



ARTIFACTS

Volume 2

July 4, 1995



Sorting through a variety of old paper clipping, I stumbled across this schedule for the Fourth of July festivities from an unknown era...Enjoy!!!!

Grand Rapids 4th of July Program

SUNRISE

100 guns will commence the celebration.

9:15 A. M.

Tug of War on Cranberry street between Gross & Lyons company store and the Lyon block. Contest between the Paper mills on the Wisconsin river from Nekoosa to Biron.

10:00 A. M.

Floral and Industrial Parade will meet on Maple street, just south of Cranberry street at the corner of the Rossier homestead.

10:15 A. M.

Parade will start, going easterly on Cranberry street across the Wisconsin river; thence northerly on Front street to Baker street; thence easterly on Baker street to Milwaukee street; thence southerly on Milwaukee street to Oak street; thence westerly on Oak street to Center street; thence northerly on Center street to Baker street and to Court House square.

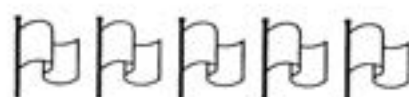
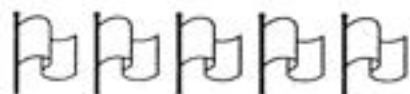
11:00 A. M.

Patriotic address at Court House Square by Rev. F. Staff.

11:45 A. M.

Parade will start back, going southerly on Front street to Vine street, thence westerly across the wagon bridge to Cranberry street; thence westerly along Cranberry street to the Dixon House, where the prizes will be awarded. All vehicles and floats desiring to compete in the parade for the prizes offered must keep in the parade from the beginning until the prizes are awarded. The discharging of fire works and explosives of every kind and description will be strictly prohibited until after 1:00 p. m.

No Automobiles will be allowed on the streets until after the parade on account of children driving ponies.



2:30 P. M.

Hall game between Marshfield and Grand Rapids, and horse races at the old fair grounds. Will Gross Committee on racing. Free for all Trotting and Pacing race. Free for all Running race, and race between the youngsters and their ponies. 2 horse Roman Standing Race between Prof. Perry and Prof. Patifny.

5:30 P. M.

Balloon ascension by Mdlle. Dorothy DeVonda, from ground near Opera House.

7:15 P. M.

Swimming Contest across the Wisconsin river. See Ed. Harding, committee in charge of this feature.

7:45 P. M.

Boat race on the Wisconsin river between gasoline launches.

8:15 P. M.

Band Concert at Dixon House.

SUNSET

Fifty guns.

9:00 P. M.

Dance at Opera House. Tickets 50 cents. There will also be other dances in other halls in the city.

PROGRAM FOR BAND

The band will play in the morning at 9:00 o'clock on the west side at the intersection of Main and Cranberry streets. 10 till 12 M. the band will lead the industrial and floral parade.

2:00 P. M.

The band will play near the library building east side and march to fair grounds.

2:30 P. M.

The band will play on the old fair grounds.

5:00 P. M.

The band will play in front of the Opera House.

8:15 P. M.

The band will play at the Dixon House until 8:45 when they will march to the Opera House and play for the dance in the evening.



From the Director

Welcome Spring and Summer! We've had so many things happening at the Museum I've missed the changing of the seasons. I was gently reminded though, on the first 96 degree day, that it must be summer. An external facelift is beginning to take shape on the grounds of the Museum. We've done a good deal of remedial housekeeping...the fun stuff like water, sewer and electrical. After remedying some nasty situations we landscaped the front lawn, giving the approach a fresh look. We've replaced the barberry hedge with a more inviting perennial flower and shrub arrangement of foliage. It is easier to view the front of the building and we will soon have a newly created sign to identify us again.

Driving down Third Street in the evening will also introduce you to a change...we've installed some ground lights to enhance the exterior of the building with a wash of illumination. The lights that flank the front door have been refurbished and installed too. Hopefully visitors will have an easier time finding the Museum in the midst of a residential neighborhood.

Our exterior appearance will continue to be upgraded as we investigate the potential of storm gutters and downspouts, understand the ADA requirements applicable to our site, and progress through the five phases of landscaping that have been identified.



