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Henneman, John William (1862 -)

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Among our early settlers of Stearns County is John William Henneman, who was born in Arlington Heights, Illinois October 17, 1862 son of Andrew and Catherine Henneman both natives of the old country, the Father coming from Bavaria, and the mother came from Alsacs Lorraine.

John William Henneman came to St. Cloud, Minnesota with his parents when a small boy of about three or four years old. When his parents came here from Illinois in 1864 his father bought a farm near Luxemburg for \$4200. The same year he sold the grain raised on this farm for about the same amount he paid for the entire farm.

In 1866 Andrew Henneman started a hotel on Sixth Avenue South about one-half block south of St. Germain St. where Schaefer's Book Store is located at the present time. This hotel was called the Reinisha Hoff and was a great meeting place for traders. Indians would come and visit Mr. Henneman's Hotel while they were traveling to St. Paul, Minnesota.

The first school John Henneman attended was the St. Mary's Catholic School which was in the church basement and his first teacher was Peter Brick. Then later he finished the grade school in the catholic school building located on the corner of Eight Avenue and St. Germain St. where the post office stands now. After finishing the grade school John Henneman went to the Union School and the Normal School now called the State Teachers College.

John Henneman is a great hunter and fisherman so he did not want to settle down on a steady job for a while after completing his school years. He started to work for Math. Weyerns as bartender and later worked for John Hanlow and the Grand Central Hotel Bar. He also worked for Peter Gales in the wagon shop for one season. In 1888 he worked for the city, constructing sidewalks. On this job he worked with John L.

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Wilson, the Father of St. Cloud. On September 19, 1889 John Henneman started to work at the St. Cloud State Reformatory under the first Superentendent, D. E. Meyers as guard and continued to work at the reformatory until 1931 when he retired.

Now as John Henneman dreams about the good old day's of hunting and fishing, he can not forget the day when he was spearing fish in good old lake George in the city south of St. Mary's church. In the winter of 1880 John Henneman went down on Lake George, and chopped four holes into the ice and waited for some fish, but after an hour or so, he got tired of waiting and jabbed his new spear down into the mud, and in a few seconds he felt a quiver on the handle of his spear. He investigated and discovered he had speared a large pickeral. When he tried to pull the fish through the hole in the ice, he had to push it sideways and pull the head of the fish out first. Mr. John Henneman is five feet six inches tall and when he carried the fish to town on his back the tail of this fish draged about twelve inches on the ground. John Henneman claims that it was nothing unusual to have somebody come and say that he casted into lake George from shore, and lost his bait, and part of his line.

Interviewed: John William Henneman
Date: June 8, 1936
By: N. P. Kruchten

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE JOHN WILLIAM HENNEMAN BIOGRAPHY

NO LEGAL RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE