

June 2019

Volume II #56

# ARTIFACTS



Cover: Gilbert Endrizzi and Consoweld art; Nepco Payday by J. Marshall Buehler, 2-3; River Islands by Phil Brown, 4-5; Gib's Pix, 6-23 (Murgatroyd, Two Mile neighborhood, Scouts), 32; TootsieToys by Bill Hartley, 24-25; Steve Livernash by Scott Brehm, 26-31.



# NEPCO



By J. Marshall Buehler

It happened every other Friday when the Nekoosa-Edwards Paper Co. mill paid their employees. The only place to cash your check was at one of the two general stores: Gus Buehler's White City Store or Port Edwards Mercantile. There would not be a bank in Port Edwards until 1949.

Cash sales were minimal. Practically all trade was transacted on credit. On one occasion the White City Store's cash register was out of order for two months.

Neither store had monetary funds on hand to cash the workers' checks. Store assets were tied up on the 'books'—the credit accounts. So, on the Thursday afternoon before payday, Gus Buehler would get in his pickup delivery truck (1937 Dodge) and drive to Nekoosa to take out a loan of about \$3,000. On Saturday morning, he made the same trip back to the bank to repay the two-day loan and bank the balance.

Next, the store staff would be paid off in cash. Gus kept \$100 for his manager's salary. The clerk received about half that; the delivery man about \$50; and the Saturday student helper \$2. No deductions, no withholdings. Remember, this was prior to World War II.

There was a ritual to cashing one's check. After the recipient had endorsed the check, the store clerk went to the 'books' and took out the

accumulated charge slips, which were totaled on a manually-operated adding machine, the size of a typewriter—after which payment was made, sometimes in full and sometimes only partially. Next, the clerk went to the box of bulk candy containing about 20 pounds of sweets. A small bag with a capacity of about a half pound would be filled and given to the customer in appreciation of his patronage. The worker now had a treat to take home to his spouse.

The candy was usually well received at home and immediately poured into a candy bowl on the table. But sometimes the candy was not met with gratitude. Mrs. "B" had no qualms about calling the store, stating she did not like the variety of candy she was given and would send it back in exchange for something more satisfying to her taste buds. Her wish would be fulfilled; Mrs. "B" was a good customer.

And then there was Mr. "A."

He paid his bill and took the candy, but immediately headed for the Switch Tavern where he would settle his beer bill and imbibe in a few more glasses of suds. Upon arrival home, Mrs. "A" forgave him for coming home late for supper when he presented her with the small bag of candy. Mrs. "A" never did know just how much her husband earned.



"P.S." always asked for two bags of candy, one for his wife and another for his mother-in-law who resided with them. He claimed he had to treat both alike to keep peace in the family.

Selecting the candy for payday was a serious matter. The quality of candy reflected on the store's reputation and repeated loyalty of the customer. About every six weeks, the candy salesman came into the store with his sample case. The case resembled a fishing tackle box that had trays when opened up. On each tray was glued a couple pieces of each confection. Buehler leaned toward lemon drops, chocolate-covered peanuts, coconut bon bons, gum drops and chocolate-covered vanilla creams.

To be avoided were the cheaper candies imported from Mexico. Because of their high sugar content, they had a tendency to stick together in a warm atmosphere. However, during WWII and sugar rationing, domestically-produced candy was in limited supply, and Mexican and even Cuban candy were the alternates. In the month of January, the customer could expect left over Christmas candy.

There were delinquent debtors but the Port stores never garnisheed any of them. Instead, an arrangement was worked out between the Nekoosa-Edwards Paper Co. and the Nekoosa Port Edwards Retail Merchants Association whereby a wage earner in serious debt would assign his check directly to the merchant. The merchant then took out a payment for what was owed to him and also took out small payments to other creditors. A small amount of cash was left for the debtor.

