluth and famous for his mineral success, also got his first experience on the Prairie in the early 70's.

The first dam at the foot of Wabana lake was built by Con Dineen in the fall of 1872. Following this season the Prairie became a very active stream, and was a great carrier of forest products for over half a century.

Grand Rapids Herald Report
Summer
July 25, 1940

February 17, 1932

Religion - Churches - Sunday Schools

In 1910 there was not a Sunday School in Itaska county except in the villages or in the communities where there were churches. There was no rural Sunday school work. The country was new, there were few roads, and settlement was only well begun.

Then in 1910 H. J. Snyder came to Grand Rapids, and Itasca county. Since that time Mr. Snyder has established many Sunday schools. He represents (ed?) in Itasca county the American Sunday School Union. This great inter-denominational movement is nationwide in scope.

Its plan has been to establish Sunday schools in rural sections where there are no churches. When a church comes to the community, the work is taken over by the church. For many years H. J. Snyder has been (was?) the general community minister, performing, in addition to Sunday school work, all the other duties which fall to religious leaders.

For many years Grand Rapids and Itasca county were regarded as a mission field for the various established churches, and the county had two very interesting activities of a religious nature. One of these was to Christianize the Indians. This has been no easy task. The Indians do not take readily to the white man's religious principles. The outstanding good that the church seems to have done for the Indian here will probably be found in its charitable activities and the influence of example exerted by the white man's everyday life and behavior, yielding comforts and luxuries such as the savage

February 17, 1932
(continued)

life never gave them --not the preaching or teaching religious tenets.

The Indian has his own concept of religion, and he stands by it as strongly and as sincerely as the Christian stands by his belief, only he has never had the complex to try to bring the white brother over on his side. But among the Indians there are various sects, each eternally trying to make converts of the rest, even as in the Christian world. Some of the religious activities of the Indians have had to be restricted by the Indian Department, because they involved too much on the part of those who were seeking converts to their particular views. Many of the Indian dances have a very strong religious significance. The Indian takes his religion just as seriously as any other race of people, but he manifests it in his own way, and embraces the white man's ideas of theology very slowly --and very loosely, as a rule.

The other special objective of many of the churches has been the conversion of the lumberjacks. He also was slow to take up any different religious ideas than he already possessed. They were always very respectful to the ministers who came to preach to them, but it is very doubtful that any impression was made that didn't wash off at the basin.

Scandinavian people have strong church organizations, and some of the Finnish people are religious, attending a division of the Lutheran church. In the range communities the Greek Orthodox church serves a large constituency from central European countries.

Grand Rapids Herald Report
Summer
July 25, 1940

February 24, 1932

Eating - Food

When Grand Rapids was the wooded frontier:

Snow birds were very plentiful here in the early days of logging, and the people of Itasca county were accustomed to making snow bird pie. The birds were attracted to a place under a blanket by some sort of bait, and when a good flock was feeding the stakes holding up the blanket were dropped flat; catching a good part of the covey. It took two or three dozen for a meat pie, but this was considered a great winter treat.

Other game eaten extensively by the early comers were, of course, squirrels, rabbits, raccoons, beavers, especially the tails, woodchuck, porcupine.

Of course venison and moose are the real standbys in pioneer countries. Prior to 1865 there were no deer in Itasca county, nor any place in Minnesota north of Mille Lac. But the moose were plentiful, and moose meat is preferable to venison by most people. And there are plenty of deer there now.

Bear meat was eaten extensively, also, and wild ducks were appreciated, and coots. But civilization has come, and with it has returned the appetite for beef, pork and poultry.

Grand Rapids Herald Report
Summer
July 25, 1940

March 2, 1932

Newspapers

"A. G. Bernard was an early editor in Itasca, probably the first in this immediate section. (Grand Rapids vicinity) He established a newspaper at La Prairie which then had the prospects of becoming a metropolis. La Prairie's hopes, however, were short-lived. Business moved to what is now Grand Rapids, and with it the newspaper. For several years Mr. Bernard conducted the Magnet of Grand Rapids. He was known as the 'Moose.' This distinction was given because of the fact that he had a very large nose which reminded the early citizens of the appearance of the nose of a moose as this monarch of the forest stepped out of the woods. The hopes of Grand Rapids which led to the broad and early extensions of the village limits over a considerable area in these parts, also induced the establishment of newspapers. E. C. Kiley came to work for A. G. Bernard and later established the Herald. The Lumberman's Review was consolidated with Mr. Kiley's paper to make the Herald-Review. D. C. Anderson and his brother established the Itasca County Independent which was purchased later by A. L. La Freniere. The Herold-Review and Independent jointly disposed of the Magnet, which, in the meantime, had come by some way or another into the ownership of Henry Hughes. A. G. Bernard was reputed to have had an interesting past before he came to Itasca county and after leaving here he establishod papers at Walker and Cass Lake. We know nothing about later events in his life."

Grand Rapids Herald Report
Summer
July 25, 1940

March 9, 1932

## Crime in Early Itasca

Rough characters made for crimes of violence in early Itasca, with its rough surroundings. At almost every court session, some one went on trial for murder, while today a murder case is a rarity, and at many sessions of the court the grand jury is not called to consider any criminal charges.

"In 1896 ~~the land~~ in 60-24 was being settled. Napoleon Russell and his family built a home of logs on the tote road running through that township. Near the Russell home John Bacon lived alone on the shores of a lake. Further down on the lake lived Peter McKenna. McKenna had but one eye and was known as 'One Eyed Pete'. His record was not good. It was reputed that he stole things from the houses of the homesteaders. The settlers would lock their homes but McKenna would lift the padlock so that the keyhole would be somewhat exposed, back off and shoot into the lock with his rifle. He would then obtain what he wished and as Bacon had missed some flour and other necessities he naturally thought that One Eyed Pete had taken them.

