



Minnesota Works Progress Administration:
Writers Project Research Notes.

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Itasca County History - Indians. (From Cut Foot Sioux Ranger Station)

ORIGINAL INDIAN NAMES FOR THE LAKES AND RIVERS IN THE DISTRICT.

River - - - - -	Ze-be
Lake - - - - -	Sah-gah-e-gun
Little Cut Foot - - - - -	Oh-ne-gum-e (Portage)
First River - - - - -	Oh-ne-gum-e (Portage)
First River Lake - - - - -	Mah-no-min (Rice Lake)
	Sah-sah-bay-gum-ah (Lake of many bays)
Cut Foot Sioux - - - - -	Kee-sid-day-bwan (Cut Foot Sioux)
Winnebegoshish - - - - -	We-ne-be-go-sish (Muddy Waters)
McVeedy Bay - - - - -	Mah-we-nah-de-we-ning (Battle Charge Place)
Little Winnie - - - - -	We-ne-be-goosh-ish-se-sing (Little Muddy Waters)
Ball Club Lake - - - - -	Bah-gah-ah-do-wan-ing (La Crosse)
Little Ball Club - - - - -	Bah-gah-ah-do-wan-a-sing (Little La Crosse)
Bowstring - - - - -	Sah-ah-cha-bah-ning (Bow String)
Sand - - - - -	Wah-bah-dah-we-gong (Sandy)
Rice Lake - - - - -	Gah-me-nis-e-wong (Island Lake)
Dora Lake - - - - -	Ne-ge-dah-wah-o-non-ing (Dividing)
North end Dora Lake - - - - -	Kah-gah-ca-be-ca-ing (Cliff Lake)
Squaw Lake - - - - -	Kah-sha-sha-bah-skog (Lake of irregular shore line)
Round Lake - - - - -	Gah-wah-we-ay-gum-og (Long Lake)
Dixon Lake - - - - -	Gah-me-nah-e-go-cog (Watercrest River)
Upper Pidgeon - - - - -	O-ne-gum-eence (Little Portage)
Lower Pidgeon - - - - -	May-mae (Wild Pidgeon)
Middle Pidgeon - - - - -	O-ne-gum (Portage)
Second River - - - - -	(May-mae-ze-bee)
Pidgeon River - - - - -	(Pidgeon River)

Itasca County History - Indians.

Indian names - (2)

Lake Alice - - - - -	Bah-she-day-we-ne-gun (Sand Bar Portage)
Cedar Lake - - - - -	Oh-gee-bik (Root Lake)
Little Bass Lake - - - - -	Ah-she-gah-sung (Little Bass)
Rush Island - - - - -	Kah-me-nis-se-nusk-cong (Rush Island)
Birds Eye Lake - - - - -	Kah-me-nis-se-nush-ca-sing (Little Rush Island)
Buck Lake - - - - -	Mush-kee-gim-in-e-con-ing (Cranberry Lake)
Sunken Lake - - - - -	Gah-oh-show-wah-sqay-gum-og (Blue Lake)
Little White Fish - - - - -	Gah-she-gwak-ko-cog (Pine Lake)
Big White Fish - - - - -	Ge-che-sah-gah-e-gun (Big Lake)
Bass Lake - - - - -	Kah-shah-gah-we-gah-mog (Distant Lake)
Kildeer Lake - - - - -	Mah-ske-gwah-gum-ah (Swampy Lake)
Lake Helen - - - - -	Bah-quah-dah-moo) (Fish cut thru ice)
Egg Lake - - - - -	Gah-mah-ske-quah-gum-og (Tamarack Lake)
Loon Lake, north of old R. Station - -	Mong-o-sah-gah-e-gun (Loon Lake)
Farley Lakes - - - - -	Ge-too-sah-gah-mog (Double Lakes)
Tank Lake - - - - -	Bah-quahda-cum-ig (Wilderness Lake)
Sioux Lake - - - - -	Moose-o-kon-ing (Moose Lake).
Sun Fish, lake w. of Round Lake - - -	Ah-guah-dah-she (Sun Fish Lake)
Lilly Pad, lake w. of Middle Pidgeon -	Ah-de-tay-tah-bug (Lily Pad)
Lake So. East of Lower Pidgeon - - -	Me-gee-ze (Eagle Lake)
Lake w. of Cut Foot Sioux Lake - - -	Gah-mah-sko-se-kog (Grassy Lake)
School House Lake - - - - -	Way-me-tig-go-she (Frenchman)
Simpson Lake - - - - -	Mos-mo (Moose Dung)
Lake between Middle Pidgeon and Lower Pidgeon - - - - -	Ah-gah-wah-tay-yay-kwak (Shadow Lake)

Itasca County History - Big Fork Valley - Custer.

Copy of letter to Forest Supervisor at Cass Lake.

In addition to the name I suggested for what is now known as Six Mile Lake. In this district there are two other names I would like to suggest for unnamed streams and lakes in existence. They are as follows.

There is a creek that starts in SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 22, T. 147, R. 28 W, and flows south through the W $\frac{1}{2}$ of Sec. 27 into Lake Winnibigoshish. This creek has never had a name. May I suggest Broker Creek. Frank Broker who was foreman for Gross and Richmond the last two winters first logged around this creek, and also he built the first bridge across it. It is now being referred to considerable as Broker Creek.

The lake is in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 8, T. 147, R. 27W. It has no name at present. It is a fair sized lake. My suggestion here is Lake Mosmo. Bob Mosmo is the hereditary chief of the Winnibigoshish band of Indians and is still living. He is an old honest Indian, and I feel we should honor him in this way. He has performed a number of favors for forestry in general. For example, it was his testimony that put an old logger by the name of Seelye in the penitentiary for setting a big fire north of Cut Foot that he might secure dead and down timber. I have been able to secure valuable information concerning early history from him. I would like to recommend very heartily that we honor the old boy in this manner.

Signed by Gerald S. Horton, Forest Ranger.

The new name suggested for Six Mile Lake was Bi-Aus-Wah, pronounced Be-Os-Wah. This was the chief who led the Ojibway against the Sioux in the Winnibigoshish country.

The names for the lakes and creek were all accepted or recommended.

Bob Mosemo was 85 years old at the time of the letter, dated Feb. 20, 1933.

The following from "Channel News", a mimeographed bulletin put out monthly by the Federal Engineering Service. This particular extract is gotten from the "Channel News" of the 2nd Area and taken from two different articles, those of J. W. Walters, 2nd Area Engineer and of M. H. Berg, Jr. Engr.

Kemble Warren is the man who is designated as our first district engineer. General Warren was born in 1830 "within hearing of the morning and evening gun at West Point". At the age of 16, he entered West Point and graduated four years later second in a class of forty-four. He was at once assigned to the Corps of Topographical Engineers, in the grade of Brevet Second Lieutenant.

Between 1850 and 1859 he was engaged in many exploration and investigational expeditions, often in the midst of powerful and semi-hostile Indian tribes. His memoir relates, "Lieutenant Warren's first opportunity for original research occurred in 1854, when he was assigned to the duty of compiling a general map of the region west of the Mississippi. * * * * * The resulting map and memoir, dated 1858, exhausts all valuable material from the earliest discoveries to its date, and will remain a standard historical authority. This work was performed under the pressure of other duties and largely at night.

Warren served with the northern army during the war of the rebellion and because of the disapproval of his acts at ~~the~~ his superior officers was relieved of his command by Sheridan after the battle of Five Forks. Fifteen years later a court of inquiry exonerated Warren of charges brought against him at the time of his demotion.

Following the war, from 1866 to 1870, he was superintending engineer of surveys and improvements of the Upper Mississippi and its tributaries, and maintained an office in St. Paul.

One of the numerous tasks undertaken by Major G. K. Warren as the first district engineer of the St. Paul District, was a survey to determine the possibility and feasibility of the establishment of storage reservoirs on the headwaters of the Mississippi River for aids to navigation. The investigation was started in 1869, and this and more detailed surveys made in the following years resulted in the appropriation of funds by Congress in 1880 for the construction of an "experimental" dam at the outlet of Lake Winnibigoshish. This project and the other work which followed resulted in the largest reservoir system ever built for the benefit of navigation only.

Actual construction of Winnibigoshish Dam was started in 1882, the first piling being driven on April 22nd of that year. The structure consisted of a large timber platform supported on round timber piling with several rows of sheet timber cut-off walls to prevent the flow of water under the platform. Rock filled timber cribs surmounted the timber platform, and between the cribs, gates were placed. Much of the original substructure was utilized in the structure which exists today.

Construction of Leech and Pokegama Dams closely followed that of Winnibigoshish Dam, all three going into operation in 1884. * * * * * One very interesting point in connection with the reconstruction of the five headwater dams is the exceptionally good concrete which they contain. After 30 years, very few flaws or weaknesses have shown up in them * * * * * and it is unfortunate, however, that no records are available to indicate why this concrete is so outstanding.

There are six of these storage reservoirs, of which Leech Lake is the largest and Sandy Lake the smallest, while Pine River Reservoir is unique in that it comprises what was formerly some 14 or 15 separate lakes.

The early history of the reservoirs is filled with hardships of carrying on surveys and construction in a land without roads and inhabited only by Indians. Good roads and railroads now reach all the dams.

In an issue of the Grand Rapids Herald-Review for date of Jan. 27, 1926 is published a feature article under the heading, "How Mike Shook Hands With Death". This article tells a story gotten from Mike by a Herald-Review representative. The Herald-Review people of the present tell me that the story was taken in shorthand and transcribed and that it is in Mike's own words. The article follows.

While I was working for F. P. Clark in the woods in 1880, I was always good friends with the indians, and they were good friends of mine- but they had me sentenced to death at one time. I tell these facts at this time because my proof of them will soon be all dead and gone, so if I told them then the people might say that I was telling a fish story.

In 1880 I was ordered by F. P. Clark to cut a hay road from Trout Lake up the north side of McAlpine Brook on through to Bowstring meadows, near to Bowstring Lake. I told him I did not know if the indians would let me go through or not; that I thought the most of the land was Indian Reservation land, and he said that Major Camp, then T. B. Walker's partner, had made all arrangements with the indians for the hay, and for me to hire the indians to help me cut the road and put up the hay, and to pay the indians so much a ton for the hay.

Hired The Indians.

It was Camp and Walker's timber we were logging at that time. So, when I got ready to cut the road I hired the indians, whose names were: Bowstring Joe, his brothers Sam and Battese, an indian named Na-way, Bowstring Jack and Toonce, six in all. Bowstring Joe knew the route, so I had him help me "blaze" road through - so everything went fine. We had the road cut to Wolf Lake - that is where the summer homes of Senator Gunn and the late G. G. Hartley are now, so we packed our supplies in our birch bark canoes and crossed the lake, and were getting ready to cut the road from Wolf Lake to Grave Lake. It was eleven o'clock in the morning when we crossed Wolf Lake, so we got dinner ready before we started to cut the road to Grave Lake. Just before it was time to go to work, Chief Mosemo, and another indian came along from Bowstring, so I got them dinner. After they had dinner our troubles commenced.

When it was time to go to work I took my six indians to go to work, expecting the crew to follow as they always did, but they all stayed by the fire talking to the Big Chief. So I went back and asked them if they were going to work. They said "Caw ween", that means no in the indian language. Then the chief ordered me to stop as I was trespassing on Indian Reservation. I told him no! If they not help, I would cut the road through myself. So I started and was pretty mad by that time.

The first tree I had to cut was a leaning pine, partly turned out by the roots, it was up ten or twelve feet from the ground, so I started to cut it. When I had it nearly cut off it broke like a pipe stem, the part it was standing on flew up, and my ax flew over my head and alongside of the fire where the indians were standing. I jumped for a small tree and came down all right.

Chief Took Supplies.

So Chief Mosemo said to the indians: "Song go tha je kee man" - he meant "brave white man. After a few minutes the Chief came to me where I was working, and said that he was going to have a big war dance at Winnabigoshish lake, and if I would give him fifty dollars, or fifty dollars worth of supplies, he would put the indians to work, and let the road go through. I told him that I would give him nothing, unless the indians were satisfied that he should have it. He went back and talked to the indians, and they all came back with the Chief to go to work. I asked them if I should give the Chief supplies, and they said "yes". So ~~I went to work~~ they went to work, and the Chief, his Indian and myself went back to Trout lake.

(This Trout Lake is in T. 57 & 58 - 25, due north of Grand Rapids. Wolf and Grave lakes are west from this Trout Lake, Wolf about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Trout and Grave $3\frac{1}{2}$ from Wolf.)

Then I gave him about fifty dollars worth of supplies; giving him pork, flour, tea, tobacco, butter and other groceries. It loaded his canoe down. So the chief agreed with the Indians that he would be back in about six days; that would be about when we would have the road finished. So we cut to Grave lake, thence to Little Bowstring, then across three miles of spruce and tamarack swamp, then to Bowstring river, and the meadow.

It took up six days to cut from Wolf lake, and when we returned to Trout lake the Indians wanted to settle up with me. I told them that I could not settle up with them, that they would have to wait until the chief came. I told them that they quit working for me and went to work for the Chief, and that the Chief would have to settle with them. The Chief had drawn about all that was coming to them, and knew it, and he never came. So I had quite a time with them for a while.

Got Away With It.

At last I told them that, what with the money they had drawn themselves and what the Chief had drawn, they had overdrawn. As two or three of them had their families there I had to furnish them supplies while we were cutting the road through, so they looked the situation over, and after a time they left all the blame on themselves for giving the Chief the supplies. And the Chief never came to settle with them at all. Of course the Indians thought that I was giving those supplies to the Chief to set them to work, and let the road go through - but I fooled them.

Now its a fact that if you get in bad with the Indians, or they think you have, whether its your fault or not, its odds that you won't get away with it without a back clap and you won't be looking for it, or know why it came. Which is why I had to shake hands with death, and outgrip him, over the Indians poisoned at Trout lake in 1881. I was working at Trout lake along about June first that year when a band of Indians and their families from Bowstring lake came there to build birch canoes. While they were making canoes four or five of the indians took two canoes, and three guns and started for Grand Rapids, claiming that they were going after groceries. They got back to Trout lake about dark, and brought five or six quarts of whiskey with them, and they were pretty well intoxicated. That night I went to bed about nine o'clock, and about ten the Indian wife of a white man named Jerry Whitney, who lived with the Indians, came and knocked on my door, telling me in the Indian language to get up quick, thet the Indians were all poisoned, and that there was fox poison in the whiskey. I got up and out as quickly as possible, and when I got outside saw that four or five of the Indians were rolling around the chip yard.

The Sick Indians.

They had a big fire of chips burning, and the squaws were all at work doctoring the sick Indians. They had mixed gun powder with water, and were pouring it down the Indian's throats, also long, ~~white/eggs/white~~ wild-geese quills which they were shoving up and down their throats, trying to make them heave up the poison. They got out of gun-powder, and I HAPPENED TO THINK THAT lard was good for the purpose, so I rolled out a half barrel of it, and told them to go to it.

They started melting the lard and drove it to them, and got them all to heaving up except one, - and that was my best friend, Bowstring Joe, who is still alive at Bowstring lake. (1926). So they drove a stick, one at his head, and another at his feet, and put a small pole from stake to stake, then raised his arms and he took a dead grip on the pole - and you could not get his hands loose from that pole unless you cut his fingers off. Then they put a round stick in his mouth and he took a dead grip on that with his teeth.

Fisrt Aid To The Indians.

So the squaws kept pouring lard into him, and nothing but white foam came his mouth from 11:30, that night until daybreak - which was about four o'clock in the morning. Then he commenced to heave up, the stick flew from his mouth, and his hands broke loose from the pole. From 11:30 that night, until four o'clock next morning I was doing a lot of engineering, myself. About 11:30 that night Jerry Whitney's wife, and her brother-in-law, an Indian by the name of Toonce, came to me and told me that when Bowstring Joe died, if he died, the Indians would kill Whitney, then kill me, and then go to the Rapids - Grand Rapids - and kill every white

man and woman there. There were only about twelve men at Grand Rapids at that time and four white women. My wife, not then my wife, however, and her sister were two of them. After they told me that I got busy.

Jerry Whitney left me and took to the woods; he came back three days later. He had hid on the east side of Trout Lake.

Fixed The Guns.

So I made up my mind that I would fight the battle with them myself. I was not a mite afraid of them, and knew that I could handle them, easy. I had a light overcoat and a good six shooter revolver, Smith and Wesson, and lots of cartridges. I put the gun in my coat pocket, and lots of cartridges in both pockets. I picked up all the axes and canthooks and locked them up in the warehouse - and then looked after the Indian's guns. They had three standing against a tree on the lake shore where they landed on coming back from Grand Rapids.

So I went down, took the guns, cocked them and pulled off the caps, then got down on my knees, filled my mouth with water from the lake and squirted it down the gun barrels until I filled all three with water. I went back to the fire where the Indians were, and in about twenty minutes went down to the guns again to see if the water was coming through the nipples; but no water was in sight. However the water in the gun barrels had gone down, so I filled up the barrels again and went back to the Indians, willing to give them anything they called for if I had it. Again I went down to the guns, and this time water was coming through the nipples - but I filled the barrels again with water. I knew that if the Indians started anything the first break they would make would be for their guns - and three guns would be out of commission. Of course I could kill them all in a couple of minutes; I would have had only about four to kill.

The rest were all laid out, and I was not a bit afraid of them, and if I was afraid of them I could have left there and gone to the Rapids and put the people there on their guard against the Indians. Of course I did not want to kill the Indians unless I had to because they had always been good friends of mine. On account of Bowstring Joe not dying everything came out all right. They had expected ~~to~~ him to die at twelve o'clock or at daylight; that is what they told me at the time. But I was ready for them if they made a break. Bowstring Joe and most of the Indians are living at Bowstring lake yet; so I have got the proof for this.

The Poisoned Whiskey.

Now I will tell you who put the poison in the whiskey. A man by the name of Lew Sparks, and a man by the name of Hen Taylor, after the Indians left Grand Rapids, followed them to Prairie lake, thinking they could catch them there, and, when they got well out into the lake they would shoot into their canoes and drown the Indians. But the Indians were gone out of sight when they got there. Taylor did not go any further than Prairie lake but Sparks kept on expecting to catch the Indians on the portage between Prairie and Wabano lakes, but the Indians had gone before he got there. So Sparks returned, and stopped a while at Jim Sifflecks. Jim was farming for S. C. Bagley, right where Mrs. Fitzgerald is living at the present time.

Sparks told the whole story to Jim Afflick about himself and Taylor putting the poison into the whiskey. They put it into two bottles, about one quarter of an inch of strychnine into each bottle. The Indians did not happen to drink from either of the poisoned bottles until they got to Trout lake. That was the amount of the poison we found in the two bottles at Trout lake.

Told Wild Story.

The Indians kept the bottles, claiming that they were to bring them to White Earth, and show them to the Indian Agent there. But I think that they never did. Sparks returned from Afflicks to Grand Rapids, and told the people there, as he told the two girls who were working in the Hotel, that is the lady who is now my wife, and her sister, that he killed the five Indians out at Prairie lake, scalped them, and sunk the bodies in the lake. When the girls asked to see the scalps he said that they were too green, but when he dried them out in a couple of days, he would show them.

Sparks left Afflicks late in the evening and the next morning Afflick started up to Trout Lake to see if I was dead or alive. He got to Trout lake about 4:00 A.M. coming through the woods because he was afraid of meeting the Indians if he traveled in the road. The first I saw of Afflick I had taken the back window out of the camp to air it, and was doing something inside, and as I turned around there was Jim looking in the window. He was glad to see me and I was glad to see him; he said he expected to see us all dead, and when I asked him how he found out, he said that Sparks told the whole story. He said that Sparks followed the Indians across the Wabano portage, carrying his rifle with him and meaning to shoot them. And there you see how I was forced to shake hands with death and ~~outgrip him~~ outgripped him because I had to.

* * * * *

This is the end of the article, as printed. Cannot find the original notes. It sort of leaves things up in the air, like a "to be continued in our next issue" thing, but no further items are found in following issues. One is forced to wonder just why brother Sparks became so bloodthirsty, also what became of Sparks after this little party. The printing of the article had one result, however. In less than a month Mike received a letter from some of the Indians mentioned in the article. The letter was dictated to an "educated" Indian, cited in the letter as Secretary Wakonabo and this gentleman translated into United States and wrote it into a letter to Mike, as follows,-

Mr. Mike McAlpine
Grand Rapids, Minnesota

Inger, Minnesota, Feb. 18th, 1926

Dearest old friend;-

Your article contained in the latest issues of the Grand Rapids Herald-Review, have been reading to us by Secretary Wakonabo, and it reminded us of the old times we used to have with you in the wild woods when there used to be a lot of wild men and win-di-goes in the woods, and we are much pleased to know that you can remember the times we used to have better than we can remember.

One thing which you should not forget to tell the people, is that time when you and James Buddeese started from Bowstring to the place where you used to have your shack and garden, the time you was so scared by the win-di-goes that you was ready to shoot anything that comes along, it certainly must have been a wild man who scared you that time.

In the same fall, when there was ice on the lake, we went on the same place, and as we say again there was a lot of wild men and win-di-goes that time, we seen a place where these such wild men or win-di-goes been playing on the ice, these must have been the big fellows who played on the shore, they throw great big rocks and old trees with stumps on them across to the other point of the lake, if you did see this, you would have been scared more than you was that day. It certainly that territory was wild that time, but it is so well settled now that not see a wild man there.

We only wish we could see you again as we are all getting so old that we can not work and support ourselves any more, far behind what we used to do that time as we used to work like a wild man that time.

We cite you again that we can not work any more, you know Joe Bowstring is pretty old now, can not work and can not hunt any more, Sam Gah-di-go, is old and feeble and can not work any more, and that James Buddeese is crippled and can not work as he used to, this makes us together poor and poor, and as you are far better off than you was at that time, and no doubt you must have some abandoned old clothes that you can spare us, and no doubt a lot of your old friends must have some also that you can spare for us.

