

George E. Bogrand – Newspaperman Preserved History

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George Elias Bogrand was born November 18, 1875, in Oconto but spent his childhood in Ishpeming, Michigan, Marshfield and Eagle River, where he learned the printing trade at the office of Eagle River Review.

Later he moved to Marinette with his family and worked at the Menominee Journal office going later to Stephenson, Michigan, when that paper was consolidated with the Stephenson Gazette to become the Menominee County Journal. He returned to Menominee to work on the Enterprise, which was owned and edited by P.A. Badour.

Bogrand came to Wausaukee in October 1895, with equipment from Sturgeon Bay's paper, the Little Democrat, for printing Wausaukee's first newspaper, the Wausaukee Independent. The outfit was owned by P.O. Winther and A.F. Douville, the first issue being printed October 26, 1895. Bogrand declared boldly on the front page of the first issue, "Anything in the print line can be done at this office entirely satisfactory to patrons."

The subscription rate was \$1.50 a year. The first two copies were distributed free to give Wausaukeean a taste of the wonders that would await them every Saturday morning if they would join the growing list of subscribers.

Winther and Bogrand bought out Douville in 1896. Winther dropped out of the partnership in 1900, at which time Bogrand took over as sole owner and editor.

Bogrand was appointed postmaster by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908 and served a total of 18 years in that position. He served as president of the Wausaukee State Bank from 1913-34, a member of the Wausaukee Telephone Co. Board of Directors, and as a director of the Wausaukee Board of Education. He also served on numerous committees and boards dedicated to the betterment of the community.

George E. Bogrand married Mary D. O'Leary, of Marinette, July 16, 1904. The couple had three children: George Jr., who followed his father in the printing trade and took over the newspaper after his death; Rose-Claire Bogrand; and Dorothy Bogrand VanPae, who died two years before her father.