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University of Wisconsin

Eau Claire

Senator Roland E. Kannenberg

History 480

Dr. Blackorby

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PREFACE

This study was done for Wisconsin History. I chose the former State Senator Roland E. Kannenberg because I was interested in the Progressive Movement, which Mr. Kannenberg was part of, and his career sounded very interesting. This is a biography of the former Senator with greatest emphasis on his time in politics.

I would like to extend my appreciation to Senator Roland E. Kannenberg, Mayor John Kannenberg (brother), Natalie (Kannenberg) Tackett (daughter), and Walter A. Graunke, without whom this paper could not have been written.

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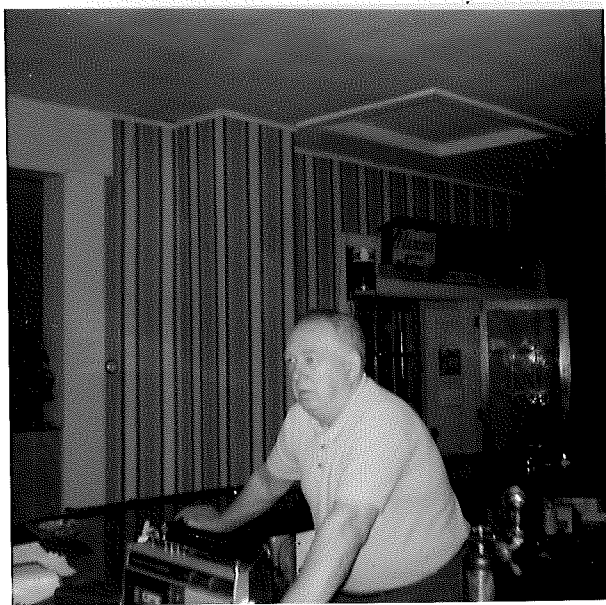
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INTRODUCTION

Roland E. Kannenberg was a progressive state senator from 1935 to 1939. He represented the 25th district, which includes Marathon and Lincoln Counties. His actions in the years just before his election to the state senate, during his term as senator, and following his years as senator have been very important to the people of Wisconsin. To get a true picture of any man, it is essential to not only know what a man does, but why he did it. I am attempting to do just this.



Senator

Roland E.

Kannenberg

Chapter 1

Boyhood Through High School

On September 25, 1907, a son was born to a German immigrant named Ernest Kannenberg living in Pleasant Prairie, Kenosha County. This son was Roland E. Kannenberg, one of twelve children born to the Kannenbergs. At this time, Roland Kannenberg's father was a metal polisher. In 1909, the Kannenberg family moved to a farm in the Township of Texas in Marathon County near Wausau. Both his parents were hard working people.¹ It was here, in this area, that Roland Kannenberg grew up and launched his political career.²

Roland Kannenberg was brought up as a farm boy. He went to the Twin Oaks School in the Town of Texas, which was about a half mile from his father's farm. He worked on the farm throughout the time he attended school at Twin Oaks. Roland Kannenberg enjoyed hunting and fishing and the outdoors.³ He attended high school

¹Personal interview with Senator Roland E. Kannenberg; Mercer, Wisconsin; June 17, 1972.

²Personal interview with Mayor John Kannenberg, brother; Wausau, Wisconsin; June 16, 1972.

³Ibid.

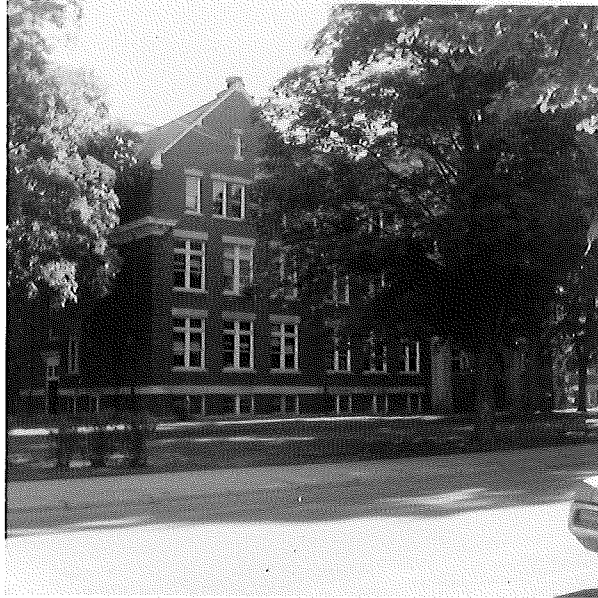


Twin
Oaks
School



Kannenberg
Family
Farm

in Wausau. As many farm children did at that time, Roland Kannenberg lived with a family in town during high school. He also worked at the Midget Cafe in Wausau.¹



Old Section
of
High School

Even though Roland Kannenberg was raised on a farm, he was not isolated from politics. His father was a member of the school board for many years. Liberal politics were close to him--his people were progressive La Follette men.² "I guess I was raised in politics. When Bob ran for President, my brother was on his campaign. He was in charge of six states."³

¹Personal interview with Senator Roland E. Kannenberg; Mercer, Wisconsin; June 17, 1972.

²Ibid.

³Ibid.

✓ Roland Kannenberg was interested in politics throughout his years at Wausau High School. He was a star debator.¹ His job also brought him closer to politics. He worked at the Midget Cafe in Wausau, which was owned by Herman Marsh. "Herman was a former Socialist assemblyman from World War I--a liberal. While working there, I met many county board men and the District Attorney, George Richter. I got a background of the problems of the rural and the poor there."² Walter Graunke, one of the founders of the Progressive Party of Wisconsin, also helped in interesting Roland Kannenberg in politics.

He often came to my law office after school or work to talk politics...I told him, "It [politics] is a great field and a great cause. You should be dedicated to it." To this day when I hear from former Senator Roland E. Kannenberg, he is still the fighting La Follette progressive of the old.³

¹Personal interview with Mayor John Kannenberg, brother; Wausau, Wisconsin; June 16, 1972.

²Personal interview with Senator Roland E. Kannenberg; Mercer, Wisconsin; June 17, 1972.

³Personal interview with Attorney Walter A. Graunke; Wausau, Wisconsin; June 16, 1972.