Will you therefore, see what you can do for us in the way of collecting some old clothes for us and send them to us, these old clothes are for only three of your old friends and we therefore, hope you will get busy at once and see what you can do for your old friends.

Our old mother is still living, and she claims that she is about two years old now, it is about fifteen years ago since she walked on earth, and she will never walk again on it until she gets onto the "happy hunting grounds" and we wish you could see her before she passes on to the next world.

Kindly let us hear from you real soon. Our best regards and fond wishes to you, we are,

Your old friends,

James Buddeese

Sam Gah-de-go

Joe Bowstring.

The names of the signers have evidently been signed by the "secretary", who typed out the letter. Wording and spelling are carefully copied.

ITASCA COUNTY HISTORY - Mines

A Summary of Mining Operations in Itasca County for 1940.

Number of Mines Operated	- - - - -	29
Number of Mines not Operated	- - - - -	27
Total Number of Mines	- - - - -	56
Number of Men Employed Underground	- - - - -	165
Number of Men Employed on Surface	- - - - -	350.5
Number of Men Employed in Open Pit Mining	- - - - -	1691.
Number of men employed in Stripping Operations	- - - - -	840.2
Total Number of Men Employed	- - - - -	3047.
Number of Tons of Ore shipped from Underground	- - - - -	365,228.
Number of Tons shipped from Open Pit	- - - - -	-10,188,545.
Total shipment, tons-	- - - - -	-10,553,773.
Number Cubic Yards Stripping Removed	- - - - -	- 4,395,650.
Number of fatal accidents	- - - - -	3.
Number of Non-Fatal Accidents (Time-Loss)	- - - - -	55.
Number of Fatal accodents per 1000 men employed	- - - - -	.98
Average Wage per Hour (basis, 8-hour day)	- - - - -	80¢

Itasca County History - Mining.

ITASCA COUNTY MINES

NAME		LOCATION		Sec.	Twp.	Rge.
Alexander,	OP	Keewatin,	SW NW	13	57	22
Ann.	OP (Patrick Group)	Cooley	SW $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$	2	56	23
Arcturus,	OP,	Marble,	SE SW & S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE & N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE&NE NW	13	56	24
				24	56	24
Argonne,	OP,	Nashwauk Township		28	57	22
Bray,	UG,	Keewatin,	SE $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ -	23	57	22
Bennett,	UG & OP,	Keewatin,	N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW&NE $\frac{1}{4}$	24	57	22
Buckeye,	OP,	Coleraine,	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ & SE $\frac{1}{4}$	36	56	22
Canistota Cliffs,	OP, -	Coleraine,	SW of SW Sec. 29, NW of			
			NE, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW & SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 30, NE of NE Sec. 31,			
			and NW of NW, Sec. 32 - - - - 29, 30, 31, 32		56	24
Doris,	OP,	Marble,	- - - - -	20	56	23
Draper,	OP,	Calumet,	- - - - -	-10	56	23
Danube,	OP,	Bovey,	S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ -	20	56	24
Diamond,	OP,	Taconite,	- - - - -	22	56	24
Fargo,	OP,	Arbo Township	- -	2	55	26-25
Forest,	OP,	Keewatin,	E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ - -	13	57	22
Galbraith,	OP,	Nashwauk TP. and Village	-	28	57	22
Greenway,	OP,	Grand Rapids,	- - - - -	3	55	25
Higbee,	OP,	Calumet,	- - - - -	21	56	23
Halobe,	OP,	Cooley,	W $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ - - - -	31	57	22
Hoadley,	OP,	Nashwauk,		30, 31, 32	57	22
Hill,	OP,	Marble,	N $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ - - -	17	56	23
Hill-Annex	OP,	Calumet,	all of - - -	16	56	23
Helen,	OP,	Cooley,	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ -	21	56	24

Note:- OP indicates Open Pit and UG underground type of mining.

ITASCAC COUNTY HISTORY - Mining - MINES, 2

NAME						LOCATION		
						Sec.	Twp.	Rge.
Holman,	OP,	Taconite	-	-	-	22	56	24
Hawkins,	OP,	Nashwauk	-	-	-	31,32	57	22
Harrison,	OP,	Cooley	-	-	-	6	56	22
Harrison,	OP,	Cooley	-	-	-	1	56	23
Harrison-Annez	OP,	Cooley	-	-	-	31	57	22
Hill-Trumbull,	OP,	Marble	-	-	-	17,18	56	23
Jordan,	OP,	Bass Brook	-	-	-	34	55	26
Judd,	OP,	Coleraine	-	-	-	21	56	24
Kevin,	OP,	Cooley	-	-	-	1	56	23
LaRue,	UG&OP,	Nashwauk	-	-	-	32	57	22
Mace, No. 2 OP, Nashwauk - - - 29 57 22								
Langdon,	OP,	Greenway Tp.	-	-	-	11	56	23
Little & Prindle	OP,	Keewatin,	-	-	-	24	57	22
Mace, No. 2	OP,	Nashwauk	-	-	-	29	57	22
Majorca	OP,	Calumet	-	-	-	9	56	23
Mesabi Chief	OP,	Keewatin	-	-	-	23	57	22
Mississippi	UG,	Keewatin	-	-	-	14,23	57	22
Mississippi No.2	UG,	Keewatin	-	-	-	24	57	22
Morrison	OP,	Coleraine	-	-	-	20,29	n56	24
North Star	OP,	Taconite	-	-	-	22	56	24
Orwell	OP,	Bovey	-	-	-	21,28,29	56	24
Patrick No.1 & 2	OP,	Cooley	-	-	-	36	57	23
			-	-	-	1,2,11	56	23
Quinn,	OP,	Cooley	-	-	-	31	57	22
Russell	OP,	Keewatin	-	-	-	13	57	22

Note, OP denotes "open Pit2, UG denotes "underground" mining.

ITASCA COUNTY HISTORY, Mining,- MINES-3

NAME			LOCATION		
			Sec.	Twp.	Rge.
Shada	OP,	Nashwauk - - -	29	57	22
Sargent,	UG,	Keewatin - - -	28	57	22
Snyder,	OP,	Cooley - - -	1	56	23
St. Paul,	OP,	Keewatin - - -	24	57	22
Stein,	OP,	Nashwauk Tp. - -	23	57	22
South Judd	OP,	Taconite - - -	21	56	24
Tiogo,	OP,	Grand Rapids - -	26	55	26
Vernon,	OP,	Greenway Tp. - -	2	56	23
Walker,	OP,	Bovey - - -	29	56	24
York,	OP,	Nashwauk - - -	31	57	22
North Harrison-Annex,	OP,	Cooley - - -	31	57	22

Of this list of mines in Itasca County, taken from lists of Itasca County Mine Inspector and Mining Directory for Minnesota, University of Minn. the County Mining Inspector lists as exhausted Vernon, Mississippi, and as inactive, Walker, Shada, Little and Prindle, mines. This in 1940 report. This will leave 51 unexhausted and active mines in Itasca County in 1941.

The first iron mine opened in Itasca County was the LaRue mine, opened in 1902 by a company operating from Virginia, Minn. The Crosby mine was opened the next year, 1903, at Nashwauk by the Cleveland Cliff Iron Co. These were the only mines opened in Itasca County before 1907. From this date (1907) openings came rapidly, particularly during the period of 1910 to 1920.

The Argonne, Stein are latest additions, making first shipments in 1941. Greenway made its first shipment in 1940.

Recorded Proceedings of Board of County Commissioners of Itasca County. This the Board of Commissioners appointed by Governor of State to act until next general election. -

March 24, 1891 - Present L. F. Knox, B. C. Finnigan, J. P. Sims . L. F. Knox elected chairman.

Moved and carried that the County of Itasca, State of Minnesota be and hereby is divided into Commissioners Districts as follows, to wit

1. That all territory in said county west of range line between range 25 and 26 4th principal meridians shall constitute and be known as Commissioner District No. 1.
2. That all the territory East of range line between 25 and 26 W of the 4th principle meridian excepting township 55-25 shall constitute and be known as Commissioner District No. 2.
3. That township 55-25 shall constitute and be known as Commissioner District No. 3.

(signed) L. F. Knox, chairman
J. P. Sims
B. C. Finnigan

(The above constituted Resolution Number One. They seemed to do everything on a resolution basis, even recess or adjourn.)

Resolution 2.- Moved and carried that the town of Grand Rapids, Itasca County, Minnesota shall be the County seat of Itasca County until changed at the next general election as provided by law.

Resolution 3.- Moved and carried that this Board, as soon as convenient, shall invite bids for stationery, books etc. to be used in different county offices, as per list. (list not recorded.)

Resolution 4.- Moved and carried ^a Board take a recess until 2:00 P.M.

Resolution 5.- Moved and carried the Board designate Court Square known as Block 20, Townsite of Grand Rapids, as the location for erecting building and vault to be used for county building.

Resolution 6.- Moved and carried that the Board would respectfully recommend that one term of court will be sufficient for Itasca County and that the date and time for holding such court be left to the judge of the 15th judicial district to decide.

Resolution 7.- Appointed H. R. King as Auditor for Itasca County until next general election.

Resolution 8.- Appoints John Beckfelt Treasurer of Itasca County until next general election.

Resolution 9.- Appoints Charles Kearney as Register of Deeds for Itasca County until next beneral election.

Resolution 10.- Appoints Henry W. Canfield as County Attorney of Itasca County until next general election.

Resolution 11.- Appoints Wade Blaker as Clerk of Court for Itasca County until next general election.

Resolution 12.- Appoints E. R. Lewis as county surveyor for Itasca County until next general election.

Resolution 13.- Appoints M. A. Woods as assessor for Itasca County for 1891.

Resolution 14.- Board recessed until 8:00 P. M.

Resolution 15.- Postponed proposals tendered by Brown, Tracy and Co. and the Pioneer Press for supplies, stationery etc. until next meeting.

Resolution 16.- Adjourned until 1:30 P. M. March 25, 1891.

(signed) L. F. Knox, chairman
J. P. Sims
B. C. Finnigan

March 25, 1891,- 1:30 P.M. - met, called to order.

Resolution 17.- Provided for bond of \$2000.00 for Auditor.

Resolution 18.- Provided for bond of \$25000.00 for County Treasurer.

Resolution 19,- Provided for bond of \$1000.00 for County Coroner.

Resolution 20.- Moved and carried that the contract for the building to be used for Itasca County offices be awarded to F. A. B. King for the sum of \$570.00 as per terms drawn up in offer in possession of the Board.

Resolution 21.- Contract for building of vault for Itasca County awarded to Louis L. Jenson for the sum of \$170.00.

Resolution 22.- Appointed T. R. Pravitz as County Superintendent of Schools for Itasca County until next general election.

Resolution 23.- Adjourned until 2:00 P. M. March 26th, 1891

March 26, 1891.- 2:00 P.M. - Met and adjourned until 10:00 A.M. April 10, 1891.

April 10; 1891 - Met, called to order.

Resolution 25.- Approved bond of H. R. King, county auditor.

Resolution 26 - Approved bond of county treasurer.

Resolution 27 - Approved bond of Chas. Kearney, register of deeds.

Resolution 28 - Appointed Melville H. Manson coroner for Itasca County until next election.

Resolution 29 - Approved bond of H. W. Canfield, County attorney.

Proceedings of appointed bd. of Co. Comm., Itasca County, continued - pp3.

Resolution 30 - Approved bond of E. R. Lewis County Surveyor.

Resolution 31 - Approved bond of Wade Blaker, clerk of court

Resolution 32 - Approved bond of Melville H. Manson, county coroner.

Resolution 33 - Adjourned until April 17, 1891.

April 17, 1891

Minutes read and approved. After considerable discussion a motion of Comm. Finnegan, F. A. B. King was asked to submit plans for county jail, to be presented at next meeting.

Adjourned till May 1, 1891.

Signed: H. R. King, attest.

L. F. Knox, Chairman.

May 1, 1891

Met. On motion, L. F. Knox instructed to take such steps as necessary to save Prairie River Bridge.

Audited books, and found that county had in treasury:

Penalty and Interest - - - - -	\$ 82.31
Poor Fund - - - - -	4.15
Redemption - - - - -	11.94
Road and Bridge - - - - -	1650.47
General School - - - - -	318.93
Town of G. R. - - - - -	199.24
Undistributed tax collections - - -	702.62
County Revenue - - - - -	<u>\$2969.66</u>

Question of building jail deferred until next meeting. Opinion of county attorney on disposition of license moneys put on file.

A Summary of the Commissioners Proceedings of Board of Commissioners for Aitkin and Itasca County from their record kept of action taken in respect to Itasca County. These proceedings were kept in longhand and spelling of names varies from year to year. Given here as found in record. SHAW

State of Minnesota
County of Aitkin
Auditors Office, Aitkin, February 26, 1887

In accordance with order of the Board of County Commissioners of Aitkin County and in pursuance of duly posted notices calling a meeting of said Board of County Commissioners, the said Board of County Commissioners met this twenty sixth day of February 1887 for the transaction of Business pertaining to Itasca County and as Commissioners of Itasca County in accordance with and pursuant to an act of the legislature of the State of Minnesota approved February 10, 1887.

Present E. B. Lowell, chairman of the Board and William B. Marr and D. M. Scriven commissioners. Meeting was called to order by the chairman at 10 o'clock A. M.

Motion of William B. Marr that William L. Wakefield be appointed assessor in and for Itasca County for the year 1887 was duly seconded and carried and the Auditor was instructed to notify said Wm. L. Wakefield of the Action of the Board.

Resolution adopted that the Auditor correspond with responsible publishing houses for the purpose of getting proposals for the furnishing of each description of books needed for Itasca County.

The following bills were audited and allowed.--

C. Graves, expense transferring Books and Accts from Crow Wing County	--\$	12.90
S. S. Luther, do do do do		11.25
Geo. T. Williams do do do		12.65
E. B. Lowell, do do do		9.15

Motion by D. M. Scriven that the expense incurred in transferring Books and ACCTs of Itasca County to Aitkin be paid out of surplus fund as shown by said Itasca Accts. was duly seconded and carried. On motion-carried-the meeting was

adjourned until March 8, 1887 at 1 o'clock P.M.
attest

S. S. Luther
Auditor

E. B. Lowell
chr. Board Co. Com.

March 8, 1887 - Present full board.

Motion made by Commissioner Marr to reconsider the bills passed upon at last meeting and after discussion by the Board was withdrawn by Mr. Marr.

Bill of George T. Williams for express on books for ~~Itasca County~~ 65¢ was allowed.

Contract to furnish books for Itasca County let to Pioneer Press Co. they being lowest bidders. - Adjourned.

May 4, 1887 - all present

Communication from Chris Burns of Grand Rapids protesting against the issue of Liquor License to Robert McCabe. No action taken as McCabe had not made application for license. Among bills, mostly for new Itasca Co. books, were -

J. M. Marr, clothing for O'Halleran, pauper	- - - - -	\$ 13.00
St. Anthony Hosp. Co. - care and board of patient	- - - - -	35.20
J. M. Markham, sheriff fees, State vs Christie	- - - - -	35.20
St. Anthony Hosp. Co. - care and board of patient	--- - - - -	17.10
to each commissioner for services	- - - - -	3.00

a bill of Hugh McDermid for care of pauper referred back to said McDermid for verification.

Bids on care of ~~B. O'Halleran~~ O'Halleran, a county charge were
Mrs. A. Longhrey \$21.00 per calander month
C. Scriven 4.00 per week
awarded to C. Scriven.

Auditor's salary fixed at \$1200.00, to include clerk hire
Treasurer, same percent on collections as allowed in Aitkin Co.
County Attorney - \$300.00 per year
Judge of Probate- \$100.00 per year
Sheriff, same fee allowance as in Aitkin County.

June 11, 1887 - met - allowed bills for plats, copying records and commissioners services.

Bill of W. E. Neal & Co. for care of sick man amounting to 25.35 disallowed-no proof patient was entitled to receive county aid.

June 27, 1887 - met - present Marr and Scriven - Scriven temp. chairman.
Considered applications for liquor licenses - no action other than to hold over. This because of lack of bonds of parties applying."

June 30, 1887 - present full Board.
met to consider liquor license application for Itasca County.

James Sherry, sureties J. M. Markham and G. D. Wilson - approved

Allen T. Nason, sureties Warren Potter, Joseph W. Wakefield- approved

App. of M. L. Toole and Robt. McCabe were considered and resolved that when said M. L. Toole and Robt. McCabe file their bonds and pay the County Treasurer the amount of liquor license fee, \$500.00, the auditor issue License as applied for, bonds, however, subject to approval of chairman of Board.

July 18, 1887 - met as board of equalization-
raised some, lowered some.

James Sherry, raised from \$1188 to \$1190.

W. Potter & Co. from \$1591 to 2697

A. T. Nason from 370 to 360

M. L. Toole from \$270. to \$260

Wakefield and Co. from \$2725 to \$2225

July 25, 1887 - met and levied \$4300.00 for County purposes in Itasca County
paid bills:-

to F. D. Horton - - - - for assessing Itasca Co. 1887- \$105.00
also for some plats and commissioners services.

~~July~~ August 8 - 1887 - met and allowed some bills for transferring records and
notified M. L. Tool of Grand Rapids that he must file bond for the sale of
intoxicating liquors. ~~by Sept. 12, 1887.~~
~~Letter from Bob McCabe who wanted to move saloon to another location held over.~~

Sept. 12, 1887 - Letter from Bob McCabe who wanted to move his saloon to another
lot and building. - held over.
Notified M. L. Toole that he must, on or before September 26, 1887, file bond
in auditors office or the money for deposited with county treasurer.
Application from J. P. Sims for a license to construct and maintain a sluice dam
across Swan River, said dam to be located on N $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec35 Tp.56-23 . Granted
for six years.

November 12, 1887.- application of Robt. McCabe for permit to move from Block 28
to Block 40 in Grand Rapids and communications objecting considered. Held over
and referred to County Attorney.

January 3, 1888.- Itasca County made one assessment District and H. R. King
appointed assessor for 1888, compensation to be not more than \$500.00
Yea,-Lowell, Scriven - Marr not voting.
Aitkin Age made officia paper for Itasca County.

March 6, -1888 -paid for publication of proceedings, present, Lowell, Scriven.

March 7, 1888 - meeting at 2:00 P.M. - all present
Marr objected to minutes of previous meeting saying he voted no and was recorded as not voting on Itasca County Assessor.
Bob McCabe application to change location granted.
Authorized Treasurer to draw \$30.00 per month as pay as Itasca County officer, adjustment made at end of year on percentage basis.

July 16, 1888 - met as board of equalization - adjourned sine die (??????)

July 23, 1888 - met allowed bills and adjourned till July 24 when they considered
July 24, 1888--/ M. L. Toole application for license, Patrick Casey and W. L. Wakefield as sureties - approved.
Auditor was instructed to extend tax for County purposes in full amount allowed by law , 10 mills per acre on all taxable property in Itasca County.

August 11, 1888 - Granted L. licenses to following if file bond and pay fee:-
M. L. Toole, James Sherry, Robt. McCabe, A. T. Nason.
Auditor instructed to notify all parties engaged in the Business of selling liquors in Grand Rapids that they must comply with the requirements of law relative to Bonds etc.
Resolved that the sum of \$200.00 be and the same is hereby set apart from the County Revenue Fund and to be placed to the credit of the Poor Fund and be known as the Poor Fund.

August 27, 1888 - resolution appointed Courtney A. Buell and Charles Kearney justices of the Peace in and for the Grand Rapids election district in the County of Itasca to serve till next election and till their successors qualify.

Sept. 24, 1888.

Received petition to organize tp. 55-25 as Grand Rapids Township received signed by James Bullard and 34 others. granted. 1st meeting of Grand Rapids township organization to be held October 13, 1888 at 10 A.M.

January 1, 1889 - met allowed bills . adjourned.

January 7, 1889 - met to consider some "election bills".
Chas. Kearney, judge of election at G.R., 4 days @ 3.00 per day, referred back as not chargeable to the county.
Wm. Buchanan, carrying election returns from Leighton Ranch precinct and return, 50m miles, \$5.00
A. A. McGoshen carrying election returns from Wright and Davis precinct to G.R. 64 miles, \$6.40.- no such precinct - referred back.
T. S. Heath, carrying election returns from Hartley Lake precinct to G.R. and return 80 miles, \$8.00.
Bills disallowed because returns were not received by County Auditor from parties named, further some should be charges against G.R. tp. and some not authorized.
Board selected 72 electors to serve as grand jurors and 72 to serve as petit jurors.
George W. Kiethley was appointed assessor of inorganized district in Itasca County.
On motion, properly carried the auditor was instructed not to publish financial statement-said instructions subject to opinion of county attorney.

March 18, 1889 - met and allowed bills.

July 8, 1889 - met allowed bills and on application of J. P. Sims abated penalty on real estate tax.

postponed liquor license applications of A.T.Nason, Robt. McCabe, James Sherry, and M. L. Tool until next meeting.

Levied for County purposes 10 mills per acre, for road and bridge 1 mill per acre. for general school purposes, 1 mill on each dollar of taxable valuation.

July 15, 1889. met - allowed bills - held over applications for liquor licenses then acted as board of equalization.

July 22, 1889 - met - allowed liquor licenses to,-

A. T. Nason, lot 14, Bl. 26, Chas. Kearney, John Bectfelt, -granted.

R. McCabe, lot Bl 40, A. T. Nason, L. F. Knox - granted

M. L. Tool and James Sherry held over.

July 29, 1889 - met - notified James Sherry and M. L. Tool that they must file liquor bonds at once.

August 6, 1889, allowed license to

James Sherry, - P. Casey, T. R. Foley

Paid bills, among which were

E. J. Luther, notice pf application for license - - - \$ 6.75

C. J. Hazelton

E? B. Lowell 3.00 each as commissioners per diem.

John Hennessy

August 19, 1889, met and approved liquor license for
M. L. Toole, -W. Potter, W. L. Wakefield sureties.

