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HISTORY OF WAUSAU
CENTENNIAL PROJECT



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- (1) Wausau
- (2) John Newhouse
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FINAL

POINTS OF INTEREST

POINTS OF INTEREST

The following points of interest have been selected for their historical or contemporary interest and their accessibility to the public. This list is not exhaustive, for certain points of interest were omitted because historical material about them could not be sufficiently verified, because the particular interest they represent was better satisfied by other points on the list, because they have been greatly changed from their original forms, or--particularly in the case of some of the woodworking and other plants--because they were not open to visits and inspection by the public.

1. The MARATHON COUNTY ASYLUM and MARATHON COUNTY HOME AND HOSPITAL, at the South end of Sturgeon Eddy Rd., are operated by the county for the care and hospitalization of the insane and indigent. A long, shady lane of pines leads to the asylum, a blocky red brick building, three stories high with a gently sloping red tile roof. To the right, separated by the curving road and the well-kept grounds, is the home and hospital building, similar in appearance. Still farther right, at the western edge of the grounds, lies placid Lake Wausau.

The county asylum was founded in 1894, with H. C. Head as the first superintendent, to accomodate 116 insane persons from Marathon and neighboring counties. In 1909 the old Marathon County Poor Farm building located on Town Line Road was destroyed by fire; largely at the instigation of Dr. H. L. Rosenberry it was then decided to erect the present combined home and hospital, which was completed in 1910. Later in the same year Myron H. Duncan was made superintendent. Chiefly through his efforts the county board decided to purchase an additional 720 acres of farmland in Rib Mountain township, bringing the holdings of the home and asylum to 1,250 acres.

In 1939 there were 210 chronically insane persons in the asylum. Inmates are committed to the institution by order of the county court after proper examination, which may be demanded by any three interested persons, and are released upon recommendation of the asylum authorities. About 40 percent of all patients are eventually cured.

The asylum has no padded cells, straight jackets, or other mechanical appliances of restraint. One nurse, male or female, is provided for every 20 patients, and these supervise the activities of the inmates throughout the day. Approximately 80 percent of the patients work either in the buildings, in the kitchens, or about the grounds, tending a herd of 50 Guernsey

cows and a drove of 150 hogs. During the summer the patients can hundreds of gallons of fruit and vegetables for winter use, and in 1938 the strawberry crop was so plentiful that an extra \$400 worth of fruit was available for sale. The work, affording mild exercise and diversion, is not only economical, but serves to quiet and rehabilitate the patients. At the end of a supervised day they are locked in their rooms for the evening. A few of the more violent are locked up in their rooms for the evening. A few of the more violent are locked up throughout the day; if excited or disturbed, they are quieted with warm baths and wet packs. The regularity of the life and the freedom from worry contribute markedly to the health and longevity of these people, and the average age at death here is 72 years.

About 150 persons were cared for in the county home in 1939. Each indigent person is entered by the governing body of his own township, village, or city, and the local governmental unit is wholly responsible for his maintenance. The cost per person is \$4.50 per week. The same figure applies to the asylum, where expenses are paid half by the county, half by the State. Actually the care of the insane costs the county nothing, for the sale of farm produce more than balances its share of the charges.

Within the county home is the 65-bed county hospital with its own physician and a modern operating room. Here the inmates receive medical attention, though they may have the services of outside doctors with the approval of the superintendent.

2. MARATHON ADDITION PARKWAY, a narrow strip of lawn and shrubbery between the intersections of St. Austin Rd. and Kent St. with Sturgeon Eddy Rd., follows the east bank of the Wisconsin River just above the place where it widens into Lake Wausau. Lillie Street forms most of its eastern border. Paths wind along and down the steep riverbanks, and a shelter house for picnickers is at the foot of St. Austin Avenue. Here is a good view of the island-choked valley of the river, with Rib Mountain looming high across the water. The parkway contains one tennis court and a toboggan slide.

3. The KELLY HOME (private), 812 Grand Ave., now the residence of Oscar Ringle, was built by John Mercer, Wausau architect, about 1875. Set back in a spacious lawn, this square structure, originally of red brick but now overpainted white, achieves a slender, ornate grace and lightness by round-topped windows and a slim-posted pavilion upon the roof. Mercer erected many of the business buildings on Third Street and a number of the earlier mansions.

4. PLEASANT VIEW PARK, fronting Tenth St. between Sumner and Monroe Sts., is a wooded ravine slanting down westward toward the railroad yards. From a foreground of snorting locomotives and tall chimneys, the view extends over Lake Wausau to Rib Mountain. Two long tables provide picnic facilities.
5. KELLY PARK, an open triangle between Grand Ave., Single St. and the C. & N.W. tracks, is flooded in winter to form a circular skating rink for children and used in summer for softball.
6. HAMMOND PARK, at the intersection of Stroller's Lane with Grand Ave. is a small, shady tract overlooking railroad tracks and river. In its center is a hexagonal bandstand with a stone foundation and shingled roof rising steeply in a pointed spire. Scattered throughout the park are teeter-totters, swings, slides, and a sandbox for smaller children. On the western edge, overlooking the river, is a long pergola with seats made of cement blocks. On the north the red brick wall of the Mathie-Ruder brewery is partly screened by hemlock and spruce; on the south a steeply inclined retaining wall of granite blocks slopes down to Stroller's Lane. The park fronts on busy Grand Avenue at street level.

For more than 70 years this has been a noteworthy recreation spot. In 1863 George Ruder, rebuilding his brewery after a fire, established here Columbia Park and the first Columbia Hall, where his own German band played music, and German workmen spent long, pleasant summer afternoons and evenings drinking beer, talking, and listening. In the 1870's Frank Schubert, the music-master, took over the place, installed his locally famous band, and gave both park and hall his own name. Under both Schubert and Ruder the hall was a regular meeting-place for many social, political, and fraternal gatherings. In 1890 George Schmidt acquired ownership and changed the name to Grand Avenue Park. Two years later the hall burned and he replaced it with a log structure called "The Old Log Cabin."

When Schmidt vacated the premises in 1893, the brewery erected a large two-story building and revived the historic name Columbia Hall. Its upper floor was a dance hall and beer garden; the lower floor was used for bottling beer. Here the Winninger family held forth for two seasons, presenting acrobatics, dramatic sketches, and other entertainments. Charles Winninger, popular screen, stage, and radio comedian and character actor, appeared here as a child with his four brothers; they would wear long underwear in lieu of tights as they performed acrobatic

tricks. The hall burned in 1907 and was replaced by a two-story brick building. In 1925 the brewery sold the tract comprised in the present park to Mrs. Sue Hammond Ray, who made extensive improvements, planting trees and shrubs, and installing the bandstand, fountains, and playground equipment. Until 1933 Mrs. Ray maintained this park at her own expense in memory of her father, B. F. Hammond, a lumberman, but in that year she deeded the property to the city.

7. The MATHIE-RUDER BREWING CO. OFFICE BUILDING, 516 Grand Ave., a two-story red brick building, was built in 1907 as Columbia Hall and served as a public entertainment place until 1925.

8. The SIELAFF BOOKBINDERY, 415 Forest St., is one of Wausau's oldest buildings. Built about Civil War times, it housed one of the earliest hardware stores--perhaps the first exclusive hardware store--and, for a time, the office of the Central Wisconsin, Wausau's first newspaper. Until 1879 it was owned by Richard Baumann, the hardware dealer. At that time a door now boarded over opened into the second floor from a porch over the front door, and an outside staircase also led to the second floor. Traces of the porch and door are plainly visible upon the siding of the walls.

9. The CITY HALL, Forest St. facing Third St. set back 90 feet from the sidewalk, is a rectangular building of grey, weather-resistant pressed brick; the steps, of Marathon County red granite, are flanked by ornamental light standards. The site had been given to the city on condition that it be used as an open market for farmers. For a number of years it was so used. In 1906 the donor consented to the erection of a city hall here provided it were finished by 1912; otherwise the property was to revert to private ownership. Though a sinking fund was begun, it was continually drained for other purposes. As the deadline date neared, citizens awoke to the fact that the gift would be lost, and the city forced to purchase another lot on a rising real estate market, unless immediate action were taken. In 1910 Hans Weik, a taxpayer, brought suit to restrain further diversion from the city hall fund. Though there was a strong "economy" faction opposed to construction, the voters approved the building at a special election in 1911, and the present structure was finished barely in time to retain the site.

10. The FARMERS' MARKET on the west side of Second St. south of Forest St. is provided by the city for direct trade between farmers and city people. For decades after the Civil War open

markets were important in Wausau commerce, and there was much bickering over sites as one after another was found unsatisfactory, usually because too far from the center of town. Eventually a market was established on the location of the present city hall, then transferred here when that building was erected. Now much of the importance of direct farmer-to-consumer trade has vanished, and the main items sold are poultry, eggs, and other produce, fuel-wood in winter, and green vegetables in season. Though there usually are a few loads of wood or hay parked in the space and a few people chatting desultorily or inspecting the merchandise, the bustle of other days is seldom seen. In the northwest part of the tract is the CITY REST ROOM, a frame residence building where rural shoppers may stop while in town.

11. The DUDLEY PROVISION CO. BUILDING, northeast corner of First and Jackson Sts., is a large, barnlike frame structure which housed one of the earliest schools, a private school conducted by the Rev. Thomas Green shortly before 1860. At that time it was located on Scott Street near Second Street.

12. The CALLIES PAINT STORE, 313-15 Jackson St., another old building, housed the first office of the Pilot, Wausau's oldest newspaper, which was founded on the second floor in 1865.

13. ART'S TIRE & WELDING SHOP, 209 Second St., a one-and-a-half story frame building, perfectly plain save for a pediment suggesting Greek Revival style, is believed to be the first county building. Its history has been definitely traced back to the ownership of William Barteld, who used it for a store in 1884. At that time it stood on the corner of Second and Washington Streets, presumably facing north on Washington, for there is still an old street sign nailed to one corner of the building reading "So. Second St." Early photographs, the memories of pioneers, and other evidence, though conflicting, indicate that probably it was the building ordered erected by the Marathon County Board in 1851, only a year after the county was formed. This would make it the oldest building known in the city.

The 1851 structure, not intended to be a courthouse in the modern sense of the term was little more than an office for the County Clerk, Asa Lawrence. Thomas Hinton was given the job of constructing it, but as he failed to finish, Hiram Calkins and Lawrence completed the work in 1852 at a total cost of about \$325. Within three years its facilities became inadequate and the county board ordered it sold for \$50. Though there is no record of the purchaser, there is some evidence that it passed into the possession of William Farnham, who established

therein the community's first bank, called the Bank of the Interior. Then Harry H. Lawrence is supposed to have used it from 1857 to 1861 as a post office and to have sold it to Barteld in 1862 or 1863.

