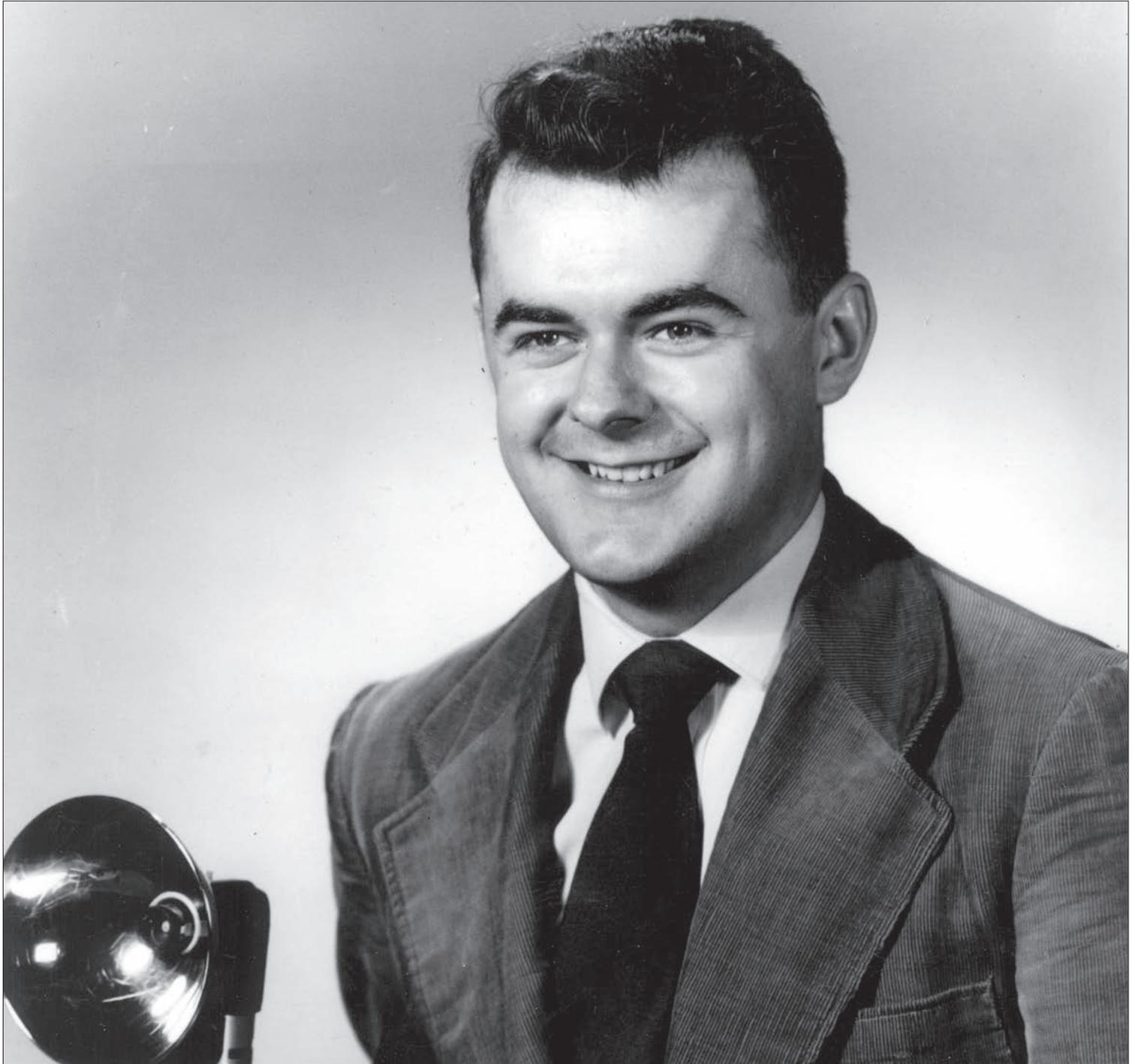




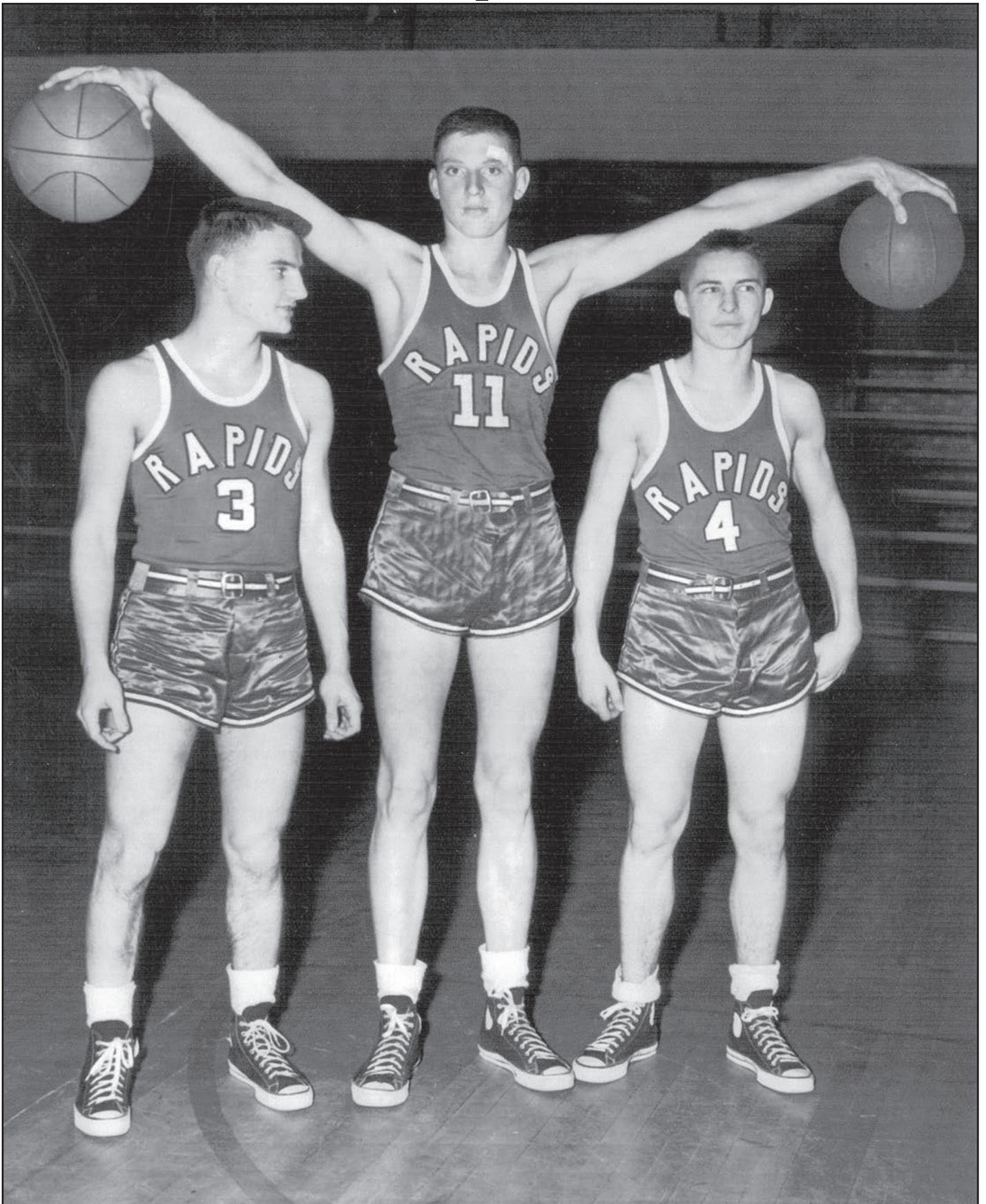
May 2008

Volume II #17

Artifacts



Cover: Don Krohn was *Daily Tribune* photographer 1947-53. His photos of the events surrounding the Necedah visions of Mary Ann Van Hoof are featured in this issue and his Wisconsin Rapids scenes make up a special exhibit at the SWCHC Museum for the 2008 season. Inside: President's message, p. 3; Lori Brost "Closer to Home," 4; Museum photos, 6-9; Nepco 1960 office booklet, 10-13; Visions of Mary Ann Van Hoof, 14-21; Don Krohn, Krohnographer, 22-24; Krohn's Necedah photos, 25-31; Uncle Dave Sez, 32.