September ²~~10~~, 1889.- application ^{John M. Caplis} for liquor license by John McDonald for liquor license at Grand Rapids- James M. McDonald and M. L. Toole, sureties.-granted

September 10, 1889.- application ^{John M. Caplis} for liquor license for Jno. McDonough & Co. on lot 1, Sec. 27, Tp 55-25 -sureties John F. O'Connell, Wm Spencer.- granted. (LaPrairie)

October 22. 1889- met- allowed bills- and transferred \$150 to poor fund.

December 3, 1889 - met allowed few bills and per diem.

December 16, 1889. liquor license ^{to John M. Caplis} to sell in less quantities than 5 gallon in S.E. room of main floor of bldg known as Akeley House in town of Akeley in Itasca County for a period ending July 1st, 1890 was granted. sureties John P. Sims, C. C. Prindle.

January 7, 1890. full bd. present.

bill by A. T. Nason for board and care for S. Cristie, 28.50 referred back.
Selected jury panels.

Henry R. King appointed assessor for unorganized Itasca County.

gave clerk hire to Co. auditor computed on taxable valuation as provided by law
making auditor salary \$1200.00 and clerk hire \$310.80.

other salaries for Itasca County as before and Aitkin Age made official paper
for Itasca County.

granted application of Jno McDonough & Co. of Akeley, Minnesota to move place
of business from warehouse in lot 1, sec.27 - tp. 55-25 to saloon building on
Lot 7, Bl.12 in town of Akeley.

January 8, 1890. - met, allowed per diem. adjourned.(serious oversight?)

February 10, 1890. - allowed bills. License to M. L. Tool to sell liquor in S.W.
room, lower floor of Hotel Building owned by Grace K. Frazer on Lot 1 & 2 of Bl.5
town of Akeley.

H. R. King's compensation for assessing unorganized Itasca County for 1890 set
at \$400.00.

Judge of Probate salary for Itasca County set at \$250.00

February 24, 1890.-met-present Hennessy, Hazelton.-

Liquor license granted to Dan'l Smith & John F. O'Connell as Smith and O'Connell,
sureties,-J. Kennedy and Clark Clay.

petition of Itasca citizens praying County Commissioners to purchase jail cells for
Itasca County held over.

March 10, 1890. Liquor license granted to S. S. McMahon in Akeley, A. P. Dodge and
Patrick McKeon sureties.

no action on T. R. Foley application for abatement of taxes on certain lands.

April 1, 1890. Liquor license application of James J. Flynn held over.

April 7, 1890.- granted liquor license to James J. Flynn, lot 7, Bl. 6 - Akeley
liquor license granted to Dominick McGuire & C. P. McGuire to sell liquor on
lot 12, Block 5, Akeley.

May 6, 1890. Apetition relative to the incorporation of certain lands in Sec. 23,
26 and 27 in Town 55-25 as the village of LaPrairie was presented and read.

John Beckfeld entered protest against granting of said petition on the grounds
that there were not 175 actual residents in the territory described. Action on
said petition was on a motion carried, deferred until May 19, 1890.

Apetition relative to the incorporation of Grand Rapids as a village was read
and on motion carried, was referred back.

May 19, 1890. - Considered a petition for incorporation of La Prairie as additional
evidence was presented as to number of residents residing upon said lands.

By reason of a writ of injunction, Robt. McCabe et al VS E. B. Lowell et al being
served upon the Board no further action was taken upon said petition.

Received petition of lands to be included for Commissioners to

ppp/4/4p4

May 19 continued - 1890.

Received petition with description of lands to be included, for Commissioners to set a time and place for an election for citizens included in area to vote on question of having an organized village of Grand Rapids and asking County Commissioners to set time and place for such election. This petition granted and to be at school house on June 28th, 1890. (the last paragraph is a quote from the record. No record of this scheduled meeting and election to be found.)

Inspectors of election to be - E. R. Lewis, George W. Keithley, Courtney A. Buell.

June 10, 1890. met, allowed bills, adjourned.

June 23, 1890. - all present.

Application for liquor license by James E. Manes to sell at "Pokegama Falls, 55-26 - granted. allowed a few routine bills.

July 14, 1890. all present. Allowed bills to H.R. King, assessor and to sheriff Markham. Meeting adjourned until next day.

July 15, 1890. liquor license to Johnson Brothers, Grand Rapids, granted.

levied 10 mills per acre for County purposes in Itasca County.

levied 1 mill per acre for road and bridge.

abatement of taxes granted to C. H. Warren in Woodland add. to Grand Rapids.

(note - no notice of levy for school but the once)

July 28, 1890.- Liquor license to J. W. Faulk, lot 12, Blk.9, Clarkson's plat of Akeley, tp. of Grand Rapids, Itasca County.- granted.

July 21, 1890. (appears in book after July 28th record.)

board of equalization action.-fixed value of all lands from which pine was cut at \$1.00 per acre.

September 22, 1890. allowed bills. Petition for incorporation of Grand Rapids presented and on advise of County Attorney was referred back.

October 3, 1890. all present - Bill of Geo. E. Clark for services with team in inquest on body of Charles Laundry for \$4.00 held over.

Petition for incorporation of LaPrairie presented-writ of injunction served on Commissioners.

October 18, 1890.- Present Chairman Hennessy, being nonquorum present, meeting declared adjourned.

November 10, 1890. - Petition for incorporation of LaPrairie. On motion, carried, petition was granted.

On motion, carried, the action of the Board in regard to incorporation of said lands in village of LaPrairie was reconsidered and further action postponed until November 14, 1890. at 3:00 o'clock P.M.

A. G. Bernard, Editor and Publisher of the LaPrairie Magnet made application to the Board to cause said newspaper to be designated as the official paper for Itasca County. Referred to County attorney for opinion. Adjourned till 3:00 P.M. same date. SAME DATE - 3:00 P.M. - (no record of any action)

November 14, 1890. 3:00 P.M.

Met and since petition for incorporation of LaPrairie had been held up by Writ of Injunction, Board had asked County Attorney if they would be held in contempt of court in acting on the petition, and on his advise proceeded and granted the petition.

Set election for LaPrairie incorporation as Dec. 22, 1890 at C. A. Buell's Hall. in township of Grand Rapids as the place. Inspectors of election, - S.E. Boots, C. A. Buell, Dan'l Smith.

January 6, 1890. A. G. Bernard made application to have LaPrairie Magnet made official paper for Itasca County for 1891.

Freeman E. Krech, Aitkin Age, made application to have that paper designated as official paper for Itasca County.

Action deferred till January 17, 1891.

Liquor licenseto Clark Smith, Lot 2, Blk. 18, town of Grand Rapids.

M. L. Toole and C. B. Waite, sureties.

Co. Auditors salary set at \$1200.00

Co. Att'y " " " 600.00

Judge Probate " " " 250.00

Adjourned till January 8th, 1891.

January 8, 1891. Juror slate made up. Deferred appointment of unorganized Itasca County assessor until next meeting.

\$50.00 placed in incidental fund for postage etc.

Petition received from citizens and taxpayers asking taxes be cut and debt be held down declaring "the continued increase of taxes and debt of Aitkin and Itasca county is becoming a burden too great to be borne and we look to you as the guardians for relief". signed by W. B. Marr and 37 others.- action on deferred until January 17, 1891.

The request of C. P. DeLaittre to Board to fix compensation for services rendered as County Supt. of Schools was held over.

January 17, 1891. present Hennessy and Spencer.

By unanimous vote designation of official paper for Itasca County for publication of list of delinquent taxes was granted to the La Prairie Magnet.

Liquor licenseto

Toole and O'Connell, G.R. - lot 22, Block 19

James McNally, W. 25 feet of Blk. 40 G.R.

John McDonald, lot 9, Blk. 18, G.R.

Chas. Kearney, lot 14, Blk. 26, G.R.

In matter of petition of citizens and taxpayers of Aitkin and Itasca county held over from former meeting, action was indefinitely postponed.

Resolved that the salary of Supt. of Schools for Itasca County be and is hereby fixed in the sum of \$75.00 for the year 1891.

Feb. 26, 1891. present Hennessy and Spencer. Bills incurred by reason of District Co court from April 1, 1889 to Feb. 26, 1891, total was \$7014.70, said expense apportioned as follows:-

Itasca County - - \$4921.35

Aitkin County - - 2093.35

that the sum of \$1580 had been paid to Aitkin Co. by Itasca County and that there was now due and owing to said Aitkin County \$3341.50 and auditor instructed to issue county revenue order for the amount.

Notified all persons engaged in liquor traffic, who have not taken licences, to do so as required by law or close their place of business.

March 24, 1891. Allowed some bills. Adjourned till April 13 at 2 o'clock
P. M.

April 13, 1891 - Divided court expense from February 26 to April 4 1891 thus:

Itasca County - - - - - \$118.94

Aitkin County - - - - - 48.79

This based on assessed valuations which were as follows for year 1890:

Aitkin County - - - - - \$ 572270.00

Itasca County - - - - - 1903643.00

This is the last recorded action of the Aitkin county board of county
commissioners operating as authorities in Itasca county affairs.

ITASKA COUNTY

COMMISSIONERS

RECORDS

AP
30

(No date)
Grand Rapids
Itaska County, Minn.
County Commissioners Meeting.

Present William Wakefield and Allen T. Nason. Absent Patrick Casey.

On motion of Allan T. Nason William Wakefield was elected chairman.
On motion of Allen T. Nason the board adjourned untill July the 28th, 1887,
Thursday.

William L. Wakefield
Chairman

- - - - -

August 26/87.

Pursuant to notice the commissioners of Itaska county held a meeting.
Present Allen T. Nason and Patrick Casey. Absent William Wakefield. On
motion of Patrick Casey Allen T. Nason be elected chairman.

On motion Patrick Casey that the sum of \$2809.22 Two thousand eight
hundred and nine and 22/100 dollars be assessed for road and bridge pur-
poses for the ensuing year. Carried.

Allen T. Nason
Chairman
Patrick Casey

Meeting adjourned.

Allen T. Nason
Chairman

- - - - -

Contract made with Sidney McDonald for road work.

Itasca County Minnesota

Contract entered into this Seventeenth day of September A. D. 1887,
between Sidney McDonald and the Commissioners of Itasca Co. Said party
of the first part agrees for the hereinafter mentioned consideration to
open a wagon road between the Village of Grand Rapids and the U. S. Gov-
ernment Dam at Pokegama Falls, cutting and grubbing out the trees and brush
where found to a uniform width of thirty-three feet (33) bridging all water
ways with sufficient stringers of logs and covering same with poles, slotted
down, of which dimension shall not be less than six inches and not less than
fourteen ft. in length. Shall grade all hillocks and knolls, and make the
road passible and safe at all season. And complete the same on or before
Oct. 15/1887. Said road to be made satisfactory to and to be inspected by
said commissioners before acceptance. And the party of the second part
agrees with the said party of the first part on the completion of said con-
tract and the faithful fulfillment thereof to pay him out of the current
road and bridge fund of said County of Itasca, raised and appropriated for

such purposes Two hundred and Fifty dollars \$250.00.

Signed this Seventeenth day of September A. D. 1887.

Sidney McDonald

Commissioners A. T. Nason
Patrick Casey
A True Copy. Attest
C. H. Duggin

Grand Rapids, Itasca Co.
Sep. 21, 1887.

Commissioners met at W. Potter & Co. Store, 2 o'clock P. M. Present
Commiss. Patrick Casey and Allen T. Nason.

The following petition presented by C. W. Duggin.

Grand Rapids, Sep. 20, 1887

To the honorable board of county Commissioners in and for the county
of Itasca, Greeting.

We the undersigned citizens and taxpayers of Township 55, Range 25
in said County of Itasca do hereby petition your honorable body to create
a School District in said Town, and this will ever pray.

John Beckfelt
R. McCabe
Chris Burns
Robert Glass
Herbert G. Tucker

P. C. Collett
C. C. Duggin
James Sherry
Sidney McDonald
C. D. Lyon

Al Tony

Foregoing petition ordered spread on records of commissioners and
ordered that said Township 55 Range 25 be created into a School District,
and notices posted for a special school election.

Signed Patrick Casey
A. T. Nason

Pursuant to above order C. H. Duggin was authorized to post notices
for special School Meeting as follows, at Post Office Grand Rapids, W.
Potter & Co. Store, W. E. Neals, Neals Landing, as follows.

"Special School Meeting."

A special school meeting is called of all those qualified to vote under
the General School law in Township 55 Range 25 Itasca County. At the Post
Office in Grand Rapids in said county, Saturday, Oct. 1, 1887, at 7 o'clock
P. M. for the following purpose, to wit, To choose a moderator and clerk
pro tem. To elect a Director, Treasurer and Clerk. To raise money for

School purposes. And for the transaction of any business that may properly come before said meeting.

Per order

County Commissioners A. T. Nason
Itasca County Patrick Casey
Grand Rapids, Itasca County
Sep. 21, 1887

Attest C. C. Duggin

Grand Rapids, Oct. 25, 1887

Order No. 1 Issued to Sidney McDonald on the Treas. of Aitkin and Itasca Counties to pay him \$250.00 for road and bridge work done on road between Pokegama Falls and Grand Rapids prior to Oct. 15, 1887 per contract.

Order No. 2. P. J. Sims, \$750.00 for work between Grand Rapids and Trout Lake.

Special Meeting of Co. Commissioners
Grand Rapids, Minn., Oct 25/87.

The following resolution was ordered spread on records, being adopted unanimously.

Resolved, That all that portion of Itasca County not included in School Dist. No. (1) one of said county be, and the same is hereby attached to said School District No. one (1) for school purposes.

Commissioners A. T. Nason
Itasca Co. Patrick Casey

Grand Rapids, July 28th, 1888.

No. 3 Order issued to A. T. Nason for inspecting road work on roads from Grand Rapids to Pokegama Dam, and from Grand Rapids to Trout Lake fifteen (15) days, Aug., Sept., Oct. 1887. Forty-five Dollars (\$45.00)

Commissioners A. T. Nason
Of Itasca Co. Courtney A. Buell

(There was another name signed between that of A. T. Nason and Courtney A. Buell which was scratched out.)

Order No. 4. To Chas. Morgan for One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) issued for road work on state road.

Commissioners of Itasca Co. (Most of the minutes for these meetings were signed, but there were no signatures here.)

Special Meeting of Co. Commissioners of Itasca Co., May 29, 1889.

L. F. Knox, C. A. Buell, Present.

Petition of Charles Kearney & 28 other citizens of Itasca Co. praying the Co. Comm. to cause to be constructed a wagon bridge across the Miss. River at Grand Rapids. Petition ordered filed, & C. A. Buell appointed a com. of one to go to Aitkin and confer with bridge men and others in regard to plans and specifications.

The board suggested Miss Jessie Pelley to draft copies of the profile of river.

Commissioners L. F. Knox
of Itasca Co. C. A. Buell

Special Meeting June 27.

Present A. T. Nason, C. A. Buell. Bids rendered by A. Y. Bayne & Co. to build bridge across Miss. River for \$4350.00

Accepted and contract signed and filed. Bids & plans filed.

A. T. Nason
C. A. Buell

Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Itasca Co., July 26, 1889

Present A. T. Nason, L. F. Knox, C. A. Buell.

Miss Jessie Pelley Bill presented for drawing copies of profile of Miss River, \$4.00. Allowed. C. A. Buell bill, expenses and mileage to Aitkin on Bridge business allowed, \$22.25.

A. T. Nason, 3 day	\$6.00
L. F. Knox, 3 day	6.00
C. A. Buell, 3 day	6.00

Order given to John Beckfelt for school funds No. 5, \$1270.26

A. T. Nason
L. F. Knox
C. A. Buell

No. 7 Orders Issued	Jessie Pelley	\$4.00
No. 8 "	L. F. Knox	6.00
No. 9 "	A. T. Nason	6.00
No. 10 "	C. A. Buell	28.25

Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Itasca Co., Nov. 8th, 1889

Present, A. T. Nason, L. F. Knox, C. A. Buell.

Bill of W. V. Fuller for labor building approaches to the Co. Bridge across the Mississippi River at Grand Rapids.

Alec - - - - -	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ days - - -	\$15.00
Ole - - - - -	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ days - - -	7.00
W. V. Fuller -	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ days - - -	15.00
John Beckfelt & team	-1 $\frac{1}{2}$ days-	6.00
Kearney & Nason - - -	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ days	14.00
L. F. Knox - - -	1 day - - - - -	4.00
		<u>\$61.00</u>

Ordered paid.

Bill Geo. W. Knox for a road scraper - - - - -	\$42.50
Spr. Frgt. - - - - -	1.50
	<u>\$44.00</u>

Ordered paid.

A petition was presented of 34 citizens of county for a highway commencing at Leland Avenue in the Village of Grand Rapids and extending in a line as direct as is practicable to Prairie Lake. Moved and carried to authorize the Deputy Co. Surveyor to survey a route in conformity to above petition.

Moved and carried to authorize the Deputy County Surveyor to survey a line for a proposed highway from Pokegama Falls through the Village of Grand Rapids and the Village of Akely to Blackberry Brook.

Adjourned.

A. T. Nason
L. F. Knox
C. A. Buell.

Meeting of the County Board of Itasca County, Minn., Feb. 6th, 1890
Present: A. T. Nason, L. F. Knox, C. A. Buell.

The Board report favorable to the proposed road from the end of Leland Avenue, Grand Rapids, to Prairie Lake, described as follows, and order the same opened as a county road.

Original petition attached.

To the County Commissioners of Itasca Co.

We the undersigned residents of the County of Itasca do respectfully solicit that you order a bridge to be built across the Mississippi River at the end of the state road on Leland Avenue, the plan and cost of said bridge to be decided on by your board.

Charles Kearney	W. V. Fuller	Clark Clay
John Beckfelt	Robt. McCabe	C. D. Lyon
E. W. Fuller	G. W. Keithly	A. Hardison
Thomas Trainor	Geo. Edwards	Jack Murphy
Jack Nelson	Chas. J. Birch	O. Graham
Andrew McLoud	M. Jordan	James McNally
Thomas Smith	M. L. Toole	Wm. Napr (Naprs?)
T. E. Denson	Hugh Breckenridge	Rob. Russell
William Martin	M. Guittar	C. E. C. Smith (?)
W. D. Leeman	G. W. Clark	Hank Ketchim
Ira B. Strout	Duncan Harris	Jas. Grady
A. M. Johnson	M. A. Woods	E. N. Lewis
F. H. Bell	Dave Edwards	Wm. Nielson

The following Bills were presented and paid:

L. F. Knox	J. McDonald - - - - -	\$2.00
	Chas Kehl - - - - -	3.00
	J. Paterson - - - - -	5.00
	W. V. Fuller - - - - -	2.00
	A. Grant, Lbr. - - - - -	16.36
	2½ days self - - - - -	7.50
	2 days board meeting - - - - -	6.00
		<u>\$41.86</u>
A. T. Nason	On road 2½ days - - - - -	\$ 7.50
	Board meeting, 2 days - - - - -	6.00
		<u>\$13.50</u>
C. A. Buell	On road 1½ days - - - - -	\$ 4.50
	Board meetings - - - - -	6.00
		<u>\$10.50</u>

Moved Buell's Bill allowed. Carried. Moved A. T. Nason bill be allowed. Carried. L. F. Knox bill on motion allowed. Orders drawn for the above bills.

A. T. Nason
L. F. Knox
C. A. Buell

Special Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners Feb. 15th, 1890.

Present, A. T. Nason, L. F. Knox, C. A. Buell

A. Y. Bayne & Co. presented bill for first bill due in payment for bridge at Grand Rapids.

Two orders drawn on the county treasury each for Five hundred dollars, and delivered to McLean, p. order of A. Y. Bayne & Co.

A. T. Nason
L. F. Knox
C. A. Buell

Special Meeting of the County Commissioners of Itasca Co.

Present L. F. Knox, C. A. Buell. Inspected the bridge across the Miss. River and found it according to contract. An order from A. Y. Bayne & Co. received and accepted.

	Amt. due according	\$3350.00
	Amt. due approach	50.00
	Amt. due	<u>\$3400.00</u>
Order paid, and orders paid.	3 orders, each	\$1000.00
	1 order	400.00

L. F. Knox
C. A. Buell

* * -----

Special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Itasca Co., Minn
March 24th, 1890

Present A. T. Nason, L. F. Knox, C. A. Buell.

Petition presented for a road starting from Bass Brook running in a south-easterly direction near Pokegama Falls, through Grand Rapids, La Prairie, crossing Prairie River and ending near the mouth of Blackberry Brook. Petition of Charles Kearney, John Beckfelt and others. Petition filed and road ordered viewed.

A. T. Nason
L. F. Knox
C. A. Buell

Original petition attached.

To the County Commissioners of Itasca County.

We the undersigned inhabitants of Itasca County do solicit that you have a county road surveyed and built, starting from the mouth of Bass Brook or near there, running thence south easterly by Pokegama Fall, thence by the most passable route to 3rd Street N. in the Townsite of Grand Rapids, along said street to La Prairie thence to Prairie River near N. N. Bridge and on to Blackberry Brook, the exact location to be determined on by the County Commissioners and the County Surveyor.

Charles Kearney
John Beckfelt
Harry Sheils
Charles H. Sileg
A. A. Chase
Geo. Lothrop
B. G. Sims
James McNally

W. E. Neal
Wm. Winn
B. C. Finnegan
Am M. Elmslie
M. A. Woods
James Sherry
F. A. Clarkson
George W. Clark

A. O. Wilder
J. R. Marshall
C. C. Miller
F. S. Churchill
E. W. Fuller
L. Sawyer
J. A. Jackson
Dan Smith

Chas. E. Leeman

Pat Vaughn

Grand Rapids, May 14th, 1890.

A special meeting of the board of County Commissioners of Itasca County.
Present, A. T. Nason, L. F. Knox, C. S. Buell.