14. McINDOE PARK, on the west side of First St. between Washington and Jefferson Sts., is a shaded tract of trees, shrubbery, and walks built around the PUBLIC LIBRARY. This was the site of the home of Walter D. McIndoe, most prominent pioneer citizen. The library originated with a literary society called the Pine Knot Club, founded in 1871, which turned its books over to the Ladies' Literary Society in 1878. In 1897 the city began making a small annual appropriation for the support of the library. After having moved from one shelter to another for many years, the library finally acquired a grant for a building from Carnegie funds, and citizens raised \$5,000 to purchase a permanent site. Walter Alexander thereupon gave the city the McIndoe homestead on condition that it be beautified and kept for a park and that no building but the library should ever be erected thereon. The \$5,000 of contributions, together with a total of \$7,400 subsequently given by the city, was used to buy adjoining properties along Washington Street, thus squaring and completing the tract.

15. The MARATHON ELECTRIC MANUFACTURING CORPORATION PLANT, 125 W. Washington St., occupies a square, ornate old red brick building with railed towers rising from each corner of the steeply sloping roof. This is the old city hall, erected in 1885 after a sharp factional fight. The site was chosen by a committee designated by the city for the purpose, but was opposed by groups favoring a location on Clark's Island and by "a few disgruntled people...who figure it should be farther up town." Opponents obtained an injunction against building on the chosen site, but the injunction finally was dissolved and the structure put up at a cost of \$10,000. Then B. G. Plumer and August Kickbusch donated a clock worth \$700 on condition that the city build a tower on the city hall for it, and the tower cost \$600 more. The city abandoned the building when the new city hall was built in 1912, and tower and clock have since been removed.

The Marathon Electric Co. (open), was organized in 1914. It manufactures fractional horsepower motors, ventilating fans, grinders and circulators.

16. A small PARK on Clark's Island at the intersection of Washington and Clinton Sts. at the west end of High Bridge is little more than a patch of lawn with a railing of hand-hewn beams and posts guarding the brink of the river. Prominently

located on the lawn is a MARKER, erected by the Daughters of the American Revolution, purporting to designate the site of the first sawmill built by George Stevens, original settler. Most accounts and early maps indicate that Stevens' mill was on the east riverbank near the foot of Jackson Street, a few hundred yards upstream from the former B. Heinemann Co. mill. The Heinemann Co. bought out the Alexander Stewart Co., who built the mill when their first property, which included Stevens' original building, was scrapped as obsolete in 1890.

17. ANDERES FLATS (private), 412 First St., was formerly a part of the Riverview Hospital, erected by Dr. Douglas Sauerhering in 1892. This hospital, like the Trevitt Hospital (see below), was once a participant in the "ticket hospital" form of group medicine. It also had the city's first ambulance, a horse-drawn vehicle.

18. The RADANT BUILDING (private), 202 Scott St., housed the city's first hospital, founded by Dr. A. W. Trevitt and his wife, Dr. Margaret Trevitt, in 1886. Their 25 beds occupied the entire second floor. Almost from the start this was a "ticket hospital." Lumberjacks bought \$10 tickets which entitled them to a year's hospitalization and medical and surgical service at any of a number of hospitals located throughout the

northern part of the State. This system of group medicine operated successfully for more than a decade and a half.

19. The MARATHON COUNTY COURTHOUSE, in a square bounded by Third, Scott, Fourth, and Jefferson St., is an angular, fortress-like building of red granite and red brick, embellished with turrets and dominated by a square clock-tower at its southwest corner. In 1853 the shady grounds were given the county by Walter D. McIndoe for a nominal consideration of \$100. In 1859 the County Board had it cleared of stumps. For a time thereafter citizens were permitted to plant it, though when Eli Chase persisted in pasturing his calf there the county board sought to stop him by selling the grass to the highest bidder.

After the first county building (see 16 above) was sold, the county, in 1855, contracted for the construction in this block of another office building costing \$650 and a jail costing \$950. In 1868 this second county office building was sold to Jed Moneau for \$250, moved away, and later destroyed by fire. The same year August Hett completed a \$7,500 courthouse. It was a two-story Greek Revival structure with four pillars, a pediment, and a cupola, rising high above the

saplings planted on the lawn; between the curving walks that led to the steps a fountain played. One writer, recollecting this building, comments: "It is with admiration that we today reflect upon the dignity and beauty of that classical structure. That our pioneer citizens were good judges of architecture is shown not only by the fact that the Court House was reminiscent of a Greek temple, but also by the homes which they built for their families....Why our citizens ever transferred their devotion from these early colonial homes to the hideous boxes and garish Douglas contraptions of a later date is hard to understand."

By 1889 this building also had become inadequate. The present structure was built by John Miller in 1892 at a cost of \$51,800, not including the heating plant. After fifty years of service, it is hardly sufficient for the needs of the county. The same writer says, "Let us hope that when the time comes to replace this building, there may arise on this same Court House square a modern office building, convenient in every respect, a building that will tower above the Hotel and Bank buildings and will be recognized by all as an architectural masterpiece, built out of seam-faced Marathon County granite, and from which on Sabbath and festival days shall peal forth from a carillon the hymns and carols and patriotic songs we love."

On the southwest corner of the square is the granite SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' MONUMENT erected in 1886 by the Grand Army of the Republic with the help of \$500 donated in 1884 by the county. On the northwest corner is a bronze MONUMENT TO WORLD WAR DEAD. Designed by Carl Heber and cast in Philadelphia, it cost \$20,000.

20. STEWART PARK, on the west side of Tenth St., between McClellan and Scott Sts., is a pine-embowered portion of East Hill converted into a natural amphitheatre. From the flagstone steps of the Tenth Street entrance it slopes downward to a wall of red granite, which forms a backdrop. Concentric arched terraces provide graduated levels from which spectators may watch the outdoor entertainments occasionally staged here. From the corner of Scott and Tenth Streets, just outside the park, is a fine view of the southern valley, with the city's rooftops filling the foreground and Rib Mountain humping hugely on the horizon.

21. ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, on the northwest corner of McClellan and Fourth Sts., is a low rambling stone structure on a shady street. The church and parsonage wings are connected at the rear by a transverse GUILD HALL. Though in front this guild hall is masked by the stone arches of a cloistered walk, the structure itself is probably the oldest church building

remaining in Wausau. The first church of St. John's congregation was erected in 1866 and remodelled in 1887. When the present building was put up in 1914, the old church was retained and built into it as the guild hall. The interior still presents the main architectural features of the original. Slim, dark-stained beams, waist-high wainscoting, and unpretentious stained-glass windows are virtually the only ornament in the plain walls and simple pointed ceiling.

22. YAWKEY PARK, on the west side of Fourth St. between Grant and Franklin Sts., is a small neighborhood park with paths winding through trees and shrubbery. In the center is a sunken pool; rising from the pool is a graceful fountain, surmounted by a small figure of Pan. On the western side is an arbor, where vines shade the concrete benches below and conceal the tennis courts occupying the other half of the block.

23. The PRESBYTERIAN MANSE, 714 Fifth St., originally the home of D. L. Plumer, lumberman, financier, and civic leader, represents the climactic achievement of the wealthy mansion-builders of the past century. Erected about 1890, it is a vast, ornate, and heavy Romanesque structure. The first story is of red granite, but according to local tradition Plumer quarrelled with his contractor when the building was half completed, and

the upper portions are of weathered red brick with granite trim. The massive stone porches, flanked with polished pillars, are canopied with stone, as is the pavilion-like carriage-drive at one side. Arches, peaks, and turrets embellish the second floor or protrude from the high, steep roof, while each corner rounds itself into a slim high turret of alternate bands of brick and unpolished stone.

A Milwaukee newspaper in 1895 reported that this home "cost over \$80,000 and is undoubtedly the finest in the State." Five years later it was still a source of immense pride to the community. The author of a book published jointly by the three local newspapers in 1900 wrote, in connection with Mr. Plumer's biography:

"Accompanying this sketch is a picture of the elegant home of Mr. and Mrs. Plumer and it reflects, as words would fail to do, their taste. Mr. Plumer is possessed of a scientific turn of mind and believes in evolution, or what is more commonly called modern thought. This teaches that comfort promotes happiness, conduces to health and health guarantees continued youthfulness and longevity; that beauty and harmony in the home have a tendency to keep the brain from becoming old and morbid; that men make their own reputation and record in life. Through

this belief was conceived the idea of building such a home as this and it was done. Surrounded by such modern conveniences and such beauty of home and grounds Mr. Plumer has refused to grow old and the wisdom of his faith is apparent when his physical and mental vigor is noted.

"Mr. Plumer also believes that all cities are just what the people who live in them have a disposition to make them and his desire to promote the common weal was another incentive to contribute an original portion to the city of Wausau in this home. The influence has been fruitful, for it has stimulated others to do likewise and many of Wausau's splendid homes owe their erection to the inspiration that came from Mr. Plumer's action."

24. RECREATION PARK, on the north side of Wausau Ave. between Third and Fifth Sts., is the city's principal baseball park and athletic field. Walls of Marathon County red granite capped with cement confine three sides, while a grand stand and bleachers accommodating about 2,000 spectators V out behind the plate. Clusters of lights on tall poles are provided for night baseball, which is helping revive the sport over which the city went into frenzies of excitement in pre-war years. The Wausau Lumberjacks, a semi-professional baseball

team sponsored by the city itself, now belong to the Northern League and play organized Class D ball against teams from such cities as Superior, Duluth, Crookstown, Fargo, Jamestown, Winnipeg, and Eau Claire. In 1938 they finished in fourth place. City industrial softball leagues also use the park. Admission to Lumberjack games is 40¢ for adults, 10¢ for children; to softball games, free.

25. FOREST PARK, its entrance on Spring St. near Ninth St., is a semi-improved tract vaguely defined on the south and west by streets not yet built through: Parcher and Eighth. On Spring Street is a shelter house, open on three sides and constructed of rough stone with a rustic roof of split shingles, containing a table and a fireplace for cooking. Open air fireplaces and tables are scattered about other parts of the area. Located on a hillside, the park overlooks the northern valley; from its highest points Rib Mountain may be seen to the southwest across the roof and treetops of Wausau.

26. The MARATHON COUNTY NORMAL SCHOOL, southwest corner of Stewart and Seventh Aves., was the first institution of its kind in the United States (see THE SCHOOLS).

27. MARATHON COUNTY PARK and the MARATHON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, a 78-acre tract between Stewart Ave. and the C. & NW. railroad tracks on the western edge of the city, has its main entrance at the west end of Garfield Avenue, with a side entrance on State 29 (Stewart Ave.) opening into the TOURIST CAMP (50¢ per car per night). It was donated by the Marathon County Agricultural Society in 1923 on condition it should always be available to the society for fairs. Just within the Garfield Avenue entrance are the white cement BUILDINGS of the Wisconsin Valley Fair and Exposition; in one of these the Wausau Curling Club meets four times a week throughout the winter for individual and team matches.