Krohnographs

*Wisconsin Rapids through
the Tribune lens of Don Krohn*

Krohnographs = Krohn photographs.

Our exciting new exhibit in the J. Marshall Buehler Gallery will feature the photographs of Don Krohn, which are also the focus of this issue of *Artifacts*. By a happy coincidence, room-namesake Buehler and Krohn were long-time colleagues at Nekoosa Papers and the Alexander House, Port Edwards.

Before and after his 1947 graduation from Lincoln High School, Krohn worked as staff photographer for the *Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune*. When he left the Tribune in 1953 to begin his career at Nekoosa-Edwards Paper Co., later Nekoosa Papers, Inc. and now Domtar, he was able to take home many of the photographs used during that time, including a number by Lawrence Oliver of Vesper.

Under the leadership of UW-Stevens Point museum studies student and former Rapids resident, Lindsey Hardiman, SWCHC is pleased to share this incredible collection. The exhibit will focus on photographs of post-World War II Wisconsin Rapids, capturing the fashions, hair styles, automobiles, street and crowd scenes, business places and the Cranboree.

You will recall that 2008 is the Year of the Digital History Center. Our scanning of photos (by Uncle Dave's daughter, Angelica), began with the first batch of Krohn photos. In keeping with the new millennium, Uncle

Thanks to Karen Pecher and her crew, spring cleaning at the Museum is finished and we will be open to the public Sunday, May 25 through Labor Day weekend, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays 1-4 p.m.

*By
Phil Brown,
SWCHC President
&
CFO of Phil's
Den of Antiquities*



Dave is creating a video DVD that he hopes will accompany the "Krohnographs."

Be sure to stop by the Museum this summer and view Krohnographs, a truly unique display of visual history: made possible by a grant from our good neighbors and teammates in the history game, the Mead Witter Foundation.



No time like the present to thank Uncle Dave and his new colleague, Lori Brost, for their efforts in the Digital History Center. Because of their increased presence, our number of office visitors and donations of historical materials have increased dramatically. With the office open every day, it will be much easier for you to donate any local historical items you may have that you are not quite sure what to do with. Even if you do not want to part with these items, we can borrow them in order to get a digital scan. If something happens to your original item, we will have a copy of it at the Museum.

Lindsey Hardiman, volunteer in charge of the Krohnograph exhibit





*Our Lady of Necedah II
Lori Brost, new History Center staff member*

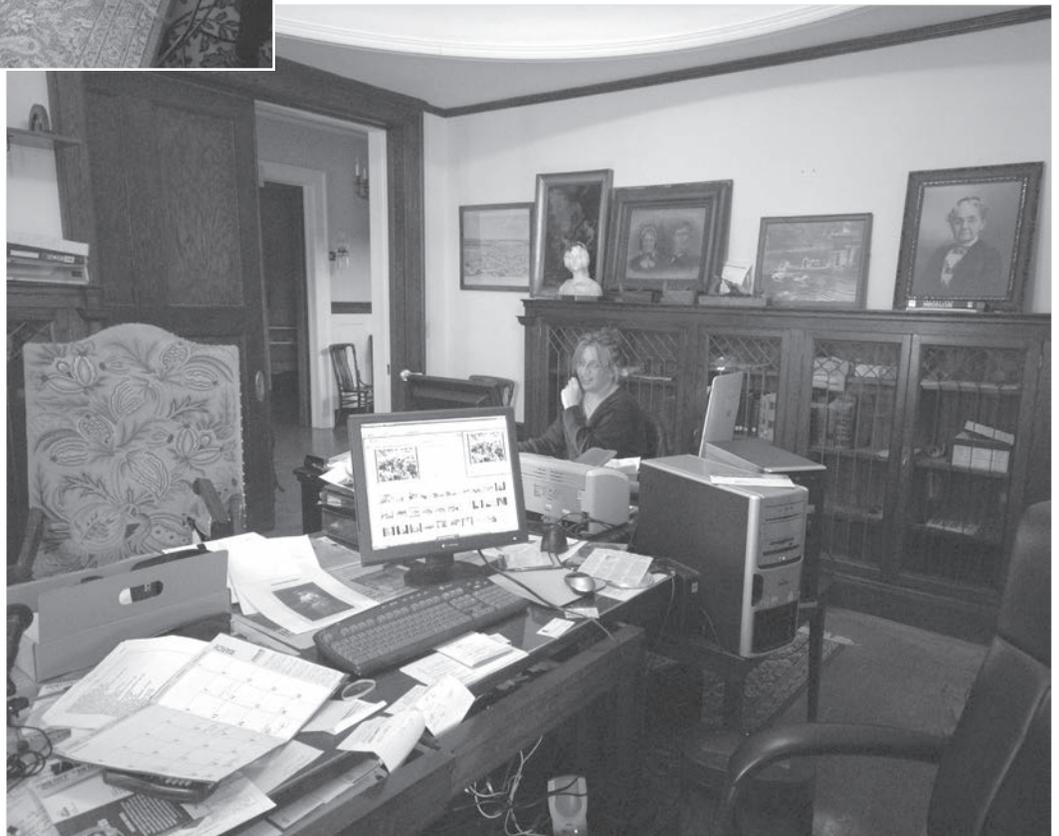


SWCHC board member and volunteer webmaster Barry Jens evaluates original blueprints of the Museum building prior to returning them to David Billmeyer, the original architect's grandson



Above: "E-con" electrician and history buff, Joe Ashbeck, installs new electrical connections at the digital history epicenter

Lori attempts to bring order to Uncle Dave's chaos. His version of Harry Truman's desktop motto is: "The dough stops here."



From the History Center*Closer to Home*

By Lori Brost

It started on a whim. At age 38, I had lived the majority of my life in the Nekoosa and Wisconsin Rapids area and had worked in Necedah for the last 17 years, which required an hour's drive through some pretty desolate terrain, especially in winters like the one we have just experienced. With two daughters needing my attention, I started thinking it was time to seriously consider working closer to home. So it happened that I stopped at the museum one cold day in December 2007 to meet Uncle Dave.

By a lucky coincidence, the "Visioneer" was looking for someone of my general description to assist him in his project, the Digital History Center.

I started in January 2008, working two days a week and to my surprise, this job took on a life of its own for me. Not only was it close to home, it was challenging and interesting in a way I had not anticipated. One of my first projects was to read and catalog (with the new PastPerfect software) a box of letters and photos from the Philleo Nash family, dating from 1927 through 1938. It was an initiation into their intriguing family history and that of "River City."

