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"A new town is growing up in Northern Minnesota that promises to be the trade center of that extensive district of the State, and has large possibilities of future development. Two years ago there were only fifty people at Grand Rapids, the county-seat of the great wilderness county of Itasca; now there are over a thousand. We give a picture of the place as it looked in 1890. To picture it now would be misleading, for building is going on so steadily that in two or three months the view would be wholly out of date. Grand Rapids occupies the best natural site for a central commercial and manufacturing town in all the Northern Minnesota country. In the first place it has river navigation on the Mississippi in both directions. It is situated at the break in navigation formed by the rapids of the river. Steamboats run down to Aitkin, on the Northern Pacific Railroad, and can go further down as far as the dam at Brainerd. Other boats run from the big Pokegama dam, just above the town, a long distance up the river and through the lakes which feed it, the present route ending at the head of Ball Club Lake. The rapids mark the point long ago selected by pioneer woodsmen as the most advantageous place for town building in the whole region.

When the Duluth & Winnipeg Railroad opened the northern wilds of the State and reached the Rapids, the remote and little known trading post, visited only by lumbermen and Indians, took an immediate start and attracted a number of enterprising men who saw its advantages. These men knew something of the resources of the immense undeveloped forest

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country in the midst of which Grand Rapids is located. They perceived that there was an immediate basis for the support of a considerable town in the business of supplying the lumbering camps for a radius of fifty or sixty miles. Just above the rapids where the stream is narrow and is buttressed by firm banks of rock they perceived an excellent site for a waterpower dam, that could be constructed at small cost and would have a big natural storage reservoir already for use. There they saw the future possibilities of milling and manufacturing. In the iron discoveries on the Mesaba Range they saw another resource. These discoveries are all the time being pushed westward until now the nearest known deposits of ore are only a few miles from the town. The geological formation of the range crosses the Mississippi at the rapids and goes on to the southwest until it merges into prairie country.

No one can now set any absolute limit to the ore bodies. They may yet be found in and around the town itself. In any case it is certain that there are deposits near enough to exercise considerable influence on the future of the place. As a center for shipment and for the supply of farming settlement alone Grand Rapids can look forward to a prosperous future. With all these resources in hand or close at hand it is no wonder that men of business sagacity took hold of the new town two years ago and that the place has grown with rapidity and solidity.

The Duluth and Winnipeg built on beyond Grand Rapids in 1891 about twenty miles and halted to await the results of efforts to strengthen its finance. Money has recently been raised to continue

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construction to the Red River Valley and the road will probably be completed this year to Crookston and Grand Forks. This will greatly stimulate the further development of the Northern Minnesota country, because it will open a market westward for lumber on the prairies of Minnesota and North Dakota. It will make Grand Rapids an excellent point for the sawing and general manufacturing of lumber and stimulate the establishment of mills at various points along the line of the railroad which will furnish trade to the central town of the region. It will also in time bring Grand Rapids into notice as a favorable point for flour-milling by waterpower, the town being on the shortest line of rail transportation from the wheat fields of the lower valley of the Red River to the shipping ports at the head of Lake Superior. The waterpower and transportation facilities will attract a paper manufacturing industry before long, for which there is an immense supply of wood-pulp material in the forests close at hand.

Railway enterprise has just entered the new field of Northern Minnesota. Here is a region half as large as the State of Pennsylvania yet to be settled and developed. True, it is nearly all forest-covered, but so were Pennsylvania and Ohio when they were first occupied by civilization. Wherever there are good lands for farming they will be needed before long for the rapidly increasing population of this nation, which is pushing out in all directions to take possession of all regions that will support human life. Railway building in Northern Minnesota land will go on year by year and farmers will seek out the fertile areas of hard-wood lands which are found at intervals

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in the pine forest. These areas will be cleared, the oak, birch and maple timber sold to manufacturers and the land made into meadows and grain fields. Grand Rapids has already made such a start as a distributing point that will find itself in the line of new railway building.

Grand Rapids occupies a very handsome site or high ground that slopes up gently from the river banks to a spacious plateau. Four business streets have already taken shape, two running parallel to the river and two at right angles to both river and railroad, and crossing the latter. The Mississippi is spanned by a good bridge, and as the town grows the land on the right bank will be wanted for residences. The most conspicuous buildings are the public school house, the two hotels and the churches. The town has already two bright, well conducted newspapers, The Magnet and the review, which cover diligently the field of home news and push the interests of the town with constant vigilance. Advantageously located business lots cost from \$300 to \$600 dollars and residence lots can be bought from \$50 to \$100. There is no active speculative movement in real estate at present but there is universal confidence in the value of property and the future of the town. The stores carry large stocks of goods, the hotels are filled with guests, even in the mid-winter season, and Grand Rapids makes a very favorable impression on a visitor as a place that is alive and prosperous, and one inhabited by an enterprising class of people who expect to see it have a population of 10,000 within a very few years."

G. H. Hause 10/16/40.

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wed. June 7, 1933
Vol. XLII-49

Grand Rapids History
Mr. Sumner
Oct. 17th, 1940

"UP IN THIS NECK OF THE WOODS. - Grand Rapids has many spots of natural beauty. This village also has many places where nature may be improved upon, and natural beauty aided by man. Several examples of the latter can be seen along the creek which flows down through the village from Hale lake to the Mississippi river. In a number of places people living along the creek have taken advantage of natural conditions, improved them, and made wonderfully attractive parks.

The most noteworthy example of aiding nature and creating a beauty spot is well known. This is the James Connell property along Pokogamma avenue a block south of the high school grounds. Here, during the past ten or twelve years, a great deal of work has been done, and each year there is an improvement. The grounds were first leveled off, the creek somewhat straightened, and confined within low walls of stone, then planting was started, with an eye to the later appearance of the property. Native trees, with some evergreens, such as blue spruce, secured from nurseries, with fruit trees, flowering shrubs, and perennial flowers, have created a park which is an illustration of what may be accomplished with hard work and a sense of beauty and proportion.

In several other places the course of the brook through Grand Rapids has been improved. Parking and planting has been done at the A. L. Thwing home, on the grounds next the Community church. Swan Sandin has improved the flat through which the brook runs at his place, and has developed an island, some miniature bridges, and

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other novel and pleasing effects.

Some work has been done in other places in the village than along the brook, to develop natural beauty spots. On Forest lake, in the west part of the village, Archie McDougal and sons have parked out a long section of the lake shore near their place, leaving the trees which were needed for shade. A diving platform and boat landing, built by the McDougals, are used by the public without charge."

G. H. Hause 10/14/40

P. 1. Col. 1.
Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wed. June 21, 1933
Vol. XLII-51

UP IN THIS NECK OF THE WOODS. - Much of historical interest attaches to the principal industry in Grand Rapids, the Blandin Paper Company mill. The people living in the present generation cannot realize that there was a time, not so many years ago, when the mill was not in existence, or that earnest and constant effort on the part of the public spirited citizens was necessary before the water power at Grand Rapids was developed.

Search of historical documents shows that at least two men now living were active in securing the development of water power here, together with other pioneers, that they expended time, money and effort to bring capital here without thought of financial betterment to themselves, and that public money was used in successful efforts to bring the potential source of power to the attention of

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moneyed men. All this happened only a third of a century ago, well within the memory of many men now living.

P.l. Col. 1
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1899

In the year 1899 a corporation was formed, called the Grand Rapids Power and Boom Company. The incorporators were H. D. Powers and John Costello now living and D. M. Gunn, John Beckfelt, D. W. Doran, L. F. Knox and George F. Meyers. Congressman Page Morris introduced a bill in the House in Washington, in January of 1899, which would authorize the newly formed company to construct a dam and bridge over the Mississippi river at Grand Rapids. This measure passed without difficulty, but contained a provision that actual construction must be started within one year.

1900

Efforts to interest capital in the new venture were not successful at first, and in January, 1900, H. D. Powers and D. M. Gunn went to Chicago to bring to moneyed interests the value of water power on the upper Mississippi. Their efforts met with some success, for on Feb. 12, of that year, a special car was set off at Grand Rapids, and Louis W. Hill, vice president of the Great Western road, with W. D. Boyce of Chicago and other men of affairs, made personal investigation of the local situation.

1900

In the meantime, the year during which the incorporators were to start development was about to expire, and on Feb. 9, 1900, a bill was introduced by Senator Knute Nelson, extending the time for constructing the dam four more years. One reason for granting the ex-

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1900 - continued

tension was that time must be given for cruising the territory tributary to the mill to ascertain the amount of pulpwood which could be secured if a paper mill was built here. This measure was passed, and the incorporators received their efforts to interest capital in the venture.

1901

One year later, or in January, 1901, the Itasca Paper Company was formed, the power site taken over, and preparations were made to start building the dam. The first officers of the Itasca Paper Company were Frank F. Becker, president; L. Lindaner, vice president; H. G. Becker, secretary; and A. C. Bossard treasurer and resident manager. All the officers were from Kankana, Wisconsin. Some of them, including Mr. Bossard and H. G. Becker immediately made Grand Rapids their permanent homes, and took important places in the life of the village.

1901

The first carload of machinery to be used in the construction of the dam was delivered in late January of 1901. This included power drills, hoists, cables, and other equipment. The specifications for the dam stated that it was to be 130 feet long, with a base 78 feet wide. Immediate employment was given to a large number of men, and excavation for the foundation of the dam started.

The work preparing the site for the dam was pushed with such vigor that the first stone in the dam was laid, with some local attention to ceremony, on May 16. High water in the river delayed building operations, and while it had been expected that the machinery would be in place for paper making late in the summer, it was not until late the following

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1901 - continued

winter that the first print paper was turned out.

1902

The machinery for making paper, several carloads of it, reached Grand Rapids in January, 1902, a year after the Itasca Paper Company was formed. Expert millwright appeared, and the erection of the machinery was pushed as rapidly as possible.

Feb. 19, 1902, was a most important date in Grand Rapids. On that date the power was turned on, and the first print paper came from the machines. Grinding of spruce pulp had started several days earlier, so a supply of pulp was ready. Surplus pulp was being shipped to a mill at Cloquet. During the first few days of operation, the mill turned out 12 tons every 24 hours. The first orders for car loads of paper were received from Chicago and Kansas City, and shipment made during February. The capacity of the mill in that early day was small indeed, when compared to the production now. The Blandin Paper Company produces, when the mill is being operated to capacity, 140 tons of news print paper every day, or more than ten times the daily output of the Itasca Paper Company in its first year.

During the World war period, the St. Paul Pioneer Press - Dispatch and C. K. Blandin became interested in the Itasca Paper Company, to assure a constant supply of print paper. With the sale of the newspapers, Mr. Blandin retained his interests in the paper mill, the name was changed to the Blandin Paper Company, and the program of expansion so familiar to Grand Rapids was inaugurated."

G. H. Hause 10/15/40

P. 1. Col. 1.
Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wed. Aug. 9, 1933 Vol. XLIII -6
1917

When the United States entered the war William Whaling of Grand Rapids was one of the first boys in. He enlisted the first of May 1917. He thought he would see some action with the Marines and he guessed right.

Captain Whaling went from Grand Rapids to Mare Island where he enlisted as a private. He stayed there until November 1st when he went across with the second division of the Marine Brigade. The Marines got into the heaviest fighting. No part of the military forces of the United States fought harder and suffered more. The Sixth Regiment, to which William Whaling belonged, was replaced about six times. It took about 18,000 men to keep this unit at its fighting force of 3,000. Some companies lost nearly all of their men in severe engagements.

William Whaling was in every one of the important engagements where the Marines were found. He was at St. Mihiel, the Meuse, the Argonne, Chateau Thierry, the Marne, Monte Blanc and a long list of disastrous engagements. He was made a second lieutenant at St. Mihiel. This young man from Grand Rapids went through all of these engagements. He seemed to bear a charmed life. At Belleau Wood he was gassed and wounded slightly. But he went through the war to the day before the Armistice when he was sent back from the front lines with an ulcerated tooth. He received several personnel citations.

After the Armistice Lieutenant Whaling went to Germany with the Army of Occupation. He was there about six months and he returned to the United States in 1919. It was then he decided he would remain

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1919 - continued

with the Marine Corps. He chose to follow military work as a life career and that he made a wise choice has been demonstrated by elevation and promotion to his present standing. After entering the service permanently Captain Whaling served for awhile aboard ship.

1922
1933

For awhile in 1922 and 1923 he was in pistol contests for he had already won reputé as a workman. In the winter of 1923-1924 he was

1924

on the U. S. S. Maryland and 1924 he was on the Olympic pistol team. That year he shot in both the Olympic, where he stood, and in the International contest where he ranked third. Returning to the United States he entered the National matches at Camp Perry where he took first place.

We do not know what Captain Whaling's score^{was}/in these contests. The target is about 150 feet distant and the bull's eye is about two inches in diameter. To hit the bull's eye counts ten and the rings around it are successively nine, eight and down to one. We have understood that Captain Whaling shoots in the nineties for ten shots which means that it is the bull's eye or the rings next to it all the time.

1924

After the pistol contests were over Captain and Mrs. Whaling visited their parents in Grand Rapids and in October in 1924 they left for China. For twenty seven months William Whaling was on duty at the American Legation at Peking. He liked China and the service in the foreign lands usually has many pleasant features. In 1927 Mare Island where 'Cork' Whaling began his military service saw him again.

1927

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1928 - continued

The year 1928 was one of excitement. The Marine were called to Nicaragua. Here was the real service, quite in contrast to that in France but with plenty of action. The enemy was fighting in the woods, and the woods of Central America are dense, hot, wet jungles. William Whaling was wet to the skin most of the time and carrying out military work was hard and unhealthful.

1930

The expedition of Nicaragua took about 18 months of a Marine's time. Following this experience there were some more shooting contests in the United States and early in 1930 there came the word to go to Haiti.

1936

Haiti is a republic which has asked the United States to do some things for her. One of these was to train the native police and for a period ending in 1936 the United States has assumed charge of the training of the native constabulary. It is particularly interesting that two young men from Grand Rapids should both be engaged in this work. The other was Edwin Farrell, now in service in Washington. He was another young man who stuck by the Marines. They speak French and Captain Whaling's orders are all given in a tongue somewhat new to him but which he has heard in various parts of the world for the last 15 years. He has about 300 men in the group which he is training and while they are not always obedient to black officers they obey the Marines. The work is not unpleasant and Haiti is not a disagreeable place to live. The climate is not oppressively hot and the winters are not much different than summer except for the heavy rainfall. Captain and Mrs. Whaling and their son returned last month from a visit to Grand Rapids to continue their

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residence in Haiti until the Captain's assignment there is finished.

No one could live much further from the ocean than does a man in Grand Rapids there is nothing in this 'Neck of the Woods' to stimulate interest in military affairs. 'Cork' Whaling has been a very successful soldier and he told us that he is going to stay by the Marines for the rest of his life.

G. H. Hause 10/15/40

P. 1. Col. 1
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Wed. Aug. 16, 1933 Vol. XLIII-7

Early records of towns, villages, cities and the like are valuable. They enable history to be written accurately, and property to be legally and safely transferred. The earliest record of Itasca County property in existence has probably been unearthed with the discovery of a plat, recorded before Minnesota was a state.

Some time ago when L. W. Huntley, register of deeds, was transcribing some papers in Little Falls, county seat of Morrison county, the register of deeds handed him a plat, saying that it concerned lands now in Itasca county, it might as well be here. The map revealed as a plat of 'East and West Pokegama, located on the east and west banks of the Mississippi River at Pokegama Falls.'

1857

Away back in 1857, when Minnesota was still a territory, and the nearest organized county was Morrison county, four men saw a potential city at Pokegama Falls, where the government dam west of Grand Rapids was later built. The land had never been surveyed, but these four men,

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1857 - continued

Lyman C. and M. N. Dayton, and G. A. and H. M. Cameron, engaged Campbell Beall, a civil engineer and land surveyor, to survey and lay out a town site on each bank of the Mississippi river. This was done, and the plat was duly recorded in Morrison county on June, 1857.

Nothing was ever done with the plat. When the government surveys were made, some fifteen years or so later, no recognition was given to the plat of 'East and West Pokegama,' and the United States government kept title to the land on either side of the falls, later building the dam at that point in the interests of navigation.

So far as can be ascertained, the Dayton brothers who were part owners of the plat of a city in the wilderness, were of the same family as were the men who later built and developed the large retail store in Minneapolis which now bears their name. They were pioneers in the territory of Minnesota, at all events."

G. H. Hause 10/15/40

P. 1. Col. 1
Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wed. Aug. 23, 1933 Vol. XLIII-8

Taxidermy was once quite an important art and industry up in the neck of the woods.

Along about 25 years ago probably about a half a dozen men were engaged in Grand Rapids in the mounting of heads, animals, fish and birds. There was a considerable demand for the skill of the taxidermist and quite a ready market for many of the things which he

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Wed. Aug. 23, 1933 - continued

made. The hunter wished some of his best trophies saved for the future, rugs from the furs of wolves and bears were in demand and the hard drink emporiums of the day made quite a strong demand for the many pronged deer or the wide antlered moose head.

One of the men who has had a large experience in taxidermy is J. D. Anthony. He came to Grand Rapids from Iowa to work here for William Weitzel who for many years engaged in the fur business in Grand Rapids. As a youth Mr. Anthony became interested in taxidermy. There was some business in the Iowa community but most of it was sent in from other states. One day Jess Anthony received a shipment of some elk horns, mountain sheep and mountain goats. He had never seen any of these animals in their wild state but he did the best he could for his western customer. Following a few experiences of this kind he felt that he could go forth into the North and that he did in 1904 .

1904

There were several men engaged in taxidermy in Grand Rapids 25 or more years ago. William Weitzel had a substantial business. Frank Storey was also a taxidermist and with him was Fred Travis. Nels Charnley, who is still in business in Grand Rapids, was also mounting heads 25 years ago."

G. H. Hauso 10/15/40

P. 1. Col. 1
Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wed. Aug. 30, 1933 Vol. XLIII-9

There are many people in this section who remember the days of the steamboats on the upper Mississippi. It was not so many years ago, possibly 25 summers past, when an occasional large boat came up from Aitkin and tied below the bridge at Grand Rapids.

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Wed. Aug. 30, 1933 - continued

It was 40 and more years ago when the steamboat was an essential part of the transportation system up in this neck of the woods. Before the railroad came in the early nineties, all the supplies for this section, the community at Grand Rapids and the great logging industry of this immediate territory came in on the frozen trails in the winter or by steamboat in summer. Then the coming of the boat was an event. The river bank had several large warehouses and people traveled on the schedule of the river craft.

There were several boats which operated between Aitkin and Grand Rapids. One of the earlier boats was the 'Pawnee.' She brought in many a cargo of goods and many a person. Another notable boat was the 'George Houghton' and the largest of them all, the pride of the fleet as it were, was the 'Andy Gibson.'

The 'George Houghton' was named after its owner, George Houghton, whose home was in Minneapolis and who spent much of his time at Aitkin and in the north. He was a most enterprising citizen. When the new town of Grand Rapids was laid out on an ambitious scale, George Houghton platted an addition which is known as Houghton's addition to Grand Rapids. This man played an important part in promotional schemes in a new country.

Two of the famous pilots of the day were John and William Lyons, brothers of Indian blood. For many years they operated on the Mississippi, both below and above Pokegama dam. In fact these two men were the only pilots who could handle the 'Andy Gibson' with safety. They knew all of the shoals, rapids, big snags and curves, of which there are a great many, between Aitkin and Grand Rapids.