Chapter 2

The Start Of His Political Career

After Roland Kannenberg graduated from high school, he did not go on to college. Instead, he went back to quarry for granite with his brothers in the Town of Texas. But he still did not stay away from politics. It started one day when he was quarrying with his brothers in 1927. Senator Kannenberg explained that he saw an "army of police come in." There were firemen with them, but he only saw the police at that time. They were looking for Roland Kannenberg. He was a bit confused at the time, so he decided to find out what they wanted with him. They didn't think he could be Roland because he looked too young. [He explained that he was only about 19 at that time]. The police and firemen had been told by Fred Gehring that Roland Kannenberg was the only man who could help them. [He had lived with Mr. Gehring when he was in high school.] The police and firemen explained that there was a common council meeting that night and they wanted Roland to plea for them to stop a proposed cut. [At that time, there were no labor organizations to protect them.] They asked him if he thought Roland would do it. He said he knew Roland would. They asked him how he knew,

and he replied that he was Roland and he would do it. They were rather taken aback at this. He told them he would clean up and then they were to give him the information and explain their positions so he could defend their cause. That night he went to the council and pleaded against the proposed cut. The result was that the council voted the proposed cut down. From then on, labor called on him.¹

In 1928, Roland Kannenberg's brother, Ernest, ran for the Assembly. Senator Kannenberg campaigned for him.² A few years later, in 1930, Senator Kannenberg ran for the state assembly himself. He came in second to Assemblyman Ellenbecker with a vote of 2,417 to 4,447.³ "Ellenbecker called himself a Progressive, but he really wasn't." After this defeat, Roland Kannenberg decided to give up running for office.⁴

*It is common knowledge
that Senator Kannenberg
was not a Progressive
but a conservative
this*

Then, on May 12, 1931, Roland Kannenberg married Natalie Sanon.⁵ But, politics weren't through with him. }

Roland Kannenberg gained a great deal of prominence through his activities during the Milk Strike of

¹Personal interview with Senator Roland E. Kannenberg; Mercer, Wisconsin; June 17, 1972.

²Ibid.

³Wisconsin Blue Book, 1931, p. 571.

⁴Personal interview with Senator Roland E. Kannenberg; Mercer, Wisconsin; June 17, 1972.

⁵Ibid.

the early 1930's. He went "back and forth across the valley" as far as Shawano and Outagamie County.¹ He talked at milk strike meetings and rallies urging all farmers to back the milk strike and Walter Singler, a farmer from Shiocton in Outagamie County. He was the state leader in the milk strike.² Thus, the people of his district got to know him. They got to know him not only as a politician, but how he felt about their problems. This was valuable to his senatorial bid because many of the voters in the 25th district were farmers or descendants of farmers. He worked for them, so they'll trust him and support him. *Kennel*

During this time, Senator Kannenberg was still working in the quarry in the Town of Texas. One day, a delegation from Merrill came to see him. Ex-senator Barber had sent them. Senator Otto Mueller was up for recall and Senator Barber had told the people in Merrill and the members of the delegation that Roland Kannenberg was the one man ^{who} ~~that~~ had a chance to win. Roland Kannenberg hadn't thought of running for anything at that time. The delegation convinced him to come to Merrill to give a talk to them. They went to the Court House in Merrill. He was introduced to a mob as "the only man who can beat Mueller." He was given such a *✓* *Walter A. Graunke*

¹Personal interview with Senator Roland E. Kannenberg; Mercer, Wisconsin; June 17, 1972.

²Personal interview with Attorney Walter A. Graunke; Wausau, Wisconsin; June 16, 1972.

strong endorsement when he got to Merrill, that he made a commitment to run.¹

I lost that fight, but I gave Mueller a hard battle. I carried many areas. I was pretty burned up about it, so that election night I decided to start a two year campaign against him.²

¹Personal interview with Senator Roland E. Kannenberg; Mercer, Wisconsin; June 17, 1972.

²Ibid.

Chapter 3

Public Office, The Senate (1935-39)

On September 18, 1934, Roland Kannenberg beat Leo Gesicki of Merrill for the Progressive nomination for state senator.¹ Gesicki won 1,225 votes in Marathon County and Kannenberg won 2,529 in Marathon County.²

Phil La Follette didn't think I'd be elected because I took a very liberal stand. Phil said to me, "You won't feel too badly if I won't speak for you. The best political advice I get, you can't be elected." When he said this to me I replied, "Phil, you go in and campaign for yourself. Don't worry about me. I'll campaign for you, I think you're the better man. But don't ever worry that I won't be there--'cause I'll be there."

But I won. Phil wired me in the morning and said, "You did the impossible. I hasten my congratulations." I beat Mueller and brought control to the Senate.³

On November 7, 1934, when the election results were published in the Wausau Daily Record Herald, Mueller had lost the election by 814 votes and he lost Marathon County by 100 votes.⁴

¹"Less Than 11,000 Votes Cast in Marathon County", Wausau Daily Record Herald, Sept. 19, 1934, p.1.

²"Marathon County Primary Totals", Wausau Daily Record Herald, Sept. 19, 1934, p. 9.

³Personal interview with Senator Roland E. Kannenberg; Mercer, Wisconsin; June 17, 1972.

⁴"Kannenberg Wins State Senatorship", Wausau Daily Record Herald, Nov. 7, 1934, p. 1.

Table I

ELECTION RESULTS 1934

STATE SENATOR--DISTRICT 25 ¹

	Marathon Co.	Lincoln Co.	Total
Plowman (Dem)	5226	2192	7418
Kannenberg (Prog)	6844	2314	9158
Mueller (Rep)	5865	2479	8344
Pike (Soc)	655	--	655

Senator Kannenberg campaigned for the Mortgage Moratorium Bills. Phillip La Follette thought they were too liberal to be issues to win on, but after Senator Kannenberg won on them, Governor La Follette supported them. "I had the issues that he [Governor La Follette] felt were too radical at the time. *he* never doubted the principle, he was just afraid he couldn't carry it."²

La Follette always played a certain amount of wealth and a certain amount of poor. He was kind of a middle of the roader. But I am the common man's representative pure and simple.³

In the middle of his term as state senator, the liberals convinced Senator Kannenberg to run for Lieutenant Governor. Senator Kannenberg thought he could

¹"Kannenberg Wins State Senatorship", Wausau Daily Record Herald, Nov. 7, 1934, p. 1.

²Personal interview with Senator Roland E. Kannenberg; Mercer, Wisconsin; June 17, 1972.

³Ibid.

have won, but "the party bosses dragged a railroad man from Wausau named Johnson into the race. The party was afraid they would lose my seat in the Senate. They felt I was most valuable to the party if I remained in the Senate."¹ This campaign cost him a great deal of money. Even with his brothers working for him, he didn't have enough money to run for re-election to the Senate in 1939. Governor Phillip La Follette begged him to run for re-election, but Senator Kannenberg just couldn't afford it. "I didn't even have enough money to buy gas to drive my car across the street."² Senator Kannenberg feels that a lack of money was one of the great contributing factors in the death of the Progressive Party.³

Between 1935 and 1936, Senator Kannenberg served on the Education and Public Welfare Committee⁴ and was a member of the Special Joint Investigation Committee for the Investigation of the Economic Causes of the Depression.⁵ Between 1937 and 1939, Senator Kannenberg was chairman of the Contingent Expenditures Standing

¹Personal interview with Senator Roland E. Kannenberg; Mercer, Wisconsin; June 17, 1972.