By March, I had that little bug to quit the only real job I had known since I turned 21, in order to work with Dave. Considering his reputation and the complete change in my work life, I should have been scared or nervous, but I wasn't; I was excited.

No two days are the same and you never know who will come through the door of the "old library" at 540 Third Street South. Since January, we have accessioned 16 donations of items from 2008 alone. For example, besides the Philleo Nash collection, we received from Dr. Floyd Dauenhauer a photograph album showing Consoweld houses being built; an assortment of woodworking tools from Rob DeWilde; and excellent photos taken by Walter Gunderman of Nekoosa, thanks to Nancy Nimtzy Nordstrum, Wisconsin Rapids, a Gunderman relative.

We have also added to the system four donations from previous years, including a large series of photographs of the Grand Avenue bridge during the 1890s and three Wisconsin Rapids Twins uniforms. Entering new and old items into computer software will allow easier visibility and access. By the touch of a key, we will know what has been donated, by whom, the dates brought in and where the item can be found.

It so happens that this issue of *Artifacts* features events in Necedah, where I worked so many years, often wondering about what had happened there more than half a century ago. Thanks to Don Krohn and this issue of *Artifacts*, I have a pretty good picture.





Remember the winter of '08?

SWCHC Museum

Photos by Uncle Dave





Danco hammer #4: leather-headed mallet with plane. Wood working implements from the 1800s reveal textures and patterns like the wood they work.

Donated by Ron DeWilde

Artifacts

Antique spiral auger with handle: A modern drill bit uses same design.

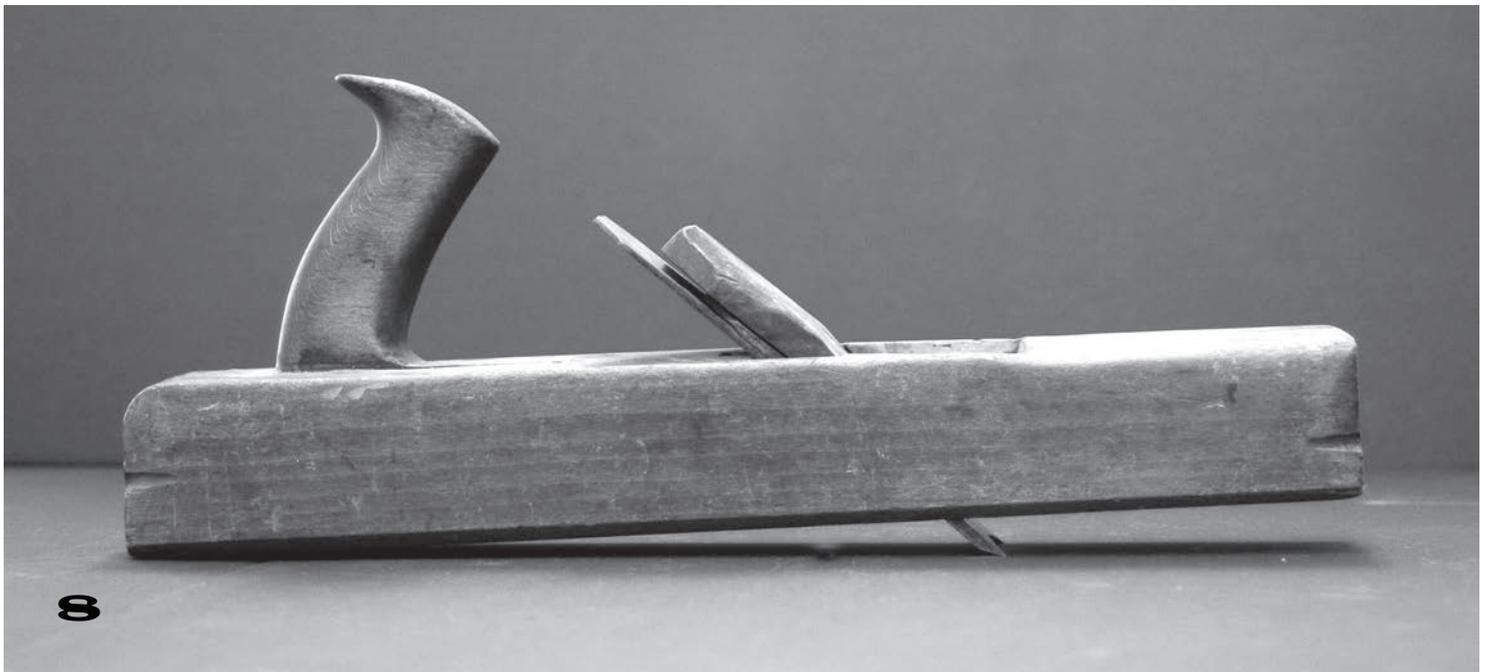




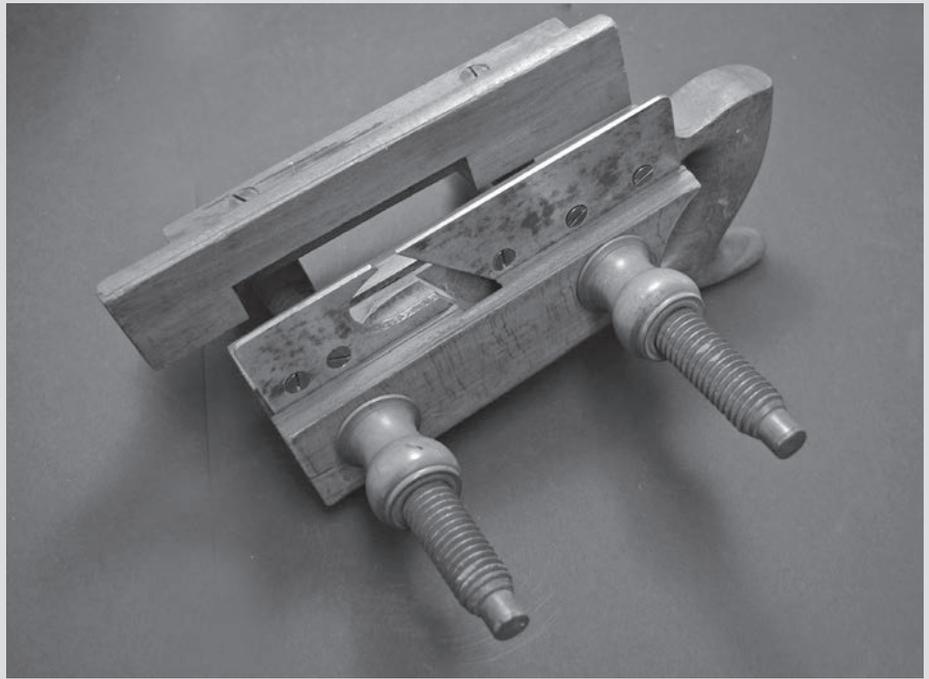
Photos by Uncle Dave

If it's used by a human, it probably has a handle.
Same tool as facing page, top.

The large plane below is almost entirely wood whereas the facing item with the same purpose appears more modern and metal-laden.