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John Lyons, whose fame as a pilot extended throughout the whole section, died just a year or so ago. His descendants live in and around Ball Club and Bena.

The 'Andy Gibson' operated for many years. She was finally bought by the Potter-Casey Company and later by the Wright Mercantile Company. She went ashore somewhere near the mouth of the prairie and was damaged. One of the Lyons brothers was called to get her off and the government dam accommodated the situation with extra water. She was used some later but was either burned or sunk along about the year 1898. No big boats followed her though river navigation continued as an element of some importance for several years. "

G. H. Hause 10/16/40

Grand Rapids History
Mr. Edward Sumner (Hause)
Jan. 10, 1941

Grand Rapids Magnet
Tues. April 21, 1865
Vol. 5-47, P. 1, Col. 3-6.

Grand Rapids Gain.

The State Locates the Sub-Experimental Farm
At This Point.

A Valuable Aid
To the Growing Agricultural Interests of
Northern Minnesota's Extensive Domain.

Through the location of the state sub-experimental farm at Grand Rapids, which was decided upon by the Board of Regents last Thursday, all of Northern Minnesota will be rapidly advanced in the lines of agricultural development. It will benefit our neighbors eastward more than those who are equi-distant west of here and, while some of our Carleton county friends evidently feel sore because they failed to secure this valuable institution, which they would have prized so highly, there is no disposition here to crow over their defeat although a full appreciation of the great benefits to be derived by this particular section from a rapid advancement of its agricultural resources is felt by every citizen of this community. The selection was not made without the most careful investigation as to what such a

Grand Rapids Magnet, Tues. Apr. 21, 1865 - continued.

institution could show concerning the advantages of Northern Minnesota. It is in the line of providing. 'The greatest good for the greatest number' and within five years the wisdom of the choice will be completely demonstrated.

The gentlemen who reported in favor of Itasca county, Minnesota, are disinterested, thoroughly experienced and able experts who examined the soils and advantages of fifteen counties and viewed the subject from every standpoint before rendering their decision. It is particularly well known that they took abundant time in the matter for those who know not the necessities of such an investigation were disposed to find fault with the delay.

Those who are familiar with some of the capabilities of these northern, Minnesota lands are satisfied that the state experiments have a genuine surprise awaiting them here in the prodigality with which nature will reward their efforts. Numerous efforts heretofore made by individuals in this county have given highly satisfactory results in agriculture, as shown by our county fairs, particularly the one held last September and by the Itasca county exhibit at the State Fair. These efforts have been quite valuable in a local way but their effects have not been far reaching for other communities of the Northwest make strong local assertion of their capabilities. These results, however, backed up by the results of official reports that cannot be gainsaid will give a prominence to the soil and advantages of northern Minnesota that is impressive on the general public both east and west. In advertising

Grand Rapids Magnet, Tues. Apr. 21, 1885 - continued.

the merits of Itasca county the official reports of the experimental station will be of inestimable value.

Every settler that opens a farm adds to the taxable wealth of the county and increases the value of his neighbor's land as well as his own. New settlers require some, at least, of the products raised by older settlers and in all communities trade naturally springs up between the residents. Itasca county's agricultural development has the added advantages of being near the iron mining region and Duluth, which should be very favorable markets for any overplus of products that may be raised. It behooves the business men to bring the interests of the producers and consumers close together if they want to crown this agricultural development with the greatest success. It will grow very rapidly with the aid of these business men and it is well known that they have made most strenuous efforts in the initial work of agricultural progress. They have done a great deal to aid settlers in locating upon the government lands of this locality.

In addition to the 1,500,000 acres of government lands that are open to homesteaders in this county - free of cost after five years settlement and obtainable at \$1.25 per acre on six months residence - there are over a million acres of deeded lands well located that can be bought at from \$2.00 to \$5.00 per acre. The officials of the Duluth land office, on Nov. 27, last, gave the following report: "In Itasca county there are 355,482 acres surveyed and 1,226,000

Grand Rapids Magnet, Tues. Apr. 21, 1865 - continued.

acres unsurveyed, which is classed as largely timber land, with good agricultural lands in the south, with iron belt in the center and some gold in the north part.' Itasca county contains over 3,700,000 acres, as much as the entire state of Massachusetts. From some of these lands the pine has been cut for years and many openings can be secured in the timber where the work of clearing a farm is comparatively easy. Fuel and a crop of timber is at hand to supplement the ordinary crops of the farm. The wild grasses are excellent for the live stock and this is the greatest region of fertile timber lands, beautiful lakes, pure water and healthful climate in the world. It should be added that some of the Itasca county lands can be acquired under the 'stone and timber' law and others can be bought from the government and from the State.

The lumbermen must continue to be large customers of farm products. They had 6,000 men at work in the woods of the upper Mississippi last winter. A large portion of the eatables required in this industry has heretofore been shipped from the east to Grand Rapids.

The possibilities of the magnificent empire reaching north from here to the Canadian boundary are many, and every day makes them more enticing. The conditions are favorable to a rapid development. Excellent results of agriculture have been recorded clear up to the Rainey River on the northern boundary and gems and gold go hand in hand with iron and timber in the discovered resources of the north.

Under these conditions it is apparent that the Regents have not erred in locating an experimental farm in Itasca county. A visit to the farm yesterday showed that the buildings are commodious, well

Grand Rapids Magnet, Tues. Apr. 21, 1865- continued.

built and in good condition for the use of the state officials. Seventy acres of gently undulating fronting on a broad highway near the Prairie river, are subdued and ready for crops while the rest of the 455 acres consists of small meadows surrounding handsome little lakes with a background of timber; mostly birch, poplar and small pines, reaching up the Prairie river, the valley of which is the finest in the State for the live stock industry. The property being ready for active use meets the desires of the officers who want to go right ahead this season with their experimental work. The buildings are located only a mile and half from the Itasca county court house and less than a mile from the Duluth & Winnipeg railway.

Mar. 7
1891

Ex -Gov. William R. Merriam signed the act organizing Itasca on March 7, 1891, temporarily locating the county seat at Grand Rapids which was then a mere hamlet consisting mostly of lumbermen's log buildings on the Mississippi, just below the picturesque Pokegama Falls. The temporary location was made permanent at the succeeding fall election after a hard fight with La-Prairie which was quite a town two miles down the river. Since then Grand Rapids has swiftly forged ahead as a center of business, hotels and homes, all possessing all the advantages of metropolitan life. The translation of the surrounding timber lands into farms began only three years ago. Before that time farming was beneath the dignity of the sturdy sons of Itasca.

Grand Rapids is situated upon an attractive bend in the Mississippi and is this upper valley what St. Paul was to the lower valley in the early fifties. The hunting and fishing in this region is famous and attracts many well to do pleasure seekers who find an agreeable and well equipped headquarters at the capital of Itasca county." G. H. Hause 1/6/41.

Grand Rapids History,
Mr. Edward Sumner (Hause)
Jan. 10, 1941.

Grand Rapids Magnet
Tues. Jan. 1, 1895,
Vol. 4, -31, P. 1, Col. 2-3.

"Retrospective

-o-

A Very Satisfactory Showing of Grand Rapids'

1894

Growth During the Year 1894.

It is a proper thing, at the close of a year to take a retrospective view of it, and see if it has been a satisfactory one. Business men closely scan their books, as they make up their balances for the ending year. All branches of business do the same thing. And it is right and proper for communities to follow the same plan by taking a retrospective glance at the history of its town, and the progress made by it during the year.

1894

This, then being true, it will be in order for Grand Rapids to view what development it has made during the year 1894.

There is no necessity for any explanations or apologies, for what it has not done. On the contrary, there are good grounds for hearty congratulations for what it has accomplished. It is an incontrovertible fact, that the year just closed, has been one of the hardest financially, in the history of the country. Under such circumstances it was though that very little would be done in Grand Rapids toward the development or upbuilding. Nearly every other town was happy if it could hold its own and not retrograde, but Grand Rapids could not

2.
Grand Rapids Magnet, Tues. Jan. 1, 1895 - continued.

stand still. Its citizens are not of a disposition that allow hard times or closeness of money to stop the growth of the town. Whenever a project was discussed for further upbuilding or advancement of the village, the necessary means were forthcoming to accomplish it. As a result of this enterprize, Grand Rapids stands proudly at the head of towns in the state for money expended in buildings and improvements, in proportion to its population and age.

The question, then naturally arises if such sums are expended during a season of greatest financial depression, what will it do when money is abundant? Let the answer be, our magnificent growth and development during the year 1894.

1894

The remarkable growth of Grand Rapids during the year just closed is a source of surprise to every stranger. The reputation of the town for enterprise and business energy has become more than local.

It is extremely gratifying to go away from home and hear the words of praise sung for Grand Rapids. From everyone comes the cheering remark: 'You have got a bright town up there which is destined to become a thriving city,' and the facts of our growth warrants the prediction. Without a desire to exaggerate or boom, the Magnet what town in Minnesota can point to more substantial improvements made during the year 1894, in spite of the extreme depression of the money market?

1894

The money furnished for these improvements has come from residents of Grand Rapids, who show their faith and confidence in the future of the village by putting their means into it. If its future

3.
Grand Rapids Magnet, Tues. Jan. 1, 1895 - continued.

was not all problematical there would not be that willingness to back any legitimate with abundance of capital.

Notably among the improvements during the past year, comes first, the rebuilding of the Hotel Pokegama, at a cost of \$15,000. It is conceded that the hotel is a model of architecture and convenience. Steam-heated, electric lights and water through the entire building, makes it a model hotel. Then follows the new village hall, the county jail and other public buildings.

To demonstrate the permanency of the town, the erection of numerous handsome private residences is a most pleasing feature. For examples, there are the Know, E. A. Kremer, T. H. Hennessy and Gamache houses. All fine structures, of the latest style of architecture and in every way creditable to cities the size of Duluth. If Grand Rapids was not a permanent and substantial town, people would not put large sums of money into new homes when they could get along with cheap ones.

The completion of one of the best systems of Water-works in the state is an assurance of the future safety of the village against any attacks of from serious conflagrations.

Then comes the electric light system just finished by Dr. Howes. Like the water-works it is complete and satisfactory and beyond the expectation of a village the age of Grand Rapids. And to crown the public conveniences there is a telephone system all over town.

Strangers may, perhaps think that the pace of development and upbuilding is a little too rapid and a halt will have to be called.

Grand Rapids Magnet, Tues. Jan. 1, 1895 - continued.

Should anyone labor under the misapprehension it would be as well for them to dismiss it from their minds at once. Grand Rapids has not gone ahead of its resources, which has not yet commenced to be developed. As stated in the Magnet on previous occasions, very few towns have such marvelous resources to rely upon for future prosperity, lumbering, mining, agricultural and a magnificent water power. These certainly are enough to cause the utmost faith in the future of the town. It will not be long before capitalists and farmers will avail themselves of the magnificent opportunities for money making that lies dormant here.

1894

Viewing the growth of Grand Rapids during the year 1894 every citizen has cause to feel proud of it, more especially as it was accomplished when other places were satisfied in holding their own. There is every reason to believe that the present year will witness the greatest growth that Grand Rapids has had in its history. Every indication points to it. Had it not been for the stringency in the money market last year, many improvements would have been made. With the money market easier and restoration of public confidence, improvements that were contemplated in 1894 will be carried out in 1895."

1894

1895

G. H. Hause 1/2/91.

Grand Rapids History
Mr. Edward Sumner (Hause)
Jan. 10, 1941.

Grand Rapids Magnet
Tues. Feb. 13, 1894,
Vol. 3-36, P. 1, Col. 2.

"The Coming Town

Grand Rapids, Minn., is a busy little logging and lumbering town on the upper Mississippi. Its principal industries are logging and mining, and supplies for some 5,000 loggers being purchased at Grand Rapids. It has two local saw mills and another mill has chosen a site and will be erected in the spring. An excelsior factory will also be started in the spring, which will make a ready market for a large quantity of wood. On account of the quantity of hardwood in the vicinity of Grand Rapids, several manufacturers of furniture have recently looked over the water privileges and it is expected that some of them will locate there in the near future. The water-power of Grand Rapids is one of the finest in the state. Three miles above the town on the Mississippi river is the Pokegama dam, where the largest and most extensive dam of the government system of the Mississippi reservoirs is located. The work, while designated to utilize the flow of the river and to hold the surplus water provides a large and safe natural reservoir for holding logs, which can supply any number of mills located between the dam and Grand Rapids to be sluiced at the pleasure of the owner. -

Mississippi Valley Lumberman."

G. H. Hause 1/2/41.

Grand Rapids Magnet

Vol.3 - 31

P.1, Col.4
Tuesday
1-9-94

GRAND RAPIDS AND ITASCA COUNTY
An Exhaustive Resume of the Unparalleled
Growth of Grand Rapids and Her
Bright Prospects For the Future
Itasca County's Present Prosperity and Some
Statements Regarding the Wonderful
Resources of a Wonderful Region.

There is a vast amount of logic in the oft quoted phrase "God made the country, man made the town," but it is also true that the extent and importance of towns and cities evolved by the hand of man is dependent upon the character of the country of which they are the natural centers. It would be impossible to build up a New York upon the desert of Sahara, or a Minneapolis in the heart of the prairies of the Dakotas to make it possible for a city to become great in wealth or population, she must be the natural center for a rich and diversified scope of country. There must be a union of favorable conditions which demand a center for the gathering of commerce and its distribution, for the production of those necessary of trade and use, which the cunning hand of the mechanic and manufacturer produces from the raw material. There must be a natural covering of the lines of trade and travel to a fixed point, and there must also be a contingent and available supply of raw material for the factories and shops in order for a city to assume those proportions which make it as one whose destiny is to become great.

That Grand Rapids occupies this natural position and possesses these necessary natural conditions none can doubt. Located as she is, far enough from Duluth, St. Paul and Minneapolis, so as not to interfere with their business or interests, the location is a natural one, and was marked out long before the hand of man began to prepare her to receive it.

It is true that man sometimes attempts to build cities and towns where nature never intended they should be placed. Such we have had, but they have waned until there is nothing left of them but a memory.

In looking at Grand Rapids, the future distributing point for the northwest, one can see at a glance that its excellent geographical location is all that is claimed for it. In what has been wont to be regarded as a worthless barren wilderness whose only value was its pine - the worth of which depended upon a demand elsewhere - Time, railroads and the industry of the explorer is fast working a change. The agricultural lands, the iron and other minerals are factors that are to make Grand Rapids a future metropolis.

It has also begun to become apparent that the great natural lines of travel and freight transportation between Duluth and Winnipeg must pass through Grand Rapids. So well known is this fact that several new railroads will be seeking an entrance into Grand Rapids during the year of 1894.

P. 1, Col.
1-4

Every stranger who visits Grand Rapids for the first time is at once impressed with the beauty of the townsite and its natural location. When they learn that it is but three years old, they are delighted with the enterprize of its citizens. When they view its mammoth mercantile houses, its three solid banking institutions, its numerous retail stores, its handsome private residences, its miles of broad streets and avenues, with their wide sidewalks, illuminated at night with lamps, its three places of worship its handsome temple of learning, and its well-kept and commodious hotels, they admit that "Man made the town."

But as yet all this is but preliminary work. The citizens have always been averse to booming. They preferred that the natural resources of Grand Rapids should become known to the outside world by its own merits rather than by loud acclamations of a great future. Now that its nucleus has been prepared and its infancy days passed, its foundation laid upon a solid basis, it is proposed to make its numerous advantages known to the outside world in a modest and becoming manner.

As before stated in this article, railroads are already recognizing the importance of Grand Rapids as a coming commercial center. In the spring the Duluth and Winnipeg division of the Duluth, South Shore & Atlantic system will extend its road west and northwest to Crookston and Winnipeg. The Duluth, Mesaba & Northern railroad must build its present terminus westward along the range, which will bring it to Grand Rapids. The Great Northern has already had its surveyors through Grand Rapids and located its line. There will be a continuation of the Fosston branch on its way to Duluth. An independent company, has just been organized to build a road directly north from Minneapolis to Grand Rapids, on its way to the Rainey river. Besides the railroad there is the river transportation to Aitkin, connecting them with the Northern Pacific system.

It will thus be seen that Grand Rapids will have as fine a system of railroads as any city in the west. It will have the finest transportation facilities for the rapid transportation of its manufactured goods.

Up to the present time the principal industries have been its logging and mining. In the former, about 5,000 men are engaged. All supplies for them are purchased at Grand Rapids and distributed from here. The mining operations on the western end of the Mesaba range have drawn large stocks of merchandise and supplies from here. Two sawmills have done a good local business. In the early spring an excelsior factory is to be started. This will make a ready market for a large quantity of wood, which must be hauled to town, thereby giving employment to a number of men.

Another mill of large capacity has chosen its site and will be erected in the spring. On account of the quantity of hardwood in the vicinity of Grand Rapids, several manufacturers of furniture have recently looked over the water power privileges, and it is confidently expected that several will locate here in the near future.

Its water power is of the finest in the state. Three miles above Grand Rapids upon the Mississippi river, is the Pokegama dam, where the largest and most extensive dam of the great governmental system of the Mississippi reservoirs is located. This great work, while designed to equalize the flow of the river and to enable the holding of the surplus water, provides at

P. 1, Col. 1-4 once the largest and safest natural reservoir for holding logs to be found anywhere on the continent. From this safe and commodious storage - capable of continuing thousands of millions of feet of logs - can the regular supply for any number of mills located between the dam and Grand Rapids be sluiced at the pleasure of the owner.

On account of the exhaustless quantities of the finest brick yard was established here two years ago. The proprietor met with such success in the sale of his products that he was forced to enlarge his facilities last spring.

Upon the organization of Itasca county, Grand Rapids was named for the capital town. This action was approved by the voters at the last general election, which permanently located the county seat for all time.

It has an excellent system of municipal government and its local affairs are well conducted. At a recent election \$15,000 worth of bonds were voted for water works, which will be erected in the course of a few months.

Grand Rapids has been termed the "new Northern wonder" on account of its growth and development. Such an application is a proper one. Its course has ever been onward and upward. Its bright star of destiny is in the ascendency. It has the resources, the people and the means to take its place, within a few brief years, among the brilliant gems of Minnesota's coronet of thriving prosperous cities.

Grand Rapids Magnet

Tuesday
1-9-1894
P.8,C.1-3

Vol. 3-31

GRAND RAPIDS AS A SUMMER RESORT

J. Adambede

Situated as it is, high and dry on the headwaters of the Mississippi and closely surrounded by a score of beautiful lakes in which fish plentifully abound, with pleasant summer day and cool nights, Grand Rapids is destined to become the most attractive and popular resort in Northern Minnesota. Steamers ply to and fro from the upper Mississippi to the lakes through channels deep enough to admit of navigation, and thus can be had the most delightful excursions in a real fairy land. Lots are so cheap that they can be secured and summer cottages maintained at a nominal expense on the bank of the river or lakes, where fishing, boating and other pleasures may be indulged to the fullness of desire. As yet no united effort has been made to attract summer visitors, though a considerable number have found there way into this delightful land during the heated season, and the reports thus sent abroad have attracted much attention to Grand Rapids at the Queen City of the summer realm. June, July and August are the most charming trio of the year, and during these months there will be many visitors along the lakes and rivers. Grand Rapids is well provided with hotel facilities. It is only a ten minute's walk from the hotels to several lakes, while the Duluth, South Shore & Atlantic railroad runs into the entire lake region to the north and west. The country roads are in good condition and afford charming drives amid innumerable sparkling miniature lakes and along the banks of the Father of Waters. In such an Eden as this the weary business man from the city may seclude himself for a season and add years to his life by physical enjoyment and complete mental relaxation. In vain may he look elsewhere for the quiet and the cool refreshing fountains of nature which he finds here, all of which can be enjoyed for a mere pittance composed with the expense at places of less enjoyment but more note. Were the real advantages of this region known to the sweltering millions in our great cities, Grand Rapids would immediately become the Mecca for the summer pilgrim. Bathing in the salt water at ocean resorts makes the ladies beautiful locks (unless they can be taken off) coarse and harsh enough to be woven into gunny sacks, but to bathe in the Minnesota lakelets is a delight untold.