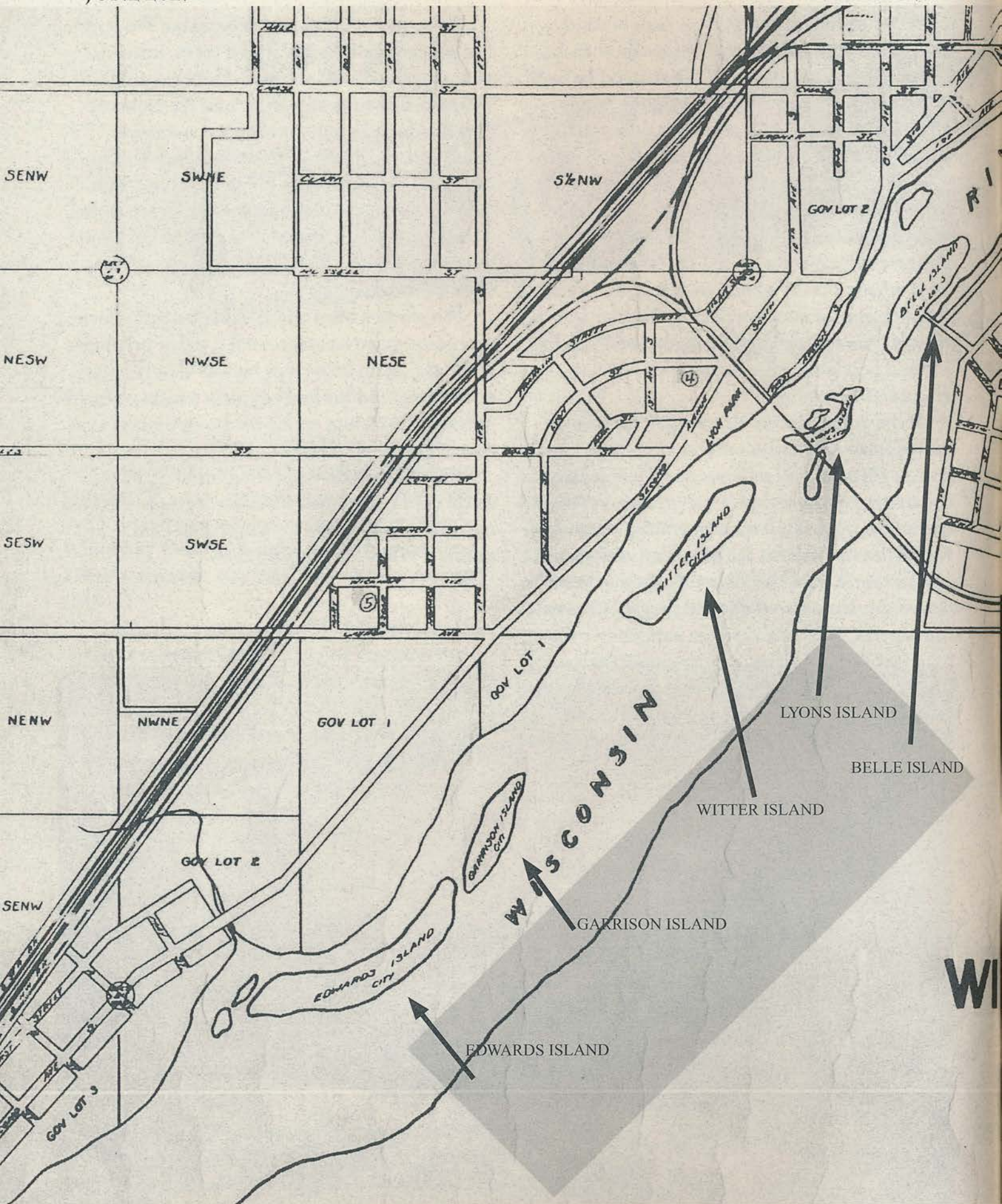
The worker went along with this assignment procedure since he still retained credit privileges at the stores; he knew that he was slowly getting out of debt; and his bad payment practice would not be as bad a blot on his credit reputation as a garnishment would be.

Things are somewhat similar today. Most credit card companies will offer a gift, free travel miles or a cash rebate for using their credit card, asking, "What's in your wallet?"



White City Store, Port Edwards







## ISLANDS ALONG THE PATH

By Phil Brown  
SWCHC President

With the improvement of our hiking and biking trails along the beautiful Wisconsin river, you may have wondered about the islands we now have more opportunity to observe. This week, I found some answers in a 1929 map drawn by Chester P. Gross, then City Engineer and father of future jeweller, historian and videographer, Paul Gross.

The Sept. 6, 1916, Grand Rapids *Daily Tribune* announced that the Wisconsin Rapids Park Commission had "fixed up" islands in the vicinity of the present-day Riverview Expressway Bridge. "We [the Park Commission] will do some clearing every year. There are many delightful spots on these islands and we invite the public to take advantage of them for picnic, camping, or bathing."

At the same time, the Commission did some naming. The island crossed by the Chicago & North Western bridge (now Riverview Expressway) would be "Lyons Island"; immediately below (downstream), the 12-acre "Witter Island"; immediately below that, "Garrison Island"; and the large island below, "Edwards Island" (directly across from the Wisconsin State Firefighter's Memorial.) The names commemorated local industrialists and nearby landowners Reuben Lyon, John Edwards Jr., Orestes and Frank Garrison and the Witters of Museum fame.

Directly upstream from the railroad bridge was "Belle Island," newly-dubbed for what had been "Neeves Island" after George A. Neeves and his nearby sawmill. Later, it was called "Williams Island" for its lawyer-owner, George L. Williams. City Historian Uncle Dave says it had been considered potential park land before it was purchased in 1908 by banker Earle M. Pease and the Consolidated paper company's George W. Mead, both of whom constructed residences there.

CITY OF  
WISCONSIN RAPIDS  
WISCONSIN

1929 T22N R5&6E

C. P. Gross

CITY ENGINEER





**Kay and Gib Endrizzi**

*After the death of Gilbert Endrizzi (1923-2018), a long-time resident of Two Mile Avenue, many of his photos were made available by Gilbert's son, John. The old neighborhood and some of its residents are the focus of this section.*

Gilbert Endrizzi of Hurley, Wis., married Kathryn Kyle (1923-1995) in 1947. The father of "Kay" was manager of a dry goods store in Hurley. Gib's dad was a miner and police chief.