Name _____

Address _____

I wish to support the SOUTH WOOD COUNTY HISTORICAL CORPORATION by becoming a member for the year 19____.

☐ Individual \$5.00 ☐ Family \$7.50 ☐ Gift or Memorial \$_____

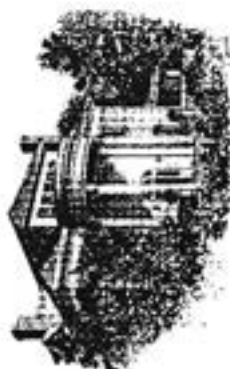
☐ I would like to be an active member with my time and talent.

Phone _____

MAIL TO:

SOUTH WOOD COUNTY
HISTORICAL CORPORATION

540 Third Street South
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494



ARTIFACTS

A publication of
South Wood County Historical Corporation
540 Third Street South
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
(715) 423-1580

Editor: Pam Walker

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From A Bird's Eye:

19th Century Perspective Views of Wisconsin Communities



Our premiere exhibit this season focuses on a collection of bird's eye views that were available from the State Historical Society. Diligent work was required to prepare the Front Gallery for this exhibition as environmental conditions such as light requirement and humidity, and security specifications were addressed. To customize the presentation, the inclusion of views from neighboring communities was secured. Special thanks are extended to loans from *Portage County Historical Society, Portage County Library, City of Marshfield, and Marathon County Historical Museum*. Special thanks also go to volunteer *Rob Nurre* for his extraordinary efforts in background research and exhibit design.

Bird's eye views of growing cities graced walls in homes and offices of proud citizens during the second half of the 19th century. These detailed illustrations showed communities from a perspective that could only be imagined by an artist, a view from high overhead, decades before it could be seen from an airplane window. Although popular at the time, few of these lithographed images survived. They now provide a rare glimpse of our past.

The South Wood County Historical Museum's exhibit includes some 30 original bird's-eye views of communities throughout Wisconsin. A special focus is on the 1874 view of Grand Rapids, now known as Wisconsin Rapids, and other cities of Central Wisconsin. There is also information about the artists and printers who created these views and an opportunity to try your own hand at drawing a bird's-eye view. The exhibit will run through October of 1995 and may be available again for the museum season of 1996.



Calling All Toys

I suppose that you think that our teen age docents are looking for something to do while at the museum. Well that's not the case. But we have the start of a fine collection of old toys which captures the interest of adults as well as children who visit the museum. But we need more of these items to enhance the collection.

What are we looking for? Old, old toys that belonged to dad. For instance, does anyone have any of those old tin toys that were made from old tin cans or beverage cans? Many came from Japan before World War Two. I recall a toy gun, the barrel was made from an old beer can and the labeling was still visible on the inside. Then the wooden toys of World War Two days are valuable. Wood replaced hard to get metal of that era. Cast iron toys are some prizes that we would appreciate having. They were popular before the stamped metal toys. Real electric flatirons or toy stoves that really warmed food would be interesting.

If you have been storing some old antique toys and you think that others would appreciate sharring your memories, we will be glad to take them off your hands. Remember, we want old toys, not the plastic ones of today. Give us a call at the museum, describe your toy that you want to give us, and we will advise you if it fits into our needs. Thanks.

American Carbonic Company

Sounds like some kind of a chemical conglomerate company. In reality it was a manufacturer of refrigeration systems and its home office and plant were right here in Wisconsin Rapids.

American Carbonic Company was founded as a subsidiary of the Grand Rapids Foundry Co. which was started in 1876 at a site near the east side swimming pool. In 1905, the company erected a new concrete block building on the west side of the river, near High and Seventh Avenues.