²Ibid.

³Ibid.

⁴Wisconsin Blue Book, 1935, p. 237.

⁵Wisconsin Blue Book, 1935, p. 251.

Committee of the Senate.¹ The Unified Bar Bill of 1935 was his first major battle in the Senate. This bill was designed to take power from the courts and give power to the Bar Association to discipline its own members. It passed the Assembly without a vote against it. Lieutenant Governor Tom O'Malley called Senator Kannenberg into his office and told him it was a bad bill. He explained to Senator Kannenberg what it did and asked him to fight against it. Senator Kannenberg agreed to fight it. He returned to his seat in the Senate where roll call was in progress. He had to vote with the majority in order to move for reconsideration. After the vote, which was unanimous, he moved for reconsideration. He had spoken for about fifteen minutes against the resolution, when a messenger brought a telegram from Walter Graunke which said, "Defeat Unified Bar Bill at all costs." While speaking, he sent a note to Walter Graunke for help. He asked him to contact Senator Cashman immediately. Soon he received a note from Senator Cashman saying, "Walter Graunke wants this bill killed--yield floor to me when finished." Senator Kannenberg continued speaking until recess was called. Senators Kannenberg and Cashman met at recess and went out to round up senators to back them. They battled until late at night. The bill was defeated.²

¹Wisconsin Blue Book, 1937, p. 541.

²Personal interview with Senator Roland E. Kannenberg; Mercer, Wisconsin; June 17, 1972.

Table II

BILLS INTRODUCED BY SENATOR KANNENBERG

1935 SESSION¹

- 13,S Fire protection expense to be paid by state.
- 156,S Restoration of state aid for the elementary schools.
- 157,S Reductions of appropriations of emergency board.
- 181,S Restoring to local units for improvement of local streets the amount diverted from highway fund.
- 244,S Authorizing county boards to employ agencies for social welfare and protection of children.
- 264,S Regulation of old age assistance and aid for dependent children and providing revenues therefor.
- 379,S Limiting salaries of state employees.
- 507,S Appeals to supreme court, deposits in lieu of undertaking.
- Jt. Res. 18,S Memorial to congress to enact billion dollar Home Owner's loan corporation bill.
- Jt. Res. 100,S Constitutional amendment to permit state to generate, buy, distribute, and sell electricity.
- Jt. Res. 106,S Sine die adjournment on August 17, 1935.
- Jt. Res. 123,S Extending best wishes of legislature to Hon. Huey Long.
- Jt. Res. 124,S Creating committee to investigate receipts and disbursements of code authorities.
- Jt. Res. 126,S Extending condolence of legislature on death of Hon. Huey Long.
- Res. 43, S Urging President to sign Patman bonus bill.

¹Senate Records, 1935, p. 529, obtained from Legislative Reference Bureau, Madison, Wisconsin.

Following are the histories of three of the bills introduced by Senator Kannenberg and also the history of a bill introduced by the committee he served on-- Education and Public Welfare Committee.

Table III

History of No. 13, S (Forest Fire Bill)

- 1-15, S. Introduced by Senator KANNENBERG. Read first time and referred to committee on Education and Public Welfare.
- 2- 7, S. Report adoption of substitute amendment No. 1, S. and passage recommended.
- 2-12, S. Referred to joint committee on Finance.
- 3-15, S. Report rejection of substitute amendment No. 1, S., adoption of substitute amendment No. 2, S., and passage recommended.
- 3-21, S. Read a second time.
- 3-21, S. Substitute amendment No. 1, S., rejected.
- 3-21, S. Refused to reject substitute amendment No. 2, S. Ayes 10; Noes 20.
- 3-21, S. Substitute amendment No. 2, S., adopted.
- 3-21, S. Ordered engrossed and read a third time.
- 3-21, S. Rules suspended.
- 3-21, S. Read a third time and passes. Ayes 26; Noes 4.
- 3-22, A. Received from Senate.
- 3-22, A. Read first and second times and referred to committee on Conservation.
- 4-18, A. Report concurrence recommended.
- 4-30, A. Amendment No. 1, A., by Mr. Hoesly, refused rejection. Ayes 67; Noes 23.
- 4-30, A. Amendment No. 1, A., adopted.

Table III cont'd.

- 4-30, A. Ordered to a third reading.
- 5- 1, A. Motion by Mr. Nelson to reconsider vote by which ordered to a third reading.
- 5- 8, A. Vote by which ordered to a third reading reconsidered. Ayes 62; Noes 30.
- 5- 8, A. Vote by which amendment No. 1, A., adopted reconsidered.
- 5- 8, A. Amendment No. 1, A., refused adoption. Ayes 26; Noes 68.
- 5- 8, A. Amendment No. 2, A., by Mr. Hoesly, rejected. Ayes 57; Noes 41.
- 5- 8, A. Ordered to a third reading.
- 5-13, A. Read a third time and concurred in. Ayes 51; Noes 25.
- 5-15, S. Received from assembly, concurred in.
- 5-22, S. Report correctly enrolled at 3:30 P.M., May 21.
- 5-29, S. Report approved by Governor.
(Chapter 102. Published May 31, 1935)¹

Chapter 102 limits the cost to any county of fighting forest fires to \$5,000 and gives counties which spent more than \$10,000 in the 1933 fire credit for the excess on the state tax due in March 1935.²

¹Senate Records, 1935, p. 23, obtained from Legislative Reference Bureau, Madison, Wisconsin.

²Wisconsin Legislative Summary, 1935, p. 16, obtained from Legislative Reference Bureau, Madison, Wisconsin.

Table IV

History of No. 244, S. (Child Protection Bill)

- 3-21, S. Introduced by Senator KANNENBERG by request of Judge Light. Read first time and referred to committee on Education and Public Welfare.
- 5-16, S. Report adoption of substitute amendment No. 1, S., and passage recommended.
- 5-28, S. Read a second time.
- 5-28, S. Substitute amendment No. 1, S., adopted.
- 5-28, S. Ordered engrossed and read a third time.
- 5-28, S. Rules suspended.
- 5-28, S. Read a third time and passed.
- 5-28, A. Received from senate.
- 5-28, A. Read first and second times and referred to committee on Public Welfare.
- 6-19, A. Report substitute amendment No. 1, A., and concurrence recommended.
- 6-27, A. Substitute amendment No. 1, A., adopted.
- 6-27, A. Nonconcurrent in. Ayes 52; Noes 30.
- 6-28, S. Received from assembly, nonconcurrent in.¹

Table V

History of No. 264, S. (Dependent Children)

- 3-29, S. Introduced by Senators KANNENBERG and RUSH. Read first time and referred to committee on Education and Public Welfare. Ayes 14; Noes 13.
- 7-30, S. Recalled from committee on Education and Public Welfare.
- 7-30, S. Referred to joint committee on Finance.