**John Endrizzi and his grandfather, Peno**



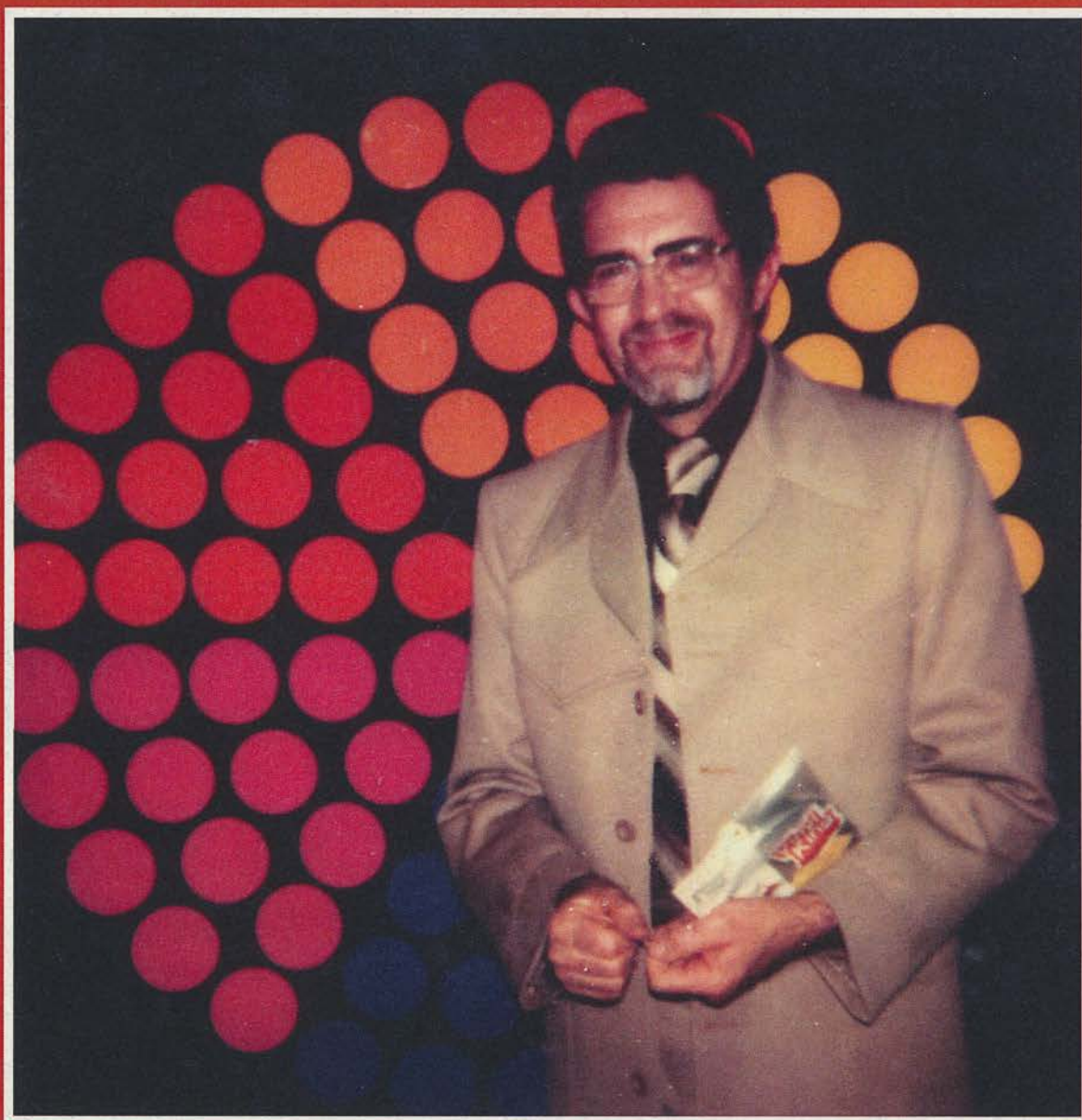
**John, Mary and Dan, children of Kay and Gib**



**John and his father, Gib**

**Gib and his father, Peno**





## Gib Endrizzi, Artist

Above, Gib is shown at his day job with Consolidated Papers Inc.'s Consoweld division, a manufacturer of laminated countertop product. At his Two Mile Avenue home, Gib assembled artistic and religious mosaics from the Consoweld material, including the Picasso on Uncle Dave's kitchen wall. Gib was also a skilled photographer whose images from the Two Mile (school and avenue) neighborhood are featured in this issue.





Ed and Jane Luedtke, enjoying familiar decor of the time and place: knotty pine, fieldstone and family dog.