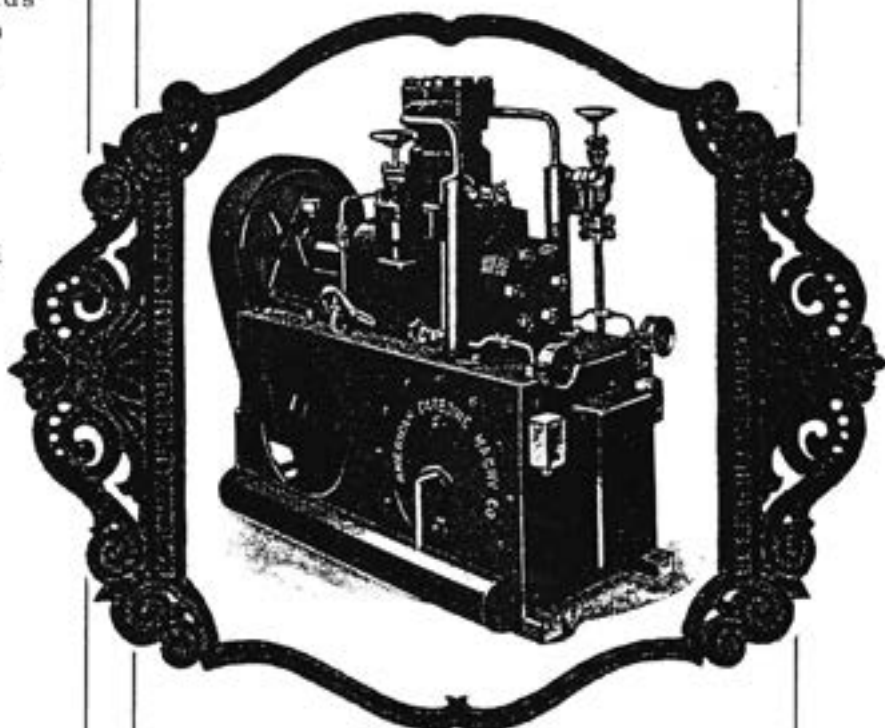
In 1907, a subsidiary company, The Wisconsin Ice Machine Co., was organized by the Roenius and Uehling families. The purpose of the new company was to develop and market refrigeration systems, utilizing the newly developed cooling system known as the carbonic safety system of refrigeration machine. The system was developed here in Wisconsin Rapids and used safe carbon dioxide gas rather than the older toxic and irritating sulfur dioxide or ammonia gas.

A contract was entered into with Grand Rapids Foundry, the parent company, to build the equipment. The name was changed to American Carbonic Company in 1912.

The company experienced slow but steady growth until it became a victim of the depression of the early 1930's. The company's claim to fame was that they built the air conditioning refrigeration system for the famous Black Hawk theater in Chicago which was later demolished by fire.

Incidentally, the American Carbonic Company did not make small household refrigeration units but rather, concentrated on large units for airconditioning, meat processing plants and cold storage facilities. Ice cream manufacturers were a good customer of the Carbonic company.

The concrete block building still stands, and although expanded, it was the home of C.W.TruckingCo. Today it is a part of the CPI complex.



A Carbonic Safety System
Self Contained Unit

Founded in 1877 by the Doud family, who built a stave mill on Mosquito Creek, the site was named Doudsville.

Besides the Doud's stave mill, there was also located there a stone quarry, operated by the Grand Rapids Sandstone Co. and also a brick kiln operated by the Lessig family. All three items, staves, stone and bricks, provided revenue for the railroad. The stone used for building the foundations for the Port Edwards mill came from the stone quarry there.

The saw mill burned in 1882, and the Douds moved to Pittsville. The name of the site was then changed to Worden. (1884).

The brick making has long terminated but remains of the kilns are still visible. The quarry still produces a little rock, primarily for fill purposes. The rail siding has long been gone.



CITY OF WISCONSIN RAPIDS

SIGEL



Bernadine and Karen are hard at work with the next set of organization projects. First order of business: survey the stacks of old newspaper clippings and decide how best to organize this material. They seemed to have stumbled onto *Lorena Paap's* clippings which were collected for at least ten years. There have been a few additions with *Dave Engel's* newspaper features from 1980-1985 and mounds of miscellaneous material. Many of these stories and obituaries are found in the microfilm files of the Daily Tribune which are available at their office and at the McMillan Public Library. A weeding process has been devised to photocopy material intended to be saved and discard the remainder.

If you are visiting the Museum and venture into the Sunroom area you will find the bulk of the collection in neat piles on the floor space and the Board table. We hope this will be a fast operation, but there are more of these monsters to wrestle and we have discovered a pleasant place to work. The only drawback seems to be when we turn on a floor fan too close to our work area...yes we've managed to do this only once!!!