The new northern wonder of growth and development, Grand Rapids, Minnesota, is located on the great western sweep of the Mississippi, on the plateau, 3,000 miles from the gulf, where in matchless lakes and streams are gathered the Mississippi headwaters. The plateau is over 1,200 feet above the sea, and in extent more than 5,000 square miles, affording, by all the modifying influence of a wondrous nature, the most inviting climate on earth. The slopes from this plateau, east to Lake Superior, south along the Mississippi valley itself, westward to the vast treeless prairies, and north to the great water system of Rainey River and Lake, our northern boundry, comprise the newly opening region, which, as fast as investigated, becomes the wonder of the continent. Its wealth in pine and other timber, agricultural lands and water powers are untold.

Central to the whole, Grand Rapids is set like the chief gem of the coronet. Located on the magnificent water power for which the place is named, it has below it, as to its water system, the whole of Mississippi navigation, and above it the reaches of the river and its connected lakes, that are navigable by steamers hundreds of miles, ending with the great State Park, which has, by the munificence of Minnesota, been constructed, surrounding Itasca, the vertible head of the Father of Waters. As to timber, it is in the very heart of the standing pine of the state, shown by the census of 1891 to be upwards of 50,000,000,000 feet, representing \$100,000,000 of absolute wealth, with inexhaustible stores of all kinds of hard and soft wood suitable for all kinds of manufactures, while a market craving all that could be produced is offered northward to Canada, eastward down the lakes from Duluth southward down the Mississippi, but more than all, to the westward by the treeless prairies which, now developed into rich and populous states, stretch from the very boarder of Itasca and Beltrami counties to the Rocky mountains, offering to take all at our own price. As to iron, higher grades of ore are being found than yet discovered elsewhere, and with so much cheaper production, and lighter grades by railroad down the easy slope of the St. Louis - that both ranges are, as it were, with their immense stores, placed in the very lap of Duluth for reduction and manufacture or water shipment.

The area of these treasures, of which Grand Rapids is the commercial, as it is the political capitol, exceeds 20,000 square miles. Central in it is Itasca county, of which Grand Rapids is the county seat. It has an area of 5,662 square miles of land and 117 square miles of water in its wonderful lakes - a total area of about 4,000,000 acres. Thus Itasca county is the largest county in this state of large counties. It is also as may be supposed to be, the chief lumbering county in the state, as Grand Rapids is, and of course, will continue to be, the base of supplies for all that immense business.

The county has a magnificent water system, comprised by the Mississippi crossing east and west at its southerly end, and the Big and Little Forks of Rainey River, making two fertile valleys their entire length North and South, from their head near Grand Rapids to their junction with the Boundry river. Also, of minor streams, those on the east side make into the St. Louis, and on the west into water flowing into the Red River valley. Myriads of beautiful lakes abound between all the streams. Rich farming lands abound in the most beautiful natural locations for homes for the people. The region immediately around Grand Rapids is composed very largely of as fine agricultural land as can be found in the state. It is true that these lands in the main are heavily timbered with maple, birch, ash and the oaks, but these varieties of wood are now in great demand among builders and manufacturers, and are of more value really than pine, and hence these lands will be cleared up very rapidly, and when cleared up they will be found as productive as any in the northwest; and then, the whole region lies so near Duluth that our farmers will always be able to secure the very highest prices for all their surplus produces. But, rich

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and productive as this region is, yet, owing to the rapidity with which Grand Rapids is destined to be built up, it is very certain that our farmers, though they should be numbered by the thousand, will, for many years, find a home market - the best of all markets - for all the products of their farms that they will have for sale. In this connection, we would like to say that, while this region has, until recently, been almost a terra incognita even to the masses of the people of our own state, yet there are thousands and tens of thousands of acres of choice government lands in this county subject to homestead entry; and from the rapidity with which the homesteaders and farm-hunters are already coming in - although there has been no effort made to advertise the county - we feel warranted in predicting that there will be the greatest rush here of land hunters during the coming season that has been seen in any section of the country.

The railroad system has been planned in the very fullness of the chief objects sought. The Duluth, South Shore & Atlantic road was wisely located so as to traverse from Duluth to Winnipeg the very center of this immense wealth. Connecting the two extreme points, Lake Superior and Manitoba, it is also the means of building Grand Rapids up, as the great inland point between the two extremes. But equally important to us, this road also embraces the prairie region, and by its line westward to the Red River from Grand Rapids, assures us that great traffic, taking our lumber to the Dakotas and bringing back their grain. Duluth is 97 miles distant, and no other large towns near enough Grand Rapids to come in for the least division of this business. Grand Rapids, being central in this Duluth, South Shore & Atlantic system, is the future and permanent headquarters for the railroad business, division terminals and shops. Other roads, including the Great Northern and the Northern Pacific, are already looking in this direction, and a great railroad center is among the probabilities of the future.

The country round about in every direction from Grand Rapids is a veritable sportsman's paradise. It abounds with numerous clear and beautiful lakes, and in all of them can be found the choicest of fish in great abundance, while everywhere deer, elk, caribou, bear and water fowl are found in great numbers. Three beautiful little lakes lie within one and one half miles of Grand Rapids, while a drive of less than three miles will convey pleasure seekers to Pokegama lake, which is about as large a body of water as the far-famed Minnetonka, and which is the more beautiful lake of the two. Small steamboats and club floats convey sportsmen from lake to lake, along the rivers into the forest fastnesses for a hundred miles, and beyond these, in smaller streams, delightful canoe journeys can be taken, limited only by the hardihood of the tourist and his skill as a woodsman and hunter. A continuation of the same water-way will take the adventurer for the entire distance by boat, 150 miles, to Itasca Park, surrounding the Mississippi's actual sources. As to water-fowl, this region is the northern hatchery for ducks, the vast rice fields offering probably the finest duck shooting in the country."

Grand Rapids History
Mr. Edward Summer 9 (Hause)
Dec. 27th, 1940.

Itasca County Independent
July 20, 1927
Vol. XXV-43, P. 1, Col. 7.

POSTOFFICE MOVIES
TONIGHT.

Uncle Sam's Mail Distribution Depot and Stamp
Store To Occupy New Quarters.

Brief History of Grand Rapids
Post Office.

Outline of Postmasters and Locations; Postoffice
Established First 48 years ago.

1904 Tonite and tomorrow the Grand Rapids postoffice will be moved from the location which it had occupied in the Merritt building, probably better known as the Itasca building, since 1904, almost a quarter of a century, to the fine new room just completed to house the postoffice by George F. Kremer on Fourth street, a block and a half west of the old location of the office.

Mrs. W. W. Lyndall, postmistress, has asked this paper to request that all patrons of the office call and get their mail before the move is made to save any handling of the mail which can be avoided, as the task alone of moving the mail left in the office Saturday will be a big one in itself.

The Independent is indebted to John Beckfelt, the third postmaster of Grand Rapids, for the notes on a brief outline of the early history of the Grand Rapids postoffice, and to F. A. McVicar postmaster at a later date

Itasca County Independent, July 30, 1927 - continued.

The first postmaster was Jos. Wakefield who died only three years ago at Rabey where he had made his home for many years. Mr. Wakefield became postmaster in 1879, and he would bring the mail up from Aitkin at irregular periods and would distribute it to lumber camp in this vicinity, there being then no regular postoffice.

1880 In 1880 L. F. Knox became the postmaster and kept this office in a store located at the present site of the tennis court near the Leland avenue bridge. He served three years as postmaster and then sold the store to John Beckfelt who also inherited the postoffice in 1883. In 1890 Mr. Beckfelt built at the corner now occupied by the Johnson grocery and moved the postoffice there. Mr. Knox had returned to Wisconsin from where he had formerly come. Mr. Beckfelt held the office for seven years. Mr. Knox then returned from Wisconsin, and he intimated to Mr. Beckfelt that he would like to have the postoffice back. "I was plenty busy and doing enough business to keep me busy," said Mr. Beckfelt, "So I resigned in his favor." Mr. Knox was postmaster for four years, moving the postoffice in the meantime to a building at the corner of the present First street and Leland avenue which he erected for that purpose.

1884 In 1884 Grover Cleveland, democrat, became president, and Philip Casselberg moved the postoffice which was then only a fourth class office, to a building on the site of the present Sather Jewelry store, but not in the present building which was erected later.

1888 With the change of administration O. H. Stilson became postmaster in 1888. Mr. Stilson moved the office to a building owned by Will Nisbett and therefore occupied by him as a jewelry store, Mr. Nisbett moving his place of business across the street in a small building owned

Itasca County Independent, July 30, 1927 - continued

by John Beckfelt next door to the present Emil Litchkie building. Mr. Stilson held the office four years, being reappointed, but after a few months of his second term, he resigned and F. A. McVicar was appointed postmaster in 1902. In 1904 the postoffice was moved to the Merritt building. Mr. McVicar served 12 years until 1914. When Mr. McVicar took over the office it was a third class office, having been made such during the term of Mr. Stilson, and in 1908 it became a second class office.

1902
1904
1914
1908
1914
1922

In 1914, with another change from republican to democratic administration with the election of Woodrow Wilson to the presidency, E. C. Kiley became postmaster. Mr. Kiley served something over eight years and in 1922 W. W. Lyndall was appointed, serving more than three years, then leaving the office because of ill health, and Mrs. Lyndall P.7, Col.3 was appointed acting postmistress, and is holding that appointment today.

Mr. Beckfelt, in recounting the early days of the postoffice here, dug up the first cancelling stamp ever used in the local postoffice, which he had among a lot of relics of early days. The year is not on the stamp, but it shows its antiquity in the lettering, and is dated "June 30."

Mr. Beckfelt states that at the time of the establishment of the postoffice here, and for many years afterward, Grand Rapids was the only postoffice in a territory from Fosston to the west, Aitkin to the south, Tower to the north and Cloquet to the east. The mail came to this point once a week by steamboat on the Mississippi river from Aitkin until 1890 when the railroad was built to La Prairie when a daily mail service was inaugurated. Prior to this, carriers carried the mail from here to Tower and mail to Cloquet and Fosston went by other routes after having been taken to Aitkin from here.

1890

12/19/40 - Hause.

Itasca County Independent
August 11, 1928
Vol. XXVI-45, P. 1, Col. 4.

GRAND RAPIDS IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS.

1892

A (?) Courtemanche dug up a copy of the old Grand Rapids Magnet which he brought to the Independent office which might be of interest to the reader of this paper today. There are many Grand Rapids people who will be interested in the contents of the old Magnet, a review of which is given herewith. The paper was dated Jan. 7, 1892, more than 36 years ago. A. G. Bernard was the editor and publisher.

Among the advertisers were Tuller Brothers, groceries and general merchandise; C. H. Marr, clothing and dry goods; Lumberman's bank with C. W. Hastings, president, P. J. Sheldon, vice president, and F. P. Sheldon, cashier; Kremer & King, proprietors of Itasca County Abstract and Real Estate office; the Grand Rapids hotel, Kindred avenue and first street north, James Sherry, proprietor; L. F. Knox, merchandise and lumber supplies, C. L. Pratt, attorney; C. Kearney, justice of the peace; Frank E. Mercer, building contractor; N. B. Thayer, land attorney; C. W. Terry, painter; W. C. Lyndall, wholesale and retail agent for Milwaukee beer; H. R. King, lumber and land; H. W. Canfield, attorney; J. W. Kurtzman, shoemaker and harness maker; Hotel Pokegama, Daniel W. Doran, proprietor, P. H. McGarry, manager; The Bodega, J. McDonald, proprietor, best liquors and cigars; Will Nisbett, jeweler; Beckfelt & Mather, General merchandise; Frank Peopke, tailor; W. J. and H. D. Powers, hardware; Stevens Hotel and restaurant.

One of the items in the paper stated that "ore lands have been in great demand during the past few weeks. Some development will take

Itasca County Independent, August 11, 1928 - continued.

at this end of the range where it is believed the best ore will be found."

Another item stated that at the meeting of the board of county commissioners on Jan. 25, L. F. Knox, on behalf of himself, G. G. Hartley of Duluth, and N. McFadden of Brainerd, presented to the county a warranty deed to block 20, the same to be used for county purposes.

"The latest hit" in the shape of a cash register had just been installed in Tuller Brothers and Ellis and Company stores. The description of the registers stated like one of the crudest of the original cash registers formerly in use.

Will Nisbett was reported as the first depositor of the Lumberman's bank. Quite a large number of legal notices were published, a large part of them being homestead final proof notices.

The official proceedings of the board of county commissioners was published. Commissioner L. F. Knox and J. P. Simms were present. H. R. King was the county auditor.

1892 L. F. Knox was also postmaster. A feature of the postoffice news for that date was the advertising of letters uncalled for at the postoffice on January 1, 1892. A list of some 54 letters was published.

In the advertisement of Tuller Brothers the best flour was \$1.50 for a 50 pound sack. Evaporated apples sold at 10 pounds for \$1.00, apricots, eight pounds for \$1.00, and evaporated peaches, 8 pounds for \$1.00. A long list of tobacco was advertised with Climax at 45c per pound. Pork sold for 8c, ham 12½c, bacon 12½c, and salt \$1.50 per barrel."

12/20/40 - Hause.

Itasca County Independent
Frid. Nov. 6, 1931
Vol. XXX-6,

"I SHOOK HANDS WITH THAT
MAN ONCE."

1859 L. D. Anthony, well known resident of Grand Rapids, glanced at a three cent stamp which was on a circular he had one day this week, noting the picture of Abraham Lincoln thereon. "I shook hands with that man one time," said Mr. Anthony. It was while Lincoln was campaigning and was in my old home town in New York state, speaking to a crowd of 3,000 or 4,000, in 1859, from the back platform of a train. I was a little kid and, kidlike, I was as close up the front as I could get - close enough in fact, to climb on the platform after a little. By accident I stepped on Lincoln's foot, and just as the honored president looked down, an officer close by noticed what I had done and called gruffy, "What are you doing up there?" Before I could answer that I wanted to see Mr. Lincoln, the great man had turned, stopped his talk and said, "Never mind, son." Then he took my hand, shook it and said, "Now you'd better climb down before you get hurt." Sure you guessed it. Mr. Anthony prizes the memory of the incident and of his personal touch with Honest Abe's characteristic kindness.

12/23/40 - Hause.

Itasca County Independent
Frid. Dec. 23, 1932
Vol. XXXI -13, P. 8, Col. 4 & 5.

"OLD RESIDENT SEND GREETINGS
TO HER FRIEND IN INTERESTING LETTER."

Mrs. James Skelly, one of the first white women in this county, takes the opportunity at this time of the year to wish all her friends the season's greetings and includes the following interesting account of pioneer

Itasca County Independent, Frid. Dec. 23, 1932 - continued

days in Grand Rapids.

'As some people think they are old settlers and pioneers of Grand Rapids, I take the opportunity to say that I am among the earliest.

1884 I, as a girl of ten, came from Aitkin to Grand Rapids on a tote team on New Year's day in 1884, to live with my sister Mrs. James E. Sherry. Travel was not as it is today, railways and concrete highways were out of the question in Grand Rapids. The travel in summer was by steam boat and by stage in winter.

The steamboat trip in the fall was rather exciting and sometimes nerve-racking. One would never know when the frail boat "The Little Fawn" would be dashed against a rock or the churn-wheel would be so loaded with ice that navigation would be almost impossible. This boat was piloted by Captain Sutton and John Whipple. The trip from Grand Rapids to Aitkin took about one day and a night.

The mail and all communication was carried on by the stage coach. The headquarters for the coach was in the old John Beckfelt store. This building was very crudely made of logs and it was situated about where the new addition of the paper mill stands.

The place which is of much interest to me was the hotel that was owned and operated by my brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. James E. Sherry. This building was purchased from Joe Sheavey and was also made of logs. Its name was "The Pioneer Hotel."

There were many thrills connected with this rustic old building. Indians were plentiful by night and by day and many times we were compelled to feed twenty-five or thirty at one time.

Itasca County Independent, Frid. Dec. 28, 1932 - continued.

One night a large party of them came down from "Drum Beater," with many wild intentions. Evidently they got some whiskey and were celebrating in Indian style with whoops and yells. About two hours after their arrival they rushed into the dining room and demanded something to eat, and to keep peace we fed them all we had cooked.

One quiet afternoon while my sister and a maid and myself were all alone at the hotel an enraged Indian rushed in upon us. I can hardly remember what kind of a weapon he had but as I can remember it was a revolver. He chased us from the dining room into the parlor and from there we ran down to Beckfelt's store where the men were after the mail. It might have been very tragic if we hadn't had safety so close at hand.

Schooling was out of the question. I lived there two years before there was any school. It was necessary to have six or eight children to have a school, and with the help of George Galbreath we managed to get together enough children to have a school. The children consisted of two white children, Eva Gardener (a niece of Mrs. John Beckfelt) myself and the rest were breed Indians. The first teacher was Mrs. Martha Potter nee Marths Maddy. The next teacher was Mrs. B. C. Finnegan, who resides at present in Grand Rapids.

The school house was one room made of logs. It stood almost where the Itasca dry goods store is now. It was far from having the modern accessories of our modern one room school houses. We used home-made seats and desks.

Grand Rapids was sparsely populated. The south side consisted of Mrs. Kate Vent (?), Mr. & Mrs. Mike O'Tool. The north side was composed of Mr. & Mrs. McDurmitt, Mr. & Mrs. John Beckfelt, Mr. & Mrs. Hotter, Mr. and Mrs. James E. Sherry, Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Nason, Mr. & Mrs. Chris Burns,

Itasca County Independent, Frid. Dec. 23, 1932 - continued.

Mr. & Mrs. Bob McCabe, Miss Josephine Dorsey, who is now Mrs. Bergh of Grand Rapids, and Emma Clough.

1890 The great longed for railroad came to the little town in about 1890. It was the Duluth and Winnipeg railroad. Grand Rapids was at the end of the line for a few years. The depot was situated about where the Standard Oil tanks are now. The underbrush was so thick one couldn't see the depot until you were almost to it.

1894 I was married to James Skelly in 1894 in Grand Rapids. From there we moved to Aitkin where we lived for seventeen years and from 1911 there we moved to a back woods farm ten miles west of Cohasset in 1911 and where we have lived ever since.

I wish all my old friends a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs. Emma Skelly."

12/23/40 - Hause.

Grand Rapids Notes
H. H. Hause
December 13, 1940

Itasca County Independent
December 6, 1919
P. 1, col. 1

"PIONEER WOMAN DIES
Mrs. Duncan McKinnon, Old Resident of Grand Rapids,
Answers Last Summons.

Mrs. Duncan McKinnon died Sunday, November 30, at the home of her son James, at Taconite. Mrs. McKinnon had been in failing health for seven days prior to her death suffering from an attack of bronchial pneumonia. This well known and kind hearted old lady had lived to the ripe old age of 78. She was born at St. John's, Nova Scotia, but as a young girl went with her parents to Lochiel, Ont., to reside. In 1867 she was married to Duncan McKinnon and moved to the state of Michigan forty years ago. Mrs. McKinnon came to Grand Rapids in 1896 and resided here until 1907, when she went to Taconite and made her home with her son, James, until the time of her death. Seven children survive the deceased, three daughters and four sons. The daughters are Mrs. John Sheehy, Cass Lake; Mrs. John Calnanie, Willyard, Wash., and Mrs. Hugh McNulty, Taconite. The sons are Joseph of Grand Rapids, James and Dan of Taconite and John of Winnipeg, Man.