Beyond these buildings is the half-mile race track with a grandstand. In summer baseball and softball are played on the infield of the track; in winter it is flooded to make one of the largest outdoor skating rinks in the State. From a small wooden house in the center of the infield comes music which sets the tempo for thousands of Wausau people, young and old, who glide in a milling circle of colorful costumes about the rink under the lights. Since 1926 an ice show has been held annually in front of the grandstand, a feature of the annual Winter Frolic inaugurated by the Chamber of Commerce

and the city's recreation committee. Most of the park is covered by tall pines, their trunks rising like brown columns under the canopy of deep green shade. Under these trees the Wausau Archery club meets and shoots each summer. Picnic facilities and rest rooms make Marathon Park an excellent place for holiday excursions.

28. RIVERSIDE PARK, bounded by Sherman St., Harrison Blvd., and the Wisconsin River, contains the municipally owned swimming pool (10¢) and a free wading pool for children. The bathhouse, overlooking the river, opens on its inland side to the fenced-in pool, which may be entered only through the building. The pool itself is 150 feet long and 50 feet wide and ranges in depth from two and a half to nine feet. Floodlights are provided for night swimming and a guard is in constant attendance. Adjoining the pool is the wading pond; the bank behind this is terraced in the form of an amphitheatre. At the top of the bank are two tennis courts open to the public.

Upstream from the pool the park stretches in a narrow strip along the riverbank. At its northern end a rustic bridge leads to Picnic Island, from which the waters of the Wisconsin may be seen pouring like a row of waterfalls over the great power dam a few hundred yards above. On the island is a small cabin

rented to picnic parties upon request at the office of the city park commissioner. A two dollar deposit is charged, but refunded after a caretaker has checked the premises to see that no damage has been done.

29. STACK ISLAND PARK and OAK ISLAND PARK are on two adjacent islands both accessible from Stroller's Lane. A series of rustic bridges interlocks the wooded tracts, while paths wind through the woods. On Stack Island, westernmost of the two, ferns grow six feet high, concealing the city from view and screening out even the noise of the nearby mills, railroad tracks and breweries. Oak Island, relatively undeveloped, in 1939 is being embanked, its shores raised eighteen to twenty-four inches; when complete it will contain a \$20,000 field house, two softball diamonds, two tennis courts, and playground equipment.

POINTS OF INTEREST IN ENVIRONS

30. The WINNINGER HOME, just south of the city limits on Grand Ave., is located between Cawley and Radke Sts., the third house north of the Schofield village hall. It is a colonial house with a pillared porch, above which are three dormer windows. Here Frank Winninger, founder of a family famous in the middle west for a generation for its travelling

theatrical companies, and four of his sons lived until the last of them died in 1934. The fifth and most noted son, Charles Winninger, spent but little time here, for he left early to begin his career in the Nation's larger theatrical centers.

The Winninger family arrived in America from Austria in 1881. Four of the sons, Frank, John, Joseph, and Adolph, were born in the old country; Charles, the youngest, was born in America. For six years they lived on a farm in the town of Johnson, near Athens, where the father earned a little extra money teaching music. Then he moved to Ashland, formed a band, and played at dance halls and theatres. In 1895 the family came to Wausau, where they lived first at 703½ LeMessurier Street, then at 732 Washington Street, and finally at 715 Forest Street. The father took over the management of Columbia Hall (see 8 and 9 above), but within ten years moved to Appleton, where his orchestra played in theatres for road shows. In 1900 Frank and John, the two older brothers, began the first tent road show in Wisconsin, travelling this State, Illinois, and Minnesota with a repertoire of plays. A few years later Joseph, Adolph, and Charles began a second tent stock company, and in 1910 John and Frank split, each running his own show; thus there were three Winninger tent companies intensively touring the region.

They took this house in Schofield, which was the family headquarters for many years. Here their father died in 1920, the mother in 1932. As the tent show companies broke up John became famous as a German dialect comedian, playing in theatres and with stock companies throughout the Central States; Adolph became associated with the motion picture industry in California; and Charles acquired fame on Broadway, first in "No, No, Nanette," and most recently as Cap'n Henry in stage, film, and radio versions of "Show Boat." The Frank Winninger stock company took its final bow in Winona, Minn., in 1931; Frank himself died in 1934.

31. ROTHSCHILD PARK, 2.5 m. south at the intersection of US 51 and Kort St., the boundary between the villages of Schofield and Rothschild, consists mainly of a dense grove of pine. In a clearing in the grove near the Wisconsin River is a rambling pavilion and dance hall, sombre brown in color. A public festival or "jamboree" is held here every Wednesday in summer; the place also is often used for private parties and meetings sponsored by business men or labor unions. Extending northward from the pavilion is a log stockade surrounding an Indian village (admission varies year to year). Here are displayed exhibits of Indian manufacture and varieties of wigwams, most of them of bark, either laid over bent poles or wound circularly about inclined poles.

In 1908, when the Wausau Street Railway Co. extended its car line to Rothschild, it bought the tract, then called Pine Park, and built a pavilion, which was burned in 1911 and immediately replaced. At this time the trolleys were a novelty, people rode them for pleasure, and the park served largely as a destination for a day of outing.

32. The MARATHON PAPER MILLS CO. PLANT (open to visitors, Mon. 10-2, Sat. 2; tours arranged at office) 3 m. south, stands a few hundred feet west of US 51 in the village of Rothschild, which was founded around the plant when it opened in 1910. It extends nearly a quarter of a mile along the banks of the Wisconsin River, from which it derives much of the electrical power and all of the water needed for the manufacture of paper. The seven units of red-brick buildings are compactly grouped, their low, even lines broken by a battery of smokestacks and a bulbous water tank. To the north piles of pulpwood are stacked mile upon mile along railroad sidings, and men with derricks unload bolts from flatcars or transport them over the plant's own system of rails and engines to the hot pond.

About 1907 a group of Wausau men organized the Rothschild Water Power Company to utilize the power, deal in real estate and buy and sell logs. Shortly afterward a State law was

passed requiring owners of water powers to develop their properties within one year or surrender their franchises. The stockholders of the new company, not quite sure in which direction to turn, decided to make paper; on Feb. 13, 1909, they organized the Marathon Paper Mills Company. D. C. Everest, only 25 years old but already in main charge of a Munising, Mich., paper mill, came before them to sell paper making machinery. The directors were so impressed with his abilities and his knowledge that they hired him as general manager of the new venture.

Everest had definite ideas about building the plant. The new mill was to use the sulphite process, then in an early stage of development. It was to make high and low grade paper, and many specialties, from tissue to tag board, so that the company would not have to depend on only a few markets. It was to have a bleaching room to make a whiter paper, though bleaching was then in its infancy, and it was to have ceilings 30 feet high to avoid the condensation of moisture which had always caused trouble in paper mills. Then, for flexibility of production, there were to be three different types of paper making machines: a Fourdrinier, a Cylinder and a Yankee.

The first sheet of paper threaded its way through the drying rollers on November 18, 1910. Less than a year later came the flood of October, 1911, when high water carried 20,000,000 feet of logs through the Wausau booms to pound at the Rothschild dam. The waters rose so high that a 400 foot opening had to be dynamited at the eastern side of the dam to relieve the pressure; basements were flooded, the boiler settings were undermined, and the generators considerably damaged. Hardly had the mill been reopened when, in July, 1912, flood waters again swept down the Wisconsin. This time the coffer dam, built to protect the power dam while it was being repaired, had to be dynamited and the generators were again injured. The loss caused by both floods amounted to more than a million dollars.

In 1916, to take advantage of a war-born demand for light water-marked papers, a new Yankee paper making machine was built around an extra large dryer. This was then the largest machine of its type in the world; though its installation strained the resources of the young company, the demand for its output soon proved its practicability. In the same year a bleached linen board was developed. It was not easy to sell at first for it

was a quality board costing \$100 a ton, but Marathon judged correctly that the trend in food packaging was toward more attractive and efficient wrappers.

Much of the new product was sold to the Menasha Carton Company, organized in 1912 by George S. Gaylord, fresh from a Chicago brokerage house. He had decided to make butter and cheese containers, and had himself gone to work with pick and shovel to convert an old shingle mill into a carton plant. His first waxed papers for bread wrappers were turned out on an ordinary clothes wringer, and these samples got him backing for more elaborate equipment. In 1917 the Menasha Printing and Carton Company was formed when Gaylord's Company combined with the Menasha Printing Company owned by Sam Clinedinst. The new Menasha Company used more and more of the quality board as attractive food packages became more and more popular, and by 1927 was consuming 45 percent of Marathon's output. In that year Marathon bought out the Menasha Company, keeping the old name, well known in the paper trade. By 1938 eighty percent of Marathon's paper was sent to Menasha for conversion to food packages and paper specialties. In addition, Marathon owns a pail plant in Wausau, a paper mill in Ashland, a sawmill

at Ironwood, a converting plant in Milwaukee, and immense cutting rights in Canada. Over 2,000 people are employed in its divisions, and its gross sales average more than \$11,000,000 a year. About 675 people work in the mill at Rothschild alone.

In its essentials, paper making consists of separating fluffy fibres of cellulose from raw wood, then rearranging these fibres in criss-crossing fashion to interlock in a thin sheet of paper. The process is more complicated than this summary might suggest. About 30,000 cords of hemlock and spruce come each year from Michigan and Canada by flatcar to be stacked in the woodlot and later rolled into the hot pond. Men with pike poles guide the logs through the water to the bull slide which carries them up the incline and into the mill. Here five rotary saws slash simultaneously through each log, ripping it into six two-foot long sections. A conveyor belt carries the short logs past the splitter, a wedge shaped maul mounted on an eccentric which thumps its way through logs too large for convenient handling. From here the logs drop into the barkers on the floor below. In these great revolving drums, thirty feet long and a dozen feet high, the logs tumble and pitch while the dislodged bark falls through the slotted sides of

the drums. Next come the chippers, where the logs are flaked away with knives in somewhat the same manner as a pencil by a sharpener. Shaking screens remove the sawdust and over-size chips, keeping only those approximately three quarters of an inch square and an eighth of an inch thick.

Raw wood is roughly 54 percent cellulose, with the next largest constituent lignin. To separate the constituents a "cooking liquor" is manufactured in the acid plant which will dissolve all but the cellulose. Pale Texas sulphur is first burned in long horizontal retorts; from the flickering blue flames rises a gas, sulphur dioxide, which is rapidly cooled by being run through water-chilled pipes. The gas is then led into vertical retorts filled with limestone; as the gas rises through the stone it meets water trickling down from above, and calcium bisulphite, the "cooking liquor," is formed.

