



# Wisconsin Rapids History Videos

by

Paul Gross

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- †† PAUL'S FAVORITE FIVE - F, G, H, Q, U (five for price of four)

(A) HOW IT WAS — WISCONSIN RAPIDS 1930 (29 Min.) Produced in  
1965 - Sponsor, Wisconsin Rapids Savings & Loan

**A**

**Contents:**

Chester P. Gross, City Engineer

Mobile Equipment

Employees

Garbage Collection

Water & Light Department

Vehicles

August Ludwig — Art Hanneman

Web Berard —Traffic Control

Sewer Project and Street Repair

Fire Department—August Miller (Fire Chief)

13<sup>th</sup> Street Pumping Station — Carson Burt

4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Highway 34 Construction

F F Mengel Company

F X Pommerville "The Grand Banan"

Father Reding

Tri-City Airport Show

Sunday Baseball — Witter Field

Old Swimming Pool

High Water Flood

Parade, July 4<sup>th</sup> 1930, Street Car, Fireworks, Officer Bunde

# **B**

(B) A HISTORY OF WISCONSIN RAPIDS - THE EAST  
SIDE PART ONE (26 Min) Produced in 1972 —  
Sponsor, First National Bank of Wisconsin Rapids

Looking south at First and Baker Streets at flood damage —June 16<sup>th</sup> 1880

View from top of the Witter House (Hotel)

Rablin House burned June 12<sup>th</sup> 1896. Pictures, before and after.

Arpin House, Congregational Church, and Irving school.

First National Bank and Library

John Wagner Property — 1894 (South end of Flat Iron block)

History of Bridges

1905 3. E. Daly and assorted businesses on east side of Second St. South.

John Daly's Vacation

New Elks Club building 1916

D D Conway office.

(C) A HISTORY OF WISCONSIN RAPIDS — THE WEST SIDE (26 Min)

Produced in 1973 — Sponsor, First National Bank of Wisconsin Rapids



Cranberry Street - looking west from bridge.

Nels Johnson Company 1859

La Fabe Building

Centralia Hardware Building — 1867

Mc Kinen Building

South River Bank

Occupants - Second Avenue South to Third Avenue

Centralia Post Office

H. W. Jackson Family Home -1862 (Postmaster)

Dudley "Barber Shop and dwelling" (Owner- Mrs. Knapp, sister of J. D. Witter)

S W Corner of Third & West Grand Avenues

Julian Hotel

City Band Stand (West Side)

Lowell School

End of World War One — Boys return Northwestern Depot and parade

1919 — Merger of Grand Rapids and First National Banks —Huffman buys Daily Leader

Consolidated buys River Block

# D

(D) A HISTORY OF WISCONSIN RAPIDS — THE EAST SIDE  
PART TWO (23 Min) Produced in 1974 — Sponsor, The First National  
Bank of Wisconsin Rapids

John Posley's Saloon — 1912 (Later Val Siewert's Grocery & Lunch Counter)  
Grand Rapids Brewery  
Love House 1872  
Drake Street  
Arpin House at First and Drake Streets (Reference "1000 Indians past by")  
Joseph Wood — First meeting of Wood County Board on Washington Street  
Howe School  
First Lincoln High School  
Witter Building (Manual Arts School)  
Second Lincoln High School — New in 1931  
John E. Daly home on 3rd Street So.  
River Bank — south of Elks Club  
New Elks Building  
Glue Shoe Store corner  
Wood Block  
Southeast Corner of Second & Vine Street area  
Ideal Theater  
Farish Brothers Store — 1896, Wood County Bank, etc.  
1916 Studebaker — 1931 Studebaker and Chrysler  
1946 (after the war parade) Studebaker and Desoto — Floats and the Vets get back to work

(E) A HISTORY OF WISCONSIN RAPIDS—THE RAILROADS AND  
INDUSTRY (24 Min) Produced in 1975 — Sponsor, The First National  
Bank of Wisconsin Rapids



Mail delivery route, Galena Illinois to Grand Rapid Centralia by oxen.

