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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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E. H. Hause  
November 1, 1940

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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H. H. Hause  
November 1, 1940

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

"EARLIEST SETTLEMENT AT RAPIDS OVER CENTURY AGO.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Grand Rapids Notes  
H. H. Hause  
October 31, 1940

Grand Rapids Herald Review  
Wednesday, January 10, 1934  
P. 1, col. 1

"Many citizens up in this neck of the woods have had interesting experiences. This is particularly true of those who came here in the earlier days.

J. W. Reichert is one the older residents of Grand Rapids. He came here in October 1886. He followed the Mississippi up from Missouri where he was born. Grand Rapids was an entirely different community than it is today. There was a store or two, a number of saloons and but few people. There was no railroad and the transportation was on land or water. Everybody was interested in cutting down pine trees.

During part of the year of 1887 Mr. Reichert worked on the steamboat 'Houghton.' That boat plied between Aitkin and Grand Rapids. It was a good sized boat though not as large as the 'Andy Gibson.' Another boat of the day was the 'Faun.' The 'Houghton' did a big freight hauling business. It was owned by lumber interests and was assured of cargoes when some of the other boats did not have loads. However, the early boats on the upper Mississippi did a good business until the railroad reached La Prairie and Grand Rapids. That put Old Man River out of business except for an occasional steamer for some years and, of course, the logs which floated down stream.

Many men came by work on the river very naturally. Mr. Reichert was born down in Missouri and left home when just a boy. Like many boys he made for the Mississippi and sought out work on one of the many steamboats that were then used. The river was the great artery of commerce. Mr. Reichert was working on the famous steamboat 'Robert E. Lee' when it had its famous race with the 'Natchez.' He was not old

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enough to have a job as a regular fireman but he helped to pass wood back to the fiery boilers of this famous ship.

Steam was generated by wood. Dry oak, hickory and other good woods were piled up on the shore at convenient points. Not a minute was to be lost in getting wood onto the boat. A great pile could be put on from shore or tug boats in few minutes. Mr. Reichert tells us that the 'Natchez' gained some time by throwing sides of bacon under her boilers. The important thing was to get up a great head of steam and keep it. The wood that was used was the best and driest obtainable.

Steamboating on the upper Mississippi was entirely different than that on the lower river. The stage of the water had a very important effect upon the early boats. Sometimes boats would be hung up on a shoal in the river for hours at a time. Sometimes the trip from Aitkin took a day and at other times it might require a week. The boat had to avoid the floating logs and it would pull to one side until the drive was passed. The most famous pilot up her, Mr. Reichert tells us, was the late John Lyons who piloted the 'Andy Gibson.' He knew the river the best of any of the boatmen. Steamboating on the lower river was very dangerous. The course of the river was constantly shifting. It is a matter of record that in the distance of 200 miles between Cairo and St. Louis that were the wrecks of 200 river boats.

Following his experience on the river, J. H. Reichert took up various kinds of work. He became particularly well known for his ability to find water and he has driven many a well up in the neck of the woods."

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H. H. Hause  
November 1, 1940

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1873 Nathaniel Tibbetts must have come into this section very soon after the war. At any rate when the Northern Pacific was built through at far as Aitkin, which was about in 1871, Nathaniel was there first. He homesteaded a piece of land which afterwards became the heart of the village of Aitkin and he afterwards cut hay for the contractors who were building the extension of the railroad west from Aitkin to Brainerd.

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

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

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

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

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

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

G. H. Hause 10/17/40

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Wed. Sep. 27, 1933, Vol. XLIII-13 P. 1 Col. 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Al Nason could wrestly, box and fight. Many a time William Tibbetts has seen him roll a 330 pound barrel of salt pork up onto his knee, then onto his shoulder and then walk off with it. Try that sometime."

G. H. Hause 10/17/40

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

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

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

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others, assurance of skilled care and intelligent nursing.

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

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

1898  
1912

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

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

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

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

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

G. H. Hause 10/21/40

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

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

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

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

The signers of this petition were as follows:

L. Nelson	Chas. Warner
S. F. Ellis	Thos. Trainor
J. H. Ray	C. M. Johnson
H. Buring	Louis German
C. R. Ellis	Joseph Lafond
C. D. Lyon	William Hislop
Thos. Kelly	Issac Campbell
V. H. Blood	C. W. Twohey
F. L. Vance	J. C. McMillen
Lee Cudney	Chas. Kearney
J. A. Brown	Larry Whiland
A. F. Moore	W. C. Lyndale
M. L. Foote	Alphonse Meyer
N. Churchill	Chas. A. Waite
M. McAlpine	H. W. Canfield
T. S. Powers	John Mc Donald
W. V. Fuller	Ben. F. Symmes
James Sherry	Louis L. Jensen

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H. D. Powers	Alphons Lefebore
Robert McCable	Anthony McAlpine
F. W. Arnold	Laughlin Mc Kimon

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

G. H. Hause 10/21/40

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"To the lumberjack every preacher was a 'sky pilot.'

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

G. H. Hause 10/21/40

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

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

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

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

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The fact that the lumberjacks did not get their pay in 1848 was nothing new in the early history of logging, or the later history for that matter. Each year loggers failed, and generally the one who had the most business was the one who failed for the most money. In recalling the logging situation, Mr. Patrick has given us the names of the principal loggers of their day. A smaller logger gradually increase the number of his camps and the size of his activities. He would dominate the business in certain sections or on a certain part of the river for a year or two. The adverse weather, logging, driving or business activities would hit him and the largest logger became the largest failure."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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"A WILD COUNTRY - FORTY YEARS AGO

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

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

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

Here is his account of early homesteading:

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

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

It is a wild pine country, almost uninhabited by man, and Dr. Sandberg's surprise can be imagined when he found, on the farther lake shore two Minneapolis matrons, one accompanied by her 16-year-old-boy, holding down claims of 160 acres of pine land each. The rough experience they had with the Indians not long ago will be read with interest in Minneapolis. The ladies are Mrs. John R. Willman, of 225th St. N. E., and Mrs. Frank Thomas, Mrs. Willman's neighbor. Mr. Willman is a miller in Pillsbury A mill, and will be remembered as a witness in the now famous Heilpern case. Heilpern at one time boarded at his house. Last spring early the men went to Pokegama and staked out their claims. Not being able personally to occupy them for the six months necessary before a title can be secured they left wives as deputies, with young Willman as guardian of them.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note

Mr. Sumner:-

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

Hause

Sept. 3, 1940

March 15, 1933

Lumberjack Nicknames

"If a lumberjack had some peculiarly outstanding physical characteristic he would be nicknamed. His real name might be forgotten.

"The basis for some of these names was quite obvious. If a lumberjack was called 'Frenchy' that name could be easily explained. He was a French Canadian and doubtless talked the broken language of that race of people. If a man were called 'Indian Joe' the basis for such a name could be well imagined. Sometimes a lumberjack would be called 'Horse Face' or 'Big Foot,' names for which there is an obvious origin.

"Among the well known lumberjacks of the early days was 'Mosquito Ole' who received his nickname from his long lean arms and his equally spindly legs. 'Pete the Porcupine' was another well known lumberjack. He wore his whiskers long in the winter time and they stood out from his cheeks and chin like the quills of a porcupine. \*\*\*"

Another was 'North Dakota,' whose real name was Oleson. When \*\*\* celebrating he would sing the well known song about the Swede from North Dakota. Hence his nickname. In earlier times there was Joseph La Brun who was better known as 'Joe the Bear.' In the winter he wore dark brown whiskers and he had sharp, small eyes and he walked silently on moccasined feet. 'Paddy the Priest' \*\*\* was a man of obvious education. It is said that he studied for the priesthood, but became dissipated and was expelled from college. Thus he became a lumberjack, but he had a good title. 'Paddy the Pig' was a name applied to at least of two men well known in Grand Rapids in the early days. 'Larry the Brute' was Arthur O'Leary and he secured his name from the fact that whenever he was intoxicated he would always repeat, 'I am a brute, and I howl when the moon shines!'

Other men secured their names from their occupations. 'Paddy the Rosser' was

## Lumberjack Nicknames - (continued)

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exceptionally skillful in cutting or trimming down the end of the log which dragged on the ground when timber was skidded on the old fashioned drays in the woods. This name was given to him because of his special ability in this direction. In the older times before the invention of the jammer for loading logs the process was one which required more skill with chains and timber than the present and 'Wheel-Em-Up-Murphy' was another well known man. 'Quarter Post Kelly' was one of the well known cruisers of this section many years ago. He was always talking about a certain quarter post which he had located. \*\*\* There was, also, 'Hungry Mike' Sullivan, named for his tremendous appetite. (Check with Herald-Review on some of the famous eating feats of 'Hungry Mike and his hungry brother Jim, and get facts as to some titanic meals.)

"'Pig Eye Kelly' was one of the well known characters of 40 (now 47) years ago in Grand Rapids. He first came to work in the woods but later became a bartender. He was named for the fact that his eyes were small and he was usually squinting through them. He was not a large or quarrelsome man but he did one thing which gave him considerable fame. He shot Sam Christie, one of the well known lumberjacks of his time through the chest with a 44 rifle.

"'Pig Eye' did not come to justice but he had a sad ending. It seemed that he had served in the Civil War. He was a servant for one of the officers of the Union army but did not really enlist. When he became older he was in need of money and sought to secure a pension from the government. Because of irregularities in his service or record, he could not get it. When word came that this was the case he went to his room and took a dose of laudanum and passed peacefully on to the next world."

One seldom sees any virgin pine now, and the lumberjack went with the big trees. The real lumberjack followed the woods for a living most of his life. He may

Lumberjack Nicknames - (continued)

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have come from Maine or Michigan. From Michigan he would have migrated to Wisconsin, thence to Minnesota, and from here on to the big woods of the west. He belongs to the past.

"No group of men in the story of the development of the nation had more glamour connected with his life than the real lumberjack of the past. The miner, the cowboy, are romantic characters, but no more so than the men who cut down the big trees of Itasca county, and who made up a large part of the citizenry of Grand Rapids in earlier days."

Sept. 3, 1940

March 22, 1933

Sam Christie

"Probably the hardest man who escaped violent death more times than any in the early days of Itasca county was Sam Christie.

"About 1883 Christie came to Grand Rapids. He had been in trouble before that time for robbing a man, it is said, and had gone up further toward the Canadian border. As the memory of his crime became less acute, he drifted back with a friend to Grand Rapids.

" \*\*\* He was a man of great physical strength, so much so that he inspired terror in the minds of some weaker men. He was well over six feet tall and weighed about 220 pounds. He was all bone and muscle. His wrists and hands were large. He had a large nose and black hair. In his later years he had scars all about his face and neck. He was cut under both ears. In the origin of these scars is part of the story which follows.

"Christie came from Maine and he talked with a down east drawl. He had quarreled in Maine and some one had thrown vitriol in his face, which made some deep scars. By nature he was not quarrelsome. He had a very crude sense of humor and when he joked with men they did not always know that he was joking. His troubles came when he was drunk. Christie was a constant, hard drinker. He was always at the bar or over the bottle and, while whiskey was not supposed to be in the lumber camps, Jim Sherry, for whom Christie worked a good deal, had so many men coming and going that there was usually booze in his camps. It was nothing for Christie to drink a quart of whiskey as a starter for his drunks. When he was drunk he was a rough, tough man.

Sam Christie - (continued)

March 22, 1933

"One day in the early summer of 1888 or 1889 Christie stopped in at Sherry's saloon where Pig Eye Kelly was tending bar. He said things to Kelly which made the little bartender angry. Christie went down to the place where he was staying near the river. Kelly told his friend, Dan McLean, he would give him \$10 to bring Christie back to the saloon. McLean, thinking it was all a joke, went to see Christie and said that here was a good chance to make the \$10, so they walked back to Sherry's.

"Sherry's saloon was located about where the park opposite the paper mill is now found. 'Pig Eye' Kelly looked out the window and he saw his friend, McLean, and his oppressor, Christie, walking up the trail. Taking a .44 rifle, Kelly laid it across some beer kegs or whiskey barrels lying in the saloon and took careful aim at Christie. The bullet entered Christie's body immediately above the heart and passed completely through him. Normally such a condition would cause death. Hugh McDermott had a shack near the hotel, which he was then running, and Christie was put into a bunk. There was no doctor in Grand Rapids at that time, but 'old man' Lewis, whose first name is now forgotten, said that he knew all about bullet wounds and surgery because he had served in the Civil War. He went down to look at the wounded man. He then secured an oak stick and whittled it thin and smooth to a size of about that of the bullet wound. This he put through the wound from front to back, his theory being that the wound should be kept bleeding until there was opportunity for it to heal. In about two days a steamboat came up the river and anchored at Grand Rapids. Christie was put on the boat and taken to Aitkin. In a few weeks time he was back in Grand Rapids just as strong and as thirsty as ever.

"'Pig Eye Kelly', of course, gave himself up, but nobody wanted him. When Christie returned he kind of forgot about the incident, made no complaint against Kelly, and the matter was dropped as being just an incidental affair in the life of the community.

Sam Christie - (continued)

March 22, 1933

"A short time afterward Christie was at a camp on Hay Landing, up the river from Pokegama dam. There he got into a quarrel with 'Kelly the Cook.' 'Kelly the Cook' was armed with a very sharp butcher knife and slashed Christie most horribly. He cut his throat from ear to ear but somehow missed the jugular vein. Christie lay as dead and 'Kelly the Cook' came down to the dam and gave himself up for the murder of this lumberjack. Christie's body was brought down to the dam in a bateau and carried over the dam and put into a boat to bring it to Grand Rapids. When coming down the river Christie sat up and gave a most horrifying yell. He was bloody, but not dead. He was taken to La Prairie where there was a hospital and a doctor. His wounds were sewed up and in a few days he was again around the streets.

"Shortly afterward Christie was in a saloon in Grand Rapids and in a room at the back of the saloon was a man lying drunk. Somebody whispered fearfully to Christie that that was 'Kelly the Cook.' Christie went back to the back of the room, looked at Kelly lying there drunk and said 'Wake the poor devil up, he is sick and probably needs a drink.'

"So it was that 'Kelly the Cook' escaped any serious consequences for his vicious assault with the butcher knife upon the strong man of the woods. It was generally thought that most of these things were as much one man's fault as the other's and consequently there were no prosecutions.

"'Kelly the Cook' went back to cooking and Christie went to the woods.\*\*\*

"Shortly after his experience with 'Kelly the Cook,' Christie was on his way to Bigfork. He stopped at what was called Tweedle's Ranch somewhat above Prairie Lake. Al Blackman, a well known logger and lumberjack, and one of the proprietors of the ranch, was there and Christie and Blackman got into a quarrel. Blackman seized a

Sam Christie - (continued)

March 29, 1933

knife and again cut Christie's throat. Again the vital spots were missed and Christie was brought to Grand Rapids where he was sewed up and soon on his way again to other quarrels. Nothing happened, of course, to Blackman, because Christie was forgiving in his nature to those who quarreled with him.

"We are now coming closer to the end of the story of Sam Christie. He was one of 'Sherry's Tigers.' Jim Sherry had a strong, rough bunch of lumberjacks who worked hard in the woods and who drank hard at the bar. Christie was working for Sherry in the early nineties. He was driving team and he took a large amount of pride in his ability to handle horses. One morning he was in Sherry's barn preparing for the day's work and Steve Hicks came in. Hicks was another lumberjack who also handled horses well. While it will never be known as to what the cause of the quarrel might have been, it is thought that they quarreled over the possession of a set of lead lines. Christie had more strength than Hicks, but Hicks seized a barn scraper that was standing nearby and hit Christie a tremendous blow on the jaw. He hit him repeatedly, pounding his head so that Christie was hardly recognizable. At that, he lived some little time, but finally died.

"The death of Christie was not favorable for the future of Steve Hicks. When Christie was alive he forgot and forgave 'Pig Eye Kelly,' 'Kelly the Cook,' and Al Blackman, but Christie was dead and society had to take its revenge upon Hicks. He was taken before the courts, found guilty on a serious charge and sentenced to 10 years in the penitentiary. However, \*\*\* after he had served some two years Al Powers needed a good man with horses, and as Hicks was not reputedly a dangerous man he was pardoned and came back to the woods again.

Sept. 3, 1940

March 29, 1933

### Early Justice

"Justice in the early days was not too swift or too severe. Most of the troubles in which drunken lumberjacks were concerned were overlooked and forgotten. If the men who were out or bruised did not care, why should the State? There were no lawyers to prosecute or defend, which also saved trouble.

"This concludes a little story about the strongest and most quarrelsome man of the early days of Itasca county (note that above the editor says Christie was not a quarrelsome man.) We have said before that Christie was not, when sober, a fighting man. He had rather a mean sense of humor which other people did not understand. He had overpowering physical strength which made other people fear him. When intoxicated, he was quarrelsome and dangerous. Some of the other residents of the community said that Sam Christie stopped more fights than he ever started. Be that as it may, he lived through more physical assaults than any one of his time. He was killed by Hicks about 1893.

"On the whole, the lumbering sections were not places where men killed with guns and cut with knives as much as in other sections. The fighters of the earlier days were men who used their fists and boots. In fact the use of guns and knives is hardly in line with the traditions of the lumbering sections. They belong more to the early days of the mining sections."

Lumberjacks when sober were not quarrelsome, and those who are best acquainted with the older times say that very seldom would they see a fight in which both parties were completely sober. Groups would be drinking together, somebody would bring up something about logging or about politics which would create argument.

Early Justice - (continued)

March 29, 1933

Soon there would be a fight, and soon thereafter the fighters would be drinking together again. That was the spirit of the section. The gun and knives which figure so largely in the story of Sam Christie were rather unusual.

" \*\*\* Most of these men were remembered not for their bad traits but for their good ones. It was a rough and tumble age in a rough and tumble country. \*\*\*"

A man had to have certain strong, vigorous characteristics or he could not survive. These lines made vigorous men. Trees were to be cut, timber hauled and floated down the river. On every hand were activities which made for physical strength and courage, great endurance and ability. The drinking of that day was not so much from a desire to become intoxicated as for a change from the tedium of hard work or an expression of the men's nature. And it was the only form of relaxation or entertainment to be had. The only escape from deadly sameness was through liquor, the only club, the saloon, the only society, its patrons.

Sept. 3, 1940

April 12, 1933

### The Finns

"The first Finnish people to come to Itasca county arrived about 1893. They came in following the panic of 1893. At that time there was little employment and the Finnish people from the mining and industrial centers of the Great Lakes section struck out for the land. Among those first to come was the Gran family." (Frank Gran is now on splendid farm near Trout Lake, if alive - check)

"The hardships of these early people were almost indescribable. They came to a new country in which there were no roads, and the food supplies for the crude homesteads were packed in on the backs of the industrious settlers. It is recorded that in those earlier years the only food that was available at times were the rabbits which were snared. But it did not take the Finnish people long to make homes. Their experience in the old country was on the type of land found here. They knew how to use the saw and axe, how to build homes and clear the land. The result was the rapid development of some of the finest agricultural sections in northern Minnesota.

"John Oakes of Wawina was one of the first settlers in that section. He came in 1898 and was a leader of a Finnish movement into that part of the Swan River valley. \*\*\* He had learned to classify and to tell the value of lands. He saw that in northeastern Minnesota there was adequate rainfall and rich lands if they were chosen properly. It was this factor which led him to settle at Wawina and to help bring other people into that section.

"In a recent visit to the Herald-Review office, Mr. Oakes confirmed the truth of an editorial which had appeared in the Herald-Review concerning the Finnish people and their demands for relief. He well remembers that as a youth a large number

The Finns - (continued)

April 12, 1933

of people went to St. Petersburg, as the capital of Russia was then known, and asked for relief of various kinds. Some of the things they asked for were greater civil liberties. Others were for more food and an opportunity to escape from the slavery which was an existing condition in Russia. Among those who called upon the Czar were some Polish people and a large number of Finnish people, some of them from the vicinity of Mr. Oake's home. The answer of the Czar to the people was about the one which would be expected. He turned his soldiers loose upon the petitioners and about a thousand of them were shot down upon the streets of St. Petersburg.

"Naturally the Finnish people in this section partake of the characteristics of the Finns in their own country. \*\*\*"

In the main they are conservative, here, though about a quarter of them are radicals and have no time for either Finnish or American institutions. They do not read English papers, they have no confidence in the government of the United States. They are constantly seeking to break up any form of government and will support communism in any form where it is found.

"The movement towards radical education of the Finnish people in America started about 1913. The Finns took readily to the doctrines of Socialism as they were preached quite extensively a generation ago, and later were leaders in the I. W. W. movement which had a large following in the mining section. Later the Finns divided into co-operative societies. These organizations had some merit from the standpoint of their membership, but were the rallying places of those who wished to express communistic doctrines. The theories of Communism made an immediate impression upon the radical Finnish people and they have adopted the principles of these new teachings and support them at all times.

## The Finns - (continued)

April 12, 1933

"No one from the Wawina section went to Russia according to Mr. Oakes. He showed us, however, a letter from the daughter of a woman who went to Russia about a year ago. (in 1932) The daughter told of hearing from her mother and said she was leaving the Soviet states for Finland as conditions in Russia were 'terrible.' Quite a number of people from the Mesaba range left for Russia and we have not heard of the progress they are making. They sold and sacrificed their properties and were made quite substantial inducements by the Soviet government. How the promises were kept we do not yet know. (Find out by the G. R. Herald-Review later files)

"It is true that the most interesting thing about the Finns is the contrast among the various groups. Some Finnish people are short and dark. Others are tall and light. Some are extremely radical in their political ideas. Others are sound and conservative. One group is strongly for temperance and peace. Another drinks, and uses short, curved, sharp knives. One group goes to church. Another does not care for religion. One group is strictly honest in its business relationships. The other is smooth and tricky.

"These contrasts have not been developed in the United States." (Note: How does the editor arrive at this conclusion? Every trait mentioned, and every contrast noted, has been observed by every Finn who ever came to the U. S., because these same characteristics mark America's native population exactly as he has attributed them to the Finn. Short, tall, light, dark, radical, conservative (in political ideas), temperate, intemperate, peaceful, quarrelsome, religious, non-religious, honest, tricky--these are not variations of Finnish characteristics, nor Swedish, nor Irish, nor English, but variations of human characteristics.) "They (these characteristics) have been brought here from Finland and Russia. Many who have had radical ideas when they came to the United States have retained them."

March 16, 1932

Trade and Bookkeeping in Logging Days in Grand Rapids

In the days of logging, the winter time was the merchants harvest time. Fishing and loafing of the summer season gave way to feverish activity in the fall. With the opening of the lumber camps, the stores in Grand Rapids were busy night and day. Four horse teams swung sleighs up before the Itasca Mercantile Company, H. D. Powers, Henry Hughes, John Beckfelt and other stores and slid away heaped high with loggers' stores (supplies). And the loggers bought in wholesale quantities, though at retail stores. Everything was done with an eye to use. No fancy displays or wrappings were wasted on loggers goods. What they bought, they actually required to run the camp -- chain, tools, clothing, beans, etc. The H. R. of March 16, 1932, in a column of reminiscences entitled "Up In This Neck of the Woods," says of early trading there:

"The merchandising process was comparatively simple. The goods were bought, put into warehouses and sent out. If the loggers did well during the season he paid his bill in the spring when the logs were sold. If he lost money the merchant got little or nothing. The business mortality among the early loggers was very great. Some few made a great deal of money harvesting pine. Greater numbers lost all that they possessed. The logger was completely at the mercy of the elements. If frost did not penetrate the ground deep enough in the fall, he suffered. If the spring breakup came too soon, he lost. \* \* \* Merchants who sold to loggers had to have a pretty good margin

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(continued)

of profit, for the risks were large.

"The other merchandising efforts of years ago were striking contrast to those of today. Cash registers were few and complete sets of books were considered superfluous. The late John Beckfelt told of the early Indian trade at Grand Rapids. He did not know the names of all the Indians who traded at his store and had some little line of credit between payments. One charge would be to 'Rosie'. Another account would be for 'Rosie's Sister.' Another account would be headed 'Rosie's Brother. Such a method is more practical than we may think. These designations were very definite. Besides that, Indian names are very long and even if the merchant knew them, they would take too much paper for practical purposes.

"There was another kind of merchandising some years back. That was in wet goods, over the bar, in bottles and in kegs. When the logging season was over and there was no further demand for feed and things for horses and men, the saloons had their season. It was a very busy one. During the larger part of the year the saloons in Grand Rapids had to depend very largely upon local trade. Local residents furnished a good many steady customers but the time for the big money was in the spring when the lumberjacks came in to spend their winter's wages. That was the tourist season of a generation ago. Saloons were filled to overflowing. For three or four weeks everybody drank. Then the drive went on down the river and the woodsmen went back to their summer haunts in Minneapolis or elsewhere. When the Indian agents closed up the saloons

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(continued)

in 1915 they shut up over 20 retail establishments. They brought to a close a long established business.

"Today the most active part of the year in Itasca county is the summer. The tourist trade in household and camping necessities has replaced the older demand for sides of bacon and stag pants. The winter has become quiet at times, discouragingly so. There are about the same number of gasoline stations that there were saloons and the wet goods that are sold the most are those which run through a hose into the family automobile.

"The early stores were very interesting places, in most respects more interesting than those of today. The big stove filled with wood attracted everyone during the winter months. The stores were famous meeting places. Politics was talked but the weather was the principal subject for conversation because the weather was so important to everyone who cut, skidded or hauled logs. The early days had many famous characters and many famous story tellers. Some of the stories were told around the big stove while loggers talked to loggers and the clerks were busy filling up the sleighs.

"Stores were easily established years ago. The late B. L. Lieberman had a very small stock of goods when he first opened his store in Grand Rapids. It is a fact that Erik Johnson of Bovey brought in his first stock of goods in a packsack. M. J. Baker and others who were early merchants at Deer River had little on which to start. A very large volume of business was done in the staple requirements of early days. The demand was for things to

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(continued)

wear that would keep folks warm and foods to eat which would satisfy the appetite. Salad dressing and silk stockings were not on the shelves. There was little salesmanship in the older stores because people were buying just what they had to have.

"Now days there is a different story. The transformation has been striking and complete. The remarkable feature is that the change has been made so completely, within such a short time and with so little hardship upon the community.

March 23, 1932

Jack-the-Horse - The Man and the Lake

"Up northeast of Marcell is Jack-the-Horse lake. Investigation shows that it was named after a very interesting character of these parts, one John McDonald.

McDonald was born near Aurelia, Ontario, and worked around the logging camps of Grand Rapids and vicinity for sometime. He was a big, strong, good natured man, and a good leader, becoming foreman for various logging companies, though the Itasca Lumber Company bought most of his time and managerial ability. Of his general character and his connection with the naming of the lake, the H. R. of March 23, 1932, in its column of reminiscences has this to say:

"John McDonald became Jack-the-Horse. There are several stories as to the origin of the name. We rely upon Mr. (William) Hoelihan for the most authentic basis for it.

"McDonald was fireman for a large camp operated by Kehl and Derry, up in the Bigfork country. One day one of the horses working as part of a team engaged in hauling logs was taken sick. McDonald came by. He ordered his men to take the sick horse away to the barn. But there was a sleigh to be moved. McDonald stepped in, took hold of the tug chains and the end of the neck yoke and trotted off with the horse and sled. He did not have to pull much for the grade was down hill. But McDonald kept up his part of the work.

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(continued)

"Naturally such a stunt appealed to lumberjacks. John McDonald became Jack-the-Horse and remained that until the end of his days.

"When it was desired to name one of the many lakes near which McDonald logged, how natural it was to call it Jack-the-Horse lake.

"There are many stories told about Jack-the-Horse. One of them has to do with earlier days in Grand Rapids. Lumberjacks took their politics seriously. That is, politics gave them something to talk about and drink about. Along in the fall before the election of 1896 when free silver was the issue, a crowd of lumberjacks were arguing in the street. They fell to fighting. Jack-the-Horse was in a nearby saloon. He heard the commotion. Out he rushed. Jack did not care about politics. He was good natured. But he liked the fighting game. He rushed into the crowd shouting, 'Who do I fight, Who do I fight?' Up stepped a lumberjack and hit him on the chin. 'You fight me!' he said, and they went right at it. Fighting was a pastime to Jack-the-Horse, as it was to many other men of that day. They did not care for what they fought or why they fought. It was the fight that counted."