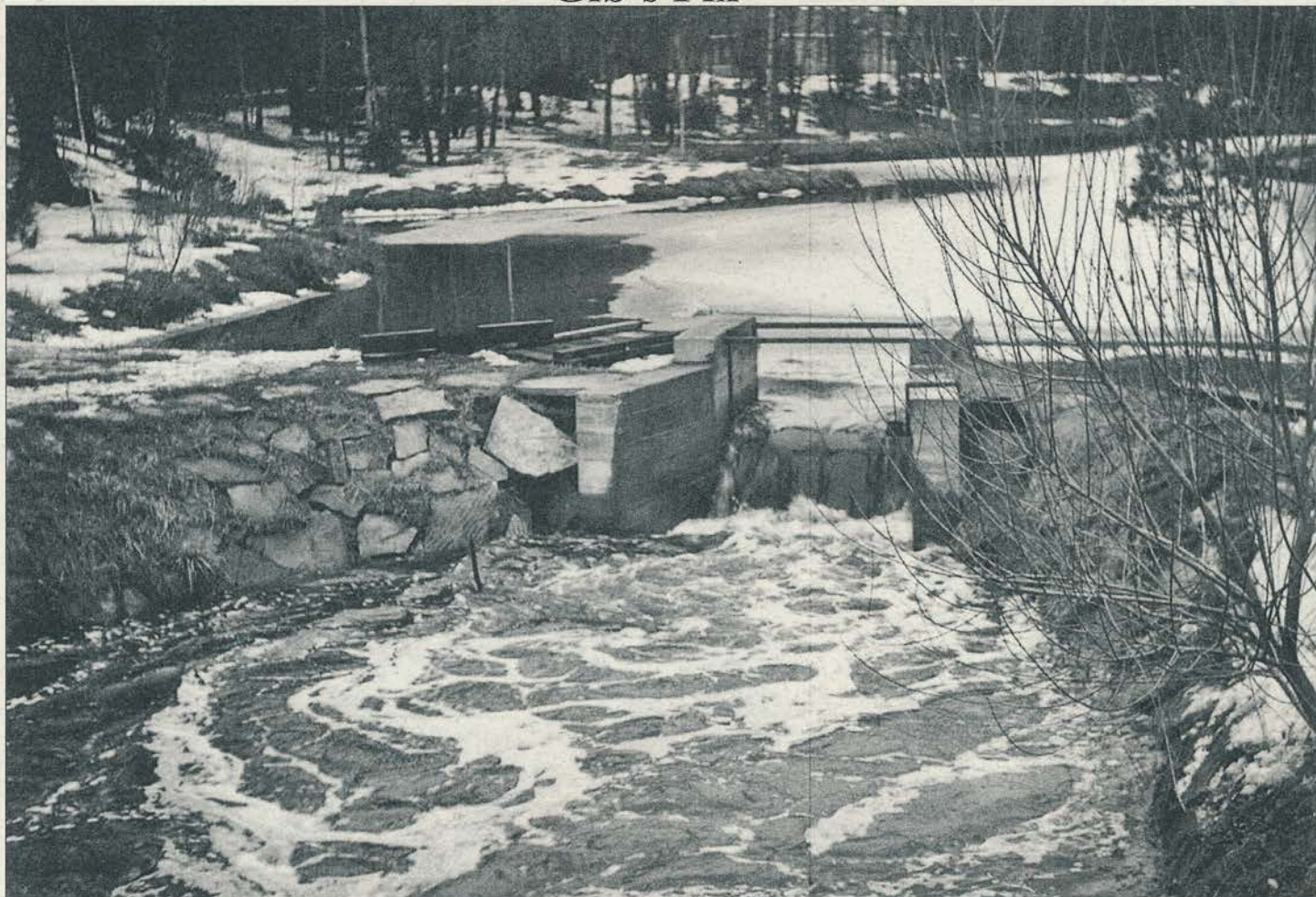
The Luedtke/Endrizzi house was constructed with locally-sawn lumber in a four-year project. Above, the Luedtkes, Ed and Jane (she is second from right), with sons Tommy and James, work together at a Two Mile area sawmill.

Edward E. (1906-1972), originally of Milwaukee, Wis., developed considerable Two Mile property, including the lot purchased from Luedtke by Donald Engel in February 1950 on which Don's son, your *Artifacts* editor, spent most of his childhood.

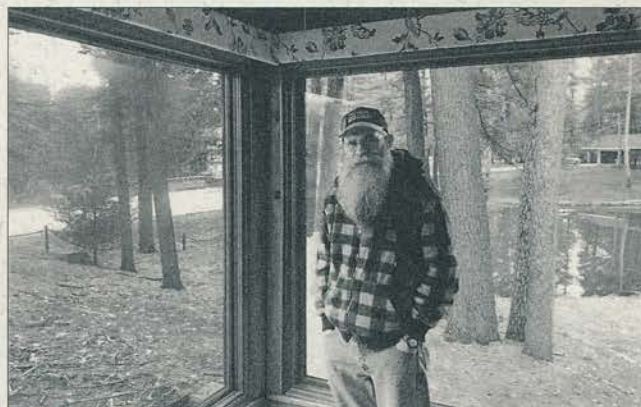
### *Gib's Pix*

*Photos by Gilbert Endrizzi*





*The dam and waterwheel were well-known landmarks. Below, house and land Gib and Kay Endrizzi purchased from Ed Luedtke in the late 1940s.*



*Photo by UD*

Above: Gib's son, John Endrizzi, in Two Mile Avenue house, May 2019, camera facing the One Mile Creek.

Contrasting with the smaller "Sand Hill" style dwellings proliferating in the town of Grand Rapids were two more ample estates usually referred to by their owners' names: "Endrizzi's" and "Murgatroyd's." Later, Murgatroyd's larger acreage was developed to fund the Ridges golf course off Griffith Ave, whereas Gib Endrizzi lived in his home until his death in 2018 at age 94.



## Old World Family Values



Albino ("Peno") and Florence ("Flossie") Endrizzi (included at right) with son Robert, moved to Wisconsin Rapids in 1959, where they built the first house in the Murgatroyd subdivision, on Greenwood Drive. In 1990, two years after Flossie's death, Peno and Robert moved into an apartment adjoining Gib's home. For three years, before retiring, Peno was a janitor at Grove and Woodside schools. Peno died in 1996, Robert in 2000.



Above: Kay, Gib, Dan (armed), Peno, Mary (with dog), LeRoy (dog), Robert, Florence, John



Above: "Peno" Endrizzi and son, Gilbert, in Hurley, Wis. Gib retained a strong interest in Hurley culture and contributed materials to the Iron County Historical Society.

Below: John and Gib Endrizzi at the Two Mile property. Raking and burning pine needles was a favorite activity.







Left: John, Mary and Dan Endrizzi at a typical 1950s dwelling during a typical 1950s childhood ritual. The steps belong to Ed and Jane Luedtke, then residing on Sampson Street.



Unmasked: Ruby Caves, left, Auril Murgatroyd, seated on floor, Ed and Jane Luedtke, rear, Sally Engel with white mask. Don Engel with mustache and cane, a number of unidentified, presumably including Kay Endrizzi, Bud Caves and John Murgatroyd. Basement room. Window and door face west to the One Mile creek.



## Discover Wisconsin Rapids

It was a happy time and place for this Two Mile couple, Don and Sally Engel (parents of Uncle Dave) shown at the Swiss Cottage restaurant parking lot at 3300 8th Street S., probably watching the Discover Wisconsin Rapids parade in the late 1970s or early '80s.