¹Senate Records, 1935, p. 124, obtained from Legislative Reference Bureau, Madison, Wisconsin.

Table V cont'd.

- 8- 8, S. Recalled from joint committee on Finance.
- 8- 8, S. Referred to calendar.
- 8-16, S. Read a second time.
- 8-16, S. Indefinitely postponed. Ayes 16; Noes 10.¹

Following is a bill submitted by the Committee on Education and Public Welfare, of which Senator Kannenberg was a member.

Table VI

History of No. 348, S.

A bill to create section 37.32 of the statutes, relating to granting university extension courses to world war veterans.

- 4-24, S. Introduced by COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND PUBLIC WELFARE. Read first time and referred to committee on Education and Public Welfare.
- 5-10, S. Report passage recommended.
- 5-24, S. Read a second time.
- 5-24, S. Ordered engrossed and read a third time.
- 5-24, S. Rules suspended.
- 5-24, S. Read a thrid time and passed. Ayes 26; Noes 0.
- 5-27, A. Received from senate.
- 5-27, A. Read first and second times and referred to committee on Education.
- 6- 5, A. Report concurrence recommended.
- 6-10, A. Ordered to a third reading.

¹Senate Records, 1935, p. 134, obtained from Legislative Reference Bureau, Madison, Wisconsin.

Table VI cont'd.

- 6-13, A. Read a third time and concurred in. Ayes 81;
Noes 1.
- 6-14, S. Received from assembly, concurred in.
- 6-20, S. Report correctly enrolled at 12:30 P.M.
- 6-25, S. Report approved by Governor June 22, 1935.
(Chapter 179. Published June 25, 1935.)¹

This was Senator Kannenberg's accomplishments
in the Senate session of 1935 and 1936.

The following table shows the bills introduced
by Senator Kannenberg in the Senate session of 1937
and 1938.

Table VII

BILLS INTRODUCED BY SENATOR KANNENBERG

1937 SESSION

- 13,S Fees for privilege of holding auction sales.
- 21,S Mortgages and land contracts and enforcement thereof.
- 25,S Compensation for corporation officers and employees,
limited.
- 37,S Appropriation for university extension building at
Wausau.
- Jt. Res. 50,S Printing additional copies of bill 266,S.
- Jt. Res. 66,S Interim joint legislative committee to
investigate profits of dairy companies,
created.

¹Senate Records, 1935, p. 169, obtained from
Legislative Reference Bureau, Madison Wisconsin.

Table VII cont'd.

Res. 11, S Directing banking commission to furnish certain information to Senate.¹

Following are the histories of two bills. One was introduced by Senator Kannenberg and the other was introduced at his request.

Table VIII

History of No. 37, S. (Extension building at Wausau)

- 2- 3, S. Introduced by Senator KANNENBERG. Read first time and referred to committee on Education and Public Welfare.
- 2-11, S. Report indefinite postponement recommended.
- 2-11, S. Rules suspended.
- 2-11, S. Read a second time.
- 2-11, S. Amendment No. 1, S, offered by Senator Sauld.
- 2-11, S. Amendment No. 1, S., rejected. Ayes 28; Noes 3.
- 2-11, S. Refused to indefinitely postpone. Ayes 13; Noes 18.
- 2-11, S. Refused to refer to joint committee on Finance. Ayes 11; Noes 21.
- 2-11, S. Ordered engrossed and read a third time. Ayes 16; Noes 15; Paired 2.
- 2-11, S. Referred to joint committee on Finance. Ayes 19; Noes 13.
- 2-24, S. Report indefinite postponement recommended.
- 2-25, S. Taken from calendar of 2-26.

¹Senate Records, 1937, p. 308, obtained from Legislative Reference Bureau, Madison, Wisconsin.

Table VIII cont'd.

- 2-25, S. Amendment No. 2, S., offered by Senator Callan.
- 2-25, S. Amendment No. 2, S., adopted.
- 2-25, S. Vote by which amendment No. 2, S., adopted, reconsidered. Ayes 19; Noes 9.
- 2-25, S. Amendment No. 2, S., rejected. Ayes 21; Noes 8.
- 2-25, S. Refused to indefinitely postpone. Ayes 13; Noes 16.
- 2-25, S. Ordered engrossed and read a third time.
- 2-25, S. Rules suspended.
- 2-25, S. Read a third time and passed. Ayes 18; Noes 10.
- 2-25, A. Received from Senate.
- 2-25, A. Read first and second times and referred to committee on Education.
- 5- 4, A. Senate message, senate requests return for further consideration.
- 5-17, A. Ordered returned to senate as per request. Ayes 47; Noes 24.
- 5-17, A. Refused to suspend rules. Ayes 44; Noes 29.
- 5-18, A. Motion by Mr. Miller to reconsider vote by which ordered returned to senate.
- 5-24, A. Refused to lay over to 5-25.
- 5-24, A. Laid over to 5-27. Ayes 36; Noes 29.
- 5-28, A. Vote by which ordered returned to senate, reconsidered. Ayes 43; Noes 33.
- 5-28, A. Laid over to 6- 2.
- 6- 2, A. Laid aside temporarily.
- 6- 3, A. Laid upon table..
- 6-24, A. Taken from table and referred to calendar.

Table VIII cont'd.

- 7- 2, A. Returned to senate with action incomplete due to sine die adjournment.
- 7- 2, S. Received from assembly with action incomplete due to sine die adjournment.¹

The following bill was introduced at the request of Senator Kannenberg.

Table IX

History of No. 266, S.

A bill to create chapter 199 and section 20.514 of the statutes, relating to Wisconsin development authority and making an appropriation.

- 3-31, S. Introduced by COMMITTEE ON CONTINGENT EXPENDITURES, by request of Senator Kannenberg. Read first time and referred to committee on Corporations and Taxation.
- 4- 9, S. Report without recommendation and for reference to joint committee on Finance.
- 4- 9, S. Referred to joint committee on Finance.
- 4-29, S. Report passage recommended.
- 5- 4, S. Read a second time.
- 5- 4, S. Laid over to 5-12 and made a special order at 10:00 A.M.
- 5-12, S. Laid over to 5-19 and made a special order at 10:00 A.M.
- 5-12, S. Amendment No. 1, S., offered by Senator McDermid.
- 5-18, S. Substitute amendment No. 1, S., offered by Senator Roethe.

¹Senate Records, 1937, p. 30-31, obtained from Legislative Reference Bureau, Madison, Wisconsin.

Table IX cont'd.

