



River City

August 2009
Volume II #22

Artifacts



Showtime! “Laurel and Hardy” seem to be running for the Ideal Theatre on Vine Street (now Grand Avenue). Inside: Den of Antiquity, Stark photos, pages 2-17; Woodrow P. Swancutt timeline, 18-22; Sis Bouton, Swancutt interview, 23-25; Bill Kautzer by Lori Brost, 26-27; Paul Gross Port Edwards video by Phil Brown, 28-29; River City Memoirs VII, 30-31; Uncle Dave Sez, 32.

From SWCHC president Phil Brown's

Den of Antiquity

Thanks - to longtime collector Phil Brown for contributing an unusually vivid collection of "photographs" to the archives; and to SWCHC volunteer Ron Harris for making the glass slides of those images available here through his meticulous scanning work. Also involved in the transaction, was Gross Telelloid CEO Paul Gross, who theorized that the photo extravaganza could be the product of Charles V. Stark, son of Ideal (later Rapids/Rogers) theatre proprietor John Stark. The glass transparencies are earlier versions of what we call slides and could have been projected on the screen as an introduction to the silent movies featured that night. Note that this took place in the era of silent movies to which background sound was provided through live music or commentary.



Late for a date on the East Side, headed for Daly Drugs, now Veterans Park on the river bank. Looking "downstream" toward the then-Wood County National Bank.

All the subjects shown in the tentatively-titled "Stark" photos shown in these pages are dead to the physical world; but here, on paper and in our imagination, they are animated, like in the movies they may have shared the screen with. Here are street scenes that surrounded the Ideal, where our townspeople in real life did not usually stand still or often pose. They acted, worked, played, walked and ran their way into our world of *Artifacts*. I wasn't there but, thanks to Charlie Stark, or somebody of his ilk, I remember it all distinctly.

Charles V. Stark was born December 1896 to John and Celia Stark, who had owned a hotel

in their previous residence of Belleville village, Dane County, Wis. Charles made the newspaper here as a teen when he and friends rescued Wm. Burt, who had fallen to the river ice from a railroad bridge while avoiding a surprise train. A 1921 city directory lists Charles (after service during World War I), married to Madeline and employed at the Wood County National Bank, a central location in many of these pictures.

Those who will be pursuing the story further should know that the 1905 Wisconsin state and 1900-1910 federal census implies that the son we know as "Charles" was then named "Vivian C. Stark."



Looking from river toward Johnson & Hill (on right side of Grand Avenue). The dark building housing Otto drugs on right was removed later for the Consolidated-built River Block, a commercial building with the same name as the replacement, now in place, River Block, an office building. The 1926 Mead-Witter block replaced the miscellany at center, west and slightly uphill of the River Block.





Dating by Bridge

Perhaps the most obvious and reliable method of dating images and maps in a city such as ours, divided by a river, is by what bridge was in place when the photo was taken. Pictured is the predecessor of the 1922 concrete European-styled Grand Avenue Bridge we knew until 1986. The steel-and-wood two-struss structure above had replaced a wooden wagon bridge that was taken out by floods. So the latest date the photos showing the steel truss bridge before construction began on the 1922 version would probably be 1921.

Page 4, top: Looking east and north upstream, Daly Drug, right, view extending into the Witter Hotel area, Wood County courthouse and/or Grand Rapids city hall-library to rear.

Page 4, bottom: Looking downstream toward Belle or Mead's Island.

Above: Looking east toward the Wood County National Bank, now WoodTrust. Note the automobile at left, which could be used to add information. The photo had to be taken after that model of car was available, consistent with the late 19-teens. The building housing A.P. Hirzy jewelry still stands, then called "post office building" and, same as now, the Wood Block. The building housing Levin's ladies "ready to wear" (104 East Vine) at left was, in the 1950s, known as the Penney's block, home to, among others, the Sugar Bowl restaurant and Daly Drugs.





At Ease

Page 6, top: G.R. Getts Billiard and Bowling Alley. Operated by Centralia native Guy Rogers Getts, born in 1877, son of Judge W.H. Getts. Guy was Democratic clerk of court and a champion bowler, who moved lanes into what was called the MacKinnon block at First Avenue and Grand Avenue in 1914. Also operated a pool hall and restaurant in Camp Douglas, Wis. In 1918, moved to Texas.