*Specialized
wood shaper,
the classic
combination
of metal
and wood.
Metal to cut,
slice,
shave;
wood to have
and hold.*

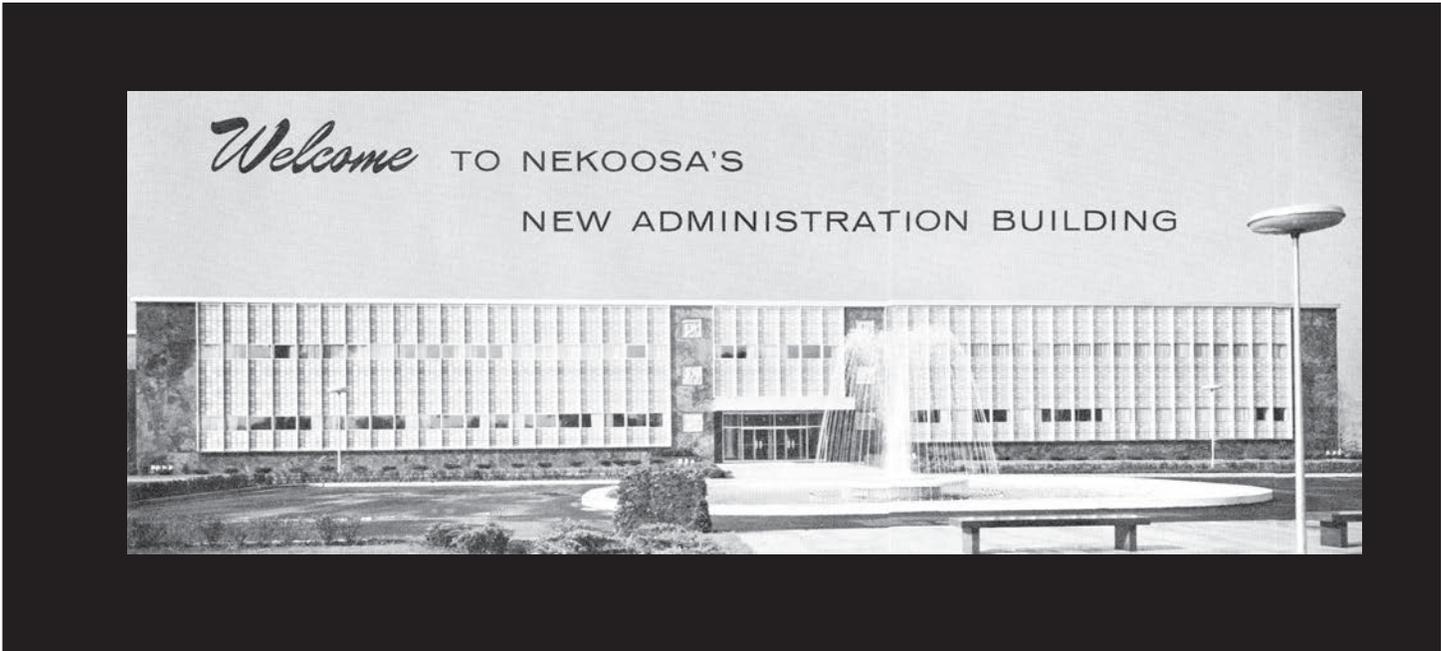


*Uncle Dave
calls this
a "Dutch" plane*

*because it looks
like a wooden
shoe.*

Below, wood bottom plane stamped with "RHSB & Co. RECONOC"



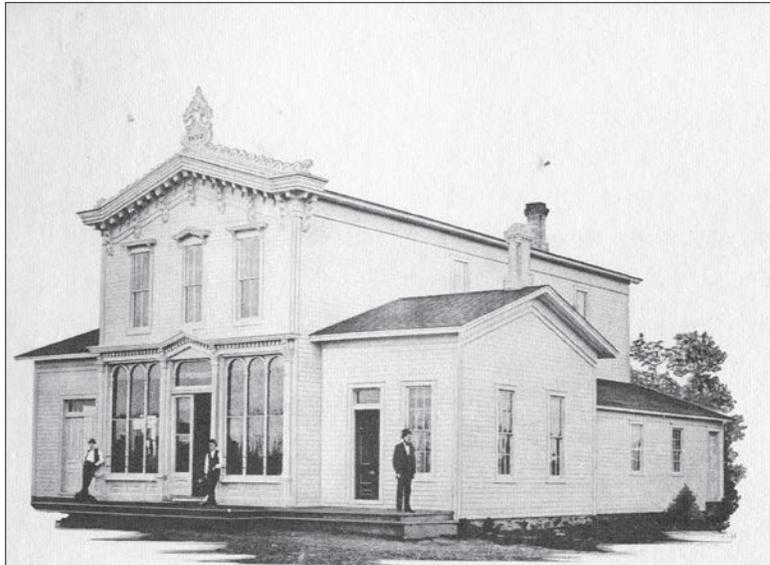


For Nepco it was the best of times
Nekoosa-Edwards Paper Co. built new Port Edwards office in 1960

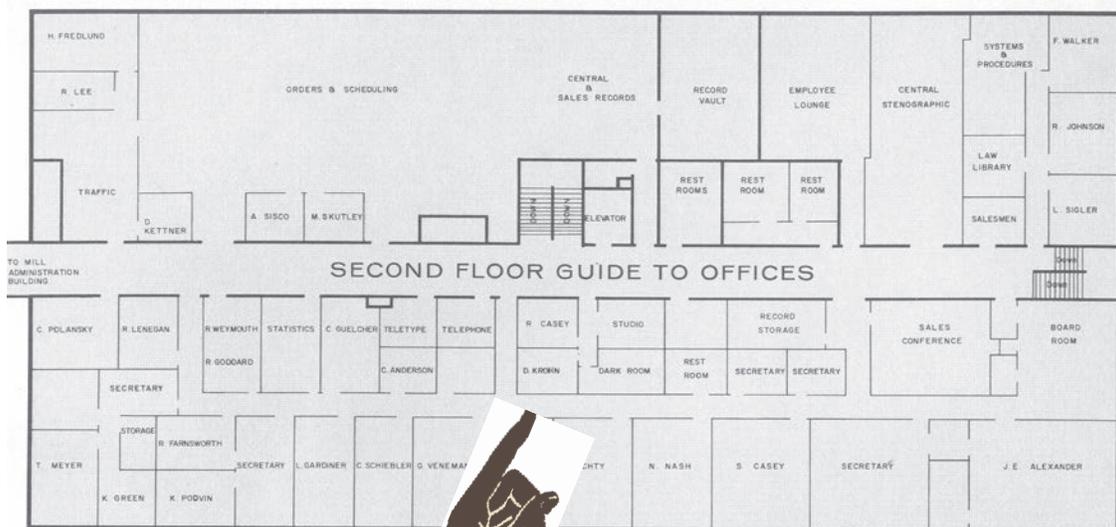
WELCOME TO NEKOOSA-EDWARDS' NEW ADMINISTRATION BUILDING. The employees retirement plan of the company built the building and leased it to Nekoosa-Edwards, holding it as an investment in the future for the men and women who work here. ■ Occupying approximately a half city block, the building's full basement and two floors provide 70,000 square feet of floor space. A third floor is planned when required. Exterior construction is of Coldspring Rainbow Granite on structural steel framing. Translucent glass panels allow natural light and provide insulation comparable to solid masonry without solar heat gain or drafts. The building is air-conditioned throughout. It has individual control thermostats in each office. Movable partitions, insulated against sound, are used for all offices. They provide flexibility of office size and arrangement. Your attention is invited to the colorful panels in these walls consisting of translucent plastic interspersed with paper cores. The attractive random color spots are chipped glass. ■ The panels on the entrance and the lithographs in the lobby depict historical moments in the development of paper and printing. Although we are proud of our heritage and the part Nekoosa-Edwards has played in the development of our community and our industry in the past, this building and our company are dedicated to the future . . . dedicated to future growth and prosperity for Nekoosa-Edwards, for the paper industry, and for our community.