The report of the Deputy County Commissions E. R. Lewis of the survey of county road from Grand Rapids to Prairie Lake presented, to wit:

Minutes of a survey for a public highway made this 12th day of November A. D. 1890 by order of the County Commissioners of Itasca County, Minn.

Commencing at a stake on line between section sixteen (16) and Twenty-one (21) Twenty chains east of corner of section sixteen (16) & seventeen (17) twenty (20) and twenty-one (21) town 55 W 25 W. from thence north twenty-five chains and fifty (50) links to angle corner (stake) thence north $11^{\circ} 30'$, West five (5) chains to corner (stake).

Thence North $51^{\circ} 30'$ W nine (9) ch. to ang. cor. (stake)
Thence North $43^{\circ} 30'$ W ten (10) fifty-five (55) links to $1/4$ sec. post between sec. sixteen (16) & seventeen (17)
Thence North on line between sections sixteen & seventeen (16 & 17) twenty-three chains to stake on W. chain south of lake.

Thence east seven (7) chains $\frac{1}{2}$ & fifty (50) links to angle cor.
Thence N. 42° east three (3) chains to angle corner (stake).
Thence N. $18^{\circ} 50'$ E. five (5) ch. 21 l. to ang. cor.
Thence N. 53° E twelve (12) ch. 50 l. to ang. cor.
Thence N. 25° E two (2) ch 94 l. to sec. L. between Sec. sixteen (16) and nine (9) fifty links east of meander cor. on lake.
The same course fifty-six (56) L. to ang. Cor.
Thence N. $7^{\circ} 30'$ east two (2) ch. 50 links to ang. cor.
Thence N. 30° west two chains 50 links to ang. cor.
Thence N. $39^{\circ} 30'$ west six (6) ch and 50 l. to ang. cor.

Thence N. $49^{\circ} 30'$ west eleven (11) ch. 50 L. to ang. cor.
 Thence N. 41° west six (6) ch. 50 L. to ang. cor.
 Thence N. $47^{\circ} 30'$ west 5 ch. 15 L. to stakes on line between Section 8 and 9 - 65 links. north of Meander post on lake.
 Thence N. on line between sec. 8 & 9 fifteen ch. 17 links to $1/4$ sec. post.

Thence same course forty (40) ch. to $1/4$ sec. post.
 Thence same course thirty-eight (38) ch. 50 links to cor. of sections four (4) and five (5) on north boundary of Tp. 55-25 N 4th P. M.

Thence same course on line between Secs. Thirty-two and thirty-three (32 & 33) town fifty-six, Range twenty-five W. forty (40) ch. to $1/4$ sec. post.

Thence same course forty (40) ch. to cor of sec. 28-29, 32 & 33.

Thence north on line between Sec. 28 & 29 twenty-two (22) ch. to stake on bank of Prairie Lake.

Also commencing on corner of Section, secs. 28, 29, 32 & 33

Thence West on line between 32 & 29 20 ch to stakes on Bigfork road.

Mag. bearing $8^{\circ} 30' //$.

Duly certified by E. R. Lewis
 Depty. Surveyor.

Minutes of a survey for a public highway made this day of April 1890, by order of the County Commissioners of Itasca Co., Minn.

Commencing at a stake on the east bank of Bass Brook N. 10° E of center of Ry. survey 1 ch. 10 links and 75 links east of Brook, the same being in sec ten (10) Town 55 N Range 26.

Thence South 64° E. 20 ch. to stake No. 1
 Thence same course 20 Ch. to stake No. 2
 Thence same course 20 ch. to stake no. 3.
 Thence same course 20 ch. to stake no. 4.
 Thence same course 20 ch. to stake no. 5
 Thence same course 20 ch. to stake no. 6
 Thence same course 20 ch. to stake no. 7.
 Thence South 10° W. 2 ch. 51 links a course by right of way opposite Pokegama Falls.
 Thence South 50° E 20 ch to stake no. 8
 Thence South 50° E 20 ch. to stake no. 9.
 Thence south 50° E. 2 ch 84 L. to line between townships 55 N. R. 25 W. and 55 N. & 26 W. 15 ch & 15 links N. meander post on bank of Mississippi river.
 Thence South 50° E 17 ch 16 L to stake No. 10
 Thence same course 20 ch to stake no 11.
 Thence same course 20 ch to stake no 12
 Thence same course 14 ch 55 links to ang. corner.
 Thence S 58° E 5 ch 45 links to stake No. 13
 Thence s. 66° E. 10 ch 45 links to ang. cor.
 Thence S. 72° E 10 ch to stake No. 14.
 Thence S. 75° E 10 ch to ang. cor.

Thence S 81° E 10 ch. to stake no. 15.
 Thence East 20 chains to stake no. 16.
 Thence East 20 chains to stake no. 17.
 Thence same course 2 chains 83 links intersecting Grand Rapids townsite seven feet north of center of 3rd St.
 Thence east along center of 3rd St. 20 ch. to line bet. secs. 20 & 21.
 Thence same course 20 ch. to Leland Ave.
 Thence same course 20 ch. to $1/4$ sec. line.
 Thence same course 20 ch. to $1/8$ sec. line.
 Thence south on said line 6 ch. 54 links to stake 133 ft. north of center of right of way.
 Thence south $64\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ E. 10 ch to stake no. 1
 Thence same course 10 ch. to stake no. 2
 Thence same course 1 ch. 89 links to section line intersected 60 links north of $1/4$ sec. post between section 21 & 22 - 55-25.
 Thence same course 8 ch. 11 links to stake no. 3
 Thence same course 10 ch. to stake no. 4
 Thence same course 10 ch. to stake no. 5
 Thence same course 10 ch. to stake no. 6
 Thence same course 10 ch. to stake no. 7
 Thence same course 10 ch. to stake no. 8
 Thence south 75° 4 ch. to center Russel Avenue in La Prairie Townsite
 Thence east on said avenue 5 ch. 15 l. to center of River St.
 Thence south on River St. 11 ch. 51 links to center Manson Ave.
 Thence east on Manson Ave. 5 ch. 76 links to center of Fisher St.
 Thence south on Fisher St. 5 ch. 76 links to center of Smith Ave.
 Thence east on Smith Ave. 11 ch. 51 links to center of 2nd St.
 Thence south on Second St. 5 ch. 76 links to center of Shaw Ave.
 Thence east on Shaw Ave. 11 ch. 51 links to center of Fourth St.
 Thence south on Fourth St. 5 ch. 76 links to center of Duluth Ave.
 Thence east on Duluth Ave. 11 ch. 51 links
 Thence East 6 ch. 36 links to stake.
 Thence South 76° E. 9 ch. 95 links to stake
 Thence South 10° W. 3 ch. to bank of Prairie River
 Thence South 10° west 2 ch. 42 links to stake on south bank of river.

Duly certified by
 E. R. Lewis
 Deputy Co. Surveyor.

Reports of E. R. Lewis accepted and ordered recorded.

Notices fixing Monday the 26th day of May 1890 for the board to meet to receive bids for opening said roads from between Pokegama Falls & Prairie River and between Grand Rapids & McKinney Lake ordered posted in three conspicuous places on line of said roads.

Notices fixing the date June 21st 1890 for receiving bids for the construction of a combination wood and iron bridge across Prairie River below the ~~the~~ D. & W. Ry. Bridge, and fixing the Fraser House, La Prairie as the place of said meeting ordered published and posted in three conspicuous places.

Bill of E. R. Lewis, Deputy Surveyor, ordered as follows:

To 9 days surveying at \$4.00 per day	\$36.00
To E. L. Lewis, 3 days at \$2.00	6.00
Allowed	<u>\$42.00</u>

Allowed and ordered paid.

Bill of A.T. Nason

To self, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ days on road @ \$3.00	\$13.50
To Douglass, 3 days	6.00
Jo Johnson, 1/2 day	1.00
Henry Hart, 1/2 day	1.00
3 days attendance board	9.00
Allowed	<u>\$30.50</u>

Bill L. F. Knox

To 648 ft. lumber \$17.50	\$13.34
1 padlock	.50
1 chain	1.00
5 days on road	15.00
4 days on board	12.00
Allowed	<u>\$41.84</u>

C. A. Buell bill

4 $\frac{1}{2}$ days on road	\$13.50
4 days att. on board	12.00
Mileage, 4 days, 40¢ each	1.60
Allowed	<u>\$27.10</u>

Woods & Dailey

Bill C. N. Nelson L. Co.

for Lumber	\$196.43
Less Freight	6.30
	<u>\$190.13</u>
1st pmt. on bridge	309.87
Allowed	<u>\$500.00</u>

A. T. Nason
L. F. Knox
C. A. Buell

May 26th, 1890

Board met as per notices. Bids received for road from Grand Rapids Townsite to La Prairie to G. W. Keithley from stake one (1) to nine (9) for Two Hundred and Twenty-five dollars (\$225.00).

Road contract made with E. Tully from Platt of Grand Rapids to sec. line between 8 & 9, for \$350.00

Road between Grand Rapids & Pokegama Falls to Charles Kearney & G. W. Keithley for \$1000.00

Bridge across Elk River on Prairie Lake road to Woods & Dailey for \$875.00.

C. A. Buell

To the County Commissioners of Itasca County.

We the undersigned inhabitants of Itasca Co. do solicit that you have a road surveyed and made in as direct and passable a course as possible, to start from the end of the bridge on Leland Avenue, Grand Rapids, thence to Pokegama Lake. The route to be determined on by the County Commissioners.

Charles Kearney
John Beckfelt
Harry Sheils
Charles H. Seley
A. A. Chase
Geo. Lothrop
B. F. Sims
James McNally

W. E. Neal
Wm. Winn
B. C. Finnegan
M. R. Woods
Hank Gale
Ulrique Collett
Frank Howard
Matt Kearney
Duncan Harris

L. S. Card
Robt. McCabe
John McDonald
Anthony McAlpine
Alfred Keniston
R. J. Breckenridge
G. W. Keithly
Amos Forsyth

Grand Rapids, Minn., May 29th, 1890

Meeting of the County Commissioners of Itasca County, Minn. Present
A. T. Nason and L. F. Knox.

It was ordered that the order be drawn to Woods & Dailey in full payment for Elk River Bridge after said bridge had been duly accepted as per contract made with said Woods & Dailey.

Order # 29	\$300.00
Order #30	218.70
Order # 31	200.00
Order # 32	200.00
Order #33	200.00

A petition for a wagon road beginning at the bridge at Leland Avenue in Grand Rapids running thence to Pokegama Lake on the most feasible route duly signed was presented by Chas Kearney.

On motion the same was duly authorized to be layed out and the surveyor ordered to proceed at once in said work. A petition for a road to be layed out between La Prairie and what is known as the Diamond Iron Mine was presented by C. A. Buell and the same was ordered layed over till next meeting.

No other business to be transacted the meeting was adjourned sine die.

A. T. Nason
L. F. Knox
C. A. Buell

Grand Rapids, June 21st, 1890.

In pursuance to notice the Board of County Commissioners of Itasca County met at the Fraser house La Prairie at 9 o'clock A. M. to receive bids for the construction of a combination wood and iron bridge to cross Prairie River below the Ry. bridge. Present, A. T. Nason, L. F. Knox, and C. A. Buell.

Bids rec'd. from

A. Y. Bayne & Co.	\$1600.00
Woods & Daley	2200.00
Chas Kearney	1500.00
S. M. Hewitt	22.50.00

Board without action adjourned until 2,30 P. M. to L. F. Knox store Grand Rapids.

Grand Rapids, 2,30 P. M. Meeting called according to adjournment. All bids rejected. A. Y. Bayne plans & specifications adopted and meeting called at the Fraser House La Prairie, Wednesday July 2nd at 8,30 :. M. to receive sealed bids on the same and notices ordered posted.

Order given to Woods & Daily for bridge across Elk River on Prairie River Road

	34	\$400.00
	35	\$200.00
	36	\$275.00
Order	37	
	C. A. Buell	
	Att. Bd. & Mileage	\$6.80

Adjourned.

A. T. Nason
C. A. Buell
L. F. Knox

Grand Rapids, June 25, 1890.

At a meeting of the county commissioners, present A. T. Nason, Chairman, L. F. Knox.

A petition for a wagon road starting from meander post on east shore of McKinney lake between Sections 9 & 16, thence in a northeasterly course to what is known as Prairie River Falls. Thence in the most practical and direct route to Iron mines situate in Section 22, Town 55 of N. W., W. of 4th P. M. was presented by Charles McGregor, duly signed. On motion the same was ordered to be surveyed and layed out, and the county surveyor ordered to proceed to survey such road at once.

Meeting adjourned sine die.

A. T. Nason
L. F. Knox

To the Board of County Commissioners of Itasca County, Minn.

We the undersigned actual settlers of Itasca County petition you to lay out and establish a highway commencing near meander post between Section 9 and 16 on east shore of McKinney Lake, thence in a northeasterly course to the foot what being known as lower Prairie River falls being located in Section 34, T. 56, R. 25, thence the most practical & direct route to Section 22 in Township 56, Range 24 W.

Charles McGregor, Diamond mine.
 Morris W. Hostetter, Diamond mine.
 Joshua Murray, Diamond mine.
 James Bullard, Diamond mine.
 Saml. Goodman, Diamond mine.
 Richard Roberts, Diamond mine.
 James Jackman, Diamond mine.
 William Thomas, Diamond mine.
 W. Lamson, Diamond mine.
 Swan Balkenhouse, Diamond mine.
 Jens J. Seltun, Diamond mine.
 Joseph Deurin, Diamond mine.
 Olai J. Seltun, Diamond mine.
 Charley L. Carlson, Diamond mine.
 Pat Vaughen, Diamond mine.
 Louies St. Julien, Diamond mine.
 Charles Kearney, Grand Rapids

Andrew Pederson, Diamond mine.
 Nils O. Gorden, Diamond mine.
 (Thos.?) A. Howie, " "
 Harmon Lee, Diamond mine
 D. N. Nelson, La Prairie
 Emil Anderson, Diamond mine
 Bemijam Conners, Diamond mine
 E. P. Lewis, Grand Rapids
 Fred Collett, Grand Rapids
 M. S. Lillibridge, North Star Mining
 Chas. Sawyer, Duluth, Minn.
 Jno. Gillieson, Grand Rapids
 Geo. A. Fay, N. S. I. Co.
 A. J. Foley, N. S. I. Co.
 Dan Pratt, N. S. I. Co.
 H. R. Dunn, N. S. I. Co.
 John Dowd, N. S. I. Co.
 Robert Glass, Grand Rapids.

At a meeting of the Commissioners of Itasca County, Minn, July 30th, 1890, Present, A. T. Nason, Chairman, L. F. Knox, C. A. Buell.

Bill, John Johnson for work on McKinney Lake road approaches. Allowed and order issued, No. 39 ~~178.00~~ 35.00

E. Tully work on McKinney Lake Road accepted and orders issued for payment of same, according to contract

No. 40	\$78.00
No. 41	68.00
No. 42	68.00
No. 43	68.00
No. 44	68.00

L. F. Knox, C. A. Buell

At an adjourned meeting at the Fraser House July 2nd 1890 to receive for the construction of a bridge across ~~the~~ Prairie River, bids were received from

A. Y. Banye & Co.	\$1347.00
S. M. Hewitt	1287.00
Charles Kearney	1500.00

The bid of S. M. Hewitt was received & contract awarded according to plans filed, and contract filed.

L. F. Knox, C. A. Buell.

Grand Rapids, August 14th, 1890.

Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Itasca Co. held at Knox Store. Present, A. T. Nason, L. F. Knox, C. A. Buell.

Petition of county road here annexed taken up, and same ordered surveyed from Sec. cor. between secs. 22, 23 & 26 & 27, Town 55, Range 25, to some point near the lower falls on Prairie River to intersect with road at that place, and the county surveyor ordered to proceed with such work.

Orders Issued;

No. 45 Mike Donovan	\$ 18.25
No. 46 A. McIntosh	18.35
No. 47 John (Mumy?)	18.25
No. 48 E. R. Lewis	77.50
No. 49 Charles Kearney	200.00
No. 50 Charles Kearney	200.00
No. 51 Charles Kearney	600.00
No. 52 A. T. Nason	50.00
No. 53 John Cosgrove	13.37
No. 54 C. A. Buell	15.00
No. 55 E. R. Lewis	40.00
No. 56 E. R. Lewis	40.00
No. 57 John Beckfelt	1531.93

A. T. Nason
C. A. Buell
L. F. Knox

Sept. 6th, 1890, Meeting of the Co. Board of Itasca County.

Meeting held in L. F. Knox store. Present, A. T. Nason, L. F. Knox C. A. Buell.

A petition of Hall & Ducey L. Co. and others presented for road from Swan River Station to Swan River Station. Acted on and ordered viewed.

The following bills allowed;

Wm. (Cublen?)	\$ 44.85
95 Wm. Baldway	49.60
94 Frank Louder	42.10
97 John Riley	47.20
Geo. Arscott	169.52
Nels Holmes	55.60
Geo. Forsyth	52.82
96 James Whalen	54.15
Frank Gleason	48.35
58 Oliver Nelson	43.47
59 Pat Ryan	17.75
60 Ray Hanson	8.75
70 Pat Varley	55.35
61 Jack Hannah	185.55
62 John North	32.35
63 James Levitt	52.13
64 Jo Jackson	56.37 $\frac{1}{2}$

65	Peter Lygraph	\$ 39.05
66	M. J. Garrity	16.50
67	John Kirby	39.90
68	Bartley Farming	85.50
69	W. J. & H. D. Powers	19.20
71	Eugene Richeleau	43.95
72	Joseph Thiffant	46.25
73	P. H. Varley	4.27
74	Sandy La Flave	45.45
75	Daniel Rodgers	76.00
76	Jos. Mayas	12.00
77	Charles Kearney	26.00
78	E. R. Lewis	32.00
79	Geo. E. Clark	10.00
80	W. Potter & Co.	14.10
81	J. H. Dunning	23.50
82	John Beckfelt	45.83
83	Charles Kearney	46.00

(Items 82 & 83 were crossed out in the original record book.)

A. T. Nason
L. F. Knox
C. A. Buell

Sept. 13th, 1890, Meeting of County Board of Itasca Co., Present, L. F. Knox, C. A. Buell. The following bills allowed

C. A. Buell Bill		
Supplies	\$ 3.55	
12 days work on road	36.00	
2 days board meeting	6.00	
91 Pd B. R. Smith T.C	5.90	\$51.45
82 John Beckfelt	45.83	
83 Charles Kearney	46.00	
84 Thos. Hoban	83.15	
85 Wells Stone Mer. Co.	340.32	
86 S. M. Hewitt & Co	500.00	
87 A Fletcher	40.55	
88 Elija Tully	21.75	
89 John Lynch	38.28	
90 L. F. Knox	321.85	
92 A. T. Nason	43.10	
93 E. L. Lewis	42.50	

A. T. Nason
L. F. Knox
C. A. Buell

Oct. 10th, 1890, Meeting of County Board held at Knox Store, Grand Rapids,
Present, A. T. Nason, L. F. Knox, C. A. Buell.

Bridge across Prairie River built by S. M. Hewitt accepted and balance
due to be paid \$787.00.

Following bills allowed;

A. E. Wilder, 17 days work	
on road	\$ 34.00
John Scott, 3½ days on road	6.75
Wells Stone Mer. Co.	28.20
Henry Richards 13 day	19.50
Wm. Dixon work on state road	100.00
John North	6.90
Charles Kearney bridge	425.00

A. T. Nason
C. A. Buell
L. F. Knox

Nov. 22nd, 1890, Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Itasca
County held in Knox Store. Present, A. T. Nason, L. F. Knox, C. A. Buell
Orders given.

Order No. 100 S. M. Hewitt	\$787.00
Order No. 101 A. E. Wilder	34.00
Order No. 102 John Scott	6.75
Order No. 103 Wells Stone Co.	28.20
Order No. 104 Henry Richards	19.50
Order No. 105 Wm. Dixon	100.00

Bills allowed;

F. W. Noble	\$ 6.00
Bill of T. J. Feely for work on Swan River road	315.00
Allowed.	

Bills John Paulson

One	16.50
One	16.25

Laid over for approval of County surveyor.

Bill Andie Hutchinson	\$ 22.15
Payable P. Mc(Kim?) & Co.	
Allowed.	

Bill Chas Kearney	\$264.95
Allowed	

Orders given;

106 T. J. Feely	\$315.00
107 P. McKim & Co.	32.52
108 Chas Kearney	264.95
109 H. B. Knudsen(John North)	6.00
110 F. W. Noble	6.00

Surveys of county road from Grand Rapids to Diamond and from La Prairie to Prairie River Falls accepted and ordered forwarded to Co. Auditor.

Survey of road to Pokegama Lake from Grand Rapids accepted and ordered recorded in Registers office.

Bill for surveying, E. R. Lewis
Allowed.

\$122.00

111 Order for Bal. \$80.00

No other business, the board adjourned.

C. A. Buell
L. F. Knox
A. T. Nason

Grand Rapids, Minn, Jan. 1st, 1891

Board of county commissioners of Itasca County met at Knox store.
Present, A. T. Nason, L. F. Knox, & C. A. Buell.

Bills;

A. T. Nason, attendance board	\$15.00
5 meetings.	
L. F. Knox, attendance board	
meetings, 5 days	\$15.00
C. A. Buell, attendance board	
five meetings	\$15.00
Oscar Mather, Lbr. for bridges	\$12.00
Bills allowed and ordered paid.	

Bill L. F. Knox for Printing	
Co. Order Books	6.35
Ordered paid.	

On motion of L. F. Knox there being no further business the board adjourned sine die.

A. T. Nason
L. F. Knox
C. A. Buell

Itasca County History.

Signers of Petition for Incorporation of Deer River, January 10, 1898.