This liquor is poured into the tops of 50-foot high digesters filled with loose chips. Live steam is injected through the conical bottom, cooking the mass for eight to eleven hours. At the end of this time the material is "blown" from the digesters by pressure from underneath into great "blow pits," 30 to 40 feet across. A false bottom of felt permits the cooking liquor with its dissolved waste materials to drain off, after

which water is pumped into the pit to wash the remaining cellulose. Much of the 15,000,000 gallons of water used daily in the paper mill finds its way through the blow pits.

Following this the frothy mixture of water and cellulose flows down hundred-foot long troughs with fine screens in their bottoms; the fibre must pass through openings only .009 of an inch thick if it is to be used for paper. Next the cellulose goes to the deckers, screen-covered cylinders which revolve partly in, partly out of the suspension. This thickens the mixture, for the cellulose is carried over the top of the cylinder and the water draining through the screen is piped away. Next comes the bleaching process, where for five hours the pulp is treated first with chlorine, then with calcium hypochlorite.

The pulp then goes to the beaters, where paper is made in the same sense that a cake is made in a mixing bowl. Each beater holds about one ton of pulp and contains a five foot cylinder spinning on a horizontal axis over stationary bed plates. Here coloring matter, resin sizing, clay fillers and other materials are added to the circulating mass to blend the type of paper desired. From here the suspension goes to the Jordan refiner for more cutting and shredding, then directly to the paper making machine.

Paper is made at Marathon on three different types of machines, the Cylinder, the Fourdrinier and the Yankee. In the first type, wire covered cylinders whirling in a thin suspension of pulp and water carry the fibres above the water level while the water drains through the screened sides. Running above the cylinders and in contact with them is a felt belt, which removes the pulp by cohesive action, then travels on to pick up more from the next cylinder, so that the completed sheet has as many thicknesses of pulp as there are cylinders in the machine. The felt belt then carries the paper between steam heated rollers until it is strong enough to continue unsupported through the labyrinthine rollers of the several hundred foot long machine.

In the Fourdrinier machine the suspension of pulp and water flows onto a travelling wire screen through which the water drains, leaving the fibres. As the screen travels ahead it shakes sideways, matting and interlocking the fibres of cellulose into a sheet of a single thickness, which is pressed and dried in the same manner as in the Cylinder machine. The Yankee employs the moving screen of the Fourdrinier, but the drying is done on a single great steam heated cylinder which glazes only

the side of the paper next to the heated surface. Each machine produces paper for a number of uses; the company's four machines, two of them Fourdriniers, turn out 140 tons of paper in a 24 hour day.

More than half the output of Marathon consists of waxed papers for the packaging of foods, tobacco, and other commodities. Many coatings for paper have been developed in the company's research laboratories. The most important is known by the general name of Paraweld, made by the mixture of wax-like materials with film-forming materials to produce a sheet which is highly waterproof, has strong heat-sealing properties and may be made in varying degrees of toughness and flexibility. When Paraweld is cast molten into a flexible film it is known as Parafilm; this has proven popular for such purposes as wrapping natural cheeses, closing bottle tops, wrapping corsages in florist shops, and for bandage coverings in hospitals. When applied to the surface of paper, cloth, or other sheet materials, Paraweld is known as Parakote, much used for wrapping process cheese, where it has largely supplanted the use of metal foil, and for packaging tobacco and frosted foods. Another type of Paraweld, known as Paraply, because of its moisture-resistant qualities, is used for soap wrapping; still another is Prestix, a coated tape with high adhesive qualities.

The rapid growth and development of the company is attributed to the diversification of its products and the activities of its research department. An article in the magazine Fortune mentioning the Marathon firm in a review of the country's paper making industry, said:

"If ever a paper company made good through sheer energy and alertness, the company is the Marathon Paper Mills Company at Rothschild, Wis. ... Now what makes Marathon exciting is neither its size nor the profits it earns, although the profits are good, too. What does make Marathon exciting is its enterprises, the special products it has developed in its own laboratory, and its faith in technology and research. Marathon is one of a small group of explorers that are opening up the frontiers of paper. It gets its stability, from the fact that its markets are so diversified that it doesn't have to depend on any one of them."

Formerly the materials dissolved out by the "cooking liquor" stage of the paper making process were dumped into streams, killing fish and rousing wide protest over the pollution of the waters. State legislation forbidding this process caused firms to seek means of obtaining by-products from this waste, and Marathon has been a leader in such research. Its chemical division, splendidly equipped and staffed, is constantly seeking to recover valuable products from the lignin and other non-cellulosic constituents of the wood.

The waste liquor is put through the Howard process, a patented process developed by Guy Howard of the Marathon firm. This recovers a lime-sulphur product used to make fresh cooking liquor, and an organic substance used both for boiler fuel and as a lignin raw material from which special products are made. Among such products are a tanning substance used in making leather, a lignin product for use in Portland cement, various lignin sulphonic acid salts, and vanillin, a synthetic vanilla. Provisions are now being made for the manufacture of lignin resins for use in molding compositions and for other lignin material products. After being thus treated, the remaining waste liquids may be dumped into the river without polluting the water.

33. RIB MOUNTAIN, 5 m. southwest of Wausau on town roads which branch, one leading to the winter sports area, one to the summit (marked by signs beginning on Third Ave.; may not be open after storms in winter), is one of the State's most prominent landmarks, visible in places for twenty-five miles. A monadnock, or remnant of resistant quartzite left as the more fragile granite of the surrounding peneplain was weathered away, it looms hugely over the valley of the Wisconsin River and its tributaries near Wausau. From every new viewpoint it presents

different outlines. As US 51 passes near its eastern end it is merely an abrupt upheaval of rock and forest, largely concealed by an intervening foothill. From State 29, running parallel to its northern side, it seems like a monotonously long and uniform wall of uptilted wilderness. But from the city of Wausau, sufficiently distant to reveal the mountain's bulk and irregularity, the sloping outlines unfold their full sweep and dimensions.

The mountain is more than a mile wide and three miles long, and the length is augmented by Mosinee and Hardwood Hills, smaller monadnocks at either end of the main ridge. At its highest point the elevation is 1,947 feet above sea level and 750 to 800 feet above the riverbed. The entire bulk is composed of a hard, glass-like rock called quartzite. Ripple-marks on slabs even at the summit indicate that once this rock was sand on the bottom of some ancient ocean. Through tremendous pressures and the passage of ages of time the sand became crystallized into rock, and then was uptilted by wrinklins and foldings of the earth's crust.

Geologists estimate that this rock is among the oldest in existence, formed while the planet was still solidifying.

Rib then was a peak in a mountain range that covered all of what is now northern Wisconsin. It was worn down by the elements, then thrice submerged beneath prehistoric oceans by a sinking of the earth's surface and covered by sediments. Raised finally from the waves, it was washed clear of the deposits by still further centuries of erosion, then battered by four successive continental glaciers. But in contrast to other places where the glaciers surged over similar monadnocks, there is no glacially-borne train of rounded quartzite boulders south of Rib Mountain; the ice-sheets failed to pass its crest.

The first oceanic inundation occurred perhaps six hundred million years ago; the last glacial descent, some tens of thousands of years ago. As a result of this eternal siege by all the forces of nature, the mountain retains but a stub of its former Alpine loftiness.

All over the slopes great angular boulders jut up through the vegetation, in places so thick they resemble a field of fallen monoliths. These rocks have been split from the mountain by tree roots, frost, or sudden changes in temperature, natural forces still continuing their age-old attack upon the huge quartzite mass. Sod on the mountainside is thin, but sufficient to support underbrush and dense woodgrowth. Since the days when heavy logging with timber slide and railroad

stripped the virgin forest from its flanks, a small second growth of pine and mixed hardwoods has arisen. The forest in fall is richly colored; deep red sumacs mark heaps of sunlit boulders amid the heavier growth, and the yellow of popple and birch and the flaming hues of the maples show vividly against the green of the predominant pines. In spring, despite the destruction of much of the original flora, there are many wild flowers--squirrel corn, spring beauties, and, notably, trilliums.

In 1927 the Kiwanis Club of Wausau acquired title to 160 acres of land at the summit of what then was called Rib Hill and soon thereafter gave it to the State as a State park area. The State later purchased three additional forties to increase the size of the tract to 280 acres. In 1937 the Wausau Chamber of Commerce was successful in interesting the National Park Service in developing a winter sports area on the north side of the mountain, and the Kiwanis Club acquired, by public solicitation, an additional forty acres of land and right-of-way from the Marathon City road. Today the park has camping and picnicking accommodations, with drinking water and sanitary facilities, observation points, a good road and parking places, hiking trails, and markers designating points of geologic or scenic interest.

The view from the top of Rib Mountain is the most extensive in Wisconsin. Except for about thirty degrees, where the plateau of the mountain top itself intervenes, the entire circle of the horizon is revealed, stretching into hazy distances. The landscape is uneventful, an enormous disc of green woods and lighter green fields, with such relief features as ridges and moraines virtually obliterated by the flattening effect of the perspective. Wausau, Lake Wausau, and the suburbs of Rothschild and Schofield are mere incidents, small angular patches of color and smoke strung along the thread of US 51.

On the hill itself, however, are many odd rock formations --Sunset Point, Sunrise Point, the Queen's Chair, Falling Rock, and so forth. What was formerly considered the highest geographic point in Wisconsin is designated at the top of a queerly-balanced heap of glassy rocks, 1,947 feet above sea level. A remeasurement of some other Wisconsin hills, notably Sugar-Bush in Forest County, displacing the roughly-taken figures of the early railroad builders, has cast serious doubt on Rib Mountain's claim to be the highest point. Though the argument on this matter is carried on with more heat and partisanship than science, it means little to the actual scenic value of the mountain, which remains an outstanding landmark regardless of the altitudes of other crests.

In the winter of 1937 construction of the winter sports development began. Civilian Conservation Corps crews cut timber and brush from a slope 2,500 to 3,000 feet long and 350 to 450 feet wide, then, with tractors chugging, tore out stumps and burned the waste. Afterwards, swinging ten or twelve pound mauls, the boys worked for weeks smashing down the innumerable rocks and boulders to an approximately level surface. At the conclusion of this labor an open slope and five trails had been prepared. The open slope has a maximum grade of 25 degrees and a minimum of 6 degrees; into it the trails enter at various levels. These trails range in difficulty from novice to expert, with grades from two to 28 degrees, lengths from 700 to 2,900 feet, and turns of varying difficulties. From top to bottom of the mountain is a 3,100-foot ski-tow (rates vary; 45 to 50¢ for 3 trips; \$1 to \$1.50 all day) operated by private concession and capable of carrying 75 persons at one time. Skiers can get on the tow at the bottom of the hill or at a point at the foot of some of the trails about halfway up.