Funeral services were conducted yesterday morning from St. Joseph's Catholic church here and burial was made in Itasca cemetery."

Grand Rapids Notes
H. H. Hause
December 17, 1940

Itasca County Independent
March 6, 1920
P. 1, col. 2

"PIONEER PASSES AWAY
J. P. O'Donnell, For Many Years A
Resident Here, Goes To Great Beyond.

J. P. O'Donnell died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. T. R. Pravitz, at 1:30 P.M. last Saturday. Mr. O'Donnell had been ill about four weeks, his death being the natural result of old age, as he had lived to the ripe old age of 88 years and 7 months.

Mr. O'Donnell had been a resident of Grand Rapids since 1892, coming to this point from his former home, Hammond, Wis., and being at the time of death the oldest member of the Minnesota Territorial Pioneer association. Mr. O'Donnell saw Grand Rapids grow from a little hamlet to the pretty village that it now is and took an active interest in all things pertaining to the advancement of the welfare of the community as long as he was able to be up and around. For the past several years he has been kept at home most of the time because of his advancing years.

Mr. O'Donnell is survived by three sons and one daughter, his wife having preceeded him to the grave twenty-three years ago. The boys are C. J. O'Donnell, who is living in New Mexico; Charles P. O'Donnell, of Duluth and W. B. O'Donnell of St. Paul; the one daughter, Mrs. T. R. Pravitz, of Grand Rapids.

The remains were sent on Monday to Hammond, Wis., where Mrs. O'Donnell is buried, and where accompanied from this point by Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. O'Donnell of Duluth and Mrs. Pravitz. W. B. O'Donnell had gone previously to Hammond to make the funeral and burial arrangements.

The condolence of the community, as well as this publication, is extended to those bereaved by Mr. O'Donnell's death."

Grand Rapids Notes
H. H. Hause
December 13, 1940

Itasca County Independent
December 11, 1920

"ON SAME JOB 20 YEARS
Theodore Heckel Has Seen Every Step Of The
Mill Of Itasca Paper Co.

Theodore Heckel, teamster for the Itasca Paper Company, has been on the job twenty years, last week seeing the end of the twentieth year of his service with the same concern which he has served faithfully during all this time.

Mr. Heckel came to Grand Rapids from Wisconsin, and he drove the team that broke the first ground for the construction of the paper mill. He saw the plant grow from nothing into the fine institution it is today, and next to the one ambition, his best efforts were directed to serving the company that employed him. His first concern, however, was always to have the finest and best kept team in this vicinity, and in this he always succeeded admirably, his team being always much the handsomest in Grand Rapids. He has in his 20 years had but four teams. One was sold after doing long service, one was drowned a few years ago while driving piling on the river above the mill, two horses died from natural cause, and the last team is the pretty blacks which he is now driving."

Grand Rapids Notes
H. H. Hause
December 17, 1940

Itasca State Park
Jacob Vradenverg Brower
V. 11, p. 73, 74

"In 1883 a little band of land seekers under the leadership of Peter Turnbull joined together at Park Rapids, Minn., then a frontier town, for the purpose of opening a wagon road to Itasca Lake. They followed the old Hall road of 1875 to Stony Ridge, where the new road was opened in zigzag form to the Iron Corner and Deming, Mary, and Itasca lakes. The early travelers over that hilly and crooked trail will ever remember the tedious hardships experienced on a new wagon road through a trackless forest when nightfall often made progress uncertain, before Itasca Lake could be reached.

From 1883 to 1886, squatters on pine land claims for active lumbermen became a menace to the future park. Not a single one of those settlers made any permanent homes and usually before their proofs were offered at the land office the ownership had been pledged to land monopolists who soon became possessed of every available tract of dense pine timber in the Itasca Basin. Not one of those so-called settlers can now be found on the land they entered. Scrip entries, soldier's additional homestead claims and the indemnity grant to the Northern Pacific Railroad finally placed all the pine lands at Itasca Lake in control of lumbermen, whose avaricious denudation of Minnesota forests has precipitated widespread decay and destruction by forest fires, closing of rivers and lakes by log booms, depletion of the water supply and wholesale destruction of fish and game, by an overpowerful, ever destroying, innumerable organization of human beings who know no better than by striving to determine by whom and how soon the last tree may be cut, to throw a permanent shadow of decay across nature's contribution to human rights and happiness in one of the most natural and beautiful park regions in existence.

Grand Rapids Notes
H. H. Hause
December 17, 1940

Cont'd - Itasca State Park

They are seldom prosecuted for infractions of the law, because they are powerful financial and political in the drama of life, feared and catered to by business participants and hundreds of men in official positions."

Grand Rapids Notes
H. H. Hause
December 17, 1940

The Old Northwest
Burke A. Hinsdale
P. 73-76

"The settlement at Jamestown was made under this charter. But as it did not prove satisfactory, the king, in 1609, granted the London Company a second charter, in which he bounded the colony that henceforth monopolized the name Virginia as follows:

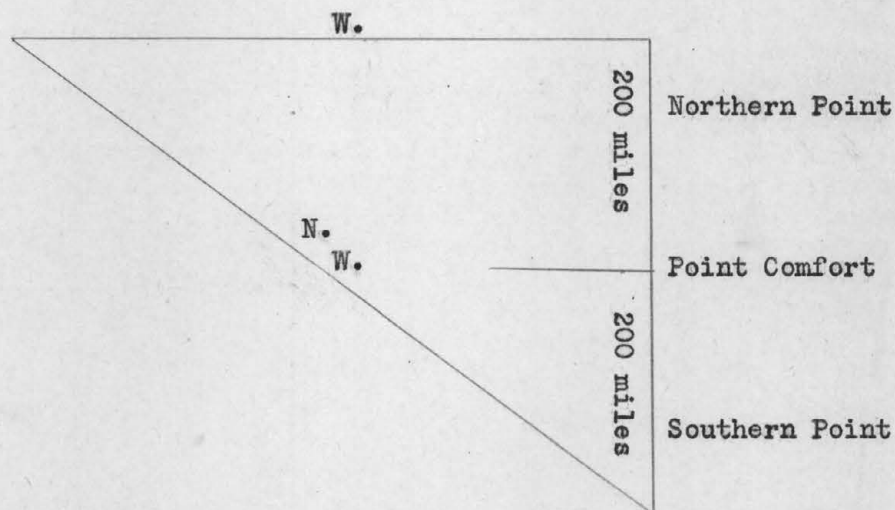
' Situate, lying, and being in that Part of America called Virginia, from the Point of Land called Cape or Point Comfort, all along the Sea-Coast to the Southward two hundred miles, and all that Space and Circuit of Land lying from the Sea-Coast of the Precinct aforesaid up into the Land throughout from Sea to Sea, West and Northwest, and also all the Islands lying within one Hundred miles along the Coast of both Seas of the Precinct aforesaid.....!'

This was the first of the 'from sea to sea' boundaries that play so important a part in history. The description "up into the land throughout from sea to sea, west northwest," led to important results, the least of which is the interminable discussion of what it meant. It has been suggested that it meant a compound boundary line running from the Atlantic Ocean around to the Atlantic Ocean again; but the islands within one hundred miles along the coast of 'both seas' are given to Virginia, and this fact is fatal to such a construction. Historians commonly assume that the northern and southern lines of the colony were intended to be due east and west lines, and much can be said in support of this view. The lines drawn by the charter of 1606 were east and west lines. The royal intent in 1606-1609 and 1620 was two colonies; Virginia and New England were evidently to embrace all the king's possessions from latitude 34° north to the French territories. The ocean

Grand Rapids Notes
H. H. Hause
December 17, 1940

Cont'd - The Old Northwest

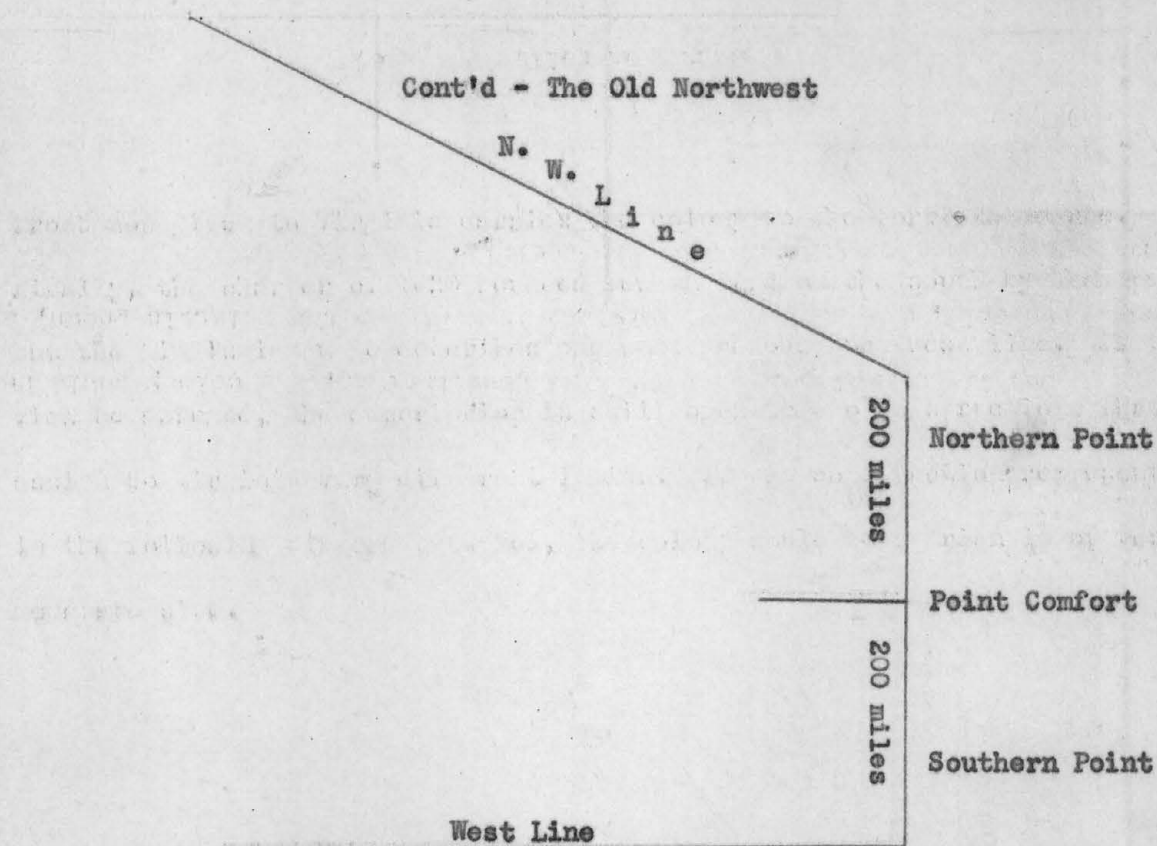
front now given to Virginia carries the colony to the fortieth degree. And, finally, the charter of 1620 bounded New England on the south by that parallel. But the king's language describes one west and one northwest line. If this view be assumed, the description is still open to two constructions that assign to Virginia very different limits. If the construction represented in the following diagram be taken, the colony would be a triangle of very moderate size.



But if the following be the true construction, the colony would be a vast trapezoid, six degrees of latitude in width on the Atlantic Ocean, and from twenty to thirty degrees on the Pacific.

(Diagram on following page)

Grand Rapids Notes
H. H. Hause
December 17, 1940



If the theory of one west and one northwest line be adopted, only the second of these constructions will fill the condition 'from sea to sea.' As this was the construction adopted by Virginia, and as it materially influenced Western history, I shall assume that such is the meaning of the language.

The Plymouth Company was overshadowed by its richer and stronger rival. Only one attempt at colonization was made by its authority under the charter of 1606, and that ended in a failure. But a new charter was obtained in 1620, under which the company became more active. This was the second of the two charters into which that of 1606 was merged. It absolutely gave, granted, and confirmed unto the council established at Plymouth, in the County of Devon, England for the planting, ruling, and governing of the northern parts of Virginia in America, a territory that is thus bounded:

'That aforesaid Part of America lying and being in Breadth from forty Degrees of Northerly Latitude from the Equinoctiall Line to forty-eight De-

Grand Rapids Notes
H. H. Hause
December 17, 1940

Cont'd - The Old Northwest

grees of the said Northerly Latitude inclusively, and in Length of, and within all the Breadth aforesaid, throughout all the Maine Lands from Sea to Sea . . . and also within the said Islands and Seas adjoining, Provided always, that the said Islands, or any of the Premises hereinbefore mentioned, and by these Presents intended and meant to be granted, be not actually possessed or inhabited by any other Christian Prince or Estate, nor to be within the Bounds, Limitts, or Territoryes of that Southern Colony heretofore by us granted to be planted by divers of our loving Subjects in the South Part, etc."

Itasca Co.
Independent

Vol. XIII - 15

Thursday
1-29-14

"DISCUSSED NEEDS OF TOWN

Talk Over What Can be Done For Town

Report of Officers Showed Many Activities During the Past Year

At the annual get together banquet of the Grand Rapids Town and Country Booster Club held at the high school building last Friday evening, the reports of officers of the club were listened to, numerous talks given and suggestions made by citizens, officers elected, a splendid banquet partaker of, and a very nice social time enjoyed.

The report of Secretary Peterson showed that, while there are some chronic kickers who are always ready to say that the Booster club has not been doing anything, the club has really to be credited with very many creditable activities, many of which bore good fruits, while others are yet in process of obtaining results. Still other activities were directed toward the endorsement of worthy movements which would otherwise not have been recognized by Grand Rapids and gone without the influence of Grand Rapids. All in all, the Booster club during the past year did much to keep Grand Rapids on the map and before the public eye as a live town, which in itself is a considerable item.

Miss Burlingame made a plea for the support of the rest room by the business people, and cited a number of things which are needed for the rest room and suggested that the merchants and other business people of Grand Rapids through the Booster club or otherwise, provide these things and perpetuate the good work which the farm women started in establishing the rest room.

J. D. Doran spoke briefly on various subjects, touching upon, among other things, the matter of the bad habit of cutting across and ruining the lawns which the school and library boards spend good

cash money to maintain, and deplored the lack of civic pride on the part of the people regarding these matters.

Fred Carson of the high school faculty, touched a very popular chord in his talk when he suggested that as soon as the new gymnasium in the addition to the high school is furnished, the place be opened to the boys in the village under the direction of an athletic director, and there teach them to develop their bodies and inspire them to cleanliness and clean living. The district said Mr. Carson, is making every provision to develop the minds of its young people, and it is only right that means should be provided to develop the bodies of the boys and girls in such a manner that they will be fit abodes for the brains which the district is spending much to develop.

H. G. Becker touched a point which should be born in mind by every resident of Grand Rapids. He referred to the fact that too many Grand Rapids people carry the idea that the officers of the Booster club, or others active in doing work for the public good, are boosters for self glorification. While there may be a little of this sentiment on the part of the Boosters, (and it is a poor stick of a man who could not feel a little pride in his own work), the fact remains that nearly all men who spend their time, and often their money in boosting "do it for the good of the cause," and even if there is personal dislike for the men in the movement, the rank and file should get behind the movement, for after all, the boosters are not only those in the lead of such a movement, but include all, and any man who knocks the boosters is knocking himself.

Supt. Freeman endorsed the sentiments expressed by Mr. Carson, and went further and made an appeal for the co-operation of the parents in

seeing that the laws as they relate to juveniles be better enforced.

A. M. Sisler was called upon, and he told of his activity in trying to get a shed built at the rest rooms for stabling the farmers' horses, and he suggested that the Booster club get behind the movement and provide such a shed. Mr. Sisler stated that such a place would do more to encourage the use of the rest room than anything else which could be done. Upon his suggestion a committee was appointed to look after the matter, and Mr. Stone named James Passard, J. D. Doran, and L. W. Huntly as members of that committee."

Itasca County Independent

Saturday
1-23-1915

P. 1, Col. 2.

"OLD LANDMARK GOES - An old landmark is being moved this week.

C. H. Carlson this week purchased the old warehouse of the late Itasca Mercantile Co., on the west side of Leland Avenue, north of the tracks, and he is moving it to his lots in the west end of town where he will use it as a cement block factory building. The warehouse was built by the Itasca Mercantile Co. about eighteen years ago. It is far from an imposing structure, and its removal will greatly improve the looks of the place where it stood. This is one of the few warehouses which were erected along the track in the old logging days left on the track."

P.1, Col. 3

Itasca County Independent

Vol. XVI - 34

"BEAUTIFY THIRD STREET

Woman's Club Doing Laudable Work On Down Town Thoroughfare /sic/

The civic department of the Woman's Club of Grand Rapids on Monday of this week began activities toward the beautifying of Third street. Eight mountain ash trees were set out by W. D. Perrington, which will add to the attractiveness of the boulevard. These trees are particularly pretty when in leaf and will furnish good shade. It is anticipated that a hedge of highland spruce will be built for three blocks along the north side of the boulevard and three large flower beds made containing red, white and blue flowers. Mrs. T. R. Pravitz is chairman of the civic committee and has a committee assisting her in this plausible work, consisting of Mrs. R. A. Stone, Miss Florence Burlingame, Mrs. A. A. Campbell, Mrs. Ed. Kelm, and Mrs. H. C. Lawrence. The proceeds of the musical entertainment given under the direction of Mrs. Lawrence and Mrs. Harrison are being used to finance the proposition and the work when completed will greatly improve the appearance of this popular thoroughfare. The village owes a note of sincere thanks to these public spirited women for what they are accomplishing along this and other lines for a better Grand Rapids."

Vol. XVI - 48

"Death of Henry Tinkey, Itasca County Pioneer

The remains of Henry Tinkey were brought here from Delhi, Iowa, Thursday for interment in the Old Soldiers' cemetery. Mr. Tinkey was a man who had reached the ripe old age of 74 and died from the effects of a paralytic stroke. Some 15 years ago Mr. Tinkey, who had been a resident of Grand Rapids for some time, removed his residence to Bear

Sept. 8, 1917

River, where he resided until recently, when he went for a visit to the house of one of his daughters at Delhi, where he had been two months when he died. The deceased was the father of eight children who survive him. His wife died some years ago and is buried here in the Old Soldiers' cemetery and it was on this account that Mr. Tinkey's remains were brought here for burial that he might be laid to rest beside his wife. Mr. Tinkey was a loving father and a good friend and neighbor and held in high esteem by all who knew him. The independent extends sympathy to the bereaved o

To Advertise Itasca County Lakes

Grand Rapids Commercial Club Starts Publicity Campaign to Bring Tourists Here
Will Get Out 20,000 Map Folders

Unequalled Lake and Summer Resort Facilities and Good Roads Will bring Tourists

At a meeting of the Grand Rapids Commercial Club Thursday evening, the matter of getting out a map and folder to connect Itasca county with the benefits of the advertising being done by the Ten Thousand Lakes of Minnesota Association, and to advertise the 9,000 lakes of Itasca county, it was decided to proceed with the work of getting out 20,000 folder maps with a map on the front and illustrations of hunting, fishing and other scenes on the back.