Pages from
1960
Nekoosa-Edwards
Office
Dedication
Booklet

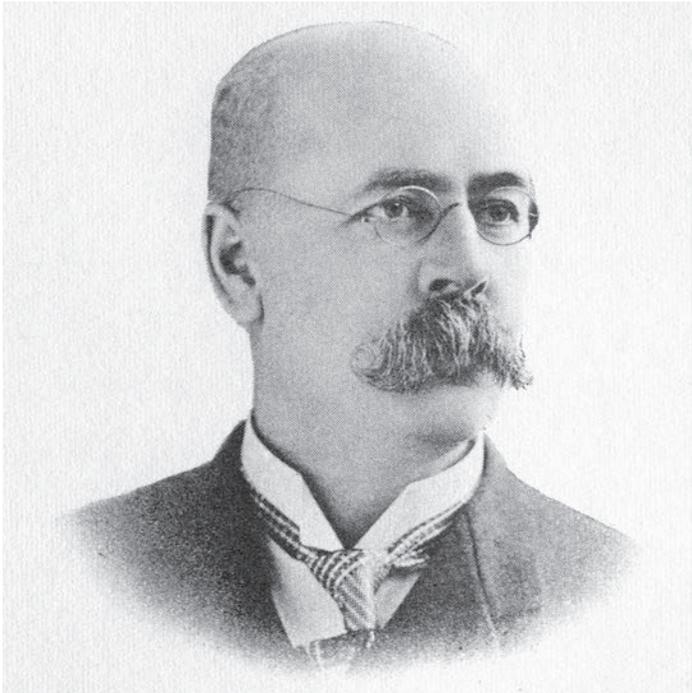
*Courtesy
Phil Brown's
Den
of Antiquity*



THE FIRST OFFICE BUILDING that housed Nekoosa-Edwards was erected in 1872 and located about a hundred yards north of the present administration building.



*Former Daily Tribune photographer
Don Krohn's public relations office*



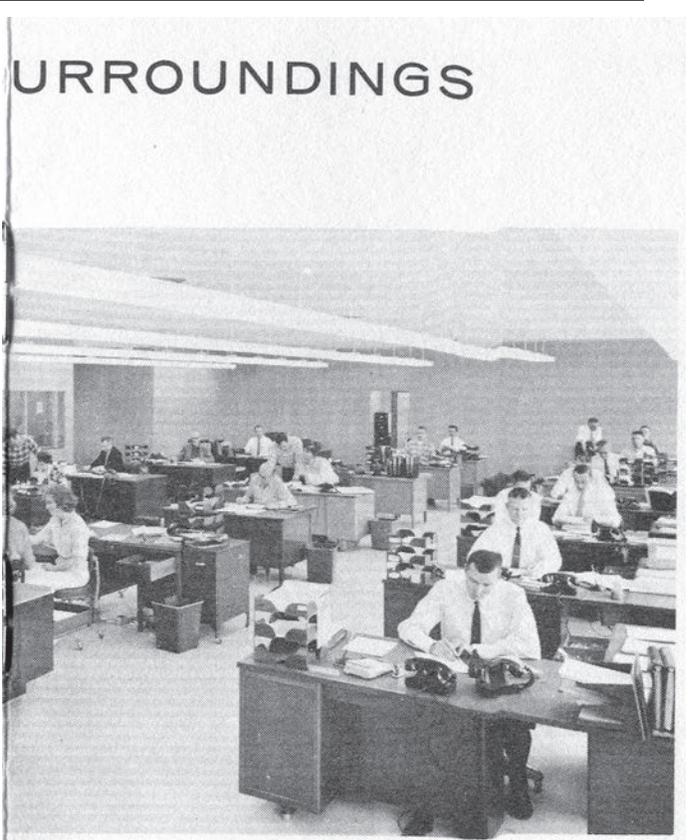
THOMAS E. NASH, PRESIDENT 1908-1911. The first president and one of the founders with L. M. Alexander, F. J. Wood, G. F. Steele, John McNaughton, Peter McNaughton and William F. Vilas. His initiative and direction added greatly to the continued growth of our company.



LEWIS M. ALEXANDER, PRESIDENT 1911-1934. "The Pioneer" - L. M. Alexander led a task force of pioneers in creating a new industry in Central Wisconsin when the curtain was falling on the lumbering industry, creating a new future for the people of this community.



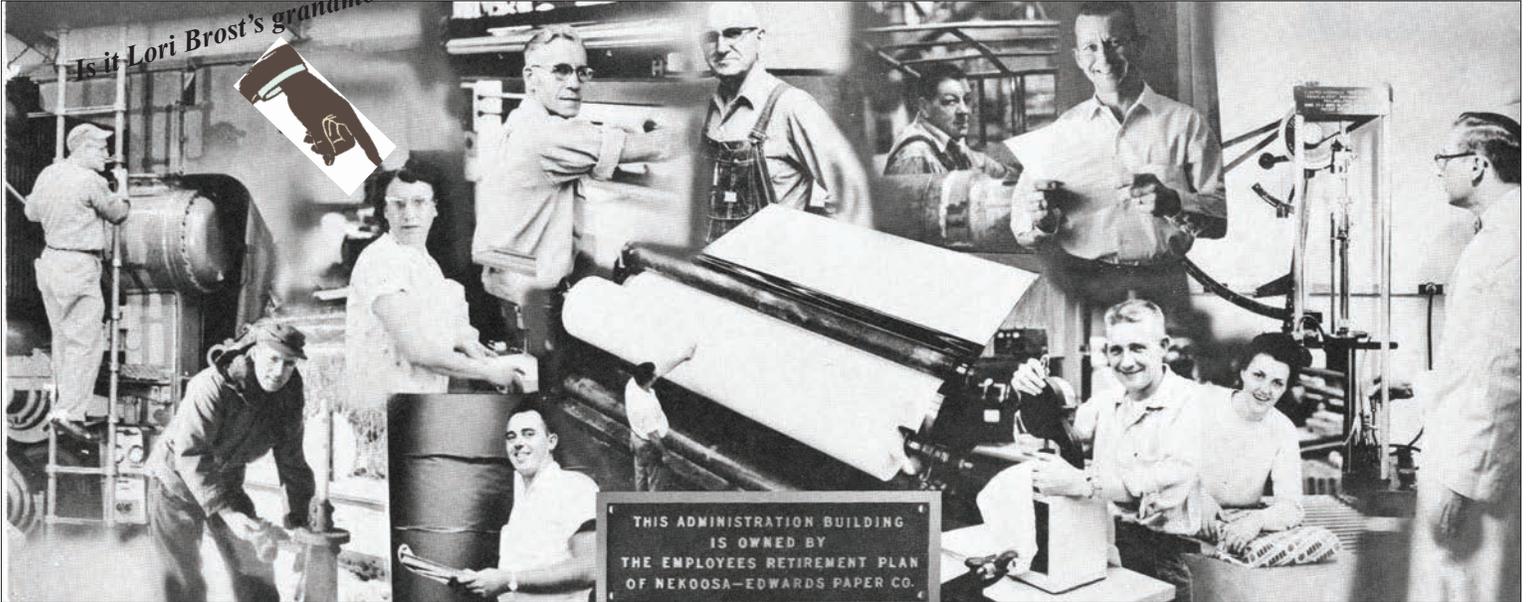
JOHN E. ALEXANDER, PRESIDENT since 1934. In 1918 Mr. Alexander became active in the company. Upon the death of his father he was elected president. Under his direction Nekoosa-Edwards entered the fine paper field, becoming one of the largest producers of sulphite papers.