On March 6, 1938, thirteen months after the CCC boys had begun the work of improvement, the Central U. S. Ski Association's first slalom, downhill and combined championships were

run down the Rib Mountain trails and slopes under the sponsorship of the Wausau Ski Club. Since then the Chamber of Commerce and other local groups have given vigorous publicity to the winter sports development with the double object of seeking funds from the community to further improve the area and of attracting winter sport seekers to come to the mountain.

In the winter of 1938-o the accommodations included a rough shelter house, the ski-tow, and parking lots. Skis were occasionally available for renting, and bus transportation was provided when groups of 25 or more notified the Chamber of Commerce in advance. A new shelter house of rough stone, with complete first aid, lunchroom, and other facilities, is to be built with funds gathered from private donations. The slope itself is being sodded by the Civilian Conservation Corps crews to cover the many projecting points of quartzite that still obtrude, though with a foot or more of well-packed snow these are not dangerous. It is planned also to install toboggan chutes and junior and senior ski jumps.

34. and 35. The RED GRANITE QUARRIES of the Anderson Bros. & Johnson Co. (9 m. north on US 51, then 1.5 m. east on town road) and the Rib Mountain Granite Co. (10 m. north on US 51, then 0.5 m. east on a town road from a red brick church) are among the more accessible of the granite quarries north of

Newhouse
Miner

Wausau

the city. Both are immense pits of brilliant red stone gaping amid brush-covered, rocky fields. Mountainous piles of granite blocks, discarded because of flaws or discoloration, are heaped to one side. Cranes powered from adjoining sheds lift chunks of stone weighing tens of tons from the bottoms of the great holes to their brinks, where workmen with air-drills, chisels, and wedges cut them roughly into a size and shape suitable for the purpose for which they are ultimately intended. Most are used for gravestones.

- (1) Wausau
- (2) Marie Dieter
Dale Jenson
- (3) 6,310 words

FINAL

Leisure Hours

LEISURE HOURS

On winter evenings, when the sun had slipped down behind Rib Mountain and wind shook the tall pines, covering the clearing knee-deep with drifts, the woodsmen would gather in the shacks at Big Bull Falls. Here they would smoke for an hour or so before turning in, or, on Saturday nights, rest from the strenuous labors of the week. Frequently a familiar yarn, tossed from mouth to mouth, would start the evening's entertainment. Generally there was a musician in camp. Then, when the air was rank with steam, the smell of drying socks, and tobacco smoke that veiled the room and hung in blue clouds around the flickering lanterns, the walls would echo to the high squeak of a fiddle. Soon a dozen stockinged feet would be beating time to a shantyboy ballad, while a voice here and there would take up the melody until all the jacks were bellowing out the song with a volume that drowned the wind's sound.

When the men tired of singing, a dance would begin. Several husky men were designated women by the simple expedient of tying a colored bandanna around their arms. Then they lined up against the wall, awaiting the approach of partners and the grotesque bow that requested a turn on the dance-floor. Gentlemen and "ladies" jiggled awkwardly over the crude puncheon floors in

bare or stockinged feet, stopping now and then to pull a splinter from a foot. Such were the simple and jovial pleasures of men alone in the wilderness, dependent upon their own resources for release from the monotonous routine of winter-long timber-cutting.

Otherwise recreation took the simple and primitive forms of "chawing" tobacco from tooth-mauled plugs, "rough-house" antics, or Saturday night toots of whiskey swigging. Although the building of a crude sled road between Stevens Point and Wausau in 1845 ended the isolation of Big Bull Falls, and the wives, sisters, and mothers of woodsmen began to arrive, the settlement remained essentially a man's town where yarn-spinning, drinking, and fighting continued as the chief amusements. For the next forty years the social waters were annually ruffled by rolistering young giants who stormed out of the lumber camps in spring and descended upon Wausau with a winter's pay burning in their pockets. With mackinaws of blazing plaids, stagged pants, and jaunty woolen caps, they trod the streets and swarmed the taverns, scarring the board walks and floors with their calked boots and rending the peaceful atmosphere with the noise of drunken brawls. Even more obstreperous were the rivermen, who rode the logs down to the sawmills here or

Or snubbed their rafts on the riverbank for an overnight stop. "A raftsman would just as soon stab you as look at you" went the saying in the river towns.

"The old-timers," says one local account, "can still tell stories of the lumberjacks' annual invasion, the practical jokes, the fights, the drinking, the poker games, the wild exuberance of men on the loose after a long, bleak winter of hard toil...It was the period when the Wisconsin River was a thoroughfare for the mighty lumber industry...when a man who poured water in his whiskey was an object of derision, when a bar was a place where men could swear and spit on the floor, when women took the other side of the street rather than pass a saloon, when Johnny rushed the 'growler' to the back door, usually labelled 'Family Entrance', and when every saloon-keeper dreamed of the time when he could install crystal chandeliers and a mahogany bar."

Before regular postal service was established in 1852, mail came haphazardly with any self-appointed postman who "just chanced to be goin' north to Big Bull Falls." These arrivals always created a flurry that brightened the monotony of lonely days: letters offered an opportunity to share the news with neighbors, and a newspaper, regardless of its age, created a

sensation that lasted until it had gone the rounds. Even more exciting was the coming of the stagecoach. Several times a week the lumbering vehicle would roll into town behind a panting four-horse team, urged along by the snapping blacksnake of the driver. The drivers were swaggering, bearded, hard-drinking men who wore the practical uniform of any woodsman--flannel shirt, bright mackinaw of fleece-lined sheepskin, corduroy trousers tucked into high, loose-topped boots, and a battered cloth or fur cap. They could swear and fight and drink as hardily as any lumberjack and could handle their teams and cumbersome rig with the skill of a bowie-knife thrower. They brought into the drab frontier life a romantic interlude which provided the occasion for feminine flutters; and, more essentially, they carried information of the outside world and brought new personalities to the settlement, starved for "something different."

Gradually, however, the brawling violence of a purely masculine society was tempered by softer influences, and social life entered a new phase of barn and tavern dances, "around-the-stove" talks in the general store, sociable whittling on front door stoops; the self-sufficient, home-spun entertainment of box socials, husking bees, church suppers, quilting bees;

and the sympathetic get-togethers of funerals, marriages, and births. The women at first had little diversion from the many cares of pioneer home-making. Devotional meetings, when people gathered in private homes for an evening of hymn-singing; temperance society meetings; and, at rare intervals, weddings and christenings, formed the principal amusements in their quiet but busy lives. Later quilting bees and ladies aid societies were formed in the churches.

All this time social life had been easy and casual, revolving around any chance entertainment that the ordinary stream of events cast up. In the spring of 1853, for the first time, it took on a more formal air when John Le Messurier celebrated the inauguration of Pres. Franklin Pierce at his new combination hotel and tavern with a dance, and issued a printed invitation:

INVITATION TO INAUGURATION BALL

The company of yourself and Lady is respectfully solicited to attend a ball in Wausau on Friday, March 4th, 1853, at the House of John Le Messurier.

Music by M. Rousseau's band.

All Wausau attended the festivities, the women decked out in voluminous calico dresses, shawls, and bonnets, or, if they had been lucky enough to arrive with their trunks, perhaps a

silk hoop-skirt and embroidered bodice; the men mostly in overalls, specially washed for the occasion, colored shirts, and high boots.

The ladies sipped punch and nibbled at iced cakes, while the gentlemen, on good behavior, kept to beer and home-made wines; then together they "tripped it" on the dance-floor. Popular music of the period included the "Virginia Reel," the "President's March," the "Irish Trot," the "Devil's Dream," "The Irish Washerwoman," "Cheat the Lady," and "Pop Goes the Weasel." The promised band consisted of Mike Rousseau, his unbeatable fiddle, and his resounding voice which called out the figures of the square dance or quadrille above the joyous squeak of the strings. Hereafter dances were frequent occurrences, and soon the young people had their part in the social life, holding parties at which they danced or played such games as "Pussy Wants a Corner," "Drop the Handkerchief," and "Spinning the Plate."

By 1853 there were four inns here--the Blue Eagle, the Lake Superior House, the Forest House and Hall, and the Riverside House--an indication of Wausau's transformation from lumber camp settlement to trading center for the German immigrants who had begun to farm the surrounding valleys about 1856.

As elsewhere in frontier America the inns assumed the function of social gathering-places for every type of occasion from drinking bouts to church services. Although the exacting toil of pioneering left little time for recreation, Mike Rousseau and his fiddle were more and more in demand. Activities were simple, democratic, unhampered by social restrictions. Everyone was welcomed regardless of dress, nationality, or income.

In sharp contrast with the purely individual enterprise that had so far provided most of the local entertainment was the community recreational development that marked the beginning of the 1860's. Early in this decade Columbia Park, with picnic grounds and a small dance-hall, was opened in connection with George Ruder's brewery. Soon it became the recreation center for all Wausau. Later, when the close-knit bonds of frontier life had loosened and social lines began to be drawn, it became, and for almost 50 years remained, the park of the working population--the families of mill-hands and laborers in the industries now developing. In 1867 B. G. Plumer and August Kickbusch, eager to extend improved farming methods in the surrounding trade area, deeded a tract of land for a fairground. The next year the grounds were partially cleared of logs and stumps, and a race-track was laid out. Here on

the Fourth of July, 1868, was held the first race meet, when M. De Coursey's "Thunderbolt," Jule Posey's "Blue Devil," a horse called "Sleepy Kate," and other horses presented "one of the most exciting events held in the community." In September of the same year Wausau citizens enjoyed a "gentlemen's horse race" between the filly of W. D. McIndoe and August Kickbusch's colt "Prince."

Another chink was made in the wall that circumscribed the village's fun when Jacob Kolter erected Music Hall at the corner of Third and Washington Streets, three blocks from the river, in 1869. Kolter was laughed at for locating his "house of pleasure" so far from the main settlement, with its bumpy roads and lots full of pine stumps; the men used to say "You can't get anything wet at Jake's; he's too far from the river." Nevertheless, for more than 25 years this hall was a focal point of the social, intellectual, and political life of Wausau, becoming the community meeting-place for everything from lectures on "Woman's Rights" to the purely masculine song festivals of the Liederkrantz. An old account which describes the opening indicates the nature of the social activities that flourished there:

"One had to go out into the night when the stars were shining, when the wind was soughing through the pines of that black pall in the east, and the river was moaning in the west, to have the sense of an almost overcoming loneliness pressed home with tremendous power--the 'music of the wilderness' was always good and heavy. But the afternoon of that long September day in 1869 wore on to twilight. The carpenters had completed the finishing touches... the kerosene lamps were lighted early, and early, too, came the little band of musicians...The society element of Wausau in '69 had been on tiptoe for weeks and as soon after supper as we could get the paper collars buttoned around our necks we started for the party. Men, women, and children in all kinds of clothes, but with clean hands and a slick 'hair comb', some dogs and maybe a wolf or a wildcat paid their respects to the new building and the proprietor that night. The men inspected all the 'departments' thoroughly, the women gossiped as only women can on extraordinary occasions of this kind and the children fell asleep or got lost. Two or three of the women folks had pretty big hoop skirts for these parts and they were tremendous swells. One beautiful young damsel (a grandmother now, whose saintly face we see not infrequently on our streets) we remember distinctly as the belle of the ball. But all good things come to an end and

so that night...the hall was started on its journey of thirty odd years of pain and pleasure, prosperity and poverty, through youth, maturity and decay to demolition."