Near Deer River, where Jack lived was another John McDonald, no relation. One day this man ordered from a local store some hay, oats and other farm necessities, which were to be sent out. Jack-the-Horse McDonald had also ordered some things for the home, and in some manner the orders became mixed. In due time the hay and oats appeared on Jack-the-Horse's porch, and an angry Mrs. Jack came out and demanded that the stuff be taken away and her own proper goods left instead.

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(continued)

"My husband might be Jack-the-Horse," she said, "but he don't eat hay!"

"McDonald worked for a long time for the various lumber companies, always noted for his strength, his good nature, his ability. But he liked whiskey, no uncommon failing in those days. He decided to leave logging and went into the saloon business in Deer River. Here he said that when he was camp foreman he had a hundred men or so working for him. In the saloon business he had two or three thousand men working for him. That was virtually true because a large percentage of the earnings from sawing and cutting timber went across the bar.

"Jack-the-Horse was not a good business man. Very few men made money in the saloon business and Jack was one of those who lost all that he had. He then became a barkeeper, always a popular one, for he knew everyone and everyone knew him.

"Along about 1910 or 1912 a man came into the saloon one day when Jack was working alone. He had a grievance against Jack's employer, whom Jack resembled greatly in appearance. With very few words a gun was pulled and Jack-the-Horse was fatally shot.

"Jack-the-Horse lake is a very putty body of water. Its shores are lined with pine and cedar, birch and basswood. Its waters are filled with fish, like all other lakes in the Marcell vicinity. It is but one of the 300

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(continued)

or more of Itasca's famous lakes, but its name will remain as a memory of one of those real men who conquered the pine forests when that part of the country was a wilderness."

March 30, 1932

Cheating the Lumberjack

"The lumberjack with his mackinaw coat, stag saw, was one character. When drinking over the bar and enjoying himself he was still another. When defrauded of his earnings, his winter's work wasted and gone, he represented still another kind of man.

"To a very large extent the lumberjack was a victim of both his own weakness and the cupidity of other people. Those who employed him cheated him if they could, until the law protected him.

"Many of the men who worked in the woods got no pay for their services. Spring would come and the employer would be broke. The lien laws were such that the process of collection was both uncertain and expensive. He had collected a little on account during the winter. After that he wandered, broke and discouraged, to Minneapolis and then he looked for summer work with a railroad gang.

"But in the earlier days those employers who could pay did not pay in full. They gave the lumberjack a time check, payable sometime after the work was done, or which must be exchanged or cashed at some distant point. The lumberjacks needed or wanted money. They took the checks to the saloons, the stores and the banks. Since they were not immediately payable, a discount was asked. Sometimes this discount was five or ten percent. Sometimes it was a fourth or a third of the whole check. Circumstances differed. Sometimes those who cashed checks took some risk. In many cases lumbermen had arrangements

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(continued)

made with some of the banks in the wooded section and the discount was split between the banker who took the check and the lumberman who finally paid it. There was chance for dishonesty and abuse. The lumberman justified the system by stating that the money the lumberjack received would be wasted. This continued until public sentiment rose up against the system which permitted it.

"C. C. McCarthy of Grand Rapids, was the man who stopped this abuse. Elected to the state senate he brought before the legislative session of 1898 the methods by which men who worked in the woods were protected. He did it by changing the lien laws. No longer need a man who had money coming for his work place a log lien at Minneapolis or some other far distant point. He could seize the logs where they were cut, on the river or anywhere in the county in which he worked. He could demand his money in full and enforce that demand in very quick order. There was no more shaving of time checks.

"It is also a strange turn of politics that this very worthy act was not really appreciated. The lumber companies opposed it. The men who worked in the woods never seemed to care.

"C. C. McCarthy had a fundamental sympathy with the men of the woods. For nine years as a young man he worked in the woods of Michigan. A native of Michigan he studied law in that state and in Indiana. As many people were coming to northern Minnesota he followed their trail. He came to Grand Rapids on July 2nd, 1892. He saw the activities and the prospects of the new county so recently formed. A few days later he went to Duluth where he was admitted to

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(continued)

the practice of law in Minnesota. He returned to Grand Rapids to become one of the leading citizens, not only of the community but of the county and the whole northern part of the state.

"Lawyers entered politics in the earlier days. Mr. McCarthy served as county attorney. Then he served in the Minnesota legislature. The term 'senator' has been his designation for over 30 years.

"C. C. McCarthy's activities have been interesting. He follows his convictions with earnestness and sincerity. He has taken an active part in politics, state and national. In national campaigns he has served as a speaker in many states. The senator has more than a statewide repute as an orator. His practice of law has brought him into many kinds of litigation. But most typical of his services as a lawmaker or a citizen was his protection of the rights of the lumberjack, a man who needed protection.

"Those who have lived long in northern Minnesota have seen many conditions and many issues. Thirty years ago logging was the principal industry and the loggers and the public had their legislative and political controversies. Counties were formed and as the principal tax paying interests were the lumbermen there was conflict between those who could spend and those who paid. This brought about many keen issues, many times very embarrassing to those in public office.

"The lumbering days were romantic. The lumber barons had a strong political hold on affairs local, statewide and even national. Nowadays lumber-

March 30, 1932  
(continued)

jacks are paid in full when they wish their money. Legislation has been proposed to put shower baths in logging camps. The saloon has gone and tractors have taken the place of the horse. Such is change."

April 6, 1932

Iron lands

Iron near Grand Rapids. The shoemaker's (Mr. W. B. Holman's  
40 acres. See story in Grand Rapids Herald-Review of April 6th, 1932,  
if wanted.

April 13, 1932

Sheriff Hoolihan

Mr. William Hoolihan, sheriff of Itasca county from 1902 to 1908 was a colorful sheriff. He had worked in the lumber camps and was known as the lumberjack sheriff. Itasca county then extended way to the Canadian border, and every lumberjack in it voted for Hoolihan.

There were no automobiles then, and no place in Itasca county to run one anyway, except up and down the streets of Grand Rapids village. A horse and wagon could barely get beyond Cohasset. All the country roundabout was wild and only a rough trail led from Grand Rapids to Bigfork. Under the most favorable conditions this was a two-or three-day trip. What is now Koochiching county was then a part of Itasca, so the sheriff's journeys took him clear through to International Falls. After the M. & I. railroad was built to Bemidji, the trip was made by train. Before that day jurymen who wanted to come from International Falls to Grand Rapids took the train to Winnipeg, thence south to Crookston, and thence to Grand Rapids on the Great Northern.

It was necessary for the sheriff to serve papers and make arrests throughout his territory. Sometimes he used team and buckboard, sometimes he went on horseback, but most of the time he walked. When he came to a river, he stood on a log and pushed it across. Most of the streams of any size had logs in them in those days, and these made handy mobile bridges.

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(continued)

"In the older days of the saloons and frontier characters," says the H. R., "there was plenty of fighting and many murders. Practically every grand jury dealt with one or more murders and the sheriff had to go out and hunt up some pretty tough men at times. In 1906 there was a strike in the mineral region and Sheriff Hoolihan was called over to Nashauk to maintain order. Mr. Hoolihan says that most all stories told concerning his actions at that time were not true. The simple facts are that there was a general strike and that the sheriff was on the ground with sufficient show of force and deputies to prevent any disorder or destruction of property. Judge Alfred L. Thwing was county attorney at that time and Itasca county dealt with the problems of law and order in a very decisive manner.

Wm. Hoolihan was born in Ontario, came to Michigan, and thence to Minnesota. In 1892 he came to work for Wright & Davis, at a camp near the present site of Goodman. There he helped to load the first carload of logs that was taken to the Mississippi River over the railroad which was being built from the river northward. Jim Woods was the foreman of the camp.

"It was at this time that history, as far as Grand Rapids was concerned, was made. The question as to whether the county seat should be at La Prairie, which was then the head of the county government or at Grand Rapids was voted on in the fall of 1892. The lumberjacks who were working for Wright & Davis were allowed to vote in that election. Perhaps all of them had not lived in the state long enough and some were not entitled to

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(continued)

vote, but such questions were very rarely raised in those times. The lumberjacks walked from the camp into Swan River where there was a polling place. Before they left the camp they were asked to vote for La Prairie by the foreman and as long as it made no difference to anyone of the men, La Prairie would get the vote.

"As the group of lumberjacks was walking into Swan River, they were met by Henry Logan of Grand Rapids, who was at that time and later one of the most important political figures in the county. Logan asked them where they were going. They replied that they were going into Swan River to vote. The next question was who they were going to vote for. Logan was told. Logan then began to argue. He said that the men should vote for Grand Rapids for county seat. He said that La Prairie was owned by the lumber companies. On the other hand Grand Rapids was owned by many people and any property owner had just as good a chance as any one else in saying what the town was going to be. That argument made an immediate appeal to the men. The idea of doing as you liked always appealed to the lumberjack. So William Hoolihan and his gang of lumberjacks voted straight for Grand Rapids. The vote on the question of county seat was very close. A few votes one way or the other would have changed the result. When Henry Logan met William Hoolihan on that fall day in 1892 it was an important day for Grand Rapids.

"Following Mr. Hoolihan's employment for Wright & Davis he went to work for other lumbering companies. He became foreman of large camps,

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(continued)

working a considerable part of the time for the Itasca Lumber Company. He was elected sheriff by a good majority and after giving up that office he reengaged in the timber business. Later he spent considerable time on his farm just east of Grand Rapids and is now engaged with the county as road overseer in the fourth commissioner district. (Check as to last activities, and whether or not Hoolihan is still alive)

April 20, 1932

Old Lumbermen - Sims

Most of the leaders of the old lumber days are dead, but many stories about them live on.

"One of the important characters of the lumbering days was J. P. Sims. He was manager of the logging operations for the Itasca Lumber Company. As the Itasca was the most important producer of logs in this section his position was important while his home was at Minneapolis, much of his time was spent in this section, particularly at Deer River where the logging and transportation activities of the company headquartered.

"Mr. Sims is described as a man of exceptionally fine appearance, strong, active, energetic. In his later years his hair was white, his appearance all the more impressive. He was a watchful executive, well trained in the ways of the woods and the lumber camps. No one put anything over on J. P. Sims. He was a smart man.

"Mr. Sims had several important characteristics. One of them was a disposition rather variable in its manifestations. Some days he was the most pleasant boss on earth. On other days he was stern and severe. The first few questions he usually asked in the morning was an indication of his disposition for the day. Naturally decisive, this feature of his disposition was dulled or sharpened by his feelings. \* \* \*

"In the earlier days of the Itasca Lumber Company operations in

April 20, 1932  
(continued)

this section their logging road extended from Cohasset northward, over what is now called the right of way road, leading towards Deer Lake. The company harvested its pine and put it into the river at Cohasset. Some of the people who owned land on the river wanted a big price for its use by the logging company. The story goes that Mr. Sims tried to deal with the owners, but failed to get what he thought was proper consideration. One afternoon he gave orders to begin taking up the railroad at seven the next morning. Promptly on time the work began and Cohasset was no longer headquarters for the Itasca Lumber Company.

"This is the way the story is told. It is true, but it is doubtless also true that sooner or later operations would have been moved to Deer River because of many factors involving timber supply and railroad building possibilities.

"There is another story showing Mr. Sims' disposition and its queer turns. One day the noon train on the Great Northern was taking water at Deer River at the old location of the water tank and backed into a trainload of cars that was just pulling out of the Minneapolis and Rainy River Railway yards. About 20 of the logging cars and the end car on the Great Northern were derailed. It was not much work to restore things but in a few days Mr. Sims received a letter from the Great Northern stating that they were disciplining their train crew for carelessness by a layoff of 30 days and were suggesting that he mete out the same discipline to his men. Mr.

April 20, 1932  
(continued)

Sims wrote the Great Northern a hot letter. No one was going to tell him what to do. Moreover, if the Great Northern did not put this train crew back immediately he would sue for damages. The train crew came back to work, with kind words for the manager of the Itasca Lumber Company.

"Another (story) deals with Mr. Sims' visit to logging operations on Clearwater Brook in the earlier days. There were quite a few logs running down the stream and Mr. Sims thought that he would show the crew that he was just as active as ever. He jumped from log to log, but slipped and fell. He went down way out of sight. When he came up he grabbed a log and reached down into his vest pocket and took his watch, which was valuable, and held it up in his hand so that it would not take any more water than it had already received. On the shore of the stream was standing Bill Reid, well known lumberjack of the earlier days. He saw the general manager holding onto a log with one arm and in the other hand above his head the watch. It was an interesting situation which provoked the lumberjack to mirth. So he shouted out --"How long were you down, Mr. Sims, how long were you down?"

"J. P. Sims came to Minnesota from Michigan where he logged in the earlier days for the Itasca Lumber Company interests, which operated there before coming to this section. It is believed that he came from Canada to the United States. He died about 12 years ago. (about 1920).

Aug. 26, 1940

Nov. 30, 1932

### Hardy Indians

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

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

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

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

## Hardy Indians - (continued)

Nov. 30, 1932

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hardy Indians - (continued)

Nov. 30, 1932

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

Aug. 26, 1940

Dec. 7, 1932

Hotels - Stores - G. R. in 1870's

J. R. O'Malley purchased the Pokegama Hotel from its builder, D. M. Gunn, in 1917. He had been in hotel work in northern Minnesota for about 25 years at that time, from bell boy to manager, and from Aitkin to St. Cloud and Bemidji.

Mrs. O'Malley lived in Grand Rapids' very first hotel, however. It was the "stopping place" of Loren, familiarly "Lo," Seavey, and Mrs. O'Malley was Seavey's daughter.

"Loren Seavey came from Maine. He enlisted in the Union army and following his discharge came up north on the Mississippi. He worked in lumber camps where he was an expert cook. In about 1871 or '72 he began business in Grand Rapids with the construction of a log stepping place. This was a large wooden structure located near where the paper mill now stands. It was a rambling structure capable of taking care of a good many people. This place 'Lo' Seavey owned and managed until 1879. Then, having a growing family on his hands and wishing to give them an education, the family moved to Aitkin. Here there were schools \*\*\*.

"Mr. Seavey established what was doubtless the most famous stopping place in northern Minnesota's history. This was the 'Seavey Ranch,' as such places were called. It was located about 14 miles upstream from Aitkin where the Willow River runs into the Mississippi. This place Mr. Seavey operated both as a farm and a stopping place until his death in 1909. \*\*\*

"Mrs. O'Malley recalls the very early days in Grand Rapids though she was a young child at that time. There was no development of the rapids and water fell over

Hotels-Stores - G. R. in 1870's - (continued)

Dec. 7, 1932

the rocks with terrifying speed. The falls at Grand Rapids were the head of navigation at that time and the Seavey hotel was placed near them on the north side of the river. On the south side of the river Patrick Casey had a hotel and store. \*\*\* near where the Wheaton buildings are now located. Mr. Casey later became a prominent merchant at Aitkin and the Potter-Casey company had commercial interests in Grand Rapids for some time. There were but few families in Grand Rapids. These were the Burns, McCabe and Nason families. They were the children with whom the Seavey children played. What is now the village proper was forest, some of which had been cut away. Cow paths led from the river into the woods.

"When the Seavey family moved away from Grand Rapids the hotel was sold to the Wakefield brothers. It was later purchased by James Sherry. In Grand Rapids at that time was one general store. This was run by L. F. Knox. It was not until several years later that a frame building was built in Grand Rapids. The earlier structures were of logs and Grand Rapids was in appearance a very humble community with its half dozen buildings, at least two of which were used for saloons.

"The Seavey ranch on the Mississippi was about a half day's travel by team or oxen from Aitkin. It was a popular place and Mrs. O'Malley said that \*\*\* though the second story of the house accommodated a great many sleepers it was at times necessary to put blankets down on the floor of the first story and lumberjacks slept as they could. The fee was 25 cents for a night's lodging and 25 cents for each bountiful meal. It was not unusual to have 100 lumberjacks stop in for a meal. The ranch was a very busy place, particularly in the fall and in the spring and in the logging season."

Illustrating hotel meals of that early day in the section, Mr. O'Malley ex-

Hotels-Stores-G. R. in 1870's - (continued)

Dec. 7, 1932

hibited the menu for Christmas dinner, Dec. 25, 1898, at the Foley House, Aitkin, which he then managed. The daily rate there was \$1, American plan, and the menu for the Christmas dinner offered soup, a choice of turkey, goose, duck or chicken, vegetables, salads, pie, Roman punch and claret wine, all for 25 cents.

The chief patrons of the hotels in the early days were the lumberjacks. In fact, the hotels were built primarily for them. They crowded every available place where they could eat, drink and sleep.

Grand Rapids Herald-Review - Summer

Aug. 27, 1940

Dec. 14, 1932

Iron

"The Mesaba range and the iron bearing formation extends through Grand Rapids. The whole territory north of the community is underlaid with iron ore deposits \*\*\* Immediately across the Mississippi there are iron ore deposits.\*\*\*

(A full column here, but reference is mainly to the towns to the east of G. R. may use some of it, however.)

Aug. 27, 1940

Dec. 21, 1932

### Christmas Season

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

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

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

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

Christmas Season - (continued)

Dec. 21, 1932

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

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

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

Aug. 27, 1940

Dec. 28, 1932

### Town Development

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

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

Aug. 23, 1940

Jan. 11, 1935

C. C. McCarthy

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

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

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

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

C. C. McCarthy - (continued)

Jan. 11, 1933

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

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

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

Aug. 28, 1940

Jan. 18, 1933

### Education-Schools

"Miss Edna I. Murphy came to school District Six at Deer River in 1914. The country here was in great contrast to the Illinois prairies on which she was raised. She was immediately plunged into a new educational environment, with a half dozen different nationalities, with many new people to teach. There were the schools of the village and those which taught the Indian children. \*\*\*

"In 1917 Miss Murphy began her work in School District Number One, and no one has played a more important part in the development of the rural educational system of this great district. \*\*\*

"The first schools of this section were conducted at some homesteader's residence. The children came from the nearby section, some walking for several miles through the big woods. The teacher might have been the wife of the homesteader who many have taught school in Iowa or somewhere in southern Minnesota. A regular teacher might be later employed and then would come the schoolhouse.

"The first schoolhouses were of logs. Itasca county had the famous little red and white schoolhouses, but the educational system went back a little further than this. A small clearing would be made, the neighbors would get together, and in a short time there would be educational facilities for the growing families.

"Before the day of good roads the small schoolhouse served each community. The districts built this kind of school. They were the only kind that could be pro-

Education-Schools - (continued)

Jan. 18, 1933

vided. A complete system of education was built under conditions in which the one-room school was a necessity.

"Most of that early system has been discarded. There are few, if any, log school houses left in Itasca county. The one-room structures are rapidly going into disuse. \*\*\* The highways and buses have come and changed the whole scheme of education. \*\*\*

"School District Number One is one of the largest districts in the state and, for that matter, in the United States. \*\*\* (I have an up to date prospectus of this great school plant in another place)

Aug. 28, 1940

Jan. 25, 1933

### First Choir

What probably was the first choir to sing in Grand Rapids was assembled late in the year 1889 or early in 1890. It sang at the Presbyterian church, which had just been built. The choir members were Mrs. Bertha Stuckslager, then Bertha Nason, Kate Burnas, Ida McCabe, and Anna McDonald. Margaret Nason played the organ.

"Grand Rapids was then a small struggling community in the back woods. The first school had been built some five or six years before. Church services had been held in the homes. Mrs. Stuckslager was baptized by the Rev. Gilfillan, but there was no active Episcopalian church in Grand Rapids at that time. According to Mrs. Stuckslager's recollections, the Presbyterian church was the only church edifice, though there were services in the various homes by the different denominations. \*\*\*

"The McCabe family was one of the first here, and Bob McCabe was one of the well known characters of the time. Chris Burnas' home was near where the paper mill now stands. Mark Burnas, who was a boy at that time, became a well-known authority on the administration of Indian affairs. \*\*\*. Sidney McDonald was one of the early settlers in Grand Rapids, and the two Nason girls who sang in the choir, were the daughters of Albert Nason, better known as Al.

"Albert Nason was born in Nova Scotia and came west to Minnesota about 1870. He came to the upper Mississippi country about 1872. He married Betsy Drumbeater, the daughter of Chief Drumbeater, for whom Drumbeater Island in Pokegama lake was named. The old chief was one of the prominent Chippewas of his day and died at an advanced age in 1894. His family lived at various places on Pokegama lake and the Nason children were born near Grand Rapids. Al Nason lived for a time on Pokegama Point."

First Choir - (continued)

Jan. 25, 1933

He was a man of outstanding physical strength, the older residents agreeing that he was one of the strongest and most skillful men who ever lived in the community. He still retained his reputation for strength and ability to handle himself even after the loss of his left hand by amputation after a hunting accident. After years of residence at Pokegama Point and Grand Rapids, Al Nason lived at Cohasset, and then later went to Bona where he died in 1918.

The two Nason girls, members of this first choir had some schooling at Aitkin, then in 1884 they went to the famous school at Carlisle, Penna. Here they remained for five years without a trip back to Grand Rapids or seeing their parents. They came back in 1889 and became members of the first G. R. choir.

August 30, 1940

Feb. 1, 1933

Finn

In 1931 or 1932 a large group of Finns left Itasca county bound for Russia. Those who left were communists and desired to partake in the communistic experiments across the ocean. They sold their farms and goods for whatever they could get. That was not very much. There was a large group of them who were promised special consideration in the Soviet States. \*\*\*

"It is stated that these people did not like it in Russia, but proof is hard to find. When a person is in Russia he does as the Russians say. One thing he is not to do is to express any ideas that are against the purpose and progress of the Russian experiment. In one of the Finnish communities in northern Minnesota one of those who left was to write back to his friends. If he did not like it in the new land he was to put a cross mark at the bottom of his letters. That was a mark that was to mean something to the folks back home. Letters came and they all had a cross mark. Some who had figured on leaving the United States are staying here. \*\*\* The Finns have done a splendid job of developing many sections of Itasca county.

Aug. 30, 1940

Feb. 15, 1933

### Loggers of Itasca

"In the year 1900 there were a large number of loggers operating in this section. In that winter the Itasca Lumber company alone got out about 40 million feet and employed about 600 men and 300 horses. \*\*\* In later years this company produced about 250 million feet a season, under J. P. Sims' management.

Other large operators included Shevlin-Carpenter company, Backus-Brooks, C. A. Smith, H. C. Akeley Lumber company, Bovey-Delaître, Burlington Lumber company, the Weyerhaeusers, Carpenter-Lamb company, Zimmerman & Ives, Price Brothers, Powers & Simpson, James Sherry, Bert Munson, John Frazer, O. J. Mellen, J. C. Gilmore, Petterson & Johnson, Pokegama Lumber company, J. H. Dunning, Bonness & Howe, Hurd & McAvity, Hunter and Dwyer, Doran & Dewey, Howe & Stitt, Freeman & Gray, Milligan & McGuire, Sam Simpson, S. D. Hamilton, C. D. Lewis, R. B. Polly, Mike Gether, John Hedquist, M. Lally, J. E. Taft, Lewis Baldwin, Harry Oaks, Frank Green and Mike McCarthy.

"There were doubtless many other workers in the woods at the same time but it must be remembered that Itasca county extended clear to the Canadian border. However logging operations were confined largely to this section, the Prairie, the upper Mississippi and other territory lying north of Deer river. Estimates of the amount of pine standing in Itasca county at that time totalled not less than two billion feet. The records would probably show that a very much larger amount was taken out. \*\*\* Bert Munson \*\*\* logged here until a comparatively few years ago.

Loggers of Itasca - (continued)

Feb. 15, 1933

"Al Powers was one of the outstanding characters of the early logging days. With his associates he built a railroad from Hibbing running westward to Crooked Lake in Itasca county. This was one of the first logging roads of this section. Al Powers was a man of great energy and activity. Sam Simpson was so well known in the early days of Itasca county that we think that anybody whose name is Simpson ought to have the first name of Sam. \*\*\* After finishing up some work here he went to Leech Lake and put a large steamboat upon that lake for the purpose of hauling goods, logs and passengers.

" \*\*\* Bert Limson always had a joke ready and was always up to some kind of a trick. He was a most cheerful sort of logger, willing to gamble on anything. Jim Sherry ran the hotel in Grand Rapids and also logged. He was a hardfisted logger and being somewhat hard himself, he had a rough bunch of lumberjacks. James Sherry's lumberjacks were known as Sherry's 'Tigers' and when they came to town after the season's work was over there was usually plenty of excitement. \*\*\*

"Fred Bonness \*\*\* lived at Aitkin and Minneapolis and was interested in the early days in the navigation on the real upper Mississippi. He was one of those interested in the ownership of the Andy Gibson, the large boat which made regular trips between Aitkin and Grand Rapids.

" \*\*\* The Shevlin-Carpenter interests were very capable loggers. Mike Kelly, a quiet Irishman, was their head cruiser and A. E. Lord \*\*\* was for many years manager of their logging operations. \*\*\* C. A. Smith was an extremely successful logger in Minnesota and very much interested in timber in Itasca county. He was developed by the older Pillsbury interests. Logging in Minnesota, however, was not large enough

Loggers of Itasca - (continued)

Feb. 15 & 22, 1933

for him in later years so he went to California where he failed and later died. H. C. Akeley is an extremely well known name throughout all of northern Minnesota. \*\*\*"

In the winter of 1900-1 the Itasca Lumber Co. got out about 40 million feet of timber in Itasca county, employing about 600 men and 300 horses. This company, under the management of John P. Sims, had extended its logging road north from Deer River but it was not as yet logging upon the scale of later years when it would produce 250 million feet of logs in a season.

"The Price Brothers were particularly well known loggers in this section. \*\*\* In 1900 this firm employed about the same number of men as the Itasca company."

There were also in this period other important operators: Powers & Simpson, James Sherry, Bert Munson, John Frazer, O. J. Mollen, J. C. Gilmore, Patterson & Johnson, Pokegama Lumber Company, J. H. Dunning, Bonness & Howe, Hurd & McAvity, Hunter & Dwyer, Doran & Dewey, Howe & Stitt, Freeman & Gray, Milligan & McGuire, Sam Simpson, S. D. Hamilton, C. D. Lewis, R. B. Polly, Mike Gether, John Hedquist, M. Lally, J. E. Taft, Lewis Baldwin, Harry Oaks, Frank Green and Mike McCarthy.

Aug. 30, 1940

March 1, 1933

Indian Paydays

"Several days of last week were very welcome ones to the Chippewas \*\*\*. They were pay days and \*\*\* the Indians received some of the principal of their tribal funds.

"Since the Indians constitute a considerable proportion of the population \*\*\* we thought we would go and see how they were getting along. Last Thursday the payment was made to about 100 at Bona. The officials of the Indian Department were on hand early and so were the Indians. Some of them came in automobiles, some with horse and sleigh and quite a few just walked in, as Bona is a large center of Indian population.

"The payments now being made are from the principal of the Chippewa's funds. These are called per capita payments in contrast to the annuity payments which are made each fall. The annuity payments are the distribution of the interest on the tribal investments that amount to about \$6.00 or \$7.00 for each Chippewa at this time. (ascertain how much in 1940) The per capita payments reduce the principal of the Indian monies. These payments are voted only by Congress and, of course, if continued long enough will entirely eliminate the money which the Indians have at Washington which is now about two million dollars. (ascertain how much in 1940)

" \*\*\* Everyone who has an excuse for being an Indian is one at the time of the payments. Everyone with Chippewa blood shares equally. The toothless chieftain, 75 years of age, who is nothing but pure Chippewa, gets no more than a Chippewa who may be but a thirty-second part Indian and that fact is known to no one except the

Indian Paydays - (continued)

March 1, 1933

Indian Department. The payments are made at several places throughout northern Minnesota but it is also interesting and strange to note that it is necessary to have a Chippewa payment at Minneapolis. In Hennepin county there are about 800 Chippewas who come and claim their money. Most of them do not bear much resemblance to the Indians on the reservation.

"Those who expect to see any excitement at the time of the Indian payments will, of course, be disappointed. There is none. We understand that sometimes after the payments have been made there are Indian dances and last Thursday the Catholic Ladies' aid at Bena was serving a dinner for 25 cents. Indian women were interesting their friends in attending the dinner just as their white sisters do in established communities.

"The method of payment is very simple. The Indians are already enrolled and checks are already made out for them. A slip is given to each Indian to sign and those who cannot write their names make a thumb print on the slip given to them. Asking the officials in charge how many could write their names, we find that two thirds of the Indians on this side of the reservation can sign their names well. Down around Leech Lake and in some other sections 90 per cent of the Indians sign their receipts for, of course, a generation is coming on which has had a definite amount of education.

"Everybody pities the Indian but there is no need of being too sorry for the Chippewas this winter. In fact they are better off than a great many white people. They live in the simplicity which marks the Indian reservation. Consequently when a dollar or two comes into the family it goes quite a ways. An Indian family with six children gets a couple of hundred dollars at the time of the per capita payments.

Indian Paydays - (continued)

March 1, 1933

That is a substantial amount of money these times. In addition, everyone has felt so sorry for the Indians during the past few years that they have been exceptionally prepared to meet the rigors of winter or poverty. The Red Cross sent in tons and tons of flour. In addition yard goods were given the Indian women and there was plenty of evidence of the use of this material last week. From the Government came a large amount of army materials which the men are wearing and which the women have made over for the children."

You will find the Indians exceedingly well clothed. You will find them, for this occasion, at least, (the pay day) cleaned up, happy and quite prosperous looking. Some of the girls will have silk stockings. All of the women and children have substantial overshoes. Every Indian \*\*\* well clothed and appearing to be well fed. They show much evidence of a desire to have better homes and to live well. Of course there are exceptions, as among all people.

Aug. 30, 1940

March 8, 1933

Indian Thrift & Honesty

"It is generally reputed that the Indians do not have a good sense of the value of money and that they waste their payments (above referred to). The story has been told of the Indian who sold his timber. The loggers came along and cut it down, leaving the land clear of trees. They paid the Indian his money. He immediately started out to buy a ton of rutabaga seed. His purpose was to seed down the whole quarter-section to rutabagas. He said that he liked rutabagas and that the deer liked them, and consequently he was going to raise rutabagas for himself and for the whole outdoors.

"Most Indians are very thrifty. This comes about by necessity because few of them have any money. While some of the younger group of Indians do not have a very good sense of the value of a dollar, the older ones do have.

"We know of no one who has had a larger experience in dealing with Indians than Ernest Flemming of Bena. Mr. Flemming came to Grand Rapids in 1882, on December 13th of that year. \*\*\* He first cooked in the woods and about 35 years ago (about 1898) he went into business at Bena. There he has a large, modern mercantile establishment. (see if still there in 1940) When asked his opinion of Indian thrift, he stated that the older generation of Indians always paid their obligations <sup>when</sup> they could get the money with which to do it. Care must be taken in dealing with Indians so that they are not extended too much credit for their ability to pay is limited. But evidently the credit problem is no different on the reservation than it is in Grand Rapids or any other place. Mr. Flemming reports the Indians as careful buyers and extremely honorable in their dealings, with, of course, the exceptions found in any race of human beings.

Indian Thrift & Honesty - (continued)

March 8, 1933

"There are still some old Indians up on the reservation. Indians begin to look old however quite young in life. \*\*\* One of the oldest Indians goes by the name of Mrs. Chief Flatmouth. (see if she still lives) She is the widow of Chief Flatmouth, the last chief to whose authority the federal government gave any recognition. She lives near Leech Lake. Also among the Leech Lake Indians is found Caus-Co-Day who was born in 1843. (same query) The birth dates of these Indians are fairly accurate according to the Indian authorities. The rolls were begun in the year 1889 and, of course, the ages of a great many of the present Indians was then definitely known. Moreover the treaty of 1855 mentioned or recognized a large number of Indians who were then very young and some of them are still alive (now?) Another Indian of old age now at Onigum (check this man--Onigum is in Cass Co.) is O-zow-E-Shib who was born in 1848.

"One of the oldest Indians in Itasca county, Bob Mosemo, lives at Inger. (check on him) While the government does not recognize Indian chiefs the Indians still do and Bob Mosemo should really be called Chief Mosemo for he is recognized as the head of a large Indian population. He was born in 1853 according to the records, and is then 80 years of age (in 1933). One of the most distinguished looking Indians of the section and one of the best known is Wah-Booze whose English name would be John Rabbit. He lives on Leech Lake (check) and is an Indian of outstanding personality. He was born in 1854. \*\*\*.

"Grand Rapids should have a particular interest in the administration of Indian affairs. The head of the Consolidated Indian Agency at Cass Lake and the man in charge of the Indian affairs of this section is a native of this community. He is Mark Burns, who was born on Pokegama Lake and who was raised in Grand Rapids when the

Indian Thrift & Honesty - (continued)

March 8, 1933

community was very young. His mother was a Chippewa and his father was Chris Burns, well known to the older residents. The Burns home was across from the present site of the paper mill. Mark Burns went to Philadelphia to school as a youth. He entered the service of the federal Department of Agriculture in 1903 and in 1911 he went to the Indian Department. He knows the Indians because they are, in part, his own people. He knows the Indian language, and, of course, is in the deepest sympathy with the best solutions of the Indian problems."

(Check on present status of Indian funds, and whether payments still go on in 1940, etc.)

Aug. 26, 1940

Nov. 23, 1932

### Indian Cures

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

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

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

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

## Indian Cures - (continued)

Nov. 23, 1932

out the help of the doctor.

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

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

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

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

Indian Cures - (continued)

Nov. 23, 1932

headache is not known.

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

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

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

August 20, 1940

August 3, 1932

F. L. Vance

"Frank L. Vance came to Grand Rapids at about the turn of the century. For awhile he conducted a store in this vicinity. Then he went to Deer River where he opened one of the first stores in that village. When Deer River became too settled for his pioneer desires he went way up on the Bigfork. There for many years he was a leading character of a great section.

"Not all of the stories which F. L. Vance told could be believed, though he never told a story designed to hurt anyone or for his own personal advantage. He probably had the title of being the best known exaggerator in Itasca county, for such a man could not be called a liar. His stories were made up to fit the credulity of his listeners. The more they would believe, the better would be his stories.

"However, despite his proclivities for story telling, Frank Vance did make a very important contribution to the industry of this section and his day. The Popple river and the lakes near to it were filled with wild rice. Mr. Vance became a wild rice enthusiast. He knew that it was good to eat and he wished the world to know it. Consequently he was probably the first man in northern Minnesota to commercialize wild rice. He harvested it, treated it, even made some of it into flour, and he introduced its use into many hotels in many a section. From his activities F. L. Vance became known as the 'Wild Rice King'. He told stories of how much rice he would harvest and sell. Despite the fact that his stories might have included some important exaggerations, it is the truth that he did receive and ship a large amount of wild rice, and he merited the title that was bestowed upon him.

F. L. Vance - (continued)

August 3, 1932

"Frank Vance believed that the wild rice could be commercialized successfully and in this respect he had more vision than most people. Being of an inventive turn of mind he created a method of harvesting the rice in a mechanical way. A large revolving reel, similar to that upon a grain binder, knocked the rice from its stalks into a flat boat. Then it was roasted in an arrangement somewhat like that used in roasting peanuts, and finally hulled in much the same manner as the white rice of the south. While Mr. Vance talked of his operations in scores of tons of wild rice, the fact is that he did produce a great many hundreds of pounds each year, and in some seasons his production ran into a good many tons. This was shipped to hotels and restaurants and Mr. Vance was in receipt of a large number of letters from famous cooks telling of the use of wild rice and the demand for it among their patrons.

"In later years Mr. Vance told of his communications with the Japanese government in reference to rice. To what extent he ever dealt with that government was not known. Mr. Vance believed that the Minnesota wild rice would grow well in China and Japan under some of the conditions existing in those countries, and that if enough of it could be produced here and sent over seed there would be no more starvation in the far east. At least his idea in this matter received some official attention across the Pacific though from them nothing definite ever comes as far as known.

"In addition to harvesting wild rice and treating it for shipment, Mr. Vance was one of the early purchasers of rice from the Indians. The machine for harvesting wild rice did not prove successful during all seasons. Moreover there grew up a sentiment against the use of machines in harvesting wild rice which has

F. L. Vance - (continued)

August 3, 1932

made these machines now unlawful by an act of the legislature. It was felt that the harvesting of wild rice was an industry which belonged to the Indians. So thus it is that wild rice now is harvested by the Indians, men, women and children, working in boats or canoes and then drying and cleaning the product in camp or by the wigwam. When the wild rice is poor or the prices are low, the Indians feel a real depression. For some years the price was quite high, a fact which added materially to the prosperity of the Chippewas."

Probably Frank Vance's most famous tall yarn was the one about wounding a moose on a bitter cold winter evening. He said that in chasing the wounded animal he became confused as to directions and lost his way. Finally he overtook the moose and killed it. Knowing that he would surely freeze to death if he searched for the way back to camp, he took out the moose's insides and crawled into the carcass himself. There he kept warm and comfortable, though the moose froze hard. Then a great pack of wolves came up and began to feed on the carcass. This wasn't so good. Undisturbed, they would soon eat away his armor, at points where it was not lined with ribs and other bones, anyhow. So he began stabbing at every wolf that came within reach, with his long, sharp hunting knife. Each one he wounded was immediately set upon by the others and killed and eaten, as is their custom. When daylight came, Mr. Vance solemnly avers, he emerged unhurt and counted the clean-picked carcasses of anywhere from five to fifty wolves, according to the enthusiasm and apparent credulity of his listeners.

While this wolf story may be Vance's most famous one, the Grand Rapids Herald-Review states that "Mr. Vance adapted himself on all occasions to the occasion," but "He was friendly, a good neighbor and a very interesting character. He looked about twenty-five years younger than he actually was." He died about 1925.

Grand Rapids Herald-Review - Summer

August 20, 1940

August 10, 1932

Some Educators

"Itasca county has been particularly attractive to school men, to those engaged in educational work. \*\*\* Attracted (while on vacation) to the country and its possibilities they have later made homes here.

"Pokegama lake has been particularly attractive. It was about 1902 that George B. Aiton, state highschool inspector, first came to Itasca and bought lands. Mr. Aiton spent his summers here, clearing, developing and acquiring lands. He took a keen interest in the agriculture of the section, and was one of the first of the newcomers to perceive and understand the agricultural possibilities of Itasca county. On his retirement from school work he moved to Grand Rapids.

"Naturally, Mr. Aiton's activities interested friends and acquaintances engaged in educational work. Among these was W. M. West, who died in the winter of 1930-31.\*\*\*

"When Mr. West left active teaching work at the University of Minnesota (where he taught history) he devoted himself to his writing and to farming. (His history text-books led the field). On the south shore of Black's arm to Pokegama he developed a very fine farm, with large fields and commodious buildings. Here he worked, physically and mentally, until both his work and his health made residence at Minneapolis more desirable.

"So much in love with Pokegama was Mr. West that he ordered that on his death his ashes be thrown upon the surface of the lake.

"E. E. McIntyre bought land on Pokegama and farmed and lived there for several years. He later resumed school work and was thus engaged on the Pacific coast for several years before his death.

Some Educators - (continued)

August 10, 1932

"Another man who came early to Itasca county was W. H. Hollands. He purchased land in the Pokegama neighborhood. \*\*\* For several years he served as superintendent of schools at Deer River.

On lower Pokegama A. V. Storn has (check if still there?) large holdings of lands and beautiful summer homes. Mr. Storn has been interested in Itasca county for many years, as a visitor and land owner. For about two decades he has been head of the Department of Agricultural Education at the University of Minnesota. He has been a leading figure in agricultural education throughout the United States.\*\*\*

"The good lands of Itasca county and the attractiveness of Pokegama lake brought E. A. Grussendorf to this section. He developed a good farm on the lake, while continuing his work as an educator.\*\*\*

"On Bowstring, school men have developed a resort which has attracted educators from all parts of the United States.\*\*\*

"Many distinguished persons visit Itasca county during the summer.\*\*\* That fellow in the old khaki shirt may be a distinguished lawyer on his vacation. This modest man may be a great doctor here for a few days fishing. Some of the leading business men of the nation have been guests in Itasca county during the fishing and hunting seasons.\*\*\*"

Some very able and very fine people have taken part in Itasca's development.

Aug. 20, 1940

August 17, 1932

BIRDS - Migration

The swallows are the first birds to go south from Itasca in the fall, starting soon after midsummer. As the days grow colder, the other birds follow, and at the same time there begins an influx into the section of several kinds of birds from still farther north, satisfied with a Minnesota winter.

Among the interesting birds that live in Itasca region is the great pileated woodpecker, as large as a crow, which is a sky bird, and whose numbers are on the decrease since the big woods have gone and the small boys have come, with their target rifles. There are many other kinds of woodpecker in the region, but none other so large.

Another big bird of the section is the great blue heron. Several colonies, or rookeries, are to be found in Itasca, and they are noisy places. The largest, containing hundreds of pairs, was near Marcell. Bald eagles nest here, also. A fact not generally known about this bird is that he does not get his white head until three years of age, hence is often mistaken for a golden eagle when young. The true golden eagle seldom gets quite this far north. The large fish-hawk or osprey is here, and can often be seen soaring in circles over the lakes. They can spot a two- or three-pound fish from a height so great that the human eye can barely see them against the blue sky, and they can keep their eye on it while they do an unerring stake and secure their dinner, too.

The snowy owl lives away north, coming down here to stay during our winter. It is his Florida.

The evening grosbeak comes out of the far north to nest in northern Minnesota. There are at least 16 different kinds of birds that winter in the Itasca area, among them the red crossbill, the white winged crossbill, the Bohemian

## Birds-Migration - (continued)

Aug. 17, 1932

waxwing, the goshawk, junco and the northern shrike; and several kinds of ducks winter on Lake Superior.

"Itasca also has the Canada jay. This fellow has many aliases-- whiskey jack, lumberjack, camp robber, moose bird, gray jay--and he is exceedingly tame, impudent and familiar under all of them. Sit down to eat lunch, and there he is, talking noisily and pecking at your food unabashed. Toss him a few crumbs and he takes it as an invitation to take off his things and spend the day. If your motions are slow and deliberate, a perfectly strange and presumably wild Canada Jay will come up and eat from your hand, on first sight, and without any formal introduction. They are happy little chaps, and friendly.

Itasca has ravens, also, but they usually stay hidden in the deep woods. They look, and squawk, like a crow, but are several times as large, having a body as large as the great loon, or a wild goose.

Dr. T. S. Roberts of the University of Minnesota, in his books dealing with Minnesota birds, lists 327 species that are found in Itasca county. 35 of these stay there all the year round, while 42 are transient, passing through on their way north or south in migration. Sixteen kinds visit Minnesota only in the winter time.

Aug. 20, 1940

Aug. 24, 1932

Transportation

The first transportation into the Grand Rapids section was by water. The first logging out of Minneapolis was on the Rum river and its tributaries. Then operations moved northward to the upper Mississippi. There were three great logging districts in the earlier days of Minnesota timber, one in the territory closely surrounding the Twin Cities, another on the upper Mississippi, and a third in the Duluth area reached by the trails and rivers from the head of the lakes.

Aitkin and Brainerd were the logging headquarters of the upper Mississippi before Grand Rapids had been established and in its early days. Before the railroad came there were two methods of getting into the Grand Rapids territory--by river and by tote road.

The earlier method of transportation by water was by flat boats, poled upstream. By the crooked Father of Waters it was about 170 miles from Aitkin to Grand Rapids. With a heavily laden boat, against the current, this was a hard trip, especially when the water was low. Later came the steamboats, which made communication much easier.

The tote road ran in quite a straight line from Aitkin across the big swamp, entering the present Itasca county at Quadna (Quadna) or Hill Lake and thence to Grand Rapids along what later became part of the old Splithand road. This could be used only in winter, with swamp and streams frozen.

The first road north from Aitkin which could be used in summer followed up the bank of the Mississippi. This highway was built between 1885 and 1890. It was not used much for through transportation, because the railroad came in soon after

## Transportation - (continued)

Aug. 24, 1932

its completion, and for many years the river remained the favored means of transportation during the summer.

From Grand Rapids trails and tote roads were built when logging started. One of the best known of these roads ran straight north up the Prairie river, and on in a generally northerly direction through, and out of, the county. Another important trail ran eastward to Blackberry, Warba and Swan River. Blackberry was an important point on the river in the early days. Hundreds of oxen were pastured there during the summer, and supplies were stored there. Another trail left the Prairie river road near Prairie lake and wandered off across what is now the mining section, whose mineral riches were then unsuspected save where the earliest exploring had been begun at the Diamond Mine, near Marble.

"Another important road branched off from the Prairie river trail and went towards Bigfork and the big pine that was found on the Bigfork river. This road was later continued on to what is now Wirt, and beyond.

The man who extended this road beyond the Wirt country had a clever scheme in mind. His name was Colwell, and his plan was to get into this great unsurveyed area for a winter, cut timber that he did not own and thus make a stake for himself. He cut out the trail, built his camps and started logging operations. That was in about 1832. That year the great smallpox epidemic came into that area. It created much excitement, as many lives were lost. State health officers were called in to examine into the situation among the camps and settlers' homes. Smallpox came to the Colwell camps, several of his men became sick, doctors and others came in to care for them. Thus was made known the location of his camps, his logging operations came to light, and the government confiscated the whole works.

## Transportation - (continued)

Aug. 24, 1932

"In laying out a tote road the whole plan was to follow the line of least resistance. Hills were always avoided. The old trails twist and turn to avoid obstructions and hard pulling. The important thing was an easy haul even though not the shortest possible route, so supplies could be brought in in larger quantities.

These early roads carried immense quantities of materials without which logging operations could not have been carried on. As high as ten or twelve four-horse teams of horses might start out from Grand Rapids on one of these trails on a winter morning, and a four-horse team could haul up to eight tons of freight at a trip, so serviceable were these early tote roads, winding through the great virgin forests of Minnesota pine.

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Sept. 7, 1932

Banking

C. E. Aiken knows about the early days of banking in Itasca from personal experience. From 1894 to (ascertain date of his retirement or death) he lived in Grand Rapids and was connected with its banking all of that time (until?)

"In 1891 F. P. Sheldon, long identified with the banking business of the section, established the Lumberman's Bank. It was located in the building now (in 1932) occupied by the General Implement Company, where the vault is still to be seen. Later the Lumberman's Bank purchased the First State Bank from A. P. White and in about 1902 the First National Bank of Grand Rapids was established in the building in which it is now (in 1932) located.

"In its palmy days the village of La Prairie had two banks. J. A. Bowman ran one of them and when La Prairie faded out this bank ceased its business. In August, 1892, W. C. Gilbert and his associates established the Iron Exchange Bank at La Prairie. This was moved to Grand Rapids on January 1, 1893. Mr. Gilbert sold his interests to A. P. White, who now resides (in 1932, but in 1940?) in California, and after several years of management by Mr. White this institution was merged with the First National.

"Mr. Aiken describes banking in the earlier days as full of real hard work. When he first became associated with the First National Bank all of the work was done by Mr. Sheldon and himself. Everything was done by hand, there were no adding machines. The days were long.

"The business of the bank was largely the cashing of pay checks and time

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Aug. 20, 1940

Banking, (continued)

Sept. 7, 1932

checks for the lumberjacks. Where the lumberjacks would quit their work they would be given a check which was honored by their employees at Minneapolis or elsewhere. This check was presented at the bank which cashed it, and, as in many instances, the check was payable at some future date, there was a discount, which the lumberjack absorbed. Along about the first of April the men from the woods came in by the hundreds. As high as \$10,000 a day would be paid out, and in those times the bank had difficulty in keeping plenty of ready cash on hand. Sometimes it was necessary to wait for the noon train, which would bring in a supply of currency and silver from below. The lumberjack took his money, put it in his pocket and then went out to spend it.

"Lumberjacks were, as a rule, a very honest group of men with whom to transact business. Mr. Aiken recalls that losses in the handling of their checks were small and that the men from the woods were honest in their business relationships.

"Financing of loggers was, of course, a larger task than could be assumed by the smaller banks of the section. Loggers were financed from the city banks down the river. The logging business was a risky business to everyone who touched it. The loggers, as a rule, were honorable men \* \* \* but cutting pine was risky work. Loggers would make money for one year, or for several years, then lose it under unfavorable conditions in a bad season.\*\*\* Logging was considerable of a gamble.

Banking has changed in Grand Rapids since the 90's. Logger and lumberjack are gone, replaced by business man and farmer, at the bank wicket.

## Banking - (continued)

Sept. 7, 1932

"Leon M. Bolter came to Grand Rapids from Cloquet in 1901 and established what later became the First State Bank which was absorbed in about 1915 by the First National.

"As the range communities developed, banks sprang up in them, and in these Grand Rapids played a most important part. Mr. Bolten was interested in the establishment of banks at Dovey and Keewatin. Grand Rapids men, particularly D. M. Gumm, played an important part in the establishment of banks at Coleraine and Marble. Nashwauk was the oldest mining community on the western Mesabe range in Itasca county. John T. Ring, of the First National Bank in that village, has been associated with the banking development of the community since the earliest days. \*\*\* C. E. Aiken has served with one institution continuously for nearly four decades. (this written in 1932) \*\*\* and through four great business depressions."

Grand Rapids Herald-Review - Summer

Aug. 21, 1940

Sept. 14, 1932

Cohasset - More About Transportation

Cohasset was the head of river transportation for the area above Grand Rapids in logging days. The boats from below could not get above the dams at Grand Rapids and so steamboats carried traffic up the river with Cohasset as the shipping point. There were many steamboats on the river and on Lake Pokegama. They were used in towing logs and for general freight and pleasure purposes. Captain Ward ran a steam boat of good size that made regular calls on Pokegama and up the river. The old Mississippi was the artery of transportation in the earlier times and Cohasset was the head of navigation for traffic above Grand Rapids just as Grand Rapids was the head of navigation for the boats from below.

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Aug. 21, 1940

Aug. 23, 1932

Threshing

"The first threshing machine in this section of Itasca county was probably owned by Elmer and Fred Miller of Splithand. The power was furnished by horses and the threshing process was slow. However, the fields of grain were small. It was with considerable difficulty that the threshing machine could get from one farm to another \*\*\*. When the Miller brothers threshed for O. J. Niles in the early days they brought in their machine over some trails in the woods north of Pokegama. E. L. Buck, who owned what is now the Jenkins farm, had grain to thresh and he brought in a machine by boat from Cohasset.

"Many farmers from Iowa came into Itasca county \*\*\*\* brought with them good training and good industry \*\*\* they have developed new strains of corn which have been very successful \*\*\*.

"The North Central Experimental station preceded most of the farming development in this section.\*\*\* It took a large amount of agitation and effort to establish the Experimental Farm. It directed attention to the scientific side of agricultural work and dealt specifically with the problems of Itasca county and northeastern Minnesota. The people of the village of Grand Rapids saw that agriculture must some day supplant timber operations and that this section would go through the same changes which were recorded in earlier times in Wisconsin and Michigan.

"Hardly had the village of Grand Rapids been established or the county formed when the county fair was established \*\*\*"

The fair in 1897 was held on October 6th, 7th and 8th. There were 460 exhibits. There were especially large exhibits of grains, and local gardeners had large displays of vegetables. The largest individual display was by W. D. Leeman

## Threshing - (continued)

Aug. 28, 1932

who had a farm near La Prairie. Henry Logan won some prizes on produce from his farm on Pokegama lake. A Deer River farmer also exhibited. George F. Kromer brought in a big pumpkin. There was no lack of enthusiasm about farming prospects by the management of the county fair, even though the display might have been small."

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Aug. 21, 1940

Oct. 5, 1932

Celebration & Parade

"Grand Rapids had quite a celebration last Thursday (September 29, 1932). It was one in which many people enjoyed themselves in looking around and visiting with their neighbors. The program of the day was not elaborate, but there were many things which interested many people.

"The parade of the day had much of interest to both older and younger people. In the parade were the things of the present, such as the highschool band, the representatives of the Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. There were several modern automobiles and some fire trucks. These things people see every day. They do not see every day some unusual things which stirred the memories of many of the older residents \*\*\*.

"Up towards the front of the parade was an Indian travois . It represented the first method of transportation up in this country. The horse which was attached to the simple device used by the Indians had also seen a great deal of the development of Itasca County. He was Old Logan, a 32 year old horse belonging to Mrs. John Fraser of La Prairie. He had been on the Fraser homestead a great many years, living out the final years of his life as a pensioner.

"The four-horse team loaded with some of the old-time lumberjacks also presented an interesting picture. Riding on the wagon were such men as William Hoolihan, Theodore Betts and Mike McAlpine, dressed as these men dressed in the earlier days. Mr. McAlpine had on his lumberjack clothes which he puts on with the approach of winter each year, but on this occasion he wore an old-fashioned tam with a tassel to it. This was the headgear of the lumberjacks half a century ago. (about 1882.)

# Celebration & Parade - (continued)

Oct. 5, 1932

"Another very interesting feature was an old-time barouche which was a relic of the older days in fancy transportation. In its day we imagine that it was the fanciest thing of its kind in this neck of the woods. In it were seated four of the older residents of the community and LeRoy Wheaton had donned his plug hat for the occasion \*\*\*.

"On a truck was a small log cabin and towards the front sat Mrs. Ben Franks of Cohasset who was operating her spinning wheel. \*\*\* Charles Smith had a lively single horse and a low wagon loaded with farm products \*\*\* largely melons. Another wagon, driven by Sandy Fraser of La Prairie, carried a hayrack and on it were men holding a scythe, a cradle and other old-fashioned implements of agriculture.

"A birch-bark canoe, which bore the date 1864 was carried on a wagon. The old canoe would not be of any value on the water today. In it sat William Perrington who was dressed as an old-time fur trader. Following were several men of Grand Rapids on foot. They were well known timber and river men, and they carried some of the implements of their business. They all looked the part, and, furthermore, they were all real lumberjacks of the earlier day. These things showed to the public how far the past has been put behind the present. \*\*\*.

"Right behind the band marched the Indians. Despite the fact that this is an Indian country, Indians are always interesting. A crowd of several hundred gathered in the central school grounds to see them dance. They danced with more than usual vigor. The hat was passed, as is usual on such occasions, and the results seemed to encourage the visitors. Joe Carbow of Inger was the leader of the group of 25 who came down. He acted as master of ceremonies at the dance. The orchestra was, as usual, the big drum with four men beating it. The Chippewas danced their war dance and then they tried a waltz or two. It is easy to see that a waltz is not a natural Chippewa dance. There were all kinds of people from the reservation. There

## Celebration &amp; Parade - (continued)

Oct. 5, 1932

was one little fellow about two years of age, three little girls all dressed up, three young ladies and several older ladies. Whether the older women were the mothers or grandmothers of the little ones we cannot say. The men were all togged up with feathers and sleighbells \*\*\*.

"One of the best looking of the younger men who participated in the dance was dressed up in red. On the back of his shirt were some words and we assumed that it was this brave Indian's name in Chippewa. Looking more closely we decided that the inscription was decidedly modern. It was, 'O yeah, says you!'"

Grand Rapids Herald-Review - Summer

Aug. 21, 1940

Oct. 12, 1932

The Headwater Dams

Beginning in the early 1830's, one of the biggest jobs being carried on in the Itasca section, next to harvesting the pine and building the railroads, was the construction of the headwater dams at Leech, Winnibigoshish and Pokegama lakes. Several hundred men were employed, sawmills were busy cutting timber, oxen, boats and horses were busy bringing in materials and supplies.