Page 6, bottom: looking from Wood County bank toward Flatiron building, both extant in 2009.

Above: Appears to be hat shop on Second Street, midway between Daly Drug and Vine Street.





On the Move

Page 8, top: Looking “up” Second Street toward Flatiron building.

Page 8, Bottom: G.R. Getts on (West) Grand Avenue, Otto Drug, center. Not shown in entirety but...listed in a 1921 directory on north/right side of Grand proceeding away from river was the MacKinnon Block (mainly of brick) which housed: Edward Pomainville real estate; Will Merrill physician; Matthews Bros. music; Thomas Mills, dentist; Peoples Tailoring Co.; Guy Miller ladies ready-to-wear; Donald Waters, physician; Indian Reservation Agency; Richard Gibson, insurance; Smith & Kaltenecker shoes; Goggins, Brazeau and Goggins, lawyers.

Above: Daly Drug corner looking “south” on Second Street toward Wood County bank.



Gleue Bros. shoe store sign visible at top and in store window across what is probably Vine Street at the east end of the bridge. Across both streets is the Abel-Podalwiltz clothing store. Below, same Help Wanted sign seen before at Daly Drug corner. Vehicles in both photos help provide a likely date. They're not hybrids, at least not in the sense commonly used in 2009.





Elks Club, shown in view from the West Side, left, and below, provides information to date the photos as 1915 or later, based on its construction. Considering the bridge was replaced in 1922, we are secure with 1915-22, a period corroborated by other details.





Twin City Dye Works in Bogoger building at Second Street and Vine Street (later East Grand Avenue) looking toward the water tower on Lincoln high school hill (now East Jr. High) from which these girls have likely come. Theatre is in centre of block shown (barely visible at left center).



Johnson & Hill department store - built 1912 and anchoring the West Side throughout most of the 20th Century. In 2009, it is a multi-use "office" building.



Is it the photographer himself, at upper left, this page? The arms' length pose resembles that of a cell phone self-portrait common in 2009.

At right, feels like East Side, maybe Second Street. Daly Theatre? Lots of billboards, maybe some popcorn from Snyder's stand.



1916 pub. date. for cartoon.
See poster in center photo.



Promotional transparencies probably shown at Ideal Theatre



1916



DANIEL FROHMAN Presents

Pauline FREDERICK

in an unusually powerful drama

"THE SPIDER"

by William H. Clifford

Produced by the Famous Players Film Co., Adolph Zukor, Pres.

Released on the Paramount Program

Shown
here

1917



LASKY-PARAMOUNT

JESSE L. LASKY PRESENTS

BLANCHE SWEET

In a stirring American photoplay

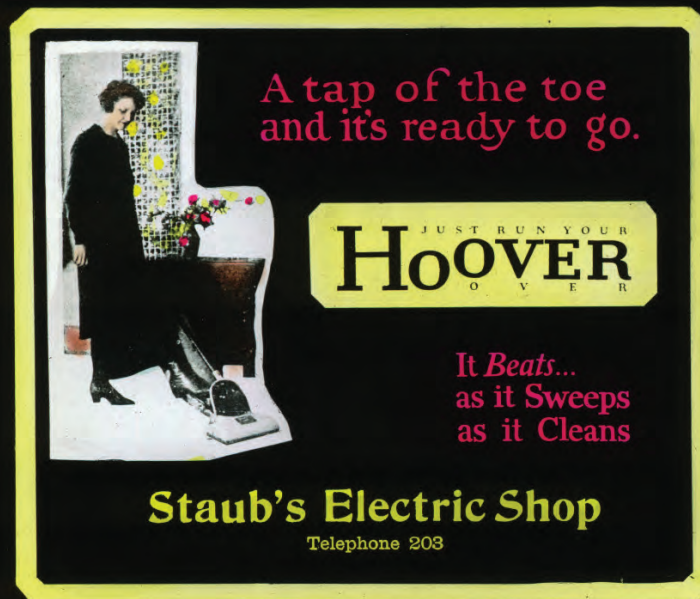
"THOSE WITHOUT SIN"

by Harvey Thew

PRODUCED BY
JESSE L. LASKY FEATURE PLAY CO
A Paramount Picture

Coming

At the River City Ideal!