Notable items that have been discovered: more accession forms that were filled out by donors and misfiled, a diagram of the original sprinkler system installed by the T. B. Scott Library, and items from early county teachers' meetings circa 1900. Karen and Bernadine are getting proficient at this tedious sorting, but admit that four hours is about the limit for the concentration levels required for this undertaking.



Northeastern Wisconsin Teacher's Association

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 12/13, 1909 A. M.
GRAND RAPIDS, WISCONSIN

Wood County
Teachers' Association
Grand Rapids, Wisconsin,
March 23, 1907.

Announcement
of the
Wood
County
Teachers'
Training
School

1903-1904

The Coalman (no longer) Commeth

Our museum is about to remove two old coal chutes from the foundation of the building. With that, another tie with the past will be gone---the delivery of coal to homes for heating in winter. No longer do we depend upon Rapids Coal and Ice Co. to drive up, place a connecting chute in the coal bin in the basement, and then shovel coal into the bin. As much as a couple of tons might have been unloaded in one delivery. Just don't plan on doing the house dusting that day until the coal has been unloaded or your efforts will have been in vain.

Did your parents use "Hi-Heat" or "Kleen Burn" or perhaps it was "Pocahontas". The Port Edwards Fuel Company offered an oil treated product to minimize dust. It was brought into the village in a railway boxcar. Why a box car? Because it was easier to shovel coal from a box car floor into a truck, rather than over the high sides of a gondola car.. Hugh Madden, owner of the Port Edwards Fuel Co., specified that his deliveries be made via boxcars.

Coal was usually unloaded from trucks via a chute or trough. But on occasion, the coal was carried from the trucks to the home via canvas bags or metal tubs; either holding about a hundred pounds.

The home furnace of only 50 years ago required building a fire each morning and removing the old ashes. Many a serious fire resulted when hot, glowing ashes were placed

in or near a combustible material.

A big improvement came about when the automat stoker was introduced. Burning a granular form of coal, the hopper of the stoker had to be filled only about every other day. The stoker had a chain belt or an auger that fed the coal into the furnace. "Iron Fireman" was just such a brand of stoker.

And what did the coalman or dealers do in summer to supplement their business? Many turned to home ice deliveries. Some sold ice cut on local rivers or lakes while others manufactured the ice from city water. It was kept in a dark, ice house, packed in sawdust. A daily delivery of a 25 , 50 or 75 pound block kept the ice box(forerunner of the refrigerator) cold for about a day.

I guess the absence of coal in our basements today is the reason that many a small boy or girl prizes a piece of coal that they picked up along side a railroad track, as a prized and valued stone. To the older generation, it was that pile of black stuff that kept us warm in winter.



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Wisconsin Author JUSTIN ISHERWOOD



Isherwood is a sixth generation farmer living on "Big Sandy," where taters and trout waters intermingle. His work has appeared in *Audubon*, *Harrowsmith Country Life*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. His regular columns appear in the *Stevens Point Journal*, *Badger Commontater*, and *Wisconsin River Valley Journal*. His books include; *Wisconsin*, *The Farm West of Mars*, and *White Ladies and Naked Gardens*. And his award-winning story "Trout Killer" appears in the book, *Harvest Moon*, published by Lost River Press in 1993.



WISCONSIN

Traveler

Have a summer birthday gift to buy and unsure of where to find something of a local flavor?? Try the new **Gift Shop** at the SWCHC Museum. We have an inventory of special items including cranberry stationery, books with a historical flavor, T-shirts and totebags. There is also old postcard stationery, Blue Books and antique books for sale. *The Martin Agency* and *Home Brew Press* are represented with a number of gift items like CD's, cassettes and greeting cards. Plus, we also stock publications by *Justin Isherwood*. Completing the inventory is a selection of bird's-eye view maps including the newly printed **Grand Rapids view**. Stop and browse for that special treasure!

What's Cooking: _____

Recipe From: _____

Ser _____



Summer Museum Hours

Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays

1:00 - 4:00 pm



**SOUTH WOOD COUNTY
HISTORICAL CORPORATION**

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Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

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