Green Bay & Lake Pepin RR arrival November 1872

Chicago Milwaukee & St Paul RR arrival June 14<sup>th</sup>, 1873

Last Passenger Service October 7<sup>th</sup> 1970

Reuben Lindstrom

Port Edwards Centralia & Northern and Marshfield and Northeastern railroads

Chicago and Northwestern 1901 and the SOO Line

Last scheduled Steam Train to leave Wisconsin Rapids

Rablin & Robb Foundry & Machine Shop 1876

Neeves Mill — Podowitz (George & Cal) Mill

Grand Rapids Foundry 1893 — Nash Mill (Thomas & John) 1889

John Rablin Foundry & Machine Shop — American Carbonic

Pioneer Lumber & Wood Pulp Company — Lyon's DM

Jackson Milling Company — Grand Rapids Milling Company

J. D. Witter — Nels Johnson — George W. Mead — Consolidated Water Power & Paper  
Company

First Wood County Courthouse

Lutz and Twin City Breweries

Prentice Wabers Products Co (Preway) evolution



**F**

(F) A HISTORY OF WISCONSIN RAPIDS - TOM TAYLOR'S DAYS (29 Min.) Produced  
in 1976 — Sponsor, The First National Bank Of Wisconsin Rapids

East river bank buildings

Flood of 1965 - First and Second Streets

Swimming pool

First and Baker streets

Bushnell Gas Station

Siem Tailor Shop

Bill Cummings — A & P — Model Drug Store — Chinese Laundry

Daly Block, 1935

Post Office site May 13, 1933 (Before construction)

West Side

Montgomery Ward — Tribune — Normington Cleaners — Wis. Valley Creamery

1930 Parade and Street Car

River Block — 1932

1933 Lafayette Automobile

Ferry with Witter Hotel Stagecoach

Lowell School Pupils

George Davis with car on Nekoosa Ferry

Old Car Passengers A. P. Hirzy and Jake Lutz, with wives

First Swimming Pool

"Identification" - Tom Taylor — Paul Gross (1976)

(G) A HISTORY OF WISCONSIN RAPIDS — AFTER THE WAR



PART ONE - THE WEST SIDE

(30 Min) Produced in 1998 — Sponsor, South Wood County Historical Corporation

Nash Block

Commercial Hotel

New (1958) Tribune and WFHR building

Wisconsin Valley Creamery, Beauty Parlor and Gift Shop

W Grand Avenue (Pan to long shot) Quick Lunch & neighbors

Empire Bar, Art Davis Restaurant

C P I Office Building (new)

River Block (Early 50's) Heilman's, German Jewelry, Fey Studio, Gift & Luggage, Auto Supply, Branch Library

Occupants- Mead-Witter Block

Bygone Cars — Desoto — Studebaker — Kaiser-Frasier - Early TV advertising — Bulova Jackie Gleason

The Brig — 1965 — "Brig Bombers" Basketball. "Spider" Bohem Feb. 23, 1956 1958 Chrysler

Ridiculous Day, Johnson Hills

1965 Marling Lumber Co, Palace Theater building occupied by Sears, King Henry's & Square Bar

West Grand at 4th Avenue and west— Shell Gas, City Hall, Red's Dixie Bar, Weller's Jewelry, Kellogg Lumber

Walloch's Office Supply 1977, Demolition of the Dixon Hotel Blenker's TV, Guarantee Hardware, Tavern and City Gas Company Bandeline Hotel, Romanski's Bar, Brown Derby

Milwaukee Road Depot — October 7, 1970, Last passenger train leaves Wisconsin Rapids.

Fall of 1977 — Construction of new City Hall and Rapids Mall





# H

(H) A HISTORY OF WISCONSIN RAPIDS - AFTER THE WAR PART TWO, THE EAST SIDE (31 Min). Produced in 1999 - Sponsor, The South Wood County Historical Corporation

## Local Casualties of WW II

Our East Side down town in August of 1951, popcorn wagon "Shorty the Greek" shoe shine, etc.

1999 First Street to the Eagles Club

Witter Hotel area and close in detail

1951 — New Mead and Rotary Club

Wood County Centennial, old and new Court House, etc.

Second Street — Bubble's Bar, Badger Bar, etc.