Insure
with

Taylor & Scott

Slides to be shown at Ideal Theatre

Colorized for effect.



The pilot of the plane that dropped this 4th atom bomb was from Rapids.



Timetable: Our Hero

- 1915: July 4, Woodrow Paul born at Edgar, Wis., to Spencer and Caroline Swancutt.
- 1920: Census for Stevens Point includes Woodrow and siblings Corinne, Beatrice, Dephane, Vernon, Beaufort, and Wellington.
- 1928: Woodrow named sergeant-at-arms for 8th-grade class at McKinley School in Stevens Point.
- 1930: La Crosse census includes the Swancutts.
- 1933: Woodie graduates from Central High School, La Crosse, Wis.
- 1935-37: At Wisconsin Rapids, he is a stellar CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps), CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) and Golden Gloves boxer.



Homage to Woodie



Brigadier General Roger M. Ramsey, commander of Task Group 1.5, congratulates Major Harold Wood (left), bombardier, and Major Woodrow P. Swancutt (center) after they are chosen to fly the Bikini atom bomb test mission.

Maj Woodrow Swancutt & #293 "KATIE"

Swancutt's wife was the former Kathleen Haza of Wisconsin Rapids.



1944: Woodrow's brother, 2nd Lt. Beaufort Swancutt, murders two young women, a police officer and his captain, and injures five more, for which he is sentenced to death by hanging, the first such sentence imposed by a court-martial on an officer in World War II. Bft. later hangs himself with a bed sheet.

1946: July 1, Maj. Swancutt pilots a B-29 that releases an atomic bomb over 70 target ships anchored in Bikini lagoon—known as the “greatest military experiment in history.” It is the fourth atomic explosion in history and the first to be publicized in advance and subjected to careful scientific measurement. (The first three: Manhattan Project, New Mexico, July 16, 1945; Hiroshima, Japan, Aug. 6; and Nagasaki, Japan, Aug. 9.) Following above-named “Operations Crossroad,” Swancutt achieves distinction as a flier

and commander in New Mexico, Texas, England, Maine and Ohio. His war service wins the Distinguished Service Medal, Presidential Unit Award, Distinguished Flying Cross, Legion of Merit and Air Medal with oak leaf cluster.

1946: Son born.

1946: A sister, Beatrice (Haertel, when living in Rapids), joins the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis as assistant director of women's activities.

1947: In observance of Air Force day, Woodie takes part in a formation flight of 95 B-29s that fly for 17 hours non-stop over U.S. cities.

1949: Beatrice contracts polio but later recovers. The 1960 book by Eleanor Chappell titled “On the Shoulders of Giants: the Bea Wright Story,” is based on her case.



After sinking a floating dry-dock in Singapore harbor: three pilot-navigator-bombardier crews, all members of the XX Bomber Command. They are (standing, left to right) Major Joseph V. McWilliams, pilot; Maj. Woodrow P. Swancutt, pilot; Maj. Marvin W. Goodwyn, pilot; Lt. Monroe Stein, navigator; Lt. Joe D. McGraw, bombardier. (Kneeling, left to right) Lt. Frank W. McKinney, bombardier; Capt. Donald Manfredo, navigator; Capt. Richard J. Seebach, bombardier, and Capt. Robert L. Swanson, navigator. The high altitude precision bombing by the Superfortress crews was one of the outstanding bombardment performances of World War II.

- 1960: The Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff is organized at Strategic Air Command and now "General" Swancutt is assigned to the staff.
- 1962: Swancutt is named commander, 822nd Air Division, Turner Air Force Base, Ga.
- 1964: He is deputy director of operations for strategic defense forces, USAF.
- 1966: Among offices held in this period are Director of Operations, Headquarters U.S. Air Force; Chairman of Air Force Weapons Range Board; member of Department of Defense Advisory Committee on Federal Aviation, Air Reserve Forces Policy Committee; and Permanent Joint Board on Defense Canada-United States.
- 1967: Swancutt retires as a major general and Vice Commander of Second Air Force, Barksdale Air Force Base, La.
- 1968: He becomes Executive Vice president of Executive Jet Aviation in Columbus, Ohio.
- 1971: His sister, Beatrice Swancutt Haertel Wright Fuerst, retires from the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.
- 1989: Beatrice dies at age 83, having achieved recognition for her humanitarian deeds.

