

JULIUS (JULES) ROGAS

Rogas was a photographer of a high caliber. He lived in Prentice from 1955 to the time of his death in 1973 at his home on 635 Knox Street. He photographed Prentice school graduates and activities.

Previous to his residency in Prentice he was a freelance photographer in Milwaukee and Chicago and for the Milwaukee Journal from 1926 to 1934. There are some of his Journal clippings of photos available.

Jules spent some time in the US Army from 1942 and was stationed in Italy and Africa. He evidently did photography for the Army as he placed in the Anzio photo contest held by Columbia Pictures Corporation.

Rogas was also a photographer for National Geographic.

Newspaper accounts show that his was the first color photo of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Roosevelt was staying in Milwaukee at the Schroeder Hotel and gave Rogas 5 minutes to take his photo and leave the wheelchair out. This was accomplished and then was shown in the Sunday Journal on October 23, 1932. The 8x10 now hangs in the Roosevelt Museum at Hyde Park.

At the new Milwaukee arena opening, Rogas was commissioned to produce life sized panels of a bus, driver and school children. His wife then colored the photos.

Jules was born March 7, 1899 and died June 16, 1973. He married Esther on September 1, 1945 who was born May 13, 1896 and died September 8, 1981. They had a daughter Dorothy who married David Muir and their son David also attended school in Prentice.

Jules brothers, Kurt and George lived in the Milwaukee area.

There are photos of Lena and Herman Kunzi who immigrated from Germany and lived on Old 8 E near Lighthalls and Braskis. The Kunzi's were cousins to Esther's father.

Friend's names taken from his address book are: Joe Moenssen, Dave Moenssen, Stan Lach, Englund, Clarence Derings, John Bant, Oscar Nelson and Clarence Ostling

Prentice Hydraulics Inc., Prentice Wisconsin was world known manufacturer of loaders and machinery used in the timber industry and elsewhere . Owner Leo Heikkinen commissioned Jules Rogas to photograph the industry's products .