"One Sunday morning Napoleon Russell and his family came to Grand Rapids to do some trading, a task which would normally require several days. Before they left they asked Bacon to come over at times and feed the chickens and look after their property. Two or three days later some neighbors coming by the Russell homestead saw that it had been burned to the ground. They notified the owners in Grand Rapids who hurried back. In the ruins of the cabin

March 9, 1932
(continued)

were found some bones which Dr. Russell, as coroner of the county at that time, put into a cardboard box and brought to Grand Rapids. There was also a match safe and a knife said to belong to John Bacon. Underneath the bones was a small piece of unburned cloth later identified as part of a Mackinaw which belonged to Bacon. There was also the key to the Russell chicken coop. One Eyed Pete was immediately arrested and charged with the murder of John Bacon.

"On the stand McKenna told a certain story. He said that on Monday he went to a neighbor's homestead, that of a man named Breckenridge, for the purpose of cutting hay. It was a rainy morning and as Breckinridge had decided not to cut he determined to go home and cut on his own meadow. As his land laid [sic] near to that of Bacon, there was dispute about the ownership of the meadow. When McKenna arrived at his home he found that the hay had been cut. He saw Bacon, said that he thanked him for cutting his hay and then went on. He swore that he never saw Bacon again and did not know what had become of him.

"C. L. Pratt was the county attorney and C. C. McCarthy was appointed to defend McKenna. There was a strong presumption of One Eyed Pete's guilt. But the law was in his favor. An important question, well known in courts, was raised. In order to convict McKenna it was first necessary to prove the death of Bacon. No one may be convicted of first degree murder without proof that the person who was supposed to have been killed was actually dead. There was strong evidence to show that he was. But there must be positive and complete

March 9, 1932
(continued)

proof of death. That point could not be proved. The bones and evidence found among the ruins were not considered ample evidence. McKenna was freed.

"After the verdict of the court McKenna proceded to get drunk. He then talked. He told how on Monday morning he had gone to the Breckenridge homestead to cut some hay but as it was rainy he returned by way of the Russell home. There he saw John Bacon splitting wood. Words followed. He claimed that Bacon attacked him, and that he shot and killed him. He dragged the body into the Napoleon Russell home, piled wood around it, emptied the contents of a five-gallon kerosene can about the premises and set the shack on fire.

"McKenna could not be again prosecuted for murder. He was, however, immediately rearrested and sentenced on a charge of burning a building occupied by a human being. He was found guilty in quick order and sentenced to seven years in the penitentiary.

"McKenna had little or no means to pay for his defense. He had his claim in 60-24 which was then covered with pine. His right was being contested by the Great Northern Railway company which had laid some script on his property as it was suspected that iron ore was to be found throughout that whole section. While McKenna was in jail, the title to the claim was settled. The timber which was valuable was sold by McKenna for $1950. One half of it went to pay the expenses of the defense and settling the title to the property. The other half of it McKenna received on his release from prison. Not knowing what to do with his money, he intrusted it to a friend of his by the name of Hicks. Hicks made way with the money and shortly afterwards was accused of murdering

March 9, 1932
(continued)

one of Jim Sherry's lumberjacks in a dispute over care of horses."

This is but one of many gruesome tales of early Grand Rapids.

Supplementary Research on Grand Rapids.

You ask for example of C. C. Kelly's humorous writings. The following is taken from the Grand-Rapids Herald-Review for September 19, 1934, Anniversary Edition.

THE LUMBERJACK - - - A MAN OF LABOR AND ROMANCE. By C. C. Kelly.

In reverse English of excellence came the lumberjack. Best, better, good, indifferent--he came in successive waves, so to speak, and the best came first, for which there was good reason.

Only the best could have endured and survived the tribulations confronting the first breakers--into our once mighty pine forests. Ox freight, foot and walker route, canoe, or poled scow. You had your choice, and made your road as you went. Also as a matter of course you built your camp when you got there.

Mud-chinked shack of logs it was. Bare earth space in center for fire and beanhole. Hole in roof directly overhead for escape of smoke, and there you were. Camp length stretch of vacancy on each side, which held two forty foot length blankets. He who wanted a better bed didn't get it. One blanket under, one over, and you slept as cozy as so many pigs in a straw pile. It was a grand life if you didn't weaken. If you did you were kicked out, weakening being worse than any capital offence known to court of law, and treated accordingly.

Beans, cooked in the always going beanhole, salt pork, bread from a dutch oven, and tea strong as lye made up the usual menu. The lumberjack had two breakfast hours, one at 3 a. m. if he was a teamster, the other at 4 a. m. if he was in another part of the crew. Breakfast over, the whole crew was at work, and stayed at work until dark, with interval enough to eat at noon.

You see that the original lumberjack of the "best" kind, had to be tough enough to eat Harveyized steel, and he was. Pillows and suchlike effeminacies to him were unknown, and he was always, to use his own expression, "as lousy as a pet coon." Sam Simpson, who knew the lumberjack at his best said that he was "The best man and the damnedest fool who ever worked for wages." There is no better description. White man he was always, and white man has more than one meaning.

From Maine and Canada.

This best lumberjack as a rule came from Maine or Canada, and those from the one loved not those from the other; one being born on one side of an imaginary line or real waterway, one on the other. The reason? The same reason why two great European nations have been slaughtering each other for 2,000 years. Hence there were many fights. No natural weapons barred, one round to finish, which was when one was unconscious, dead, or had squealed. Very few squealed. This lumberjack seldom lived out half his days, and seldom married, hence his goodly kind is all but extinct, but his memory is still green enough to make some tales of him and his doings of interest.