1993: Woodrow P. Swancutt dies of heart failure March 21 at age 77 while walking near his home at San Antonio, Texas. He is buried in Arlington Cemetery. A NY Times obit notes that his marriage to the former Kathleen Haza ended in divorce. Swancutt's survivors include a son, Woodrow Jr., of Grayslake, Ill.; two daughters, McKenzie Croft of Santa Fe, N.M., and Carolyn Grant of Albuquerque, N.M.; a brother, Vernon of La Crosse, Wis., eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. There is also a special friend, Lucille "Sis" Bouton, of Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.



Mrs. J.C. Ferguson, pilot Major Woodrow Swancutt, and Dick Johnson standing in front of B-29 airplane, "Dave's Dream" at Truax Field, Madison.

“He knew that Kathleen worked at the Witter Hotel and he said, ‘Sis, I’m going to marry her.

23



Would you put in a good word for me?’

“So the next day I did. But Kathleen said that Woodie and Bob Schill were in a couple of times and they were drunk, and I said no, they were just acting foolish, that Woodie wasn’t much of a drinker.

“He also wasn’t cocky. Woodie and Kathleen and I would be walking downtown and we’d meet somebody on the street and they’d say, ‘Oh, Woodie Swancutt!’ and they’d shake hands with him and Kathleen and I would walk away. Then he’d come and say, ‘Why did you girls leave, I didn’t know those people?’ He didn’t know what to say; he didn’t know how to talk to them.

“Woodie had a brother, Beaufort. One summer he was here and he dated a friend of mine but I never got to know him that well. He wasn’t as good looking as Woodie. Nobody was as good looking as Woodie, very handsome. And he had white hair when he was 22.

“Dr. [Patrick] Wright, the family doctor here, he was instrumental in getting Woodie a scholarship in boxing to go to University of Wisconsin. And when Woodie was down there, he ran the elevator at the biggest store in Madison.

“That was when Marion Farrish and

Kathleen Haza and Ursula Kortkamp, my closest friend, and me, lived on 1010 Baker Street, where Marion Farrish lives to this day. One Friday night, Woodie came home. We were going to go out but we couldn't get him off the davenport. Finally, he did sit up and he said, 'Sis, I can't go out tonight. I gave so much blood this week to get \$45 to buy Kathleen a wristwatch for a Christmas present.'

“After they got married, they were the most loving couple you’d ever want to see and I thought that marriage was made in heaven. At that time, she was working at a little donut shop right in the middle of the first floor of Johnson & Hills. Buzz and I were married at that time too.

“When Woodie and Kathleen would come home, they’d always come by me; so I’d leave and let them have some privacy. One time, I kept their three kids so they could go up to her dad’s cottage at Biron. They called it a shack.

“The next morning, Woodie put his arm around me and said, ‘Gee Sis, I needed that.’

“He came pretty often after he was retired. He had nothing else to do and he had a few relatives left at La Crosse. Six months before he died he was here and he stayed overnight and sat in that chair. He always had a little dog with him.



He called it, 'Cowboy.'

"He said, 'Sis, let's go have dinner and then find some place that I can show you how I can dance now. I know I wasn't a good dancer but now I let it all hang out.' We went to Bistro and after that to the Mead. We thought maybe there would be a place there but there wasn't so he didn't get to show me how he let it all hang out."

"When he was in the service and something was in the paper, I cut out and I saved a bunch of them in a big envelope and I gave it to his son. After Woodie died, those kids, the two girls and little Woodie, called me from Illinois. Young Woodie said that he would like to come up and see me and where his dad and mother lived. They came up and I took them around and showed them all of this stuff you know."

The crew of "Dave's Dream," the B-29 that dropped an atomic bomb on Bikini Island, at Truax Field, Madison, on Aug. 17, 1946, during a homecoming tour. Last person on the right in military uniform is pilot Major Woodrow Swancutt, Wisconsin Rapids native and former University of Wisconsin student. Last person on the right (in civilian clothes) is Dick Johnson, former college roommate of Swancutt and chairman of the Waupaca reception committee, who would take the crew to that city's veterans' homecoming celebration. *Wisconsin Historical Society.*

Woodie & Cowboy
From Sis



The Jersey

By Lori Brost
Museum Administrator

It started with a plain brown envelope delivered to the Museum, with the return address of Sheila Rasmussen, Northville, Mich. In it, I found an off-white baseball jersey labeled #15, Nekoosa. The enclosed note said the jersey had been found in a resale shop in Chicago and should be returned to the area from which it came, the one and only Nekoosa, Wis.