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Angus McIntosh | 21. Joe Donietle |
| 2. G. A. Tuller | 22. Arthur Maule |
| 3. Jas. A. Quigg | 23. W. J. Govdeleile |
| 4. W. A. Everton | 24. Wm. A. Johnson |
| 5. D. D. McLennan | 25. Martin Fisher |
| 6. Jas. Everton | 26. Chas. S. Hildreth |
| 7. W. F. Sims | 27. Andy Morrissey |
| 8. George A. Eckart | 28. Lewis Crits |
| 9. Mike Flannigan | 29. M. J. Taylor |
| 10. S. M. Brandon | 30. Chas. F. Swanson |
| 11. D. C. Hason | 31. F. S. Churchill |
| 12. Wm. Lumley | 32. Chas. Barrett |
| 13. Sandy O'Hair | 33. James Bailey |
| 14. Joe Nevuex | 34. J. W. Johnson |
| 15. P. O. Boku | 35. Fisbee Balser |
| 16. H. C. Tuller | 36. Geo. F. McGraw |
| 17. L. J. Turpenning | 37. E. Nelson |
| 18. Joseph Erickson | 38. C. W. Robinson |
| 19. John McDonald | 39. W. J. Coffron |
| 20. George Martins | |

Itasca County History.

Census taken 19th day of November, 1897, within limits of proposed incorporation of Deer River.

	Age		Age
1. William J. Coffron	40	51. Mrs. John McDonald	28
2. C. W. Robinson	32	52. Ada Endberg	20
3. A. O. Lind	28	53. Thursa Sterling	18
4. J. G. Rogers	51	54. Harvey Maule	9
5. F. Baker		55. Sandy Phari	37
6. George McGraw		56. J. Goodall	30
7. James Everton	57	57. Ed Nogle	23
8. W. A. Everton	27	58. B. C. Shurtliff	50
9. D. C. Hason	24	59. Mrs. B. C. Shurtliff	41
10. Mrs. D. C. Hason	20	60. Wm. Linnley	38
11. Mrs. James Everton	54	61. Wm. Knauf	36
12. Mrs. W. A. Everton	22	62. Charles Rife	45
13. James Everton, 2nd	8	63. Charles Wright	30
14. Frank J. LaPsuit	47	64. Dolph White	33
15. Malon Avery	25	65. P. R. Brooks	28
16. Mrs. Malon Avery	17	66. Mrs. P. R. Brooks	18
17. Chas. H. Fulwood	40	67. Pete Hanson	38
18. Geo. Lindon	42	68. A. D. Brooks	55
19. W. W. Goodwin	37	69. Mrs. A. D. Brooks	50
20. William Bain	39	70. Ed Malloy	49
21. Fred L. Churchill	34	71. Baby Brooks	3 mos.
22. Mrs. Etta Churchill	24	72. George Flanders	38
23. Charles Grand	35	73. John A. McDonald	50
24. Ole Swanberg	30	74. Joe Ericson	42
25. F. O. Johnson	28	75. Andrew Sundvalt	32
26. Tom Roby	29	76. Nellie Halvorsen	16
27. Wm. Milliken	34	77. Mrs. Thomas Ralph	50
28. Joseph Milliken	30	78. Thomas W. Ralph	11
29. G. S. Boda	30	79. Harvey Ralph	8
30. R. C. Mitchell	24	80. Sanford H. Ralph	2
31. John Foleo	25	81. F. S. Cairns	4
32. Gus Stronger	28	82. Lizzie Murray	29
33. D. D. McLeman	35	83. Annie Sailor	30
34. J. V. Nelson	45	84. Cora Davis	25
35. Ezra Haley	26	85. Andy Morrissey	40
36. John Scott	30	86. P. O. Bohn	45
37. F. Drew	46	87. Annie Bohn	39
38. J. F. Sailor	33	88. Nina Bohn	16
39. Mrs. Chas. Ryan	36	89. Selma Bohn	14
40. Geo. Rancor	30	90. Oscar Bohn	11
41. Aleck Maula	34	91. Sylvanus Brandon	
42. John Erwin	32	92. H. H. Shawon	23
43. J. A. Jennings	37	93. Sam Haley	21
44. John Olson		94. J. Curo	24
45. Andrew Engstrom		95. G. Hatherington	24
46. John McDonald	35	96. Marguerite Hatherington	3
47. O. W. Ericson	35	97. John Mahoney	50
48. William Smith	33		
49. W. J. Kelly	34		
50. Tom Smith	36		

J. A. Bowman, Jr., Enumerator. Sworn to before M. J. Taylor, Town Clerk.

Article in Miss. Valley Lumberman of last week mentioned in Iron & L. Review of Sept. 23, 1893.

The article speaks of efforts of "squatters" in Itasca County trying to get assessed valuation of Pine Lands raised from \$2,500,000 to 10,000,000. Says settlers claim right to reassess lands and to go back a number of years to collect taxes. Says about a dozen county officials to be taken care of and that all, improvements are confined to one village plat and immediate vicinity. States that from this the "true shade of the operation appears". The I&L review reply states that the article is unfair as it claimed that the lumber lands were paying about an average of \$3.00 per 40 per years where the truth was far from that. If tax had been that much the county would have collected \$348,480.00 last year whereas only \$18,356.20 was collected, being about 5% of what they claimed and stating that the county needed more money to run its affairs, build its needed roads and avoid getting deeply in debt. Also mentions a letter from a G.R. man to owner of pine land asking price on a certain 40. He was quoted a price of \$850.00 and this 40 is assessed at \$50.00 and paid last year 48¢ taxes.

May 27, 1893 - I&L Review - In Itasca Co. Com. Proceedings the bdd of M. A. Woods for thorough reassessment of Itasca County accepted at \$8,000.00.

G.R. Review, Jan 4, 1896 Capt. Hasty started out for his headquarters camp this mornin He reports 800,000 out already and already on the landing.

Herald-Review - Last log drive down the Mississippi in 1918.

n

Hist. of Pioneer Lumbering on the Upper Miss. and tributaries. Daiei Stanchfield 9 - 354;356.

1st logs cut on Pokegama in 1868 by Joe Knowlton for T. B. Walker camp at S.E. side of the Lake.

W. W. Hale built first wanigan on Miss. for drives. 16 feet wide. bunks at one end ate at other end.

I&L Review, Dec. 30, 1893,- The assessment of Itasca County that has been made by Sen. Dedon during the past three months has been completed and the senator accompanied by his assistants the messrs Folsom departed for St. Paul Wed. morning. The job has been a large one and has required an infinite amount of labor. Since the middle of Sept. 30 to 40 men have been employed, estimating the value of the lands to be assessed and Sen. Dedon and clerks have been kept busy laying out the work for the woodsmen and compiling. Nothing definite will be known as to the amount of the assessment for some time but the new assessment and that already made ~~and that~~ by the county officials will probably reach \$10,000,000. The report had to be in by Jan. 1894.

I&L Rev. Oct. 21, 1893 - C. W. Wells of Saginaw, Michigan drowned in Bowstring lake. of Wells, Stone Merc. Co. of LaPrairie.

STORY OF THE TURTLE MOUND

Once the Chippewa Nation was in the Great Lakes country. They moved toward the west, always fighting the Sioux. In the very early days a band of the Chippewas reached the Lake of the Woods and the Rainy Lake region. The Sioux and the Chippewas were fighting back and forth all the time.

In this Rainy Lake band there was a young man. This young man had dreams. In these dreams he found that he was supposed to take a bunch of men and start looking for the Sioux. This young man was an orphan. His mother and father had died when he was a child.

After he got to be old enough he invited men of his tribe to a certain place. The first thing they always did when they had a meeting was to have tobacco and smoke together. After smoking the young man told the group that he had a trip to make where the Sioux were. He asked for men to volunteer to go with him. Quite a few volunteered to go with him--fifteen probably.

This young man was raised in Canada and had never been here (Winnibigoshish). He came up with this bunch of men, followed the Big Fork river. They got to where Inger is, and there they found a couple of mounds. This was according to his dream. (These mounds were where the Sioux lived. In my great-grandfather's time they lived inside of these mounds. In case of trouble they claimed it was so hard to get at the Sioux living inside these mounds.) They found two mounds, but there was no one there. When they found there was no one there, they went across the river. There, where the trail is, all footprints led west.

When they made the portage it was getting dark. The young man who was leading them told the other members of his party to go down in a ravine while he talked to the Spirit. They went down there, and the young man went into a sort of trance and called the Spirit. The

Turtle Mound - 2.

Spirit told him to make this figure of a turtle. There was a head facing west toward the enemy. The Spirit also told him to make the tracks of a giant. These head south on the west side of the turtle. These tracks are about thirty inches long, and wide in proportion. There were only about five or six of these tracks. I have seen these tracks, supposed to be those of a giant.

He was there talking to the Spirit for quite a while. After he got through, he called the members of his party up. They all sat around in a circle, around the turtle. While the party was down in the ravine and he was talking to the Spirit he made the Turtle Mound and the tracks of the giant. He said to them "There is a lake. Our enemy is not very far from here. I want about three volunteers to make this trip before daylight. There is a big body of water west of us." Three men volunteered. He told them to go in this direction (west) through a thoroughfare. (That is where Williams Narrows is today.) "When you get there it will be just coming daylight. Look to your left. You will see something white. Do not disturb that. There is a big swan there, resting. Be very careful not to disturb it. You will see woods across the ~~mountain~~ water. That is the point. If you look at the trees you will see a place that looks low. It is not really low, the trees just are not as tall as the others around there. Make for that. When you get there be very careful, do not make any noise. You will meet your enemy on that knoll."

The three volunteers went through the thoroughfare. When they came to the open water they saw something white. It was a swan resting there. They were careful not to disturb it. They headed for the low place in the trees ahead.

Turtle Mound - 3.

The Sioux were having some kind of doings. When the Chippewas pulled up there with their canoe they were careful not to make any noise. When they went up on the land they met scouts. The Sioux had scouts looking every day for enemies. They met at the peak of this knoll. They started shooting at each other, and the Chippewas put the run on the Sioux.

When the Sioux took for their canoe the Chippewas grabbed their canoe, made the portage and chased the Sioux. There were three Indians in each canoe. Two paddled, and the third one did the shooting. Before the dam was made, there used to be a big sand bar there. The Sioux made for that. The Chippewas were gaining on them. The Sioux intended to run with the canoe the length of the sand bar, and get a good start on the Chippewas. The Chippewas had wounded the Sioux who was doing the shooting, and when the Sioux canoe struck the sand bar the wounded Sioux fell out. The other two Sioux did not have time to stop and take him along. When the Chippewas came up they scalped this Sioux. This was for evidence that they had met the Sioux. They discovered that this Sioux had his fingers and toes off. They figured he must have frozen them at some time or other. That was why they named it Cut Foot Sioux lake (Ge Gesh Kee Se Tay Bom Nee Sah Ga E Gun). In the early days before this trouble the Sioux called this Net Lake (Gah Ah Sah Be Ga Maugh).

The Chippewas looked over and could see hundreds and hundreds of Sioux coming down to the water. The Chippewas saw they were outnumbered, so they turned back and reported to the head man. He decided they were too badly outnumbered, so they went back.

The Sioux and Chippewas had many battles after that at this same place. After the Sioux would get the best of the Chippewas they

Turtle Mound - 4.

would turn the head facing east. When the Chippewas won, they would turn the head facing west. From all this changing of the head of the turtle the first mound grew to be increased many times to its present size. The trouble went on and on for years. Finally, the Sioux could not defeat the Chippewas, and turn the head back. So today the head is turned to the west.

This is the story of the Turtle Mound as it was told to me by one of the old warriors.

Edward Malcolm Wilson
President of the Chippewa Indians
of Minnesota.

August 20, 1940

August 3, 1932

F. L. Vance

1900-
"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 ^{for} 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~~ ^{came} 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.

1925
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.

1902
"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 those 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. Storm has (check if still there?) large holdings of lands and beautiful summer homes. Mr. Storm 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.

★ Any particulars about this resort?

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. h

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 stuka 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 peeking 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.

Grand Rapids Herald-Review - Summer

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.

1885-90
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 1882. 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.

old mill

1882

all

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.

Grand Rapids Herald-Review - Summer

Aug. 20, 1940

Sept. 7, 1932

Banking

1894 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?)

1891^c "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 Impliment 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.

1892^g In August, 1892, W. C. Gilbert and his associates established the Iron Exchange Bank
1893^g 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

Grand Rapids Herald-Review - Summer

Aug. 20, 1940

Banking, (continued)

Sept. 7, 1932

checks for the lumberjacks. Where^m the lumberjacks would quit their work they would be given a check which was honored by their employeⁿs 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

1901
1915 "Leon M. Bolter^m 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 Bovey and Keewatin. Grand Rapids men, particularly D. M. Gunn, 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 steamboat 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.

Grand Rapids Herald-Review - Summer

Aug. 21, 1940

Aug. 28, 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 ***"

1897
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. Kremer 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."

Grand Rapids Herald-Review - Summer

Aug. 21, 1940

Oct. 5, 1932

Celebration & Parade

✓ "Grand Rapids had quite a celebration last Thursday (September 29, 1932).

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.)

tassel

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 & 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 toggged 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

c,
1880's
Beginning in the early 1880'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.

c/
1882-3
1884
"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 1882-3. The Pokegama dam was built in 1884.

"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 1883 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.

c/ 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-

1897-98

1902

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, gadwells, mergansers or shelldrakes, spoonbills, and white wing scooters. 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 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 ^{is} ~~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 ^{often only $\frac{1}{8}$} ~~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

1874 ✓
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.

1874 ✓
"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.

★ — LOHE
"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.

★ Is this Lou, or Lo, a contraction of Loren?

Mike McAlpine - (continued)

Nov. 2, 1932

1874 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.

1880 "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.

1890 "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

1875-80
 "**** 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.

1890
 "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.

-1- Duluth, Minn.
Topic: Itasca County (F.C.)
Submitted By: W. J. Hurst
Number of Words: 1,164
Edited By: W. J. Sullivan
Date: April 20, 1936

RESUME

Should the traveler place himself in the approximate geographical center of the North American Continent, he would find himself somewhere in Itasca County, Minnesota. Itasca County lies in the north-central part of Minnesota and in the central part of the "Minnesota Arrowhead Country". This county seems to run to "Centers." For many years, it was the center of logging operations; it is still a center of paper manufacture and pulpwood harvesting; 1,000 of Minnesota's 10,000 lakes are centered here; and the Scenic State Park is in the center of the county. Most of its 2,000 miles of all-weather roads converge to a center (Grand Rapids) which is also the central seat of government for the county. It is the center of a nationally known duck-pass, and is the greatest wall-eyed pike fishing center in the United States. Its (over one hundred) resorts and lodges, together with the excellent fishing, hunting, canoeing, and bathing, make it one of the best recreational centers in the nation's summer playground. Also the Minnesota State University maintains its North-Central Experimental Station, and Agricultural School, in this county of many centers.

Itasca County, with a population of 32,000 and covering an area of 2,800 square miles (one fifth of this area is lake surface), is reached over United States Highways #2 and #169, and over the Duluth-Grand Forks branch of the Great Northern Railway. (See separate article on "Itasca County Highways" by Walter J. Hurst.) Also, the airport at Grand Rapids,

"Itasca County Highways" by Walter J. Hurst.) Also, the airport at Grand Rapids, which is 280 acres in extent, and the airport at Coleraine, which is a man-made plateau, built upon the dumps of the local iron mines, make it possible for the visitor to come by airplane.

The eastern part of the county is of a rugged nature (the hills being quite pronounced) and includes the Western Mesaba Iron Range. The central area is of low rolling hills, which gradually flatten out in the western part of the county. Numerous lakes, with sandy bottoms and beaches, are scattered throughout the county; and sandy-loam predominates. Most of the timber, in Itasca County, is of second-growth; but stands of the virgin forests still cover some areas, and are being conserved for the benefit and enjoyment of the public. The Continental Divide passes through the county from ^{North} east to ^{South} west; and the water drains into three watersheds, the Hudson Bay, the Mississippi-Gulf, and the St. Lawrence.

fine-bordered lakes

The iron mining industry is the chief source of wealth for Itasca County, making it the fourth richest county in Minnesota. Farming (dairying and general agriculture) is developing to such proportions, that it forms the second greatest source of wealth and will (in the future) surpass the mining industry. Lumbering and logging, which was once the chief industry of the county, is confined mainly to the production of pulpwood (and cord wood for making matches), and adds materially to the wealth of the county.

The tourist resorts and recreational facilities in Itasca County have been developed, in the last few years, at an amazing pace. Over one hundred resorts cater to the recreation and pleasure of the visitor. These resorts offer a diversity of fishing, seldom equaled by any other section, in the way of wall-eyed pike, great northern pike, black bass, crappies, blue-gills, sunfish, perch, and the fighting muskellunge. The Minnesota State Fish Hatchery at Cut Foot Sioux insures an abundant supply of fish in this region. The hunting (in season) of deer, partridge,

prairie-chicken, and pheasant makes of this region a nimrod's paradise. The duck shooting is the best in the country. Many resorts remain open during the hunting season. Trap shooting at the Itasca County Fair Grounds offers another means of recreation.

Boats and canoes are available at all resorts; and many resorts will portage canoes and boats to lakes, other than the lake upon which they are located, for the pleasure of the visitor. The pine-bordered lakes offer excellent and safe bathing, on their sandy beaches, for children as well as adults. Public golf courses are maintained at the Pokegama Country Club and at Nashwauk, while several resorts have their own private golf course. The "Scenic State Park" enhances the many other vacational interests of Itasca County and merits the exploration of any visitor who may be in the vicinity. (See separate article, Scenic State Park, by W. J. Hurst). Ski slides are located at Coleraine and at Grand Rapids for winter sports; and ice fishing adds to the winter's recreation.

Tourist resorts are rapidly becoming one of the county's leading industries.

The visiting of Ghost Towns, of which there are several in Itasca County, is a thrilling pastime for many visitors. (See separate article on "Ghost Towns" by W. J. Hurst.) The "Tourist Picnic" (which is held at Big Fork) in the middle of August, is of unusual interest;

The Itasca County Fair is held the last week in August

(at the Itasca County Fair Grounds, Grand Rapids) and should be attended if possible.

The Itasca County Fair Ground, 45 acres in extent, is one of the most beautiful in

Minnesota.

The six newspapers, published in various villages throughout Itasca County, are all enterprising and show a keen concept, not only of the local news and needs, but also of news of a national and international character. They are the Grand Rapids Herald-Review, the Itasca County Independent (Grand Rapids), the Deer River News (of Deer River), the Bovey Press (of Bovey), the Itasca Iron News (of Coleraine), and the Eastern Itasca (of Nashwauk).

The educational system of Itasca County is very modern and up to date. (See article on Itasca County Schools by W. J. Hurst). The denominations of the churches in the county are: Community, Catholic, Methodist, English Lutheran, Swedish Lutheran, Presbyterian, Christian Science, and the Church of God (Pentecostal).

The system of libraries in Itasca County, insure a supply of good books to readers, even in the remotest sections of the county. (See separate article on "Itasca County Libraries" by W. J. Hurst.)

Four modern hospitals are located in Itasca County. The Itasca County Hospital is at Grand Rapids, the Coleraine Hospital at Coleraine, and two "Rood Hospitals", one at Nashwauk and one at Keewatin.

Itasca County is part of the great reservoir system, for the control of the headwaters of the Mississippi River. Dams for this purpose are located, one at the outlet of Lake Winnibigoshish (about 14 miles northeast of "Deer River" on Minnesota State Highway #46) and one at Pokegama Falls (about three miles west of Grand Rapids on United States Highway #2). Two other dams were built for power development, one on the Prairie River (about 14 miles east of Grand Rapids on Minnesota State Highway #65) and one at the present site of the Paper Mills in Grand Rapids. (See separate article on Itasca County Dams, by W. J. Hurst.)

Itasca County has the commission form of government, with 42 organized

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Itasca County has the commission form of government, with 42

and 49 unorganized townships. There are 14 incorporated villages and no cities. The reason that all communities, in this county, incorporate as villages is because this form of government gives greater scope of control (over mineral land and taxation) than does a city charter.

Duluth, Minn.

Topic: Itasca County (F.C.)

Submitted By: W. J. Hurst

SOURCE OF MATERIAL

G. L. Finnegan, member State Legislature, Grand Rapids, Minn., interviewed by W. J. Hurst, March 25, 1936.

George Herried, merchant, Deer River, Minn., interviewed by W. J. Hurst, March 23, 1936.

Charles Frick, Itasca County Farm Agent, Grand Rapids, Minn., interviewed by W. J. Hurst, March 26, 1936.

Harry Holmes, County Commissioner, Coleraine, Minn., interviewed by W. J. Hurst, March 26, 1936.

Personal Observation.

Grand Rapids Herald Report
Summer
July 25, 1940

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

Sept. 2, 1931

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

1904 "Twenty-five years ago it was a much different journey to come to Wabana than it is now. The trip to Grand Rapids was made by train and at the train they were met by Dave Cockran of Wabana who took them out to the lake in a lumber wagon. It was a big, heavy lumber wagon and it was a four or five hour trip through the trails and over the corduroy to Wabana. When they reached the Cockran place a boat was taken across the lake and the final journey was made up the hill with packs and bundles. h

1904 "Dave Cockran ran what was called a 'hotel' but by most people termed a 'stopping place' on Wabana. His large buildings were placed where trails and water met. In the summer came the visitors to rest and fish and in the winter the loggers came. Many people gathered around Dave Cockran's board. The evenings were spent in visiting and telling stories. The stories were not always confined to the truth. The fish that were caught became bigger, the feats of strength and labor became h

Sept. 2, 1931
(continued)

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

1904 h "Dave Cockran was interested in houseboats. He had one on Wabana that was propelled by a launch. However, his transportation activities were not confined to Wabana. He had a steamboat on Pokegama lake and took people for rides. Before the days of the automobile there were many boats and launches on Pokegama lake. Dave Cockran's steamboat took the larger parties and puffed its way around Pokegama and into the Mississippi. What has become of the boat we do not know. Its rotted bulk is probably lying around the shores of the Mississippi somewhere. h

1904 h "It is a fact that there were some real steamboat days on Pokegama lake. Not only was there Dave Cockran's pleasure cruiser, but there were boats whose purposes were more serious in life. C. M. Erskine had two boats on Pokegama. His first was the 'Eagle', put in operation about 25 years ago and the larger boat was the 'Wyoming.' Dunn & Marcia, who ran a lumberyard at Cohasset, also had a steamboat on the Mississippi and John Main also had one. These boats were used in towing logs and rafts across the lake. The Erskine - Stackhouse boat used to go as far as Leech river and bring down logs. A steamboat was a common sight, not only on Pokegama and along the Mississippi, but up on the Bigfork and on other lakes where there was considerable of the work of the day to be done. h

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

Sept. 2, 1931
(continued)

187 ✓
its rivers. Its use for pleasure may be new, but a boat on which people lived was the headquarters of those who took the drives of logs down the rivers. *In some references this is spelled "wanigan".* For 60 years this boat was called the wanagan. Perhaps somebody can enlighten us upon the source of this name. The wanagan followed up the drive and in it the men lived and ate. In it was not only the cook and his supplies but there was plenty of socks and tobacco for sale. The drive was hard, wet work and the wanagan was a welcome haven at night. Every crew on the drive had its own wanagan and the cook was the master of ceremonies."