The funds with which to pay for this work, which will amount to about \$1,200, were pledged to a committee consisting of E. N. Remer, E. A. Kermer and C. K. Andrews during the few days previous to the meeting. The gentlemen met with a remarkable response, and raised the required amount, and more without any trouble.

ITASCA COUNTY INDEPENDENT

May 3, 1919

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It is the plan of the club to send the maps, along with such publicity matter as may be gotten out, to the prospective tourists who will reply to the advertisements for the Ten Thousands Lakes Association, a list of which is furnished each week to the various commercial clubs, resort owners and others interested in the promotion of the lake and summer tourist business in this section of the state.

The unequalled fishing, laking and other summer resort facilities and excellent roads of this section, coupled with the publicity campaign planned, should bring thousands of visitors to Itasca county every year."

Grand Rapids Notes
G. Hause
Nov. 27, 1940

Itasca County Independent
Thurs. April 9, 1909 Vol. VII - 25
P. 1. col. 1.

"POPULATION TO DOUBLE IN
TWO YEARS

Reports Current That Much Prosperity Is In
Store For Grand Rapids

Coming of Railroad to be
Great Help

Reports Say Shops And Division of G. N.
Will Be Located Here.

The extension of the Great Northern to Grand Rapids from the range will mark the beginning of a very important epoch in the history of the prosperity of Grand Rapids, according to reports of a very authentic nature which are wafted about.

The work on the extension is being pushed vigorously, and the reports that trains will be running over it by July 1, are not far fetched or exaggerated in the least.

The service which is outlined when the road gets to running is not yet clearly defined, but it will include night sleeper service from Duluth to this point, and thence onto the range, and vice versa, with day service to match, giving range people most desirable service.

Nor is this all, according to the source of our information, which comes from one who knows, the line south to Millaca, regarding which this paper made mention some time ago, is no idle dream. Before long the work on such a line will be commenced. The idea, primarily, is to tap the Aitkin country and the Cayum range, with the territory incidently tapped, and secondarily to give the range and this section direct service with the twin cities.

Grand Rapids Notes
G. Hause

Thurs. Apr. 8, 1909 Vol. VIII
P. 1. Col. 1.

That Grand Rapids will within two years double in population is not a wild prediction. The culmination of this railroad building will be the establishment at this point of division headquarters and car shops which would bring many people to our city. Beside this, many traveling men will make this their headquarters, wholesale houses will locate here, and the possibilities of the town from mining properties are not to be scoffed at. The possibilities of Grand Rapids as an industrial center are the brightest."

Grand Rapids Notes
G. Hause
Nov. 27, 1940

Itasca County Independent
Thurs. Mar. 4, 1909 Vol. VII - 20
P. 1. col. 4

"POKEGAMA LUMBER
COMPANY

New Corporation Which Will Handle Building
Material in Grand Rapids.
Will Absorb The City
Lumber Yard.

A. W. Sitz, Popular Local Young Man Will Be
Resident Manager

This week the Pokegama Lumber company was organized and incorporated to a wholesale and retail lumber business in Grand Rapids. The incorporators are D. M. Gumm, president, E. A. Kremer, Vice-president, L. Schaf, treasurer, A. W. Sitz, secretary, and the company is incorporated for \$50,000. A. W. Sitz, who has been a resident of Grand Rapids for several years, and who is one of Grand Rapids' most popular young men will be the local manager.

Mr. Leonard Schaf, who formerly owned the City Lumber Yard has been here all this week getting the new company organized and assisting Mr. Sitz in getting started.

The new company is a strong one, with plenty of resources and backed by men of excellent financial, and should prove a success.

Later - Late yesterday, since the foregoing was written, the incorporators received word that they could not use the name 'Pokegama Lumber Company,' as another company has already been incorporated under that name in the state. The incorporators therefore, have decided to incorporate under the name of the 'City Lumber Company.'

Itasca County Independent
Sat. Aug. 10, 1907 - Vol. V - 42
P. 1. col. 3 & 4

IMPROVEMENTS

Much Improvement Work Being Done.

in the Village

Appearance of Town

Greatly Improved

Considerable Private As Well As Public Work

is being done.

While the activity along building and improvement lines in Grand Rapids is not as pronounced as it might be, still there is much more being done than the general public dreams of. One of the main features of the improvement is the extensive building of cement sidewalks all over the village. Most of this work is being done by the village and the cost of the same will later be assessed to the property owners fronting whose property the walks are being built. Others, however, are having the work done themselves. Among the walks which have already been built are the walks on the two street sides of the Pokegama hotel and other stretches in the same block, then on the east side of Leland avenue from the Pokegama hotel corner across the tracks past the Itasca Mercantile store to the corner at the Village hall; on the west side of Leland Avenue from the Fountain house corner north to sixth street the work is now in progress in the west end of the city from Root's livery and will extend west to Duluth avenue whence it will follow that avenue to the vicinity of the new school building as well as walks on the north side of Leland avenue across the railroad tracks to Fourth street and on Eighth street between Sleeper and Leland avenues, besides in numerous other parts of the Village.

The work of filling in the ravine on Third street between the courthouse and the main part of the village goes on apace. Not only are the

Sat. Aug. 10, 1907
P. 1. col. 3 & 4

Grand Rapids Notes
G. Hause

contractors, Bowder & Mc Veigh making a good showing at the fill, but the streets from which they are taking the dirt are coming down to grade at a great rate. Chas. Brock has a contract for excavating of the basement under the Lent building, and has been hauling the dirt from there to the grounds of the new ward school in the west part of town, which grounds are being graded up. The excavation for the new brick block which M. Ponti is soon to put up on the site of the old O'Reilly blacksmith shop is coming along nicely, the dirt from this also going to the new school grounds.

The village has been making many improvements in the way extension of water mains, sewer and electric light lines.

All of these improvements will greatly add to the appearance of the village, particularly the walks across the railroad tracks which will take the place of the dirty cinder paths which the walks replace. Everywhere the walks are put on grade. While the putting of the walks on a new grade will make the town look much better, it will also work some disadvantage to many of those who had buildings, which were put up before the grade was established, and who are left in many instances away up in the air. Among these are the Itasca Mercantile company's store building the Independent building and the village hall. The same might be said of the lowering of the grade on Third street where John Heppel, Dibbert, and others will be left 'way up in the air.'

Beside this village work, there are a good many dwellings and other buildings going up, notably an addition to the Presbyterian church and the new residence of John McVeigh.

C. M. Erskine is building a considerable addition to his home, the old Faulkinghor residence which Mr. Erskine purchased some time ago.

John W. Aiton is putting the finishing touches on his pretty new

Sat. Aug. 10, 1907
P. 1. Col. 3 & 4

residence on Leland avenue.

John Rellis is soon to build a stone foundation and basement under his place of business.

Doran Bros., of the Gladstone Hotel, will soon start the remodeling of their popular hostelry. Among other things they will install a modern heating plant, put in a basement and paint the exterior of the building, all of which will greatly enhance the comfort and appearance of the hotel.

The stone work under the Bank Saloon has just been completed, and the large basement under the Lent Building is in the process of construction."

Itasca County Independent
Sat. July 20, 1907 - Vol. V -39
P. 1. col. 3 & 4.

Grand Rapids Notes
G. Hause
Nov. 27, 1940.

"Ben Levy, reliable merchant, looks back at six years of business here with pride.

It is just six years since Ben Levy started in business in Grand Rapids in a little store on Leland avenue, with a small stock of goods. Since that day his business has marched forward in the line of progress until it is one of the flourishing business institutions of the city. Mr. Levy's first place of business was in the McDonald building on Leland Ave., where he carried but a small stock of goods. About a year later he moved into the Oddfellow block where he conducted his store ably assisted by his sons Charles and Abe. In 1904 he bought out the Perrault store in the building which his store now occupies in order to obtain a better location, and opened another store conducting both stores until about two and half years ago, when he discontinued doing business in the Oddfellow block. While he was closing out his stock in that place, he was having his present quarters enlarged and remodeled to accommodate a larger and better stock with his combined capital.

A short time ago, Mr. Levy decided again to branch out, and secured a building in Coleraine where he is about to open an exclusive clothing and men's furnishing store, which will be in charge of his son, Abe Levy, who has shown exceptional ability among business lines. Mr. Levy senior is now in the eastern markets buying goods for both stores.

During all the time that Mr. Levy has been in business here, his dealings have always been marked by a spirit of progressiveness and up-to-dateness which insured success. He has always been a consistent and judicious advertiser, which may be attributed to a large share of his success."

P. 4 Col. 1 & 2

Grand Rapids Weekly Eagle
Thurs. July 3, 1890 Vol. 1-1
"GRAND RAPIDS"

The Proud Young Queen of the Upper
Mississippi.

The New-Old Town of the North Star State - - - - Something
of Her History, Promise, and Her Business Men.

'Grand Rapids people think they hold the key', wrote a chronicler who recently visited this region, since the opening of the railroad. He was only partly right. They not only think, but they know it, and not only Grand Rapids pioneers who have so long lived on the faith that was in them, but every person who visits the region. Man never found midst the richest of nature's townsites treasures a finer natural location; for, in the midst of vast storehouses of treasures in lumber, iron mines, and rich agricultural lands, she sits right at the river's edge, by the Father of Waters, on one of the most beautiful natural water powers the eye ever saw, while gemmed about, in every direction are the loveliest of lakes really overstocked with fish of the finest of Minnesota's many varieties; and a most important discovery made by the engineers, is that nature has set close beside the town a natural water supply. It is found that Hale lake, a lovely one, only a little over a mile from the town, sets nearly thirty feet above the town, so that a water supply can be brought in in natural mains.

GRAND RAPID'S HISTORY

As to settlement, the place is only identified with the earliest lumber operations of the Mississippi, though the region was from time immemorial visited by whites and explorers. The early Jesuits undoubtedly ascended the Mississippi to the Rapids, attested by mission settlements at near points, especially Sandy Point. The first building was erected in 1874, by L. G. Seavy, now of Aitkin; but Warren Potter, of Aitkin, is justly regarded as 'the father of the town'.

Grand Rapids Research
E. A. Summer - Hause
Dec. 4, 1940

Grand Rapids Weekly Eagle
Thurs. July 3, 1890 Vol. 1-1
P. 4 Col. 1 & 2
(cont.)

having about that time established a trading post, and Potter & Co. are still doing business 'at the old stand'. The firm was for a time Knox and Potter, being C. C. Knox, of Wisconsin. The Knox Brothers came next, being Hon. D. J. Knox, recently deceased, and L. F. Knox, the latter succeeding to the business, with another brother, Geo. W. Knox, now of Aitkin. Stores and hotels followed, and warehouses on the river docks; for the steamboat was the only communication from Aitkin, nearly 200 miles, Grand Rapids being at the head of the furthest up-river trip.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The following is an enumeration of the present business houses, and business men of Grand Rapids, including school, church and other social interests. The business cards will all, without exception, be found in our advertising columns --- a showing, for a new town, which we challenge newspaper experience anywhere to equal.

North Side - Fronting on the Rapids, and immediately overlying the recently discovered Mesabi Iron Range, is the general store of John Beckfelt. Here also is the postoffice, and Mr. B. has been postmaster for seven years, thus surviving all administration changes. He also has a freight house at the steamboat landing, for storage and forwarding -- a building 48 x 120 feet.

At the corner of First St. and Leland Ave., L. F. Knox has a fine store, the building the best in Grand Rapids, two stories high, the upper story making a fine residence. He has also here a real estate office, and the office of the Steamer Fawn, of Aitkin.

Opposite Knox's across the avenue, is the large hotel property of Chas. Kearney, called the Itasca Hotel. This is one of the pioneer hotels of the

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whole upper country. Mr. Kearney also wears the ermine of Justice of the Peace, and swings one of Gov. Merriam's notorial seals, as Notary Public, and does general conveyancing. He has large barns and a good livery service.

Adjoining the Itasca, is a large restaurant and liquid refreshment place, recently owned by genial A. T. Nason, but now connected with the hotel, Mr. Nason engaging in the lard business.

Opposite the Itasca, stands one of the pioneer saloons kept by Robert McCabe, who knows how to run a strictly first-class place.

Further up-stream, directly abreast of the Grand Rapids water power, stands the Grand Rapids Hotel, James Sherry, proprietor, which has a large saloon and restaurant opposite. Mr. Sherry is a large lumber operator, and a business with whom it is a pleasure to do business.

Next door, to the westward, is the Bodega saloon, run by John McDonald, for Minneapolis owners.

These business houses are at the old business center, near the steamboat landings and close to the river crossing, over a fine new steel bridge, which is of 150 foot span -- a swing bridge constructed under government requirements.

Other North-siders are, Cleveland, the jeweler, occupying the front of the Knox building. Also, B. F. Sims, the only barber who is to be found in the Itasca Hotel. He owns a fine lot nearer the railroad and will build.

E. R. Lewis is a veteran civil engineer, and as Deputy County Surveyor is platting many pieces of land into lots. He has just finished a division for J. B. Chatterton of Minneapolis.

Mr. Chatterton himself, is the large cedar operator, whose telegraph poles are heard of so much in the Mississippi. He has platted 160 acres and made generous donations toward starting Grand Rapids.

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George Keightly, builder and contractor, built the first building started under the new growth, and is an experienced builder and reliable man. This building is the Johnson House, Johnson Bros. proprietors, located at Leland Ave. near Third st. The brothers are C. M. and J. W. Johnson, of Hurley, Wis. Their hotel is 25 x 80 feet, two stories high and is kept equal to the best. These gentlemen had the nerve to start in when no one had any certainty of a town here and deserve great success.

On the Southside -- the Southside is naturally residence property, but several business houses are located there, including Potter & Co., elsewhere mentioned, of whom Geo. Meyers is the gentlemanly manager; M. L. Toole, saloon, and Woods & Daly, blacksmiths and wood and iron workers. Woods and Daly have built the new bridges at Grand Rapids, and just finished is a fine one over the ravine, near Leland Avenue.

Toole & Clay of this side are also heavy lumbermen.

CHURCHES, SCHOOLS ETC.

Rev. Charles L. Carhart, represents the Presbyterian society, in a charge that bid likely soon to have a church. Has also organized a Sunday School. The first efforts for a church, however, were by Rev. Thomas Finlay, of the Second Presbyterian church, Duluth; was organized last January.

Grand Rapids has a good school, increasing rapidly. Several societies have permanent membership, and I. O. O. F. have a hall on the tapis" [sic?]

G. H. Hause 11/28/40

P. 1 Col. 2 & 3

Itasca county Independent
Thurs. Oct. 28, 1909 Vol. VIII - 2

THE PARK IDEA IN
GRAND RAPIDS

Should Be Fostered -- Many Natural Parks
Right In Our Reach

WHY NOT GET BUSY and BE READY FOR SPRING

Council Should Appoint Park Board of
Good, Active Men.

The Grand Rapids commercial club is on the right track when it promotes the park idea in Grand Rapids. Grand Rapids in its entirety is really one vast park, but like all other parks, it is necessary that it be kept up. There is a vast scope for work in Grand Rapids for a park board. Such a body could work with the citizens in getting up enthusiasm in keeping the individual front and back yards neat and attractive. The abutting streets could receive something like attention. That is a field of utility, however, which would be only a small part of the work which could be done by such a body.

For Grand Rapids' first park, the land east of the city between the G. N. track and the Mississippi has been mentioned, and it is our understanding that the title to that land for park purposes could be procured with no cost to Grand Rapids -- the lands, which belong jointly to G. G. Hartley and the Great Northern railway company, have been offered gratis if the village would only appoint a park board to take custody of them. Why should the village be waiting? Why not take advantage of these things?

But this place is not all the park room there is in Grand Rapids. There are any number of places in town where little parks and some not so little, could be made by just cleaning them up. One of the largest and best of these is the park which could be made out of the territory and around the lake. The opportunities offering themselves in that neighborhood speak for themselves, and need not be elaborated on.

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Then there is a series of places which would make beautiful small parks. We refer to such places as the creek which passes through town follows streets which are not, and may never be in use, for a block or more. Eighth street between Hoffman and Kindred avenues, and even as far east as Leland avenue is one spot that would make a park with but little cost or effort. To be sure, the place would have to be worked up -- cleaned, graded, the creek walled in and dug out in places etc., but it would make a beautiful little park, right down town, and one that could be reached without too long a walk. The flowing water through the place makes its possibilities as a park almost infinite along aquatic lines.

Down the creek, on Seventh street between Leland and Sleeper, is another such spot. There are several nice trees which could be trimmed down to make a very material part of the beauty of the place. At present the ground in question is being used to pile lumber and other junk, and is far from being pretty. Under the care of a careful park board, it would soon flourish into one of the beauty spots of the city. Another such spot is on the street where the creek follows between Fifth and Sixth streets. This is at present, we are informed, used to certain extent as a dump, but when cleared up would make another beauty spot.

Small spots of ground adjacent to these places, land which could not be used otherwise than in connection with such projects as outlined in the foregoing, could no doubt be gotten for the sake of getting such parks maintained. This paper doubts not that the people living or having property adjacent to such places would cooperate heartily in beautifying the places in question.

The places mentioned in the foregoing are only a few of the parks which could be made by almost no effort at all. If our town is not a hundredfold more beautiful than it is, it is our own fault. The Independent wishes to commend the Commercial club for its efforts along the lines of securing a park board, and it

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Research on Grand Rapids
E. A. Summer - Hause
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wishes it success. The foregoing suggestions are given freely with the hope that they will help in the good work."

G. H. Hause 11/27/40

"GREAT WHITE WAY FOR GRAND RAPIDS

Grand Rapids has decided to fix up one street in that town just to show the rest of the country towns how to do it. They are paving it to begin with, and then after learning that it costs a great deal more to light with arc lights than with incandescent lights are installing lamp posts with Tungster lights in clusters of three suspended from the cross arms of iron posts set in concrete. They are starting with 40 of these posts and are placing them six or eight to the block on alternate sides. - Aitkin Age."

G. H. Hause 11/27/40

Research on Grand Rapids
E. A. Summer - Hause
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Itasca County Independent
Thurs. Mar. 11, 1911 Vol. IX-20

"HAS A POPULATION OF
2230

POPULATION OF GRAND RAPIDS INCREASES
ONLY 175 IN FIVE YEARS

Grand Rapids remains the metropolis of Itasca County with a population of 2230, according to the 1910 census returns which were received here last Friday.

While this showing is a gain of 175 during the past five years, (the 1905 census showing Grand Rapids to have had a population of 2055) it is a great disappointment to Grand Rapids, as it was thought that a showing of between 2500 and 3000 could be made. The small increase is doubtless due to the fact that many people who make their homes were away working in other places at the time the census was taken and could not be enumerated."

G. H. Hause 11/28/40

Research on Grand Rapids
E. A. Sumner - Hause
Dec. 4, 1940

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Itasca County Independent
Thurs. Feb. 1, 1912 Vol. X - 15

"A S S E E N B Y A C A R E F U L
O B S E R V E R

PROF. PETER OLSON WRITES ENTERTAININGLY ABOUT
THE RECENT TRIP TO GRAND RAPIDS

Prof. Peter Olson in Cloquet Pine Knot: "Recognizing that intelligent farming is the basis of all wealth, businessmen and farmers are gradually getting together and are studying how farm labor may become less arduous and more profitable. It is probable that the editor of "The Pine Knot" had this in mind when he arranged for the excursion to Grand Rapids.