The jersey hung in my office for almost a year, challenging me to really jump into the history game and then one day, I did. I decided it was time to find out the story behind the artifact.

The first step was to contact the company that made the jersey. They gave me a timeframe for when that design was made. From there, I contacted Nekoosa high school and was told the shirt was worn by Bill Kautzer who graduated in 1973.

The next step was to contact Bill, who was very surprised that someone had found his jersey for sale in another state and that anyone cared he was the one who had worn it. We agreed to set up a time to talk more. He had mentioned his coach, George Holland, so I also contacted him and arranged to talk to him when he returned to Wisconsin from a winter in Arizona.

George told me he began coaching at Nekoosa high school in 1958. He had brought his own baseball legacy, going back to Midget League at Wilson High School in St. Paul, Minn. and junior and senior years at Milltown High School. In the fall of 1949, he played on the freshman squad at the University of Minnesota, and, in 1951, signed with the Chicago Cubs. Drafted by the Army in 1953, George played in the Regimental League and then was picked for the all-star team to represent the

post. During 1955, he played with the Camp Carson team which was managed by Billy Martin.

After being discharged, Holland went back to the Cubs organization but after snapping a hamstring decided to go back to school and transferred to River Falls, where he played 1956-58. While George was working at a local Holiday Service Station and in the middle of studying for a biology test, LeRoy "Stony" Jensen, the superintendent from Nekoosa, came to interview him for a position teaching Biology and Drivers Education and coaching.

Bill Kautzer came to the Museum on July 9

of this year and saw his #15 jersey for the first time in quite a few years. He believed that he was about 60-70 pounds lighter when he wore it, beginning in 1970 and throughout his high school years. That's when he won four letters and was tall-

conference pitcher for three years. He was named to the all-state first team his senior year.

While wearing #15, Bill achieved a record of 27 wins and 5 losses, two of those losses coming in his freshman year. He wore #15 through two no hitters as a junior; three consecutive no hitters his

senior year with an additional four and a third innings of a combined no-hitter, followed by a complete no-hitter in the first game of the tournament, for a total of four no-hitters and thirty three and a third innings of no-hit ball, in which he struck out 87 batters.

Kautzer gives a lot of the credit to Holland for teaching his players the fundamentals and being "the type of coach you want at every class

reunion."

Holland understood that every kid was different and used the right approach for each position and each player, having played most of the positions himself. He told the players not to read the newspaper accounts of their games. The player knew what he had done and didn't need to read



Kautzer

about it. Bill believed that it was George's way of keeping his boys grounded.

Holland and Kautzer got together in the era before high school sport teams were separated into divisions based on school size. That made tournament winners the best of the best as Nekoosa competed against the larger schools in the area, including current Class A schools such as Wisconsin Rapids, Stevens Point and Wausau. Bill said, "It was always fun to beat Rapids!"

One of many baseball scouts on hand told Holland in 1973 that Bill was the hardest thrower in Wisconsin. The only kid in the Northwest that threw harder was from Spring Valley, Minn. Bill was drafted by the Chicago White Sox in the fourth round and, for advice, contacted a Rapids baseball legend, Tom Metcalf, who had pitched for the New York Yankees.

What Tom couldn't prepare Bill for was the humbling experience that was the Rookie League,

where you go from having lost very few games in your entire high school career to winning very few and finding, in the high level of competition, that you maybe weren't as good as you thought you were.

During his baseball career, Bill pitched against a lot of great players. He struck out Moe Hill, of the Wisconsin Rapids Twins, three times in Appleton—the same Moe Hill that he had gotten the autograph of at a younger age. Bill said he had the honor of having Johnny Sain as a pitching instructor while in the Winter League in Florida.



Holland

When Bill opted not to play in the Puerto Rico League, it was the decision that would bring his baseball success to an end. Despite the usual regrets, Bill says he wouldn't have the family he has today had he continued playing professional baseball. He had married his high school sweetheart, Nancy, and, together, they have three daughters: Sasha, Gabrielle and Courtney. Bill retired recently after 26 years as a police officer in Nekoosa.

