




History Notes



Volume 22, Issue 2 **Waseca County Historical Society** Spring 2001
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*From the Desk
 of
 Margaret
 Sinn*



What happened to spring? If anyone has seen it will they please send it back to southern Minnesota? What am I complaining about, we had a nice day for the plant sale and that is pretty rare. That must have been spring! If you were gone that day you missed it. You also

missed a great plant sale. If anyone has ever noticed that plants vary from year to year at our house it is because we buy from the museums plant sale. At the end Joan and I divide the left over plants, purchase them and plant them. Thus our gardens are a surprise from year to year.

Right now Don Wynnemer and I are part of a committee that was put together to help write an ordinance on historic preservation for the city of Waseca. This committee consists of members of the community that sincerely care about the city of Waseca. It is rather a razor edge to walk because no one wants to put further restrictions on any home or business owner in the city. There are several of us that live in historic homes and know the costs in keeping them up. There are also business owners on the committee that understands that there is a fine line between profit and loss. They understand the need but they like the rest of us like to eat. I have not heard of any family owned business in Waseca County getting wealthy at this time, have you?

Most of the time when I get on my soap box I really do understand that my opinion is not the only one in the world and only just that "my opinion". It is very hard to feel so passionate about a subject and understand why others just don't get it. If that isn't arrogance I am not sure what is. I think that all of us are like this to a certain degree it is just that our strong feelings go in many different directions. It is amazing that we all get along as well as we do!

When you sit in any of our buildings or even go to our website and look at some of the thousands of pictures that have been saved, you see familiar scenes that have aged and changed. These changes have not always been for the best. When people

who visit our community come into the museum the first thing they always talk about is our architecture. I have said before that to see great beauty in our city one should walk down State Street and look up and not at your toes. Once you have done this, or better yet before you do this come to the museum and pick up a photocopy of State Street taken between 1900 and 1925. Take it with you down state street and compare the same building then and now. When you do this I think that you will understand what was could be again. I think of Frank Lloyd Wright sometimes and his love for building. The problem he seemed to have was that he was so far ahead of his time that the building materials had not caught up to him. Now it seems that the building materials have caught up and surpassed anything we can dream about. The answer is not to tear down and rebuild but to take the beauty that we have and make it more beautiful with what we have available to us. A friend asked me not long ago to imagine the middle school as a community center instead of thinking about a new modern, expensive one built on the edge of town. I think this was part of a scheme to convince me we needed one but that is neither here nor there. He said to take off the addition and landscape what used to be the West Side front of the building. There is a stage in it already and plenty of room to do the things that are needed in the community. It could possibly be part of a long-term plan for the school development. I am not saying that this is an answer to anything. It is only something to think about, but try and see the old middle school, re-done and serving a whole different purpose than the one it fills instead of just seeing it as a aging building that has no purpose. Could a community center not have been an option for the Armstrong Grocery building? Why is it so hard to think about what we have and what it could be rather than building something that could not possibly have the charm of what we already have? Please see the beauty around you and dream the dreams of what can be instead of what was and is no more.

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Preserving Family Treasures

The information used in this article is taken from the book entitled "Caring For Your Family Treasures." The book can be ordered or viewed at the Bailey House Research Library. WCHS received a copy of the book from Minnesota Historical Society Conservator, Bob Herskovitz. This article will cover some of the things you can do to care for your own treasures.

Preventive Care of Objects.

Objects of certain compositions age differently. Paper and textiles are going to be more fragile with age opposed to ceramic and stone.

Wood pulp papers produce acid as they degrade. Photographic film made from nitrocellulose becomes acidic and deteriorates with age.

Different metals in contact can cause electrolytic corrosion. Even the chemicals in leather can corrode metal.

Organic vs. Inorganic

Organic materials come from living things, such as plants and animals.

Organic objects are more susceptible to humidity, light and pest damage.

Inorganic materials like metal, stone, ceramic and glass are less susceptible, but not immune from deterioration.

Humidity

We all know how humid Waseca County can get during the summer months. Long periods of humidity over 65% promote the growth of mildew and mold. The fungi can stain objects and destroy organic fibers. At the same time, low humidity, below 30% can cause fibers to shrink. Paper, textiles and leather may become brittle, wooden objects may crack or split and

veneers may peel. Try to maintain a stable relative humidity. To help you maintain the desired humidity there are inexpensive humidity indicator cards that change color, as well as digital units that give you a precise and immediate reading.