"The government projected many schemes for development of a great system of dams for the purpose of controlling the flow of water on the lower Mississippi. Engineers looked at and made reports concerning the Minnesota, the Wisconsin, and all the other important rivers of the north. Projects for canals were considered to connect the Red River and the Minnesota. Even up here, in the early days, a canal was wanted to connect Winnibigoshish and Leech lakes. When it was found that locks were necessary this scheme was abandoned. All through the north the engineers worked, making plans and surveys. The war department and its large engineering force were very busy projecting great schemes for the control of waters.

"Before the dams up here were built some were constructed down river. One of the first dams was at Pine River, which controlled the water level on several lakes of that section. The Sandy Lake and Gull Lake dams came considerably later. The Leech Lake and Winnibigoshish dams were the first built in this immediate vicinity. They were started in 1832-3. The Pokegama dam was built in 1834.

"These dams were first built of timber. Sawmills were placed on each job. The timbers used were largely 12 x 12, all of fine white pine. Large quantities of dimension materials of somewhat smaller sizes were also used. The problem

## The Headwater Dams - (continued)

Oct. 12, 1932

of transportation of materials and supplies into this new country was very difficult. There were no roads in summer and consequentially the materials such as the hardware and tools and supplies for the men were brought by sleighs with horses or oxen from Brainerd north to the south end of Leech Lake. Here they were taken across the ice in winter or by boat in summer to the site of the dam. The Winnibigoshish dam was supplied from the same base. Materials for the Pokegama dam also were brought down river from Leech, though some were brought up river by boat from Aitkin and the materials were hauled over a very poor road from Grand Rapids to the dam site.

"All kinds of people were employed on these dams. The engineer in charge of the Winnibigoshish-Leech projects was Captain Wanzer, and he was assisted by his brother. They brought onto the jobs some very skillful shipwrights and carpenters, largely Scotchmen and Canadians, men who had had a very large experience in the handling and timbers. Of the crew of about 150 at Winnibigoshish about half were Indians, an interesting group. Men from the woods were also employed when the lumber camps broke up. But the lumberjacks would not work with pick, shovel or wheelbarrow. Someone else had to do that kind of work. A doctor was also on the job, going from camp to camp. His services were especially needed in the winter of 1885 when the great smallpox epidemic visited this section with such a great loss of life.

"The wooden dams did not last very long, only about 15 years. The Leech lake dam would not hold the heavy head of water against it and started to go out. Winnibigoshish was also inadequate. No water was held at the dam at Pokegama from 1897 to 1901. In 1898 the dams at Winnibigoshish and Leech were built as they are seen today, of steel and concrete, and in 1902 the Pokegama dam was reconstructed. The task of rebuilding the dams was not as large as the first construction. Rail-

The Headwater Dams - (continued)

Oct. 12, 1932

roads were comparatively close. \*\*\* The management of the dams rests with the War Department and the army engineers at St. Paul."

Grand Rapids Herald-Review - Summer

Aug. 21, 1940

Oct. 19, 1932

Duck Hunting

A good mixed bag of ducks at Grand Rapids would contain the following varieties: Mallards, canvasbacks, redheads, two kinds of bluebills, ringnecks, goldeneyes, both blue and green wing teals, widgeons or baldpates, gadwalls, mergansers or sheldrakes, spoonbills, and white wing scoters. Of these, the mallard, ringneck or local blue bill and teal are raised in the section.

"To get to the duck-hunting grounds on Winnibigoshish, Bowstring or the Bigfork river now takes about an hour's time. Fifty years ago it was a big journey. Mr. H. D. Powers describes the process of hunting them in a very interesting way.

"One or two men did not go out to hunt ducks. Usually there were never less than five and sometimes several more men. The ammunition, food and all of the other supplies were gathered together and put onto a steamboat above Pokegama dam. This boat might have been the North Star or the Little Eagle. The party and the supplies then proceeded up river to the head of Ball Club Lake. On some occasions they could go as far by boat as Winnibigoshish. Sometimes they hunted on Winnibigoshish or at Cut Foot but more often a real hunting trip took them to Bowstring, Sand Lake and the Bigfork. At Winnibigoshish dam they put the supplies into boats and went around Winnibigoshish into Cut Foot. Either at Winnibigoshish or at Cut Foot they would purchase birch bark canoes from the Indians at \$5 or \$6 apiece. They would then land their materials on the north shore of Cut Foot and portage them across to Inger, a distance of four miles, which was the nearest point on the north waters. The men would make two round trips a day in portaging. Two men would carry a boat or one man a canoe. They usually got help from the Indians and the squaws

## Duck Hunting - (continued)

Oct. 19, 1932

were set at work. An Indian woman would adjust her head strap, load herself up with a case of shells and all of the rest of the things that she could possibly carry and take them through the woods to Inger. From Inger they hunted by boat and canoe in Bowstring, in Sand and Rice lakes and down the Bigfork at other famous places.

"It would sometimes take about three weeks for such a duckhunting trip. Usually about that much time was required for such a journey. The shorter trips to Winnibigoshish would require several days.

"After the railroad was built the process consisted of taking the supplies to Bena and then taking wagons to Winnibigoshish dam or further up country.\*\*\*

"Ducks were taken out of the Bowstring section by the wagon load, and even the Indians, who ordinarily do not kill beyond their immediate requirements, would shoot ducks for the market. \*\*\* Despite the fact that there was but a small amount, comparatively speaking, of duck shooting 50 years ago, the mallards were just as wise as they are today. \*\*\*

Grand Rapids Herald-Review - Summer

Aug. 21, 1940

Oct. 26, 1932

Pottery - Indians

Any pottery picked up in the Grand Rapids vicinity are representative of a people, who were there at least 300 years ago. Pottery found there was left by the Sioux or Dakota Indians. The Chippewa came there about 300 years ago, from the east, and, having firearms, drove the Sioux, who had only bows and arrows, out of the country. The Ojibways (Chippewas) made no pottery. Anything of that nature found on Pokegama or Winnibigoshish was left there by either the Dakotas or by people who were there even earlier, perhaps by the Hidatsas, also known as the Minitari and as the Gros Ventre of the River, or by the Mandans, who also made pottery.

In Itasca county there are several Indian mounds, the largest one near Inger, but so far as they have been explored none were ever used for anything other than burial places.

The pottery made by the early residents of the section was hard and well made. Vessel walls were seldom over a quarter of an inch thick. On many pieces designs are to be found. Considerable amount of shards may be found in the sand on shores of Lake Winnibigoshish and Cut Foot Lake. The fact that the pieces of pottery are usually found where the Chippewas live doesn't mean that the Chippewas made them. It only means that the same localities which the Chippewa likes as a place to live had appealed earlier to the Sioux and their predecessors also.

Grand Rapids Herald-Review - Summer

Aug. 21, 1940

Nov. 2, 1932

Mike McAlpine

Mike McAlpine came to Grand Rapids in 1874, as a lumberjack, to work in a logging camp on Pokegama Lake. He was accompanied by his brothers Tom and James and by another man, Frank Hasty. They walked in from Aitkin, the nearest point on the railroad at the time. The Northern Pacific had been built east and west from Duluth through Aitkin and those coming in took the railroad to Aitkin and came to Grand Rapids by the river, or walked. These four men walked, crossing near Quadna Lake, a route along which were several stopping places for meals and shelter.

When Mr. McAlpine first saw Pokegama the magnificent body of water was entirely surrounded with a wonderful stand of white and Norway pine, from which hardly a tree had ever been cut. Back from the shoreline as far as he could see was covered with the largest pine trees. F. P. Clark was one of the pioneer lumbermen of the section, and for him McAlpine went to work.

"Grand Rapids in 1874 could not be called a community," says the Herald-Review. "There was one store in town. \*\*\* It was owned by Jo Gould. The building was built largely out of birch bark. In it were found supplies of staple goods which are sold largely to Indians and to lumberjacks. There were no people north of Grand Rapids from whom to draw trade and Jo Gould's business came largely from the west and south.

"Lou Seavey had the first hotel in Grand Rapids. Seavey's place, however, was not called a hotel in those times. It was a stopping place or a ranch.

Mike McAlpine - (continued)

Nov. 2, 1932

He had just built the place in 1874 and had two or three men working for him.

"The site of the village of Grand Rapids, including the location of the present main street, was for many years tall standing timber. The only clearings were along the river, and as business establishments were started they clustered along the rapids.

"Mike McAlpine worked in the woods of this section for about seven years. He was thrifty and saved his money and \*\*\* came to Grand Rapids and purchased the Lou Seavey stopping place. In the early 80's logging operations became very extensive. Mr. McAlpine not only ran the stopping place but he built five log warehouses and his business was to supply the loggers with all their needs. The Pokegama dam was also being built at about this time and he took the contract to haul the materials that were brought up river, from the rapids to the site of the dam. Most of the hauling in those days was done by oxen. In fact there were no horses in the country in the earliest times and during the years that he worked in the woods Mr. McAlpine spent some of his summer looking after the oxen which were grouped together in quite large herds where there were meadows and plenty of grass.

"After being in business in Grand Rapids for three years, Mr. McAlpine disposed of his contract to haul materials and his other business interests and went to Minneapolis. \*\*\* When he returned to Grand Rapids in 1890 he found a great change in conditions. Several business institutions had sprung up and there were prospects of a real village. The village had been laid out and some buildings were being constructed. The community was looking forward to the creation of a county, the establishment of a county seat and to the coming of the railroad. \*\*\*

"The very early residents of this section did not have in mind the

Mike McAlpine-(continued)

Nov. 2, 1932

creation of very much of a village. Grand Rapids grew up from the time of the Seavey stopping place and the Jo Gould store because it was the head of navigation on the upper Mississippi. For many years the only way to reach this section, except on foot, was by the steamboats which came up from Aitkin. This made the site of the village a natural stopping and trading place. It was upon this natural factor that Grand Rapids secured its early start.

Aug. 21, 1940

Nov. 9, 1932

Ducks - Mallard Flights

"One of the interesting contrasts between hunting now and 40 years ago is in the number of sportsmen. H. D. Powers tells that on hunting trips on Winnibigoshish their party might be the only ones looking for ducks. \*\*\* Once in a while they would hear \*\*\* an Indian's shotgun. They could always tell \*\*\* because they (Indians) used black powder and their guns made a deep reverberating report quite in contrast with the sharper discharge of the smokeless powder which was just then coming into use. \*\*\*

"It is a rare treat to be on Squaw Lake just at evening. After the day's shooting is over sit in your boat or on shore and watch the mallards come in. They come by the thousands from all directions. They come without fear, they plunk down within ten feet of a boat and begin feeding and quacking. It is particularly interesting to see these birds come in on a moonlight night. It seems that the whole heaven is covered with mallards. They come by ones and twos or by flocks of hundreds. Those who do not believe that there are still ducks should see Squaw or Rice lakes at evening time.

"After witnessing these enormous quantities of birds which come in to these lakes, the hunter immediately begins to scheme out a way to shoot them, but the mallards are wiser than men. At the very crack of dawn they move. They all move at once, rising from the water with a noise which resembles that of a freight train. Where they go is a mystery. \*\*\* Doubtless most of them go onto the big lakes where they are secure from hunters during the day time. \*\*\*

"Duck hunting is hard, wet work, but the thrill of the sport offsets all the hardships. \*\*\* Itasca county is a county of duck hunters and boasts of some of the

Ducks - (continued)

Nov. 9, 1932

best shots in the state. There are some real hunters in Itasca \*\*\* and some real hunting \*\*\*."

Grand Rapids Herald-Review - Summer

Aug. 21, 1940

Nov. 16, 1932

Moose - Deer

"\*\*\* A map issued soon after the Civil War showed that the north limits of the deer were at Mille Lac. They lived in the more open country and left the woods and heavy timber for the moose, which were very plentiful. As civilization came in the deer followed. There were a few of them here in the late seventies and early eighties. Ten years later there were a good number. Today they are comparatively plentiful \*\*\*. In the earlier days there was no bag limit on deer. Hunters killed as many as they wished. While the moose is very different in its habits from the deer, many of them were killed.

"There are many stories about the use of deer and moose meat in the lumber camps of the earlier days. \*\*\* Before the days of roads and civilization those who pushed their way into the primeval frontier depended on the country for some of their food. Later, hunting became a profession with many men, and lumber camps depended to quite an extent upon deer and moose for their tables. Some lumber companies used no wild meat. Others had men in their employ who hunted deer and moose. The ordinary process was to buy the meat from those who killed it. George Arscott, who came to Itasca and its lumber camps in 1890, tells us that the price was five cents a pound, dressed. This was for either deer or moose. \*\*\* Mr. Arscott tells of one man who shot seven (moose) without moving from his tracks. At one of the camps where he worked there appeared on a winter day a half-breed with eleven moose piled onto his sleigh. None of these animals was bought because there was plenty of beef in camp. On the whole moose is better meat than deer, but the

Moose - Deer - (continued)

Nov. 16, 1932

lumberjacks preferred beef to either. \*\*\*

"The deer gave both meat and leather. Moosehide was more valuable than the buckskin for moccasins. Buckskin was especially valued for mittens, and when the snow was not too wet it was good for garments of all kinds. Most of the deer hides were thrown out behind the camp to rot. \*\*\*"

To the people of Itasca county venison is meat of value, and many a family figures on a deer each fall, and welcomes it. For the outside hunter it is expensive meat, and for that reason valued more highly still.

SEP 30 REC'D

1. First cabin - first garden - first hotel - first school - first Sunday School - first church building - first warehouse - first store - first sawmill first grist mill, etc.

In considering these "firsts", perhaps it is best to go into a summary of Grand Rapids "ancient history". In Minnesota territorial days there was an Itasca County in northern Minnesota that extended from Mille Lac Lake on the south to the Canadian border and from Lake Itasca on the west to the Wisconsin line, this latter line being a bit vague in spots at the time.

Later this area was divided up and what is now Itasca County was a part of Crow Wing county with county seat at Brainerd. Still later a further change in set-up finds present Itasca county a part of Aitkin County with Aitkin as county seat. Now logging was started during those incarnations, county seats Brainerd and Aitkin. Practically all traffic and freighting with the region was by river. There was a land trail or road approximately where the "old" Hill City road runs up here from Aitkin.

There was a railroad pushing westward from Duluth. The early terminal of this road was LaPrairie about four miles east of G.R. This road was, for the most part, a logging road with budding mining ambitions.

The wholesale source of this railroad and its territory was, naturally, Duluth. Wholesale point for Brainerd and Aitkin was Mpls. and these towns were the county seats of the area now Itasca county.

1872<sup>e</sup> There was and still is in Aitkin a commercial concern, Potter and Co. In 1872 they established a branch up the river from Aitkin to serve the needs of the lumbermen in this northern part of the then Aitkin county. As near as I can learn, the Co. in the concern was Aitkin and Brainerd business men with money invested. This might be checked through the present Potter and Co. in Aitkin. It is a continuation of the older concern.

1887<sup>e</sup> In 1887 it seems that the territory now forming Itasca and Koochiching counties was separated from Aitkin and named a new county, Itasca. The Potter and Co. outfit had operated for fifteen years by this time. Their buildings were located on the south bank of the river on the east edge of what is now the village of G.R. One of their old buildings still stands there. Now the reason that the store was located here was that it was the head of continuous navigation going up from Aitkin. This due to the river rapids from which the village gets its name. Can't determine here when the name was first applied to the region. Will try to get a passable photograph of the old Potter and Co. building. It is now used as a residence.

When The area was first divided from Aitkin county, the county officers were still those of Aitkin county and offices were at Aitkin. A peculiar arrangement. May be a story back of why the area was divided from Aitkin county and no official set-up established. Can't get any dope on it here. Either don't know or "won't talk". Suggests possibility of an arrangement to avoid responsibility of early timber "appropriation" although this may not be the answer. Aitkin or Brainerd might be a source, but there are things that it is "politer" to consider unimportant.

There are some rumors unsupported by anything dependable that there was at one time a fur trading post hereabout, but site cannot be confirmed here. All this on first cabin.

This early situation indicates a commercial conflict between two different groups of lumbermen and between Duluth and Mpls. interests. These little differences centered about the two locations, La Prairie and G.R. When it came to getting a temporary county seat designated by the State government, four years after the county was divided off by the way, it seems that the G.R. group with Aitkin and Brainerd assistance had the most influence. La Prairie was about twice the size, some say more than that, of G.R. at the time.

First garden, - cannot be determined definitely. Lumber camps during the eighties had "camp gardens" to raise potatoes and the more obvious vegetables for had camp gardens, raising vegetables and other vegetables for camp use. The

Potter and Co. store and stopping place had a large garden just east of the store.

1877 First hotel, - was the stopping place at the early Potter and Co. location that lay just east of the present site of G.R. on the south side of the river. Built 1872.

1891-2 First school, - was a log structure located north across the railroad tracks from present Pokegama Hotel. It was one room. The first teacher was a Miss Maddy who later became Mrs. Potter, marrying Potter of Potter and Co. Her sister Miss Margaret Maddy took over the teaching job. The second Miss Maddy taught  $4\frac{1}{2}$  years and was teacher when G.R. became a county seat and an incorporated village in 1891 and 1892.

1891-2 first Sunday School, - was at the Presbyterian church. This was the first church building, Presbyterian, built in 1891. beginning time of holding Sunday school hard to pin down. Living persons who were here at the time differ from 1891 to 1892. These are women. Men here at that time do not remember anything about any Sunday school. To have admitted the existence of such a thing as a Sunday school would have been considered a weakening of their manly fiber in "them" days.

1871 first warehouse, - was one at the Potter and Co. location. Another was built across the river but that was several years after the Potter and Co. building was put up. The first Potter and Co. buildings were put up in 1871.

first store, - Potter and Co.

first sawmill, - early sawmill for this neighborhood was at LaPrairie. can find no "grist mill" claims.

(12) Trails, - most of earliest traffic was by river. Trails or tote roads were used from Aitkin to G.R., at first only in winter. Later improvements permitted use in summer. This road or trail followed approximately what is known as the old Hill City Road between G.R. and Aitkin.

another trail from Grand Rapids was the old Vermilion trail coming into G.R. along the LaPrairie river valley. This trail extended in a northeastern direction to Tower, Minn.

Other tote roads were built to various logging camps, mostly impassible except during the winter freeze up. There are many of this type of road in use in the county now. Some roads and trails were opened by mineral prospectors. These were more nearly year round routes. One such trail ran north to what is now the Togo district with a branch to the left or westward past the Napoleon and Blind Pete Lake district.

Ox teams, - There were many ox teams used in the woods in the earlier days. Will prospect for "ox team" stories.

1887 The first steamboat plying the river north from Aitkin and Brainerd to G.R. was the George Haughton. The largest steamer on the Mississippi above St. Paul was the Andy Gibson that traveled this same stretch of river. The Andy Gibson was built in 1882 and the George Haughton three or four years earlier. The Fawn replaced the George Haughton in the latter eighties.

1889 The first railroad into G.R. was the Duluth and Winnipeg coming in from Duluth and reaching G.R. in 1889. This was later connected up with the Great Northern from the west and is now part of the latter line now.

G.R. trade area, - extends 25 to 30 miles to the north, about ten west where it meets the Deer River area and about twenty to twenty five miles south toward Hill City and Aitkin and only about four or five miles east. Coleraine, seat of the home offices of the Oliver Mining Company, is only seven miles from G.R. to the N.E. To the south east G.R. draws trade for about ten miles. This is the area from which G.R. gets about all the trade. Naturally, they draw some trade from farther points being the county seat.

1. Any anecdotes showing manner of life of pioneers - hardships, amusements, tribulations and somforts.
2. Pioneers still living in G.R. and their reminiscences.

1. Anecdotes are more or less plentiful but not printable. Possible in days of more or less vivid living only the most striking left an impression. In early days there were 25 saloons here, the early lumberjacks were from Maine, Michigan and eastern Canada for the most part. They were a mixture of French Canadians, down-east yankees, first or second generation Scotch and Welch. From reports they lived lustily, worked for small wages that they spent in a few days after the spring breakup. It is interesting to speculate on how so many saloons could thrive on patronage of low wage clients. Questioned some on this. Some were so unkind as to suggest that if you only used enough ~~st~~ stock to get the subject good and drunk you could then roll him for the rest of his pay and thereby save other stock for other subjects and increasae profits. Red light joints were plentiful although it is not considered, at the present time, as a thing to be stressed.

Charles H. Marr, born in Omemee, Canada came to Minn. in 1881. Located at Aitkin. Worked out of Aitkin as Tailoring salesman visiting lumber camps for two years. First came to G.R. region on hunting trip in 1889. Came by steamboat. At that time all places of business were on the south bank of the river between Wheaton place (this place was the original Potter and Co. trading post) and the present paper mill site.

Mr. Marr and his brother started a clothing store in Aitkin in the 80s. They did considerable business with the Indians. He states that the Indians were reliable until liquor came in. Indian trade materials were cranberries, furs, wild rice, game and other berries.

In 1891 Mr. Marr moved to G.R.

Early river crossing at G.R. was by ferry located just north of the Wheaton place. The ferry was operated by Geo. Meyers. Mr. Marr used to own the steamboat North Star which used to ply up stream from Bass Brook or what is now Cohasset. Once a year when the indians received government payments, Mr. Marr would take them up the river on the North Star to Federal Dam where they received their yearly payments. Payments were about \$5.75 per person. Mr. Marr also had a store at Deer River which he sold later to Mr. Brooks, a county commissioner.

Mr. Marr states that there were 25 saloons, two variety theaters and no law and order in the earlier days.

When the new Itasca County was organized and the state legislature met, Mr. Marr, L.F. Knox, Mr. Beckfelt and some others along with a Mr. E. Y. Merrill of Aitkin, an attorney, went to St. Paul and "Chicago" in the interests of the organization of the county (and I presume the locating of the said county seat at G.R.)

Mr. Marr recalls witnessing the hiring of lumber crews for \$7.00 per month this including board and keep in camp.

He recalls that in 1893 the Bovey and Coleraine road was opened and that Dan Gunn, the builder of the Pokegama hotel, took the contract to haul supplies to these two towns from Grand Rapids.

Mr. Marr moved to Mpls. in 1913 where he remained for ten years. Returned to G.R. where he has considerable property and where he now conducts a real estate business.

Mr. Marr married in 1884 and raised three children. One son, William, lives in G.R., a son Ralph in Los Angeles, and a daughter, Ellen, in Ottawa, Kansas.

John Troop, born in Marshall, Michigan, migrated to North Dakota and one year later to Aitkin, Minn. He worked one year on river boats. At the

1881  
1889  
1891  
1893  
1913  
1884

1878<sup>y</sup> age of 23 he worked in a logging camp located at the site of LaPrairie. Some of his recollections:- Transportation in 1878 was by sled in winter and boat in summer. Population of Grand Rapids at that time was about two stores one of them being located south of the present Wheaton home. (the last is his own working). There were no frame buildings and only a few log ones.

The Indians had a village on White Oak Point and one on Pokegama Lake. They were not permanent villages. There were no schools, churches or farming.

In the winter it was a common sight to see twenty to forty sleds with provisions coming with supplies for logging camps. The men who were in Grand Rapids were Al Mason, Chris Burns and Bob McCabe. Chris Burns was a well educated man and acted as a dvisor not only to the settlers but also to the lumber jacks. There were three saloons in G.R. at that time.

1880<sup>c</sup> Mr. Troop worked as timber cruiser for one year and then got a government job constructing a dam between Cohasset and G.R. After that job he went to Winnibigoshish Lake and worked on that dam for 18 months. These dams were build in 1880 and 1881.

Mr. Troop recalls: There were large packs of timber wolves here at that time. He and two others fought a large pack of these wolves and were near exhaustion before help came.

Another recollection was the time an Indian was shot as he was being held by white men. One man holding the Indian was wounded by the same bullet.

After this shooting the whites left town for a few weeks on account of bad feeling. Mr. Casey was the only one who remained. The Indians considered Casey as their friend. Few Indians ever worked in lumber camps. They were trappers and hunters and fishermen.

1896<sup>c</sup> Mr. Troop was married in 1896 to Mary Anderson, and bought a farm north of GR. He stated that the most vivid recollection of his early life was a wrestling match between a man by the name of Nelson and one named Nason. The men were considered the most powerful men in this part of the country. They wrestled till both were exhausted without either winning. They say the equal of the match was never fought before or after in the north woods.

1887-9<sup>c</sup> Wm. L. Maddy was born in Stevens Point, Wis. 9/3/1871. Came to Aitkin in 1887. Worked for Potter and Casey there. In Oct. 1889 came to G.R. and went to work as cookee at the stopping place operated here by the same company. George Meyers was operating the place then. A short distance east of the hotel was a log building occupied by Mike Toole. The settlement was about all on the south side of the river. On the north side John Beckfelt had a warehouse on the north bank across from Potter & Co. Coming up the river from there to what is now Pokegama Ave. Nason and Kearney operated a hotel and saloon on the right side of the road and on the left side Bob McCabe had a saloon. Nason had a log house about where the Deep Rock Oil Station now is and L. F. Knox had a store where the Standard Oil Station now is by the river. John Beckfelt operated a store and postoffice where the papermill now is and northeast of where the paper mill office now, was a stopping place or hotel. The Beckfelt place was a log structure that was torn down at Sandy Lake in Aitkin County and shipped up here by boat. The building was later moved out on the Beckfelt place and later burned.

1889<sup>c</sup> The railroad finally came to LaPrairie in 1889. The Road was called the Duluth and Winnipeg. The original town of LaPrairie was named Neilsville after a lumberman. When the railroad came the name was changed to La Prairie.

About seven white women lived here when Mr. Maddy came, total population was about 125. He recalls that there three steamboats operating in 1889, the Andy Gibson.

the George Haughton and the steamer Fawn. Potter bought the Andy Gibson and used it for about two years hauling freight from Aitkin. When the railroad came the steamboats disappeared.

Mr. Maddy was cookee for one winter and drove logs on the Mississippi the next summer. He says there was no farming and very few garden plots. There were a

number of intermarriages between whites and indians in early days.

The main social events were a few dances in the hotel dining room. Mr. Maddy states that there were only seven white women at the first dance he attended. He says the old lumberjack was a hardened man and could stand much abuse. He recalls a man who was shot in the left lung and the wound sterilized by drawing a silk handkerchief through the bullet hole. He was then kept here for two days until the next trip of a boat down to Aitkin, where the jack recovered and came back to his work in the woods.

1895 Mr. Maddy married Harriet DeShaw in 1895. For most of his life he was a general foreman and cruiser in the woods. He is now street commissioner of G.R.

1868  
1888 Mrs. Margaret Maddy Finnegan, wife of the late Bernard Finnegan and sister of Wm. Maddy was born in Stevens Point, Wis. in 1868. She came to G.R. by steamboat Sept. 19, 1888. She came as a school teacher, taking the place of her sister who was the first teacher here. The first building where she taught was directly north of the Pokegama hotel across the railroad tracks. This building was later used for a morgue, then for a store and finally torn down. Mrs. Finnegan's first class was made up of three white children and five half breeds. The three white children were Emma Clough now Mrs. Skelly of Cohasset, Laura Thalhengmer, and Judy Knox. Her second term here was taught in the new four room school built where the present central school stands. Only two rooms were used at first. The first library was started in 1890. Mr. Previtz was the first county superintendent of schools. The first school board was made up of Mr. Dugan, Mr. Beckfelt, and Mr. Knox. Mr. Burch later took the place of Mr. Dugan. By 1892 there were three teachers, Miss Amelia Stillson teaching primary grades, Miss Maddy the middle grades, and Mrs. Pauly the upper grades. The number of pupils had increased to 32. Mr. Chatterton of Mpls gave the settlement of G.R. a piece of territory which it could keep as long as it was used for the purpose of education. It is site of the present central school.

1890  
1897 (An item regarding this plot of ground. The past two years there has been a considerable agitation locally for the erection of a new county court house. One of the stickers was that of site. It was not advisable to antagonize any real estate dealer as the new building could be authorized only by a county wide vote. Considerable opposition by taxpayers outside G.R. was expected and therefore important to keep all serene locally. So the site would not have to be purchased from any certain real estate office or group it was suggested that the central school site be used and a school be built in another location. This ran into the shag of the above mentioned condition. The board of county commissioners then bought of private owners the second block east of the central school site and about all the buildings were moved off. The question was put up to voters of the county last spring and the proposition lost. Some boosters are speculating on whether there is some way to get around Chatterton's condition. Just a side angle.)

✓ Mrs. Finnegan remembers that a Mr. Waldeck was the first mail carrier between Aitkin and G.R., the mail being brought by steamer in summer and tote road in winter. A buckboard buggy was used to haul the mail overland to G.R. until snow compelled use of sleds. The buckboard hauled one passenger in addition to driver and mail. Later a democrat wagon was used and it could manage five passengers in addition to driver.

1889 That in January 1889, a Mr. Griffith passed through here on his way to Hibbing where they were starting to drill the Canisteo mine. Mrs. Finnegan taught school in G.R. for four and one half years.

1875  
1891  
Matthew A? Spang was born in Ontario, Canada, 1875. At seventeen he came to La Prairie in August, 1892.

When Mr. Spang first came to G.R. the population was approximately 800. It was strictly a lumbering town. There were about five stores and twenty saloons. There were eleven saloons in the block between the Pokegama hotel and what is now the Riverside hotel.

Mining was in its beginning. There was a mine being started at Taconite called the Diamond Mine. They sunk a shaft merely for exploration. The only commercial products sent out of G.R. were timber products, furs and fish.

There were a number of indians around G.R. There was a camp at White Oak Point and several bands around Pokegama Lake. The large settlement was at Deer River. The indians were very friendly. There were some intermarriages. Very few of the indians attended school.

1890's  
Grand Rapids, in the early 90's was wide open and gambling, shootings and fights were common. Some of the recreations were baseball and wrestling matches between strong men of the district.

Mr. Spang says that one of the unusual things was that there were practically no holdups or robberies. Old time woodsmen were honest and making good on their credit was their code of honor. He heard a G.R. merchant, Ben Liberman, say that he never lost a dollar giving credit to woodsmen.

1904  
1915  
1919  
1928  
1936  
Mr. Spang was elected county auditor in 1904 and served until 1915. After leaving the auditors office he was in the lumbering business until 1919. From 1919 to 1928 he worked in the First National Bank. He was County Commissioner from 1928 to 1936. He now conducts an insurance and abstract business in G.R.

1853  
1874  
Michael McAlpine was born near Kingston, Ontario in Feb. 1853. He came to G.R. in 1874, walking in from Aitkin. On arrival he hired out in lumber camps first as cookee and then as cook and later in other capacities, working mostly for Shevlin and Clark Co. After six years here he went to Mpls, purchased a hotel which he operated until it burned taking all his assets. He returned to G.R. region for a new stake.

1882  
1880  
In 1882 he married Miss Anna Estella Hilling, whom he met in a G.R. hotel. Miss Hilling was employed by McAlpine in his hotel. She came to G.R. in 1880 with three other young women. About a year after he was married McAlpine took his wife to Mpls in anticipation of the birth of his first child. Due to an uprising of indians he wanted his wife to be safe. Several indian women came to Mrs. McAlpine and told her what the rest of the indians planned to do and took Mrs. McAlpine a ways down the river and hid her in some rushes. One of the Indians asked her to name the child Anonah if it was a girl. Two other women looking forward to blessed events at the timewere Mrs. L. F. Knox and Mrs. Streetar. Mr. Knox took Mrs. Knox to Aitkin but Mrs. Streetar stayed at G.R. Her child was the first white child born in G.R., Hattie Streetar. Had Mrs. McAlpine remained here her child would have been the first as it was born before the Streetar child. Mr. McAlpine joined her in Mpls later and for a time ran the Clifton House there and was also on the police force. Three more children were born to them while in Mpls. In 1890 the McAlpines returned to G.R. He engaged in logging and the saloon business. At the same time he began building the McAlpine home at what is now the corner of Fourth Street and Second Avenue East. The house was the first frame building to be built in G.R.

1890  
At that time the house was in a dense wilderness and folks laughed at him for building such a fine house away out in the country. Almost any day doeer, moose or bears could be seen from the house.

The indians were friendly with McAlpine. A few years ago, when T. T. Riley was sheriff, it was necessary to bring in an indian who had committed a murder. The indian would surrender to no one but Mike McAlpine

On another occasion the indians were planning to attack whites here and while they were holding a war council Mike and another man poured water down the barrels of their old fashioned muskets, rendering them N.G.

1873  
1889  
1890  
Mrs. Rose O'Connell before her marriage was Miss Rose Green. She was born in Mpls in 1873. She came to Aitkin in 1889 and worked in a store there. At the time a Mr. and Mrs. Smith came from LaPrairie to Aitkin and she met them and they invited her to visit them. They revisited Aitkin in 1890 and she came to LaPrairie with them. She came up-river on the Andy Gibson. Others on the boat on that trip were Mrs. J. R. O'Malley and Dan Doran and family.

While on this visit with the Smiths she met Mr. O'Connell and six months later they were married. Mr. O'Connell owned a hotel in LaPrairie named the Frasier House. LaPrairie was then headquarters for railroad building activities of Duluth and Winnipeg railroad.

She remembers that as many as fifteen hundred men would be in LaPrairie at one time on opening and closing days of the logging season.

The first hospital in the county was built at LaPrairie. There were eight saloons, two newspapers and two banks in LaPrairie.

When G.R. got the county seat La Prairie declined and O'Connells sold out.

1857  
Mrs. Maggie Seelye was born Nov. 2, 1857 on the Mississippi River about four miles below what is now the site of G.R., on a point which is known as Seelye Landing. She was a full blooded Chippewa Indian, named Show-Nee-Aunce. Later she was known as "Pokegama Maggie". She married a Pennsylvania Dutchman who came into the country and worked among logging camps. To them was born a daughter and when the daughter was one year old the parents parted. Later Mrs. Seelye married Lowell Seavey.

Most of their life was spent in moving from place to place finding new fishing, hunting and trapping grounds or maple groves. In the spring they would tap the maples and make syrup. There used to be regular villages of maple camps. Later came berry picking. They picked and dried all kinds of berries and packed them in birchbox boxes for their own winter use or for trade at the camps. When ice came on the lakes they fished for white fish which they dried and smoked for winter use. They also trapped and hunted for meat. They would trade meat and fish to the camps for tea, sugar and flour. Their early pleasure was dancing. They would travel many miles to attend a dance and learned the old fashioned quadrilles and reels. The dances would be given at the camps and almost every body attended who could get there. Almost all the young Indian girls married white men from these logging camps.

Products for trade other than fish and meat were buckskin and bead work. The Indian women did much work for the men in camps making buckskin, heavy jackets and mackinaws.

Mrs. Seelye and family are living at Bena, Minn. She is over 80. Two daughters and a son reside with her. She has ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

(This last sketch was gotten three or four years ago by Mrs. Bennett, local librarian and historian.)

1862  
1889  
1890  
Mrs. Hettie Kearney was born in Akron, Ohio in 1862. Her folks moved to Minn. where her father worked on the Northern Pacific, located at Motley and Aitkin. In 1889, accompanied by her sister who is Mrs. Geo. Meyers, she came to G.R. on the Andy Gibson from Aitkin. They returned to Aitkin but came back in 1890. In the fall of 1890 she married Mr. Kearney. On their first trip, Mr. Meyers had been hired to run the Potter and Casey establishment (Potter and Co.). Kearney's store was where McCauley's place of business now is. After selling his business Kearney lived one year in a log building where Great Northern depot now is. Mr. Kearney was native born Irish. He with others platted Sec. 16. He held several local minor offices as Justice of Peace. Mrs. Kearney recalls; Little dances, sewing clubs etc were forms of entertainment. The First Presbyterian church stood where the Northwest Garage now stands. Dan Doran was manager of Pokegama hotel when first built; he later built the Gladstone which he operated.

1889<sup>2</sup>  
1888<sup>2</sup> Delia Neveux was born in Carlton, Minnesota. She came to G.R. in 1889 with her mother and her sister, Ida. Her father and brothers had located here the preceding year. Her father and brothers came by boat from Aitkin to G.R. on the old sternwheeler called the Oriole, which is used now as a hotel in McGregor, Minn. Mrs. Neveux and daughters came by railroad which was extended to G.R. that year. Mr. Previtz was the station agent (depot). The first Neveux home in G. R. was where the papermill now stands.

Mr. Neveux was employed as a cruiser for the lumber camps.

At the time practically all the buildings on the north side of the river were stretched along the river bank. The street along here was known as "Whiskey Row". The cemetery was then located on the other bank of the river, north and west of where the Itasca Hospital now stands.

Indian tepees dotted the landscape in and around the town in those early years. The Indians, as a whole, were friendly.

A large livery stable was built where the Mohaupt store now is.

The town was wide open in early days. On paydays lumberjacks came into town for recreation and celebration. Saloons flourished and gambling and fights were common. Horses were ridden into saloons; money was scattered in the street for children to scramble for.

1901<sup>2</sup> Delia Neveux was married Sept. 8, 1901 to Carl Eiler, who is the present village recorder of Grand Rapids.

These biographical sketches are partly from my own interviewing and partly from notes taken by local librarian. A bit of reading between the lines is needed. I have found some confusion on dates which is not surprising after 50 years. Some of these parties are more clear minded some days than others. They are getting old, and tire quickly. I have some other notes that cannot send in until after further interviews as they are badly mixed through dim memory and the possible desire to present their own case in as heroic as possible. Have four parties that I want to see further and will send anything of possible use that I get. You understand that all called hotels or stopping places in those days might be called something else today.

Mr. Charles Marr who is still living here is one of the clearest minded of possible sources. He, furthermore, has quite a bit of material in his files that will be valuable. He is moving his office and it will take a week or so before he is straightened around. He has been approached by ambitious historians before and someone sometime has rubbed him the wrong way but he has told me that he will get the material together as soon as he gets moved and he wants me to spend a day with him and we will go over it.

Considerable of this is given in previous notes. As to the second part regarding G.R. - LaPrairie rivalry, there seemed to be an attitude of good natured indulgence on the part of LaPrairie toward G.R. the little settlement and boat landing upriver. Some people had businesses in LaPrairie or Neilsville and branches in the boat landing called G.R. Both places had ball teams, for example, and LaPrairie played her training or tune-up games with G.R. GrandRapids were not expected to be able to beat Neilsville. The latter's rivals were Carlton, Cloquet, Duluth and many in G.R. were boosters for the Neilsville ball team. The territory up here was divided off from Aitkin County and called Itasca County but for a few years the administrative offices of Aitkin and of Itasca county were the same and were located at Aitkin. When the legislature met in the early 90's and the new county developed the ambition of having its own set-up the fire works started. LaPrairie had always taken it as a matter of course that it would be the county seat when such place was designated. But G. R. got ambitions. Further they seemed to have the drag or got the jump on the other bunch. Mr. Marr has promised to go into this in detail.

LaPrairie accused G.R. parties with skullduggery in the county seat matter. A newspaper man located in LaPrairie was induced to move to G.R. where he started the town's first newspaper, the Grand Rapids Magnet. Some with business establishments (exact nature deleted) in both towns engaged in "fifth column" activities and sold La Prairie up-the-river.

In 1891 LaPrairie magnanimously granted to G.R. the privilege of holding the one and only 4th of July celebration for these parts. Things went smoothly, good trade was experienced in G.R. drink emporiums and other establishments and a good time was had by all. LaPrairieites contend that the understanding was that the next year, 1892, the July 4th celebration would be held at LaPrairie. Between the two Fourth's the above mentioned newspaper man, A. G. Bernard, had switched towns. He proceeded to promote a July 4th celebration for G. R. in 1892. There was still a paper in LaPrairie, the LaPrairie News, W. A. Thomas, editor. Now when Bernard left LaPrairie for G. R. he was criticised in uncomplimentary terms in the News. This led to a boxing match and to reflections in the Magnet to the sobriety and habits of the rival editor.

After the 1892 July 4th thing, blood was on the moon. Editor of the News really went into a real or imaginary chronicle of Bernard's earlier life. Bernard brought suit for libel. This was settled by a mild retraction in the News. Meanwhile the village of G.R. was designated county seat temporarily, till next election and campaigning began. It was spirited. Rumors as to the number of lumberjacks who voted and how many times each cast his ballot are still hinted. Hard to get a definite statement even after fifty years, yet some say Americans have no respect for law.

Loss of the county seat and completion of logging together with the extension of the railroad beyond that point and removal of terminal facilities and road building crews finished LaPrairie. Most of the better buildings were eventually moved to G.R. where some are still in use.

Grand Rapids had included quite a chunk of territory in their incorporation description. When it came to building a courthouse, that was up to the board of county commissioners. Two of these commissioners were outside of town and as the eastern limits of the land incorporated in G.R. was within a half mile of LaPrairie postoffice and about two miles from the center of G.R. and two of the commissioners spoke of preferring an easterly location some folks were badly worried. Hope to find just how this was adjusted. May not be able to get the low down as such a situation presents possibilities. Believe I will get more on this from Mr. Marr.

(15) - pp. #1

(First item on this page)

Cannot get anything on origin of the name "wanagen," suggest trying university. Ideas here conflict and are of little definite value.

Manner of propelling wanagans differed with the circumstances. They were used almost altogether in connection with log drives on streams or rafting on lakes. On the streams they were floated down stream with poling or sweep steering. On the lakes they were moved by the use of a device known as the "head works". This was a raft with a large vertical windlass in the center, windlass was horse powered, occasionally used oxen. The "head works" were anchored ahead and the wanagan was pulled ahead with the windlass, anchored the head works moved ahead, anchored and the process repeated. No one here that I have been able to find knows of any wanagan being left. Will keep it in mind whenever I locate an oldtimer.

70's  
80's  
(15) - The first steam boat on Pokegama w that is above the falls, as the Pokegama boats traveled both the lake and the river above the Grand rapids, was a government boat. It was used in connection with various government work as Indian affairs, land survey, forestry patrol, river patrol etc. Its first appearance cannot be nailed down. It was here through the 80's and some think late 70's. Some federal source might determine this. The first privately owned boats up river were used in logging operations. They hauled supplies and men and pulled and pushed log rafts on the lake. The early boats up there ranged from the rapids up river as far as log jams and height of water permitted and over the lake. One of the earliest owned of the private boats was owned by Chas. Marr. His recollection is that it was the first after government boat but says he can check it when he gets moved and can get at his files. Other early up-river boats were "Comet", Geo. Lydick captain and "Tribune" that was owned and run by "Seelye". (once husband of "Pokegama Maggie".) Will get this straight when Marr is ready.

(16) - Will defer this till I get bope from Marr.

To Whoever is Collecting and Correlating This Material. -

If I knew what you had as basic material it would help. Have you the files of LaPrairie News and the Grand Rapids Magnet?

Another source for stories is the "Up In This Neck of The Woods" column of the present Herald-Review. Might state that this last column is valuable mostly for its stories. Some of its dates are off. They have depended on stories brought in, phoned in or written in or gotten in interviews and they have depended, for some of the facts stated, on recollections that have been dimmed by time and age. Have found two or three discrepancies and Mr. Marr has mentioned that he knows of several that he correct with documentary proof.

A Mr. Luther, who is away temporarily will be back in the neighborhood the latter part of next week. He is full of reminiscences. Had a short talk with him last winter. He's interesting, but could not recommend using a lie detector on him. He contradicts himself, but will try to dig out some interesting items. He was once a newspaper publisher here.

In item you have given marginal number of 17 you ask about Mrs. Orrin Patrow who was first teacher above Big Fork. She is dead. The school she taught is known as the Zaiser school. It is over 50 miles from G.R. Mr. Hugo Zaiser, at Itasca State Park, could give you something on this.

Wish to mail this tomorrow and will cut off here. Have you the LaPrairie News and the Magnet?.

Supplemental Questionnaire on  
Grand Rapids  
E. A. Sumner  
August 30, 1940

What are the particulars with regard to Art Otis' private airport, out near Sugar Lake, I think. How far from Grand Rapids? Its dimensions, Lat. and Long., altitude, terrain, directions, lengths and surfaces of its runways? Any service there? Is airport available in Emergency (Defense)?

Art Otis is interested in aviation, and in 1936 decided to make a landing place at his summer resort, Otis Lodge, on Sugar Lake near Grand Rapids. Sugar Lake is about twelve miles out by highway, eight miles by airline. When he made his decision he had a grain field 1300 feet long, running north and south, with the north end 250 feet wide and the south end 650 feet wide.

In 1937 he built a hangar 52x48 feet, and enlarged the field to 1600 feet by 300 feet. The East-West runway was made 1600 feet  $\frac{1}{2}$  long in 1937. Since that time he has maintained a service station with aviation motor oil and aviation gasoline 73 and 80 octane.

In 1938 he lengthened the run-way to 2400 feet. At present he has three runways. The East-West runway is 1600 feet long, the North-South runway is 3000 feet long, and the Northeast-Southwest runway is 2600 feet long. He has had a licensed airplane mechanic at the field for the past three years.

His field is listed as a commercial airport, and is also listed by the government as having limited seaplane facilities.

Mr. Otis had a dedication of the airport on September 8, 1940, with ten or twelve thousand people present, three thousand autos in the parking area. There were 47 airplanes present, including two amphibians from Ely which landed on the lake. The largest plane that was there was a giant Douglass airliner of twenty-four passenger capacity. This was flown in by Fiske Marshall, manager of Northwest Airlines between Chicago and Billings. He had no difficulty in landing and taking off. The United States Navy was represented by a Curtiss dive bomber from the Navy aviation base in Minneapolis, piloted by Capt. P. C. Hoidale and Lieut. Larson. Three Army observation ships were also present. This air show was free to the public, being put on by Mr. Otis to advertise to the public the facilities for aviation to be found at his resort. The event was not commercialized, the only concession on the grounds being a lunch and soft drink stand operated by the Sugar Lake Farm Bureau unit. Profits of the stand were used toward completion of a community hall, erected recently by the unit.

In October of the present year the Army sent a plane from Selfridge Field in Michigan. They took aerial photographs of the field, and were much interested in the field as a part of the national defense program.

In 1937 this field was used as an emergency landing point. A very sick elderly man from International Falls was being taken to Rochester. The Otis Field was the only place he could land and get gas and oil and service. They landed and were taken care of, and then continued on to Rochester. The sick man recovered.

Mr. Otis is intending to enlarge his landing field or runways further this coming summer. The runways are sod surfaced, and have been well levelled and are in good condition.

## Supplementary Research on Grand Rapids.

Dr. Jules Gendron.

Dr. Jules Gendron was born at St. Francois de Montmagny about thirty miles from Quebec. He attended schools near Quebec, studied at the college of Levis across the river from the Canadian city and took his degree from the University of Quebec. Following that he studied law at Montreal and Quebec. Soon after he received his degree he came to Minneapolis where he was with his brother, a doctor. He became interested in the study of medicine, and took up this study.

He soon graduated from a medical school and became a practicing physician. After some years at Centerville and Minneapolis he went to Crookston, thence for four years at Red Lake Falls, and in 1904 to Grand Rapids.

He has produced four outstanding books. One is called "Le Charlatan", or in English, "The Quack." It is a comic novel dealing with quacks in the medical profession. Another book is the "Echos Poetiques". This is a volume of lyric poems, some short and some long. The latest book, just completed, is the story of the life of French Canadians in the United States. It is based on experiences as an emigrant, and his knowledge of the French people as he came into contact with them. It deals very largely with the cultural side of French-Canadian development, and it records some of the important events of French settlement and culture.

The most important book is an epic of over 350 pages of type. It is called "Chevaliers D' Oil." The English meaning would be "The Knights of France." This is a story in rhyme of the efforts of the French in Canada to maintain their language, traditions and liberties. After the publication of this book the Doctor was interested to receive a letter from a prominent French Canadian leader, stating that the organization of which he wrote in his poem had already become one in fact, and that there were twenty or more groups now in Canada working toward the perpetuation of the French language and customs. This book is in the Grand Rapids public library. It also has been purchased by libraries in large universities in the United States and Canada, and a large number of copies have been sold. The Canadian press gave a large amount of attention to the book, and Dr. Gendron is in receipt of a congratulatory letter from Prime Minister Taschereau, the mayor of Quebec, and other leading figures in church and state of Canada. Because of this work he was elected a member of the association of Canadian poets, and is one of the only two members of that association residing in the United States.

Dr. Gendron is now at work on another epic to deal more in detail with the French Canadian struggle with the English, and it is woven around the siege of Quebec.

All Dr. Gendron's books are written in French.

From the G. R. Herald-Review column "Up in this Neck of the Woods", for July 13, 1932.

## Supplementary Research on Grand Rapids.

On September 19, 1934, the Grand Rapids Herald-Review put out an anniversary Edition. It was the fortieth year of the life of that publication. Possibly you have a copy for reference. Parts of it are very good and are exact. However, there are holes. On page 14 there is a section entitled "Chippewa's Missions and Churches." This particular section is not very accurate. Parts of it are mixed up with historical records regarding the Pokegama lake in Pine County.

The item headed "The Lumberjack--a Man of Labor and Romance", is made up of extracts from writings of C. C. Kelly. This man did quite a little writing of assorted articles for Grand Rapids papers, chiefly for the Grand Rapids Independent. This man, C. C. Kelly, is still living. He is blind and almost entirely deaf, and is at the Itasca County Sanitarium at the Poor Farm.

Another place in this edition that is not entirely accurate is found on page 6, Transportation History. The general story is O. K., although the reference to some of the early steamboats is disputed by people who were in the country at that time. Also, the reference on page 7 to Mr. Wickman and his inter-city bus line as being of record that these were the first inter-city buses used on country roads in the United States cannot be true, as I rode on such buses in 1904 to 1906 in the state of Ohio.

The item on medical practice in the early days is very good, and checks with facts. The best account of highway construction that can be gotten can be found on pages 28 and 29 of that same issue.

A Chronicle of Forty Years, pages 35 to 40, is taken from newspaper files and is therefore quite reliable for the period covered.

This issue was not put out to give Grand Rapids a black eye or to minimise the superiority of Grand Rapids activities, and of course the less pleasant things are omitted, although an occasional hint appears.

December 6, 1940. Today I was able to get a copy of the 1934 Anniversary Edition of the Herald-Review. My previous attempt had been unsuccessful.

It is interesting for stories included, although there are several inaccuracies that I have mentioned above.

The Jack Skelly mentioned in the item on lumberjacks as the best early woods foreman is living today. His address is Cohasset, Minnesota.

The Wakefield who was in partnership with L. F. Knox in the first store after the Potter trading post has a living son who is living in this county. His name is George Wakefield, and he lives on the north shore of Round Lake in the west central part of the county. His address is Rural Route, Bigfork, Minn.

## Supplementary Research on Grand Rapids.

Extract from "Compendium of History and Biography of Northern Minnesota," published 1902.

### CHARLES H. LYDICK.

Charles H. Lydick, a well-known resident of Mora, Minnesota, was born in Washington county, Maine, on a farm, in 1861, and comes of a New England family of considerable importance. His grandfather came from England, and his grandmother from Scotland. They were married and made their home in the east.

Michael H. Lydick, the father of Charles H., was engaged in business as a wholesale butcher in early life, but became a farmer in his later life.

Charles H. Lydick was the oldest member of a family of six living children, was reared and educated in New England, and when he was about nineteen years old made his way to Minnesota. In the fall of 1879 he engaged in lumbering at Aitkin, Minnesota, covering Aitkin and Itasca counties in his operations. He was in Aitkin before streets were laid out, or the town surveyed, and was also at Grand Rapids before the town had taken shape. For some ten years or more Mr. Lydick was in that part of the state of Minnesota engaged in lumbering, and at the same time handling extensive logging contracts, most of the time being in partnership with his brother O. A. Lydick. During the winter of 1891 they operated one of the large logging concerns of that part of the county. At the same time he had under his management and ownership an extensive livery barn in Grand Rapids.

Mr. Lydick was married, in Harris, Minnesota, in 1895, to Miss Lillian Franklin. Mrs. Lydick is a native of Harris, Minnesota, and her parents, who were born in Sweden, were brought to this country when children. She is a niece of the bishop who is at the head of the Swedish churches in this country. To this union were born two children, Gladis and Glen, both of whom first saw the light at Mora.

The first meat market in Itasca county was opened by Mr. Lydick at La Prairie, and he also owned a steamboat which ran from Pokegama Falls to Ball Club Lake. He carried supplies for the Great Northern as it was being constructed through Grand Rapids, and for some two seasons had this boat in active operations. He has also sold jewelry in lumber camps.

Mr. Lydick began with nothing, and has made his way to a very comfortable competence. He was the proprietor of the first restaurant in Itasca county, at La Prairie, when he took an active part in the first county-seat fight which was waged between Grand Rapids and La Prairie.

(After 1890 Mr. Lydick moved to Minneapolis and ran a veterinary office, after which he moved to Mora, Minnesota where he bought potatoes, ran a hotel, and also had a livery stable. He was much interested in horses. He also was an extensive real estate dealer in that county. He was very active in organizing the Fair Association of Kanabec County. At the time this biography was written he owned several race horses. According to this biography, he was a driver in the first race ever to take place in Itasca county.)

Give date of foundation (1st issue) of all La.Prairie and Grand Rapids newspapers, founders' names, and their successors to the present, with all mergers and changes of names, the type, size formation, etc., and price of subscription at first and now, on such as still come out.

The Lumberman's Review was published by G. M. Orr and H. E. Graffon. There was no file of this paper kept. As near as can be determined this paper was established in 1892. (H. E. Graffon is now dead, but G. M. Orr runs a rubber stamp printing establishment in Duluth.) That paper was combined with the Grand Rapids Herald in 1896. The first issue of the Grand Rapids Herald came out September 15, 1894.

E. C. Kiley came here and worked for Bernard, editor of the G. R. Magnet, for some months, and then bought the Lumberman's Review and the Grand Rapids Herald and combined them. He printed the first issue of the Herald-Review May 23, 1896.

In 1914 L. A. Rossman bought a half interest in the Herald-Review. In 1925 E. C. Kiley sold his half interest in the Herald-Review to Mr. Rossman and left here, going to the state of Washington. Kiley died in Seattle in 1928. His body was brought back and buried here. L. A. Rossman still publishes the Herald-Review.

The Grand Rapids Independent has been published by A. T. LaFreniere since 1903 or 1904. There are no old issues, and its ownership before La Freniere took it over is badly mixed as it seems several people had an interest in it. I will try to get something more definite on it.

The first issue of the Grand Rapids Magnet was published in June 1891 by A. G. Bernard who came here from La Prairie where he had published a paper for one or two years by name of the La Prairie Magnet. Bernard published this G. R. Magnet until 1904 when it was bought by A. J. Stewart. He evidently was not able to finance the deal and several others were interested in it. It finally became the property of Henry Hughes, who sold it in 1906 to the Herald-Review and the Independent, who bought it to eliminate the competition and get the equipment.

The beginning of the La Prairie News, that is, its first issue, I cannot give you, but can state that it was started in 1890. Oldest issues here are those of 1892, and the heading of each first page of these is marked "Third year." It was published by Thomas and Anderson. It is believed that this paper is the predecessor of the present Independent.

The source of this material was L. A. Rossman, publisher of the Grand Rapids Herald-Review; and old newspaper files at the Grand Rapids library.

Horticulture. Wild berries and fruit there. Orchards - early fruit attempts - the degree of success with fruits - the first nursery - the Exper. Station.

DEC 10 REC'D

There are lots of wild berries found in the Grand Rapids region. Those most commercialized are probably the blueberries and cranberries. Others found are june berries, choke cherries, pin cherries, wild plums, wild strawberries, high-bush cranberries, raspberries, and a few blackberries, not enough to make them worth mentioning.

There are very few orchards or "tame" fruit trees, although there are a few. This distinctly is not a country for tree fruits, as the winters are too severe.

There has been considerable success in the raising of raspberries and strawberries.

The Farm School in St. Paul could give you the best report attainable on experiences of the Experiment Station here on matters horticultural.

Post Office -- When Established? How Mail received? Who first postmaster, and where was the P. O.? Who is postmaster now? Any former postmasters ever attain any prominence.