Strong hands grasped and held the standing timber, a way strong hands have with natural resources the world over. The old order changed, giving way to the new. Business methods were instituted, and while the old order mitigated the hostility of woods conditions generally they disagreed with the best lumberjack, and he slowly faded out of the picture.

About that time began the heavy inflow of foreign labor, mostly Scandinavian. Good workers, good and able, and full soon the better lumberjack did the woods work, after the best had gone. The "better" lumberjack was succeeded by the "good" woodsworker, who came as part of the wave of cheaper men. They worked for less, but they were still called lumberjacks, and still were able to get out the logs. Anyhow they were better than the "indifferent" wave which succeeded them, and which finished up the slaughter of pine timber for BAD and all.

## The Food Was Good.

One thing must be said: From the beginning of the "better" period down to the finish of the lumberjack the woods cuisine was superb, although the camps were not, they being built of cull lumber and tarpaper. But Big Business knew that good cooks are the cheapest cooks to be had, and got them. Camp fare became so good that one foreigner remarked in my presence "Dis one bully country, every day Crismus in de woods." Logging foremen explained the good food by saying that the men must eat a certain amount if they were to work hard all day, and that "Sweet stuff is the thing, sugar and molasses are cheaper than beef." Maybe they were, anyway the men came into the woods lean and hungry, and went out in the spring fat and sassy. The camps with the best cooks were quickly learned, and the men sought them in preference to those where the flapjacks were soggy. Many a cook was fired in order to hold a crew of men in camp, when logs were needed at the landing and work was plentiful.

Now dropping the lumberjack in general, let us glance at a few of him in particular, first saying that all of those glanced at were and are of the "best" variety. Now can it be said that of all those supermen if any one can be said to have been "The best man on the river", as themselves would have worded it, the river being always understood as the Mississippi, then Sam Hunter's name comes naturally to tongue and pen.

A great man was sam, and many and great his exploits, among which was his cheerful custom when bossing a drive of going along the river bank on starting day and pitching all the green hands headlong into the water. When they emerged, dripping and shivering, he always assured them kindly "You are all right now, and needn't be afraid of falling in. If you do you can't get any wetter than you are. So get busy and warm up and keep busy, or I'll throw you in again." So they got busy and kept busy. Sam's methods were strenuous but effective. It might be said that he overdid them sometimes, but he never drowned anyone. The man was strength incarnate, and such strength will be used giant-wise occasionally.

## Good Men of the Woods.

All lumberjacks were fighting men on proper occasion, and an unabridged dictionary space could be filled with their names without naming all of them. The Rush brothers, Jim and Joe, Al Mason, Old Sparks, Jack O'Connell, Tom Harrington, Pat Holland, Billy Rogers, Levi Brockway, and a host of others might be named, but I will say I am strongly of opinion that not one of them could have man-handled John Snodgrass of Aitkin in a fair rough and tumble. Certainly, none ever did.

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Railroads ---

"The Great Northern Railroad through Itasca county was built as part of that system of transportation from Grand Rapids or Deer River westward. The Duluth, Messabe and Northern came to Coleraine to carry the Steel Corporation's ore from the Canisteo district to the docks at Duluth.

"A much larger mileage of railroad was built in the county for logging purposes. The first railroad of this kind was the Swan River Railroad, as it was called. This was built by the Michigan loggers who became interested in Itasca pine, Wright & Davis. It extended northward from the Mississippi, crossing the Great Northern at Swan River and thence north and east towards Hibbing. This road was built about 40 years ago (about 1892) for the purpose of taking pine from that section to the Mississippi at Jacobson or Mississippi Landing.

"The railroad fulfilled that purpose, but its owners did another thing of importance. They acquired a large amount of land, especially towards Hibbing and on the Mesaba range. This land, some of it, had very good iron ore deposits. J. J. Hill became interested in iron ores, not only because of its mineral but its transportation possibilities. He purchased the Wright & Davis holdings. He acquired very great iron mines which later became the possession of the Great Northern Iron Ore Properties. The Wright & Davis road leading northward became the Swan River branch of the Great Northern. The old logging road was completely transformed. Over the roadbed and rails that once carried

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(continued)

lurching cars of pine there now thunder the long, Great Northern trains of ore, bound for Superior and its docks. The Swan River road was a logging road that turned out well."

"About 1906 or 1907 (check) some people started the townsite of Hill City. They built a railroad from the end of the Great Northern at Mississippi Landing into their new town. They projected factories, farms and other things. They interested Armour & Company in the construction of a large plant for making tubs, pails and other things in which to ship the products of the great Armour packing plants. That plant began its operations in about 1910 and continued them for about 17 years. Then as hardwood became scarce the plant was abandoned and later the railroad. The abandonment of the railroad was opposed before the Interstate Commerce Commission but the railroad company won its point. However before rails were taken up citizens of the community banded together and with the aid of the Great Northern purchased the road and its equipment at junk value from the Armours and rail service has been continued.

"The Hill City Railroad might be called something of a one man railroad. Every effort has been made to keep the trains in operation and expenses of service have been cut. George Hankerson may have the title of general manager of the railroad but his tasks are more than managing, we understand. He sweeps out the terminal, looks after all the auditing and records, helps to keep the train running, and when there is not business enough to bring out the locomotive he takes a gasoline car up to Swan River. On days that the train does not run, mail service is continued in this manner. The plan is to run

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locomotives only when there is business enough to warrant. Since the demand for forest products is poor, there is not very much demand for rail service. However the citizens who have become railroad owners and managers are sticking by the job and the community is patronizing the carrier to the best of its ability. * * *

"In naming logging railroads there was optimism at least. The Minneapolis & Rainy River was well christened but it reached to neither Minneapolis nor to the Rainy River. The Minnesota, Dakota & Western, the Backus logging railroad is still about 200 miles from the Dakotas. (Check this)

May 11, 1932

## Newspapers

In 1862 there was no newspaper in all the broad area extending northward from the Twin Cities.

