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6-2-1936

### Riley, Gerhardt W. (1867 - 1937)

Gilbert Bunt

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#### Recommended Citation

Bunt, Gilbert, "Riley, Gerhardt W. (1867 - 1937)" (1936). *WPA Biographic Summaries*. 1070.  
<https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/wpabio/1070>

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RILEY, GERHARDT W.

File No. B-1110

Gerhardt W. Riley was born in Hancock, Michigan, on April 28, 1867. He was brought to Benton County, Minnesota when he was only three years of age.

Gerhardt received his first job as a water boy in a logging camp, and worked his way up to be a first class logger.

Gerhardt says that he drove logs in many places, and while a big drive was on an average of two men a week lost their lives. He also remembers when the log Hayward house still stood on St. Germain and that on every corner of St. Germain Street was an open well for fighting fires. He recalls that the first Railway Depot was just off Breckenridge Avenue, where now is a ice house, from there it was located where the Robertson Lumber Company now stands, and then it was moved to the present location at 1715 Breckenridge Avenue.

Gerhardt Riley logged for forty-two seasons. He was employed at the time the last logs went down the Mississippi. For sixteen years after he stopped logging he worked for the city of St. Cloud. He said that of all his years as a logger he never was hurt. But his first week, while working for the city, he fell over a shovel and broke his leg.

Gerhardt Riley recalls that the present city of Atkin, Minnesota was once a logging camp in a swamp.

Gerhardt Riley was married to Catherine Schaller on April 19, 1900. There were eight children born to Gerhardt and Catherine (Schaller) Riley. Five of the children are still living, they are: Mrs. William Ziegler of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Raymond P. of Iron Mountain, Michigan; William, of Appleton, Wisconsin; Edward and Cyril of St. Cloud. There are six grandchildren.

RILEY, GERHARDT W.

Page 2

Gerhardt W. Riley died on April 19, 1937.

Interviewed: Gerhardt W. Riley  
Date: June 2, 1936  
By: Gilbert Bunt

Publication Granted

Also taken from: St. Cloud Times  
Issue: April 20, 1937 (Obituary)