Mr. McGuire, the cordial and hospitable superintendent of the state Farm, at Grand Rapids, did everything in his power to show us that farming in Northeastern Minnesota may be highly profitable. He proved to our entire satisfaction that the best way to find out whether a farm is profitable or not is to run it on a business basis. He showed us how he kept an accurate account of the feed for each cow as also of the number of pounds of butter fat it's milk produced at each milking. In this way, he said he knew to a cent the actual value of every cow in his barn. This record proved to us that it cost no more to feed a cow producing 300 pounds of butterfat than it does to feed one producing less than a hundred pounds. Mr. McGuire is of the opinion that ensilage is the best and cheapest food for cattle and that a silo pays for itself in a short time.

After he had shown us through the dairy barn, he took us to the chicken department. The man in charge told us that one reason why chickens are not as profitable as they should be, is, that they are fed too much. The allowance given each grown chicken at the state farm there is 1/6 of a pound a day. This food was scattered between sand and straw and the chickens could only get it with a great deal of work.

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Then Mr. McGuire took us back to Grand Rapids to look over the creamery.

He told us that their creamery paid higher prices for butterfat than most creameries because they had installed a pasteurizing plant. He said that they sold pasteurized milk at current prices to patrons in the city and made a good profit on it.

When we asked Mr. McGuire if he thought that a creamery could be successful at Cloquet, he said that he felt sure it could be since there were more cows tributary to Cloquet than to Grand Rapids.

In the evening the Commercial Club of the city gave us an excellent banquet at the hotel. The Grand Rapids business men are justly proud of their city with its "White Way" lighted streets, and we have every reason to say that Grand Rapids may well be proud of its business men, -- the men who banqueted and toasted us with generous hospitality.

The next morning Conductor Vibert escorted us by a round-about route to the Hartley Farm, or as it is also called the Island Farm. Mr. Smith, the farm superintendent, spared no effort in showing us around. He told us that five years ago this farm was all swamp; that people in general thought that the land had no value for farming, but that Mr. Hartley realized the fertility of the soil; that none was better when it was drained and that he decided to establish one of the model farms in Minnesota, at that place. Mr. Smith said that he as well as Mr. Hartley were partial to the Guernsey cattle since they had many reasons for believing that this breed was the best for Northern Minnesota. He showed us through the dairy farm which is 215 ft. long. The barn is well lighted, and is kept very, very clean. I asked Mr. Smith if he thought that such extraordinary cleanliness paid and he said that it certainly did. As he explained everything about the

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construction of the barn and the feeding of the animals. I was particularly interested in one statement he made. He said that they had tried to find out how plenty of water affected the milk production by giving a number of cows water three times a day while they gave an equal number all the water they wanted whenever they wanted it. They found out that the latter cows gave two pounds of milk more at each milking or four pounds per day. Since many farmers water their cows but once a day, I thought it likely that such cows would give two pounds of milk less per day than those that have water three times. If this is correct the cows with water accessible at all times give six pounds of milk or three quarts more each day than those that are watered but once a day. Valuing milk at 5 cents this would be 9 cents a day more and with 300 milking days in a year the gain for sufficient watering would be \$27.00 a year. Mr. Smith also believes in ensilage, and he said that a farmer should only keep a high grade stock.

As I looked over that farm, I realized more keenly than I had ever done before that it takes a good deal of brain work to run a farm right. The trip to Grand Rapids and Island Farm showed clearly that most farmers need and may have better stock by keeping accurate account of each animal, better seeds by carefully testing their fertility, better soil by keeping many cattle. This is possible for every farmer. Some may not know how to test milk or the seeds. In that case let me suggest that the farmers bring the seeds and milk to the Agricultural department of the local high school and same will be tested free of charge.

In conclusion, I beg to say that the trip to Grand Rapids was highly profitable to me, and I believe that it would pay any young farmer to work a short time at either of the two farms mentioned, thereby learning a great deal of real profit for his life work."

G. H. Hause 12/3/40

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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

Sept. 2, 1931
(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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(continued)

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 Vermilion 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 (?)"

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 Canisteeo mining district and Bovey

"When the Canisteeo 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 Canisteeo 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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(continued)

"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 Canistee. 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

Sept. 23, 1931
(continued)

mayors gave orders to the police force to take guns away from all who were not citizens. The first night out officers, Kingston and Westerland 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 rutabagos 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

Sept. 23, 1931
(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

Oct. 7, 1931
(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 which tells about her. It seems that Itasca was the daughter of Manabazho, the Spirit God of the Chippewas. She was wooed 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."

Oct. 28, 1931

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 Morrissey 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. 7

E. A. S.

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 bark 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."

Nov. 11, 1931

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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(continued)

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 Herritts 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.

Nov. 25, 1931

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, Mesabe 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 1837. 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 1838.

"Grand Rapids was a simple town 44 years ago. (that would be 1837) 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.

December 2, 1931

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. C. 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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(continued)

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."

December 9, 1931

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, ore 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?'"

December 16, 1931

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 roof 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 1892 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."

December 23, 1931

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 drink but it was not considered in good form to leave 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 elog 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."

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 waken. 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

December 30, 1931
(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 Pussy-foot 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."

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 canoe men, 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.

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. Summer.

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.

Grand Rapids Herald Report
Summer
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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.

February 17, 1932

Religion - Churches - Sunday Schools

In 1910 there was not a Sunday School in Itasca 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

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(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.

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.

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 Herald-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 established papers at Walker and Cass Lake. We know nothing about later events in his life."

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

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(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 Breckenridge 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 proceeded 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 , 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.

Sept. 3, 1940

April 19, 1933

Original Itasca Co.

"Itasca county was one of the original counties of Minnesota. In the days before statehood the territory of Minnesota was divided into five counties. Itasca was one of them. It extended from Mille Lacs north to the Canadian border and from the source of the Mississippi to Lake Superior to include what later became Duluth.

"What happened to the county during the period from statehood to 1887 we do not know (find out) but in the year 1887 Itasca came back onto the map of Minnesota. It included the area now known as Itasca and Koochiching. It did not, however, at that time have an independent county existence. It was carved out of Crow Wing county along with what is now Aitkin county, and both Aitkin and Itasca were administered by one county government known as Aitkin-Itasca county.

"This peculiar arrangement was authorized by the Minnesota legislature on February 26, 1887, and shortly thereafter the Aitkin-Itasca board of county commissioners began its work. The proceedings of this early board were signed by E. B. Lowell, chairman of the board of county commissioners. Most of the activities of the county board consisted of granting liquor licenses and permits for logging dams across rivers. The bills which were allowed by this early board were very small. In the later years of its administration, Grand Rapids and La Prairie were active communities. Grand Rapids, however, did not wish to have La Prairie a village, and La Prairie blocked the formation of the village of Grand Rapids for two or three years.

"It is evident from the early records that there were two county boards

Original Itasca Co. - (continued)

April 19, 1933

at one time, for in the court house are found some proceedings of a county board of Itasca county which are co-incident with the proceedings of the Aitkin-Itasca board. It is obvious that this other effort to govern this section was declared illegal in later court actions.

"Itasca county combined what is now known as Itasca and Koochiching, which was later detached, and came into official existence on March 7, 1891, when the Minnesota legislature created the county and authorized the appointment of the first board of county commissioners. The governor of Minnesota appointed a board of three members of which L. F. Knox was chairman and J. P. Sims and B. C. Finnegan were members. This board met for the first time on March 24, 1891, and thereupon transacted the first official business of the new county.

"At that first meeting, which occupied both the 24th and 25th of March, several resolutions were adopted. One of them declared that Grand Rapids was to be the county seat. Another designated the location of the court house. Another voted \$25,000 for the expense of the county for a year. Other resolutions appointed the county officers whose salaries were set at what appears now to be quite a low figure.

"The first county auditor of Itasca county, after its separate organization, was H. R. King. *** John Beckfelt was the first county treasurer. Charles Kearney was the first register of deeds, and Henry W. Canfield was the first county attorney. Wade Blaker was the first clerk of court, and E. R. Lewis the first county surveyor. M. A. Woods was appointed assessor for the county and T. R. Pravitz was appointed county superintendent of schools.

"The first year of activity of the new county board and county officers was very important. The county records had to be set up and the first year saw the completion of the county government and the creation of the village of Grand Rapids. A

Original Itasca Co. - (continued)

April 19, 1933

year or two later Cohasset became a village and then Deer River. ~~The county board and county officers was very important. The county records had to be set up and the first year saw the completion of the county government and the creation of the village of Grand Rapids. A year or two later Cohasset became a village and then Deer River.~~

<The first election in the county was the regular election of 1892 and the proceedings contained the names of the judges and clerks of election at about 20 precincts throughout the county. At that election La Prairie tried to become the county seat, but Grand Rapids won. The first road petitions in Itasca were received within a few weeks after organization of the county. In fact, some small amount of miscellaneous road work had been started by the county commissioners previous to the separate organization of Itasca county.

"A picture of Grand Rapids at the time of the organization of the county would show a very crude community. It was the terminus of the railroad. A bridge had just been built across the Mississippi. The whole town was crowded along the river. Most of the buildings were of logs. A good part of the business enterprises were saloons. The chief industry of the section was logging and that was all that any one seemed to be interested in.

"There was evidently, according to the records of the time, plenty of politics in the new county. Grand Rapids had to save its position as the county seat and La Prairie had to put up an effort to get the honor for itself. Villages and school districts were being formed with their interesting contests. Altogether those were very interesting days, those early days of Itasca.

(Of those first board members and county officers, who, if any, are alive in 1940?)

Sept. 4, 1940

April 26, 1933

County Seat Question

The County Seat Fight in 1892

" *** The general story seems to be that La Prairie was the county seat of Itasca and that Grand Rapids stole both the county seat and the court house. The statements concerning the court house fight have been greatly exaggerated as time has gone on.

"La Prairie was never the county seat of Itasca county. It simply wanted to be. When Itasca county was formed in 1891 the second resolution introduced at the first meeting of the board of county commissioners on March 24th of that year declares as follows--'Moved and carried that the town of Grand Rapids. Itasca county, Minnesota, shall be the county seat of Itasca county until changed at the next general election as provided by law.' The wording of this resolution might indicate that some of the people anticipated a change. Another resolution on that same day which was passed by the county board, consisting of L. P. Knox, J. P. Sims and B. C. Finnegan, was as follows--'Moved and carried that this board designate court square, known as block 20, townsite of Grand Rapids, as a location for erecting a building and vault to be used for a county building.'

"The first court house, located on the same block that the present structure now stands, (still on same site, in 1940?) must have been a very simple structure. The contract for the room and vault was let to Lewis J. Jensen of Grand Rapids for the price of \$170. This small frame building was located nearer to the creek than the present court house, and served as the official building of Itasca county for some little time. (Query: Did officers maintain their offices in their homes, stores, or where, during this one-room period?)

County Seat Question - (continued)

April 26, 1933

"La Prairie had something of an edge on Grand Rapids at the time of the creation of Itasca county. The Duluth & Winnipeg railroad came only as far as La Prairie and stopped. The owner of the townsite of La Prairie was Courtney a Buell and the railroad made La Prairie its terminus because the owners of the townsite met the railroad demand of a gift of one-half of the village lots. Because La Prairie was the jumping-off place it thrived vigorously. There were two or three large mercantile houses, several saloons, a hospital, and the first doctor of the county. It was an important trading point.

"Grand Rapids was not liberal with the railroad. The owners of the townsite of this village refused for some time to give the railroad any of the village lots and consequently the railroad did not build through to the present site of the village *and instead proposed a depot and village* near the present site of Pokegama dam. However, in about 1890 there came to Grand Rapids an energetic citizen, Dr. Howe, (first name?) who started the agitation for granting the gift that the railroad demanded. Finally the owners of the townsite acceded to the request and the railroad was extended to Grand Rapids. That took the edge off La Prairie and helped to improve the prospects for the struggling county seat.

"There is an interesting story or so in connection with the inside politics of the county seat fight in 1892. The issue of the choice of the county seat became hot and interesting. Most of the men who were working in the woods did not care very much one way or the other, and many of them were lined up solid for Grand Rapids. It was this that led to the choice of this community for the county seat, the later growth of Grand Rapids, and the complete dissolution of La Prairie.

"There are many tales concerning voting in the early days of this section. Most of them are also exaggerated. It is true that some of the outlying precincts usually sent in more votes than they had voters, and it was doubtless the custom to

County Seat Question - (continued)

April 26, 1933

vote the oxen or anything else that could be voted. One of the clerks of election brought in a big vote from an outlying precinct at the time of the county seat fight in 1892. Somebody asked him who they voted up there to get such a big vote. The reply was, 'We voted everything with hair on it.' In the early elections there was doubtless abuse of the privilege of voting. This was due to the fact that there was little or no supervision of the voting, as the distances between polls were large. Moreover, things were loose and easy in the early days and a few votes more or less did not make much difference. There are some authentic cases of voting oxen by giving them their real first name and the name of the owner as a last name. Dead Indians have been voted in the history of this section, but on the whole the stories of excessively large and illegal votes are very much exaggerated.

"From the minute the people of the county confirmed Grand Rapids as the seat of government, La Prairie began to go down. La Prairie had the first newspaper. A. G. Bernard founded the La Prairie Magnet in about 1888. When Itasca and Aitkin counties were administered as one unit before the creation of a separate county, the La Prairie Magnet was the official paper of the county. Later the Magnet was removed to the county seat to become the Grand Rapids Magnet and later it was exterminated by other Grand Rapids publishers. A. G. Bernard who had pioneered a newspaper of La Prairie and Grand Rapids sought out newer fields in Cass county."

(Probably nearly every county in Minnesota has had its "county seat fight," as have most of the counties in most of the states of the Union. Some of them have left deep and ugly political scars. Many promising communities, losing the contest, have faded from the map. Many not so promising, winning by hook or by crook, have grown to flourishing cities in later years; yet it is probable that, in general, the

County Seat Question - (continued)

April 26, 1933

value of being chosen the seat of government has been overestimated by ambitious and prideful residents.)

Grand Rapids Herald-Review - Summer

Sept. 4, 1940

May 3, 1933

Ascertain if there are any fish hatcheries in Grand Rapids, and, if so, get some interesting data on hatching and planting. If none in Grand Rapids, see if I can tie the Cutfoot hatchery up with Grand Rapids or its history in an interesting manner.

Sept. 4, 1940

May 10, 1933

Log Driving

"Log driving called for skill on the part of the workmen. It was a dangerous occupation, with long hours and hard labor, but it was well paid. When wages in the woods were \$30 per month, loggers who went on the drive received \$2.50 per day and board, which meant four meals a day. These were called breakfast, served about four o'clock in the morning, first lunch at half past nine, second lunch at half past two, and supper, any time from eight to nine in the evening. One illustration of the long hours has become a classic. A prospective driver, being hired in Grand Rapids, asked Al Powers, superintendent, if there was much lost time on his drive, meaning if much time would be lost by reason of head winds. Mr. Powers responded, 'No, very little, only from twelve to two.' While very few men worked 22 hours per day, an eighteen-hour day was very common. The logs had to move downstream when there was water enough to float them, and every day was important.

"Log driving had its own vocabulary. Today there are men living in the northern woods who have never seen a pair of well calked boots, which in the old days scarred the floors of the thirst emporiums in the river towns. These sharp steel calks in the soles of the shoes enabled the skilled river driver to work with unconcern on the floating logs which would turn and dump the unwary into the cold water.

"The floating houseboats in which the men slept, and where the cooking was done, were termed 'wanigans.' Then there were 'jargoes', the flat boats which took down the last logs of the floating rear. 'Sacking' was hard work, and meant pulling out the logs left in the logans and on the meadows by the falling water. In

Log Driving - (continued)

May 10, 1933

the narrow streams a drive might be held up by a 'gillpoke,' which was when a long stick of timber jammed crosswise of the stream and blocked passage. A log driver had to watch out for 'sweepers,' not armed with brooms, but trees or poles projecting out over the water, apt to catch an unwary man who was riding down on a log. Many other terms used in log driving have passed into the literature and the vocabulary of the north woods.

" *** Now there is not a stick of timber floating down the Bigfork, the last stream to give way to improved highways and railroads as a means of transportation for timber."

Sept. 4, 1940

May 17, 1933

Gambling

In the early days in Itasca there was considerable gambling. There was not as much in the lumbering sections as there was in the mining regions. Mining camps seem always to be strong for gambling, but lumber camps went more for drinking.

"Around Grand Rapids and Deer River were several gambling institutions, however, throughout all the earlier life of these communities. Grand Rapids had several gambling places, most of them connected with saloons. Back in the early 1900's 'Nigger Alex,' so called because he doubtless had some Negro blood and a dark complexion, operated successfully as a gambler in Grand Rapids. There were a good many others who made most of their living from their ability to play cards.

"The visitor in Grand Rapids many years ago would have found plenty of chance to lose his money. If he had stepped into a saloon he would have seen on one side a row of slot machines from a nickel to a dollar. Passing back further he might have found a gambling table or two and a roulette wheel. Roulette wheels were quite common and there were several of them between the two communities.

"Sometimes some pretty big games would be in progress ***. A thousand dollars would be seen quite often on the table. Most of the sums, however, were considerably smaller as a large number of those who played were not in the big money class.

"The games that were played were those common to most gamblers. Stud and draw poker were the most common games. Blackjack, which those who read western tales know most about, was seldom played here. *** There were several other card games *** and there were some games with dice. Particularly important was the game of Klondike,

Gambling - (continued)

May 17, 1933

played with dice on a table. In this game money could be lost quite rapidly.

"The lumberjack was not essentially a cardplayer. He was interested in other things. The minute he came to town he wanted a drink. There are several reasons why lumberjacks were interested in drinking. They had worked in the woods for several months. They had lived on the food of the lumber camps, which was very much the same from day to day, designed to sustain men at swinging an axe and dragging the saw. They had bunked in the lumber camp with its more or less uncomfortable circumstances. Their work had been monotonous, early to bed and early to rise. In most camps drinking was strictly prohibited and thus even a normal appetite for strong liquors would be excited by the prospect of a change and a drink. The minute the lumberjack got to town he started for the saloon, and the saloon keeper was ready for him. Stepping up to the bar he would take a few large drinks. As a result he would soon be drunk, and when he was drunk he was not interested in cards. (a wise system which should be, but seldom is, followed by city sports)

"Some lumberjacks who drank less would play cards, usually to their sorrow. *** Grand Rapids had about a half dozen men who made their living off gambling. These men were smooth gentlemen who knew their cards. It cannot be said that they were necessarily 'crooked' gamblers, but they knew so much more about cards than the people with whom they played that they took the money. Off seasons these men would play for smaller stakes and wherever they could find a game. *** They would all be set, however, when the camps broke up, and if they broke up gradually, leaving quite a large number of men in the community for some time, it was a favorable season for the gamblers. The stakes for which the lumberjacks played were obviously not large. Most of them were large enough to leave the men from the woods much the loser after a few evening of play.

"The larger gamblers of the communities were the lumbermen, those who were

Gambling - (continued)

May 17, 1933

engaged in the logging business as employers. Some of these men were real gamblers and would do well in the best of company with cards or dice. When they would get together to play cards the stakes would be big. A thousand dollars would be lost one evening and it might be won back the next.

"Gambling was done in several places. It was usually a side line of some saloon and it is not known that there were any special gambling houses that were elaborately equipped. But there were plenty of games and every time a play was made a proportion of it went to the house. This proportion was large enough to take about all the capital that was put into a small game in a few hours.

"In the woods some of the lumber camps would not allow any card playing. It was felt that it kept the men up late and created some little excitement. The best conducted camps allowed no gambling under any consideration, though some of them would allow cards and Sunday would be spent in smear or cribbage. ***

Sept. 4, 1940

May 24, 1933

Roads and Bridges

(Query: how far--in miles & fractions--is it from Grand Rapids townsite to the Pokegama government dam? Are any streams crossed on the road connecting these points?)

