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Pufahl, Rudolph (1852 -)

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Coming to St. Cloud during the early stages in its development, Rudolph Pufahl lived to witness many remarkable changes in the city, and in the work of its progress and development he bore his full share. His life was an active and useful one and closed in 1920 when he retired.

Rudolph Pufahl was born July 11, 1852 in Scottservo, Germany, son of Mr. and Mrs. Micheal Pufahl natives of Germany. Mr. Pufahl's childhood education was received in the rural school's of Germany from the age of seven to fourteen . He spent the next three years learning the trade of milling. At the age of 17 years, with the aid of his father, he owned and operated his own mill for a number of years in Germany. As the time passed everyone was talking about the new country, and the possibilities of becoming rich over night. Mr. Pufahl sold out his mill and sailed for America, coming to Glenco, Minnesota, in July 1880. Here, at Glenco, Minnesota, he worked during the harvest in the fall and in the winter did some carpenter work. The next spring in 1881 he went to Chaska, Minnesota, where he worked for three years in the brick yards. He also did some carpenter work. Not satisfied with conditions Mr. Pufahl and family went to Minneapolis for one month then they decided to come to St. Cloud. Mrs. Pufahl had a close friend who was employed at the Merz brewery in St. Cloud and so the Pufahl family came to St. Cloud in 1884.

Mr. Pufahl following the carpenter trade immediately got employment with the local contractors Carl Lethart, Kropp Brothers, and The Heimann Contracting Company. Mr. Pufahl worked on many of the Catholic churches in Stearns County including, the church in St. Joseph, Cold Spring, Richmond, Meirs Grove, Duelm, and the Cathedral Of St. Cloud, Minnesota.

Starting in 1896 Mr. Pufahl was employed by the Great Northern Rail Road for seven years, working on bridges, depots, or whatever building was to be done. In 1903 he worked for F. M. Wright Sash and Door Factory, and also did some work of his won contracting, until he retired in 1920.

Mr. Pufahl was married in Germany to Johanna Newman, of Schubin, Germany. To Mr. and Mrs. Pufahl two sons were born Paul and Rudolph Pufahl. Paul Pufahl of Minneapolis, Minnesota follows his father's trade of general contracting and carpenter work. Rudolph Pufahl is general manager of a manufacturing concern in Sheboygan, Wisconsin which makes canning machinery. Mrs. Pufahl died December 22, 1919 at St. Cloud, Minnesota.

Mr. Pufahl recalls the cyclone on April 14, 1886. At that time his family was living on 14th Avenue and 2nd Street North. He was working for John Heimann, the Contractor who was building the Neid home in that vicinity. When the cyclone went through the north part of town at about four o'clock in the afternoon. Mrs. Pufahl and her children went into the basement, and a few minutes later the cyclone demolished their home. Fortunately none of the family were injured seriously: Mrs. Pufahl got but a small scratch on her forehead.

Interviewed: Rudolph Pufahl
81 St. Rapheal's Home
Date: May 28, 1936
By: N. P. Kruchten

Publication Granted