- 5-20, S. Laid over to 5-26 and made a special order at 10:00 A.M.
- 5-26, S. Laid over to 6- 2 and made a special order at 10:00 A.M. Ayes 17; Noes 16.
- 5-26, S. Amendment No. 2, S., offered by Senator Rowlands.
- 5-27, S. Refused to take from calendar of 6- 2, and return to author. Ayes 6; Noes 22.
- 6- 2, S. Laid over to 6- 3 and made a special order at 10:00 A.M.
- 6- 3, S. Amendment No. 1, S., to amendment No. 1, S., offered by Senator Callan.
- 6- 3, S. Amendment No. 1, S., to amendment No. 1, S., rejected. Ayes 17; Noes 15.
- 6- 3, S. Amendment No. 1, S., refused rejection. Ayes 11; Noes 21.
- 6- 3, S. Amendment No. 1, S., adopted. Ayes 21; Noes 11.
- 6- 3, S. Amendment No. 2, S., refused rejection. Ayes 12; Noes 20.
- 6- 3, S. Amendment No. 2, S., adopted. Ayes 20; Noes 11.
- 6- 3, S. Amendment No. 3, S., offered by Senator Clancy.
- 6- 3, S. Amendment No. 3, S., rejected. Ayes 17; Noes 15.
- 6- 3, S. Amendment No. 4, S., offered by Senator Nelson.
- 6- 3, S. Amendment No. 4, S., adopted.
- 6- 3, S. Substitute amendment No. 1, S., rejected. Ayes 17; Noes 15.
- 6- 3, S. Substitute amendment No. 2, S., offered by Senator Sauld.
- 6- 3, S. Point of order raised by Senator Kannenberg that purported substitute amendment No. 2, S., is not in order as a substitute amendment No. 2, S., is not in order as a substitute amendment and not germane.
- 6- 3, S. Substitute amendment No. 2, S., held in order as a substitute and germane.

Table IX cont'd.

- 6- 3, S. Refused to suspend rules and consider at this time. Ayes 16; Noes 14.
- 6- 3, S. Laid over under the rules.
- 6- 4, S. Taken from calendar of 6- 5 and laid over to 6- 8 and made a special order at 10:30 A.M. Ayes 21; Noes 12.
- 6- 8, S. Amendment No. 5, S., offered by Senator Clancy.
- 6- 8, S. Amendment No. 5, S., rejected. Ayes 17; Noes 15.
- 6- 8, S. Amendment No. 1, S., to substitute amendment No. 2, S., offered by Senator Clancy.
- 6- 8, S. Substitute amendment No. 2, S., rejected. Ayes 17; Noes 15.
- 6- 8, S. Amendment No. 6, S., offered by Senator Clancy.
- 6- 8, S. Amendment No. 6, S., rejected. Ayes 17; Noes 15.
- 6- 8, S. Amendment No. 7, S., offered by Senator Coakley.
- 6- 8, S. Amendment No. 7, S., rejected. Ayes 19; Noes 13.
- 6- 8, S. Refused to suspend rules to reconsider vote by.
- 6- 8, S. Amendment No. 1, S., to substitute amendment No. 2, S., rejected. Ayes 17; Noes 16. which amendment No. 3, S., rejected. Ayes 19; Noes 13.
- 6- 8, S. Amendment No. 8, S., offered by Senator Bolens.
- 6- 8, S. Amendment No. 8, S., ruled not in order.
- 6- 8, S. Refused to suspend rules to reconsider vote by which amendment No. 1, S., to amendment No. 1, S., rejected. Ayes 15; Noes 17.
- 6- 8, S. Amendment No. 9, S., offered by Senator Bolens.
- 6- 8, S. Amendment No. 9, S., ruled not in order as not germane.
- 6- 8, S. Indefinite postponement refused. Ayes 14; Noes 18.

Table IX cont'd.

- 6- 8, S. Ordered engrossed and read a third time. Ayes 16; Noes 14; Paired 2.
- 6- 8, S. Vote by which ordered engrossed and read a third time, refused reconsideration. Ayes 14; Noes 16; Paired 2.
- 6- 9, S. Report correctly engrossed on Tuesday, 6- 8.
- 6-10, S. Refused to consider at this time. Ayes 14; Noes 18.
- 6-10, S. Motion by Senator Coakley to lay over to 6-16 and to make a special order for 10:00 A.M.
- 6-10, S. Motion to make a special order for 10:00 A.M. on 6-11 offered as amendment to Senator Coakley's motion and refused adoption. Ayes 13; Noes 20.
- 6-10, S. Laid over to 6-16 and made a special order for 10:00 A.M. Ayes 18; Noes 15.
- 6-10, S. Vote by which laid over to 6-16 and made a special order at 10:00 A.M., refused reconsideration. Ayes 14; Noes 16; Paired 2.
- 6-16, S. Refused to lay over to 6-23 and make a special order for 10:00 A.M. Ayes 14; Noes 17; Paired 2.
- 6-16, S. Indefinite postponement refused. Ayes 13; Noes 16; Paired 4.
- 6-16, S. Read a third time and passed. Ayes 15; Noes 2; Paired 6.
- 6-16, S. Vote by which passed, refused reconsideration.
- 6-16, S. Ordered immediately messaged.
- 6-16, S. Order by which immediately messaged, reconsidered.
- 6-16, S. Motion by Senator Kannenberg to expunge from the record all proceedings on third reading and final passage.
- 6-16, S. Point of order raised by Senator Nelson that less than a constitutional quorum required on passage of appropriation bills having been recorded as present on the vote for passage, the bill had not been passed and the question is: "Shall the bill pass?"

Table IX cont'd.

- 6-16, S. Point of order by Senator Nelson held well taken.
- 6-16, S. Point of order raised by Senator Coakley that the passage of the bill had been refused because of record disclosing lack of constitutional quorum.
- 6-16, S. Point of order by Senator Coakley held not well taken.
- 6-16, S. Ordered considered at this time. Ayes 18; Noes 13.
- 6-16, S. Read a third time and passed. Ayes 16; Noes 14; Paired 2.
- 6-16, S. Motion by Senator Kannenberg to reconsider vote by which passed.
- 6-16, S. Vote by which passed, refused reconsideration. Ayes 14; Noes 16; Paired 2.
- 6-18, A. Received from senate.
- 6-18, A. Read first and second times and referred to calendar of 6-23 and made special order at 10:00 A.M.
- 6-23, A. Substitute amendment No. 1, A., by Mr. Genzmer, received.
- 6-23, A. Substitute amendment No. 2, A., by Mr. Cavanaugh, received.
- 6-23, A. Substitute amendment No. 3, A., by Mr. Krueger, received.
- 6-23, A. Amendment No. 1, A., by Mr. Shimek, received.
- 6-23, A. Amendment No. 2, A., by Mr. Shimek, received.
- 6-23, A. Amendment No. 3, A., by Mr. Tehan, received.
- 6-23, A. Laid over to 4:30 P.M. and made special order.
- 6-23, A. Amendment No. 1, A., laid aside.
- 6-23, A. Amendment No. 2, A., rejected. Ayes 51; Noes 37.
- 6-23, A. Amendment No. 1, A., rejected. Ayes 52; Noes 39.