As Wausau acquired the semblance of permanent settlement and its citizenry gradually shed the more uncouth aspects of lumber town society, recreation took a turn toward regularized activities under the influence of formal social organizations. The earliest and most important of these was the church. In Wausau the lack of regular church buildings and pastors temporarily limited the activities of congregations to religious services; in 1859, however, the Methodists erected a church. Other congregations soon put up their own buildings, and by the 1870's village social life revolved around church-sponsored bazaars, parties, picnics, icecream socials, and dinners. One of the early peaks of such entertainments was reached in 1878, when the local Catholic church sponsored a fair at Music Hall, with three days of community singing, dancing, and eating.

The 1870's saw a typical pioneer American society, flavored by social institutions which the German immigrants brought from Europe. In the latter part of the decade Frank Schubert, local music-master, took over the management of Columbia Park, giving it his own name. For many years, under several managements, this continued to provide German food, beer, and music. In

1873 the Wausau Schuetzen Verein, or Sharpshooters' Society, was formed by several men, a list of whose names reads like a German telephone directory: Mueller, Mehl, Gritzmacher, Werheim, Volz, Fischer, Kolter, Neuman. The society, which had adopted the slogan "Hit Good," soon built a 20-acre shooting range in the southwest part of the present Marathon County Park, where it held practice tournaments. In 1890 the Schuetzen Verein became a member of the North Wisconsin Shooting Union. It continued in existence until it disbanded in 1928.

With the rapid increase of wealth there began a clearly-marked stratification of social life, and cliques, circumscribed by wealth, family, and education, arose. Many of the fashionable masquerade balls, dances, and lawn parties, brightened by the new game of croquet, were limited by invitation now. Nevertheless, the greater part of the population--immigrants, laborers, and seasonal inhabitants--continued to enjoy the old, free, pleasant camaraderie of beer gardens, taverns, parks, and the community hall. And special occasions still called forth the traditional rustic festivities. Marriages were regularly greeted with rousing charivaris, despite the Central Wisconsin's admonition that "We really do not think it is the proper thing to make so much noise, because a newly married couple needs sympathy and quietness."

Although the railroad diminished the city's dependence upon its own amusement resources, for some years outside influence was only casually felt. The local appearance of the W. W. Coles Tent Show and Menagerie in 1879 provided the first entertainment sensation from the outside. In 1861 an exhibition of the Edison phonograph and of a balloon, which refused to ascend on the day the town turned out to watch it, left the whole population overwhelmed by the import of modern, new-fangled inventions. Although formally a city since 1872, Wausau's first clean-up came in 1861 when Mayor Carl Hoeflinger directed a campaign against the gaudily decked women, who rode through the streets behind liveried drivers, trailing the scent of musk and patchouli and ogling the rustic youth. This clean-up marked the turn into maturity of the young lumbering town which for 40 years had been sowing its wild oats.

By this time the Wisconsin Valley Railroad had reached Merrill, 20 miles upstream, and Wausau had become the focal business city of the upper Wisconsin River valley. More forms of commercialized recreation appeared, though the entire emphasis was still on participation rather than mere watching. In 1882 the Bellis Hotel installed the first pool tables, and

in 1867 Emmet Barden opened the first exclusive pool and billiard hall. Samuel Switzer had an ice skating rink, "a beautiful place", in 1880, though the old custom of shovelling or flooding a large open place on the river and skating around huge bonfires had by no means vanished. Shiny games, masquerades on the ice, and skating races all enlivened these outdoor rinks. Coasting parties assembled on the Fourth Street hill, where, according to one report, "the long run and beautiful night made coasting a pleasure." By 1886 tobogganing had begun, and the Central Wisconsin called it "perhaps the most healthful of winter sports. It is the improved method of coasting. We should organize a club." Sleighriding, too, was popular; people bundled up, snuggled under the hay, and rode along singing to the music of jingling sleigh-bells. In 1864 Messrs. Dana, Alexander, and Johnson built a roller rink, and during these years walking matches on the half-mile track at the fairgrounds also were popular. Meanwhile the increasing fanfare in connection with political campaigns made torch-light parades, barbecues, bands, and rallies a major source of community enjoyment.

The old forms of amusement continued on an ever more ambitious scale. Besides the racing tracks and shooting

range, skating, swimming, fishing and hunting, new amusement opportunities speedily multiplied. In 1865 Andrew Warren, Jr., built one of the largest amusement parks in the State, south of Garfield Avenue. Beneath pine trees were an immense dance hall, picnic tables and benches, a merry-go-round, a sunken well, a band stand, and a large shooting gallery partly enclosed by a stone wall. Though Warren is supposed to have intended giving this park to the city, the buildings were burned, presumably by someone opposed to such forms of recreation. They were rebuilt on a smaller scale and a baseball park was added. J. P. Werle purchased the park in 1889 and operated it until 1905, when most of the tract was platted into city lots. There is still local speculation as to which house is now located over the home plate of the famous Wausau Lumberjacks of pre-war years.

The Grand Theater became the scene of pugilistic encounters. In 1884 the first fight on record featured George Finney, lightweight champion of Wisconsin, who knocked out his man in four rounds. Another bout of about the same time was hardly satisfactory, for the newspaper reported "The prize fight held at the Grand Theater last night was more or less of a fizzle. Two of the cleverest lightweights sparred six rounds. A couple of our boys gave an exhibition of side-hold wrestling." Nevertheless the

sport prospered. In 1885 Burke and Chandler drew a big crowd; in 1888 Jannett and Davis put on "a sharp encounter, Janett being the winner." A Mr. Johnson of Michigan thereupon was brought in to test Mr. Davis, but Davis beat him and took the entire purse of \$100 besides all the gate receipts.

Meanwhile the Schuetzen Verein was holding annual game-hunts that included the shooting of wild turkeys, and whist had come into vogue. Two business men's whist clubs annually strove for the local championship; the losers had to provide the winners with a lavish oyster supper at the Wright House.

The Germans, as before, vigorously supported any public celebration, local, regional, or National. So great was their zeal for observing the becentennial of the first German settlement in the United States in 1683 that they celebrated the occasion a whole year ahead of time. To the blare of a band the Glorious Fourth Germania Guards paraded through the streets to the picnic grounds of the Schuetzen Verein for a day of feasting, speeches, and games such as sack-racing and pole-climbing. A gala dance at Music Hall ended the celebration. When the proper date did arrive, the German population, now in fine fettle for becentennial festivities, celebrated even longer and harder. According to the Wausau

Review of September 9, 1883, it was "...the unanimous voice that the street procession was the grandest ever witnessed at Wausau and would have done honor to a place ten times the population of our place. As it was, it proved a sublime affair and the day will long live green in the memories not only of our German fellow citizens, but of the people of other tongues, and native-born Americans as well, who are only sorry that they were quasi, only guests, and unable to more assist our German fellows, except by their presence and taking part in the general amusements."

The procession had been organized unostentatiously, almost secretly, and when revealed left the spectators stunned with its magnificence. Behind the flag-bearer and his escort of two lancers in 16th century costume, twelve knights in full armor rode on horseback. Then, interspersed among troops of lancers, mounted Indians, patricians and burghers in 16th century costume, bands, and athletic groups, came floats representing Arminius leading the Teutons against Rome, Columbus discovering America, Germania surrounded by Indian girls, Pocahontas, the United States surmounted by the Goddess of Liberty and the 38 states, Germania and German burghesses in 16th century costume, and Preciosa and the Daughter of the Regiment with four girls in German peasant costume. When

Columbus' vessel capsized at the corner of Third and Washington Streets, committeemen calmly explained that the incident represented his mishap at the Canary Islands. Then followed a number of wagons representing various local industries; that of George Ruder, the brewer, displayed King Gambrinus and six husky brewers malting and making beer in the old German fashion, using nothing but barley and hops; behind tagged a car showing "Milwaukee beer" being concocted by a chemist dressed as Mephisto, who with glass jars and drugs converted ordinary well water into alleged beer within a few minutes. After the parade the community celebrated all afternoon at Schubert's Park with music, beer, and speeches, and all evening at Music Hall with tableaux, songs, and more speeches.

In 1882 John C. Gebhard helped to organize another typically German institution, the Turnverein, or gymnastic club. In 1885 the members attended a Turnfest at La Crosse, winning fourth prize, and in 1887 the State Turnverein Festival was held at Wausau. More than 1,000 visitors came for the three-day meeting. After 1887 a professional instructor was hired, and monthly classes were conducted in Music Hall, where boys, girls, and adults met on different days. Four years later the Society moved to Schubert's Hall on Grand Avenue; but when in June of the same year the building burned, the organization disbanded.

During the 1880's horse-racing attained great popularity, drew hundreds of people to Wausau and gave rise to big betting rings. In 1881 a few prominent citizens incorporated the Driving Park Association to encourage the breeding of fast trotting stock. Soon everyone in Wausau spoke with pride of "Gertrude C.," "Jimmy Green," "Maggie M.," and "Sir Davis." Otto Kickbusch's "Dayton Belle" won first prize in a famous match race in DePere, and, according to newspaper accounts, "would have shown her importance at Oshkosh and Janesville, but races were postponed on account of rain." Cutter racing also became popular, and a cutter race between Kickbusch's "Jimmie Green" and James Edee's "Grey Cloud", with the latter victorious, attracted great excitement. For one year, 1886, Wausau even had a polo team, which lost a 2 to 1 game to Stevens Point. In 1897 the Marathon County Fair and Agricultural Society became a member of the North Wisconsin and Minnesota fair circuit, organized to provide continuous weeks of horse racing at the various county meets; the heavier purpes thus provided began to draw in outside entries, and the local Driving Park Association eventually was abandoned.

During the "Gay Nineties" recreation in Wausau continued, for the most part, along lines already established, with the

gradual development of formalized sports. Interest in boxing waxed particularly strong, and in 1894 Finney opened a fistic school here. Roller skating was popular, and at a benefit party held at the McClellan Street Rink the Ladies Relief Society raised \$100 in a single night. Any new mode of entertainment was quickly accepted, and when the bicycle craze struck Wausau it became the fad of the decade.