URROUNDINGS

AND SCHEDULING DEPARTMENTS

Is it Lori Brost's grandmother Irene Lewis?



The Port Edwards mill and office of the former Nekoosa Edwards Paper Co. is to be shut down permanently in 2008 by its owner, Domtar Inc. The former Dominion Tar and Chemical Co. was founded in England and is now headquartered in Montreal. In 2001, Domtar purchased four paper mills from Georgia-Pacific Corp.: Ashdown (Arkansas), Nekoosa, Port Edwards, and Woodland (Maine), becoming Canada's largest paper company, third-largest producer of uncoated free sheet paper in North America, and fourth-largest in the world.



[1960]

EMPLOYEE LOUNGE



PRINT SHOP

Vision of Mary brought masses to farm yard

Necedah pilgrimages biggest events
ever in Central Wisconsin

By Dave Engel
River City Memoirs

From all corners of this nation and from Canada and Cuba: the 100,000. By way of seven special trains, 125 chartered buses and 15,000 automobiles: 100,000 pilgrims to Necedah, the small Juneau County community.

If early for the August 15, 1950, assignation, they slept in cars and tents along the highway, on porches and lawns and wherever people would take them in: these 100,000.

With county and state police keeping order on two roads leading to the 120-acre farm, “where 57-year-old Fred Van Hoof tries to eke out a living from the barren, sandy soil,” they found their way, the pilgrims.

As relays of Catholic laymen at a public address microphone recited rosaries through the morning, the crowd sweated in the merciless sun and billowing sand. Some of the 100,000 fainted, to be revived by bystanders with the help of state police, a first-aid technician and Red Cross nurses.

On nearby property, a dozen stands offered for sale soft drinks, sandwiches and religious goods at “moderate prices,” to the pilgrims. In front of the two-story farmhouse, a white statue of Our Lady of Fatima, gift of a Milwaukee religious organization, banked with flowers brought by neighbors, for the 100,000.

Surrounding the shrine, long rows of kneeling benches erected by a voluntary citizens committee. To the rear, small ash trees where the farm woman saw her first apparition, to which they directed their gaze, the pilgrims.

Despite admonitions from Catholic Bishop John Treacy to stay away: 60 priests and 30 nuns – among the 100,000.

At the stroke of noon, the apparition, appearing to the farm wife out of a blue mist at the ash trees: The Virgin Mary, dressed in white.

“Pray and pray hard. The time is short.”

Her words to the pilgrims.

*Photos by Don Krohn
Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune*



Perform religious rituals faithfully; be vigilant against the enemies of God; battle Russia and the Iron Curtain with prayer, sacrifice, penance and sacraments.

The words of the Mother of God, relayed through Mary Ann Van Hoof to the 100,000.

Media report

Fifty-eighty years ago, Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune photographer Don Krohn was among the multitude awaiting a miracle. “It was quite a surprise when she fainted. I was with the other news people and right in front of her. All I recall is seeing thousands and thousands of people. All tramping across the fields and into the area, coming to the old farmhouse that was her home.”

(Continued on p. 18)



*Van Hoof farm, Necedah
site of 1950 religious visions*



C
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*At Necedah, praying
for a miracle*



PRAYING PILGRIMS
MASSING IN HOPE
FOR THE
CROSS



PHONE 612
DONALD J. KROHN
PHOTOGRAPHER
WISCONSIN RAPIDS
DAILY TRIBUNE

(Continued from p. 14)

“Somebody was leading prayers, the rosary, with all those people pulsating with enthusiasm. Then Mary Ann Van Hoof came out. There was an electric feeling like a chant and then she fainted.”

It happened just as Krohn used his last piece of film. Fortunately, he was a member of the Wisconsin news photographers organization, and acquainted with many of his colleagues. “The Milwaukee Sentinel photographer next to me handed me a couple of film holders.” In turn, Krohn said, the Associated Press and out-of-town newspapers used the darkroom at the *Tribune* because it was the closest daily newspaper to Necedah.

All part of documenting one of the biggest mass events to ever take place in central Wisconsin.

With Krohn was William F. Huffman Jr. The son of the *Tribune* publisher was learning the newspaper game as a reporter, although he wouldn’t get credit for it. In 1950, news stories appeared without a byline.

Mediatrice

The apparitions of that year had begun in April when Mrs. Van Hoof noticed that the figure on a crucifix emitted a strange glow and also a voice she said was that of Mary, the “Mediatrice” between God and the people of earth. In May, “Our Holy Mother” appeared in a flash of light behind four ash trees with messages for Van Hoof to relay.

“Tell the children of God to pray the Rosary, to live clean lives and to make sacrifices for sinners.” The “Blessed Virgin” also called for prayers encouraging the conversion of Russians to Christianity.

Testimony

At the climactic events of August 1950, many onlookers viewed nothing out of the ordinary, but Van Hoof’s husband, Fred, 57, declared, “She saw it.”

The Rev. Sigismund Lengowski, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi parish, Necedah, also verified that Mrs. Van Hoof, a 40-year-old mother of seven, had been favored with a visitation. Among other instructions, she was told to build a shrine on the spot of the apparition and erect a large crucifix on the village bluff.

Red October

“The year of 1951 will be a sad year unless you

pray, pray and pray hard,” related the Mediatrice through Mrs. Van Hoof’s voice.

With the Korean conflict as background, the message came back: “Save those sons dying out there on the battlefields now for lack of your faith.” The Mediatrice also advised the faithful to take care of the children, clean up corruption and stop worshiping the almighty dollar.

“Pray the Rosary! That’s the only weapon. The enemy is powerful and is ready to pounce upon you. The clouds are gathering close to the Americas right now.”

The sun spins

Words of a Wisconsin Rapids woman are included in a book of testimonials by pilgrims. The woman had attended Mass at St. Vincent De Paul church in Rapids, prior to driving to Necedah in a steady rain. As she prayed before the scheduled visions, her husband said, “This reminds me of a spiritualist meeting.”

It was about noon when Van Hoof came out of the house and a woman screamed, “My God, it’s really true,” and fell to her knees.

Then it happened that the Rapids woman and so many in the crowd saw the sun, covered with a dark, greenish gray disk, spinning down toward the earth. And she testified, “I thought the end of the earth was coming and fell to my knees.”

A Pittsville woman also described the sun spinning closer to the earth. “I and many other people, fell to our knees in awe.”

Media report

The *Daily Tribune* visited the Oct. 7, 1950, event, a 25-minute “last” message from the Mediatrice to the “throng” of 50,000. At this seventh vision, gasps were heard from women who again saw the sun behaving oddly. A Catholic priest told reporters he saw the sun whirl clockwise and jump.