Table IX cont'd.

- 6-23, A. Amendment No. 3, A., rejected. Ayes 50; Noes 40.
- 6-23, A. Substitute amendment No. 1, A., rejected. Ayes 54; Noes 37.
- 6-23, A. Substitute amendment No. 2, A., rejected. Ayes 52; Noes 42.
- 6-23, A. Substitute amendment No. 3, A., rejected. Ayes 56; Noes 40.
- 6-23, A. Non-concurrence refused. Ayes 38; Noes 57; Paired 4.
- 6-23, A. Ordered to a third reading. Ayes 56; Noes 38; Paired 4.
- 6-23, A. Refused to suspend rules. Ayes 56; Noes 38.
- 6-23, A. Motion by Mr. Perry to reconsider vote by which ordered to a third reading.
- 6-23, A. Referred to calendar of 6-25 and made special order at 9:15 A.M. Ayes 68; Noes 19.
- 6-25, A. Vote by which ordered to a third reading, refused reconsideration. Ayes 37; Noes 50; Paired 10.
- 6-25, A. Non-concurrence refused. Ayes 35; Noes 51; Paired 10.
- 6-25, A. Read a third time and concurred in. Ayes 56; Noes 19; Paired 10.
- 6-25, A. Refused to suspend rules. Ayes 53; Noes 37.
- 6-25, A. Motion by Mr. Alfonsi to reconsider vote by which concurred in.
- 6-25, A. Refused to suspend rules. Ayes 52; Noes 35.
- 6-25, A. Laid over to 6-28 and made special order at 10:00 A.M. Ayes 56; Noes 29.
- 6-28, A. Vote by which concurred in, refused reconsideration. Ayes 30; Noes 51.
- 6-29, S. Received from assembly, concurred in.

Table IX cont'd.

6-30, S. Report correctly enrolled at 2:00 P.M. on Wednesday, 6-30.

7- 2, S. Report approved by Governor, 7- 1.
(Chapter No. 334. Published 7- 1.)¹

This was Senator Kannenberg's accomplishments in the Senate session of 1937 and 1938.



University Extension
at Wausau--a result
of Senator
Kannenberg's
Extension Bill

Senator Kannenberg also tried to work up a Progressive ticket for President and Vice President for the 1935 Presidential election. Huey P. Long, a Senator from Louisiana, would be the candidate for President and Walter A. Graunke, a founder of the Progressive Party of Wisconsin, would be the candidate for Vice President. But Huey P. Long was shot on

¹Senate Records, 1937, p. 117-119, obtained from Legislative Reference Bureau, Madison, Wisconsin.

September 8, 1935 and he died on the 10th.¹

Part of the reason Senator Kannenberg backed Senator Huey P. Long was that Senator Kannenberg felt war was wrong and senseless and that the soldiers were being greatly wronged.

The real bottom of the trouble is a lifetime of war...the rich made great profits out of the war...they didn't want to share the wealth...to eliminate some of the population, send the boys off to war. The only reason war is run is for wealth.²

He agrees with what Huey P. Long said in 1935 to the effect that...

We must confiscate the profit of that war [World War I] in which men died. We would begin by taking everything any man owned over five million dollars and put it in the Treasury of the United States to give ample living to all the soldiers and their mothers and fathers who reared them and to an honest retirement.

¹Personal interview with Attorney Walter A. Graunke; Wausau, Wisconsin; June 16, 1972.

²Personal interview with Senator Roland E. Kannenberg; Mercer, Wisconsin; June 17, 1972.

³Ibid.

Chapter 4

Life After The Senate--Mercer, Wisconsin

After Senator Roland E. Kannenberg left the Senate, he went up to the Mercer, Wisconsin area with his younger brother, John. They worked in the lumber business until 1944.¹ John Kannenberg decided to go back to Wausau and Senator Roland Kannenberg decided to stay in Mercer. He bought the New North Supper Club in Mercer, which he still runs today.²



New
North
Supper
Club

Mercer

¹Personal interview with Mayor John Kannenberg, younger brother; Wausau, Wisconsin; June 16, 1972.

²Personal interview with Senator Roland E. Kannenberg; Mercer, Wisconsin; June 17, 1972.

Since Senator Kannenberg moved to Mercer, he has been active in local politics in northern Wisconsin. In 1954, he ran for the 10th District Congressional seat against Alvin O'Konski. Senator Kannenberg ran as a Democrat and received 35,597 votes. Alvin O'Konski received 73,527 votes. Senator Kannenberg beat Congressman O'Konski in Iron County.¹ It looked like he had a good chance to win, but the conservatives in both parties worked to block him. "There was a conservative block iron clad against me."² Senator Kannenberg lost, but he put up a good fight. He beat O'Konski in his home county. Congressman O'Konski told him later that it was the toughest fight he had had. "I don't ever want you for an opponent again."³

Senator Kannenberg served as the Town Chairman of Mercer from 1954 to 1960 and again from 1964 to the present. He also became a member of the County Board in 1957.⁴

Senator Kannenberg was one of the organizers of the Wisconsin Townships, Inc. It "was formed as a non-profit organization with no capital stock, and with

¹Wisconsin Blue Book, 1954, p. 659.

²Personal interview with Senator Roland E. Kannenberg; Mercer, Wisconsin; June 17, 1972.

³Said by Alvin O'Konski; related by Senator Roland E. Kannenberg in a personal interview; Mercer, Wisconsin; June 17, 1972.

⁴Personal interview with Senator Roland E. Kannenberg; Mercer, Wisconsin; June 17, 1972.



Town
Hall--
Mercer

Kannenbergs; Louis C. Rommel, Adams; A. C. Hofmann, Arkdale; and John Kowalski, Milwaukee, as incorporators."¹ He has been, and still is, a great promoter of the northern Wisconsin area. He has been active in the Northwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning and Development Commission for many years.

Mr. Kannenberg was instrumental in the formation of this Commission which is the oldest regional planning and development commission in the State of Wisconsin. He was Commission Chairman from January 1959 to February 1969 and has been the Commission's Vice-Chairman from 1969 to present. A strong advocate of planning and sound development, Mr. Kannenberg has given freely of his time and energies for this ten county region.

¹"Here's A Challenge to an Ex-Lone Wolf, the Pestiferous Roland E. Kannenberg", Wisconsin State Journal, February 10, 1943.

Mr. Kannenberg has played a key role in the continued accomplishments of this Commission--a commission which is considered one of the most active and influential in the State of Wisconsin.¹

He is also very proud of the fact that Mercer has no unemployment.² He has also played an important role in the Northwest Wisconsin Community Action Program.