In April, 1893, a number of local men organized the Wausau Wheelmen's Club, establishing their headquarters in the shop of a bicycle dealer who had offered to fit out a clubroom. Two years later the organization felt sufficiently well-prepared to undertake a tournament. It decided on a uniform consisting of maroon cap and sweater, corduroy trouser, black stockings, and black shoes, and set the course for a 17-mile handicap race, at the same time passing a resolution against fast riding, or "scorching," on Third Street. For several years thereafter the cross-country race was an annual event, and the Wheelmen's Club regularly participated in such occasions as G. A. R. Memorial parades and Decoration Day activities.

In 1896 the Marathon County Fair offered prizes amounting to \$250 to contestants in a half-mile open race, a half-mile race for boys under 17, and amateur mile, two-mile, and five-mile handicap open races. For the third annual road

race, in 1897, prizes ranging from a \$100 Andrae racer to a dollar's worth of ice-cream sodas were offered. There were several participants from other cities, but, perhaps due to the way the handicaps were distributed, local entries usually won most of the prizes. Women, as well as men and children, took up the sport, and pedestrians of the 1890's often had to scramble out of the path of bicycles careering down the streets, propelled, apparently, by a pair of dark bloomers attached to a white middy.

Several clubs soon arose, and the State divisions of the League of American Wheelmen sometimes held their meets in Wausau. The arrival of automobiles brought about a decline of interest in bicycle-riding; all of the local organizations disbanded, and in 1914 there was not a single bicycle shop listed in the city directory. In recent years, however, several dealers have set up business in response to a resurgence of interest in cycling.

The athletic history of Wausau High School began in 1897, when the first football team was formed. Under Professor Wilson the boys, clad in their fathers' pants stuffed with padding, lost to Grand Rapids 42-0 and Stevens Point 12-0. In the next game with the Rapids, Prof. Wilson lined up with his pupils "to sort of balance up the teams,"

but the locals lost anyhow, 32-0. By 1899, however, Wausau claimed a "championship" for having the best record among neighboring teams, then won another in 1903 and ran second to Merrill in 1912. Until World War times the high school scheduled such opponents as the Wausau Business College and the Stevens Point Normal School. In 1918 the Wisconsin Valley Conference was organized and since then Wausau has won six championships, with the undefeated 1933 team probably the greatest. Basketball, meanwhile, had begun in 1898 but had been a very minor sport until 1926, when suitable gymnasium facilities were provided. Since then Wausau has been formidable in conference competition and won two State Class A championships, in 1929 and 1938. Hockey, which began in 1931, has had increasing popularity and now rivals basketball among interscholastic winter sports; boxing also has been introduced.

Although it was not until 1928 that organized curling tournaments or bonspiels were held in Wausau, the game has long been a favorite winter sport among both young and old. Curling seems to have originated in Scotland, where in feudal times it was the custom for one baron with his tenantry to challenge another. Later, the parishes or districts played against each other, competing for the prize of a boll of meal or coals for the poor of their regions. Pennant, the Welsh naturalist, spoke of this game in the description of

his famous tour of Scotland in 1771: "Of all the sports in this part, curling is the favorite. It is an amusement of the winter and is played upon the ice by sliding from one mark to another--great stones from forty to seventy pounds in weight, of hemispherical form with a wooden or iron handle at the top. The object of the player is to lay the stone as near the mark as possible and guard that of his partner which has been well laid before, or to strike off that of his antagonist." He neglected, however, to mention one of the most curious aspects of the game: players rush along just in front of the slow-moving stones swiftly sweeping the ice with brooms in order to guide them toward or away from the mark.

Many of the minor Scottish poets have honored curling:

Keen, keener still, as life itself were staked,
Kindles the friendly strife. One points the line
To him, who, poising, aims and simms again;
Another runs and sweeps where nothing lies.
Success alternately, from side to side,
Changes, and quick the hours unnoted fly,
Till light begins to fail, and deep below,
Till player, as he stoops to lift his stone,
Sees, half-incredulous, the rising moon.
But now the final, the decisive, spell
Begins. Near and more near, the sounding stones
Come winding in, and some, bearing straight along,
Crowd jostling all around the mark, with one
Just slightly touching. Victory depends
Upon the final aim; long swings the stone--
Then, with full force, careening, furiously
Rattling, it strikes aside both friend and foe,
Maintains its force and takes the victor's place.

During the 1870's interest in the game was spreading, encouraged by the Grand National Curling Club. Among the Scottish settlers of Columbia County curling was much fancied; there were many skilled players about Poynette, Caledonia, and Otsego, and Portage had a special curling club and rink in the 1880's. Not long afterward the sport was taken up in Wausau, where it has continued to hold its own up to the present day. The city has three curling rinks and twelve teams.

Before the twentieth century several new sports, far removed from the simple and rustic diversions of two decades before, had already found favor in Wausau. There were amateur teams representing the schools and industrial plants in competitive football, baseball, and basketball; tennis was replacing croquet in popularity. In 1899 a golf club was formed, encouraged by L. A. Pradt, who had discovered the game in Washington, D. C. The first enthusiasts played in an ordinary pasture-lot, conveniently vacant except for several cows which served as hazards. By 1908 the game had attracted enough devotees to warrant the organization of the Wausau Country Club, with 40 charter members. A 60-acre tract was bought from the Marathon Paper Mills Company, and a golf course, with the orthodox hazards of water and roughs, was laid out.

But dominating all other sports in the first decade of the century was baseball. There is record of local clubs having played in 1871 and 1872. The first mention of an inter-city game came in 1877, when the Wausau Foresters beat Waupaca 27 to 10 and Jenny (Merrill) 38 to 16. In 1883 two local teams were competing, one of which, the Jim Crows, was defeated by Merrill 26 to 9. The next year, after defeating Merrill 17 to 5, the local club went into receivership. Though it was revived on an inter-city basis briefly in 1886 and again in 1902, baseball mainly was relegated to a picnic sport, where moustachioed players sometimes found a beer keg at first base and another at home plate.

In 1904 the cities of Wausau, Oshkosh, Fond du Lac, Green Bay, La Crosse, Beloit, Madison, and Freeport organized the Wisconsin-Illinois league and Wausau entered into its greatest baseball glory. After playing good ball the first three years, the Lumberjacks took second place in 1907 and won the championship in 1908. The "iron man" feats of those days still stand amazingly on the record books. On August 18, Frank Lang, Wausau pitcher, hurled both ends of a double-header against Madison and won two shut-outs by 1-0 scores. After setting a league record

for 15 strikeouts against Fond du Lac in the same year, Lang went to the Chicago White Sox. Another Wausau pitcher, Clarence Dunbar, also won a double-header, beating Rockford 6-3 and 4-1. Ward Miller of Wausau, the league's leading batter with a .383 percentage, was signed by the Chicago Cubs.

Though its financial contributions to the league were satisfactory and its baseball superb, Wausau was dropped the year after winning the championship. It has always since been claimed that Wausau "was thrown out of the league for its supposed presumption to play good ball and win the pennant against cities twice its size." The Lumberjacks then joined such cities as La Crosse, Eau Claire, Rochester, Duluth, Superior, and Winona in the Wisconsin-Minnesota league and played first division ball for four years, after which they re-entered the Wisconsin-Illinois league in 1912. The league was disbanded the next year, however; three of the Wausau players were injured in a train wreck; and the excitement of the World War put a permanent damper on local baseball enthusiasm. For the past fifteen years Wausau has been represented in various temporary Wisconsin Valley or other intra-state leagues, with softball becoming a serious rival for popularity in the 1930's.

Thus in place of the old pasttimes, in which the main emphasis was upon participation, the success of high school sports and baseball inaugurated the period of spectator sports, in which most of the people watched the most highly skilled few perform. Hockey, baseball, softball, football, and basketball all have their rabid devotees crammed with lore of the record-books but only vaguely familiar with the actual techniques of play. For their own recreation, local sportsmen turn principally to golf, tennis, or swimming, and the demand for municipal tennis facilities has never quite been satisfied despite the construction of courts in many local parks.

Meanwhile the popularity of the automobile and the construction of good roads after the World War brought an entirely new phase into the local recreational picture. Tourists thronged in swiftly-increasing numbers to the forest-rimmed lakes of northern Wisconsin, and Wausau became a main gateway to and the principal supply source for the north-central lakes region, one of the oldest and best-developed of Wisconsin resort districts.

Located strategically on US 51, one of the State's principal vacation highways, Wausau derives considerable direct benefits from the stream of recreation-seeking

tourists. It offers its tennis courts, golf courses, riding stables, boathouses, municipal swimming-pool, and tourist park. Rib Mountain State Park attracts thousands, and the dalles of the Eau Claire River, 16 miles east, provide a picnicking ground beside the beauty of rugged rocks and seething waters. For fishermen there are trout in the Little Rib and Plover Rivers, bass in the Big Eau Claire, and pike, bass, and the mighty muskellunge in the Big Rib, all within easy driving distance. The Chamber of Commerce offers visitors such services as making reservations and supplying information on sporting facilities, accommodations, and prices in the northern resort region. Throughout the summer gay tourists, wearing dark glasses or sun-visors, carelessly dressed in slacks, shorts, sweat-shirts, sandals, and straw hats, stop here for last-minute supplies as they hasten northward. And Wausau benefits even more indirectly through its great wholesale trade with other communities in the resort area.

Winter brings a change. By the time the first flurry of snow has whitened the crest and slope of Rib Mountain, the casual ease of long summer days has disappeared before the new enthusiasm that sharper weather brings. Window displays change: skis, ice skates, and toboggans replace

the tennis racquets, golf clubs, and fishing reels of summer; gabardine windbreakers, tweed jackets, gaudy wool shirts, ski pants, boots, and rough woolen mittens replace the tennis shorts, swimming suits, and bright bandannas. For winter here no longer means the lonely isolation of pioneer days. With summer's passing, Wausau becomes not just a stop-over on the road to the northern lakes, but the destination of hundreds of visitors who crowd the city for the annual Winter Frolic or for a week-end of winter sports.

This interest is recent, however. Until about ten years ago winter to the average American was merely a cold period to be endured with chattering teeth until spring came again. But in the late 1920's, as the public turned more and more to winter sports, Wausau began to advertise its natural advantages. In 1926 it held its first Winter Frolic, which has since become an annual event that draws both state and out-of-state fans and contestants. Today this Frolic is the highlight of the winter sport season, offering a varied program of speed and fancy skating, curling, tobogganning, hockey matches, broom-ball contests, snow modeling, snow shoe races, and skiing competitions.