Businesses still operating 1965 - Dress shop, Sugar Bowl, shoe store — Gambles — Penneys — Daly Drug

1955 View from balcony on north side of Daly Drug building. (Labor Temple, Staub's, etc.)

1955 Jackson Street Bridge and previous C P I Bridge, Governor Knowles plants a Hoppa Tree 1965

"Your Record Shop" to Schiff Chrysler Garage -

Oak Street — Bender Law Office, Barnitz Beauty Salon, Tavern, Hein Printing (later P Gross Jewelers)

Vacated Ford Garage building and G A R club house 1953 Cranboree

Wood County Telephone Co on second Street and Newer facility and early dial system

Chrysler "Woodie"

March, 1968 — Richard Nixon at Labor Temple

Labor Day Picnic Robinson Park

Winter of 1967, Spring Flood

Local "Rock" band — "The Shags"

Summer of 1960 — Goodyear Blimp, Baraboo Circus Train, July 4tg Parade, and New Swimming Pool.

(I) A HISTORY OF WISCONSIN RAPIDS - AFTER THE WAR PART THREE — OUR RECENT

PAST (27 Min) Produced In 2000 — Sponsored by the South Wood County Historical

Corporation



NASA Lunar landing achievement

8th Street area, Root Beer Stand, Eighth and Grand Avenue

New (Mc Millan) Library — Previous Library (3<sup>rd</sup> Street--now SWCHC building) New

Riverview Hospital and fire preceding opening

Old East Side Fire Station, New West Side and East Side Stations and old East  
Station fire.

"Old Smokey" Locomotive installed in Zoo area and later removal to  
North Freedom, Wis.

Expressway Bridge under construction and dedication and opening of the  
Expressway

Reroute of Jackson and Oak Streets (Mead area)

Construction of first new Mead Hotel addition — 1977

C P I Office Building —1980

East Side Riverbank buildings - demolition - 1980

Reagan elected President

Construction of East Side Park 5/10/81

Demolition: Nash Block, Brauers and Coast To Coast areas

Demolition of Grand Avenue Bridge, New Bridge, etc. 1984-85 Dedication 9/14/86

1980 Clock Tower Fund Raisers and construction — 1980

City Promotion and Don Cheesboro at McMillian Library



(J) THE NEKOOSA — PORT EDWARDS STORY — FROM LUMBER TO  
PAPER (31 Min) Produced in 2000 — Written by Marshal J. Buehler,  
Sponsored by SWCHC

The forests of 1840

John Edwards and Henry Clinton, The Edwards & Clinton Company

Daniel Whitney, John Edwards Jr.

Name change from French Town to Port Edwards, 1861

Moses Strong Mill at Nekoosa — 1860

Wakely Tavern and Cranberries

Lumbering and Rafting (Gus Giese)

Railroad organization — 1870

Jack Kaiser, log salvage

1880 Properties of Frank & George Wood to Thomas Nash, L M Alexander & Frank W

Nekoosa Paper Company formed

1893 Columbia Exposition Chicago, 1893 (Paper Machine) Port

Edwards Mill 1895 & Pulp & Sulfite

Centralia Pulp & Paper CO, 1908 & Fire. 1910, Rebuilt for electric power & Street  
car Line

Village Power Light & Water, Ford Tri-motor, the Hotel and depression years.

Paper brands, King William, 1937 Nekoosa Bond

New schools, churches, Lida Edwards and L M Alexander, son, John E. etc.

Nepco Lake 1923 — Railroad Passenger service

1948 — Port Edwards Shopping Center

"White City", Band, Fire Department & Water Works

1916 Nekoosa and progress — Ferry, Bridges, etc.

(K) A HISTORY OF WISCONSIN RAPIDS — HISTORY BY REQUEST —  
VOLUME ONE (30 Min) Produced in 2001 — Sponsor, South Wood  
County Historical Corporation

**K**

Rapids Theater, Ronnie's Gas Station area (S E Corner 2nd St. and Grand Ave  
area)

1962 Ronnie's 8<sup>th</sup> Street location and our first automatic car wash

Panter's Grocery at 8<sup>th</sup> and Chestnut streets

Louis Diebel's 8<sup>th</sup> street grocery store & meat market

Consolidated steam whistle and memory of George W. Mead (the first)

WFHR (at Grand Ave location) and neon signs around town — 11-5-42

High water at the old swimming pool

May of 1941 — Old spillway dam —New dam 1942

Proposed "Springtime In The Rapids" theater film.