In, 1968, the Northwest Wisconsin Community Action Program formally became an entity unto itself. It was and remains composed of an eighteen member board.... Mr. Kannenberg has been chairman of the Community Action Program with the exception of a brief period during 1971 when Marvin Olson of Iron River, Wisconsin assumed chairmanship.³

With Senator Kannenberg's aid, the county board passed a resolution condemning the sales tax and took it to Madison.⁴

On August 11, 1964, Senator Kannenberg received a letter from Governor John Reynolds saying, "I have great faith in the future of the north because of men like you."⁵

¹Letter received from Leland Newman, Executive Director, Northwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning and Development Commission, July 5, 1972.

²Personal interview with Senator Roland E. Kannenberg; Mercer, Wisconsin; June 17, 1972.

³Letter received from Northwest Wisconsin CAP, July 7, 1972.

⁴Personal interview with Senator Roland E. Kannenberg; Mercer, Wisconsin; June 17, 1972.

⁵Letter received by Senator Kannenberg shown to me during a personal interview with the Senator; Mercer, Wisconsin; June 17, 1972.

On May 18, 1960, Senator Kannenberg also received a letter from John F. Kennedy.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your outstanding efforts in my behalf during the Wisconsin Presidential Primary. I am indeed grateful to you for helping me to achieve my victory.

I know that your services were a valuable boost to my cause, and it was very generous of you to contribute your time and talent.

With thanks and every good wish,
John F. Kennedy.¹

Senator and Mrs. Kannenberg maintain a residence in Wausau as well as Mercer.



Kannenberg
home in
Wausau

¹Letter received by Senator Kannenberg, mentioned by the Senator during a personal interview and mailed to me by Mrs. Natalie Tackett, daughter on July 7, 1972.

Mr. and Mrs. Roland E. Kannenberg have three children of their own, who are all married and have their own families. The oldest daughter, oldest of the children, is Natalie, who is a professor in Missouri. She and her husband have three boys and a daughter.¹ The next oldest is Gloria. She is now teaching in Europe. She and her husband have one daughter. Her uncle, Mayor John Kannenberg of Wausau, hopes to visit her when he accompanies the Newman High School Band of Wausau to the Summer Olympics.² The youngest is a boy, Philip. He was in the Navy for four years and has been in the active Naval Reserve for ten years. He and his wife have two boys.³ Senator Kannenberg plans to remain active in politics. He thinks he might even run for the Congress again.⁴

¹Personal interview with Senator Roland E. Kannenberg; Mercer, Wisconsin; June 17, 1972.

²Personal interview with Mayor John Kannenberg, brother; Wausau, Wisconsin; June 16, 1972.

³Personal interview with Senator Roland E. Kannenberg; Mercer, Wisconsin; June 17, 1972.

⁴Ibid.

Chapter 5

Thoughts Of Senator Kannenberg and Others

Walter A. Graunke has this to say about Senator Kannenberg.

He is a remarkable and able man-- he could have gone far in politics. He served his purpose well. He was an apostle in the service of the ideology and political ideas of Old Battling Bob La Follette.¹

Senator Kannenberg feels that the policy of the government now is that "the poor must pay interest to the rich....Keep the poor poor." He feels that the common man has been thrown out of government. "Government has been taken over by 'brain-washed lawyers.'"² Senator Kannenberg believes that "what one receives, all are entitled to."³

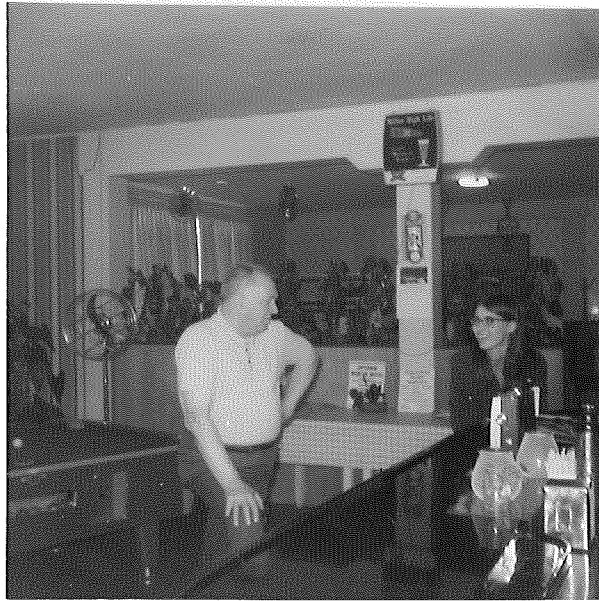
He feels that his personal ideals can be summed up by what he refers to the greatest commandment, "Love Thy Neighbor" and in this statement made to him by his father back when Senator Roland Kannenberg was a boy...

¹Personal interview with Attorney Walter A. Graunke; Wausau, Wisconsin; June 16, 1972.

²Personal interview with Senator Roland E. Kannenberg; Mercer, Wisconsin; June 17, 1972.

³Ibid.

Look Roy, these neighbors paid your tuition to go to high school and they built the schools. You owe something to these people and you ought to enrich their lives. You oughtn't to look for making a barrel of money for yourself and forget the people who paid your way.¹



Former Senator Roland E. Kannenberg

¹Personal interview with Senator Roland E. Kannenberg; Mercer, Wisconsin; June 17, 1972.

APPENDIX

Lincoln Co.
Marathon Co.