SWCHC

From the Moccasin



KNEELING: Steve Wells, Dave Atkinson, Ralph Renner, Norm Sutherland, Ken Oleson, John Bowman, Duane Doescher, Steve Murat. STANDING: Coach Holland, Mike Fekete, Tim Grunewald, Colin Orlowski, Greg Kuhnke, Bill Kautzer, Dennis Wulf, Doug Gildenzoph, Wally Enerson, Don Akey.

From Lori:

The motorcycle story I have been compiling will be rumbling into *Artifacts* in the May 2010 edition. Thanks to Sue Alft, John Endrizzi, Chuck Neinfeldt and Don Knuth for pictures, stories and knowledge.

SWCHC webmaster Barry Jens and I have embarked on a new project: updating the web site with new pictures for you to enjoy and help us to identify. We are also adding a page dedicated to our grounds and the artistry of the Master Gardeners.



COMING SOON:

To a living room near you

Port Edwards stars in new movie

Gross adds paper village to history of central Wisconsin

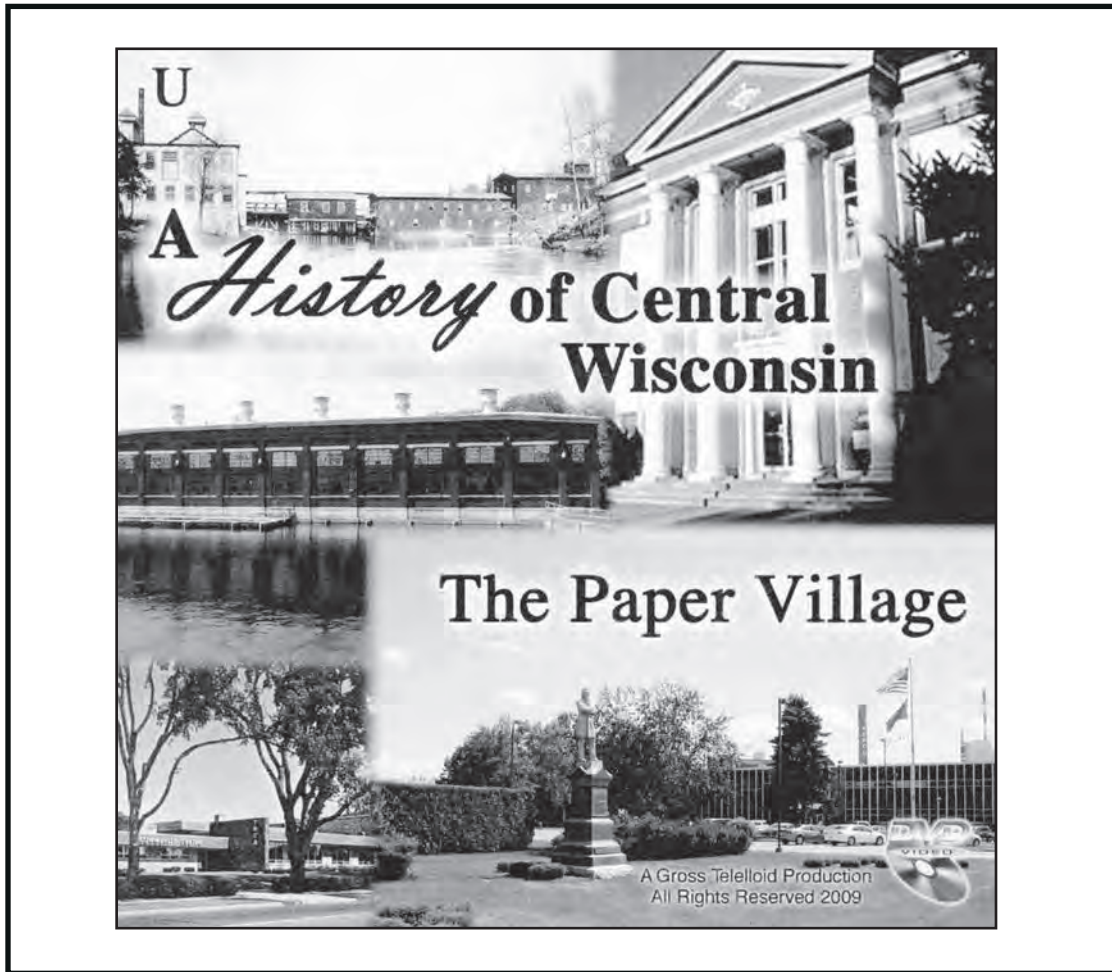
By SWCHC President Phil Brown

Paul Gross has done it again! The Ken Burns of local cinema, operating from headquarters at Gross Telelloid, has compiled an amazing new video, "The Paper Village." This DVD is the twenty-first video in Paul's incredible collection of South Wood County history. "The Paper Village" honors the Nekoosa Edwards Paper Co., the Village of Port Edwards and the many people who have called the Port Edwards area home.

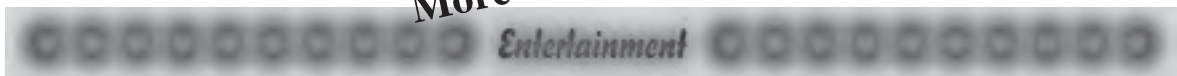
The original name of the village was Frenchtown and the video covers the entire spectrum, from the early days in the 1840s to the closing of the Port Edwards mill in 2008. A special segment is Paul's interview with Port Edwards' own J. Marshall Buehler. It is more than a little ironic that these two great local historians are brought together in a publication edited by Dave Engel, the third historian in this noble triumvirate I like to think of as the Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin of South Wood County.