The first one was founded by A. G. Bernard at La Prairie, about 1891. The Grand Rapids Herald-Review was established in 1893. Papers were established at Hibbing, Virginia, and other places in the newly established mining region in the nineties.

The first of these, and for years the most influential, was that owned by C. M. Atkinson of Hibbing. (Check for its name)

The Herald-Review of the late nineties contains many interesting items illustrative of the ti es and conditions.

"The cut of logs for the season ending in April, 1897, in the Grand Rapids area was listed at 165 million feet. * * * It was not a good winter for the loggers according to the report, for only half as many men were employed as in the season before and the general reports were that it was the worst logging season in the history of Minnesota to that date. There was a very heavy fall of snow, the swamps were not frozen and the weight of the snow on the ice of the lakes caused water complications which were embarrassing.

"The North Central Experimental Station was established in 1896 and there were complaints that the appropriations made by the legislature which adjourned in April, 1897, did not suffice for this institution. The amount was $2,000.

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The issue of April 24th, 1897, says of the work of this station:

"In the first season a great many varieties of grains, grasses and fruit had been planted. The residence, which was replaced this past year, was constructed and about 50 acres of land was cleared. Experiments were started with about 25 varieties of corn and many kinds of grain. Potatoes were getting their share of attention and important experiments to prevent scab and rot were under way. It was in that year that pine seedlings were brought on to the farm, under the direction of Superintendent Pendergast, for the purpose of establishing the experimental forest which has since been of large interest. The peat experiments were started and a colony of bees was to be brought to the farm to test out their industry among the native wild flowers of this section.

"An item of considerable interest was the fact that some man had stolen four barrels of corned beef from the Knox warehouse on the banks of the Mississippi. The Herald-Review was congratulating the county that its one time competitor, A. G. Bernard, was about to move to Cass county. The Rainy Lake gold rush was started. There was talk about sugar beets. E. A. Kremer and H. D. Powers were elected officers of the Itasca Gun Club. Most important was the discussion of construction of the railroad from Deer River westward and the fact that it was rumored that capitalists were interested in this construction.

"The section of the paper devoted to legal notices contained a fair number of mortgage foreclosure notices. There was a good part of a

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column for notices of hearing on application for liquor licenses. The saloons then contributed a large part of the cost of running the village government. The railroads near and far advertised in the Herald-Review of 1897 giving their detailed schedules from Duluth and Minneapolis. This included not only the large lines, but the Duluth, Mississippi River and Northern which operated in those days from Hibbing to Mississippi Landing. Among the advertisers The Itasca Mercantile Company used the largest space.

The newspapers of northeastern Minnesota were preaching agriculture when there was hardly a settler in the entire area covered. (served) They talked of clover and cows when a cow was almost a curiosity. An inspection of the files of the Grand Rapids Herald-Review throughout the decades of its existence show not only the agitation for agricultural development, but record the county's progress in that regard year by year.

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H. D. Powers

"There is one man in Grand Rapids who knows his weather. That is H. D. Powers, who for 42 years of residence in the community has kept a daily record of the temperature and the weather. Systematically every day, year in and year out, Mr. Powers has recorded the temperature and prevailing weather conditions.

It was in May, 1890, that H. D. Powers came to Grand Rapids. The railroad then terminated at La Prairie. It was known at that time, however, that La Prairie was not to be the town but Grand Rapids was to be the outstanding community of the section. Word had come out that the railroad was to be extended to Grand Rapids and later to the west. The townsite had been laid out though the community itself, which had not been incorporated as a village, was clustered about the river front. John Beckfelt had a warehouse there and Potter & Company also had landings and warehouses.

Mr. Powers had been in Brainerd. The decision to come to Grand Rapids was made in May, and in July, 1890, a stock of goods was brought up river from Brainerd. The steamer Lottie Lee was chartered for the purpose and loaded with hardware. It was quite a job getting upstream and at Oxbow Rapids half of the load was taken from the boat and a return trip made for it. In a simple frame building not far from the present location of the store (check) W. J. and H. D. Powers established their hardware business. With them was their father, D. S. Powers, who resided in Grand Rapids many years. W. J. Powers left the firm in 1912. * * * H. D. Powers has carried on the business system-

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(continued)

atically and continuously. (check)

Transportation has changed greatly since 1890. When the stock of hardware arrived in Grand Rapids it was after a strenuous journey up river. Even for many years after the coming of the railroad the river served as means of transportation of both goods and people. Sometimes the trip was made quickly. Sometimes it was a hard trip in which both passengers and crew worked together. As the Lottie Lee journeyed upriver with the hardware an accident with the Fawn was narrowly averted. On land the ox was used extensively in the nineties.

"The hardware business has changed in 50 years. As soon as the store was established the chief demand was for heavy hardware, largely for logging purposes. The big business was that of cutting pine. The hardware firm made and lost money as loggers made and lost. Fall and winter was a very busy season. In the summer H. D. Powers had time to fish.

"Mr. Powers had an inside tip on the future of Grand Rapids when he came here. People from Brainerd played a great part in establishing the townsite of Grand Rapids. They owned much of it and made inducements in land to the Duluth and Winnipeg Railroad to extend its line to the community. Among those whom Mr. Powers consulted concerning moving to Grand Rapids was Charles Kindred of Brainerd. The predictions made by Mr. Kindred and others for the community have been realized. * * *

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"If anyone may be described as a leading sportsman of a community in which many are interested in hunting and fishing, that man may be H. D. Powers. He has been interested in every kind of hunting and fishing that the country has offered and long before the game began to show itself in lesser quantity, Mr. Powers was an ardent advocate of sportsmanship and conservation.