Original and new Palace Theater

Ideal Theater and announcement of and opening of the new Wisconsin Theater  
(Feb. 1939)

191130, Heavy snow and Consolidated bridge

Sliding at Conway's house (1929) — Toboggan slide at Nepco Lake — Snow plow  
in Kellner

Stanton Mead home (early) "Shanendo (Nash owner) fire Johnson &

Hill (brand new) no First National Bank building yet

1957 3 & H interior Comic sequence men's clothing with Ed Bredow and Gordon  
Soley

The "Flying Jury" (Ford Tri-Motor air service at the time)



(L) A HISTORY OF WISCONSIN RAPIDS — HISTORY BY  
REQUEST VOLUME TWO (30 Min) Produced in 2002 Sponsors  
— SWCHC and Lester, Smart, Tremel & Arendt Insurance

First National Bank Grand opening of new bank on West Grand Ave. (1921.

100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary First national) — Dar Blanke, Glenn Campbell (entertainer), etc. ( TV  
coverage)

Romanski Grocery store on West Grand Avenue

LHS Football 1930 — Statistics of new Fieldhouse — Principal Aron Ritchy speaks

LHS Band — Big Band Era, Glenn Miller Orchestra plays at Fieldhouse dance (Spring of 1941)

Castilians at, Wilbern's, the Dixon Brig, Terrace Gardens

Vine Street,(facing west from 3<sup>rd</sup>) Original Ideal Theater

1910 West side, CPI area, F P Daly Music Store, Daly Music & Appliance

Warsinske Motors, H F Warsinske Dodge Dealer

Local Hiawatha Passenger Train

Kellogg Limber Seventh Avenue buildings prior to mall

The way we were — Cigarette Ads, (Popular Mechanics) Toys for boys, Cars and  
the "Henry J"

Johnson Hills comedy clip- "The Shipping Clerk"

(M) A HISTORY OF WISCONSIN RAPIDS — A CONVERSATION WITH JOHN  
BILLINGS (51 Min) Produced in 2003 — Sponsor, South Wood County  
Historical Corporation



John was born on July 21, 1910 (Age 92 at time of this Interview)

His memories such as years at Howe School, High School, and classmate Phileo Nash, etc.

Started employment at Consolidated Papers (Finishing Room) Joined the Postal Service in November of 1929 as a Mail Carrier

Married Hazel Love In 1934 — Lived upstairs across from the Witters (SWCHC Building)

Talks about the mail service (walking 17 miles each day), their social life, etc.

Riding the Street Car to the baseball park at Port Edwards/Nekoosa

Life and shopping experiences of the 1930s

His first car (1951)

How he (we) miss all of the small shops and friendliness

Wisconsin Valley Creamery and the 1929 Depression

The war years and rationing, Preway and the S & S Clothing factory

California trip in 1951 (no Interstate highways etc.)

Final postal position - Supervisor

# **N**

(N) A HISTORY OF WISCONSIN RAPIDS — HISTORY BY  
REQUEST - VOLUME THREE (30 Min) Produced in 2003 Sponsors,  
SWCHC and Lester, Smart, Fehrman, Tremel & Arendt Insurance

Frank Kubisak store 1922, West Grand Avenue

Five Mail Carriers (No identification) — Dora Lyon's Millinery Store, 1892

First National Bank (East side) Children's Window

Frechette's Saloon at 2<sup>nd</sup> & Oak Streets — Gary Mason's Empire Saloon at 195 2<sup>nd</sup>  
St No, about 1900

Early Swimming Pool (sand beach) and slide 1889

— Neeves — Podowitz fire

Early Views of City Water Tower and neighborhood

Grand Rapids Railway (Street Car Line) at Nekoosa, interrupting parade and its  
end - Mandry's Junk Yard

Mead — Witter families

3. R. Ragan Undertaker & Furniture business Memento

1930 Rotary Members — Ben Smart — 'sac Witter — Dwight Teas — Bill Huffman  
Lester Daniels, etc.

Cranberry Marsh experiences - 1940 John Alexander and YMCA development  
Castlions at the Mead