The ideal museum setting is 72 degrees Fahrenheit and 50% relative humidity. It is best to avoid storing heirlooms in the Attic or basement where extremes in temperature and humidity occur.

Dust and Pollutants

Fumes, gases, pollens, smoke and other pollutants are present in our homes. Protecting items in unbuffered paper products and inert plastic bags are essential in preserving your treasures.

Pests

Insects, larvae, casings, droppings, holes and nests are all good indication of pest presence. Good housekeeping is the best prevention. Periodically check the storage space conditions. Plug holes that may give access to unwanted visitors. Eliminate food and water sources. Check objects before storing for moths or other insects. Use the most gentle means of control possible. Harsh repellants and chemicals can do equal harm. Consult a conservator for the best means of control.

Light

There are three types of light that can damage objects. Visible light can fade dyes or finishes on furniture. Ultraviolet radiation or UV light is the strongest light form. UV light can breakdown the fiber structure of organic materials. Infrared radiation light produces heat and can fade and accelerate chemical deterioration.

(Continued on page 3)

Limiting overall exposure to light will prolong the object's original appearance. Closing blinds and turning off lights will reduce light exposure. UV light can be filtered from sunlight and fluorescent bulbs without obstructing sight. Damaging heat is produced by halogen and incandescent light. Use the lowest wattages possible. "Resting" an object from long periods of exposure will not reverse damage but it will prevent new damage from occurring.

Heat

Storing or displaying valuables over radiators, fireplaces or other heat sources can expediate the drying process and shorten the life of the objects.

Artwork

To prolong the life of original artworks you should have the piece matted using a museum quality mat and frame. This will protect the picture from dirt and pollutants as well as protect the edges from handling.

Photographs

If you haven't heard... videos, color slide and most color prints have a limited life. Use a roll of black and white film as well as color to document your events. There are several hazards which threaten the life of photographic prints. High temperatures and humidity provide a good environment for mildew and mold. Sunlight or other sources of ultraviolet light cause fading. Rodents and insects are attracted to some of the ingredients used in the binder layer of photographs, they will eat them. Take good care of the negatives and have a good copy made. This will allow you to store the original in a cool dark, dry environment, safely wrapped in an acid free and chemically stable envelope. Negatives can give off damaging gases to the prints and should be stored separately in buffered archival enclosures. Color

slides are best kept in stable polyester sleeves. Photos should not be in contact with brown wrapping paper, glassine envelopes, mounting board that contains acidic wood pulp, rubber cement or glue. Albums made with acid free paper is a good way to store and display your prints. Avoid self-adhesive albums. They are prone to discolor and damage prints.

Newspaper Clippings

The best way to preserve a clipping from a newspaper or magazine is to photocopy it onto buffered paper. The copy will outlive the original.

Archival Quality Enclosures

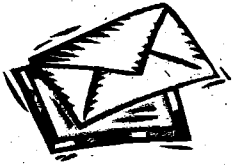
Achieving a cool, dry, stable environment for your paper based treasures in the home is difficult. "Archival quality" enclosures slow down the deterioration process. True archival-quality boxes, envelopes and folders do not damage their contents chemically, resist deterioration and provide physical protection and support.

Beware! The terms archival quality and acid free have been greatly misused. Acid free enclosures may be acid free when purchased however they may later develop damaging acids. Good paper enclosures, boxes, mats, folders, etc. for home use are low in lignin and buffered throughout. Plastic enclosures should never be used for preservation storage. Preservation grade polyester, better known by the brand names Melinex 516 or Mylar D is recommended.

WCHS Giftshop

The WCHS Museum Giftshop carries a full line of preservation products. We can also order just about anything needed to assist in storing and preserving your treasures.

Other resources: University Products, 517 Main Street, PO Box 101 Holyoke MA, 01041 (1-800-628-1912; Light Impressions, PO Box 940, Rochester NY, 14603 (1-800-828-6216); and Archivart, 7 Caesar Place, PO Box 428, Moonachie NJ, 07074 (201-804-8986).



LETTERS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Dear Ms. Sinn,

The story by Mr. Severin in the *Winter 2001 History Notes* about the ice businesses in Waseca brings up a couple of great memories. I go back to the days when my friends and I used to catch rides on the runners of the farmers' sleighs passing back and forth along Elm Avenue. We were carefully warned by both parents and teamsters that we must NOT catch rides on the ice sleighs, because if one of the huge cakes should slide off we would be smashed flat.