The first postmaster was J. W. Wakefield, that is, he was the first person who was formally appointed as postmaster of Grand Rapids. The appointment was made in 1887.

Before this, L. F. Knox and Wakefield were in partnership in a store. When a boat came up with a load of supplies it usually brought along the mail from Aitkin that was addressed to people living in the Grand Rapids area. It was left at the Knox and Wakefield store, where it was kept in empty boxes and distributed to addressees by the store, as a matter of accommodation.

The first mail was brought upriver by steamboat, and the first post office was in the Wakefield store. John Beckfelt followed Wakefield as postmaster. The present postmaster is Archie Rassmussen.

Inquiry at the post office does not produce any evidence that any former postmaster ever attained any great prominence. The present post office is located in a building devoted to that purpose located on First Avenue West.

### Industry and Commerce Today.

Main industries - Number employed - Farmers prosperous? Dairying done? Cheese made? Butter made? Any commercial canneries? Chief Crops? Many tourists? Factory wage scales? Any truck gardening?

The main industry of Grand Rapids would probably be the plant of the Blandin Paper Company. There is an average employment of about 225 men, sometimes a few over, in a rush season, and a few less in slack times. This was given to me as the average.

There are two creameries in Grand Rapids, the larger one of these having about twenty-five employees. It makes about 575,000 pounds of butter a year, and as a side-line manufactures about fifty thousand gallons of ice cream a year. The smaller creamery has six employees, and makes about 200,000 pounds of butter a year. There is no cheese factory or commercial cannery at Grand Rapids. From the volume given for the creameries, you can understand that there is considerable dairying done.

Outside of dairying some of the chief crops are potatoes. There is some export of forage crops, but most of the farm crops outside of potatoes, small fruit, and overflow of forage crops, is consumed on the farm.

Factory wage scales have a sixty cent minimum at the Paper Mill, and fifty cents at most other places.

This is quite a tourist center, and a large number of tourists come into and pass through Grand Rapids, heading to the northern lakes during the season. There is some truck gardening, but merely to supply the local market and summer resort trade. There is no export of garden truck.

In respect to farming in the Grand Rapids region, Itasca county farming is still in the beginning. ~~more~~ more than ten percent of the possible farming area is in cultivated land or pasture. A considerable part of the county is taken up by forest reserves, and the most part of that outside the forest reserves that is neither too rough for farming or in swamps and bogs is still cut-over or brush land. South of Grand Rapids there are quite a number of fairly prosperous farms. It would be safe to say that dairying has proven to be the most practical farm activity in this section.

Grand Rapids probably draws a considerable part of its income from the fact that it is the county seat of a county as large as some states. Also, School District #1 is a big affair, and there are quite a number of Grand Rapids employees of this organization. There is also a C. C. C. shop located at Grand Rapids. Employees at this place are not permanent residents, however.

Grand Rapids has one commercial freight trucking concern, the Matthews Freight Service. The county hospital, located at Grand Rapids is also a source of several jobs supporting families.

I talked to the secretary of the local Commercial Club, and he informs me that they do not have such a thing as a prospectus of Grand Rapids. You

had asked for this in another question. I will try to get for you an estimate of the local business volume, as he said that he would try to get me some estimated summaries of this kind.

All, or nearly all of these mighty men have crossed the Great Divide, which suggests the thought that believing that there must be some special place like the Valhalla of the Vikings set apart in the other world for the best lumberjacks is not so wild at that. Surely the cloying Nirvana of the Celestial Regions would soon pall upon them. Surer that the Lord of the Lower Regions with all his myrmidons could never hold them in durance.

From this sublimity, dropping a bit, let us consider who, if any, might be called the handsomest man of the lumberjacks. A hard question to answer, but off-hand two come to mind. They are Jack Gaffney and Bill Ross, who were neither entitled to be called handsome. Jack dressed his part so well that he might have exchanged clothes with a scarecrow without altering for the worse the appearance of either, provided that the scarecrow was topped by a battered sun helmet, as Jack always was.

But taking it by and large, it can be said that our own John Fraser might well be entitled to be called the handsomest lumberjack of his time. He is fairly entitled to the distinction, even remembering such stalwart Sons of Anak as Mike McAlpine, Bill Hoolihan and a host of others.

#### The Most Useful.

Who was the most useful man in the woods? Looks as though a Philadelphia lawyer couldn't answer that one, but its easy. Bill Ross, of course. Bill was a graduate of the famous "guessing school" of Maine. More than that, he was said to have been principal of that famous institution. Bill could do anything, improve on anything, and would never stay in one place long. He had no enemy save the lumberjack's worst one, himself.

Who was best on the drive? "Little Mike" Poole, of course. Good men there were a plenty, lots of "whitewater" men, able men and good, but none of them could keep up to Little Mike. Not meaning his feat of running a batteau over the dam at Little Falls, that was just an eccentricity, but we can't describe his feats, just ask George Arscott, he can.

As to horse teamsters we pass it us. The good ones were legion. In the good old days of the short haul, no timber more than a mile and a half from tree to banking place on lake or stream, oxen were the chief motive power, and many able "bull punchers" there were. Our informant avers that Luther Brown, Herb Tucker, Eb Day, called "Old Bosaw", and Jim Staples were among the best, equalled by very few, and excelled by none. Our informant also says that of the four, Brown was the best. Tucker has gone from earth, of Day and Staples, none here know, but Luther Brown lives here in Grand Rapids on the South side, and appears hale and hearty. He can often be seen in Frank Ressler's shoe shop, and it is said that he knows more and can tell more of the old days than any other man alive, if he can be induced to talk, which is not always easy to do.

Who was the best foreman? Wiser than Solomon the man who can answer that question. Inclination, based on log-getting ability points strongly to Stuart Fraser. But also, and strongly, it points to Jack Skelly, Nestor of the village of Cohasset, sole survivor of the firm of Skelly Brothers, and who now enjoys a well earned period of rest and quiet at home. Our own John Fraser was no slough as a foreman. Others well known were Fred Bombadier, J. K. Smith and Jim O'Leary.

#### More About Men.

Some poet, perhaps the Sweet Singer of Michigan, has written "We can live

without love, we can live without books, but there's never a one who can live without cooks." Which sets one to thinking of the good days when the world was young, at least in this Northland of ours, and the logging camps known to tradition were a living reality. There were many good cooks, and which could be called chief is hard to say. Johnny Payne, Johnny Malone, Johnny Carroll, Johnny Templeton, George Arscott, Herman Cochran, and many another name rises before mental vision, and it is only with long and racking thought that we come to the conclusion that honors are easy between two for the title of cordon bleu championship.

Between Johnny Payne and George Arscott we can see no gnat's whisker of difference in excellence, nor can we remember any cook to quite equal them. Johnny Payne has gone before, but Mr. Arscott is still with us, and may he long so remain. Using his usual good sense, Mr. Arscott quit the woods before the great debacle struck, and "went road-monkeying", or so a scurrilous lumberjack once said, and remained in a more profitable occupation than that of cooking for the men called lumberjacks in these more degenerate days. (George Arscott is now Mayor of Grand Rapids.)

Speaking of good men, some very good men came into the woods to exhort us heathens during the winter. One of the very good ones was Rev. Gilfillan. He was an Episcopal missionary, and you seldom see a better all round man anywhere. He "Preached some good religion and his sermon was his own", as Stanley Huntley said, and if the good seed he scattered did not bring forth good fruit it was no fault of his. Also, he would wrestle any man, any hold, and few even the best could put him on his back.

#### The Christian Men.

Nearly as good a man was--and is-- John Sornberger. He, like the famous Peter Cartwright of my home state, was a good man with his hands in his unregenerate days, and was as "good" as the original Jack Dempsey. Mind you, the word good in those days meant physically good, and had nothing to do with morals. Mr. Sornberger is and was a good preacher, a hard and zealous worker in the vineyard, and a man to tie to, that I know. God speed him in his work.

Some of the lumberjacks were great athletes. There was Mert Smith of Princeton, who could stand straight up and turn both front and back somersaults, and did it at Saturday night frolics. This takes a good man as even a circus performer will testify.

One Saturday night in Jim Duffy's camp the Sons of Anak engaged in a game the name of which I forget, but it went this way. Duffy with a smile as trustworthy as Greek gifts sat on the deacon seat holding a reversed hat in his lap. Before him knelt the victim with his face buried in the hat. Around the victim stood a row of husky men whose part was to smite the recumbent one mightily with open palm on his exposed portion. After each blow the recipient could raise his head and try to guess the smiter from the jeering circle. If he guessed correctly, the smiter had to take his place with his face in the hat, but he missed out on every guess.

Not once did the poor victim guess right, for none of the men struck a blow. By connivance of Duffy, Alex Davis was concealed in the top bunk, and wielded a rubber tied to a stick, with which he struck the tenderfoot, who was foolish enough to butt into a game where he was not invited.

Enough of such tales that start a longing for the touch of so many vanished hands, and the sound of so many stilled voices. Oh! For just one more day on the landing, one more dinner with Johnny Payne and one more supper with

The Lumberjack - 5.

George Arscott, and one more night of the deep, dreamless sleep of the logging camp.

Get me a full prospectus of the North Central Experimental Station.

This station is a branch of the University of Minnesota, and a prospectus can best be secured from them.

Has. Grand Rapids any waterborne transportation now?

No, Grand Rapids has no waterborne transportation now. The only water craft are pleasure launches.

What waterpower is developed there all told, and what sources?

I have given the sources of the water power that is developed here. I am informed by the Blandin Paper Company officials that at the Grand Rapids dam 400 to 500 hp. are developed. This power development, however, is seasonal, depending on the power to be used at the mill and the water supply available. At the Prairie River plant, where volume is also seasonal, they develop from 20,000 to 40,000 kw., the spread in the production due to seasonal character of water supply.

What, if any, additions to, or improvements on, headwater dams since 1932? (at Leech, Winnibigoshish and Pokegama Lakes).

There have been no additions to the dams in Grand Rapids or Pokegama in the past eight years.

Is Mike McAlpine alive? Any of Jo. Gould's or Loren ("Lo") Seavey's children alive? Is Mrs. J. R. O'Malley "Lo's" daughter?

No, Mike McAlpine is not alive.

So far as we can learn locally, all of Jo. Gould's & Loren Seavey's children are now dead, with the exception of "Lo's" daughter Mrs. J. R. O'Malley, who is alive and lives in Grand Rapids.

Give a short sketch of Father Bhu and one of Rev. Gilfillan.

I enclose a sketch of Father Buh. I am not able to get one of Reverent<sup>l</sup>  
Gilfillan.

A. Is C. C. McCarthy alive? No, C. C. McCarthy is dead.

B. Where is he? Judge not, that ye be not judged.

Are Al Nason's daughters alive (those in Grand Rapids' first choir?)

Is Betsy Drumbeater alive (Chief Drumbeater's daughter.)?

So far as I can learn around Grand Rapids there is possibly one of Al Nason's daughters still alive. However, she does not live at Grand Rapids, and I have not been able to find out exactly where she does live. Some say Texas, some say California, some say Washington. No one has heard from her for five or six years, so she may not be living.

Betsy Drumbeater, daughter of Chief Drumbeater, has been dead for a number of years.

Can you give any details of the I. W. W. movements in G. R.? The Com-  
munist movement?

There was not a great deal doing in the I. W. W. and Communist movements  
in Grand Rapids proper. There was some of this further east on the purely  
range towns.

Bridges at Grand Rapids. How many, when built, type, by whom built, height above stream and length of span.

The first bridge at Grand Rapids across the Mississippi was built in 1889. It was built partly from county funds, partly from local subscriptions. It was a log or frame affair, and was later replaced by a steel bridge. I have not been able to get the exact date of this replacement here. The State Highway Department probably has it. This steel bridge was later replaced by the present concrete bridge. This last bridge was completed in 1932. Details of height and length of span can be obtained from the State Highway Department.

Who built first dam there? How many power dams have been built at G. R., and describe present one (who built it, what h. p. devel. and how used and transmitted?) Does power vary with the seasons? Is it affected by the dams at lakes above?

The first dam here was built by the Itasca Paper Co., and it is the only power dam that has been built at Grand Rapids. It develops from four to five-hundred h. p. and this power is used by the Blandin Paper Co., built at the site of the dam. Yes, the power does vary ~~xxx~~ some with the seasons, and it is affected by the ~~above~~ dams at the lakes above, particularly by the amount of water that is released at the Pokegama lake dam.

Is that agricultural station named "The North Central Agricultural Farm and School," or "The Northern Experimental Station" --- or what, exactly?

The agricultural station here is named the North Central. It seems to have enjoyed a number of different names. To get at its exact correct name it would be best to call the Farm School in St. Paul. The local establishment is a branch of and a part of the University of Minnesota.

Give me data on Prairie River Power Company, and Little Falls Pulp Co. who owns and manages them, where get power, etc.

This Prairie River Power Company, comprising a dam on Prairie River and some generators at this dam, was organized and the plant built by the original Itasca Paper Company which had some financial connection at the time with the Little Falls Pulp Co. and the St. Paul Pioneer Press. It also includes what is now the Blandin Paper Co. at Grand Rapids.

When Blandin dropped out of the Pioneer Press organization he took over the paper mill at Grand Rapids and the Prairie River concern. They are conducted as the Blandin Paper Co.

Their power is generated at two dams, one on the Prairie River near Grand Rapids, and the other the Grand Rapids Dam on the Mississippi.

How far to lake Pokegama, nearest point? How many cottages there? Inns? Golf courses? Resort hotels? Estimate of visitors annually? Estimate launches and pleasure craft on lake? How long a cruise can be taken through Pokegama and connecting lakes and streams? What draft vessel would this cruise float?

The nearest point of Lake Pokegama is about five miles by road. The number of launches and pleasure craft on lake varies from year to year, usually about fifteen to twenty. The longest cruise that can be taken through Pokegama and connecting waters using a good sized launch of two feet six inches draft would be from the southern end of Pokegama up the lake and into the Mississippi river, and then upstream to the dam at Winnibigoshish Lake. The Pokegama lake dam is on the Mississippi river just below where the Pokegama empties into the river. The local tourist bureau estimates the number of Pokegama lake visitors who stay at least over night at some point on the lake as being between four and five thousand per year. There is one nine-hole golf course at the lake, two resort hotels or inns, and between forty and fifty cottages.

Is it a fact that persons with pulmonary afflictions are benefited by the Grand Rapids climate in, 1, summer, 2, winter?

In regard to this question I have consulted with the local physicians, and my reply must be based on their opinions. They would not say that the Grand Rapids climate is particularly beneficial to tubercular patients, either in winter or summer. It would depend a great deal on the year. Some years we have a comparatively dry time of it, which would be beneficial. In the wet years, the effect of the climate would be distinctly on the other side.

However, the climate here is distinctly beneficial to hay-fever victims, and each hay-fever season we have a considerable number who spend that period of time here.

I gather, from study, that Grand Rapids transportation facilities, consisting solely of tote roads and water prior to 1892, was augmented in that year by the building of the Duluth and Winnipeg railroad (now part of G. N. system?) supplying an outlet eastward to Duluth and the Twin Cities, and westward direct to the Pacific coast and intermediate points. Are these facilities now supplemented by a branch line or lines? And has the Duluth and Northern Ry. extended its line from Coleraine to G. R. yet, supplying a second line of communication with other range points?

You are correct about conditions up to 1892, and the building in in that year of the Duluth and Winnipeg railroad and that this now is a part of the G. N. system. However, it was not extended westward for several years after 1892. This original Duluth and Winnipeg railroad was built by Sims as a part of his logging operations. Rails were laid as far as Grand Rapids, and some grading was done further west, about to Lake Winnibigoshish. However, Jim Hill used his in-

fluence in Washington to have these operations discontinued on what was then National Indian and Forest lands. Later, he acquired the right to build across this region, and bought up the Duluth and Winnipeg and connected it to his Great Northern lines to the west.

These railroad facilities are not supplemented by any branch line or lines, nor have they ever been, at Grand Rapids. Some seven or eight miles further west there was once a branch logging road running north from Cohasset, which was later taken up and laid down running north from Deer River. This later branch has been discontinued now some eight or ten years, and the rails taken up. The Duluth and Northern Railway has never extended its line from Coleraine to Grand Rapids.

What other means of transportation, in effect or planned.

There are no other special means of transportation, either in effect or being planned. There is regular bus service to all points of the compass, and there is a local freight trucking concern, The Matthews Freight Service, that supplements the railroad.

Tourist Attractions. Scenic beauty - Fish and game life - Camp sites and resorts - trailer camps - Highways and means of getting to Grand Rapids - Hotels, taverns, accommodations - Flora - Fauna - any good stories or anecdotes of vacation land - hunting, etc.

I enclose a folder from Fuller's which is considered locally as the best description of requested items of this question.

## Supplementary Research on Grand Rapids.

### Additional Data on John Beckfelt.

After seven previous attempts I was finally able to get an interview with Mrs. John Beckfelt. The following is a sketch of her recollections;

John Beckfelt was a close friend of L. F. Knox. John had worked for and with the Knox Brothers in Aitkin. L. F. Knox finally came to the site of Grand Rapids and set up in the store business. She was not able to give me the exact date of this, but said it was in the early 80's, probably 1881 or 1882. In 1883 Beckfelt came up and visited Knox, with the intention of looking up and taking a timber claim. He filed on a claim somewhere north of what is now Grand Rapids, but left this claim and came into town where he shipped in a stock of goods and opened up a store in a log building on the north bank of the river, near where the paper mill fountain now is.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Beckfelt's folks came to the site of Grand Rapids in 1884 and put up a stopping place or hotel. Mrs. Beckfelt was Carrie Horter before her marriage. In 1885 she married John Beckfelt.

Mrs. Beckfelt states that her husband often talked to her about the first time he ever came up into the Grand Rapids country. He said this was in 1881, and at that time there were two hotels or combination hotel and trading posts at this location. One was the Warren Potter establishment on the south bank of the river at what is now known as the Wheaton place. The other place was the James Sherry establishment on the north bank of the river, upstream from the Potter place and located about where the paper mill now stands. She said the first place opened at the site of Grand Rapids as a store was the establishment of L. F. Knox. Both the Potter and the Sherry establishments traded with the Indians, she said, and really were combination hotels and trading posts, while the L. F. Knox place was strictly a store.

At the time in 1883 when John Beckfelt came to Grand Rapids to file on a timber claim, William Wakefield was in partnership with L. F. Knox in his store. Just when this partnership was formed she never heard.

Mrs. Beckfelt said the first white woman to come to the site of Grand Rapids was Kate Lentz, who came up as a cook at the Potter and Company stopping place; and the second white woman was one who came up as cook at the James Sherry place and who became Mrs. Michael McAlpine.

She recalled that the first school was held in a log building, and that at that time it was necessary to have five pupils in order to set up a school. When the five pupils were finally rounded up they had two white children and three half-breeds. One of the white children was her oldest child, Carrie, now Mrs. Seaton who lives in Coleraine. She was born in January 1887.

Mrs. Beckfelt says that in the early days there was very little of a recreational character for the women folks in the community. She remembers occasional dancing parties organized at the hotels, where they danced to the music of the fiddle and organ.

I have picked up here and there many statements regarding characteristics of John Beckfelt. I asked Mrs. Beckfelt's opinion on some of these statements.

Supplementary Research on Grand Rapids.

Father Buh.

Rt. Rev. Joseph Francis Buh was a pioneer priest on the Iron Range. Rev. Buh and Francis Pirz were the first priests north of St. Cloud in Minnesota.

He was born in the village of Lucne, Austria, March 17, 1833. His father, Mathias Buh, was a farmer by occupation and Joseph Francis was reared on the home farm. He attended the government school at Potane, and later attended the public schools of Loka, and then the high school of Laibach. All the above named places are in the province of Krain, Austria.

He was ordained as a priest on July 25, 1858 in Laibach. After serving as priest in Austria he emigrated to America in 1864. On arrival he went direct to St. Paul on the invitation of Francis Pirz, the first Catholic missionary in northern Minnesota. He spent the first six months at the bishop's house in St. Paul, instructing several students for the priesthood.

He went to Crow Wing, Minnesota in November, 1864, where Rev. Francis Pirz had taken up residence. In January, 1865, he went to Lake Winnibigoshish and did missionary work among the Indians, learning their language and customs. He stayed among the Indians for several months, and then returned to Morrison county and assumed charge of the churches in and around Little Falls.

He was active for the next eighteen years in establishing missions among the Indians. He established missions at Red Lake reservation, Leech Lake, Cass Lake, Sandy Lake, White Earth and numerous others.

In 1882 he moved to Perham, and acted as pastor of the church there. At this time he also served surrounding missions, among them Moorhead, Detroit City, and Brainerd.

After returning to Little Falls where he spent two more years, he was sent to Tower in 1888. He was in this locality until January, 1901. He established missions at Two Harbors in 1888, Ely the same year, and Biwabik about 1890. In 1890 he also established missions at Virginia, Hibbing and Mountain Iron. His first church building was erected at Ely and was dedicated on Thanksgiving Day 1890.

By special grant of the Holy See the title of monsignor was conferred on this pioneer priest on December 28, 1899 at Duluth, Minnesota by Archbishop Ireland.

I was able to get this life sketch on Father Buh, concerning whom you asked. I do not find locally any direct record of his having done more than visit Grand Rapids during the 90's.

I can find no record here regarding his activities in the 1860's when he worked among the Indians around Lake Winnibigoshish. As he seemed to have worked out of St. Paul as a headquarters, it is very probable that more information can be gotten from Catholic records in St. Paul.

## Supplementary Research on Grand Rapids.

Edna I. Murphy.

Edna I. Murphy was born in the State of Illinois, and grew up in the city of Aurora in that state. She received her elementary education in Illinois, and some preliminary training in education. To complete her work in education, however, she came to the University of Minnesota. She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, University of Minnesota chapter, and was active in organizing this sorority at this university.

After serving as a teacher at Virginia, she came to Itasca County as high school principal at Deer River in 1914. She served Deer River in this capacity for three years. During the last of these three years she acted also as Superintendent to finish out the year after the resignation and departure of the superintendent who started the year.

In 1917 she came to Grand Rapids and was employed by District #1 as rural supervisor. She has served in this capacity in District #1 for a period of twenty-three years.

Miss Murphy is probably best known for her specialization in rural education, and for her knowledge of wild life of this region. The latter might be called her hobby, and the former her profession. She is known throughout the state and national education circles for her specialized experience and knowledge of rural education under pioneer or semi-pioneer conditions.

Add. John Beckfelt - 2.

She said that it was true that he was very generous in extending credit, even when percentages on being paid were against him; and she also verified the fact that he did not like to have these things mentioned, which I had often heard. She said that he explained it by saying that he did not look upon it as charity, that these people he helped were ones who were trying to establish homes here and get a foot hold and that they would build up the country. He thought it was a good investment for this reason, even if this particular individual did not happen to pay him. She said that John was intensely interested in trying to build up and develop the country, and that he spent hours at home in the evenings talking about it. She stated that he was instrumental in starting the first bank that was opened in Grand Rapids, and he put up and furnished the building for this first banking establishment.

Mrs. Beckfelt gave me a printed sketch of the life of John Beckfelt, from which I take the following extract:

John Beckfelt was born in Bremen, Germany, in 1855. His father, John H. Beckfelt, was a farmer and market gardener. John was the oldest of a family of seven children. He was raised in the city of Bremen, and attended the public schools. He came to America at the age of fifteen, landing in New York City.

He went to Chicago, and then to Milwaukee, where he stayed one year clerking in a store. He then clerked three years in a general store at Portage, Wisconsin. In 1874 he went to Aitkin, Minnesota where, among other things, he clerked in a general store for J. C. Knox and Co. for about six months.

He came to Grand Rapids in 1883 with the idea of buying a timber claim, but abandoning this he bought a small general store with a stock of twelve hundred dollars. He had a cash start of four hundred dollars. The store was conducted in a log building 28x32 feet, which had been established by L. F. Knox in 1878. (In questioning Mrs. Beckfelt she tells me that what he really did was to buy out the L. F. Knox interest in the partnership of Knox and Wakefield, but that shortly after they split up, Wakefield taking the building and Beckfelt the stock, and erecting another store building in 1891 where the present Johnson Grocery is located. This was a larger building with a floor space of 48x110 feet.)

In his store, after taking over complete charge, he carried a complete line of general merchandise, excepting hardware and drugs. He had a warehouse near a side-track of the Great Northern Railroad.

In 1895 the Grand Rapids Electric Light and Power Company plant was built. Mr. Beckfelt furnished the funds for this, and in 1896 he assumed control of the plant. This consisted of a 200 horsepower Corliss engine and dynamos, and all other equipment; and two thousand incandescent lights were in use in 1900. Mr. Beckfelt also owned farm lands adjoining Grand Rapids, and also held some mining land and valuable business property in Grand Rapids.

In 1885 he married Miss Carrie Horter. Mrs. Beckfelt was born in New York state and was of American parentage. Mr. & Mrs. Beckfelt are the parents of

Supplementary Research on Grand Rapids.

Add. John Beckfelt - 3.

four children, Carrie, Ruth, Catherine, and Raymond. (Raymond is now manager of the Pokegama Hotel at Grand Rapids.)

Mr. Beckfelt was appointed County Commissioner in 1883, and was one of the organizers of the county. In 1888 he was elected County Treasurer and served one term. He served seven years as postmaster under Presidents Arthur and Harrison, and has served as chairman of the board of supervisors.

Supplemental Questionnaire on  
Grand Rapids  
E. A. Sumner  
August 30, 1940

I have the favored lakes as to the different species of fish in that vicinity listed as follows:

LARGE MOUTH BASS: \* Spider, Burnt Shanty, Stingy, Little Sugar, Little Long, Cottonwood, Wabana, and Fawn lakes.

WALL- EYES - Bass, Spider, Little Wabana, Sugar, Split Hand, Winnibigoshish, Bowstring, Cut Foot Sioux, and Smith Lakes, and the Mississippi River.

NORTHERNS - Jack-the-Horse, Split Hand, Deer, Ball Club, Dick, Bass and Pokegama lakes.

CRAPPIES - Rice, Fawn, Little Moose, and Hanson Lakes.

SMALL MOUTH BASS - Only in Prairie.

Should these be supplemented?

I have gone over this list with the people at the Fuller Tackle Shop, local Tourist Bureau, and local game warden. They say that your list of lakes in which the various fish are found is accurate so far as it goes, depending on how far out from Grand Rapids you would wish to include. However, in the list given on Large Mouth Bass you mention Burnt Shanty Lake. This should be Brush Shanty Lake. To the list for Large Mouth Bass it would be wise to add Rice Lake and Moon Lake.

Your lakes for Wall-Eyes are all right, but all lakes up here tributary to the Mississippi River have Wall-eyes, and also all those tributary to the Big Fork River. There should be added to this list at least the following lakes: Pokegama, North Star, Big Turtle, Johnson.

For northerns, I have to say that they are found in practically every lake up here, but your list should certainly include the Big Fork River and all lakes tributary to it.

Crappies. Lakes given O. K. but list far from complete. Should add at least Long Lake and Bello Lake. Small Mouth Bass: very few found here. Not enough to be worth mentioning.

Supplemental Questionnaire on  
Grand Rapids  
E. A. Sumner  
August 30, 1940

Is A. P. White alive, or did he die in Calif., or come back to G. R.?

A. P. White is no longer alive.

How about E. A. Grussendorf?

E. A. Grussendorf is an ex-schoolman. He once served as principal in the Big Fork schools, part of the District #1 system. He was later <sup>on</sup> the school board of District #1. Last spring, at the commencement exercises in Big Fork, in the course of an address he made some injudicious statements that were considered by those present as being strongly pro-Nazi. He was at the time clerk of the School District #1, being one of the three members of the board. He ran against six others for re-election in the primaries this year, and ran seventh.

He has a son, Ben, who is county attorney of Itasca County. It is feared that his father's indiscretion will endanger Ben's re-election next year.

A list of the actual residents of the lands proposed to be incorporated as the Village of Grand Rapids, Minnesota at the date as stated in the petition for the organization of the same being the 30th Day of April A. D. 1891.