Fishing on wanagan anecdote:

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

Sept. 2, 1931
(continued)

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

★ Now, 1940?

Sept. 9, 1931

First school north of Bigfork.

1900

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

1931

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

1931

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

Sept. 23, 1931

Early days in Canisteco mining district and Bovey

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

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

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

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

Sept. 23, 1931
(continued)

1905
"The first people who came found Bovey seriously lacking in places to sleep and eat. Next to the place where the Witmas Hotel now stands was a rooming house. One ordinary sized room had a bed in it. Six men slept crosswise on the bed at night, were rolled out in the morning and six more took their places in the daytime. One of the early boarding houses had sawdust on the floor and men slept on the floor and their money would fall out of their pockets. When the floor was swept up the sawdust was always sifted for the money it would bring. One sweeping has been known to have produced over \$50. Money was plentiful even though wages for common labor were but \$1.90 a day. h

"People came from all ends of the earth to Bovey. Again that statement is literally true. There were Finns, Bulgarians, Italians, Scandinavians, Cousin Jacks. Many men were needed under the shovels and upon the dumps in the early days of the Canisteo. They all brought with them their national traits. One that seemed to be very much in common was the desire to drink and Bovey had 26 saloons that all might be served. T. J. Kingston, now a Bovey merchant, ^(still in 1940?) had the task of maintaining order in Bovey for seven years. Peter Westerlund assisted him. Bovey residents take some pride in the fact that while the town rioted and drank there were no murders.

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

Sept. 23, 1931
(continued)

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

1894
1897

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

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

Sept. 23, 1931
(continued)

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

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

1910
1931

Oct. 7, 1931

Pioneers of Bowstring and Pokegama

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

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

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

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

Oct. 7, 1931
(continued)

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

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

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

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

1890's
early
1900's

★ See contrary source of name, then
note.

Oct. 21, 1931

Origin of the word "Itasca"

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

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

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

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

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

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

Oct. 21, 1931
(continued)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Oct. 21, 1931
(continued)

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

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

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

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

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

Oct. 21, 1931
(continued)

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

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

Oct. 28, 1931

Influx of Lumberjacks - C. C. McCarthy.

1906 "About this time of the fall and a little later, (November) 20 or
in the first decade of 1900
25 years ago, the men came into Itasca county by the thousands. * * *

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

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

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

Oct. 28, 1931
(continued)

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

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

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

Oct. 28, 1931
(continued)

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

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

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

E. A. S.

November ¹¹~~4~~, 1931

Art and Religious Rites of Chippewas

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

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

1865-
60 or 70
"There has recently been placed in the National Museum at Washington the worlds only collection of specimens of the lost Chippewa art of birch-biting. This was practiced 50 or 60 years ago by certain tribes of the Chippewa Indians and the practice is now dead. The art consisted of folding a thin piece of birch bark in several places and then biting out designs with the teeth. When unfolded the bark was perforated with different designs. We should say that the practice was very much like that of cutting out paper dolls and doing things which magicians do with paper when folded and cut.

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

Grand Rapids Herald Report
Summer
July 25, 1940

November 11, 1931
(continued)

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

Nov. 11, 1931

Captain John Smith, aged Indian

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

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

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

Nov. 11, 1931
(continued)

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

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

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

Nov. 25, 1931

Early Business Men

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

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

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

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

~~The store was built near the river and the river~~

* Now standing?

Nov. 25, 1931
(continued)

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

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

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

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

Nov. 25, 1931
(continued)

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

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

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

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

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

Nov. 25, 1931
(continued)

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

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

December 2, 1931

Street Names, etc.

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

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

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

December 2, 1931
(continued)

1880' P
"If northern Minnesota had a 'big shot' 40 years ago that man was C. F. Kindred of Brainerd. He owned a lot of Brainerd, including the waterworks and, from what we imagine, the city hall. When H. D. Powers came to Grand Rapids he had been working as secretary of the water company which Mr. Kindred owned. Kindred also had a great deal to do with lands and was closely connected with the Northern Pacific railroad and its vast holdings. Kindred avenue was named for this man.

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

December 2, 1931
(continued)

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

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

December 2, 1931
(continued)

Visions of Grand Rapids' Founders

1890
"As in the case of most new communities, those who platted lands at Grand Rapids had visions which have never materialized. Forty years ago this community was a great center of logging. When iron ore was found on the Mesaba range it was thought that the greatest deposits lay on the western end of the range and that Grand Rapids would be a great mining center. Irrespective of prospects, the market for town lots was good and when there is a market it must be supplied. Thus many additions to the village were laid out after the original town site had been platted. The platted areas ran up and down the river. A town three or four miles square and large enough to accommodate 50,000 people was laid out. Wild forties were sold for additions to the village and after being platted property for many years some of them reverted to cow pastures and their streets and avenues have been erased from the map."

December 9, 1931

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

P (uc)

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

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

December 9, 1931
(continued)

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

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

December 16, 1931

Events of Importance in 1894.

1894

1894
2
1894 was a big year in the history of Grand Rapids. On Saturday, September 15, of that year, ⁽¹⁸⁹⁴⁾ appeared the Grand Rapids Herald which was soon to become the Herald-Review. The telephone system was completed in that year, and the waterworks were built (?) The first electric lights to glow in the village of Grand Rapids appeared on Thanksgiving night in 1894 at the time of opening the Pokegama Hotel.

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

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

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

December 16, 1931
(continued)

1882/4
from various Canadian provinces. D. M. Gunn, after spending a season in carpenter work in North Dakota, came with three companions to Aitkin. All were planning to come into the woods to work. However, Mr. Gunn secured a job as a clerk in a hotel run by Carl R. Douglas at Aitkin and in 1882 he came to Grand Rapids to look after a hotel and stopping place that Mr. Douglas had here and which stood near the present site of the paper mill.

1892
"Grand Rapids was very, very new in 1882. There were a few stores and saloons. If a person knew his directions properly, walking through the woods and a couple of swamps would bring the traveler to Crystal lake which for some years after the founding of the village was considered on the outskirts of town. Naturally the hotels of the early days catered to the lumberjack trade. Drunken lumberjacks were interesting for awhile but they soon grew tiresome and after a few months of service Mr. Gunn went to Brainerd. There he came in contact with the men who laid out and founded the village of Grand Rapids. Ten years after his first visit he returned to Grand Rapids as the owner of the Pokegama hotel. His first structure burned and within a few months after this disaster the new Pokegama was constructed.

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

December 16, 1931
(continued)

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

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

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

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

December 16, 1931
(continued)

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

December 23, 1931

Christmas Time

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

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

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

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

December 23, 1931
(continued)

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

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

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

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

December 23, 1931
(continued)

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

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

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

December 23, 1931
(continued)

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

December 30, 1931

Treaty of 1855 - Saloons

1916-17
1855
"Immediately before the World War there existed in this section a special sentiment for two things. One was to keep liquor away from the Indians, the other was to keep white people from drinking. The agitation which later resulted in the 18th amendment was at its height when it was discovered that an old Indian treaty executed in 1855 prohibited the sale of liquor in a large territory in a considerable part of which there were no Indians.

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

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

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

December 30, 1931
(continued)

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

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

with the help of Pussyfoot Johnson's crew

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

December 30, 1931
(continued)

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

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

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

January 6, 1932

Beans - Camp food.

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

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

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

* Properly, this is "Mackenzie."

January 6, 1932
(continued)

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

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

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

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

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

January 13, 1932

Schools

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

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

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

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

January 13, 1932
(continued)

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

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

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

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

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

January 13, 1932
(continued)

1902-3 school at Cow Horn Lake was built late in 1902 and in 1903 the high school at Grand Rapids was ready for occupancy.

1900-1 In the winter season of 1900-1901 smallpox was very prevalent in Itasca county, and all children were required to have a certificate showing that they had been vaccinated.

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

January 20, 1932

Roads

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

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

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

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

January 20, 1932
(continued)

and he was always going somewhere or doing something.

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

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

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

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

★ Supply their dates.

January 20, 1932
(continued)

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

Grand Rapids Herald Report
Summer
July 25, 1940

Special Note

Fur Farming in Grand Rapids.

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

E. A. Summer.

*Both of above may be addressed General
Delivery, Grand Rapids, Minn. \$*

January 27, 1932

Drinking Liquor

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

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

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

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

mutual respect.

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

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

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

January 27, 1932
(continued)

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

* * *

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

February 10, 1932

Rivers - Logging

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

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

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

February 10, 1932
(continued)

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

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

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

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

1870's
a

1872

February 17, 1932

Religion - Churches - Sunday Schools

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

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

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

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

February 17, 1932
(continued)

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

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

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

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

February 24, 1932

Eating - Food

When Grand Rapids was the wooded frontier:

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

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

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

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

March 2, 1932

Newspapers

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

March 9, 1932

Crime in Early Itasca

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

(Town 60 N., Range 24 W.)

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

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

March 9, 1932
(continued)

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

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

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

March 9, 1932
(continued)

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

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

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

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

Grand Rapids Herald Report
Summer
July 25, 1940

March 9, 1932
(continued)

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

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

Itasca Co. Hist.- notes from Itasca News, Deer River paper - BONNIWELL
pub. Saturdays.

Feb. 16, 1901 - Pat Maher, an old settler, was laid to rest last Tuesday.

Feb. 23, 1901 - editorial, - "The Father of His Country was again awakened in spirit in song and speech yesterday. Old Glory waved, and - we cannot tell a lie - only one flag was hoisted in Deer River, and that was over a saloon.

In editorial column, same date, - Since the hunting season closed there seems to be a mania for shooting men. At all the new towns along the Great Northern railroad, from Fosston to Cloquet, are collected many desperate law-breaking men and women whose vocations in life are not models for the rising generation.

Bemidji has had two of these murder cases, Deer River as many in the past year, and other towns along the line are in condition to furnish startling headlines for the city newspapers on the most trivial provocation.

The process of civilization is of slow growth in countries just struggling for recognition as organized communities, and to keep order and to observe the law is not a part of the duty of the police or the new-fledged sheriff.

Things will change bye and bye when the cities and counties become more populous; until then we must bear with it in resignatoon. - Cass Lake Times.

March 9, 1901. - The County Commissioners at their meeting held the first of the week appointed J. A. Quigg of Deer River as county assessor. This is a tribute highly complimenting to Mr. Quigg; and the Board, while it could not have found a better man in the countyn than Mr. Quigg, must be given great credit for the simple reason of having for once dropped a plum to a man outside of Grand Rapids. Mr. Quigg besides being an expert timber cruiser and estimator, has served the county as deputy assessor and in reviewing his work the Board found that the taxpayer would get a just assessment, and they found also that under Mr. Quigg's assessments no heavy pine owner gets off with with a lighter valuation on timber than an individual claim holder.

March 16, 1901. - Large village vote cast and "a few good men lost by usual bad vote". Results as follows:- Votes cast - 109.

Pres. of Council

W. J. Coffron - - -76
A. D. Brooks - - -33

Recorder,-

James Bailey - - - 52
C. W. Robinson - - 47
C. A. Birke - - - 15

Treasurer,-

F. F. Seaman - - - 86
C. M. Irwin - - - 23

Trustee,-

Dan Willis - - - 87
J. E. Sullivan - 57
W. J. Kelley - - 44
F. L. Churchill - 38
F. Baker - - - 37
Andy Morrissey - 27
Wm Moran - - - 26
F. F. Seaman - - 5

Justice of Peace,-

J. T. Girard, 2 yrs. -107
Chas. Fullwood - - - 39
E. H. Inscho - - - 35
~~C. A. Birke~~ - - - -
Wm Hulbert - - - - 34

Constables,-

A. Chapman - - - - 69
M. McCluskey 2 yr - - 61
A. F. Olson - - - - 48
John McDonald - - - - 38

March 16, 1901.

Township election at Rose school resulted.- Deer River Tp.

Supervisors,-

A. D. Brooks, chrman.
Jas. Woodard
M. Deering

Clerk,- C. W. Robinson

Treasurer,- L. Samuelson
Assessor,- Jno. McDonald
Justice

Jno. Irwin, Hugh McKay

Constables.-

F. Magnuson
Jno Hedquist

Bowstring Township official elected, -

Supervisors,-	Town Clerk,- F. C. Brown
Ellis Sambo, chr.	Treasurer, Robt. Christie
Sam Torgeson	Assessor, Jas. Sambo
Chas. Torgeson	

March 16, 1901.- item - "Bull Dog" Reagan, known as a tough character, as his name implies, dropped off the rodshere last week and was allowed to remain until after his vote was cast, then he was given a nights lodgingb in the Coop, ordered to depart on the next freight for Cass Lake.

March 23, 1901.-item- W? C? Goforth of St. Paul has closed an option with the Hayward heirs of St. Cloud for 640 acres of mineral land in Itasca County at a price ranging close to \$600,000.00. It is believed in some circles to be an out and out sale and in the Hill interests, but this cannot be confirmed. The heirs claim it is only an option.

April 1, 1901.- item - A telephone to Grand Rapids, a much needed thing, is assured if people will give a lift.

Same issue,-Are you a R.N.A. is where Deer River ladies will "get back" at their "Buffalo" husbands.

same issue,- farmers are leaving their homes because they cannot drive over the roads.

Apr. 13, 1901.- R.N.A. Organized,-"Ladies rode the Lamb and elected officers as follows:-

Oracle, - Mrs. Hathe M. Brooks
Vice Oracle, Mrs. Margarite Loisel
Recorder, Mrs. Nethe Fish
Receiver, Mrs. Ada Fish
Chancellor, Mrs. Paarl Taylor

Marshall, - Mrs. Jewell Haines
Inner sentinel,- Mrs. Delia Rencoe
Outer Sentinel- Mrs. Hilda Bailey
Bd. of Mgrs.,- Mrs. Wm Hulbert
Mrs. L. M. Larson
Mrs. P. R. Brooks.

April 20, 1901The deal of Dan Willis for the purchase of the Churchill saloon was formally closed last Monday and Mr. Willis took possession on that day. it is a good paying investment and Dennie's friends hope to see him prosper by it. Mr. Churchill expects to leave next week for some other point.

Apr. 27, 1901,- Mrs. D. Hildreth has the lumbervon the ground and will at once begin the erection of a new residence which she will occupy in place of her log house which she will have destroyed.

May 4, 1901,- editorial - Editor Atkinson, of the Hibbing News, who has been "there" a few times himself and knows how it is, doffs us the following boquet;" The Deer River News has entered upon its fourth year. The news is one of those fearless outspoken journals so rarely found, and it is a pleasure to read it."

April 27, 1901, reports 8 applications for liquor licenses.

May 4, 1901Mr. and Mrs. John Seaman , Jr. and Mrs. W. J. Gibbs, John Walley, Len Scott, and Burt Caldwell came down from the Big Fork Thursday.

May 11, 1901.- still 8 application for liquor licenses.

same date,- "Bull" Reagan, a notorious character in Derr River a few years ago was killed by Angus Mac Donald at Cass Lake Thursday.

May 11, 1901 - The round and jovial face of R. J. McGee fairly beams with happiness these days and his eyessparkle and glow - cause why? a fine baby girl.

May 18, 1901 - Citizens want to know something about village matters. The following speaks for itself:-

Deer River, Minn. April 25, 1901.- We, the undersigned, being residents and taxpayers and citizens of the Village of Deer River in the County of Itasca, Minnesota, believing as we do that the funds of the village during the past three years have been squandered and wasted; and believing as we do that it is necessary that we should have some fire protection in said village, and that unless some steps are at once taken to prevent a recurrence of the squandering and wasting of the village funds no improvements will be made in said village; and believing as we do that it is necessary to engage the services of an attorney and counsellor at law to prosecute an action for injunction to prevent the unlawful expenditure of said money, hereby subscribe the amount set opposite our respective names toward defraying the expenses of said attorney in said suit.- - the whole story is here told in a few words. It was circulated freely, and as freely signed, citizens generally expressing the opinion that some action was necessary. About \$200.00 has thus far been raised. The Quo Warranto proceedings instituted in St. Paul today is simply the beginning of such action.

May 25, 1901. - mention of a second R.R. accident, a collision, at Itasca Crossing.

June 1, 1901.- A music class of three in Deer River are taking lessons of Sister Dorathia at Grand Rapids. They are Mesdames P. R. Brooks, E. Loisel, and W. A. Everton. They visit the Rapids every Monday.

3

June 8, 1901 - Hotel Quigg in ashes. Total loss \$3500.00 , insurance \$2500.00, one life lost.

June 15, 1901 - collide on a trestle 30 feet from ground. Morning passenger in a fog bumps head on.

June 22, 1901.- The village council indicted. Our village dads would not resign - all under bonds till December.

On July 20 occurred a rear end collision. 25 passengers escape. Engineers leg broke, couldn't see for the sun.

July 27, 1901. - The Grand Rapids Magnet was made to appear more than usually bright on local news this week, by stealing items of importance from Itasca News.

Sheriff deputies Kearney and Moores were in town Tuesday prodding up some delinquent personal property taxes. There are some business men here who have never paid personal property tax, and the county commissioners have given the sheriff instructions to do his duty.

August 3, 1901.- Rev. Robert Forbes dedicated M. E. church last night. Large congregation. Church finished and out of debt.

July 27, 1901 - saloons pay up. village fight settled except in spots.

August 3, 1901. After viewing some pictures taken of familiar scenes in Deer River, the other day, we are led to suggest that President Coffron should have an ordinance adopted prohibiting drunk officials or others from lying across the sidewalks and obstructing travel in front of respectable business places.

August 17, 1901. Sometimes to bond is to rob. Special election means much to taxpayers. Waterworks, not bonds is the probable result of vote. Bonding not necessary.

August 24, 1901. - Council backed out and shaved ballot to waterworks only. Bonding not on ballot. total vote was 35, 21 for waterworks, 11 against, 3 not marked.

Itasca Co. Hist. - Itasca News, Deer River paper - Bonniwell.

Sept. 7, 1901 - Miss Ina Gibbs and J. A. Quigg quietly married in Minneapolis.

Sept. 7, 1901 - A Forest Fire Covers Sections. Close call for village and saw mill. Warehouse and ~~the~~ barn burn up. Everyone out. A road builder did it. Fire was set on side of road instead of center. Neckless deed.

Sept 14, 1901. - Accident or Murder. Mrs. Mary Hanson of Moose Lake found in a pool of Blood. Her husband delivers himself to the sheriff, claiming he shot her accidentally.

Sept. 28, 1901 - To Extend the Line. Itasca company's Railroad to tap Big Fork this fall. Work begun.

Sept. 28, 1901 - "Lifted" a Watch. Burglars visited the Itasca Hotel by a ladder and L. McKinnon now tells time by the sun.

October 19, 1901 - Capt. Mercer will be up next Tuesday, Oct. 22, to pay off the Indians. His hours will be from Tuesday noon till Wednesday noon. He goes to Bena from here. - Cass Lake Times.

Nov. 2, 1901 - Seelye Will Show'Em . Big Lumbermen may Account for Dead and Down Fraud.

The Minnesota Indian reservations it seems will continue causing the government no end of trouble until the bone of contention, namely the pine thereon, is finally and completely disposed of.

In the latest development Charles W. Seelye is the chief figure. He is serving a term of imprisonment for starting forest fires to make "dead and down" timber last summer, and recently the president denied a petition for pardon. Seelye has now filed through his attorneys a statement alleging a gigantic conspiracy involving a number of the most prominent Minnesota lumbermen, who he says are making immense profits at the expense of the Indians and the government. A hearing will be given in the case in a few days by the interior department officials, and Congressman Morris of Duluth, it is said, will make a statement to Commissioner Jones to the effect that Seelye is the victim of this conspiracy.

Seelye's statement alleges that certain Indians were persuaded to give untruthful testimony against him in the matter of forest fires, the big lumbermen interested having paid liberally for that purpose. At one time Seelye had a contract for furnishing supplies to lumber camps. Several of these contracts were sublet to George F. Porter of Minneapolis who Seelye ~~claims~~ claims, is one of the men now plotting to work him ruin. Seelye and Porter got into a wrangle, with the result that \$11,000 of claims which Seelye had against the government are hung up in the treasury department. According to the story as contained in Seelye's statement, Porter organized the Indians in opposition to Seelye and the latter's arrest for starting forest fires followed. Seelye's attorneys say Judge Lochren of Minneapolis has made a statement that he believes Seelye was wrongfully convicted.

Several of the lumbermen named in the Seelye statement are residents of Minneapolis and it is expected that the hearing will throw some new and important light on the question of dead-and-down operations in Minnesota.

Nov. 2, 1901 - The Itasca Lumber Company received 25 men for the woods from Minneapolis yesterday.

Nov. 9, 1901 - Mrs. Hattie Booth, County superintendent of schools, spent a couple of days with Miss Knowlton, teacher at the Maher school the first of the week.

