

Commencing on Pearl street at the bridge, I walked out to Jefferson and over to Wealthy avenue and then back to the office. That was my morning trip. In the afternoon I went down Grandville avenue to Fifth avenue. In those days, you know, there were no elevators, and I had to climb the stairs through all the buildings delivering mail. In the G. R. & I. building I had to deliver the letters to each office. They were not all sent down in a bunch as they are now. Every day for 15 years I covered that territory, then I was transferred to a route in the northern part of the city. Then I got old and the mail became heavy so I was given what is called the factory route. It lies at the D. & M. junction.

"I am working only four hours a day now. In the morning I go to the Wealthy avenue car barns and collect the mail put in the boxes on the last trips. Then I go to the office, put up my mail and leave for the junction. After my return I collect mail from the Lyon street cars until 10:30 o'clock. At that time my day's work is finished. I am 71 years old and was born in the Netherlands. My home since the war has been in Grand Rapids.

"When I first began to carry mail Grand Rapids had a population of perhaps 30,000. The routes in those days were much longer than they are now for the city was not so thickly populated. Today no man could cover the route that was covered by me in '73.

"I well remember some of the old business places that I used to pass on my rounds each day. There was the old National Biscuit company's place where the Boston Store now stands on Monroe street. A. Bradford's bakery was next to it. The old Rathburn house stood on the corner of Market and Monroe streets. It was not like the hotels we see now in Grand Rapids. A. R. Antisdell, I believe, was proprietor in those days. Then there was the old Eagle hotel at the corner of Louis and Market streets. It is still there, but no one would know the hotel of 30 years ago as that of today. I think Mr. Johnston ran the Eagle then, as he does now. Arthur Wood's carriage shop stood at the corner of Ferry and Market streets, Smith's opera house was not at the corner of Louis and Market streets, but nearer Monroe. W. S. Gunn ran a wholesale hardware store at the corner of Monroe and Market streets. The building was then plastered over on the outside. At the corner of Ottawa and Monroe streets the old Catholic