After Mrs. Van Hoof collapsed and was helped into her house, word was sent out that the Virgin had appeared in a flowing blue gown. Her message warned of death and destruction unless people prayed hard for peace and conversion of Communists to Christianity.

“As citizens, do something! Save your country. Not by good times, by trying to outwit their neighbor as to who can get the best car, but who can say the most rosaries. Remember the way of the cross.”

Skeptics

Some of those who visited with Van Hoof didn't see anything miraculous. The Catholic hierarchy in La Cross was especially critical of goings-on at the Yellow River micropolis. After all, Mrs. Van Hoof's mother was believed to be a "spiritualist" and weren't these visions just another way of "channeling?" Some claimed the stigmata that accompanied visions was self-inflicted.

Perhaps the community was all too eager to embrace the action. "Bushel baskets" of cash carried to the local bank by dark of night alleviated an economic slump that had followed the end of work on the nearby Petenwell and Castle Rock dams.

Many years later, contemporary authors continue to examine the Van Hoof visions as two books attest: "Encountering Mary" (1991) by Sandra L. Zimdars-Swartz and "Something to Declare" (1998) by Julia Alvarez.

Believers

Some of the multitude hold their beliefs just as strongly today as they did 50 years ago. Like Joseph F. Shelfhout, caretaker at the Queen of the Holy Rosary Mediatrix of Peace Shrine Necedah. A Wrightstown native, Shelfhout told me he had known Fred Van Hoof, had wanted a smaller farm, and for that reason was steered to Juneau County.

In 1950, Joseph's brother, Ray, had asked him if he wanted to go down "where that lady is having visions." Oct. 7, after a rainy morning, Joseph saw it: the sun spinning toward the earth as pilgrims all around him fell to their knees in awe.

This and the Don Krohn story were previously published in the Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune.

Shrine to earlier vision





*Left:
Krohn's
printing
easel
creates
an
accidental
cross*

*Right:
Same
photo,
as
it
was
cropped*

ADRESSES CROWD -







At the History Center, 2008

Photos by Uncle Dave

Don Krohn, Krohnographer

By Dave Engel *River City Memoirs*

Who can be calling at this hour of the night? It's a doctor. It's a police officer. A coroner. It's a bad accident out by Smoky Joe's corner. It's a major fire in town: Schnabel's, Rapids Furniture, Gill paint factory, Rapid's Beverage. A murder in Grand Rapids.

If something happens at night, it's probably bad.

If it happens in the day, it's probably good. It's a parade on Grand Avenue. It's a dedication at a church. A celebration at the field house.

All part of the game in the days of hot lead and linotype. Back in the days of hard work and not a lot of glory to it. When his labor is made public, the credit is an anonymous "staff photo." But once in a while, initiative and talent are recognized.

Like May 10, 1951, when Tribune staff photographer Don Krohn received a 'Fire Foto of the Year' award for "Moving In," a dramatic shot of three firefighters silhouetted against a wall of flame, included in the Museum exhibit opening for the 2008 season.

Staff Photographer

At his Port Edwards house in the winter of 2001, Krohn talked about his part in documenting the history of "River City."

During his senior year at Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln High School, 1946-47, Krohn worked in the *Tribune* mail room after school and during summer vacation. His introduction to professional photography came in the darkroom, "souping" film and printing photographs. The last step, in the era of letterpress printing, was engraving a photographic image with nitric acid on a zinc plate – "kind of a smelly operation," said Krohn.

\$24.50

After on-the-job training as a part-time weekend photographer, Krohn was asked by owner and publisher Bill Huffman Sr. if he wanted to come in as full-time Tribune staff photographer.

"He offered me the job at a little less than \$25 a week."

Photographic experience in high school and instruction from departing photographer Joe Landowski was all Krohn needed to begin.

He didn't have a lot of contact with the elder Huffman, whose offices were above the Montgomery Ward store at his Wisconsin Network and WFHR radio station. The newspaper occupied a small building south of Ward's facing the river.

“The photo department was in sort of a lean-to added to the back end of the building. It used to get fairly cold back there when you’d get a really hard cold snap and the chemicals would almost freeze. We’d have to warm them up to 68 degrees. Eventually, they did add a large heater and piped in steam from the furnace,” Krohn said.

Speed Graphic

Early Tribune photographs were printed from 4-inch-by-5-inch negatives shot on the standard “press camera,” the Speed Graphic. “In the early days, we took photographs with large flashbulbs,” Krohn said. “Eventually, we got the first strobe unit. It had a very large wet battery, almost the size of an auto battery. You’d carry that around your shoulder. It was very good for taking sports photos, but it was quite a package to carry around.”

You can do a lot of things with a press camera you couldn’t with the smaller cameras, Krohn said. If you got tired, you could always sit and rest on the Speed Graphic.

Grip and grin

Reporters filled in with photos to illustrate their stories, notably Jane Jackson, who became society editor. Bill Huffman Jr. contributed an occasional shot. Also helping out was freelancer Lawrence Oliver of Vesper.

The chief editor at the Tribune in 1951 was Carl Otto. General photo assignments, such as the ubiquitous “grip and grin,” came through the managing editor, who was, for several years, Bill Beckmann. The “spot news” photo calls were those that sometimes came at home and then, it seemed, usually in the middle of the night.

Among the reporters, said Krohn, was a good one, by the name of Marty Segrist, “who coached me with my early writing.” Also at the *Tribune* was writer and editor Oliver Williams. Longtime *Tribune* stalwart Lorena Paap had been society editor and continued in that department.

Krohn received some of his assignments from sports editors, whose duties included play-by-play commentary for radio station WFHR. Sports editor Don Unferth left for a position with the Chicago White Sox and was replaced by Ed Hanson who reported the 1951 state basketball championship.

Rounding out the staff photographer’s duties were assignments from the advertising department.

Second Responder

The photographers were in close touch with the Wood County Sheriff’s Department and the Wisconsin Rapids Police Department.

“They would call us when there was spot news,” Krohn said. “The sheriff’s department always wanted copies of our photographs. They did not have their own cameras when I started working at the newspaper.”

With no competition from television, Krohn said, “I was usually the only one at the scene.”

March madness

He was not lonely that weekend in 1951, when Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln won the state basketball tournament.

At the Madison sessions, the photographers took their places on the edge of the floor, next to the out-of-bounds marker. “You’d always have the big guys there, the Madison newspapers, the Milwaukee papers,” said Krohn.

“We sat right under the home team basket. We didn’t have telephoto lenses. We had the standard lens. The photographers would be in groups right under the basket shooting flash right into the players’ eyes.”

After the game, Krohn traveled back to Wisconsin Rapids in a heavy snowstorm. The next day, he was out taking photographs at the homes of the players.



Photo above: Don showing a photo of a young congressman, Melvin R. Laird, later Secretary of Defense

The Bastille

Krohn said former Consolidated Papers Inc. public affairs director Dan Meyer recently reminisced about one of Meyer’s first days on the job. Up to that time, press access to Consolidated’s unique paper-coating systems had been tightly controlled until he escorted Krohn inside a local mill to photograph a new piece of equipment. “Well, we finally made it inside of the Bastille!” Krohn told Meyer.

Retrospective

In a 1990 *Tribune* feature, reporter Jamie Marks observed that Krohn was a charter member of the Wisconsin Press Photographers Associated and had been ahead of his time in beginning a standard of at least one local photo per day on the front page. “It was the old school,” Krohn told Marks. “There were some real characters....”