" *** One of the first acts of the board of commissioners which governed the Aitkin-Itasca combination was to set aside the sum of \$2,809.22 for use on the highways of this section in 1887.

"The first road contract let in what is now Itasca county was awarded to Sidney McDonald, who agreed to build a road from Grand Rapids 'To the government dam at Pokegama falls.' His contract was in part in the following language, which included specifications: 'Cutting and grubbing out the trees and brush to a uniform width of 33 feet. Bridge all waterways with sufficient stringers of logs, and covering same with poles, spotted down, which shall not be less than six inches in diameter and not less than 14 feet in length, and filling all low spots with corduroy poles not less than 14 feet in length. The contractor shall grade down all hillocks and knolls, and make the road passable at all times, and complete the same on or before October 15, 1887.' This work was done for an agreed price of \$250, and must have been satisfactory, for there is a later entry showing this payment made in full.

"One of the important roads leading from Grand Rapids served to accommodate the lumbermen who had camps established north of this village, along the Prairie river and its tributaries. The loggers built most of their tote roads themselves, but in cases where the roads were of benefit to large numbers of people, received aid from the county. Thus we find a payment of \$750 made to J. P. Sims for work done

Roads and Bridges - (continued)

May 24, 1933

on the road between Grand Rapids and Big Trout Lake.

"Early settlers in Grand Rapids were without a bridge over the Mississippi river here. The minutes of the meeting of the county board held May 29, 1889, show a petition signed by Charles Kearney and 28 others asking for a wagon bridge over the Mississippi in this village. Bids were invited, and the contract let to A. Y. Baynes and Company for sum of \$4,350. W. V. Fuller, an early settler here, had charge of grading the approaches, which cost all of \$61.50. Labor was paid two dollars a day, and a man who furnished a team and wagon with his services only received four dollars a day.

"Tote roads leading to Prairie Lake were not good enough for general traffic by the close of the year 1889, so 34 local citizens signed a petition asking for a road to the lake, which would reach the site of the old dam at the foot of the upper lake. The road was ordered surveyed.

"Far sighted citizens saw the need for linking up short pieces of highway as early as 1889, so in the latter part of that year the county commissioners received a petition for a county road to extend from the mouth of Bass Brook at Co-hasset, through Grand Rapids and Akeley, which latter place soon became a part of La Prairie, to the mouth of Blackberry Brook. Early surveys indicated that the route was feasible, and construction was authorized.

"Roads and bridges were constructed at much less cost than now, for when bids were invited for an iron bridge over Prairie river 'below the dam,' or near the site of the present power house, (ascertain if P. H. is there in 1940) there were several bidders, S. M. Hewitt was successful, his price being \$1,287.

"Farmers south of town wanted roads to enable them to get to market, and local people wanted to drive to the lake. Chas. Kearney, John Beckfelt, Duncan

Roads and Bridges - (continued)

May 24, 1933

Harris, Anthony McAlpine and a number of others signed a petition asking for a road out to the lake from the new bridge over the Mississippi. Prompt action was taken, for the county commissioners accepted the petition, granted it, and ordered the road laid out, all in one short day.

"Splendid paved roads now lead across the range, but in the early history of the county there were no roads across those hills, where the presence of iron ore was but suspected. Some exploration work had been done in Iron Range township, not named then, and the site called the Diamond mine. The location was north of the present road between Taconite and Marble, and about half way between those points. A petition for a road from La Prairie to the Diamond mine was granted on June 25, 1890, and work ordered started. Specifications were much the same as those given earlier.

"These early records sometimes have a touch of unconscious humor. One road petition placed before the commissioners at an early date came from a large group of settlers living some miles west of Cohasset. This petition set forth at some length the hardships which the settlers were undergoing and asked for help. The county board thereupon voted to have the proposed highway surveyed, and told the petitioners that they would be permitted to clear the road and work it, in order to provide themselves an outlet to market. It was intimated that those who needed the road should build it, without asking public help except for the survey.

"Itasca county has always been generous to the unfortunate. One of the early entries shows payment to L. D. Bryant of \$11.34 for taking care of Pat O'Halloran. Records a year later show the expense of interring the remains of O'Halloran."

Sept. 5, 1940

April 5, 1933

Bob Mosemo -- Smallpox

(Indian appreciation and good will)

"We had a call from an Indian chief the other day. It was Bob Mosemo from Inger who came to see us. He had been down to call upon his friend, Mike McAlpine, and express the regret of the Indians at Mr. McAlpine's sickness. For many years Mike McAlpine has been a real friend of all of the Indians. Nearly every fall he has gone around the community and gathered up some clothes for them, and has helped them out in every possible way. Bob Mosemo came down as an official representative, as it were, of the Chippewas, to express good wishes.

"A generation or more ago the authority of the Indian chiefs was very definite. It was recognized by the federal government in dealing with the Indians. That time has passed, however, and the only recognition an Indian chief now gets is from his own tribe members, and that is somewhat limited. Bob Mosemo is the head of the Indians of the Inger-Winnibigoshish section. He represents them on various occasions and he has many duties to do throughout the course of the year. For instance, he tells them when they can begin to harvest the wild rice. Since the chief belongs to the old Indian religion he is the head of the medicine dance and looks after all arrangements in connection with the events of that nature.

"Bob Mosemo is about 80 years of age. (this in 1933) His father was Makeci which in English would mean Eagle. The old chief fought against the Sioux when the Indians of the south came against the Chippewas many years ago. On the chief's death Bob's brother became the chief, and on the death of the brother, about 1918, Bob became the recognized leader of the Indians.

Bob Mosemo-Smallpox - (continued)

April 5, 1933

"We asked the old chief about the smallpox epidemic of the winter of 1881-82. He knew all about it. In fact, his first wife died from the smallpox on Winnibigoshish and the husband of his present wife also succumbed. In all, Chief Mosemo says that 77 Indians died at Winnibigoshish dam. The smallpox played particular havoc among the Indians largely because of their methods of living. There was, of course, no artificial immunity among the Indians, and very little among the white people of the section at that time. Indians would also move from place to place when they might be suffering from the disease, and when this happened in cold weather it was very bad for the sick people.

"The story of the start of the smallpox epidemic is interesting. We have understood that the first case of smallpox was at a camp or stopping place at the head of Big Trout Lake. One afternoon two lumberjacks who were bound for the Bigfork country were walking north. When they neared the Trout Lake camp they met a man and his wife, who were in charge of the camp, coming towards Grand Rapids. The woman was sick. The lumberjacks stayed overnight at the camp, cooking their own meals and sleeping in one of the beds. In the morning when they left they helped themselves to two of the blankets, thinking they might be handy in the camp up north. They were the blankets on the bed in which the woman, who was later found to have smallpox, had been sleeping. The coming of the lumberjacks and the blankets to the Caldwell (or Colwell?) camp on the Bigfork led to the infection of a large number of people, and from the illness of this camp the disease spread very rapidly. It entered other logging camps. It was especially bad with the Indians, and hundreds of people died.

"There was no doctor in Grand Rapids at the time. The community was very small and into it came very many sick people. Those who had had the smallpox helped to take

Bob Mosemo - Smallpox - (continued)

April 5, 1933

care of those who were ill. Over across the river a pest-house was built. At it many people died and they were buried along the south side of the river. It is quite likely that if the remains of human beings are unearthed (there) today they may be what is left of some of the smallpox victims of nearly sixty years ago.

"There were many cases of smallpox throughout all northern Minnesota. The sickness became so violent that in Aitkin and Brainerd armed men stood upon the highways and would not allow strangers to enter these communities. There were hundreds of deaths and wherever there was any possibilities of treatment the Indians and other people assembled for the purpose of seeking some relief. The disease, however, was in a very violent form. It was the kind of smallpox which claims a very large percentage of its victims.

The first doctor to come into Itasca came at about the time of this epidemic. Dr. Walker was in charge of those who were engaged in building the dams *** in this section. The Pokegama and Winnibigoshish dams were then being constructed. The men there were quarantined. The Indians came to both dams seeking any assistance that might be given them there. Here they were provided with fuel and food through the efforts of their white friends or through the efforts of other members of their tribe.

"The epidemic of 1881-82 was the only serious epidemic of smallpox that Itasca county has had. There were smallpox scared quite frequently and some few deaths would be recorded. (any epidemics since 1933?) Vaccination, however, became established and immunity from the disease was gradually built up. At the time of the Spanish-American War there was another epidemic in this section but only one death was reported in the vicinity of Grand Rapids."

Sept. 5, 1940

Feb. 22, 1935

Drinking--Deer River

The neighboring village to the west of Grand Rapids (Deer River) was just getting established in 1900. The Minneapolis & Rainy River railroad had been built for a distance of about 20 miles north, but the community at Deer River was still very small. The Northern Hotel was one of the first hostelrys in a town which later had many. The Northern had been built by W. J. Coffron. The Hotel Deer River was also constructed in 1900. Altogether the town looked crude and new in 1900, but Grand Rapids, the county seat, looked equally so.

"Deer River was proud of its school in the year 1900. The first school in Deer River was made of logs and a picture (printed in that year) showed the teacher, Hattie Brooks, with her 16 pupils. The new school building, a frame structure, was built in 1900, and another picture shows A. C. Yoder, who was the principal of the school, and, of course, went by the title of 'professor,' and his pupils. Mr. Yoder was the only teacher though it was stated that the building contained room for four more departments and that it was built in advance of the times to provide for the growing population which Deer River was anticipating.

"Deer River became famous for its hotels but no less famous for the proprietors of some of them. The story is told that the wife of one of the early proprietors used to go into the bar room, which was an essential part of the hotel business, and visit with the lumberjacks who were drinking. Finally some lumberjack would challenge her to a drinking bout. She would put her baby upon the bar and start in. There was not a

Drinking - (continued)

Feb. 22, 1933

lumberjack who could stay on his feet very long against the proprietor's wife. For such feats as this, of course, she made reputation for herself, her husband, and, in fact, for the village.

"Drinking was the most serious business of all in the early days of lumbering communities. That was true of Grand Rapids and it was true of Deer River. The thousands of men who were working in the woods were violent patrons of saloons. They expected to waste their money. However, the early residents of Deer River say that crime in the community, except that which was incidental to drinking, was very small. The women of the community were treated with respect. In fact that was generally the attitude of the lumberjack towards respectable women."

Some of the business men of early Deer River had names that are familiar to the older residents of Grand Rapids: James Quigg had a hotel there; James Everton and his son, W. A. Everton were in the mercantile business, as was A. D. Brooks, with his son P. R. Brooks; Murray Taylor had the combination of operating the Itasca News, as the first publisher of the community, and also acting as postmaster. Members of the Deer River school board were W. J. Coffron, James A. Wollford, and C. M. Robinson. Fred Churchill was a very prominent citizen of Deer River at the turn of the century. He went to Deer River from La Prairie, and, besides running the Hotel Deer River, he engaged in logging operations. The railroad serving Deer River in the early days of the twentieth century was the Eastern Minnesota, which was later purchased by the Great Northern.

In those days the sole industry of Deer River was logging. The whole section depended upon that. Only about a dozen farmers were in the entire neighborhood. Settlement was just starting to creep into the territory to the north. Bigfork was

Drinking -- (continued)

Feb. 22, 1933

unknown, its timber still uncut and its lands absolutely undeveloped. In the period of 1900 to 1910, and a few years later, Deer River was a community of intense activity. As high as 1500 men a day would come into the community on their way to the logging camps in the fall and these men would pour into the village when the winter's work was over. Everyone in trade in the community transacted business on a wholesale scale. It is probable that the community has a more stable support from the agricultural wealth that was hardly mentioned in the days of the big trees.

Before the town of Grand Rapids was founded, there lived near its site an unusually progressive band of Indians, called the Rabbit band from a patriarch of that name. They numbered perhaps 60 to 80. They had houses, stoves, good gardens and fields, and a great deal of stock, horses and cattle. They made much hay and sold it to the lumbermen, and, for heathen Indians, made great progress and were very comfortable. There came a white man from down the river and planted a saloon about two miles from them. He was the first settler in Grand Rapids, I think. In about two years half of that Rabbit band were dead, and the survivors were wretched shivering vagabonds, while the white man had all their former wealth. Some were frozen to death when drunk; some were drowned by the upsetting of their canoes, when they were drunk; some lay down in the snow and took pneumonia; some were burned to death. The saloon keeper had all their cattle, horses, stoves and household goods, and those who remained alive had only an old blanket each.

Grand Rapids Herald-Review - Summer

Sept. 5, 1940

Grand Rapids, judicial seat of Itasca Co., prosperous and progressive town of (?) inhabitants. Largest (?) Most important (?) town on G. N. R. R. between Cloquet and Bemidji, a distance of 140 miles. Has for 2/3 century been chief business center of a territory one half as great in area as the Republic of Switzerland.

At the foot of a succession of cataracts extending several miles in the Miss. river, which caused it to become the head of steamboat navigation. The lumbermen who became interested in the great track of pine, timber growing contiguous to the Miss. river and its tributaries above this point found this the most convenient location to establish headquarters for their extensive logging operations. Although the manufacture of lumber was never undertaken here on a large scale, Grand Rapids was for many years the principal logging center of northern Minnesota whence supplies of timber were floated to the mills at Minneapolis and intermediate points. A number of the most prominent lumbering concerns in the state made it the center of their logging operations for many years, employing altogether thousands of woodsmen and teamsters and establishing camps at various points within a radius of 100 miles or more, the supplies for which were "toted" from the main headquarters at Grand Rapids.

Among these lumbering firms may be mentioned T. B. Walker, Price Bros., Itasca Lumber Company, Backus-Brooks Company, Bovey-De Laittre Lumber Company, Shevlin-Carpenter Company, H. C. Akeley Lumber Company, Powers-Simpson & Co., the Washburn and Pillsbury interests, besides many other large organizations and minor contracting concerns.

Sept. 5, 1940

A Prolific Region

The natural resources of the country tributary to Grand Rapids are practically unlimited. Although for the most part the great stretches of forest have disappeared, the timber having been felled and floated away, yet the development of the country's wealth has but just begun. The western end of the Mesaba range is rich in mineral deposits.

Grand Rapids was one of the first points on the Mesaba range to attract the attention of prospectors. Expeditions fitted out here located and partially developed the Holman. Diamond and Arcturus mines a few miles east of Grand Rapids before any other developments of any importance had taken place on the range. At that time, however, it was not believed to be practicable to concentrate the ores by washing away the sand with which they were impregnated and this circumstance, together with the lack of transportation to and from these mines, delayed their development for some years.

Sept. 5, 1940

Splendid Transportation Facilities

Transportation by water, which was originally the sole dependence of Grand Rapids, was supplemented in 1892 by the building of the Duluth & Winnipeg railroad (now a part of the Great Northern system?) which supplies an outlet eastward to Duluth and the Twin Cities and westward directly to the Pacific coast and intermediate points.

No more thrifty farms are to be found in all Minnesota than lie within a few miles of G. R. Here is located the North-East Experiment Farm, established in _____? by the state. It comprises several hundred acres (how big is it?) modernly equipped in all respects, in charge of (who, at present, and name all in order of succession _____ it was Superintendent McGuire in 1909). Here careful and scientific experiments are conducted in all branches of farming, horticulture, stockraising and dairying, demonstrating that every branch of husbandry known to this latitude can be carried on here successfully. The Experiment Farm has been prolific of useful results.

Sept. 5, 1940

Health and Pleasure Resorts

The lakes, springs, streams and cataracts which abound throughout Itasca County attract thousands of tourists, hunters and fishermen from almost every state in the Union, as well as those who best know the sport to be had in these beautiful wilds, the Minnesotans themselves. Hundreds of vacationists come from distant cities. The advantages of this climate to people afflicted with lung troubles or malarial affections cannot be overestimated. (Is this so?) Persons afflicted thus often become permanent residents of Northern Minnesota, finding the mythical severities of its winter climate equally bracing and salubrious. (Is this true?)

A very popular resort (how famous among outsiders? Estimate of yearly vacationists there?) is Lake Pokegama, only three miles from G. R. (estimate cottages, pleasure launches, name steamers if any, and those of the past, freight and passenger) Give size of lake in acres, and distances as to length & breadth. Give depth and how it is fed, and describe general shape. Tell any interesting yarn or anecdote in connection with the lake's vicinity, and tell who first had cabin or home on its shore. (white man)

The lake is a number of miles in extent and is connected with other bodies of water permitting a cruise of several days amidst ever-changing scenery. (What other bodies of water make up this cruise?)

Sept. 5, 1940

Historical and Reminiscent

The early annals of G. R. are replete with the reminiscences of the pioneers who experienced many of the privations and adventures common to frontier life in the west. The strategic advantages of the location were noted by explorers, hunters, and trappers who occasionally passed the place for two or three hundred years before it became the permanent abode of any white man.

Warren Potter, an enterprising merchant of Aitkin, Minnesota, (Is he still alive and in Aitkin?) put up the first permanent building in 1871 (check). Three years later he opened a trading post or store which he conducted for more than twenty years. His original stock of goods was brought up from Aitkin either by steamboat or keelboats poled up against the Mississippi's current by his employees. His customers for many years were mostly Indians and woodsmen engaged in logging or cruising through the adjacent forests. Mr. Potter became one of the most influential citizens of the place and was active in promoting many needed improvements. He was a leading spirit the organization of Itasca County (When?) and the establishment of the county seat at G. R. (Here insert rivalry yarn -- G. R. vs La Prairie, and the lumberjack's vote for county seat) He was also active in securing legislation (locate and cite the act) which permitted the fees from liquor licenses to be turned into the road and bridge fund. By this means funds were raised to build the first bridge over the Mississippi river at G. R. and a road across the ravine, leading to the courthouse. The first bridge across the Prairie river was also built by means of this fund. A year or two (check just when) after the opening of Mr. Potter's store, a hotel was built by L. C.

Historical and Reminiscent - (continued)

Sept. 5, 1940

(Lorin or "Lo") Seavey, which became a prominent landmark for many years. (describe the type of these two buildings) Other stores and hotels were erected within the next few years and the place soon became the headquarters of numerous logging enterprises, that industry absorbing most of the attention of the inhabitants for many years.

The first school in the place was taught by Miss Martha Maddy, in the fall of 1887, but the first school house was not completed until two years later, (where did she teach?) the building having been subsequently removed to Cohasset. (When? & why?) It is recorded that only two white children attended the first school, the balance of the scholars (how many?) being either wholly or partly of Indian blood, a circumstance which caused many of the pioneers to regard a school as a superfluous innovation.

The first religious services in G. R. were held by the Episcopalians but occasional services were soon after commenced by Father Bhu, (Buh?) the famous Catholic missionary in Northern Minnesota. The first building erected expressly for the purpose of worship was put up by the Presbyterians in 1890. (Ascertain who the Episcopal and Presbyterian ministers were.)

Sept. 5, 1940

Municipal Progress

With the opening of railroad communication between G. R. and Duluth which occurred in 1892, the settlement began to take on the appearance of a modern village, but its commercial supremacy was disputed for a time by the village La Prairie which had been incorporated in 1890. This place was laid out two miles east of G. R. at the juncture of the Prairie and the Mississippi rivers. This was considered a very promising location by the promoters of La Prairie. A Village government was maintained for several years and a population of 300 or more was claimed for the town at one time while La Prairie was the temporary terminus of the Duluth and Winnipeg railroad, but the inevitable county seat fight was won by G. R. (show how) which soon after absorbed most of the population of its former rival and La Prairie became only a memory. (is this literally true?)