I think it was probably in 1923 when I was in third grade when I often stopped in at my father's veterinary hospital on my way home from school. On this particular day there were many men in the hospital watching my father treat a horse. It was a very large farm horse that stood wet and shivering in the treatment room. It turned out that the horse was one of a team that was hauling loads of ice from the lake to the ice house. While its sleigh was being loaded this horse had stepped on one of the cakes of ice that had been cut loose. The cake tipped, the horse slipped and lost its balance and fell into the icy lake.

Ray Johnston, (Vic's uncle, I think) was a big, very strong man who could carry fifty pound cakes of ice from a wagon on the street to the ice boxes in the kitchens of the town all day. He was also a very courageous man who instantly threw himself on the ice at the edge of the hole and without regard for his own safety caught hold of the horse's bridle and kept its head above water while it struggled to climb out of the hole. The other men on the ice harvest crew quickly cut the horse loose from its entangling harness and with ropes and straps and unlimited man power managed to drag the horse up out of the water onto solid ice. I have no idea how they got the horse about a mile from the lake to the veterinary hospital, but soon after I came on the scene the horse was pronounced on the road to recovery and placed in a warm stall to finish thawing out, while Mr. Johnston and the other men probably went back to the lake to finish

their day's work. I think Ray was one of the few honest-to-goodness heroes I ever met.

Another story that comes to mind was told by Ernie Sotebeer. Ernie had a small dairy herd on his farm west of Waseca, and he or his son, Andy, delivered milk to the back steps of our house every day for several years. One day my old grandmother was in the kitchen when Ernie came with our milk. They passed the time of day and Ernie asked how Grandma's rheumatism was that day. She said it was pretty bad, so Ernie told her that when he was younger he had worked on the ice harvest and one day he had slipped and fallen into the water where the ice had been removed. His fellow workers helped him out of the water and sent him home to dry out. He said it was awful cold, but from that day on he had never had a trace of rheumatism. My brothers and I were able to resist the temptation to dunk Grandma through a hole in the ice when her rheumatism was bad, so she never did get over it.

Leland West, DVM Colorado Springs, CO.



Volunteers needed!

The Waseca Co. Fair will run from
Wed. July 18 through Sun. July 22.
We need help staffing Hodgson
Hall as well as the Schoolhouse.

Please call the museum at
835-7700 to sign up.

Brazilian artist
Marie Gertrudes
will be demonstrating her
painting skills and techniques at
WCHS on Wed. June 20th at
3pm. and Thurs. June 21st at
7 pm. This event is free and open
to the public, but please call and
register so we can guarantee
you a seat. 835-7100.

ON DISPLAY AT WCHS



The "Family Treasures" show will remain on display through July 15th. Featured in the show are collection artifacts dating from 1750 - 1964. Some of the items on display include a spinning wheel dating back to 1878, clocks, silver, china and charcoal portraits.

Opening Sunday August 5th will be a quilt show featuring the handiwork of the "Stitchers in Time" quilt club. The Bailey House Research Library will be open as well. **We will be hosting the Waseca Garden Club Garden Tour 2001.**

The hours are 1-5 pm. The tour and quilt show are free and open to the public.

On permanent display is the recently completed "Settlers Mural", composed and painted by Waseca artist Mark Barens. The mural reflects the symbolism of the original ethnic groups that settled in Waseca County from the 1850's and 1860's. The Dakota Indian, German, Irish, Norwegian and Swedish were among the first to settle in this area. At the top of the mural rests the U.S. flag, marking Minnesota as the 32 state to enter the Union in 1858. Please stop in and see us.

Have a wonderful summer!



What's Happening at WCHS



Ardith Beveridge and April luncheon guests.

The first luncheon in our Spring Luncheon Lecture series took place on Thursday, March 15. Our speaker was **Ardith Beveridge** from **Koehler and Dramm Institute of Floristry**. Ardith shared with our guests her experiences at the 2001 Presidential Inauguration where she was selected to design and create flower arrangements. She also demonstrated how to create a hand tied bouquet. Ninety six guests each received a fresh flower bouquet!

What a great way to kick off the series!

The Waseca County 4th Grade Spelling Bee was held on Saturday, March 31 at WCHS. All the elementary schools in the county were represented. The winners were;

1st Place: Ashley Ledding of NRHEG.