"Even more important,however, has been Mr. Powers' long identity with every public movement within the community. When the village of Grand Rapids was organized he was its first treasurer. When the county was organized John Beakfelt was elected the first county treasurer and he appointed Mr. Powers as his assistant to do the work. He has served in nearly every public capacity that the community offers, from treasurer to president of the village council and is now upon the Library Board (check) and the Water and Light Commission (check). Since the organization of the Water and Light Commission by the village Mr. Powers has been one of its most far-sighted members.

"H. D. Powers came up the river to the head of navigation because he saw a promising community in the making. He was right in his guess and loyal in his later devated service to Grand Rapids and Itasca county. * * *

A large number of people in and around Grand Rapids have seen the

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process of settlement and development proceed; have seen a few rude buildings on the waterfront develop into a lively modern village; have seen the line of forest driven back and rich, productive farms appear where once was only brush and trees.

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Log Drives - The Boom Co.

"The last drive of pine passed down the Mississippi in 1916. * * * The first logs to be cut on Pokegama, nearby on the upper Mississippi, or on the Prairie were cut in 1868 to 1870. After the industry was established the Mississippi River Boom company was organized for the purpose of taking the logs down the Father of Waters without loss. This organization represented the mill owners or large loggers. Its north limits on the Mississippi were at Grand Rapids. Loggers drove their pine down the river to this point and delivered it to the boom company. As high as two or three hundred men would be working on the river and a large investment had been made by the boom company in driving piling and fastening logs together with boom chains to keep the pine, as it floated down the river, in the channel.

"Bringing the drive down the river was a most interesting and important part of the season's work. Many loggers would make money in the winter and lose it on the drive. If there were not sufficient water there was loss. If the drive was not handled well there were other losses. * * * And working on the drive was hard, wet work. * * *

"The early loggers worked under some difficulties. Behind the drive coming down the river was a wanigan. It was a flat boat with headquarters for the men to eat and sleep. In the earlier days it was sometimes

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necessary to make the wanigan without nails and with the crudest of tools. The men who were ahead of the drive seeing that the logs did not lodge on the shore or places where they would be lost, did not have to work as hard as the men who followed up the rear, loosening the logs from places where they had landed. It was cold, wet work. Sometimes rivermen did not care to get into water up to their necks but the foreman would tell them to go ahead, it wouldn't burn them. The work began as soon as it was light. It continued until darkness came. There was a hearty breakfast, and two lunches were carried by the men. They returned to the wanigan anywhere from eight until ten o'clock in the evening, tired and wet. Usually the wanigan aimed to tie up at some sheltered place on the shore where dinner would be eaten and where a big fire, which the cook had prepared, would permit the drying of the clothes. Sometimes the men crawled into their blankets without taking off their wet shoes for if they had attempted to dry their shoes they would be so stiff that they would be unwearable the next morning.

"Since the requirements were for skillful men the wages were the highest paid in the logging industry. The work had its elements of danger. Log jams held possibilities of death. A great many logs were driven down the Prairie river in the earlier days. Jams would often form at the falls upriver from the present (check) Prairie river dam. Several men have been drowned at this place and it was here that the greatest test of skill and ability in the handling of logs was needed.

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"The logs floated down stream where there was current. When they came onto the lakes they were rafted together. In the earlier days a large boat would be anchored ahead of the raft and it would be dragged across the lake by a windlass. The weather conditions were watched as carefully as an aviator watches them now. If a sudden strong wind came up the whole raft might be torn to pieces and the logs scattered over the whole lake. Sometimes it was necessary to wait a week before taking logs across a body of open water. In later days there were steamships for the purpose of towing the rafter. The remains of steamboats will be found on the upper Mississippi and Bigfork and some of the larger lakes at the present time. Pokegama had several steamboats used for towing rafts and several large boats were used for this purpose on Leach, Winnibigoshish and other large lakes. * * *

"From 300 to 500 million feet of pine passed down the rivers of Itasca every spring --some seasons even more. * * * The men came in the fall and worked through the winter. When spring came they spent their money over the bar and then drifted on towards the cities. As the men were working downstream to their summer haunts, the logs were also going down river, guided by able workers. As both men and logs disappeared, Grand Rapids settled down to the warm days of summer, to rest up for another winter."

June 1, 1932

## Politics

"In the early days of Itasca county everyone voted who could, and many voted who were not legally entitled to do so. Before the days of strict election laws, precinct election officers did not care who voted and surely those at the county seat would not inquire into things. For many years the customs of the section were unchallenged. Men voted as many times as they conveniently could. Ballot boxes were stuffed with the number of votes needed to put a candidate across. Everyone voted who was in the section. * * *

"There is one story that has persisted for many years and which evidently has some foundation in truth. In the early 1900's a congressman was elected in this (what No. ?) district by the vote of 400 dead Indians. The man who voted the Indians was prominent in the politics of the section. The Redskins had been in their graves in Cass county for many years. The story is vouched for by many truthful people.