Harley "Bud" Caves, neighbor. Bud drove his offspring and those of the Engels next door to the Methodist church Sunday school, cigar in place as shown.

Below: Caves kids—Guy, left, friend of Gary Engel, Linda, friend of Kathy Engel, and Mary Endrizzi, friend of Gary and daughter of Gib







Helen and Palmer Budahl. Palmer was Grove and Woodside school principal and resided in the West Two Mile neighborhood.

### Schools and Educators



Grove school, built 1947-48 to relieve crowding at Two Mile school



Ruth Bennett Corey and Silas Corey, both former County Superintendents of Schools and residents of East Two Mile Avenue. See *River City Memoirs V* for interview with Ruth.



Two Mile school, 1969, Woodside school in background



October 1949



Paul Murgatroyd



Two events shown at the home of Gilbert Endrizzi, Cubmaster:

October 1949, Halloween party for Cub Pack 78

December 1949, Christmas party for Cub Pack 78 and Scout Troop 78

Robert Clark was Scoutmaster.



December 1949








Dutch cultural event at right may be in the Scout building on Township Avenue.



A few years after these photos, *Artifacts* editor Engel joined Cub Pack 78 and then Scout Troop 78. His mother, Sally, was a den mother, and father, Don, Scoutmaster.







For the Two Mile gang, "Murgatroyd's" on the One Mile Creek meant skating among islands and under bridges, sledding down a wooden ramp onto the pond and, in summer, swimming, all compliments of John and Auril.









## MYF Planning Skating Party

The First Methodist Youth Fellowship will hold an ice skating party at the home of Paul and David Murgatroyd, 440 Two Mile Ave. next Sunday evening beginning at 7 p.m.

The group will spend the evening with games on the ice and fellowship around the outdoor fireplace.

Planning the party and serving the refreshments are the hosts, assisted by Sally Carpenter, Pat Moberg and Larry Brennan.

January 1959

Auril and John Murgatroyd almost lost their new house in 1946 when a pan of creosote being heated on the kitchen range for use on the timbers of the toboggan slide burst into flames. Auril, trying to carry it out the door, dropped the pan on the floor. Flames singed her hair and spread across the room as John attempted to put out the flames with a hand extinguisher. Order was restored by fire fighters but there was plenty of smoke and water damage.



Besides the skating ponds, "Johnny" installed what was nominally a "tennis court" but also served as baseball stadium, basketball court and all purpose sports arena. Catchers' mitts, bats, softballs and basketballs in a small shed were available to neighbors 24-7.



See *Artifacts* 23 and 25 for history by Auril Winn Murgatroyd, some of which was presented for Uncle Dave's creative writing class at Mid-State Technical College.





Above: David and Paul Murgatroyd demonstrating two-finger Cub Scout salute

David Murgatroyd, b. 1943, long time Ridges golf course greenskeeper, died in a car accident April 2, 1999, at age 55.



Above may be the same bike rusting behind Uncle Dave's barn, having passed from Paul Murgatroyd to David Murgatroyd to David Engel to Kenneth Engel and back to UD's daughters, by then having been modified by younger brothers, painted baby blue with a banana seat and elevated handlebars fashionable in the 1960s.

John and Auril Murgatroyd at their Two Mile Avenue pond on the One Mile Creek







John and Auril



In 1963, after operating Griffith Park Speedway there, John Murgatroyd was busy building a nine-hole golf course on the 220 acres he named "The Ridges." Among the first family pass holders were the Engels of Two Mile Avenue. For the restaurant that followed, Sally Engel was sometimes bookkeeper.



### Winns @ Murgatroyd's "Murwin Pines"

From left: Lela Potter Winn, Byrl F. Winn, Auril Winn Murgatroyd, Monroe "Bud" Winn, Paul Murgatroyd, John Murgatroyd, Webster Winn, David Murgatroyd, Janet Winn, Art Winn, Edna Auld Winn. (Note knotty pine decor.) Youthful neighbors Dave Engel and John Endrizzi spent a lot of time in the Murgatroyd house on Two Mile, mostly under the tutelage of the older Paul in the "Coot Club."



Right: Nepco Lake?  
Connected to the  
Ridges by the Four  
Mile Creek a.k.a.  
Buena Vista



Above: Members of Kay  
Kyle Endrizzi's family,  
from Menominee, Wis.,  
on excursion with John  
Murgatroyd



## Johnny

John Rowland Murgatroyd, who died in 1996 at his Ridges home, was born in 1912 at Vesper to Paul and Elizabeth Rowland Murgatroyd. He graduated from Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln high school and Stevens Point State Teachers College before taking up the insurance and real estate game. Among his many ventures, John developed several area subdivisions. He also provided much of the playground equipment at the old Two Mile and Grove schools.



John's "party barge" near the Four Mile house at the future Ridges. (The Murgatroyds, despite owning a supper club, were non-drinking Methodists. As of this writing, we are informed, Auril is over 100 years young.)





The Alvin (with dog) and Marion Grauvogl (front, right) family lived across the One Mile creek from Endrizzi's and two houses east of the Engel residence. David "Davy" Grauvogl, rear, friend of Ken Engel, is shown with an unidentified companion. He now lives in Atlanta, Ga. Ann, center, above, worked a year for the *Daily Tribune* and now lives in Madison, Wis. Right, Janine "Jenny" Grauvogl Graham, Port Washington, Wis., currently assists Marion at the family home, following the 2016 death of Al, then 92.





Boy Scout Troop 78. Tom Mathews, who succeeded Don Engel as Scoutmaster, Darwin Hodgson, David Engel, unidentified (front), Francis Spaulding (white cap), Peter Marsh (front), Harlan Kramer (expedition hat), Boyd Sharkey (patterned hat), John Endrizzi (with bugle), Louis Waters? Photo from 1950s.