2nd Place: Ben Roycraft of WCIS.

3rd Place: Carissa Guse of Janesville Trinity Lutheran.

Cash prizes of \$25, \$15 and \$10 were donated and presented by **Larry Draheim** of the **Waseca Area Exchange Club**. Candy and refreshments were donated by **The Waseca Area Retired Teachers Association** and **Walmart of Waseca**. **McDonalds of Waseca** donated french fries and **HyVee of Waseca** donated balloons for all the partici-



Left to right: Carissa Guse, Ben Roycraft, Ashley Ledding and Larry Draheim. Spelling Bee 2001.

pants. We thank the teachers, students and sponsors for helping WCHS and the Retired Teachers

Association with this event.

The April Luncheon Lecture was held Wednesday, April 18. Our guest speaker was Minnesota Historical Society Conservator, Bob Herskovitz. The topic was Preserving



MHS Conservator Bob Herskovitz with luncheon guests.



Family Treasures. After the luncheon the public was invited to a preservation workshop sponsored by WCHS and the Minnesota Historical Society Conservation Outreach Program.

We all enjoyed the many papers and ideas she shared with us.

Thank you to all that attended the WCHS Luncheon Series.

Genealogy for Others

Jeannette Krause attended the Ellendale School Folklore event held on April 18 on behalf of the Waseca County Historical Society.

Genealogy was her topic. Jeannette shared pictures of her family dating back to the 1850's, nine generations in all. The children were very interested in learning how they could record their family history.

On April 25, Jeannette was joined by Janet Roeglin and together they presented their family histories at the Waterville Folkfare.

Jeannette brought her Grandmother Roesler's 105 year old wedding gown. She even let the kids try it on! The kids thought it was great! The theme for the folkfare was 'Genealogy Is Fun, Exciting and Sad'.

WCHS thanks Jeannette Krause and Janet Roeglin for representing the society at the Folkfare 2001.



New museum entry banners at WCHS !

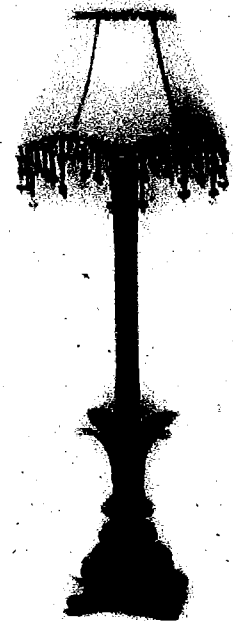


\$ 211.50



The Museum Gift Shop

New and beautiful jewelry and home accessories !

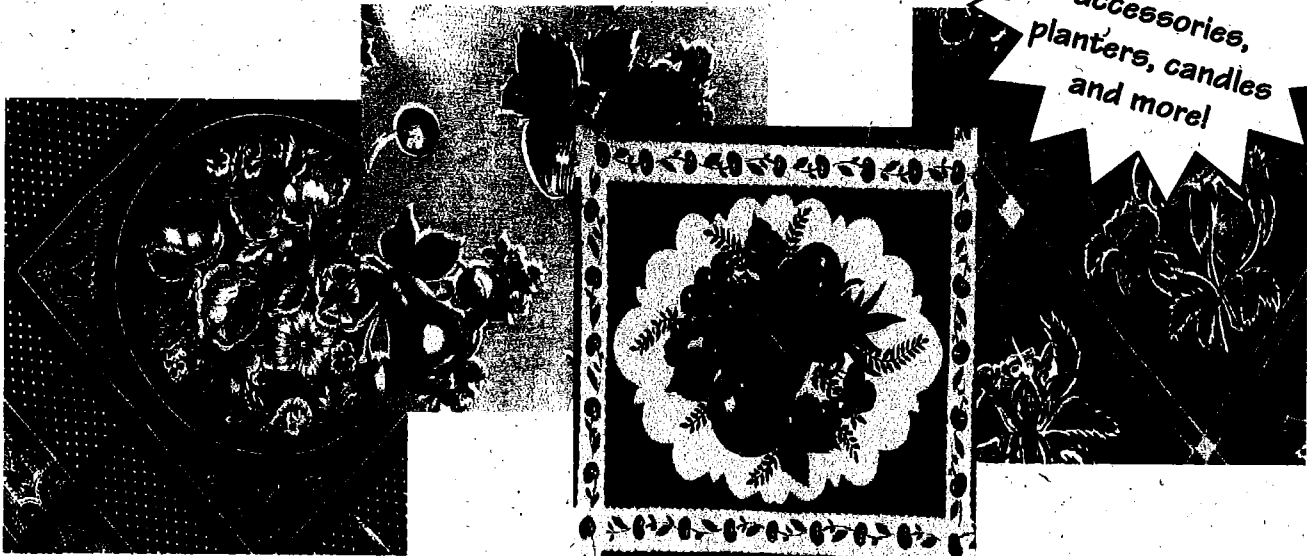


\$ 131.50



DISH TOWELS: \$7.75

We also have garden accessories, planters, candles and more!