- |                       |                         |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. George F. Meyers   | 51. Frank Arnold        | 101. Fay Knox           |
| 2. Josephine Meyers   | 52. C. H. Wood          | 102. Mrs. T. Foote      |
| 3. George Meyers      | 53. James McNally       | 103. C. H. Foote        |
| 4. Gervine Meyers     | 54. B. F. Sims          | 104. Mrs. T. Ryan       |
| 5. Mrs. Susan Carle   | 55. Ritita Sims         | 105. Wm. Ryan           |
| 6. Alice Carle        | 56. Wallie Sims         | 106. Mary Ryan          |
| 7. Rhode Hawley       | 57. Edie Sims           | 107. Lottie Ryan        |
| 8. Frank Russler      | 58. Thomas Trainer      | 108. George Hart        |
| 9. George W. Clark.   | 59. James Moss          | 109. Dora Hart          |
| 10. Wm. Brice         | 60. John Scanlon        | 110. Ernest Hart        |
| 11. Jerry Mahoney     | 61. T. H. Hennessy      | 111. A. J. Breckenridge |
| 12. Richard Jordan    | 62. Mrs. T. H. Hennessy | 112. James Sherry       |
| 13. Barney McGuire    | 63. W. P. Hennessy      | 113. Carie Sherry       |
| 14. Michael Hagen     | 64. Michael Garity      | 114. James Sherry, Jr.  |
| 15. Thomas Brown      | 65. Katie Erickson      | 115. Mary Sherry        |
| 16. Wm. Moss          | 66. Emma Nettleton      | 116. Frank Sherry       |
| 17. Luther Brown      | 67. Charles Warner      | 117. Fred Sherry        |
| 18. M. A. Woods       | 68. Lou German          | 118. Emma Clow          |
| 19. Clark Clay        | 69. John Nelson         | 119. Benjamin Sinde     |
| 20. Charles Tompkins  | 70. John Howard         | 120. Henry Lyford       |
| 21. Michael Sullivan  | 71. J. H. St Clair      | 121. Ben Strout         |
| 22. Wm. Kennedy       | 72. Thomas Glover       | 122. Peter Daley        |
| 23. Wm. Brown         | 73. Andrew Catherwood   | 123. Peter Murray       |
| 24. Effie Brown       | 74. Christopher Toohey  | 124. Pat Conroy         |
| 25. William Brown     | 75. John Riley          | 125. Thomas Kelley      |
| 26. Jesse Brown       | 76. Harry Newton        | 126. Arthur O'Leary     |
| 27. Cora Brown        | 77. J. W. Wolf          | 127. George Billings    |
| 28. Frederic Lawrence | 78. Lawrence Whalen     | 128. D. Newman          |
| 29. Clara Rickard     | 79. Thomas Parker       | 129. J. Arthur Ricare   |
| 30. Peter L. Rickard  | 80. Charlie Harris      | 130. Frank Bell         |
| 31. James Brown       | 81. Fred Green          | 131. C. Coons           |
| 32. George Lydick     | 82. Charles Kahe        | 132. Jas. Cosgrove      |
| 33. Nellie Lydick     | 83. Charlie Walker      | 133. D. Mann            |
| 34. Charlie Lydick    | 84. Albert White        | 134. B. Zind            |
| 35. B. Lydick         | 85. Henry Trusdell      | 135. Charlie Miller     |
| 36. Charles H. Lydick | 86. Robert Russel       | 136. Thomas Lundy       |
| 37. V. H. Blood       | 87. Barney Hurley       | 137. V. Tillman         |
| 38. Mary Blood        | 88. Thomas Hurley       | 138. W. Haley           |
| 39. Bertha Blood      | 89. John O'Connell      | 139. H. P. Topham       |
| 40. Myrtle Blood      | 90. James Johnson       | 140. George Kane        |
| 41. Herman Blood      | 91. Daniel McLean       | 141. Charles Casperson  |
| 42. Silas Blood       | 92. Julia McLean        | 142. Rae Harrington     |
| 43. Roy Beede         | 93. McLean              | 143. Barbara Snohcbrake |
| 44. Bridget Blood     | 94. Walter Goodwin      | 144. Lena Kelson        |
| 45. Phillip Phillips  | 95. Gus Beecher         | 145. Dave Wilson        |
| 46. James Jackman     | 96. Henry Buring        | 146. Charley Kelley     |
| 47. Robert McCabe     | 97. Frank Smith         | 147. Thomas Murray      |
| 48. Kogus McCabe      | 98. L. F. Knox          | 148. Levi Lyons         |
| 49. Ida McCabe        | 99. Mrs. Alice Knox     | 149. Wm. Lyons          |
| 50. Mable McCabe      | 100. Julia Knox         | 150. Robert Lyons       |

Signers of the above and foregoing petition for incorporation of the Village of Grand Rapids:

A. F. Groom  
Charles Kearney  
Robert McCabe  
F. W. Arnold  
C. D. Lyons  
L. U. Nelson  
Ben F. Symmes  
Thomas Trainor  
Lary Whalen  
F. H. Blood  
H. Buring  
Louis German  
C. W. Twohy  
Thomas Kelly  
C. C. McMellen  
M. McAlpine

W. C. Tyndall  
Charles Warner  
John McDonald  
Anthony McAlpine  
Guhonce Mueyer  
J. H. Roy  
M. L. Toole  
Laughlin McKinnon  
N. Churchill  
James Sherry  
T. S. Powers  
C. R. Ellis  
S. F. Ellis  
H. D. Powers  
Alphonse Lefebvre  
Henry W. Canfield

Louis L. Jenson  
Joseph Lafond  
Isaac Campbell  
William Hislop  
W. V. Fuller  
J. A. Brown  
F. L. Fance  
Charles B. Wade  
Lee Cudney  
C. M. Johnson

- |                          |                         |                             |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 151. Jessie Bowerman     | 201. Carrie Beckfelt    | 251. Vivian Cleveland       |
| 152. Frank Bowerman      | 202. Al Hadderson       | 252. C. B. Waite            |
| 153. George Beckwith     | 203. Mrs. Hates         | 253. Lewis Jenson           |
| 154. Chas. Ferrin        | 204. Michael Marshall   | 254. Mrs. L. Jenson         |
| 155. Damase Nevuex       | 205. M. McKinon         | 255. Wm. Jenson             |
| 156. Ida Nevuex          | 206. T. S. Powers       | 256. G. Jenson              |
| 157. Rose Nevuex         | 207. Emily Powers       | 257. Walter Jenson          |
| 158. Damase Nevuex       | 208. H. D. Powers       | 258. T. Hanson              |
| 159. Joseph Nevuex       | 209. C. D. Smith        | 259. John Johnson           |
| 160. Eugene Nevuex       | 210. Mrs. C. D. Smith   | 260. F. L. Vance            |
| 161. Deliz Nevuex        | 211. M. L. Toole        | 261. Mrs. F. L. Vance       |
| 162. Rosa Nevuex         | 212. Nellie Toole       | 262. Anna Vance             |
| 163. Henry Hart          | 213. Luke Toole         | 263. Luke Dumas             |
| 164. Dave Browman        | 214. James Toole        | 264. Joseph Baisvert        |
| 165. Louis Browman       | 215. Nellie Toole       | 265. Frank Mercer           |
| 166. Archie Gordon       | 216. Mary Darsey        | 266. John Deshaw            |
| 167. Louis Anderson      | 217. Kate Lent          | 267. George Lathrope        |
| 168. Lewis Critz         | 218. Cal Gilman         | 268. L. M. Lathrope         |
| 169. George Garland      | 219. John Berg          | 269. Roy Lathrope           |
| 170. Lewis Whipple       | 220. Josie Berg         | 270. Ralph Lathrope         |
| 171. May Whipple         | 221. Albert Berg        | 271. Aura Lathrope          |
| 172. Ernie Whipple       | 222. Joseph Lafond      | 272. Joseph Blanchard       |
| 173. Lottie Whipple      | 223. Andrew McCloud     | 273. Flora Blanchard        |
| 174. Lyman Whipple       | 224. Chas Johnson       | 274. Cora Blanchard         |
| 175. Harry Whipple       | 225. J. W. Johnson      | 275. Bertie Blanchard       |
| 176. J. L. Belcher       | 226. Carie Johnson      | 276. Mike McAlpine          |
| 177. Nathaniel Churchill | 227. James Johnson      | 277. Stella McAlpine        |
| 178. Mrs. N. Churchill   | 228. Anthony Williams   | 278. Emma Gertrude McAlpine |
| 179. Bessie Churchill    | 229. M. McDonald        | 279. C. McAlpine            |
| 180. Rev. Mr. Moore      | 230. L. Powel           | 280. Wm. J. McAlpine        |
| 181. C. R. Ellis         | 231. George R. Scott    | 281. Margarette L. McAlpine |
| 182. May Ellis           | 232. E. Burdick         | 282. E. R. Lewis            |
| 183. C. J. Jay Ellis     | 233. Carrie Johnson     | 283. Walter Gridley         |
| 184. R. C. Mitchell      | 234. William Williams   | 284. Wm. Ford               |
| 185. Henry W. Canfield   | 235. Fred Richards      | 285. Charles Kearney        |
| 186. S. F. Ellis         | 236. W. W. Williams     | 286. Hattie Kearney         |
| 187. Belle Ellis         | 237. O. H. Stilson      | 287. Edith Grosley          |
| 188. Wm. Lyons           | 238. Ralph Stilson      | 288. Josephine Crossley     |
| 189. Amos F. Grove       | 239. P. Castleburg      | 289. Clara Bredenback       |
| 190. Roy Bell            | 240. Mrs. P. Castleburg | 290. T. R. Previtz          |
| 191. Herbert Grove       | 241. John McDonald      | 291. D. W. Doran            |
| 192. Charlie Lyons       | 242. Anthony McAlpine   | 292. Maggie Doran           |
| 193. Martha Lyons        | 243. Joseph Mearow      | 293. James Doran            |
| 194. Josie Lyons         | 244. W. H. Ash          | 294. D. J. Doran            |
| 195. Frank Lyons         | 245. W. C. Tyndall      | 295. M. A. Doran            |
| 196. Fred Lyons          | 246. E. Tyndall         | 296. L. Doran               |
| 197. Emma Lyons          | 247. Ellis Tyndall      | 297. Chas Doran             |
| 198. Willie Lyons        | 248. Hazel Tyndall      | 298. John Doran             |
| 199. John Beckfelt       | 249. S. Tyndall         | 299. Kate E. Doran          |
| 200. Carrie Beckfelt     | 250. Katie Burns        | 300. G. W. Tarry            |

Census - 3.

301. H. R. King	351. G. W. Shook
302. M. J. King	352. M. Shook
303. Bernice King	353. Wm. Shook
304. Jennie V. King	354. Ethel R. Shook
305. Frank Larson	355. Mrs. Mary Shook
306. Anna Larson	356. Edward Shook
307. John Larson	357. Maggie M. Shook
308. Lauder Larson	358. L. E. Shook
309. Amanda Larson	359. Hattie Shook
310. Alga Larson	360. Henry Shook
311. Ruben Larson	361. May Bowers
312. Arthur Larson	362. Mattie Quinlin
313. Charlie Larson	363. Alice O'Neal
314. Sidney McDonald	364. Nellie Smith
315. Bridget McDonald	365. George Brown
316. Mamie McDonald	366. Frank Boseck
317. Cora McDonald	367. Elei Signal
318. Dora McDonald	368. Philius Signal
319. E. Taylor	
320. Anna McCalaster	
321. Minnie Taylor	
322. John Taylor	
323. Anna Taylor	
324. A. T. Nason	
325. Bertha Nason	
326. Madge Nason	
327. Fred Nason	
328. Jennie Nason	
329. Matthew Nason	
330. Eddie Nason	
331. Betsey Nason	
332. Edward Gallagher	
333. Marrian Gallagher	
334. Charlie Gallagher	
335. Edson Gallagher	
336. Josie Sires	
337. Willard Sires	
338. M. Maddy	
339. Alphons Mayer	
340. Delphine Mayer	
341. Emma Mayer	
342. Eva Mayer	
343. Alvva Mayer	
344. W. V. Fuller	
345. E. J. Fuller	
346. Bertha Fuller	
347. John Brown	
348. Eliza Brown	
349. P. S. Tripp	
350. E. A. Erickson	

Census taken by and attested by:

Amos F. Grove  
Charles D. Lyons  
Charles R. Ellis

9:15 AM  
11/6/40

Supplemental Questionnaire on  
Grand Rapids  
E. A. Sumner  
August 30, 1940

Were W. M. Wests' ashes actually strewn on Pokegama's surface? What can you tell of the ceremony?

W. M. West was a historian, writing chiefly about northern United States. He had strong socialistic leanings. He had a farm near Grand Rapids on Pokegama Lake, and requested that on his death he be cremated and the ashes spread upon the lake. According to report here that was done, but there was no public ceremony.

Is A. V. Storm still identified with Pokegama's vicinity?

A. V. Storm had a summer home or farm near Grand Rapids in Pokegama Lake neighborhood. Mr. Storm was connected with the University of Minnesota. He was head of the Department of Agricultural Education, with his University headquarters at the farm school. Being in that work, he was naturally interested in the local Agricultural Experiment Station which is a branch of the University. However, he was only a summer resident here, and used his lake farm place as a summer home. He came to Minnesota originally from the Agricultural School at Ames, Iowa.

Supplemental Questionnaire on  
Grand Rapids  
E. A. Sumner  
August 30, 1940

Is John T. Ring alive, and is he still with the Nashwauk bank?

Yes, John T. Ring is still alive and with the Nashwauk bank.

1897<sup>c</sup>  
Does G. R. have an annual fair? If so, is it the county fair? Send a fair prospectus if possible.

Yes, Grand Rapids does have an annual fair. This is the Itasca County Fair, which celebrated its forty-eighth annual observance this last fall. I am enclosing a prospectus of this fair.

1939<sup>c</sup>  
Grand Rapids has another annual event, that might be classified as a fair. This is the Potato Festival. The regular Itasca County Fair is usually held in August, the Potato Festival is held the latter part of September or in October. This festival was started in 1939 and is sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce. The purpose of this event is to encourage the improvement of the quality and character of the potatoes raised, and to assist in marketing the product that is raised. Prizes are given, and samples of various types of potatoes. I can state from experience that this festival of three days is widely attended.

Supplementary Research on Grand Rapids.

1888 c1  
F. A. McVicar was born in Callais, Maine in 1855. He went to Wisconsin at the age of three and came to Grand Rapids in 1888. His wife came three years later. His reason for coming to the Grand Rapids region was because he had a contract with a logging concern. He logged in the vicinity of Floodwood and Wawina. All camp supplies were packed in by team.

When he finished logging in that vicinity he came by train to La Prairie. That was the end of the railroad at that time. The bridge across the La Prairie river had not been built, although rails had been laid west of the river. He also carried on logging operations in the Big Fork river country. The population of Grand Rapids on his arrival was less than fifty.

When Mr. McVicar first arrived on the site of Grand Rapids Julia Knox was the only white child here. Mr. McVicar cruised in the woods until 1894, then followed timber estimating and log scaling. He served as Grand Rapids post master from 1902 until 1914. From 1915 until September 1935 he served as village recorder and secretary of the water and light department. Mr. McVicar is now in the insurance business, located in the First National Bank. (Since writing this I have found that Mr. McVicar was for a short time in the insurance business, but is now retired.)

Mr. McVicar recalls that at the time of his coming to Grand Rapids the only road was one called the State Road that ran from Grand Rapids to Aitkin. This was not passable in the summer time. By the early '90's there were two main tote roads north from Grand Rapids. One ran north and a bit west to the Rice River in the neighborhood of the present site of Big Fork, the other up the Prairie River and was really an improvement of a part of the old Vermilion trail.

Please outline history of School District No. 1.

1887<sup>c</sup>  
 School District #1. It must be remembered that Itasca County in the 1880's included all of the present day Itasca County and Koochiching County. In 1887 there were no schools in this territory. The county government was conducted chiefly from Aitkin until that time, but in 1887 there were two county commissioners for Itasca County, Al Nason and Patrick Casey. These two formed the new Board of County Commissioners for Itasca County and began taking care of some local affairs, although the greater part of the county government was still conducted from Aitkin. On date of September 21, 1887 the following petition was presented to this board of commissioners;

To the honorable Board of County Commissioners in and for the County of Itasca, greetings;

We the undersigned citizens and taxpayers of tp. 55, R. 25 in said county of Itasca do hereby petition your honorable body to create a school district in said town, and thus will ever pray.

John Beckfelt

R. McCabe

Chris Burns

Robert Glass

Herbert G. Tucker

Al Torry.

F. H. Collett

C. H. Duggin

James Sherry

Sidney McDonald

C. D. Lyon

It was so ordered by the commissioners and notices posted for a special election to be held on October 1, 1887 at 7:00 P. M., this election for the following purposes:

To elect Director, Treasurer and Clerk, and  
 To raise money for school purposes.

At a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners on October 25, 1887 the following resolution was ordered spread on the records, adopted unanimously:

Resolved: that all that portion of Itasca County not included in School District No. 1 of said county be and the same is hereby attached to said school district No. 1 for school purposes.

Signed: Al Nason  
 Patrick Casey.

This made school district #1, which included all of what is now Itasca and Koochiching Counties.

1891<sup>c</sup>  
 By 1889 the board of county commissioners was made up of three commissioners, namely: A. T. Nason, L. F. Knox, C. A. Buell.

The first division off from this large school district #1 was the result of a petition on date of July 13, 1891, praying that an area to the north and east of Grand Rapids be set aside as a separate school district. At a special meeting on July 31, 1891, the board of county commissioners ordered this separate district set up. This was designated as District #2, and includes the present villages of Coleraine and Bovey. Bovey was the chief center of population at that time.

There have been a number of petitions to the county commissioners at various times, asking that other school districts be set up, both before and after the separation of Koochiching from the present Itasca County. Some of the districts thus set up by the Itasca County Board of Commissioners are now in Koochiching County. Some of the other districts have continued in their separate organizations, some have returned to the District #1 fold.

I enclose a map of Itasca County, showing the boundaries of the school districts of the county at the present time. The uncolored portion is District #1.

Additional facts about District #1:

In 1888, Miss Margaret Maddy was the teacher, and this is the first year in which there is any attendance record that can be verified. There had been one term of school in Grand Rapids in 1887, taught by the elder Miss Maddy who married Warren Potter. She is now dead and there is no record of the school attendance available for that first year.

The second year, teacher Miss Margaret Maddy ~~now~~ Mrs. Finnegan, the total enrollment was three white children, five half-breeds. In fact, that was the total school attendance in all of District #1 which then included all of what is now Itasca and Koochiching counties.

The present District #1, which is the remainder of the original #1 and the largest district in Itasca County (see map) now has 160 teachers. Grand Rapids itself, a part of District #1, has 70 teachers. These 70 are included in the total for the district, 160.

District #1 has 39 one-room schools; three graded schools in Grand Rapids, a Junior High School and a Senior High School in the village of Grand Rapids. There are eleven other schools in District #1 of more than one room. Several of these teach some high school subjects. One school in the district outside of Grand Rapids gives the full high school course.

The present pupil enrollment in District #1 is 3616. The enrollment in the Grand Rapids schools is 1755.

There are 134 bus routes in District #1. Of these, 78 are bus routes using regular school busses. The other 56 routes are cars hauling the children from one or two families on what is known as transportation aid. Many of these passenger cars are driven by people hauling their own children and perhaps some of their neighbors children.

What was the occasion of the big celebration and parade in Grand Rapids on Thursday, September 29, 1932, and is it an annual event? Have they held any since 1932?

The occasion of the big celebration and parade in Grand Rapids on Thursday, September 29, 1932, was in honor of the completion of the new bridge across the Mississippi River on Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids. It is not an annual event.

Is F. T. Gustafson of Pequot still alive in the grocery business there? Has he his pottery collection intact?

F. T. Gustafson is not in the grocery business in Grand Rapids. In the 1920's there was a Gustafson who ran a grocery store in Pequot, Minnesota. Possibly this is the person you ask about. Pequot is almost one hundred miles from here.

1830-2  
c  
About 1932 some Finns left Grand Rapids vicinity for Russia. How did that emigration turn out? Any of them return? How did they like Russia?

Yes, there were several families of Finns left Itasca County to return to Russia and Finland in the early 30's. Some of them returned. Some remained, and I cannot report on them. All I can give you is a first hand account of one man who did return. He asks that his name be not used. He is a young man of about 32 at the present time.

There has been, off and on, considerable pro-Communist or pro-"free Russia" sentiment among the Finns and Finnish-Russians, some of it encouraged by reports sent to them by Russia and Finland in about 1930. These reports were particularly successful among the older Finns who had emigrated from Russia and Finland. This younger man states that it was partly homesickness for the people that they knew when they were young, partly misrepresentation in reports, and third, partly because they were a very small minority in a country with whose customs and language they were not familiar.

This young man had a pretty fair mechanical training, and in the correspondence before they left here attractive promises were made in the way of work for him. They sold their farm, which they owned debt free, at a time when farm prices were lowest, and left for Russia. He gave his statement of their experience.

They were placed in a settlement composed of Russian Finns. The settlement had officers furnished by the Russian Government. The young man was put in a factory at wages that were theoretically a little better than one hundred dollars per month. He said this did not mean anything, as the money would not buy much. For example, one hundred dollars would not buy a good suit of clothes.

The people of the settlement were not allowed to associate with people from other settlements, or with other surrounding Russians. He said the older men learned that they had no more freedom of action than they had before they left Russia the first time. Those that could came back. More would like to come back but cannot. They are forbidden to leave the village, and if they do leave or desert anyone feeding them enroute is subject to punishment. He said he got plenty hungry before he got out of Russia into Finland.

I offer this as one man's story, the only one I was able to get.

Tell me about present village and county officers, fire and police equipment (Radio or 2-way radio, etc.) and sheriff equipment (radio, bloodhounds, etc.). What's Grand Rapids crime record?

Village officials:

Mayor, George Arscott

Trustees: H. J. Snyder, John Inman, Alvah Seeever.

Recorder: Carl J. Eiler

Chief of Police: Hugh Logan

Fire Chief, Clarence Silvis

Water & Light Commission: W. W. Libbey, President; Clarence Silvis, Commissioner, Robert M. Gilbert, Commissioner.

County officers:

Auditor: Thomas Erskine

Attorney: Ben Grussendorf

Treasurer: O. B. Carlson

Reg. of Deeds: Jerome H. Meyers

Clerk of Courts: John E. McMahon

John W. Gardner, Judge of Probate

Sheriff: Wm. Crisp

Surveyor: Sam Benzing, Jr.

Highway Engineer: H. A. LeSueur

Supt. of Schools: Gertrude H. Hall

County Commissioners: Dist. #1, Deer River, J. E. Rydrych

Dist. #2, Big Fork, Wm. F. Bischoff

Dist. #3, Coleraine, H. C. Holmes

Dist. #4, Grand Rapids, J. P. Murphy

Dist. #5, Nashwauk, F. O. McCullough

There is no police or fire radio equipment, either one or two-way, the sheriff has no radio equipment or bloodhounds. Grand Rapids has been exceptionally free of major crimes. There have been a few trials of major crimes held in Grand Rapids, but none of the crimes have been committed in or in the immediate vicinity of Grand Rapids.

I enclose a map of Itasca County showing the divisions of the various Commissioners Districts marked in colored pencil.

Can you give a sketch of Mark Burns? Is he still alive, and, if so, what doing? (Is this the Indian agent?)

In regard to Mark Burns, he has a position in the Indian Department, Federal. His father, Chris Burns, ran a saloon here in the early days. Chris Burns' wife and Mark Burns' mother was  $\frac{1}{2}$  half Indian and half white. There is no local Indian agent. Mark Burns is supposed to be located at Milwaukee. The Federal Department of the Interior could answer this definitely.

Can you give a brief history of roads and road building around Grand Rapids from tote road to today?

The first road of any length to Grand Rapids was the so-called "state road" from Aitkin to Grand Rapids, but in 1888, 1889, and 1890 the new board of county commissioners for Itasca county began receiving many petitions for new roads and for a bridge to be built across the Mississippi River. The county board ordered some surveying done and let a few contracts for the improvement of some short roads. The first two petitions favorably acted upon were for roads from Grand Rapids up the Mississippi River to Pokegama Falls, and from Grand Rapids to Prairie Lake.

1890  
There is a county record of a petition for a bridge to be built across the Mississippi River, and a newspaper record of action being started in 1888 to raise money for such a bridge by taking up a collection. However, the petition to the county commissioners praying for a bridge is not dated, nor is there any present record of action on this petition. However, on February 15, 1890, at a special meeting of the county commissioners the first bills for the new bridge were presented. They evidently were not acted upon, as the next recorded special meeting of the commissioners, not dated, there being present L. F. Knox and C. A. Buel, it was recorded that they reported that they had inspected the bridge across the Mississippi River and found it according to contract, and ordered payment for it to be made. The cost of this first bridge and its approaches was approximately four thousand dollars.

1891  
As soon as the bridge was completed the county board was petitioned to build a road from the south end of this bridge to Pokegama Lake. This was done in 1891.

1890  
In 1890 a petition was presented to the commissioners for a road "from Pokegama Falls through the village of Grand Rapids and the village of Akely to Blackberry Brook." (Akeley was a portion of the village of LaPrairie. This petition was not dated. In the records of the county board at that time a statement is made regarding receipt of the petition, but the record of this meeting gives no date though it appears in the book between two meetings held in 1890.

## Additional comment on John Beckfelt;

By all accounts John Beckfelt was a man of fixed convictions. In the biographical sketch of John Skelly I mentioned the cause of the breaking of his partnership with Wakefield. Another early character by the name of "Archie" MacDougal mentioned that Beckfelt was scrupulously honest and considered everybody else so until they proved otherwise. At one time, about 1900, the merchants of Grand Rapids met to form a "Credit Association" with the idea of getting concerted action on persons that were slow pay or no pay. They hoped to combine in bill collecting and blacklisting those of poor credit. Although Beckfelt was one of the leading merchants and attended the meeting he refused to join with the others, saying he reserved the right to decide for himself whether he should extend credit to a man that was hard up, whether that man was considered a good or poor from a credit standpoint. MacDougal says that Beckfelt was gruff in his manner but very kind hearted in fact. He said no one who was honestly hard up ever appealed to John Beckfelt in vain.

## Biographical sketch on "Archie" MacDougal.

1884  
James Archibald MacDougal, commonly ~~known~~ known as "Archie" MacDougal, was born near Little Falls, Minnesota in 1867. His parents had come to that neighborhood in 1849. He first came to the Grand Rapids neighborhood in 1884 as a helper on a crew that was cruising timber in this section. He worked with these cruisers and in various lumber camps during the next six or eight years, and built up a wide acquaintance among the lumberjacks. At the time of the election in 1892 when the question of locating the permanent county seat at Grand Rapids or LaPrairie was decided, MacDougal was tending bar in LaPrairie. He did not go into the woods until about two weeks after the election that year. He said that although he was working in LaPrairie he was in favor of Grand Rapids as the county seat site as he thought Grand Rapids was a better building location. He said the lumberjacks were not strongly partisan on the question, and that it was the lumbering and business interests that put up the fight.

"Archie" often worked in the various saloons in LaPrairie and Grand Rapids as bar tender during the fall and spring rush when the lumberjacks were coming into and leaving camp. His wide acquaintance among lumberjacks was considered an asset by the saloon keepers.

He remembers early dances in halls and in camps with Paddy Berry the most popular fiddler and Bill Smith as the most popular caller of square dances. He remembers that Mike McAlpine acted as bouncer to calm the exuberant at the dances in the hall and hotel dining room in Grand Rapids.

"Archie" enlisted in the army during the Spanish-American war, but only got as far as a camp in Georgia.

"Archie" has lived in and around Grand Rapids since he came up here in 1884. He lives at present in a cabin on the shore of Forest Lake in the west end of town.