"In the older days there were many oxen in the country. They were pastured all summer in a meadow convenient to the camp where they would be used again the ensuing winter. When winter came they were ready for work. The men who tended the oxen might be the only white men in the large territory. The animals were all named. In the fall they were all voted. Their names were such that they could vote without suspicion on the part of those many miles away at the end of a near-impassible trail. * * * This story is

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Probably true, as the following outstanding instances has full confirmation from very reliable sources:

Before Itasca became a county and was part of Aitkin county, a sheriff was elected by a very small majority, a margin of but a few votes. One of his friends voted a score of oxen for him. These animals had pastured at a place not over 15 miles from Grand Rapids. They had fulfilled some of the essential requirements for voting. At least, they had been in the county long enough to satisfy the statutes. No one knew about some of the other features of the transaction. * * *

Many an election was settled by waiting for the vote from Swan River. That was in the early days when Wright and Davis had many men in their logging and railroad operations. Most of these men voted, but a few extra ballots could be put into the boxes if a few additional votes were needed. It took a few days to get the ballots into the county seat. Between the election day and the time that it took to bring in the outlying returns, many things might happen. Most of the stories of election fraud in Itasca county are false, but there was enough of it to warrant many stories.

Shortly after the turn of the century when there were many election reforms Itasca county changed its methods, men who were running for office did not wish to lose because of wrong election methods. Politicians began to check up, both before and after election. Perhaps the Riley - Ridell election contest case of that period gave rise to much of the agitation. In that case some shady political practices were brought to light in court and confirmed by direct evidence.

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Since then there have been few rumors of political skull duggery in Itasca. Conditions are easily checked in these days, and no voter relishes a sketch in jail.

"The lumberjack played an important part in the early politics of the county. * * * He did not care whether he voted or how he voted. If asked to, he would go to the polls and vote as the camp foreman or some friend might request. * * *

For the past three decades Itasca county has been politically virtuous.

"The older residents of this section will remember one of the notable campaigns of earlier time. This was before Itasca county, as it is now known was created. It was in the late 80's that Knute Nelson was elected to Congress. While Mr. Nelson lived near Alexandria, the district which he represented included a great part of northern Minnesota. His opponent in that campaign was C. F. Kindred of Brainerd. Mr. Kindred was a leader in the timbered section of northeastern Minnesota. He had important business connections. It was said that there was plenty of money spent in the kindred campaign. Mr. Kindred received practically a solid vote in this immediate section of the state. Knute Nelson came through with a big vote further to the west.

"It was in this campaign that the Scandinavian vote first came into prominence in Minnesota. The Norwegians and Swedes had come into the

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state and played an important part in its agricultural development. Their interest, however, was chiefly in making homes and in cultivating land. They did not care for politics. It is doubtless true that the politicians prior to the rise of Knute Nelson gave the Scandinavian element scant attention. Knute Nelson took advantage of this condition and came into leadership in Minnesota with a strong backing of the Swedes and Norwegians. After the Scandinavian vote had been shown its power, it became the largest single political element in the state.

"The campaign of 1896 was a hot one in Itasca and especially in the eighth district. * * * It was a free silver campaign year. In the eighth district Page Morris was elected to Congress over Charles A. Towne. * * *

"The election of 1892, when Grand Rapids became the county seat was an important one for this community. * * * The contest for division of the county and the detachment of what is now Koochiching county from Itasca created a great deal of interest.

"The year 1914 was a very interesting year in the politics of Itasca county. There were several political leaders in the county who did not always agree. The election of that year marked the breaking of the influence of what had been a very powerful and active political element in the county. It was the last stand for a certain type of politician and the election marked a change in both political methods and sentiment."

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In that year a member of this disgruntled group published a booklet entitled "The Examiner, a story of Graft in Itasca county." The public did not take the tract seriously.

"Tom Ward was for many years a great political leader in the county. He had a very large influence among the lumberjacks. He was active and energetic in politics. In 1914 he ran for county attorney. He was not a lawyer and never had been one. When asked how he could conduct the office he said he could hire plenty of lawyers to run it. He was not elected county attorney, but he received a very large vote.

"It was at about this time that a new political sentiment began to spring up within the county. Agricultural settlement was increasing. The kind and character of the men in the woods was also changing. As logging operations declined the lumber camp became less of an element in the county. Politics changed rapidly.

"At the time of the organization of the Nonpartisan league, a predecessor of the present Farmer-Labor party, there was very little excitement and effort in Itasca. This was due to the fact that most of the farmers who would naturally align themselves with such a movement did not have money to pay the $16 membership fee. Moreover there was very little controversy among the various political elements within the county at that time. When Nonpartisan League organizers came to Grand Rapids in 1918 only three people came to hear them."

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Tendencies toward the Farmer-Labor party were later developments. But there is no disposition for Itasca farmers to follow any particular brand of political leadership. They are principally interested in taxes, and as to other political questions are content to take sides when the issue arises instead of plodging themselves away in advance by aligning themselves with any particular party. Between the politics of the farming sections, of the iron range, and the various elements which enter into the vote, Itasca county is exceedingly interesting.

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June 15, 1932

Fishing - J. S. Gole

J. S. Gole of Grand Rapids probably knows as much about fish and fishing in these parts as anyone in Itasca county. (Check if Gole is still alive). In 1888, by dropping a line into Big Turtle Lake he began a fishing experience that took him eventually to about every lake and stream in that section of the country.

Mr. Gole was inclined to give the palm for large wall-eyed pike to Sugar Lake. "Some years ago," says the Herald-Review of June 15, 1932, "Mr. Gole and his party caught 28 pike in Sugar Lake. Four of them weighed 40 pounds, and all of them were large. The largest walleye that Mr. Gole caught was caught under a boom of logs in Hill Lake. It weighed 12¼ pounds. The largest pike which he has seen or heard about was one weighing over 21 pounds that was picked up in spawning operations at Cutfoot Lake some years ago. * * *

"A number of years ago Mr. Gole caught a white muskallonge in Trout Lake. It weighed over 30 pounds. The white muskallonge is * * * as rare among fish as the black sheep is among sheep.