Itasca Co. Hist. - Itasca News, Deer River paper - Bonniwell.

Dec. 7, 1901 - New Timber Measure. Morris offers Substitute for Nelson Law of 1889.

Dec. 14, 1901 - An automatic phonograph, the best on the market, is a new electrical wonder at G. T. Robinson's Saloon. Its instrumental pieces can distinctly be heard a block away, and the songs can be plainly understood several rods off.

Jan. 4, 1902 - Indians Want to Settle Up. Ask 160 acres and monies at once and give up Reserve. Want to be free citizens. Petition to this effect now being circulated by them to be presented to Congress.

Jan. 18, 1902 - J. P. Sims Resigns. Itasca Lr. Co. Supt. cares for health. F. C. Gerhard is successor.

Feb. 8, 1902 - Sullivan's prolonged attempt to remove postmaster Taylor meeting more frost every day.

Feb. 15, 1902 - Morris Bill favored. Committee considers plan to open reservation. No dangerous opposition.

Mar. 1, 1902 - Hans Dahl mangled under logs at Smith Camp.

Mar. 1, 1902 - Arthur Peck was down from Mud Lake Thursday. He reports that last Wednesday night John Lyon's driving team broke through the ice on Leech River and drowned, and the squaws and children in the sleigh were saved by a hard struggle.

Mar. 8, 1902 - Three prominent Deer River couples spliced. Blow-out last night. Welch-Clark, Kleinert-Girard, Gathercole-Hamilton.

Mar. 15, 1902 - Taxpayers are victors by shutting out illegal voters. Brooks - 46, Everton - 15.

Mar. 22, 1902 - The Itasca Road. That it will reach Canada this year, is denied by officials.

Mar. 22, 1902 - Mike McClusky's spright form may now be seen parading the streets bedecked with a shiny star. Mike makes a splendid Marshal and we hope the council can afford to retain him the year round.

Mar. 29, 1902 - First publication of the official proceedings of the Village Council of Deer River. (There had been village Councils and proceedings, on the quiet side. These were the first published. J.E.S.)

Special Meeting - March 13, 1902. Meeting called to order by President Brooks. Present, Trusteed, Howard, Irwin, H. G. Seaman, and Recorder Robinson.

The attorney for and the recorder of the old board gave the new board a verbal outline of the work done during the past year; after which, no business appearing, the board adjourned on motion.

C. W. Robinson, Recorder.

There was considerable very fine timber around Winnibigoshish Lake, according to the rangers. This good timber was a temptation and it was being stolen though on the reservation and therefore considered Indian property under the control of the Federal government in the representation of the Indian Dept. A measure designed to stop the stealing was passed and Indian Dept. given control and authority to enforce. The chief SHO-HAH-GESHIG protested about the theft of Indian property and was going to Washington to see what he could do about it when he was murdered in Deer River, nearest town to the reservation. This seems to have been in 1892.

The restrictions on getting the timber on the reservation were countered by having a law passed that permitted and made regulations for the cutting of dead and down timber in the area. It was supposed to save this dead and down from waste and seemed all reasonable on the face of it. But it was used to get a great deal more than the dead and down. It is said that they cut "skid-ways" through the best of the green timber and it is said that some of these skid-ways were not modest ones, - were as much as one hundred feet wide. One way to insure a plentiful supply of "dead" was to arrange for a fire to burn through the desired timber. The fires were not altogether accidental. Some went to the penitentiary for this little foible. So much publicity and criticism arose that it was arranged to sell the Indian timber at auction and to supervise the cutting. The last cutting of dead and down was done in 1899 at the south end of Little Cut-Foot-Sioux lake. This logging was done largely by the Tibbets clan.

The 1899 sale was supposed, or at least ostensibly intended to avoid the irregularities that had attended previous reservation logging. The timber was cruised. One of the cruisers was on Leroy Wheaton, of Grand Rapids. It is said that the cruisers were not over-generous in their estimates. As mentioned the timber sale was set for 1899. Some was bid in by a Grand Rapids organization. It is possible that they were acquainted with Wheaton. The town was not large and he was well known. Some question arose about the whole matter. They thought some one was getting considerable timber for the amount bought. Indians and Indian agent objected, and an investigation made. I quote from the record at the Ranger Station. "The government collected \$85,000.00 in a suit against a Grand Rapids firm in repayment for stolen timber. Because of the prominence of the firm members, all mention was kept out of the press. (This an argument for a free press.)"

The first logging of green timber on the reservation was by A-N-PE-GON (Sturgeon Fish) Company about 1910. This logging was along Sand Lake and around Sioux Lake.

This protest by an Indian agent, mentioned above, was by Agent Walker. It was really over the sale of the timber and started an effort to have the area made a "forest reserve" under federal control. Cyrus Northrup headed a committee to push the idea. The committee did not have much success and the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs took the matter up. It seems that they worked at it. The two prime movers among the women were Mrs. Lydia P. Williams and Mrs. William E. Branhall. Mrs. Williams took the part of "popular agitator" and created considerable interest. This Walker protest, the Northrup committee and the activities of the ladies were undertaken to put off ~~the~~ the 1899 timber sale and to make the area a reservation and public park. I quote from the Cut-Foot record. - "An excursion was planned by the propagandists for the park to visit the reservation. The press came along, also several lumbermen, whom it was said were willing to see this auction postponed until a later date as they were not quite ready at the time to compete for the timber. On this trip Mrs. Williams and others landed from a steamboat on Sugar Point, on Leech Lake. In a fire-scarred cavity at the base of a big white pine she discovered a torch concealed, such as fishermen were wont to use in illegal night

fishing. At once the idea leaped to her mind, "this is the way the pine trees are burned down so they can be stolen", and overnight the picture of the lady and the torch was spread over the continent. Although founded on an error this was first class publicity, and if the lumbermen actually hoped that when the storm blew over they would get this pine free of restrictions, it is undoubtedly true that the widespread public interest in securing a fair deal for the Indians, which the publicity aroused, was the then unlooked for element which upset their predictions."

Gifford Pinchot enters the picture together with Horton and Hayes he worked out worked out a theory of the Minnesota situation that provided for the sale of the timber with reservation of seed trees, keeping the pine on the lake shores for parks, provided for supervision and marking of the timber by the bureau of forestry. In 1901, Representative Morris of Duluth introduced a bill for the unconditional sale of the land and the timber on the reservation. It was suggested to him that the bureau of forestry plan be added to his bill and in 1902 the Morris law setting aside 275,000 acres reserving 5% of standing white and Norway pine as seed trees and all the pine on Star Island in Cass Lake, on the island in Leech Lake, on Sugar Point, and in addition 10 sections selected to surround Pike Bay, Cass Lake and on north to include the grove on so-called Norway Beach. In 1908 this law was amended opening certain lands south and west of Cass Lake to settlement, changed the reservation of seed trees to 10%, transferred the park lands from Indian to Forest Service. This last was followed promptly by commercialization of timber through leasing of building lots for private cottages and hotels, a violation of a fundamental public purpose.

In the fall of 1933 purchase unit area of some 600,000 acres was added to the Chippewa National Forest. "This area when definitely made a portion of of the National Forest assumes a sufficient percentage of the land is purchased, will increase the boundaries slightly to the northwest and greatly to the northeast.

The Indians wonder if the white man can ever bring the Winnibigoashish area back to the hunters paradise that it once was. It is a matter of comment and debate among the Indians. Bob Mosemo said GO-NO-GAY, GO-NO-GAY, (I wonder, I wonder.)

Itasca County History - Logging.

From Cut Foot Sioux Ranger Station.

Interesting History about Early Logging Days.

"Mr. Perkins was a member of a logging crew which cut the first pine above Pokegama Falls in the winter of 1868 and 1869. The location was Leighton lake near the Itasca County line on what is now highway 34. Men who later became well known to early settlers in Itasca County were concerned in those logging operations." - - - - -

"One other logging camp was in the territory later to be made Itasca County. This was operated by N. P. Clarke who had a camp at Pokegama Falls. Mr. Clarke was also landing his timber in the Mississippi River." - -
"During the winter of 1870 and 1871 Mr. Perkins was again employed on the Big Willow. Lo Seavey was the cook. Henry Smith of Smith & Richardson was foreman and Howard DeLaittre and James Murchie were drivers of four-ox teams. Mr. Perkins says that he believes, if he remembers right, Lo Seavey started the first ranch in Grand Rapids and Tom Wakefield the first store. This was in the spring of 1871."

Itasca County History - Indians.

Copy of a letter from Cut Foot Sioux Ranger Station.

Cut Foot Sioux Ranger Station
May 4, 1937

L
Uses, Chippewa
Turtle Mound Cemetery

Forest Supervisor, Cass Lake

We recently received a request from Mr. Fred Willman that Chief Mosomo and his wife, both of whom are very old, be buried by the Turtle Mound just north of the Cut Foot Sioux Ranger Station, and located in the SE NW of Section 30, T. 147 N., R. 26 W., 5th P. M. upon their death.

Chief Mosomo is the last true chief of the Inger Indian tribe. His exact age is not known, but is estimated at between 90 and 95 years. (Reference - RM - Maps, Historical Data, of Feb. 12, 1934.) The Chief and his wife are in poor health, and during a recent severe sick spell, Chief Mosomo asked Mr. Willman to see to it that he be buried by the Turtle Mound upon his death, and that his wife be buried near him.

This may seem like a strange request as the Chief and his wife are still living, but due to the great age of the two Indians, the historical background of the Turtle Mound, and the fact that it is the last wish of these old people, we recommend that the necessary steps be taken to insure the granting of this wish upon the death of the Chief.

The area around the turtle mound is of great historical value and the use for a burial ground for the last Chief of the Inger Chippewa Indian Tribe would enhance the value from a historical standpoint, and would in no way hinder the proper management of the area.

It is believed this use can be granted under Regulation L-2 (c) of the National Forest Manual, but we are referring the entire matter to your office for your consideration and decision.

L. L. Sluzalis
Forest Ranger

Note: Information given by present ranger says that permission was granted, but a disagreement in the tribe prevented the wishes of the Chief from being carried out. Chief Mosomo and his wife are buried in the common burial ground of the tribe.

"Mrs. John Jackson and her brother John George Fairbanks both state that their father, William Fairbanks, now dead, operated a trading post at Raven's Point on the west shore of Lake Winnibigoshish at the time when a mission school and church was established there. He was there in 1879. Both Mrs. Jackson and her brother state that this was an Episcopal Mission and that they both attended school there when they were around 7 and 9 years of age. The Raven's Point school was maintained until the winter of 1883, the year of the small-pox among the Winnibigoshish Indians. - HORTON.

The early headquarter trading post was at Fond-du-Lac on St. Louis river near present Duluth. This post bought the furs in this district and after spring break-up they hired many Indians to transport the furs down the Mississippi, then up the Swan and down the St. Louis river.

The Northwest Fur Company established a trading post on the west side of Cut-Foot-Sioux lake about 1787. This was located about one mile above the outlet of First river. This company later moved to the mouth of Pigeon river or Second river. Later a man the Indians called "Sa-Swa" established a post at the old Hudson Bay site at the time that missionaries were on Winnie. Later Sa-Swa moved to Stony point. About 1858 a half-breed "Oh-dah-wa-sah-gah-e-gun" "e-ne-ne" (Onieda Laker) had a post at the old northwest site.

In 1867 William Fairbanks was at Raven's Point.

In 1884 Fairbanks was at Winnibigoshish Dam at Schafer's Resort site.

1890 - Fairbanks went to the old Hudson Bay site.

1892 - Fairbanks to Cut-Foot-Sioux Inn site.

The Hudson Bay Trail which runs near Round Lake and points about was cut out ~~1~~ 93 years ago (or in 1840). It was made for the purpose of bringing furs down from northern points. Ox and horse teams were used.

Ref: - Dave Smith. - This trail branched off at Winnibigoshish Dam, followed the east and southern shore of Winnebago lake to First River. This road terminated there where the Hudson Bay Company had a trading post. Later another trail was but from Winnebago lake, north to Cut Foot Sioux Bridge (Willman's place), thence North and West to 1/2 mile south of C.C.C. 707, then to Six Mile lake, now known as Lake Bi-Aus-Wah, then to the old Ranger Station at Round Lake, then along the South side of Round Lake, crossing the Dunbar Creek at Sec. 22-148-28, then north to Alvwood and International Falls.

Itasca County History - Mining.

From the Virginia Enterprise - Iron Ranges of Minnesota - 1909 - Extracts.

First mention of iron bearing formation in this district is by Norwood in 1852, but it was not until 1875 that we have any record of work being done to establish the economic value of the district. In this year Prof. A. H. Chester examined the Mesaba range from Embarrass Lake eastward to Birch Lake. In the greater portion of the district examined by Prof. Chester the formation is highly magnetic and has never produced bodies of merchantable ore. Shortly after, attention was almost wholly diverted from the Mesabi by the discovery of ore on the Vermilion range. In the early '80's Mr. Geo. C. Stone having succeeded in interesting Mr. Charlemagne Tower in the ore deposits on the Vermilion range near Tower, docks were built at Two Harbors and the Duluth and Iron Range Railroad built to Tower.

The first shipment of ore was made in 1884. In 1886 the whole property, including mines, railroad, docks and land grant was sold to the Minnesota Iron Co., and later, on the organization of the U. S. Steel Corporation, became a part of the holding of that corporation. The first mine to be developed near Ely, 21 miles east of Tower, was the Chandler, which began shipping in the fall of 1887. *****

On the Mesabi Range ore was discovered in the fall of 1891 near the present Mountain Iron mine by the Messrs. Merritt of Duluth, and in the fall of the following year on the Biwabik property by the same parties. Since these discoveries the development of this range has been phenomenal. By the end of 1893 three railways, the Duluth and Iron Range, Duluth, Missabe and Northern, and Eastern Railway of Minnesota (Great Northern system) connected the mines with ore docks at Two Harbors, Duluth and Superior. *****

The Mesabi range extends continuously from near Grand Rapids on the Mississippi river East North-east for a distance of about ninety miles to near Birch Lake.

Virginia Enterprise - (2)

One of the first persons who realized the existence of valuable iron deposits in Minnesota and who persisted in calling attention to the same was the late George R. Stuntz. ***** Geologists who scouted the idea of extensive iron deposits being found in the locality were convinced of their errors largely through the evidence of specimens submitted by Mr. Stuntz.

For some years after the richness of the Vermilion range had been demonstrated to the satisfaction of everyone, most people were still skeptical as to the existence of important veins of ore in the Mesabi region. Mr. Stuntz, however, became convinced of the richness of the Mesaba range and did all in his power to convince those of his friends who could be interested in the subject of the great advantages which must eventually ensue from its development. He was interested with the Merritt Brothers and others in the first explorations undertaken in this locality, and gave much valuable information to the prospectors who eventually demonstrated the enormous richness of the range. *****

(Judge James T. Hale of Duluth)

Among other iron properties in which the Judge became interested at an early date were the Lincoln (now known as the Kimberly) and the Columbia mine at Virginia. These properties are now operated by the Jones & Laughlin Iron Co. of Pittsburgh, Pa. Judge Hale was also interested in the development of the Elizabeth Mine at Hibbing.

One of the most important enterprises in which he was an active participant was the organization of the Duluth, Missabe, & Northern Railway and the building of its first line to provide an outlet for shipping the product of the Mesaba range. He was one of the incorporators and the first secretary of the company, being closely associated with the Merritt Bros. in this great undertaking as well as in several of the earliest exploration enterprises. He continued to be identified with most of these organizations until they were transferred to the Rockefeller interests.

Judge Hale is a native of Towanda, Pennsylvania, and embodies many of the sterling characteristics which distinguish the early families of the Keystone state. He studied law at the university of that state and was admitted to the bar therein. Locating at Duluth in 1884 he practiced his profession there for the next six years at the end of which period he abandoned his legal business in order to devote his attention to his extensive mining interests. In the meantime he was elected the first municipal judge of the city of Duluth and filled that position for one year. In recent years he has become interested to some extent with other Duluth parties in Arizona Copper mines and, quite recently, in gold mining properties at Rawhide, Nevada.

Judge Hale is a gentleman of modest and unassuming character but displays excellent judgment in business matters while his integrity and stability inspire the utmost confidence on the part of his associates.

Range Becomes Bone of Contention.

The panic of 1893 with its long train of commercial disasters wrought serious embarrassment to many infant industries which had been launched under the most promising auspices in northern Minnesota. Most of the mining organizations on the Mesaba range had been merged in the Lake Superior Consolidated Iron Mines and the entire properties were mortgaged to the Rockefeller interests in order to raise funds for the completion of the Duluth, Missabe & Northern Railroad with the result that all these enterprises ultimately came under control of John D. Rockefeller. About this time the late Henry W. Oliver began acquiring interests on the range. He secured the financial backing of Andrew Carnegia and planned the exploitation of this field on a gigantic scale. The resulting financial war between the Rockefeller and Carnegie interests is a matter of general history familiar to most readers. One of the results of this encounter was the withdrawal of the former from this field and the absorption of a majority of the Minnesota mines by the

Itasca County History - Mining.

Virginia Enterprise - (4)

U. S. Steel Corporation, which organization also controls two of the ore carrying railroads leading to the ranges together with docks at Duluth and Two Harbors and one of the largest fleets of ore carrying boats on the great lakes.

A considerable number of independent mining companies continue to operate successfully on the range and the aggregate output of these organizations is enormous. While some of these companies depend upon the U. S. Steel Corporation for the transportation of their products, there appears to be but little clashing of interests and financial or industrial antagonism is or rare occurrence in recent years.

* * * * *

The Oliver Iron Mining Co. was organized by the late Henry W. Oliver of Pittsburg, Penna.

* * * * *

Taconite: - This location is near the site of some of the earliest explorations and development work on the Mesaba range. A number of men prominently identified with the early history of the range visited this locality in the late 80's, and about 1890 the Diamond Mine was opened by Griffin Brothers who sunk a shaft and started a stockpile. After exhausting their capital they were succeeded by the Buckeye Iron Mining Co. of which Governor Campbell of Ohio was the president. A spur of the Duluth and Winnipeg railroad was laid out to connect this location with the main line at La Prairie and about two miles of track was graded, but the enterprise failed for lack of funds, like many of the early undertakings on the range. A rude attempt at reducing the ores by washing was also made at the Diamond mine and the plant was subsequently removed to the Arcturus mine, a mile or two distant where further experimenting was done, but all this work seems to have been rather primitive and premature.

Itasca County History - Mining.

Virginia Enterprise - (5)

In 1904 G. G. Hartley opened the Holman mine on property which was originally homesteaded by a man of that name and which adjoins the old Diamond mine. A shaft was sunk to a depth of 130 feet but no great amount of ore was taken out owing to the lack of transportation. The next year the property was leased to the Oliver Iron Mining Co. which acquired considerable adjacent property and prepared to open a large open pit. Shipping began July 1, 1906, and has been in continuous progress since, the Holman now (1909) being one of the large open pit propositions of the range. With the exception of an occasional carload sent to the experimental washing plant at Coleraine, no ore was taken from the mine until the present season (1909) this being the first mine in the Canisteo district to begin shipments.

HAMMERMILL
COND
MADE IN U.S.A.

Itasca County History - Mining - mining towns

Marble was settled in 1908. This berg and Nashwauk compete for the honor of being the most quickly built towns on the Mesabi range. Both towns come in to the Mesabi range mining picture considerably later than the St. Louis County mining towns. Nashwauk was the first Itasca County mining town. It was settled in 1902. The plat was filed at the county seat 6/14/1902 by E. J. Longyear, Pres. and Frank J. Jewett, Sec. Seems they were officials of "The Nashwauk Company", whatever that was. It was without doubt a company built and operated town - mining company.

In the case of Marble the plat was filed by the Elba Iron Company, 9/16/1908/ Men that have been there since the town's beginnings say that it was a town built by the mining company, that the company built the residences, a store, an office and even a church, though this last is disputed. The company store is no more. Stores are all private businesses now. The company still has a number of houses that they rent to the workers of the mines. The rents charged by the company are reasonable, less than private owners in the same town ask for similar and equal residences. Talked to three men living in company houses, and they stated that they have no difficulty getting any reasonable improvements and repairs made.

The reason for the suddenness of the up-building of Marble was because of the opening of the Hill-Trumbull mine, when an abundance of good ore was located here. Old timers say that "one month there was just rough wild country and two months later was a town." The main rush was to get the houses up before winter in order to hold the men there, so they would have them in the spring. The labor supply was a more important consideration in the mining of that day than it is today. Even today (1942) there is not a house of any sort to be rented in or even near the mining towns. One miner who came there when the town was started, evidently born in the Balkans, said that he could have bought any of the land in or around Marble in 1905, 1906 for three dollars an acre or \$120 for a forty. But as he says "I was too dam dumb."

~~Ma~~ Val Angell interview - Feb. 1942.

In the early eighteen hundreds, exact date not known, Val's grandfather on his mother's side of the house, one James (Jones) Van Nett then a young lad in his teens started from the waters of Lake Superior. Following the old portage fur trail through the chain of lakes on the U.S.- Canadian border to what was then known as Lac La Pluie post of the Hudson Bay Co., where Fort Francis, Canada, now is.

From there he followed the Rainy River to the mouth of what is now called the Big Fork river. This is not the name by which the Indians of that time called it, but Val says he cannot remember the name his grandfather called it. Young Van Nett paddled up this stream to Dora Lake, then through the chain of lakes to an old portage from Sand Lake to Cut Foot Sioux lake. He then passed down through Cut Foot Sioux in to lake Winnibigoshish. On the shore of Winnibigoshish he found a large and progressive mission that he was told had been at Winnibigoshish for many years. Val says he does not know the exact location of the mission on the lake. He says that his Grandfather told him that nice little Indian villages were very numerous along the river and the lakes. These Indians were very friendly and he experienced no hard ships or perils on this journey. The Indians treated him very well and he had only to paddle his canoe, shoot partridge and deer and to fish. Altogether it was a very enjoyable trip.