Road trip with Gib: Uncle Dave with Alice Hackett (1911-2001) at Sturgeon Bay, Wis., discussing her historic Hurley grandfather, John Burton. Photo from 1990s.



By Bill Hartley

LHS '63

## Tootsietoys (or What Are You Addicted To?)

It seems human nature in the 1980s was ripe for amassing a collection of something from childhood, an enthusiasm that lasted well into the '90s.

Everyone we knew was collecting something. My mom, step-dad, and sisters all collected, some more than one thing.

Mom was obsessed with owning one of every piece of white Fenton hobnail milk glass that was ever made (she only lacked one piece!). A sister collected head vases. Another, a specific brand of southwestern pottery. Another collected graniteware, a type of pots and pans. My wife, Shirley, porcelain dolls. I collected boy toys: miniature cars and trucks, specifically Tootsietoys die-cast metal cars and trucks.

Back then, collecting usually meant frequenting antique stores, flea markets, garage sales, specialty shows, other collectors and anywhere else you could find your items. The quest for that rarest one kept most of us going. Once you got into it a bit, you sometimes found a better example of one you already had in your collection. When you bought that one, you had another dilemma, what to do with your original. That's how you became a dealer, selling your castoffs at shows, garage sales, booths in antique stores, and so on.

My addiction to Tootsietoys probably started when I was about five years old. I remember looking forward to Friday nights, because we always went downtown to shop. If I was good during the week (apparently I usually was), I would get a couple of

nickels to spend on toys. I always went right to the Tootsietoys in either Schroeder's on Second Street S. or Woolworth's on West Grand Avenue, depending on which side of the river we were shopping on.

In those days you could get a great toy for a nickel. And I got a lot of them.

Wherever there was dirt or a hard surface, I would play with the toys: on the ground alongside of our house on 12th Street, in my bedroom, in the living room, and in the neighbor's house and backyard on Chestnut Street. Even in the back window package tray in our old cars!



<http://www.tootsietoys.info>

I recall putting one of my favorites inside the front bumper guard of my dad's '51 Chevrolet, for safe keeping, I guess. Then he traded the car in and I thought I'd never see that toy again. Later, I saw that car parked downtown (it was a taxi cab then) and lo and behold, there was my Tootsietoy still in the bumper guard! I got it back and still have it today.

According to some of the books published back in the 80s, Tootsietoys originated about 1910 at a company called Dowst Brothers. Dowst and company had been in business since 1876 in Chicago, making laundry related products such as metal collar buttons. When Mr. Dowst discovered a Linotype machine in 1893, he realized that not only could the machine produce lines of type for printing, but it could also be used to make metal collar buttons and various other small metal products. That machine led him into manufacturing small toys, bracelet charms, and Cracker Jack prizes.



Around 1911, Dowst started producing larger vehicular toys, including a #4528 limousine.



Then in 1914, a larger die cast metal Model T Ford, #4520.



Toys made until the 1920s were marketed as Dowst brand. The Tootsietoy name came about when one of the Dowst brothers had a granddaughter named 'Toots' and they named a line of doll furniture after her. The name marketed well and was adopted for the rest of the line. Dowst produced hundreds of models of cars, trucks and construction equipment over the years, always remaining inexpensive and designed to be played with.

In the mid-80s, when we moved from Detroit to Reno, Nev., I found a small duffel bag containing a few Tootsietoys from my childhood. Shirley remarked, "Gee, I wonder if there are any more of them out there for sale." That sent us off on our collector trek that would lead us to become hunters, gatherers, dealers, and now, full-housers. We began with antique stores and bought whatever Tootsietoys we could find. We also followed up on ads in the local shopper, visited local flea markets, and eventually toy shows.

During that period, several books were published depicting the different models and color variations, as well as the price for various conditions, and that fueled

the collectors' market even more. The author of the best pictorial book once told me he valued those he already had in his collection quite high, and the ones he was still seeking quite low. I guess if you're the king, you can call the shots.

When we moved to Nashville in the early 90s, we had a whole new list of places to hunt. As the collection grew, we realized we'd have to find a way to sell off the extras and updated castoffs, so we became dealers. We set up a booth at a local antique toy show, and we were hooked!

Not only could you make a few dollars selling off your extras, but you got in early to "set up" and got the pick of the litter at everyone else's booth during set up time. Most of our best buys came during those early times before the show opened to the public. Eventually, we started traveling to shows in St. Louis, Atlanta, Chattanooga, and Cincinnati, as well as home in Nashville.

The collecting craze started dying off in the late 90s, and we sort of lost interest about the same time, so many of our best toys got sold off in the early 2000s, while they still had good value. Today I still have about 1,100 Tootsietoys on my shelves, most purchased at Woolworth's or Schroeder's in Wisconsin Rapids, many years ago.

*For summer 2019, a selection of Bill Hartley's Tootsietoys will be on display at the South Wood County Historical Museum, Wisconsin Rapids.*



#0712 LaSalle Coupe, produced 1935-1939



*My brother from a different mother**Steve Livernash*

By Scott Brehm  
Vesper Correspondent

Steve Livernash and I have been friends since childhood and became brothers in adulthood.

We are the same age. I went to Vesper grade school and Steve went to Rudolph.

Steve and I met at a party one hot sunny day at Great Aunt Shirley Oleson's farm. I was standing in the front yard when this kid came running from around the back of the house. Seconds later, it appeared the same kid came around the same corner. Unless he knew how to time travel, they had to be twins. That was my introduction to Steve and Todd Livernash, not twins but hard to tell apart.