"Some years ago a fish caught at the Mississippi bridge west of Grand Rapids took the honors for that year as the largest fresh water fish caught in the United States. It was a northern pike weighing about 47 pounds."

That fish was mounted and placed on permanent display in the Androy hotel at Hibbing to advertise the rare fishing in the Hibbing area.

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The same issue of the Herald-Review states that the largest muskie of the preceding year (1931) came from the Lake-of-the Woods and weighed over 56 pounds. The editor talked with the man who caught it. It was an exciting job landing the big fellow. The old man had made a big spoon after his own ideas, something that he figured would attract the big ones -- and he succeeded. After he had caught the record-breaker, a neighbor borrowed the big hook and went out and caught a little fellow -- only 44 pounds.

Since Itasca has been known at all it has been recognized as a county that can always furnish splendid fishing. Mr. Gole says that it was simply shameful the way bass were taken in the early days. There was no legal limit then, and no one thought anything about catching great numbers.

"The largest black bass which Mr. Gole has caught in Itasca county," says the Herald-Review," weighed 7¼ pounds. He caught it in Emil Lake, north of Deer Lake. In the earlier days the trip into the woods was made with a buckboard. Behind on a trailer would be a boat. One memorable trip was that made by Mr. Gole and George F. Kremer. They stopped at a little lake not over five acres in area. Mr. Gole saw a crane come down to the shore and catch a fish. He called attention to this fact and Mr. Kremer went down to make a cast. The frog was seized before it hit the water. The boat was put onto the little lake and within an hour the two men had caught 134 bass. * * *

Such a thing probably could not , and almost certainly would not be done today, of course, but people weren't conservation minded then. None

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(continued)

of this enormous catch was wasted, though, as the two men went home and fed the whole neighborhood. * * *

"E. T. Carroll, former superintendent of schools at Grand Rapids once made a trip with Mr. Gole to Spider Lake. They returned with 100 bass which weighed 350 pounds. * * *

"Whitefish were very plentiful in the earlier days. One cold November day Mr. Gole and a companion went out to Pokegama to bring in their two nets and also three nets belonging to other people who had gone deer hunting. They returned with five sacks of whitefish, some of them over ten pounds in weight.

"Brook trout were not native to this section, except in those streams which flowed into the St. Louis river. The first trout were sent to Grand Rapids about 1907 by Sam Pullerton, then in charge of game and fish activities in the state. They arrived in poor condition but were revived by Mr. Gole and put into Ward brook, between Grand Rapids and Coleraine. A few years later an additional shipment was made and Mr. Gale thought that he would try out the brook before putting more young fish into it. He took two worms with him and caught two good sized trout. At about this time young trout were planted also in Swan River brook. This little stream rises out of a little lake near Goodland and loses itself in a swamp near Swan River. It has furnished very good trout fishing for many years. Smith brook and Hill City brook

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were also stocked and have furnished good trout fishing for many years.

"The minnow business is quite an industry in Grand Rapids and in the county. The highway is lined with signs telling of minnows and frogs. Not only do a score or more of people deal in minnows, but the returns from the business amounts, not only to hundreds, but to thousands, of dollars annually."

Once upon a time fishermen used to get their own bait. They waded in the cold water and manipulated a minnow net, and chased frogs in the wet grass. Then came the softer years, when the fishermen felt that his duty in life was to catch fish, not bait. With the increase of the fishermen, the bait business sprang into being.

"For many years," says the H-R. "Mr. Gole had a barrel of running water and in it many dozens of minnows. This was his own private stock, but the neighbors and visitors were welcome. No one ever paid for bait. One day a range visitor stopped for his usual supply and would not take it unless he paid. That was about twelve or fifteen years ago. From this first sale the idea came to Mrs. Gole that minnows should be sold instead of being given away and during the balance of the season she sold eighteen dollars worth of the little shiners.

"Since that time the business developed rapidly as high as 800 dozen minnows have been sold in a day by Mr. Gole. Other minnow dealers in

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town have also sold large quantities. Selling and caring for shiners became quite a task. To catch them was an art and trucks would go to lakes and streams 75 or 100 miles away for a supply. * * *"

After some effort Mr. Gale succeeded in wintering minnows. The important consideration in this matter is the proper kind of food. Oatmeal proved to be best, and the little shiners grew fat on it -- and tame. Whenever Mr. Gole approached they would all swin to the end of the tank nearest him.

Not a great deal of fly fishing is done in the vicinity of Grand Rapids, save casting for crappies. The chief interest is in live bait, bright spoon hooks and colored lures of various kinds, intended to deceive the big fellows. And there are many people in Grand Rapids who know how, when and where to use them.

"Those who were privileged to fish some years ago in Cutfoot and Winnibigoshish will never cease to tell about it. When the roads were first opened into the Cutfoot country the pike fishing there was doubtless the best in the United States. * * * George Perry had one of the first stopping places at the Cutfoot bridge. Sewell (Sewell) Tibbetts had a place on Cutfoot Lake. * * * We have counted over 200 automobiles at Winnibigoshish dam on the opening day of the pike season, and some years ago the federal forest service made an estimate that 15 tons of walleyed pike were taken out of Cutfoot and Winnibigoshish on each week-end during the fishing season. There are still plenty

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of walleyes in Cutfoot and Winnibigoshish. * * *

"Cleaning fish is a task that has its artistic side. * * * There are some mighty good men with the knife in Grand Rapids. The late Herbert Bowen who built Eagle's Nest Lodge on Cutfoot Lake could steak three pike in two minutes. * * *"

Grand Rapids Herald Report
Summer
July 25, 1940

July 6, 1932

Pokegama Lake --

Pokegama has doubtless had a more romantic history than other lakes in this section. In the July 6th, 1932 issue of the Grand Rapids Herald-Review is a photograph of what is thought to be the first frame structure ever built on the shores of this lake. Fred William, who now resides at Cutfoot Sioux (check this) lived in it as a boy. On another page of the same issue is a description of an event of about 50 years ago. See what it is. The house was located on Moose Point. Mr. William remembers that Duncan Harris lived at the lake at that time, as did also Mike Jordan.

