



Tidbits for Travel Writers

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Story idea:

Only in Greater Grand Forks. At a time when franchises seem to rule, Greater Grand Forks is home to a number of unique, locally-owned eating establishments, known for their outstanding food and rich history.

Angle: Feature eating establishments that have become local institutions, providing visitors with a one-of-a-kind experience. Just a few examples:

- **The Red Pepper**, particularly beloved by university students and alumni. While in Grand Forks for an exhibition match with Andre Agassi, tennis great Andy Roddick dropped in on the popular spot, acclaimed for its food, not its décor. Here is the account from the Grand Forks Herald newspaper: *The first thing Roddick said when he was asked about Grand Forks was this: “I did get to the **Red Pepper**, and had a helluva sandwich.” Folks at the **Red Peppers** said Roddick ordered a half a ham grinder with taco meat. How much did Roddick like the sandwich? “Before he left, he wanted to get another one to go,” said Max Wisser, a former tennis player who works at the **Pepper**.*
- **Whitey’s Bar and Café**, which has been operating continuously since the 1930s and was once the center of East Grand Forks’ reputation as a wild town during the days of Prohibition. Ripley’s Believe It or Not once labeled a portion of downtown EGF as the highest concentration of neon signage in the world.
- **Sanders 1907**. Known as one of the best in the region for fine dining, **Sander’s** offers a menu that includes crab cakes, duck, halibut flown in from the West Coast and Swiss Eiger Beef. Named after Sander Johnson who built the original warehouse in 1907. The building was greatly damaged during the Red River Flood of 1997, but the restaurant, with its Wild West poolroom, was rebuilt nearby.
- **The Kegs**, a classic drive-in and architectural oddity. Open during the summer months, it was built to resemble two large root beer kegs. Favorites include the sloppy Joes and onion rings.

Timing: Anytime.