Some of his recollections are of a man by the name of Vernon Blood, a noted strong man of Grand Rapids early days. At that time he, Vernon Blood, was said to be a son-in-law of P. T. Barnum.

He recalls John Sondberger, early lumber camp "sky pilot". He remembers

this individual before the time that he started his preaching career when he was known as "Blue Bucket Johnny", and acted as porter and handy man in the various saloons of Grand Rapids. He later got religion and started his preaching career.

MacDougal recalls an early Grand Rapids character by the name of John Boyle O'Riley. O'Riley was a lumber camp foreman, saloon keeper, and gambler. He was noted for his Irish wit. One time a noted criminal lawyer was in Grand Rapids on a murder trial. Outside of court hours he seemed to make his headquarters in the O'Riley saloon where MacDougal tended bar. Although the lawyer, Bill Irwin, was a noted criminal lawyer, in after hours arguments in the saloon Irwin always came off second best with O'Riley.

There was at that time a stage, horse drawn, from Grand Rapids to Bovey. The equipment was not very high grade. One day as O'Riley was sitting in the stage waiting for the start toward Bovey a passing friend asked if he was not afraid of a run-away. O'Riley said those horses would not run away but were more liable to faint away.

MacDougal said O'Riley was noted as a story teller. I will see him again and he is trying to recollect and make some notes of some of these stories.

Give me facts regarding the community church there -- what denominations united and who all have served as non doctrinal pastors. When founded, etc.

You ask about facts regarding the Community Church here, when founded and what the denominations united, etc. I am enclosing a copy of a history of the Community Church which was published this year. It was put out by L. A. Rossman, publisher of the Grand Rapids Herald-Review and his brother W. A. Rossman local attorney.

Some additional facts that I might give you are that the congregations that united were the Presbyterian and Methodist. The joining of these two denominations into a single congregation was in 1920 and a Reverend John R. Parks was the first minister after the combination.

Facts regarding the county high school.

There is no county high school, although the Grand Rapids District #1 high school does serve a large part of the county. There are other high schools and Junior high schools in District #1.

What golf courses are handy?

Grand Rapids has two convenient golf courses. First, the Pokegama Country Club, located on Pokegama Lake, about five miles from the center of town. Then, the Art Otis resort on Sugar Lake has a good course that is used extensively by Grand Rapids people. This is twelve miles from the center of Grand Rapids.

How close to town is Chippewa National Forest?

The nearest point of the Chippewa National Forest is between eighteen and nineteen miles from Grand Rapids.

What lakes and ponds lie within the limits of the village of Grand Rapids?

Crystal Lake, McKinney Lake, Hale Lake, Forest Lake, Lake Sylvan, and in addition the back-water or lake formed by the dam of the Blandin Paper Co.

Hospitals, Banks, Libraries, Educational Institutions, and other public improvements?

There is but one hospital in Grand Rapids, and that is the Itasca County Hospital.

There are two banks, the First National Bank and the State Bank of Grand Rapids.

The educational institutions are those of District #1, of which Grand Rapids is a part.

They have a splendid public library in Grand Rapids, with ample room and quite an extensive collection of books.

How many miles of sewers, watermains? How many elec. consumers? How many miles of paving? What sort? Miles of walk?

Grand Rapids now has thirteen miles of sewers. They have sixteen miles of water mains. There are 5.25 miles of cement paving, and about  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles of black-top paving, with a total of sixty-five miles in streets. Those not paved are well graded and gravelled. Grand Rapids has thirteen miles of cement sidewalks.

They have 1418 electricity consumers, 119 of which are on a rural line that is supplied by Grand Rapids. They get their electrical power from the Minnesota Power and Light Company, who get part of their power from a turbine at the Blandin Paper Company here. The retailing and distribution of electricity in the village and on this one rural line are under the Grand Rapids Power and Light Commission.

Present municipal government in charge of following officials:

Mayor, George Arscott. Trustees: H. J. Snyder, John Inman, Alvah Seever. Recorder, Carl J. Eiler. Chief of Police, Hugh Logan. There are three other members on the police force. Fire Chief, Clarence Silvis. This is an all volunteer department, and there are thirty-five other members in addition to the chief. The water and light commission is made up of W. W. Libbey, President of the Commission; Clarence Silvis, Commissioner; and Robert M. Gilbert, Commissioner.

Additional facts about the Library.

The library at Grand Rapids received an addition, the building of which was completed in 1939. It is a County Library, the Grand Rapids building being the headquarters. It is partially supported by county taxes.

The chief librarian is Mrs. Mata C. Bennett. Assistant librarians are Mrs. Phyllis Dauphinee and Miss Margaret O'Brien. There is a full time janitor at the Grand Rapids building. In addition, there are six W. P. A. assistants, three in Grand Rapids central building of the library and the other at three branch libraries in other parts of the county.

Their total book listing is 25,285 volumes. Their active list at present on the shelves is 18,222.

Is La Prairie only a ghost town now? If so, what, if any ruins mark the spot?

La Prairie is not really a ghost town. All the buildings were moved away, some to Grand Rapids, some on to homesteads and converted into farm buildings, and some were torn down. There are no ruins on the site. All there is to mark the location now is a country consolidated school.

Was the real name of the famous Catholic Missionary "Father Bhu", or Father Buh?"

As near as I can find out here, the real name of the famous Catholic missionary was Father Buh. Some records at the University may be better verification on this than anything local.

What was first building in Grand Rapids erected expressly for house worship, who built it, and who preached in it? Any vestige of it left? Who were the first Presbyterian and Episcopalian ministers?

The first building in Grand Rapids used expressly for a house of worship was the Presbyterian Church. It was begun in 1891 and completed in 1892. No part of it is left as the building was torn down when the new church was built. Early newspaper accounts of the building of that church stated that all saloons, eight in number, had contributed liberally to the erection of the building.

What was the first building in Grand Rapids erected expressly for house worship, who built it, and who preached in it? Any vestige of it left? Who were the first Presbyterian and Episcopalian ministers?

As stated before, the first church was built in 1890 and was the Presbyterian Church. The congregation was organized January 28, 1890. During the next summer the building was begun and in the fall put into use. Their first "stated supply" minister was John Milne Smith. He stayed until 1893 and was followed by Donald B. McKay who was also designated as "stated supply". He was followed in 1895 by Charles Campbell who was designated as a regular minister.

Was Miss Martha Maddy the first school teacher in Grand Rapids? When did she come, if so, and where teach before school house was built?

Yes, Miss Martha Maddy was the first school teacher in Grand Rapids. She first came here in 1887. She first taught in a small log building north across the street from the Pokegama Hotel.

Was her first school house moved bodily to Cohasset? If so, when and why? How many white and how many Indian pupils did she have while at Grand Rapids?

Her first school house was not moved to Cohasset. It was a log building and was torn down. The building that was moved to Cohasset was the second school house in Grand Rapids, and once stood on the site of the present Central School. It was moved because it was replaced by a larger building. I can find no record of the number of white and Indian pupils in Miss Martha Maddy's first school. Miss Martha Maddy married Warren Potter of Potter and Company. She was succeeded as teacher by Miss Margaret Maddy. Miss Margaret Maddy's first school was made up of three white children and five Indian half-breeds. Miss Margaret Maddy later became Mrs. Finnegan.

Is Warren Potter of Aitkin still alive?

No.

One account says Warren Potter put up the first permanent building in Grand Rapids in 1871, but he did not open his trading post or store until 1874. Please check this, and if true, find out what that first building was.

1871-2  
1873-4  
So near as we can determine locally the first permanent building in Grand Rapids was erected in 1871. This first building erected by Potter & Co., or Warren Potter, as a sort of stopping place just below the rapids in the Mississippi. In those early days the location was not known as Grand Rapids, but was spoken of as Long Rapids. Potter had a large mercantile business in Aitkin. His chief customers were logging camps. This stopping place upriver was to receive goods shipped on order to logging camps in this section. They came this far by boat, but could go no farther by that means because of the rapids.

According to local report, he put in a small stock of goods the next year after opening the place, which would be about 1873. This first stock consisted of a few items most commonly called for by workers in the camps, such as mittens, socks, boots, and other clothing. In 1874 he did put in a considerable stock, because by that time he had erected a second building which was to serve as a store, the first building being kept as a stopping place or inn. Shortly after opening his store he erected a third building for a warehouse.

There is considerable haziness about the exact order of the erection of the buildings after the first two Potter buildings. Some say that the L. F. Knox store was built before the Potter warehouse. However, these people are speaking from hearsay, rather than recollection. There are no local records that will determine this exactly.

L. F. Knox did have a store located on the south bank of the Mississippi at the site of the Potter establishment. There is but one vestige left of all these buildings that were built at this time. This is a part of one of the Potter buildings. The others have either been burned or torn down. This remaining building is at the extreme eastern limits of the built-up section of Grand Rapids, on the south bank of the river.

#### Parks and Playgrounds?

The school grounds of the various schools of Grand Rapids are used as the playgrounds. The village has no separate public playgrounds. Of these school playgrounds, there are six, one at each of the four grade schools, the grounds of the Junior High and the grounds of the Senior High. Grand Rapids has three city parks with a total area of about 164 acres.

Have the Holman, Diamond and Arcturus mines been developed yet? Any others in or near Grand Rapids in full production?

The Holman, Diamond and arcturus mines have all been developed and ore shipped from them. Another, and the nearest to Grand Rapids is the one two miles out of town, the Greenway or Nelson mine.

Supplementary Research on Grand Rapids

(1)

- 45-11/11/40
- A. - Scenery and cover (protection) - beauty.
  - B.-- Earliest evidence of man-races there-mound builders-Where are Itasca county mounds-any excavations- Any evidence as to life and habits - any other discoveries.

No outstanding scenic features. Located on banks of Mississippi and three small lakes are located within the village. Any natural cover existing consists of groves of trees and rolling character of terrain.

For earliest evidence of man, local sources disclose nothing before the Indians. Points south and west of site of Grand Rapids were favorite haunts of Ojibwas but little evidence of other Indian occupation of even the mound building Sioux.

Itasca County mounds are in Cut Foot Sioux region. In fact some of these mounds, supposedly Sioux, are submerged by the Cut Foot Sioux dam.

As to "any excavations" would say there had been some digging into Indian grave sites both in conduct of construction work of different kinds and by curious looking for souvenirs but little scientific work in the area of Grand Rapids.

Local sources of documentary kind are at least forty years old and any other is "hear-say".

Would suggest contacting Prof. Jeremiah Jenks, anthropology, at U. of Minn.

(2)

- A. - Advantages (situation and climate).
- B. - Natural drainage - topography - altitude - soil and timber - archaic rocks - kind of rocks - cretaceous beds - glacial and modified drift - underground waters - mineral - other natural resources.

Probably greatest advantage of situation is that it is on the banks of the Mississippi giving excellent natural drainage. The village site is rolling, altitude 1250, timber remaining is negligible and for shade and cover, soil is till or unstratified glacial drift and river silt deposit underlain by pokegama quartzite, granitic rock and taconite or iron bearing rock. underground water abundant and wells, good ones, located without difficulty.

Others natural resources are subject to future proof. Some have great hopes of the development of iron beds even within the village limits. Various leases and options have been taken and held for a time on different places in and around the village but no concrete results as yet. Possibility of promotional ideas should not be forgotten when considering these performances.

The village's greatest "advantage" is that it is the county seat of a large county wherein there are iron mines and therefore important money and is also the seat or center of the school district No. 1 of this county, perquisites from both these considerable.

Now as to climate, deal gently. It is a very unusual year when we do not have a temperature swing between year's hottest and coldest of 135 degrees. Heavy snows through the winter are usual, tho not as inevitable as the temperature.

To go into geology further would suggest Vol. 4 of "Geology of Minn." by N. W. Winchell, published by U. of Minn. pp.350-353 and ppl66-211.

(2) continued.

In such anthropological sources as I can locate are found some reference to Indian mounds on Pokegama Lake, Indian school at same lake and record of a Souix-Chippewa battle at this place. That Pokegama lake is not the one here but is located in Pine County between ~~Pt~~ Pine City and Mora, Minn.

(3)

Any peculiar topographical features - huge rocks, cliffs, caves etc.

None.

(4)

Do you know how far G.R. is from the geographical center of the North American Continent?

Do not know this and a map of the right projection is not among the cultural advantages of our library or school.

(5)

Just where from G. R. is the Continental Divide?

Continental divide between the Mississippi and Hudson Bay slopes is about 25 miles north of G.R. In the county the divide passes between Winnibigoshish Lake and Bowstring Lake and then runs in a rather northeasterly direction across the county. A small part of the county, south-eastern part, drains to the St. Lawrence basin through St. Louis River to Lake Superior.

(6)

The Indian Mounds referred to in Minnesota works on anthropology of the State are those at Pokegama Lake in Pine County. This is true also of the indian battles and massacres - those bits of unpleasantness took place at the "other Pokegama".

There are no known mounds at Itasca County Pokegama, though there are several burying grounds and scattered relics have been found such as stone hammers, arrow heads, some in indian graves accidentally or intentionally dug into. There have been a lot of arrow heads found on the two islands of this Pokegama lake, Drumbeater island and Wendigo Island. Nearest mounds to this place are those at Cut-Foot-Souix. The indications are that the Chippewas were the only indians that occupied this area in any settlements and I understand that it was the Souix that built the burial mounds. This can be checked at U.

Village platted and incorporated on what date? How large then?

Grand Rapids was made the county seat of Itasca County June 9, 1891. On date of June 11, 1891 a petition was filed with the board of county commissioners praying that Grand Rapids be incorporated as a village. There were forty-two (42) names signed to this petition. As to platting, at the time of incorporation there was very little of the site already platted judging from the description of area in the petition of incorporation. This description is incorporated in "Exhibit A" and Exhibit B" of that petition as follows:

Exhibit A. - Platted lands proposed to be incorporated in the village of Grand Rapids, Itasca County, Minnesota by the petitioners to which this is attached and made a part are as follows: NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  & S  $\frac{1}{2}$  of SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  & the SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 20 and lots numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, ~~7, 9, 10~~ and 11 all of Sec. 20 and NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  & N  $\frac{1}{2}$  of NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S  $\frac{1}{2}$  of SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  ~~all of Sec. 20~~ and lots numbered 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 8 also the SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  all of Sec. numbered 21 - Lot numbered 5 in Sec. numbered 22, lot numbered 4 in Sec. 27 & NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 29 all in the Township numbered 55 N of Range 25 W of 4th Prin. Meridian. The unplatted lands proposed to be incorporated in the village of Grand Rapids as aforesaid are as follows: - SW quarter section numbered 15 - the S  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the N  $\frac{1}{2}$  & S  $\frac{1}{2}$  ~~of Sec. numbered 15~~ of Sec. numbered 16 & SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  and lots numbered 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, of Sec. numbered 17, the SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 20, E  $\frac{1}{2}$  of NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  and lots numbered 1 and 7 of Sec. 21, NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  and lots numbered 1, 2 and 4 of sec. numbered 22 & and NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  and lot numbered 5 of Sec. 27 & NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  and lots numbered 1, 2 & 3 of Sec. 28 and the SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  & W  $\frac{1}{2}$  of NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 29 all of the township numbered 55 N of R. 25 W of 4th Prin. Mer. and being situated in and being of Itasca County, Minnesota.

Exhibit B. - Boundries of the land proposed to be incorporated as the village of Grand Rapids, Itasca County, and State of Minnesota: - Beginning in Township 55N Range 25 W at a point which is the center of Sec. 15 in said township and range thence west to the center line of Sec. numbered 15 to the quarter post between 15 and 16, thence north along the Section line to the eighth post, thence along the center of N  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Sec. 16 and Sec. 17 to the eighth post on section line between sections 17 & 18 thence south along said section line between Sec. 17 & 18, 19 & 20 to the SW corner of said Sec. 20 to the quarter post between Sec. 20 and Sec. 29 thence south to the center of Sec. 29, thence east along the center line of Sec. 29 and Sec. 28 to the SE corner of fractional lot three (3) in Sec. 28, thence north along the east line of said lot 3 to the shore of lake, thence along the meandered line on the north side of said lake in a north easterly easterly and southeasterly direction to the intersection of the said bank with the south line of the fractional lot numbered 5 in Sec. 27 thence east to the center of Sec. 27 thence north along center line of sections numbered 27, 22 and 15 to the place of beginning containing in all thirty hundred thirty nine and fifty six hundredths acres. (3039.56 A).

population at the time of incorporation was 371. a census preceding petition for incorporation was taken April 30, 1891.

copy of petition with names of signers, also list of the names of the 371 population listed in this census are found in Vol. A, Misc. Record in office of Reg. of Deeds, Itasca County.

Tourist attractions,- Scenic beauty, this item mentioned and covered in previous paragraph. Fish and Game life,- local committee suggests referring you to University and State Fish and Game Dept. at St. Paul.

Camp sites. Grand Rapids has a "Tourist park" adjoining the county fair grounds on the north side of the village. It has good accommodations and good roads to and in it. Highways and means of getting to Grand Rapids,- Any State highway map will give this better than I could. There is no river traffic, that is regularly scheduled. Any that there is will be along recreational lines.

Hotels.- Two that may be classed at 1st class and three other. This does not include boarding houses, but only those catering to transients. Village also has eight restaurants and nine taverns or "beer joints" and liquor stores. Two road houses on outskirts of village.

Flora - Fauna.- U. of Minn. would be best source for this.

any good stories or anecdotes of vacation land, hunting, etc. - See this is mentioned in several places in this list. Will submit a list of these after they have been checked and O.K.ed by secretary of C. of C. and secretary of History Committee.

#### Indian occupancy.

1. The tribes - variants of names as Chippewa (ojibway), "Dakotah" (Sioux, etc.), their home grounds, habits etc.

So far as Grand Rapids is concerned there is no evidence that the immediate locality was ever used as home grounds of any tribe altho it was within the hunting grounds of both Souix and Chippewa, judging from the types of arrowheads found in the locality. Chippewa and Ojibway were the same thing as were "Dakotah" and Souix. I know more of the latter and believe I can safely say that the "Dakotah" were really one tribe of the Souix, distinguished, for example from the Mandan Souix.

2. Missions, agencies, villages and forts, battles and massacres.

The published anthropologies of Minnesota record villages, gardens, battles, massacres, mounds, and schools for Indians at Pokegama lake. These refer to the other Pokegama lake in Pine County, Minn.

1. The explorers - Duluth, or any early ones who penetrated to site of Grand Rapids or near it - Groseilliers and Radisson, Hennepin, LeSueur - Carver - Morrison - Long - Keating - Beltrami - (any record there of any of the early boys?)

2. Missionaries and fur traders.

There are no local records of anything bearing on either 1 or 2.. Explorers presumably passed by here in traveling up and down the Mississippi but there is no evidence of camps, trading posts or missions on this site.

Question;-c What is the Blandin Paper Company? What connection ~~has~~, if any, with Itasca Paper Company?

The second part first. The Itasca Paper Company and the Blandin Paper Company ~~are~~ and the same concern.

1901<sup>2</sup>  
1916<sup>2</sup>  
1927<sup>2</sup>  
1929<sup>2</sup> The Itasca Paper Company was founded in 1901. It was an incorporated concern, organized with local participation to use local supply of pulpwood, and also as a boost to the town. It operated with varying success until 1916 when control was purchased by the St. Paul Dispatch and Pioneer-Press. The chief owner or stockholder of those papers was C. K. Blandin. In 1927 Blandin sold his interest in the newspapers but retained the papermill. He has operated the mill since that time. In 1929 the name of the concern was changed from Itasca Paper Company to Blandin Paper Company.

They papermill employs from 220, to 250 people., averaging 225.

The chief outlet for their print paper output is Twin City and Des Moines papers.

Mr. Blandin makes his home in Mpls. Office here does not like to hand out any information without his approval. Might be well to contact him there, in case other information of changes is wanted.

\*\*\*\*\*

pp. 4 -

Capt. John Smith's age is partly legendary. Various ages have been given from different sources. Probably the University department of Anthropology would be able to give you as dependable a report as is possible to get. Some of his adopted relatives exploited him to some extent in his late years. So far as I have ever been able to learn, he has no living relatives, blood relatives. He made his home, during his last years, at Cass Lake.

(19) The Indian art of birch biting seems to be a thing of the past. I cannot learn of any indians in this region that practice the art. According to local report, it is a custom that was practiced only by the Chippewas. Suggest the University on a thing like this, as local sources experince with indians is local and only the Chippewas.

(I find examples of both birch biting and leaf biting, on thin leaves, by the Chippewas in Hist. Soc. Museum - 3<sup>rd</sup> floor E.A. Sumner.)

What became of the mercantile house of Potter & Co., of Aitkin, in G. R. (their branch est. in G. R. in 1887)?

1871<sup>2</sup>  
1877<sup>2</sup> You ask about Potter and Company. There is a concern in Aitkin today called the Potter Company that is owned and managed by a daughter of Warren Potter who was the Potter of Potter & Co. of Grand Rapids early days. They closed their establishment of Potter and Company in Grand Rapids after the town began to develop, as it is downstream from the actual location of the business section of the town. By the way, they were not established in Grand Rapids in 1887. The first building was put up in 1871, and the first stock was brought there and first trading done in 1872.

What became of C. C. Knox business in Grand Rapids, and when was this established?

1888-9<sup>2</sup>  
1890<sup>2</sup>  
1891<sup>2</sup> There never was a C. C. Knox in Grand Rapids. The business established under the name of Knox in Grand Rapids was L. F. Knox. Knox built a two story building in 1888 or 1889. He and his family lived in the upstairs. At this time John Beckfelt had bought out the old Wakefield business and was running that. About 1890 Beckfelt and Knox got together, planning to go into partnership in the store business. They ordered a large stock of goods that was to come upriver on the boat. John Beckfelt was a man of firm convictions. By the time the stock had arrived, Beckfelt had formed a strong dislike for Mrs. Knox and her interference in the store affairs. This broke up the partnership, and in the division of the assets Beckfelt took the merchandise and Knox the building. This placed Knox at a great disadvantage, as it was quite a while before he could get in a stock. He closed his store about a year after this and went into the sawmill business in 1891.

(20) pp. #6

✓ Is T. R. Foley alive today? Where living? - Yes, alive. Lives in Hibbing Minn.

G. G. Hartley, dead.

Newton McFadden, dead.

Frank Thompson, dead.

Warrend Leland, dead. (They tell me the only connection the Lelands had with Henry Leland, dead. G. R. was as speculators. They lived elsewhere.)

Sam Leland, dead.

Judge Sleeper, dead. (Something on him may be in state records.)

✓ C. F. Kindred, dead.

✓ H. D. Powers, alive, lives in Grand Rapids.

Captain Houghton, dead.

✓ Sam Simpson, dead

✓ Any Delattres, They are in Minneapolis.

(21)

✓ Yes, former sheriff Hoolihan is still alive. He lives at 835--2nd. Ave. W., G. R.

(22)

D. M. Gunn is no longer alive. His connection with Grand Rapids and its history is considerable. He built the Pokegama Hotel, and rebuilt it after it burned down. It is still the leading hotel in the town. He has been dead for about eight years, but lived here from the incorporation of G. R. as a village until his death. He was at times county commissioner, member school board, member Poor and Hospital Commission (welfare board), and always active in civic and county affairs.

(23)

No, J. S. Gale is not alive.

Are any of the following alive, and where are they?

✓ J. S. Shultze - alive, lives in Grand Rapids.

A. M. Johnson - dead.

Al Nason - dead.

Wm. Crossman - dead.

Sam Christie (real name Sam Lamb) - dead.

James Sherry - dead.

Geo. B. Aiton - (quite recent in G. R.) dead.

✓ A. V. Storm - Only connection with G. R. he had a summer cabin on Pokegama lake.  
Actual home in St. Paul. He is head of Department of Agricultural  
Education, Farm School, University of Minnesota.

Dave Chambers - dead. His nickname was "Nigger Dave". In the early days of G. R.  
he ran a restaurant close to where the Pokegama Hotel now stands.

✓ Dr. Jules Gendron - alive, lives in Grand Rapids.

Varnum Blood - dead.

Luke Wilson - dead.

Dave Willard (of Aitkin) dead.

Frank Grant - dead.

F. L. Vance - dead.

E. E. McIntyre - (recent) lives in G. R.

D. A. Grussendorf - (recent) lives in G. R.

Any of these alive?

✓ Mrs. Ben Frank - lives in Cohasset

F. P. Sheldon - dead

J. A. Bowman - dead.

Leon M. Bolter - quite recent. Doesn't live here now.

E. L. Buck - dead

C. E. Aiken - dead

W. C. Gilbert - dead

D. M. Gunn - dead.

What is the population of Grand Rapids by the 1940 census? 4865.

What mine developments near to Grand Rapids and how far away, and what minerals have been positively located in paying quantities in Grand Rapids to be developed later?

1940<sup>c</sup> The nearest developed and producing mine to Grand Rapids is the Nelson mine. This is about two miles from the city limits. It was surveyed and developed and made ready for production several years ago, but was first put into volume production in 1940.

There is one other site that may be developed into a mine. This site is that of the present poor farm. There has been nothing more than exploratory work done there up to this time. That is about one mile out of town.

Pit was a favorite fishing spot until it was drained in 1940

What, if anything, remains of the Seavey hotel and the Patrick Casey hotel, on opposite sides of the Mississippi River at the falls? What remains of the Loren Seavey "ranch" or "hotel" or "stopping place" at the fork of Willow Creek and the river, 14 mi. above Aitkin?

Nothing remains of the Seavey Hotel and the Patrick Casey hotel that you mention. They were on opposite sides of the Mississippi River, but not directly opposite. The "Casey" hotel was about one-fourth mile further down stream than the Seavey. What you call the Casey Hotel did not belong to Casey. It belonged to Potter and Company and Casey was the manager.

Nothing remains of the Loren Seavey stopping place at the fork of Willow Creek and the Mississippi River. There is a place called the Pete Waldeck Ranch now located within one or two miles of the site of that old stopping place.

Have names of "Lo," "Loren," "Lou,"  
"Lowell," and "Loring G." for Seavey.  
Ascertain which is correct.  
S.

Is there any logging there now? Any river drives? Where do they get and how handle paper logs (pulp stock) and what is its volume? Is it measured in board feet or cords? What kinds of wood?

1939<sup>c</sup> The only logging in Grand Rapids area now is mostly pulp cutting. Types of wood used in pulp are mostly spruce. This is the best. Some jack pine and some popple are coming into use for pulp. Pulp wood is cut eight feet long and is measured in double cords. A double cord would be a pile of these eight foot sticks, the pile being eight feet long and four feet high. There are no longer any river drives. The last river drive in this part of the country was a year ago last spring on the Little Fork and the Rainy River.

Can you give a brief history of roads and road building around Grand Rapids from tote road to today?

You ask about a brief history of roads and road building around Grand Rapids. To cover this thoroughly would take a volume in itself. Just what do you want?

Who built first dam there? How many power dams have been built at Grand Rapids, and describe present one (who built it, what H. P. devel., and how used and transmitted? Does power vary with the seasons? Is it affected by the dams at lakes above?

The first dam that was built at Grand Rapids was built by a company that was organized to develop the power possibilities. It was built by a stock company with inducements being offered by the village of Grand Rapids. The power does not vary greatly with the seasons and is not unfavorably affected by the dams at lakes above. The first use of the power of the dam was for the paper mill of the Itasca Paper Company. Great Northern Railroad was instrumental in getting this mill to locate here.

Get me a sketch on John Beckfelt, pioneer merchant and steamboat captain, Co. treasurer, co. Commr'., and postmaster 1883/89.

John Beckfelt was in business in Aitkin before coming to Grand Rapids. He came to Grand Rapids site and bought out Gray Wakefield who had a log store and Post Office about where the fountain is in the paper mill grounds today. It seems that he became postmaster in this way. He later left this site and built a store building where the present Johnson Grocery is located. His new building was a two story frame building. The upstairs was a hall where early dances were held. Before the courthouse was built the first sessions of court in Grand Rapids were held in this hall over the John Beckfelt store. After the county was organized he was quite active in politics, being at different times county commissioner and county treasurer.