OILCOTHS: 48" x 84" \$25.00 48" x 48" \$17.50

* Perfect for outside picnic tables!

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Waseca Central High School, 1948

memorials

Florence Bierman, Gladys Roesler, Dorothy Robinson, Pauline Gray, Selina Becker.

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WAGS RAG

WASECA AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Meet the Second Wednesday of each month at the Waseca County Historical Society, 7:00 pm

Welcome!!

The Waseca Area Genealogical Society welcomes everyone to attend our meetings and events held throughout the year.

Narratives of Our Pioneers

More history from our past. The following is a column reprinted from a Waseca paper entitled "Narratives of Our Pioneers". This one is dated Friday, July 14, 1911.

No one will ever have the opportunity again to march with Sherman to the sea, but it is a real pleasure to have the chance to spend an hour with a man who participated in that famous march. To the younger generation the story of the Civil War is a fascinating narrative; to the veterans who lived and acted in those terrible years, it was actual experiences. Alonson W. Snyder spent about three years in the Union army and during that time was with Sherman, while he was "marching thru Georgia."

Mr Snyder was born near Clyde, Wayne Co., New York, Sept. 14, 1839. At the age of five he moved with his parents to Lake county, Indiana. In 1861 he was united in marriage to Eleanor Patrick at Crown Point, Indiana.

They continued to live in the "Hoosier" state until the following year, when Mr Snyder enlisted in Company A, 99th Ind. infantry. His first active service was with Grant at Vicksburg early in the spring of 1863. This place was held by strong Confederate forces under General Pemberton. General Johnston moved with an army to join Pemberton but Grant defeated him before Johnston could accomplish the union. Pemberton was forced to retreat to Vicksburg and at the same time Grant drove Johnston off the field. Mr. Snyder's division was stationed back of Vicksburg to keep back the reinforcements. For several weeks Grant and Sherman besieged the city, shelling the place night and day. Food became scarce and the city was so knocked to pieces from the incessant firing that the women and children were forced to live in underground caves. Conditions were so serious that it was necessary for the inhabitants to eat rats and cats or die of starvation. At last, on July 4th, the rebels could hold out no longer and surrendered.

Mr. Snyder's division was transferred to the command of Sherman. They went from Vicksburg by boat to Memphis and remained there for some time. They received supplies, loaded their wagons and then set out for Chattanooga. The Confederates held Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge, overlooking the

Chattanooga Valley. General Hooker had come from Virginia and with Sherman and Thomas, the "Rock of Chickamauga" they fought two battles. Mr. Snyder was with the Union forces up Missionary Ridge known in history as one of the most magnificent charges of the war.

Early in the spring of 1864 Grant and Sherman met and agreed to divide their work. The former with 120,000 men was to move on Lee and force him to surrender Richmond, and Sherman, who was at Chattanooga, was to march at the same time and defeat Johnston and push his way thru to the sea. Mr. Snyder was in Sherman's command. It was a time that tried the souls of every person concerned. For 129 days Mr. Snyder had no word from home. All communication was cut off and there was no possible way that a letter could reach him. It was also a critical test for his young wife at home. The sons and daughters of today will never realize the experiences that their mothers went thru at that time. While history's pages make but slight mention of the bravery of the women during the war, the success of the North and the stubborn resistance by the South were due, in a large sense, to the silent, self-sacrificing wives and mothers, who were left in the homes. The name of Florence Nightingale will be transmitted to posterity for her bravery and service during the Crimean War; the names of the thousands of Florence Nightingales in this country during the Civil War should be inscribed on a perpetual monument, for altho they were not on the battle fields, they remained at home and fought starvation and hardships while the men were saving the Union.