Emphasis was on the ‘real,’ Marks wrote, as Krohn remembered the occasional newsroom sojourn to the nearby Uptown Bar at the end of a busy day.

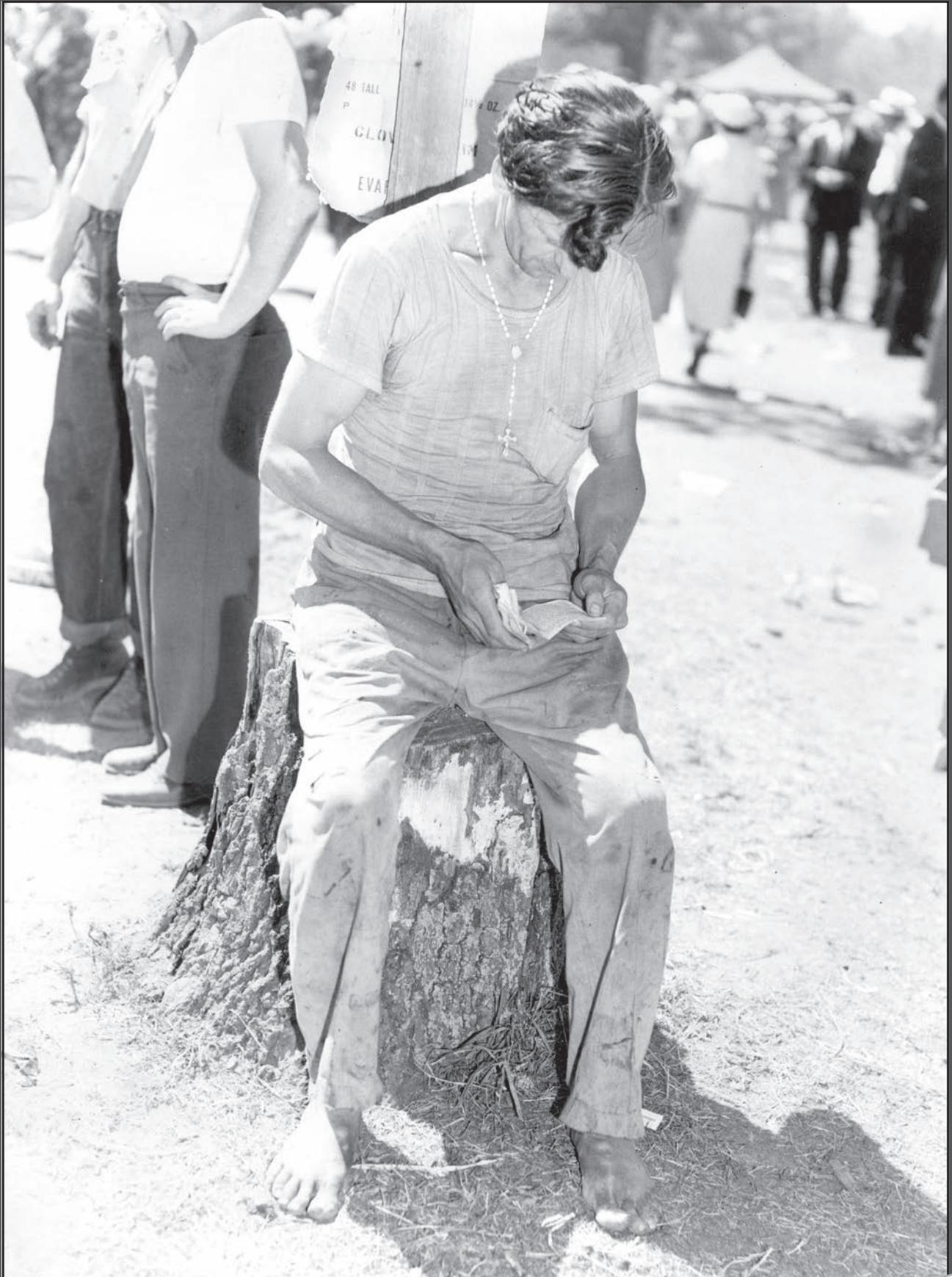
NEPCO

In 1953, Krohn, son of a Consolidated worker, moved to Nekoosa-Edwards Paper Co. as assistant editor/photographer of the company’s magazine, *Nepco News*. He moved up through the ranks to become public relations manager in 1971. In the early 1980s, Krohn was a friend of the Wakely house, owned by his employer, the successor of Nekoosa-Edwards. It was Krohn who loaned me a key so I could spend a night communing with the ghosts of historic Point Basse. Krohn retired in 1990, but continues to be active in forestry issues and community organizations, recently the Alexander House, Port Edwards.

But for some, his status always will be defined by a time long ago, when he was still living with his parents on 13th Avenue; when he attended every public function and knew everyone in town. When he could be readily identified by his prominent position and the tools of his trade. When they knew him as Don Krohn, *Tribune* photographer.



Don Krohn at History Center 2008



Necedah Pilgrim

PHOTO BY
DONALD J. KROHN
PHOTOGRAPHER
WISCONSIN RAPIDS
DAILY TRIBUNE



Third Vision
1950



Mary Ann Van Hoof

PHONE 10
DONALD J. KROHN
PHOTOGRAPHER
WISCONSIN RAPIDS
DAILY TRIBUNE





Mary Ann Van Hoof



Bigger than the Iola Rock Fest?





A pilgrim faints



Mrs. Van Hoof:
*She saw the
Mother of God*



Forget me not:

In memory of Nathalie Smart, former SWCHC board member with a charming personality and fresh insights; and former SWCHC president Calvin Hagen. Cal, long time principal of Howe school, was my Methodist Sunday school superintendent; I thought he was the coolest cat this side of Garry Moore.

These reminiscences bring to mind an unexpected question: am I the SWCHC board member (other than J. Marshall Buehler) whose service goes back the longest?

When I “came on board” in the early 1980s, some SWCHC stalwarts were: Ellen Sabetta, Lee Pomainville, Lorena Paap, Cay Brazeau, Catherine Boyce, Elsie Podalwiltz, Georgiana and Wally Ives, John Getzin, Edith McConnell, Vicki and Kenneth Hall, Bart Weiland, Kathryn Easter, Pat Orcutt, Gert Raprager and Emily Baldwin Bell. Roy Remitz was the handy man and a fine, good-hearted one he was.

When another candidate withdrew at the last minute, it was Ruth Fretz who got down on her knees at McMillan Memorial Library and begged me to agree to be SWCHC president. I hadn’t planned to get involved in any such mess until I was 50! For the record, Ruth did the deed with humor and dignity.

As the 2008 museum season begins, SWCHC enjoys an exceptionally cooperative and active board of directors: Nick Brazeau, Phil Brown, Marshall Buehler, Page Clark, Bud Daly, Robert Detlefson, Dave Engel, Joan Haasl, Barry Jens, Sarah Sigler, and Robert Zimmerman.



Uncle Dave’s SWCHC Memoirs

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Krohnographs

Featured photographer Don Krohn has been good to history, providing encouragement, information and tours of the Port Edwards and Nekoosa mills. He also supported Wakely Inn Preservation, Inc. and secured a grant from Nekoosa Papers, Inc. for River City Memoirs II.

His Tribune photographs provide an unparalleled view of our mid-20th Century community.

**South Wood County Historical Corp.
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