Black's arm to Pokegama, extending eastward from the Pokegama bridge, was named for William Black who lived on a farm at the extreme east end of the lake. For some years he operated a farm there for Sam Hamilton, an early day logger.

Jo Gould Lake was named for Jo Gould, an early settler on this lake which lies between Pokegama and the Mississippi river. Pokegama Point, between this lake and the river, played an important part in the life of the section before Grand Rapids was established. Two men who became prominent in Grand Rapids lived on Pokegama Point. One was Bob McCabe who later moved to Grand Rapids, and another was Al Nason, very well known to the older residents of the community. Both of these men were noted for their great strength, and were among the leaders of their day.

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"George Galbreath (check on who he was, and whether still alive and in G. R.) well remembers an early trip on Pokegama. He came up the Mississippi river on a steamboat in 1884 and desired to cross the lake which he then saw for the first time. He was to cross with some Indians who were drunk. * * * The Indians were singing or quarreling but did not let that interfere with getting across the lake in their frail canoes. Across the lake on Moose Point was a large log house belonging to Charles Lyons, an Indian. When the party reached that house it was decided to have a dance. A man by the name of Burus, who lived further down, on what is now called Sherry's Arm, was summoned to bring his fiddle. He made music for the whites and redskins to dance until he got drunk and fell onto his violin and broke it. Then the young Indians took up some pans and beat upon them with sticks for the continuance of the dance. Mr. Galbreath went outside and rolled himself up in his blanket in the grass and went to sleep while the dance was in progress. When he woke up in the morning the Indians were lying around drunk and the house was completely burned.

It has been assumed by many that "Pokegama" means "spider." However, the Chippewa term for spider is entirely different. M. L. Burns, long superintendent of the consolidated Chippewa Agency at Cass Lake, and a man well informed in all Indian affairs, says that the term "Pokegama" refers to the fact that the lake is found off from the main course or channel of the Mississippi river. Mr. Burns describes its meaning thus:

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> "The word has varied meanings but the right meaning I believe is 'off from the main course or channel,' in the same waters only located off to one side. No doubt this has reference to the Mississippi river, Pokegama, off to one side. Pokega, meaning a trail deviating from the main highway, being part of the system only located off the main course." * * *

Most of the lakes in this section do not have Indian names. Of course there is Pokegama, Wabana, Winnibigoshish, but this immediate vicinity was never a prominent Indian country. The Chippewas did not come onto the Prairie and the Bigfork rivers as they did not like this section as well as the country further to the west. Pokegama, however, was a favorite lake with the Indians, as it is with the white men. It was lined with timber, offered the finest fishing, etc.

Grand Rapids Herald Report
Summer
July 25, 1940

July 27, 1932

Strong Men -- Fighters

"Grand Rapids and Itasca county have had some powerful fighting men in days gone by. * * * In looking around for information concerning these men of the past we thought that A. M. Johnson of Grand Rapids would know as much about them as anybody. Though now 81 years old, Mr. Johnson was himself a man of renowned physical strength. * * *

"A. M. Johnson was born at Chateau-gay, N. Y. As a boy he came west. He first came to Itasca county in 1878, and coming up the river he was with a group of French Canadians. One of them called him 'Jin' and for over half a century A. M. Johnson has been known as Jim Johnson. When Mr. Johnson first came to Grand Rapids in 1878 he started to work in the woods. He toted with six oxen from the Mississippi here (at the head of navigation) to big Trout Lake. * * *

This is now only an 18 mile trip, but it was 45 by the tote road, and took Johnson with his oxen four days to make it.

"For a period of about 10 years A. M. Johnson came in and out of Grand Rapids. In about 1887 he came to Grand Rapids to stay. (Check if still alive)

"The strongest man and by all odds the best man physically ever to have lived in this vicinity, in Mr. Johnson's opinion, was Varnum Blood. * * *

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He was skillful and well trained. In fact he was a strong man and a boxer for the P. T. Barnum circus for a number of years. Mr. Johnson recalls a story that in a sparring match in the Barnum circus Blood's opponent was killed. After that Varnum Blood did no more boxing. He lived in Grand Rapids and he had property near La Prairie. In the nineties he moved to the west where he died several years later. In quickness, speed and courage Varnum Blood was the best man of the section.

Al Nason was one of the strongest men of the locality. He was not tall, but he was heavy. He was quick, and a good boxer, often engaging in a friendly bout with the best local men. Closely associated with the name of Al Nason is that of Bob McCabe. He had been a sailor. He was not a large man, possessed of a friendly, quiet disposition, but in a fight he was quick, and hard.

Other good men of the day were Luke Wilson, who lived west of Grand Rapids, William Crossman, Jim Sherry, Dave Willard, of Aitkin, Sam Lamb, better known as Sam Christie, and a few others.

"Next to Blood, Mr. Johnson believes that Frank Grant was the ablest man physically that was ever in Grand Rapids. Grant did not wish to fight, or to display his great strength, but he possessed outstanding physical ability.

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Most of the fights of the earlier times were fought simply because men wanted to do something or wished to test their strength and skill. It was easy for them to fight, especially when drinking. There were dirty fighters and good clean fighters. Men who preferred to slug it out, and men who liked to use every sort of vicious method, from biting off ears and thumbing out eyes to kicking off faces with their heavy calked boots.

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