(0) A HISTORY OF WISCONSIN RAPIDS — A WALK WITH JOHN  
BILLINGS (54 Min) Produced In 2004 — Sponsored by Charles and  
Joann Lester and SWCHC

**O**

John Billings, born Jul 24, 1910

First residence, White Hotel (Nick White owner) Located First St. No by GB&W  
RR Tracks

Adventures by the Depot and Roundhouse & "railroad privileges" he

enjoyed "Bloody First Ward"

Thomas Love (Alderman), Ray Love, the Love House

Whipperman Furniture Factory, S & S Clothing factory & fire, Pickle factory, early Preway

Mall stops at the old Courthouse

Saints Peter & Paul Church

The West Side Fire

Library and Jail

Shaw Hill and postal experiences, Herschleb Ice Cream stop, etc.



# P

(P) A HISTORY OF WISCONSIN RAPIDS – HISTORY BY  
REQUEST VOLUME FOUR – (30 Min) Produced in 2004  
– Sponsors, SWCHC and Lester, Smart, Fehrman,  
Tremel and Arendt Insurance

Lantern slide — New Wood County Bank — Frechette's Millinery Store

Wood Block — Kruger & Warner, Wood County Drug, A. P. Hirzy Jewelry, U S Post office

First St. North — Wood Sidewalks, Girls on bikes,

1919 Vets return from WW1 duty, City band, parade and floats

1919 Elk's Convention, parade, etc.

CPI News —Car accident

Biron Drive, winter of 1942 and now-Daly Opera House

CPI News — Shaw Hill with his mail truck — Biron Mill and First Biro

3<sup>th</sup> and West Grand avenues before the bank was built. Nite view Johnson & Hills & Tailoring  
Service

First Avenue looking south and the old Moravian Church

Old car in front of Stanton Mead (Nash) residence

Flood at Old swimming pool, First and Baker streets, at old bridge 1910

Big West Side Fire, April 12<sup>th</sup> 1931 S & S Clothing Factory (Burned later)

Kerin's Candy and Soda Fountain in Wisconsin Theater complex

CPI News —Young George Mead II

Midland CO-OP TV animation by Paul Gross

1938 Cars, LaSalle, Desoto and Plymouth

Life Magazine

100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Consolidated Papers

(Q) A HISTORY OF WISCONSIN RAPIDS -OUR  
INDUSTRIAL PAST (30 Min) Produced in 2005 -  
Sponsors, SWCHC and Lester, Smart, Fehrman, Tremel  
and Arendt Insurance



Local cigar makers - Grand Rapids Cigar Co, Badger Cigar Co, and Durnbach & Son Cigar Co.

The Breweries

McKinnen Hub and Spoke Factory

Obermier Furniture — Whipperman Furniture factories

Rablin & Robb Foundry

American Carbonic Co.

List of local members of the military in World War II

Preway and products

100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CPI

George W. Mead article — Stora Enso takes over

# R

(R) A HISTORY OF WISCONSIN RAPIDS — OUR

PICTURE POSTCARD PAST, PART ONE (30 Min)

Produced in 2006 — Sponsors, SWCHC and Lester,  
Smart, Fehman, Tremel and Arendt Insurance

Swimming Pool about 1925 — New Pool (1950 to 2004) - First Historical Mural  
(Lost in flood of 2011)

1910 Arpin Mansions — Congregational Church (later Christian Science) — Old  
City Hall & County Jail

Court House (early, with tower)

Armory with interior views

Fire Department of 1920 — Old Pumper and Witter Hotel area

New First National Bank (Flatiron Block), interior, etc.

Barnes Candy store (Sugar Bowl) area and Wood County Bank, 1910

West Side, Centralia Hardware, old 3 & H, Otto's, Bandline Dentist, Facing east, West Grand  
Street Car

Advertising Postcard — Dixon Hotel cards (6), Julian Hotel, Band Stand on W  
Grand Ave, 1908 City Band

City Band at East Side, Court House lawn

Eagle's Convention, 1916 — Parade

First Milwaukee Road depot

Dixon & Witter Bus service

Chicago and Northwestern Depot — Soo Line Depot

Humorous Grand Rapids Postcards

GILMASTER Trucking Company Origin to end of service, interview with Tom Gilmaster, 3/14/2007

RR Depot taxi service Freight service and the Green Bay & Western Railroad relationship

Beer distribution, local and to Nekoosa, Street Car, etc. The Preway connection.