The village of G. R. was incorporated in 1892 and, a few months later, the county seat was established there. A substantial court house of brick and stone, and a substantial brick jail is located in the court house grounds.

The development of the village has been steady and permanent and guided by intelligence and civic wisdom. The present population (1940 U. S. census) is _____ thousand people who are uniformly busy and contented. (Give relief figures if possible) Municipal improvements have been carried out as the progress of events seemed to warrant. A municipal water system was established in 1893 and there are now _____ miles of mains and _____ miles of sewers in G. R. An electric light plant was installed in the village in 1901 and now has _____ consumers. A modern system of street lighting is

Municipal Progress - (continued)

in use (?) and G. R. has _____ miles of _____ (sort) paving and _____ miles of concrete walk.

The municipal government is in charge of the following officials: _____ president, (or mayor?) _____, _____, and _____, trustees, and _____, recorder.

Sept. 9, 1940

Homes and Public Institutions.

The homes of G. R. number among them many of the most modern type, and are set off by an abundance of shrubbery and well kept grounds. The town began at the very start to ornament its school grounds and other public places by planting shade trees, and their park like appearance distinguish them as much as the splendid buildings. The schools maintain a high standard under the direction of _____? who has been superintendent since _____. (Before him, name from first, if possible, and note any who have achieved any fame since he left G. R.) The high school annual is called "Pine Needles," and ranks high among the school publications of the state.

Enlightenment, education and culture are reflected in _____ churches, _____ hospitals, a _____ public library of _____ volumes, with _____ employees steadily in attendance.

The Itasca County Fair is held annually at G. R. and the yearly exhibits compare favorably with similar displays elsewhere in the country.

The Itasca Paper Company was incorporated in 1901 and at once set about improving the great water power of the Miss. river here. Dams were built which provide at 18 foot fall of water. This was made to run several sets of turbine wheels, 3500 h.p. being available at high water, and 1200 at lowest stage. The spasmodic manipulation of the government dams on the upper Miss, less power is available here than if the natural flow of the river was interrupted. (so in 1909 -- see if it is same today)

The plant of the company comprises a number of brick buildings. Much of the pulp consumed is manufactured here, from 8000 to 9000 (see if figures are same in 1940) cords of pulp being consumed annually, but, in times of low water, the pulp mill

Homes and Public Institutions. - (continued)

is closed and the pulp used has to be shipped in. The paper mill has a capacity for turning out 50000 tons of print paper each 24-hour day (see if same in 1940 as 1909) and employs an average of 100 people in its day and night shifts. Much of the product is sold direct to newspaper publishers, the balance going to wholesale paper dealers throughout the west. The plant began operations in 1902.

Besides the paper and pulp mills and other minor departments, the company operates a shingle mill in connection with the plant. (check for certainty) This turns out 15,000,000 shingles per annum. The waste from the shingle bolts, as well as all other wood waste, is used as fuel for heating boilers by which means steam power is made to supplement the water power when needed. An additional 500 h.p. is secured in this way.

From "St. Paul Pioneer Press" - Sun. June 15,
1930.

"Nestling within a stone's throw of the far famed Pine Country in the heart of 10,000 lakes regions, is G. R.--the trade center of Minnesota's primitive vacation land. With four beautiful lakes wholly or partly inside its limits and the Mississippi running through, G. R. can be at once your playground and your business center. Every advantage of a metropolis is offered to the vacationist; hotels with excellent facilities, garages with complete equipment, large modern stores with the latest and finest in moderately priced merchandise. ***" Fish, camp, boat, swim, golf, hunt.

There is a branch of the State Agricultural School and experiment Station here. Butter, potatoes, and honey are equal to those produced anywhere. Maple sugar is made in large quantities.

G. R. is the South and West Gateway to the land of pines, in the midst of the lakes and streams which border the road to Minnesota's great wilderness.

Easily Accessible From All Points.

Highway 35 from the Twin Cities, No. 8 from Duluth, the "Scenic" from Marcell and International Falls, 8 from Bemidji and Crookston, 34 from Walker and Detroit Lakes and 35 from Mesaba Iron Range converge in G. R. (Check all these for accuracy, and add any more you find exist)

***"Grand Rapids is a wideawake, progressive, advancing town that was listed in the 1930 census as having a population of 3,209, but which in reality has grown since that time to about 4500 population.

"Grand Rapids is fully awake to its summer outing and summer resident possibilities, and it is doing much to make the stays of those fortunate enough to visit G. R. Attractive and pleasant and enjoyable. Every line that may be of interest to the summer folks may be found in the large list of business establishments, and this is one locality where the prices are not 'upped' on the visitors. Close to 100 summer resorts with accommodations for summer visitors are listed in Itasca county of which G. R. is the county seat. These resorts range from farm homes with two to three or four cottages to rent on some beautiful lake, to resorts having as many as 20 to 30 cottages with elaborate main halls with all kinds of facilities for enjoying evenings and other indoor periods.

"Lakes in this territory are crystal clear, with shores that include sandy beaches and the mysterious boggy outlets and bayous that attract the exploring mind. In all are fish of various kinds, some having fine wall-eyed pike and Northern pike fishing, others having bass and crappie, others muskellunge. There are trout streams where the man who likes that kind of sport on woodland spring small streams can get plenty thrills. ***

****Grand Rapids *** is an interesting place to look over, with its four lakes in the village limits, its paper mill, its exceptionally beautiful fair grounds, schools, and evergreen-decked homesites. ***" (The Chippewa National Forest comes to the edge of town.)

"G. R. is on the western end of the Mesaba iron range, and mines come to within three miles N.E. of G. R., with the range cutting through the N.W. part of the

Article by A. L. La Freniere in Minn. Conservationist, (continued)
Mar. 1938.

village to a point about five miles S.W. (Mining this district yet?) The closest actual mining operations in 1938 were at Coleraine and Bovey eight miles N.E. where open pit mining with steam shovels and trains, and similar mining by the conveyor system can be seen. Hundreds of drives through beautiful woodlands, many of them over trails cut to heretofore inaccessible peaces through the wooded country by CCC workers ***"

The Finnish section of farmland is interesting. Their methods of farming are intensive, and their buildings--some of them, intermingled with others--smack of the old country. On almost any drive wild deer may be seen as G. R. is in the center of the best deer country in Minn.

Three beautiful golf courses--the Pokegama Country club, on Pokegama Lake, S. of G. R. the Otis course at Otis Lodge and the Swan Lake Country club course at Swan Lake.

Two creameries in G. R. handles a million pounds of butterfat a year, and vast quantities of poultry, veal and eggs. The territory around G. R. furnishes the famous Arrowhead potatoes.

Churches of almost all denominations serve the community. The main fraternal orders have lodges, and there is a Lions club and a Rotary club in G. R. The G. R. Commercial club is the leading civic organization.

Location

180 miles north of Mpls. over state highway No. 169 and 80 miles west of Duluth on highway No. 2, it is served from the South by No. 169, surfaced all the way from the south, and highway No. 6. No 169 to the N.E. through the iron range towns, No. 38 N. The great Northern furnishes accommodations by rail, and air service is quite

Location - (continued)

extensively used by chartered and privately owned planes that use air ports in and adjacent to G. R. (check present day air service--any commercial a.s.?)

From St. Paul Pioneer Press - Sun. Oct. 22, 1922

There is a community church, Presbyterians, Methodists and Baptists have united. It is a handsome church, and a handsome manse. The minister (who is it now?) It was Rev. J. Parkes in 1922) does not preach doctrined sermons.

The schools are impressively houses and very efficient. The new County High school cost (?) \$400,000.00.

Industry in Multiple

Most of the range towns have no industries aside from the mining, but G. R. has a paper mill, a shingle mill, a lath mill and a cooperage works, (or just a heading mill?) The name is the Itasca Cooperage company (with which is incorporated the lath mill). The shingle factory is the White Cedar shingle mill (see if this isn't a department of the paper Co.) The name of the Paper plant is the Itasca Paper company. All three of these concerns are the property of the owners of the St. Paul Dispatch and Pioneer Press, which newspapers are printed on the products of the paper mill. (See if this has changed hands by 1940) The present owners took it over in 1916 (?).

Above the handsome dam beside the mill is a long pond, containing much spruce wood for the making of pulp. Below the dam the river rushes away under a bridge and around a bend to the southward and out of sight. Grand Rapids lies on both banks of the Mississippi River. On the south side there are many large pines and a gentle hill. The county hospital is over there, and a pretty residence section.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Cont'd)

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

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

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

Grand Rapids Notes
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(Cont'd)

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

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

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

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

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H. H. Hause
November 4, 1940

Grand Rapids Herald Review
Wednesday, January 22, 1938
P. 1, col. 1

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

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

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

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

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

(Cont'd)

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

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

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

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

Grand Rapids Notes
H. H. Hause
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(Cont'd)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Cont'd)

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

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

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

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

(Cont'd)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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(Cont'd)

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

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

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

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

Grand Rapids Notes
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(Cont'd)

the show places of the village for many years.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

P. 1 - Col. 3
Itasca County Independent
Feb. 23, 1924 - Vol. XXII-20

History of Grand Rapids
Rec'd Dec. 18, 1940
By: E. A. Sumner

"EVER HEARD OF THE POKEGAMA BEAR?"

M. McAlpine Tells Interesting Bit of
Early History Inspired by Capture of
Bear.

Reminiscences of the Early Days.

Only Five Men Left of the Residents of This
Section in the Year 1874.

Have you ever heard of the Pokegama bear? The Pokegama bear is a character intimately interwoven in the earliest history of Itasca county, and the incident of his capture is a true tale which was written into verse by Frank Hasty, one time lumberjack and later a cruiser for lumber companies throughout this section. Mr. Hasty died in Minneapolis last year. The story of the Pokegama bear was recited to the writer by Mike McAlpine whom we heard one day singing to himself some verses which, when we asked him what the verses were, said it was the story of the Pokegama Bear.

It seems that in the fall of 1874, Mr. McAlpine had come up from Minneapolis to work in the woods for P. P. Clark, then one of the prominent loggers in this section. Clark had a number of camps and much timber, as did all the loggers who logged here in those days, and Mr. McAlpine and the crew to which he was assigned were in camp at the head of Pokegama lake on what was then Knowlton's arm, now known as Black's arm, the camp being on the south side of the lake just north of what is now Chris Erickson's fine dairy farm.

The lumberjacks in those days were almost all Mainites. Those who weren't were Scotchmen from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and a few hard Irishmen and Yankees who had found their way into the north woods, and many of whom later became the pioneers of this section. The foreman of the camp in which Mr. McAlpine worked was a man named John Hanson, a native of Nova Scotia, and a hard man among hard customers. The name Hanson suggests the Scandinavian, but Mr. McAlpine says that there were no Scandinavians introduced into this country until some years later. He says he remembers when the first Swedes came to this section to work in the woods - he remembers it by a peculiar incident which occurred when he visited a camp in which some of the men were working. He had been 'farming' for his bosses through one summer at the head of Big Trout lake, and he went to this camp for something or other. His dog, accustomed to hearing Chippewa and English spoken and to the ways and voices and intonations of the woodsmen and Indians it was accustomed to being with, had stood with bristling hair and come running to heel and growling after hearing a party of Scandinavians talking among themselves - a thing not at all unusual with dogs when they hear or experience some new or unusual phenomena.

But to come back to the Pokegama bear, one Marris O'Hearn who was loading the teams had gotten through loading the four teams that were hauling to the lake probably a quarter or a half a mile away and had a little time on his hands, and, as it was colder than, well, pretty doggone cold, he decided to build a fire. He went to a hollow pine stub to get kindling, and when he commenced chopping into the stub, the bear jumped out and made for the timber, and it was hard to tell which was more scared - O'Hearn or the bear. Hasty and a man named Quinn gave chase, but before they could overtake Bruin, Mr. McAlpine, who was in the chopping not far from the road, saw the bear coming and hiding behind a tree alongside of the road (the bear

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had by that time taken to the road where the running was easier than through the deep snow) knocked Bruin in the head with his axe and killed him. (It is interesting to note that in those days they chopped with 'pole axes' instead of the double-bitted axes of today.) The oil of the bear those days it seems, was prized more highly than the skin or the meat, and the bear was taken to camp and the oil tried out on a Sunday morning. That day McAlpine and Hasty had gone out to look up axe handle timber, and they were gone longer than they intended, and when they got back to camp, the grease had all been tried out and lo, they had lost their share of the oil, it having all been claimed by those who had bottles ready to help themselves as it came from the kettles.

Before submitting Mr. Hasty's verses on the Pokegama bear, which will be appended hereto, it is interesting to note some of the memories of Mr. McAlpine of those days long ago. South of Pokegama lake, which is now a hardwood country with comparatively little pine, there was scarcely any hardwood and the only timber was pine - mostly white pine. The same is true of the territory all around Pokegama lake, and all through this section. The pine was beautiful stuff, three logs to a load and 1,600 feet or more in every log. Those days they hauled largely with oxen, though some camps had horses. The old Mainites, however, would have nothing but the oxen - four and six to a team - a road full of horns, the Mainites would say, 'and we'll haulin on 'em out.'

All the lumbering centered in Minneapolis. The men, supplies, etc., would come up to Aitken on the N.P. railroad which had ventured that far north, and from there by steamboat up the Mississippi river. Grand Rapids did exist then. That is, there was hardly a settlement here at that time. A little birchbark cabin east of the place where Roy Wheaton's log dwelling house now stands housed a small 'store' conducted by Jo Gould. 'Lo' Seavey, later quite prominently identified with the history of the river, and about

the same time, Warren Potter, of Aitkin, who died a few years ago, conducted a store in which he afterward took in as his partner Pat Casey, who came up to work for him in 1878. The firm of Potter and Casey was for a long time prominent in this section and existed until recently at Aitkin.

Even in those days the fertility of the soil was recognized, and while none of the people here at that time dreamed of ever seeing this a farming country or of its ever being a farming section, all of the loggers kept a man or two at the 'headquarters ranch' to 'watch camp,' take care of the open, and do a little farming - raise potatoes, bagas, cabbage, carrots and other vegetables for the next winter's logging, and to look after making hay on the extensive meadows which lined the Mississippi at intervals, the haying crew coming up about the first of August. Following the winter of 1874-75, Mr. McAlpine remained in this section for F. P. Clark to look after their farming, etc. Mr. McAlpine says that it was during that summer, while boating hay down the Mississippi into Pokegama lake that he first met Walt Leeman. Mr. Leeman was cooking for Tidd & Fayal at their river camps upon White Oak Point. Mr. McAlpine says that he can testify that Mr. Leeman was in that section at that time and has been here since, and he doesn't know how long before.

In the conduct of these farming occupations the crudest kind of implements were used, and Mr. McAlpine says that the first plow and the first wagon brought into this section were brought in by F. P. Clark about the time he first came here.

Among the loggers who logged in this section are many firms now no longer remembered. Mr. McAlpine remembers the names of the firms that conducted hundreds of camps all through this section on waters flowing into the Mississippi. One logging firm that left a work that still remains is the firm of Smith & Mackey who logged on Sugar lake. They landed many thousands of feet of logs on Sugar lake planning to float them down the

creek between Sugar lake and Pokegama lake. Because they could not get enough of a headwater to float the logs, the winter's cut was abandoned in the brook, and the logs are there to this day, many of them in such a state of preservation that not long ago it was planned to salvage them and have them cut into timber.

The population of what is now Itasca county - at that time practically the whole of northeastern Minnesota was really a part of Crow Wing county - was very sparse in summer. Not over 25 men - there were no white women - lived here the year around. These were engaged in watching camp and farming for the loggers. Among them were Walt Leeman, Lo Seavey, Al Nason, Bob McCabe, Al Casey, Al Hatchison, Joe Gould (it's his lake where the good pike fishing is now), James Affleck (brother of George Affleck of Arbo), Sid McDonald, Warren McLean, Hugh Cox, Jim Weatherbee, Pat Hawley, Pat O'Halloran, Cleve Stafford, Charley Seeley, Charles Lyons, Gillette Beecher, Chris Burns, Tom McDougall, Tom Smith, Archie McBurnie, James Mackie, Black Hawk, Mike McAlpine, Jerry Whitney, Luther Brown, John Ferguson, Bill Nelson, Tom Boswell and Bill Horn.

All of these men are dead except Walt Leeman, Mike McAlpine and Luther Brown who live in Grand Rapids, Chris Burns of Cass Lake and Charles Lyons recently of Ball Club. Many of these men passed away only in recent years and were well known even to comparatively recent comers to this section. Many others are also known both for their own personalities and for the memories, both material and of legend, which they left behind. Lo Seavey, Bob McCabe, Al Nason, and Charles Lyons left descendents who bear their names and who are prominent in the communities in which they make their homes. Others held public office or took part in the development of Grand Rapids and other communities of the county and are remembered because of those connections. The farm now owned by Bert Staley on the Wendago road

was developed by Charles Seeley and owned by him until a comparatively few years ago.

Outside of the men mentioned above, the only inhabitants of this section were Indians, and the story is often told that Mr. McAlpine related the opening of a cemetery in this section and that 'the first white man to be buried in it was a negro who got drowned.' Mr. McAlpine denies this tale. He says that the first man who was not an Indian to be buried in the cemetery was, indeed, a negro lumberjack, but he says that he never referred to him as a white man. Dr. Roberts, the first physician in this section, was the first white man to be buried in that cemetery.

With this 'review' of Frank Hasty's verses, let the reader enjoy the story of the Pokegama bear as related by Mr. Hasty:

'Come all you good fellows who like to hear fun,
Come listen me while I sing you a song.
Come listen to me while the truth I declare,
I'm going to sing of the Pokegama bear.

One cold frosty morning the winds they blew,
We went to the woods our day's work to do,
Yes, into the woods we did quickly repair,
It was there that we met the Pokegama bear.

One Morris O'Hearn, a bold Irish lad,
Went to build a fire in a big pine stub,
He rapped with his axe when he went there;
When out popped the monstrous Pokegama bear.

With a roar like a lion O'Hearn did swear,
Saying "run boys for God's sake for I found a bear,"
As out through the brush Jim Quinn he did climb,
Saying "to hell with your bear, kill your own porcupine."

Into the swamp old Bruin did go,
O'Hearn and Hasty did quickly pursue
As in through the brush those heroes did tear,
To capture or kill the Pokegama bear.

Old Bruin got angry for Hasty did steer,
He prepared to receive him without dread or fear,
With his teeth firmly set and his axe in the air,
He slipped and fell on the Pokegama bear.

Out to the road old Bruin did go,
He thought that was better than wading through snow,
Yet, little he knew what awaited him there,
For fate was against the Pokegama bear.

There was one Mike McAlpine of fame and renown,
Noted for foot racing on Canadian ground,
He ran up the road, raised his axe in the air,
And dealt the death blow to the Pokegama bear.

When out to the camp old Bruin was sent,
To skin him and dress him it was our intent,
And we all agreed that each should have a share
Of the oil that was in the Pokegama bear.

To the cook it was taken, the tallow tried out,
Each man with his bottle did gather about.
When Hasty and McAlpine they both lost their share
Of the oil that was in the Pokegama bear.

Then it was taken, by the cook it was fried,
It was all very good boys, it can't be denied,
It tasted like roast turkey, Bill Monohan did swear,
As he feasted upon the Pokegama bear.

Now my song is ended, and I'll drop my pen.
Morris O'Hearn he has got the bear skin,
Here is long life to you boys, and long growth to your hair,
Since it is greased with the oil of the Pokegama bear.' "