Steve grew up on the corner of County S and County C, two miles west of Rudolph, with parents Francis and Donna and siblings Julie Ann, Randy, Kevin, Keith and Todd. He was an altar boy at Holy Rosary Catholic church in the Town of Sigel.

In junior high school athletics, Steve set the school record with 84 elbow-to-knee sit-ups in one minute. In wrestling, Steve became an individual state champion in both Freestyle and Greco Roman. In his freshman year, he was named

Most Outstanding Wrestler by his teammates. As a senior, he was co-captain of the 1985 Lincoln high school state wrestling champions.

Steve taught wrestling for 11 years at Rudolph grade school. While he was coaching, I stopped by the gym. A fellow wrestler, I talked Steve into a live match for the children. Steve wrestled so aggressively and violently that I was pinned before I knew what hit me.

When our dads played league softball, Steve and I would see each other at the Vesper ball diamond. Later, Steve was voted an All Star every year he played first and third base in the YMCA baseball youth league. He received ASA All State honors in 1999. The "Crusher" hit over 1,000 home runs and hit an astonishing 13 RBIs in one game.

### Detectorist

In junior high school, I heard about Steve and Todd and their metal detecting journeys. I met with Steve at the Vesper grade school and we spent the whole day wandering around the playground, woods and baseball field, where we collected a multitude of coins from days past.



**Livernash family**

Back: Kevin, Julie Ann, Randy  
Middle: Donna, Keith, Francis  
Front: Steve, Todd



Steve in LHS letter jacket



Steve metal detecting in a Columbia County criminal case



Steve and Todd surprised their coaches and quit baseball to go metal detecting, finding over 4,000 coins a year, learning old plat maps and rediscovering early Wood county history through Dave Engel's *River City Memoirs*. In backyards, schools, beaches and underwater, Steve found vintage coins, jewelry and lost items that he returned to their owners.

By analyzing metallic objects found over decades, Steve has amassed great knowledge of metal manufacturing and is a foremost expert in identification of metallic items from modern to ancient times. He is able to locate evidence at a crime scene and determine items that are out of place and unrelated to the time period being investigated. Steve has developed innovative tools to conduct a crime scene investigation efficiently and is an instructor of metal detecting techniques. He is one of few civilians allowed access to federal prisons to locate and recover contraband.

Steve is a charter member and past president of Mid-State Metal Detector Club; past presi-

dent of the North Woods Metal Detector Club; a member of the Wisconsin Archaeological Society, Badger State Archaeological Society and GIRS; and a member of the GPAA (Gold Prospectors Association of America).

Years ago, during my law enforcement days, there was going to be a large search for a ring at a murder scene. Local and State law enforcement had the equipment to locate evidence but didn't know how to use it. I contacted Steve.

He arrived, thinking he was going to sit in the back of the room and listen to the "professionals." But to his surprise, he was introduced as an expert metal detector technician and headed up the search. When we arrived at the scene, we began by using search pattern techniques developed by Steve.

We were told we were looking for a ring the victim had been wearing and set the detector for the correct alloy. In a short time, Steve had recovered a ring matching a description law enforcement had provided.

In high school, Steve was known for sports and artistry. This pencil drawing named "External Visions" was created under the guidance of LHS art teacher, Jeffrey Johannes, and won an award from Wausau's Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum.





Certificate of Authenticity	
ARTIFACT IDENTIFICATION AND DESCRIPTION ANCIENT MODIFIED COPPER	
	
Artifact Code #: WI240703 Artifact Origin: Wisconsin Associated Finds: Frame #0201 Typology: Kingdom: Mineral Mineral: Copper Kind of Copper: Artifact / Utilitarian Tool Division of Tool: Knife Group of Knife: Straight back Type of Straight Back Knife: Ridge back Variety: Handled	
Notes: 12 tally marks, punched on left side of blade. 3 rows, 2 outside rows contain 5 each. Center row contains 2 marks. Fine example of this type. Found in a cache of 134 pieces.	
Length: 8.33 inch Width: 1.24 inch Thickness: .14 inch Weight: 2.76 ounce	
(Not Shown in Actual Size) <b>CODE #</b> <b>WI240703</b>	
<b>Artifact Identification Photo</b> 	
GROUP 2 - A3 RIDGE BACK CROSS SECTION TOP VIEW    END VIEW 12 tally marks, left hand side of blade.	
CULTURAL PERIOD: OLD COPPER COMPLEX    ESTIMATED AGE: 5,800 B.C. - 600 A.D.	
<b>Finder</b> Steven Livernash Wisconsin Rapids, WI	<b>Owner</b> 1. Livernash Collection Wisconsin Rapids, WI 2.
SIGNATURE DATE / /	COLLECTION DATE / /

associated with the Great Lakes Copper Culture, amassing one of the largest self-found collections in the world. Re-discovering ancient techniques of copper manufacture, he is credited for work with copper mandrels which date back 7,000 years. He has also been published in numerous archaeological journals.

Years after Steve suspended his investigation of the prehistoric copper culture, he showed up at a copper conference at a college in eastern Wisconsin. He had not been seen for years but word traveled through the group like wildfire.

At times, the speaker would talk about aspects of the copper culture, then ask Steve, whose nickname was "Patina," "Patina, does that sound correct?" After the speech, Steve was asked to go to the front of the crowd to evaluate some of the copper culture items on view.

A new book on Great Lakes Copper was named, "Patina," due to the writer's respect for Steve and included numerous implements found by him.

### ProSticker

Steve then asked to continue the search outside the evidence recovery area and another ring was recovered, later identified as also that of the victim.