As we work to promote Paul's latest video, he is already, true to form, working on his next one. Without giving away too much of his plot line, Paul is putting together a "time capsule" of what life is currently like in the South Wood County area. Fifty years from now, the viewer will have an interesting perspective of our community as we currently know it.

The Paper Village is available at Paul Gross Jewelers and at the South Wood County Historical Museum. His twenty previous historical videos are also available by special order at these locations. Proceeds from the sale of these videos benefit the South Wood County Historical Corp.



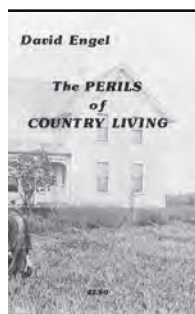
More



Just Like a Rolling Stone He Gathers No Moss

Part of the fun of publishing *Artifacts* is sending out platoons of paparazzi after local celebrities, hoping to catch them in their most unguarded, vulnerable moments. Here again we find our own board member and *bon vivant* Bob Zimmerman at the SWCHC ice cream social, sharing the attention of Miss Wisconsin Rapids, Kathryn Williams, and Laura Williams, right. Be assured you have not seen the last of Bob.





1975



1983



1984



1985



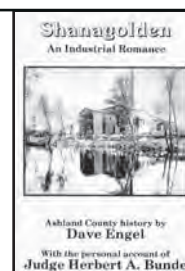
1986



1987



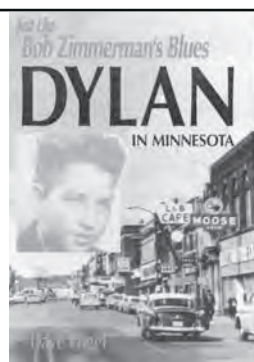
1988



1990



1991



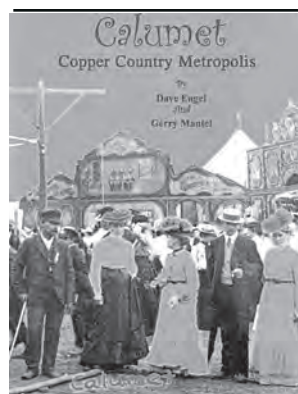
1997



1999



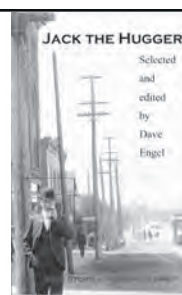
2000



2002



2004



2006



2009

River City Memoirs VII

One-time opportunity

Publication fund revived for big transcendental history book

Will this be the last *Memoirs*?

Estimated 300-page volume-in-progress to be a collection of “River City Memoirs” stories from the *Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune* 1998-2008.

A treasure-trove of River City antiquity, now compiled in digital form with the help of Holly (Pearl) Knoll, a prospective archivist sent by the history goddess, Clio, to keep Uncle Dave productive in his dotage.