The horse-drawn wagons, the first trucks, the Diamond T 's, service and repair and the final days.

GROSS BROTHERS TRUCKING interview with Bob Gross, March 7, 2007 Louis and Ques, business relationship and responsibilities

The early days, horse & wagons, first Model T trucks

Tires, parts and gas, employee shortage, etc. during the war years

Bob Joins the company, new territory acquisitions and terminals and SOO line RR connection

The Labor Unions. Arthur Clark helped following death of Louis Gross —Jimmy Hoffa meetings

1989, peak years, 400 Trailers, 250 trucks, 26 million In business, competition began

1976 Don Soie comes in. New computer system

CENTRAL WISCONSIN TRANSPORT CO — Interview with Kern Clark (93) Chief Mechanical Supervisor

1929 Arthur & Harold Ciar had two dump trucks, 1933 traded In on first semi-truck and trailer

Hauled paper for Nepco and CPI to R R Donley in Chicago, etc.

Business was good but difficult during WW II

Built a huge terminal In Chicago. Bought 50 trucks at a time At peak had 19 terminal, 3000 trucks

Deregulation came In 1978

Sold to Gerber shortly after Art died, management lacking and company was dissolved

# I

(T) A HISTORY OF WISCONSIN RAPIDS — OUR PICTURE  
POSTCARD PAST, PART TWO (30 Min) Produced in 2007  
Sponsor, South Wood County Historical Corporation

Don Krohn winter photos, third Ave and Rural Postman, Polansky Towing Service, Kids playing Marbles

The following local picture postcards are accompanied by audio description, historical facts & comments

West Grand Ave — Woolworth, Demro China & Art Shop, Bernstein's (Newton's later)

1950 Christmas view — Lyon Park Bridge — Kellner RR Depot — Hiawatha & Northwestern train travel

Witter Hotel & Jackson Tavern — Mead Cocktail Lounge 1950 — Library update, Lester Foundation

From 5<sup>th</sup> & Oak Streets, Water Tower, etc. — Grand Rapids Ball Park, Doctor's & Lawyer's Baseball Teams

Bull's Eye Country Club — Interior Old Lincoln High — Manual Arts School — Wood County Normal

Oak St. facing west — Washington Ave (St) — Wood Mansion — Arpin Mansions Nash & Witter Homes

Bell Island Bridge — G W Mead Residence — Thomas Nash Mansion (Paper Museum) -

First Ave. looking north — Grand Ave Bridge (1925) -1<sup>st</sup> National Bank corner —Old City Hall 1980

Guarantee Hardware & Bienker's TV -

Red's Dixie Bar — Romanski's Bar

Grand Rapids Business College

John Alexander's musical Instruments at Charles Lester residence

Comic Grand Rapids Postcards

(U) A HISTORY OF WISCONSIN RAPIDS — A BIRD'S EYE VIEW (31  
Min) Produced In 2008 — Sponsor, South Wood County Historical  
Corporation



Four Bridges

Green Bay & Western Depot and Yards

1950 Areal Views of East Side, facing west

Rapids Furniture Fire — Eagle's Club

Swimming Pool Cannon and flood

Bushnell Gas Station, Lloyd's Bowling Alleys, Bubble's Bar — East Jackson Street

Jackson Street Bridge, 1956

Courthouse, Metcalf Lumber, etc.

Rowland Building, Eron Plumbing, Brings, etc. to Staub Electric

Second Street tenants, Kreltzer Brothers, Herschleb Bakery etc. to Bender  
Law Office

1971 — West Side — North view, Moravian Church, Tribune Building, River  
Block, etc.

South view, New Tribune, Montgomery Ward

Occupants south side of W. Grand Avenue from Second to Third Avenue

Buzzes Bar and Interview with owner — Palace Theater

First National Bank block — Dixon Hotel

Marling Lumber Co. area to WOOLCO to Walmart to Mall

Johnson & Hill, gas stations and relocation of West Grand Ave and Jackson Sts.