In 2009, Steve and I started our two companies; Stealth Solutions Investigations and CSI:MDT, Crime Scene Investigator: Metal Detector Technician. Steve is also a Wisconsin Licensed Private Investigator.

Our most recent case involved an old murder in an adjacent county where DCI (Division of Criminal Investigation) called us to head up a group of metal detector technicians from all over the state. We have also been involved in several speaking engagements with power point presentations.

### "Patina"

Steve has worked with Great Lakes Copper Research and Great Lakes Copper Typology and created the Great Lakes Copper Typology website. He spent years locating thousands of pieces

Right out of high school, Steve went to work for City Outdoor Advertising. He found his niche in custom work and went out on his own in 1990, renting a small garage on Highway 73 South. He ventured into detailing vehicles and painting billboard signs by hand. After health concerns, he began creating art on the computer from the basement of his house.

In the recession of 2008, Steve fell on hard times. In 2012, he and I had to carry a box spring from the furniture store to his house, where he had been sleeping on the bedroom floor and using the electric oven for heat because he couldn't afford fuel oil. On a laptop, he turned to the Internet to sell his decal art on Ebay. When he awoke in the morning to his first sale, he said, "Game on."

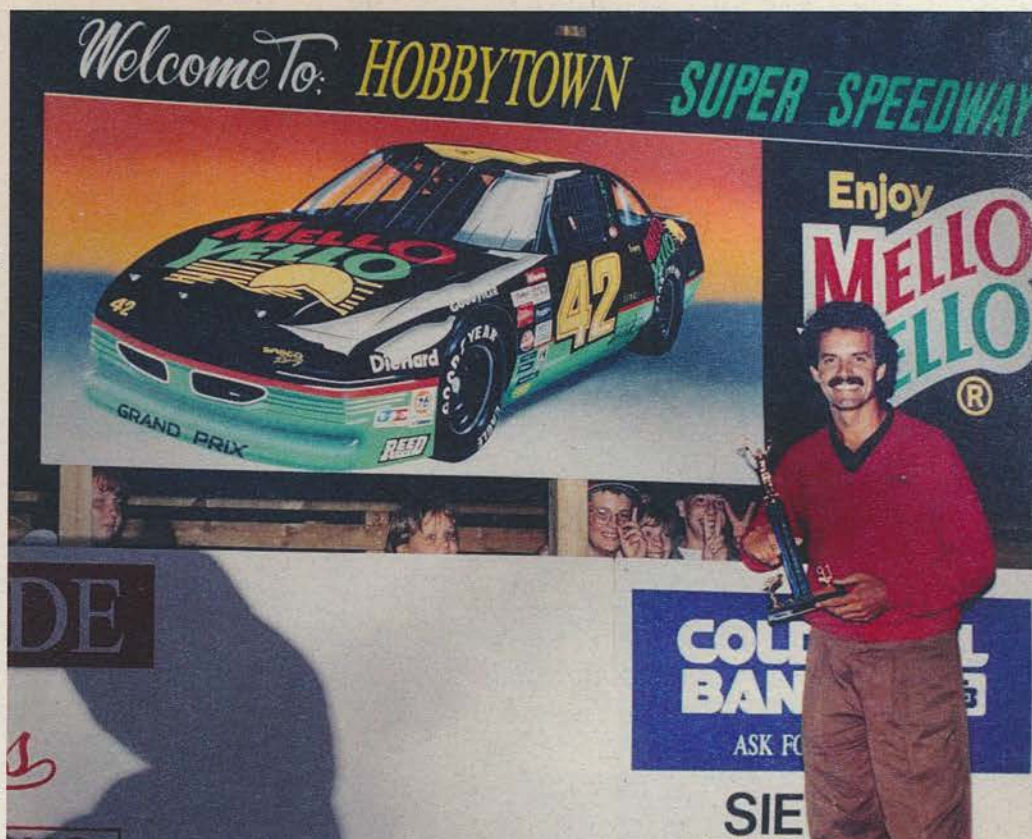
Artistic Sign Company became ProSticker.com, and in three years was one of the 25 fastest growing small business on Amazon with over 750



copyrighted decals. ProSticker creates decals for full-size semi-trailer graphics, Saleen Automotive for Mustangs and "super trucks" in Southern California. Steve is contributing graphics for the Dick Trickle memorial project in Rudolph and supports Cruise for a Cause Cancer Research, the Honor Flight for veterans and Shriners Healthcare for Children.

Some of the companies that have used ProSticker services are Coca Cola, Pepsi, Menards, Morton Salt, Emerson, Ocean Spray and Sparhawk trucking. Steve supplies decals to Harry Hamm's HHA Sports of Wisconsin Rapids for their archery sights.

He is selling his decal art now, 7 years later, in 92 countries around the world and is branching into laser engraving and industrial 3D printing.



In 1991, Coca Cola asked Steve to create a hand painting of Kyle Petty's Mello Yellow race car.



Steve's art



South Wood County Historical Museum  
 540 Third Street South  
 Wisconsin Rapids WI 54494

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



Artifacts is published by the South Wood County Historical Corp., 540 3rd St. S., Wisconsin Rapids WI 54494. For a subscription and SWCHC membership send \$25. Contacts: (Uncle) Dave Engel, editor, [dave@southwoodcountyhistory.org](mailto:dave@southwoodcountyhistory.org); Lori Brost, Museum Administrator, 715-423-1580; or [lori@southwoodcountyhistory.org](mailto:lori@southwoodcountyhistory.org).



Gilbert Endrizzi, then of Two Mile Avenue, trims the hair of his son, Dan, while daughter Mary stands by. Endrizzi and his photos are featured in this issue.