In 1906, Val and Mark Devine who was a nephew of a member of the firm of (Kehl & Deary) -(correct spelling-spelling in notes off) - were cruising timber for the above firm and were traveling down the Big Fork river when they passed the old portage between the Big Fork river and Busti Lake. Mark then told him of the three graves beside the portage. Also the human bone that was grown fast in the crotch of AN OAK tree near the graves. Mark told him that in the olden times this bone had probably meant that this was a dangerous portage and that the graves were probably of people who had died on the portage. Val says that Mark Devine came to Itasca County some time in the early 70's.

Val says that Grave lake located above Deer River was so named because two or three of Caldwell's men ~~died~~ during the small-pox epidemic on the brook, left the camp and started on foot for the outside. These men were not well when they started, so some of those not sick started out to find them. When the searching party reached Grave Lake they found what was left of the bodies and buried them there. From this the lake got its name. The graves can still be seen.

Val says that bone of the best ment to see would be John Rose at Island lake. He believes that John keeps and has pept a diary. Val says that the large Island in Island Lake was cultivated by the Indians in early days and for this reason is called "Garden Island". He thinks that the land on the island might have been cleared by the Hudson Bay Co. that had an early trading post on the lake.

So far as Val has been able to learn, the man who located (or mislocated) the Finnish settlers on the land south of Round Lake, where the Round lake Ranger Station is, was either a man called "Bughouse" McDonald or it was Guy Eaton. He said he heard a Finn accusing "Bughouse" of getting their money for locating them, but "Bughouse" denied it, but he said he knew who did get the money. The Finn "ask who", "Bughouse" said "It was Guy Eaton". The Finnish settlers did build both the Ranger Station and the Ranger Garage on Round Lake, thinking that they were on homestead land. They had just finished the buildings when the Indian police came along and forced them to move off.

Itasca County History - Custer Notes.

Val Angell interview (2)

This was because they were on Indian land. These are the same Finnish people who settled around Squaw Lake and north of Round Lake. It is said that the man who located them incorrectly on the south side of Round Lake charged them \$20.00 each for locating them. There were fourteen families in the group, so some of them made a nice stake. Some of these first settlers are still around Squaw Lake. Pete Niska and old man Kananan are said to be a couple of them.

Itasca County History - Big Fork Valley - Custer.

Round Lake and Lake Winnibigoshish Portage.

This portage also has its historical past. The route was used by the mound builders, the Sioux, the Ojibways, and both the Hudson Bay Fur Co., and the Northwest Fur. Co. It was also extensively used both summer and winter by the homesteaders who were settling in the Squaw Lake district in 1900 and 1902.

The shortest route between the continental waters lay between Round Lake and the upper Pigeon Lake, the distance being about one-half mile. This portage left Round Lake about one half mile west of the present Indian village on the south end of Round Lake. The trail led in a southerly direction, leading to the north shore of the Upper Pigeon lake near the old Indian gardens, then south across the lake entering the Pigeon River at the extreme south end of the lake, then south and east down this river for a half mile until it entered the Middle Pigeon Lake, then south and east across this lake until entering the Pigeon River again. Down the river again for about three and one-half miles, entering Lake Winnibigoshish at the site of the old Indian village (now abandoned) and the old mission site. When the water was low the route from lake Alice was used to reach the Pigeon waters, then following the water course down to Winnibigoshish.

There were times in late summer when the water would be too low for canoe travel between the Middle and Lower Pigeon lakes. Then the Indians were obliged to make a portage between these two lakes. Coming from the north the Indians would leave the Middle Pigeon Lake at the extreme southeast end of it, and follow the trail that leads south and east for a distance of about one-half mile, entering the Lower Pigeon Lake on the northeast end of Mallard Bay. This trail is still very noticeable, and some of the Indian trappers still use this portage to this day.

Round Lake to Cut Foot Sioux Portage.

This portage has probably been used by men for well over 1000 years, first by the mound builders, then by the Sioux, and then by the Ojibway Indians. Many of the Chippewa Indians still use parts of it to this day.

The shortest route between the continental waters lies between the present Lake Alice (formerly Little Round Lake), and what is now known as Middle Pigeon Lake, the distance being about $3/4$ of a mile.

The portage left Lake Alice at the site of the present Fred Buck's hunting lodge, and hit the north end of Middle Pigeon Lake at the present site of Dr. Young's & Mr. Nash's hunting lodge. From there the route taken was across Middle Pigeon Lake, south into the Pigeon River, down the Pigeon river a short way entering the Lower Pigeon Lake at the northwest end, then in an easterly direction across the lake into Mallard Bay near the present site of Dave Smith's and A. J. Sellwood's summer homes.

Here the trail leaves the lake and leads in a southeasterly direction overland, hitting the present Lake Bi-Aus-Wah on the northwest end, then down across the lake to its extreme southern end. The trail leaves the lake there and leads in a southerly direction, finally terminating at the west shore of Cut Foot Sioux Lake near the end of the Forestry Road.

This route was extensively used by the Northwest Fur Co. during their operations here many years ago, and also by the Ojibways who were then living in large numbers on the west side of Cut Foot Sioux lake. This was their shortest route to Round Lake and the Squaw Lake waters, and also the Big Fork river.

Itasca County History - Northwestern Part - Custer.

Interview with Henry M. Sword - (1)

I would not attempt to say where the Rabbits came from before they were at Bowstring lake. I knew old Chas. Rabbit well, that is, probably as well as any white man knew him. The first time I ever saw Chas Rabbit, I and a few other men were putting out a ground fire on Wabigama point when three Indians came up to us from the lake shore. Chief Chas. Rabbit and his squaw were two of the Indians. Chas. had a paper of some kind, I don't know now just what it was, but it was some kind of an affidavit that he had to sign and sent to Washington, D. C. I was the town clerk at that time, and he wanted me to acknowledge for him. So I sat down on a log there in the woods and acknowledged it for them. It seems to me I had both Chas. and his squaw place their thumb prints on the place where they were to sign, anyway it went through at Washington all right.

After this Chas. and his squaw were always after me to write letters for them. Most of these letters were to C. M. King, who was county commissioner from Dist. #1. Later, after we had a telephone, Chas. came to our house and wanted me to call C. M. as he always called him. A man whose name I don't recall just now, excepting that he was called three-fingered Joe, had got drunk and become lost. Everyone thought he must be frozen to death, so C. M. had offered \$25.00 to anyone finding the body. Searching parties from Deer River had searched the whole county without success.

After I had King on the telephone Chas. wanted to do the talking himself, so I let him do the talking. The first thing he said was "Me find that guy." King asked where. Chas. said "You give me some money, I tell where. King said "Sure, I promised \$25.00 to anyone that found him. So if you found him you get the \$25.00."

Chas said, "You come up Chas. show where." King asked how he found the body. Chas said "You know my mother she see big bird go around and around and around. You know that bird have head like a turkey. I go look, sure there that guy alright." King asked him what shape the body was in, and Chas. said "Damn bad shape."

A couple of the other town board members and I went with him to get the body. We found it about a half mile east of where Grouse Creek empties into Bowstring, a couple of hundred feet from the bank of the creek in the tall grass.

Ole Linn, who used to live over on Big Jessie lake was a great baseball fan. He always had a ball team, and every time we turned around he was challenging us for a game. Either he always had a good team or we always had a poor one, as I can remember of only beating his team once in all of the games we played.

The exact year I do not remember, but it was while state highway #6 was first being put through, the settlers had decided to have a big picnic on the Fourth of July. Of course Ole hit us for a ball game. We looked around for a place large enough for a ball diamond, and the only place we could find was at Joe Lurch's trading post. But his clearing was full of stumps, so a couple of us took a case of dynamite and blew the stumps and leveled a place for a ball diamond. For years after that this was always used for picnics for people from miles around.

I knew Ole would get a couple of men who were working for a logging company hoisting logs out of Big Jessie. Two of these men, I knew, had played ball in the Minneapolis association, so I knew we had to do something. I went up

Itasca County History - Northwestern Part - Custer.

Henry M. Sword - (2)

to Mack where a road gang was camped. The foreman, a man by the name of Johnson, who was a fair pitcher, said he would play. A fellow who was staying at McDougalls said he would play first base, and Fred Lyons, also a pitcher, was with the road crew and he said he would play. We had a real game that day, We beat Jessie Lake with a score of three to two. Lyons was probably the best pitcher ever to hit this country.

The old Lurch post was in S. E. 1/4 of SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 3. The old portage ran between Big and Little Jessie lakes, starting from the south at Little Jessie about on the quarter line at the corners of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 10, and the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 3, T. 147, R. 25, ending at Big Jessie on the north almost at the exact center of Sec. 3, T. 147, R. 25.

One of the first jobs I had when I first came here was checker for Donie Lumber Co. just east of Hayslips Corner. At that time a man who could make fifty ties was a good man, but at this camp we had a big Norwegian called Ole who used to average eighty, and another man named Johnson who made as high as 100. Pete Olson was woods boss at this camp.

They were taking out a lot of cedar poles at the camp. One day one of the skidders hung up with a 35 foot pole. Pete came along. He was sore at the man anyway as he was always into some kind of a mix-up. Pete looked the thing over and stamped around for a bit. Then he walked up and said, "Get that crow bait out of the way." As soon as the man had the horse unhitched, Pete grabbed the pole, put it on his shoulder, and carried it out of the woods. He put the pole down and walked off without another word.

NOTES - Custer.

Rabbit Point is on the South side of Bowstring lake where it joins Muskrat Bay. From Rabbit Point it is only a biscuit throw across to Wabigama point on the north shore of the lake. Rabbit point is Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, Sec. 29, T. 147, R. 25, W.

Mr. Sword says that Antoine Ballenger saying he could not speak English is a trait of the Chippewa. At one time he and another man were doing some cruising when one evening an Indian came to their camp. He made signs that he wanted some tobacco. He visited their camp every evening for several days, but spoke no English. One evening he and the other man were talking about something, and the Indian became interested and began to talk. After he had started to talk English, they found he was a Carlisle graduate. The Indian was Waukanaba, who now lives at Inger. He says to see him about the Rabbit band.

Itasca County History - Early Missions - Custer.

Copy of a letter from Thomas Borgerding, O. S. B., White Earth, Minnesota

Gilbert I. Custer
Wirt, Minn.

Dear Mr. Custer:

I hope you may excuse delay in answering your letter of Mar. 3. I am about 81 and rather slow even in thinking, so it took some time to remember the things I wished to write, as I have no written records here.

I suppose it is mainly the Catholic Indian missionary work in Itasca county about which you wish to have additional information.

The earliest record which I now remember is the baptism of Jos. F. Roy at Cut-Foot-Sioux about 1860 by Father Chebul who worked among the Chippewa Indians on the south shore of Lake Superior. Mr. Roy still lives at Red Lake, Minn. Then Rev. Jos. Buh spent a winter with the Indians on the north shore of Lake Winibegoshish probably about 1870. He died at Duluth at the age of 92 about 1925.

Between 1860 and 1890 I suppose other trips were made to those Indians by Catholic missionaries, but none remained for any length of time. I think it was in 1891, about May 15, that I started from Red Lake by canoe in company of an old Indian, by way of Cass Lake (Mission) down Cass River along the north shore of Lake Winibegoshish as far as the Dam. We remained a day at Raven's Point where there was a small Indian village, and another day (Sunday, May 24) at the mouth of Pigeon River, where quite a number of Indians were having Grand Medicine initiations, among them Chief Sho-Kah-Gee-Shig and his son-in-law, Captain John Smith.

At the Dam, William Fairbanks was running a trading post. A number of his children and grandchildren still live in that vicinity. Then we continued on our trip by way of Portage Lake to the Old Agency at Leech Lake, where we stopped with Paul and Joseph Belanger, who had lived with their father on the north shore of Lake Winibegoshish when Father Buh visited there. From Leech Lake we returned to Red Lake in the early part of June. On the whole trip I found only one white family, a man and his wife with some small children, living at Cass Lake, who conducted a boarding school (Episcopal) for Indian children. No other white person, except a man at Leech Lake married to an Indian woman.

On another trip, the next winter, we found quite a number of Indians carrying on logging operations near Ball Club Lake. There were six or eight families of Indians living at White Oak Point.

Later, up to 1896, Rev. Simon Lampe O. S. B. visited the Indians in Itasca Co. Occasionally.

From 1896 to 1905 Rev. Roman Homar, O. S. B., who then lived at Cloquet and now still lives at Ogema, Minn., visited the Indians of Ball Club and vicinity quite regularly, building the first Catholic Indian church in that region (in 1902, I think.)

Itasca County History - Early Missions - Custer.

Letter from Thomas Borgerding, O. S. B., (2)

His successor at the Indian Village near Cloquet, Simon Lampe O. S. B., also made monthly trips to Ball Club till 1911. (He died at Red Lake Nov. 10, 1940, having worked among the Minnesota Indians for fifty-two years.) In the meantime Rev. Felix Nelles O. S. B. also began to work among these Indians and continues till 1928. He built the present Ball Club church, doing a good part of the work with his own hands. He is still living at St. John's University, Collegeville, Minn., but has been in ill health for many years. He has written many reminiscences of his life among the Indians, but I do not know that they have ever been collected.

After him, till 1934, I visited Ball Club once or twice a month, sometimes also Squaw Lake and other places in the county. Since 1934 Ball Club has had a resident priest, at first Rev. Hyacinth Cismowski, O. S. B., and now Rev. Dennis Parnell, O. S. B.

All the above-mentioned Indian Missionaries were whites, including myself, but spoke the Indian (Chippewa) language fluently, except the two last mentioned. I think that a considerable majority of the Itasca county Indians are Catholic. A good number of the children have been attending Catholic boarding schools for years, at Red Lake and White Earth.

As to the general history of the Catholic Indians in northern Minnesota, the first were mostly French half-breeds, children of Indian fur traders from lower Canada. With the exception of Grand Portage on the north shore of Lake Superior there was no resident Catholic missionary among them till 1852, when Rev. Francis Pierz came to live at Crow Wing on the Mississippi below Brainerd, and from there visited the various Indian settlements. By and by more priests came, and since 1878 most of this work has been done by Benedictine Fathers from St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minn. At present there are ten, also twenty-five Sisters from St. Joseph, Minn., conducting schools for Indian children at Red Lake and White Earth, Minn.

Very respectfully,

Thomas Borgerding, O. S. B.

Itasca County History - Early Missions - Custer.

Copy of a letter from Ernest E. Loft, Virginia, Minnesota.

Mr. Eugene I. Custer,
Big Fork, Minnesota

Dear Brother: Your letter to hand and I wish to commend you on your interest in the early history you are looking into. I cannot be of much direct help, however. The Presbytery of Duluth was not organized until 1888. Prior to that it was part of the Presbytery of Saint Paul. The Presbytery of St. Paul was organized in 1855. In 1853 there was only one presbytery for the whole of Minnesota - the Presbytery of Minnesota. It was organized in 1850. We had only three churches at that time: St. Paul, Minneapolis & Stillwater.

Our first missionaries came up from Illinois to the Dakota Indians in 1834. These were two brothers by the name Pond. These were followed by a Dr. Williamson, and a Mr. Huggins together with their women-folk. These all remained in the vicinity of Fort Snelling.

I haven't the least idea who the men might be you speak of. It is quite possible they were Congregational ministers. If you write to the Rev. Arthur A. McBride, 429 Palace Building, Minneapolis, he might throw some light on the matter.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Ernest E. Loft

Itasca County History - Northwestern Part - Custer.

From John Rose.

Informed us the Frank Vance school started some time between 1898 and 1901, with Miss Maimy Dyer as teacher. The school was on the Vance farm.

Mr. Herman Reiger could not throw any light on the Dugout question. This dugout was at one time a stopping place for tired travellers to stop and rest up, the same being located on the bank of Moose Brook and on the farm now owned by Mr. Herman Reiger. It was a small room dug in the hillside, the front being enclosed by logs cut the right length and stood on end. The settlers had built a rock fireplace to warm this room with. Old settlers tell us they did stop at this place many times and stay over night and rest up before resuming their journey. Many times in coming through this brook with their boats heavily loaded they waded ahead in the water with the boat rope over their shoulders, acting as their own tote mules.

Itasca County History - Indians.

Much of this information came

From Consolidated Chippewa Agency, Cass Lake, Minnesota.

- In 1866 a treaty was made with the Bois Fort Indians, Chippewas, by which they surrendered many of their scattered locations in northeastern Minnesota and were granted definite reservations. The reservations provided for this band in this treaty were two--the Net lake reservation around Net lake, and another one designated as the Deer Creek reservation. The Net lake reservation was set up for immediate occupancy. The Deer Creek reservation was not definitely designated or located at this time, though provision for it remained in the treaty. The only provision was that this reservation would be at or near the mouth of Deer Creek where it empties into the Big Fork river.

In 1880-81 or 82 a man by the name of Caldwell was running a logging camp on Caldwell Brook in T. 151-25, now in Koochiching county. They had a small-pox epidemic hit this camp, and the story is that Caldwell and those of his lumberjacks who were able to travel pulled out and left the sick in the camp. An Indian chief of the Bois Fort band came into the camp and cared for these sick lumberjacks, saving some of them and burying the dead at the site of the camp.

It is an Itasca county legend very commonly accepted that because of this meritorious act the government gave this Indian chief a township--T. 62-25. These are not exactly the facts of the case. What was done was that action was taken to set up Deer Creek reservation provided for in the treaty of 1866 and this reservation was Township 62-24 and known in the Indian records as the Deer Creek reservation.

These Indian treaties all had peculiarities. They did not grant the Indians possession of the reservation, but merely granted them the right of occupancy. If anything of value showed up in the area the right of occupancy could be bargained for on much better terms than could outright possession.

In the government's plan to help the Indians become self-sufficient, it provided for allotments to be given the Indians. These allotments were more nearly permanent possessions than were the treaty reservations. They became the permanent home of the allottee, but remained under the control of the Indian Department.

The Indian chief who acted as an angel of mercy to the lumberjacks is generally known as Busticogan. This, however, is a nickname, his real name being Bay-Baum-Un-Che-Waish-Kung, which means "Walks Along the Ridges." It seems it was only his band of Chippewas that exercised the right of occupancy in the Deer Creek reservation. His wife was May-Maush-Kah-Waun-Ah-Quod-Oke, meaning Heavy Cloud or Stormy Cloud. Her record shows that she was born in 1828 and died in 1919.

When the Deer Creek reservation was bargained from the Indians only four Indian allotments were granted in that area.

Allotment #1 - Lots 4, 5, & 8, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 14 of T. 62-25, consisting of 75.20 acres was granted to Heavy Cloud, or Mrs. Busticogan.

Allotment #2 - Consisting of lot 2, or the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$, and Lot 3, or the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 23, T. 62-25, totaling 60.40 acres, was granted to Walks Along the Ridges, or Busticogan.

Allotment #3, which was the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and Lot 1, or the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 23, T. 62-25, totalling 79.97 acres was allotted to Ke-Ne-Waunch.

Allotment #4, or the South half of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 23, T. 62-25 was granted to On-Da-Gah-Ne-Shig-Oke (Meaning "On This Side of the Water.") This person is recorded as having been born in 1810 and having died in 1910.

These four allotments were the usual Indian allotments, with the exception of #2. In this case, Busticogan was given absolute possession and the right of absolute ownership. The other three allotments were, as are all Indian allotments, under the control and supervision of the Indian Department.

Busticogan is a legendary figure of Itasca county. This is the usual spelling, and has an accepted pronunciation. However, the white man's spelling does not agree with the Indian pronunciation which is Busch-Ka-Gun, accent on the last syllable.

The derivation of this name is interesting. In Chippewa it really means an open field or a piece of land that is clear of obstructions. One Indian legend has it that the last big battle between the Sioux and Chippewa was fought in the Deer Creek region. This battle was so long and fiercely fought that all the brush was tramped down in a considerable area, leaving a bare open place. "Walks Along the Ridges" made this area his home, and thereby was given the name of the place as his nickname. It was a little bit easier for the white man's tongue to handle than was the chief's actual name.

However, the expression Busti-Ka-Gun does not mean an open field alone, but is a name derived from an Indian pastime, a type of ball game that was played by the women of the tribe. The game is described in this way. It was necessary to have an open field in which to play it, and at each end of the playing field a post or peeled pole was set up. These were the goals. The game was played between two groups of women, each of whom carried a staff $3\frac{1}{2}$ to four feet long. This was a bare, straight stick, without a net at the end as was used in their Indian Lacrosse.

The missile of the game was made by filling two buckskin sacks with sand, and joining these sacks with a string or thong about 8 inches long, the sand being to give weight to the sacks. The sacks were about the size of a goose egg.

The object was to catch this missile on the staff and throw it toward the poles at your objective end of the playing field. When it was thrown against the pole in such a way that it would hang there a score was made. The name of this game was Busti-Ku-Ay, accent on the Ay, and the field in which it was played was Busti-Ka-Gun.

Another favorite game of the Chippewas of this region was Ba-Ga-O-Way. One lake in the county is named for this game, because the Indians used to go there to play the game on the wide sand beaches of this lake. The game has often been called Lacrosse, though it differed considerably from the present day game of that name. The bat commonly shown for this game was considerably larger and of different shape from the one that was used at Ball Club lake in the early days. The Indians of Ball Club used a Lacrosse stick that had a circular loop on the end that was netted. This loop was about four inches in diameter, and was as nearly a perfect circle as they could get it. The ball used at Ball Club lake was a wooden ball, approximately the size of a baseball. It had holes burned entirely through it, two holes at right angles. When this ball was thrown properly it would whistle on account of these holes.. This information, gotten from the Chippewa Indians, seems to indicate that the type of ball game

Itasca County History - Indians.

Chip. Agcy. - 3.

played at Ball Club lake was a sort of compromise between the game played by the Dakotas and that played by the Chippewas of Michilimackinack. The ball is an interesting item that I have never seen so described in any other account of the game.