North view - three railroads crossing West Grand Avenue

Industrial Area, Kellogg Lumber, Fuel Storage, Fischer Dairy Lowell School, etc.

Consoweld area and former Oberbeck Furniture Building



(V) A HISTORY OF CENTRAL WISCONSIN —

THE PAPER VILLAGE (34 Min) Produced in 2009 -

Sponsored by Charles and Joann Lester and SWCHC

A Proud Village

From "Frenchtown" to Port Edwards — Clinton & Edwards

L. M. Alexander and papermaking

NEPCO & John E. Alexander

The YMCA and visions

Successors to John Alexander and the takeover by Georgia Pacific

Shutdown of the Port Edwards Mill and after effects

The Alexander Foundation and Alexander House

(W) A HISTORY OF WISCONSIN RAPIDS — LEGACY 2010

(30 Min) Produced in 2009 — Sponsor, South Wood County Historical Corporation



Election Day, Obama versus McCain, crowded polling places

Hiawatha rail service — Christian Science Church Building

Bank Clock and the move to East Grand Avenue and Lincoln Street

Mark Motors Auto Sales and decline of auto sales

Neville Buick — Pontiac and the end of the Pontiac line by GM

Local Ford dealer and the "Cash for Clunkers" program

The Iola Car Show 2010 — The Tucker Automobile

Lyle Gross Standard Oil gas station at 8<sup>th</sup> and Baker Streets

Kelly's Liquor Store and Interview

A Busy Eighth Street South

City Band Concert at Robinson Park

Postal Service 2010

The Daily Tribune and The Voice

Local Balloon Rally

The Wisconsin Theater — Rogers Cinema and modern film handling equipment





(X) A HISTORY OF WILSCONS/N RAPIDS —THE GOOD OLD DAYS (30  
Min) Produced In 2010 — Sponsor. South Wood County Historical  
Corporation

Swimming Pool 1930 — Sliver Lake

Tri City Airport

City sewer project, Coal Chutes and Garbage Collection

Water and Light trucks

Sears & Roebuck Catalog and what we could by for so little

Original Mead Witter Block

Old Elk's Club and Telephone Company

Third Street Homes

John Billings on Shaw Hill

Cranberry Marshes, the old and the new

1950 Cranboree — Last one, 1954 (80,000 people)

Graphic Express, interview on the printing business

Old cars and the Trunk Rack

George Eastman and the box camera — The magic of Polaroid

Before the ballpoint, The Fountain Pen

(Y) A HISTORY OF WISCONSIN RAPIDS — HOW WE'VE  
CHANGED (30 Min) Produced in 2011 — Sponsored by The  
South Wood County Historical Corporation



Night Life in the 1940's The Golden Gate (rise and fall),  
Ray Monet, Art Clark, Doc Warsinske, Joe Calvi  
Paul Gross and Jerry Henry and their Progressive Amusement Co.  
Pinball Machines, Juke Boxes and Cigarette Machines  
Matchbooks  
Our Parks — Lunch By The River, burned out Armory to the Clock Tower  
Way back — Intersection, First & Baker, 1889 Nash-Podawitz Flour Mill fire  
Vantassel Hill and the Ski Jump Era  
National Champ "Ole" Arneson accident at Steamboat Springs, Colo. (Newsreel)  
A visit to Tom's Paint — Interview  
Before and after rebuild of West Grand Ave. 2011  
How we've changed sequence — West river bank — west Grand Ave — City Hall  
to Mail etc.  
Night View West Grand at Christmas 1950, today's comparison



(Z) A HISTORY OF WISCONSIN RAPIDS—ONCE UPON A TIME  
Produced in 2012 (43 Min)— Sponsored by South Wood County  
Historical Corporation

April 18<sup>th</sup> 1906 San Francisco Earthquake — The Grand Rapids Tribune news and advertising

May 20<sup>th</sup> 1927 Lindberg Takeoff For Paris by Air — W R Daily Tribune news and advertising

May 21<sup>st</sup> Lindberg Lands In Paris —W R Daily Tribune additional timely news and advertising