Mr. Snyder was with Sherman May 4, 1864, when he began his advance from Chattanooga to Atlanta. The object was to capture the city, as it was a great railway center and the seat of the machine shops and factories of the Confederacy. All along the line of march some part of the army was fighting every day. Mr. Snyder took part in the battles of July 22 and 28 where thousands of men were killed on each side. When they reached a place called Lovejoy, Sherman and Johnston mutually agreed to pause for a time until they could bury their dead. To one not experienced in the terrors of war, it is horrifying to hear Mr. Snyder describe the manner in which this was accomplished. Hundreds of dead men were piled on the ground the same as cordwood, and then, instead of digging trenches or graves, the dirt was thrown upon them until the bodies were covered. He says that he has seen as many as five hundred men buried in a single heap. Later, during the war, he visited the scene and the rains had washed the dirt from the piles and the decaying bones and bodies of the dead could be plainly seen.

(To Be Continued in the next newsletter)

Please note: The spelling of some of the words is exactly as it was written such as some words ending in t now would be ending in ed.

Waseca City Census - 1934 Continues

Last Name	First Name	Age	Address	City	Occupation	Own Home Car	
Koechel	Alvin	40	614 N State St	Waseca	Harness Shop	Yes	Yes
Koechel	Minnie	43	614 N State St	Waseca	Housewife		
Koechel	Russel	11	614 N State St	Waseca	Student		
Koechel	Clark	30	612 N State St	Waseca	Lumber Yard	No	No
Koechel	Mrs. Hulda	64	612 N State St	Waseca	None	Yes	Yes
Koehler	Martin	32	500 3 Ave NE	Waseca	Druggist	Yes	Yes
Koehler	Lydia	32	500 3rd Ave NE	Waseca	Housewife		
Koehler	Dorothy	8	500 3 Ave NE	Waseca	Student		
Koehler	Gertrude	3	500 3rd Ave NE	Waseca	Child		
Kopischke	Adolph	29	218 3rd Ave SE	Waseca	Clerk & Manager	No	Yes
Kopischke	Vivian	30	218 3rd Ave SE	Waseca	Housewife		
Kopischke	Shirley	4	218 3rd Ave SE	Waseca	Child		
Kopischke	Gerald	2	218 3rd Ave SE	Waseca	Child		
Kopischke	Margaret	20	617 3rd Ave SE	Waseca	None	No	No
Kopischke	Mrs. Minnie	55	617 3rd Ave SE	Waseca	Housework	Yes	No
Kopischke	Mildred	15	617 3rd Ave SE	Waseca	Student		
Kopischke	Minnie	19	617 3rd Ave SE	Waseca	None	No	No
Korebitz	G.C.	76	222 N State St	Waseca	Bakery	Yes	No
Krabulec	Frank	27	517 5 St SE	Waseca	Mechanic	No	Yes
Krabulec	Mrs. Frank	24	517 5th St SE	Waseca	Housewife		
Krabulec Jr	Frank	4	517 5th St SE	Waseca	Child		
Krabulec	Catherine Jean	5 Wks	517 5th St SE	Waseca	Child		
Kramer	Edward	42	707 3rd St SW	Waseca	Conductor	Yes	Yes
Kramer	Ida	39	707 3rd St SW	Waseca	Housewife		
Kramer	Eleanor	24		Waseca	Stenographer	No	No
Krassin	Augusta	65	917 S State St	Waseca	Housework	Yes	No
Krassin	Ben	43	931 3rd St SW	Waseca	Post Office	No	No
Krassin	Mrs. Gust	81	931 3rd St SW	Waseca	Houswife	Yes	No
Kratz	Frank	40	308 3rd Ave SE	Waseca	Carpenter	No	Yes
Kratz	Fray	27	621 4th Ave SE	Waseca	Clerical	No	No
Kratz	Herman	56	621 4th Ave SE	Waseca	Machinist	Yes	No
Kratz	Emma	53	621 4th Ave SE	Waseca	Housewife		
Krause	Chas.		515 2nd Ave SE	Waseca	Retired	No	No
Krause	Annie		515 2nd Ave SE	Waseca	Housemaid		
Krause	Florence	28	108 5th Ave SE	Waseca	Tel.Op.	No	No
Krause	George	29	108 5th Ave SE	Waseca	Laborer		
Krause	George	56	620 4th Ave SE	Waseca	RR Conductor	Yes	No
Krause	Florence	54	620 4th Ave SE	Waseca	Housewife		