Readers of *Artifacts* will recall that Uncle intended to publish just one copy of his musings at a cost to himself of about \$1,000; but that two civic-minded philanthropists came forth with contributions of \$500 and \$300 to the South Wood County Historical Corp. The result is that he will be publishing not merely a single lonesome unit but at least 10 copies of this book, one for each \$100 of benefaction.



Author



First
Cranboree

In order to accomplish this non-profit, not-for-profit and profit-less venture, the publication fund previously established at SWCHC and vacated several years ago, will be reestablished. Any monies received above and beyond the cost to produce RCM VII will be used for future books and pamphlets. For every \$100 donated to this fund, Uncle Dave will increase the print numbers of RCM VII by one and will return that book to the donor as a premium, more or less like they do on Wisconsin Public Radio.

The aimed-for publication deadline is Thanksgiving 2009 with likelihood of product being available by Christmas of this year.

RCM VII will not be sold in stores or online and will not be available after this pledge drive.

For further explanation, call 715-423-1580 and talk to Lori or Uncle; e-mail dave@swch-museum.com (preferred); or address to 540 Third Street South, Wisconsin Rapids 54494.

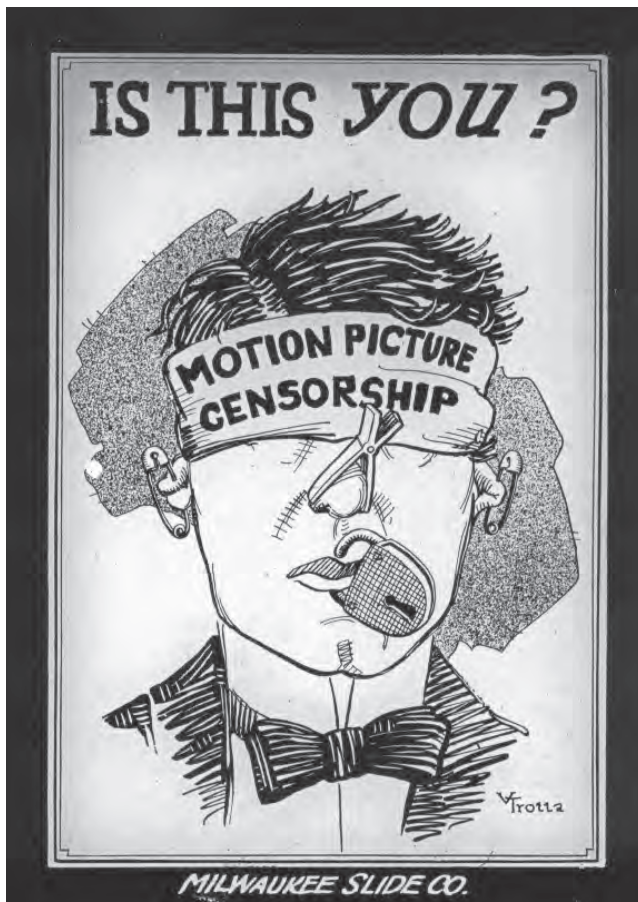
Checks in the amount of \$100 or more may be sent now to SWCHC. Designate River City Memoirs Publishing Fund.



South Wood County Historical Corp.
540 Third Street South
Wisconsin Rapids WI 54494

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 31

Artifacts, a local history magazine and newsletter for the South Wood County Historical Corp. welcomes contributions of writings and photographs relevant to the greater Wisconsin Rapids area. For a year's subscription and membership send \$20 to the address above. Questions? Contact Lori Brost, Museum Administrator and assistant editor, 715-423-1580. Lori@swch-museum.com.



Uncle Dave Sez

How's It Going?

You may recall, in previous issues, mention of financial decline and how it has affected projects here. Our income and hence budget have been reduced by 20-30% since 2008. That means less spending for the History Center and Museum, no raises for Uncle and more sweat equity all around. The “economy” is trying to work its way back up but looks like it will hang at a significantly lower notch than a couple years ago.

On the bright side, the human activity level has never been higher at the Museum, especially in the vicinity of administrator Lori Brost. The SWCHC board of directors has placed a high priority on *Artifacts*, which will continue at status *quo* for now. Ironically, we are enjoying one of those periodic golden eras of antiquarianism here that, like all history, can best be appreciated in retrospect.