1929 Consolidated News — New East Grand Ave Extension and area then and now

1929 Optimism, then October 29<sup>th</sup> and the great depression — Rapids Tribune account, etc.

The German Dirigibles and U S Navy airships

Consolidated Papers and the Massie Coater development — LIFE magazine

Cigarette advertising - The Robsin Players Tent Show

October 1940, Local National Guard Mobilized (Sendoff), Saving scrap aluminum

V E Day, May 8<sup>th</sup> 1945, Germany Surrenders - Local German War Prisoners August 14,

1945 Japan Surrenders - Two Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune editions. Paul's

recollection of President Truman's Peace announcement Local newspaper ads, Preway and Gill's Paint

Return to peace — Kiddie Parade, the Movies, demand for cars and tires Local

"changes in the landscape"

Making room for McMillian Library, The Brown Derby, Schenk's Corners, 3 & H gas station

Gremler's Bakery, Interview

Last Northwestern Passenger Steam Train (rerun) Looking back

at Johnson & Hill department store (rerun)

Program A-2 & B-2 on one disc PRODUCED IN 2014

## **A-2 & B-2**

A-1 "THIS WAS THE WISCONSIN"

(75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY, THE WISCONSIN 'THEATER STORY)

Arrival of Frank and Henrietta Eckhart in 1923 and purchase of the Palace theater, extensive improvements, etc.

Purchase and remodeling of the Ideal (Rapids) Theater.

Announcement of purchase of the Citizen Bank building and plans for a new theater.

Architect Don Hogan and floor plan, to be named "Wisconsin."

Lobby, upstairs lounge, cry room and projection booth and equipment.

Marquee, sign and grand opening with previews of opening feature film "Hawaii" The Eckhart's divorce, and their local cemetery plots.

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B-2 THE ARPIN HOUSE (880 First Street North)

A complete showing and history of the interior (Modern kitchen and basement excluded).

## **C-2**

C-2 "TIMES TO REMEMBER!" Produced in 2013

Riverview hospital 1921 appeal for money

Grimm Natwick's early consolidated news cartoons East side river bank wall construction

The Tribune building and history of Bill Huffman and the evolution of the local newspaper and WFHR radio station

The "Strollers" (Consolidated) bridge

Henry Jackson, the Centralia post office and the evolution of Johnson & Hills store Marling Lumber and other Third Avenue South buildings removed to make room for a new Woolco store

Our first Walmart store and the conversion to the new senior center History of the Nash hardware building The great fire of on April 23<sup>rd</sup> of 1937

The restoration and occupancy by Montgomery Ward, and the final demolition of the structure

Second avenue railroad tracks to early Consolidated Papers and the tall race flow that necessitated the consolidated "Strollers Bridge"

1977 building the new city hall and the Rapids Mall, grand opening, etc. 2013

Alexander Field 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the Ford Tri-motor

Undated brewery photos and the 1913 Grand Rapids Police Department

1911 view from Congregational Church tower of the intersection of East Grand Avenue and Second Street

D-2 REMEMBER WHEN — PRODUCED IN 2014 A HISTORY OF  
WISCONSIN RAPIDS

## D-2

East side of Second St. - Wood County Bank, Schroeder's Dime Store, Coast to Coast

Brauer's Mens Store, Gamble Store.

West side of river — Bandeline Hotel, Swaricks, Doc Weller Jewelry, Miller TV, Hiawatha Bar, etc. Bender Oil, Bossert Coal, etc. old west side fire station and city hall.

Gottschalk Grocery, Montgomery Ward Service Center, City Gas Company, Eatmore Products, Western Auto, Obermier building and Tenants.

Eighth Street and Ebbe's Motel, Ostriechs etc.

South Wood County Museum building, and functions. Mckertcher Flour Mill Rapids Lumber.

Lyon Park and road through.

Construction of arched Grand Ave Bridge (1924), original Congregational Church on First Street, old city water tower.

The demise of "Newsweek" Magazine and relationship to CPI

The war veterans "Honor Flight" as witnessed by Paul

Washington capitol dome repair and the construction of the state capitol at Madison and raising of statue to the dome In 1914

**E-2 THE LAST PAGE—DEMOLISHING THE PAST,  
PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE**

## E-2

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