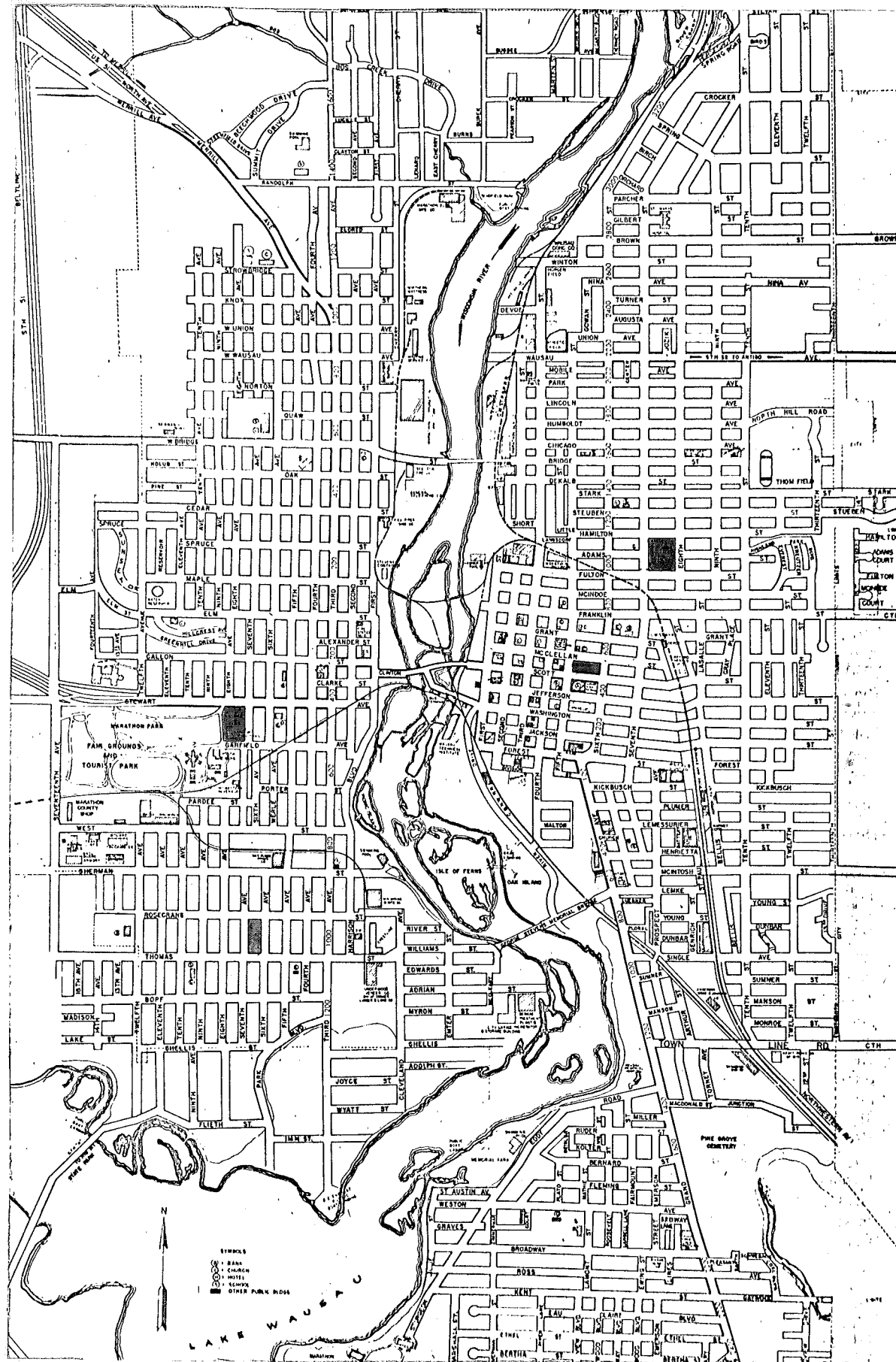
Town
of
Texas

Brokaw

- Kannenberg Farm
- Twin Oaks School
- Highway WW
- Highway W
- Twin Oaks Road

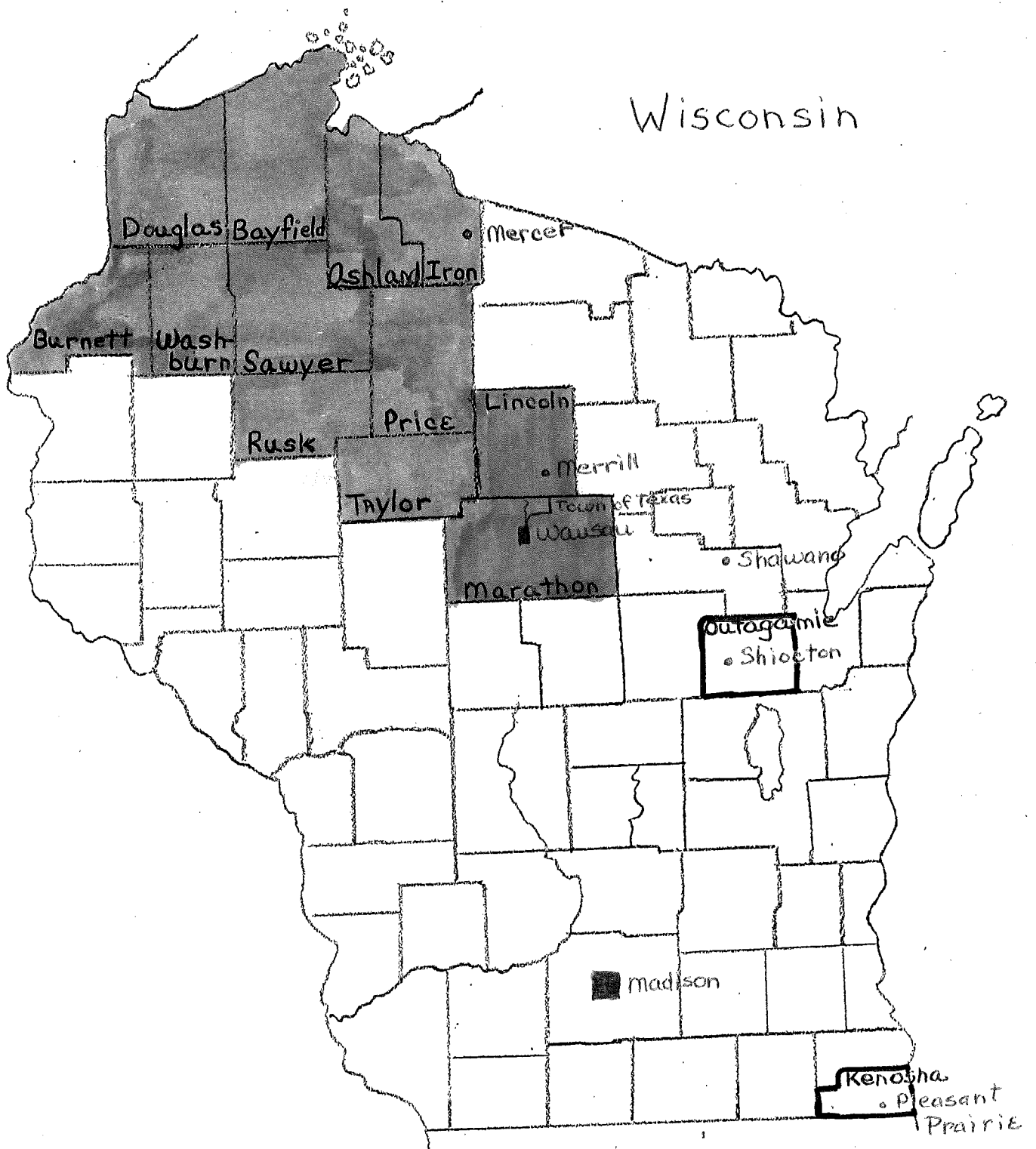
↓ Wausau

City of Wausau



Key

- High School
- U.W. Extension
- W.A. Graunke's Office
- Kannenberg Home In Wausau



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