For a long time skiing in northern Wisconsin was a mode of travel for snow-bound citizens; as a sport for youngsters

it ranked behind skating and coasting, and only a few Norwegians developed skill in such variations as jumping or slalom running. Nevertheless, as far back as January, 1886, a group of skiers bearing such names as Olesen, Honningstad, Hjernstad, and Mikkel Hemmesvedt, Norwegian ski champion, organized the Aurora Ski Club of Red Wing, Minnesota, the first of its kind in America. This club held its first ski-jumping tournament in February, 1887, formally introducing the new sport to the American public. Later it gave exhibitions at La Crosse and Eau Claire, Wisconsin; at Ishpeming, Michigan; and at Stillwater and St. Paul, Minnesota. Though skiing fans organized amateur clubs after seeing these exhibitions, the Red Wing Club, for the most part, remained the chief exponent of the new sport until 1894 when eastern ski-clubs began to organize.

By 1931 skiing had won popular support in the east, and interest in the new sport began to reach into the middle west. Wausau became aware that in Rib Mountain it possessed facilities unparalleled in the central states for downhill skiing. In 1937, therefore, the Wausau Chamber of Commerce, the State Conservation Commission, and the National Park Service, working in co-operation, began to develop 150 acres of Rib Mountain State Park into a winter playground. In

1938 some 3,000 people attended the highlight of the winter sport festival, the first championship slalom and downhill meet of the Central United States Ski Association. Each winter, when there is sufficient snow to provide good skiing, people come to Wausau for a week-end of fun, arriving either by cars loaded with skis and poles or by special snow trains from Milwaukee and Chicago.

Nobody enjoys these new recreational facilities more than the Wausau people themselves. Even those who seldom can borrow the equipment and make the five-mile trip to Rib Mountain share the enthusiasm. New terms appear in the local sporting vocabulary--"telemark," "Christiania," "stem turns," "straight downhill slides," "slalom," and the "Arleberg method." And other winter sports share in the revived interest. The eight lighted skating rinks in the city proper are crowded every night, sometimes with as many as 3,000 people on a single rink. Even before the first freeze clothes closets are rummaged, and parents learn that "my feet have grown too big for last year's shoe skates." For here almost everyone who can walk can skate; even the tiniest toddler, too young to go to the rinks, can always find a frozen pond in his own or his neighbor's backyard to scoot over on double-edged runners.

- (1) Wausau
- (2) David Katcher
- (3) Words - 8,410

PINAL

THE RURAL REGION

THE RURAL REGION

I BREAKING THE GROUND

Before white men came, forest covered all of Marathon County. In the spring trilliums, hepatica, Indian pipe and Dutchman's breeches thrust up their heads between the pine needles on the forest floor. In the winter evergreens, whitened by new fallen snow, became thick dark-green again as boughs dipped gently toward the ground and shed their burden. Maple, oak, birch and ash, hickory and basswood stood bare in winter, leafed in summer. White, Norway and jackpine, spruce, balsam, hemlock, cedar, and fir were green the year round. These trees grew to the very banks of the Wisconsin River and its tributaries; grasses sprung from the bottom lands, and in the marshes and valleys berries grew lush and wild.

Today the western half of the county and a belt running along the northern border is gently rolling farmland turned to pasture and feed crops. This is the region of the older drift, where soil deposited by the earlier glaciers was left untouched by the last descent of ice. Colby silt loam predominates here, an excellent soil for grasses and grains. In the eastern part of the county woodlots cover a larger proportion of land than in the western. The ground here

is broken and hilly, the soil run through with gravel and stone. This, the terminal moraine of the Green Bay lobe of the last glacier that covered Wisconsin, is mainly Kennan loam, a soil of limited agricultural value. Flat, even ground, broken only by the abrupt and massive Rib and Mosinee hills, covers the south-central and central portions of the county, a driftless area untouched by any of the recent glaciers. Contained within the boundaries of this unglaciated region is an area of sandy soil which borders the Wisconsin River from Wausau southward.

A few relics of pioneer days are not yet destroyed or replaced; ancient pine stumps rot in the partial gloom of second-growth timber, and log outbuildings still remain on modern farms. The land is comparatively new to agriculture; in the fields plows no longer snag on deeply buried roots, but cows in pasture still nibble close to giant, ragged stumps, brushing scattered mullen that grows stiffly on the close cropped ground. The farmhouses, because they too are new on the land, are generally in better repair than those in southern Wisconsin. Frame houses are more spacious and better insulated, and brick homes are without the high, narrow-arched windows common to early Wisconsin buildings, their brick and mortar not yet weathered into a uniformly time-stained surface. Throughout the county log structures

are used as sheds, as outbuildings for a variety of purposes, and, now and then, as homes for people. There has not yet been time for wind and rain to rot these buildings to the ground, nor has there been time for them to outlive their usefulness.

There is almost no farm without a barn. Some of the barns are great buildings with ventilators standing in a sentinel row along the peak of a Mansard roof and the names of the farm and the farmer proudly painted on the walls, visible from the highway. Others are merely adequate to keep inclement weather from the cattle. Nature spreads sunshine and warmth over Marathon County with a thrifty hand, for the growing season averages 120 to 130 days, and the mean temperature lies, on the average, between 42 and 43 degrees. Rainfall is plentiful, and the average precipitation of approximately 30 inches a year is usually concentrated between May and July. Thus the weather is reasonably kind to man and his beasts, and the county is one of the best hay and grass growing regions in the State.

Marathon County's fertility was not suspected when the State was first settled. The possibilities of southern Wisconsin had been praised by soldiers returning from the Black Hawk War, but agriculture in this northern dairy belt had to prove the fertility of the soil by actual demonstration.

Indians and fur traders, through ignorance or selfishness, reported that the land in this region was stony, barren, mountainous, marshy, and unhealthful for civilized people. Dense forest cover on soil with such a poor reputation easily protected the county from an early invasion by settlers looking for farms. The lumbermen who worked about Wausau in camps and sawmills had little time for farming, and agriculture was limited to cutting the blue joint and red top grass growing thickly on river bottoms and islands, the only crops considered worth harvesting. As early as 1840 little gardens were tended on Plumer's Island, but that was all. Five years later, dairying made a mild beginning when John Le Messurier led three cows from Portage to Wausau.

Wausau at first was not regarded as a permanent settlement. A tree crop, once harvested, could not again be reaped for many years. But when clover and timothy sprang up where manure had been dropped on the logging roads, the pinery men realized that fodder at least could be raised here. Land was cleared for farming in scattered places within a few miles of Wausau, but only 226 acres in all of Marathon County were under cultivation in 1850.

In 1854 Wausau millwrights and mechanics started the first farming community in the county. Along Mechanics' Ridge they cleared the land extending northeast about seven miles

between Wausau and Nutterville, and here settled with their families. Cows were brought to these farms from the Green Lake country near Berlin and Princeton. But fitting the wilderness for the plow proved disappointing as a vocation, or too hard as a hobby, and Mechanics' Ridge soon lost most of the families who had settled it. They sold their farms as land values rose with the immigration of a few pioneers who trickled north into Marathon County during the middle 1850's.

Germans from Hesse-Darmstadt, a few of the many seeking asylum from civil unrest at home, were the first immigrants to arrive here in a group. They came in 1855, settling to the north within twelve miles of Wausau. Another group of Germans, goaded by their insecurity as laborers in the factories of Pittsburgh, formed a homesteader's society. They sent representatives west to Stevens Point, where they were persuaded to buy 3,000 acres of land eleven miles west of Wausau. Believing in a prospectus that pictured a steamboat docked near their new land and told of easy settlement and passable roads, they sat in a Stevens Point hotel room and platted Marathon City. Each member of the society was to receive eight acres of farmland, one village lot, and three acres of outlot bordering on the village to be used for kitchen gardens. But when the settlers arrived in 1857, the steamboat carried them no farther than Mosinee, and

they were forced to cut a path through fifteen miles of forest and swamp to reach their tract. Many of them were disillusioned by the misrepresentations of the land agents and unprepared for the many hardships of pioneer farming. Those who could left; those who had no other recourse remained, patiently enduring privations and slowly subduing the wilderness.

Only with stubborn endurance could the pioneer force the root-matted land to yield to cultivation. Standing hardwood was cut, piled, and then burned, for it could not be floated out and consequently was unmarketable as lumber. Each year a few more acres of cleared land were ready to be farmed. Not all the stumps were removed, it is true, but there was some soil that could be broken to the air and freed of shadow so that sunshine could work the miracle of light on growing plants. Even so, the farmers could not raise all their food, much less buy livestock or earn their living from the land they were clearing. Many of them worked in sawmills or lumbering camps, cut grubstakes, or peeled bark for the tannery. Thus they earned the money to keep them until their land could produce more fully.

Though year after year the clearings grew larger, agriculture was still primitive. Potatoes were planted among trees and stumps. They were dug in the fall and

buried beneath deep piles of straw, leaves, and dirt as protection against freezing; it was years before many of the settlers had root cellars for storage. Whatever livestock there was roamed for forage. Rye and wheat were harvested with a scythe, threshed with a flail, and winnowed by being thrown against the wind. A few of the pioneers owned hand-turned gristmills which ground their grain in the fall. After 1858 there was a power-operated mill in Wausau; then, one after another, mills were built at other places in the county.

Though at first oxen were used in clearing and cultivating the land, they were gradually replaced by horses. Cattle also increased in number. Poultry was brought from southern Wisconsin, and the people began to sell and trade eggs for other commodities. In the spring maple sugar and syrup were made as sap was drawn from the trees through home-made wooden spouts, stored in wooden troughs, then boiled down in huge iron kettles over an out-door wood fire.

Year after year more farmers arrived. Though they preferred to group themselves about established clearings, they struck out into the wilderness if they had to. Most of their tools were hand tools, though there were a few open-cylinder threshers in the county. It was 1866 when Charles Zastrow

brought the first modern-type threshing machine into Marathon County. Lumber camps and boarding houses were a ready market for whatever produce the farmers could offer. Agricultural products brought prices consistently higher than could be fetched in southern Wisconsin, and the consumer paid less than he would have had to pay for supplies hauled overland. The interdependence of town and country was in fact so close that men of means in Wausau took great concern in the development of agriculture in the region.

Such a one was August Kickbusch. Arriving in Wausau in 1860 a relatively poor man, he had become a moderately prosperous storekeeper by 1867. In the spring of that year he returned to his homeland, Pomerania, a province in the kingdom of Prussia. His coming created a mild sensation among his fellow Pomeranians, and the tales he told stirred them from their homes. He told them of Wisconsin and Marathon County; he assured them of employment at wages sufficient to permit eventual purchase of farmland, farmland that was rich and good. With little hesitation a few hundred of his countrymen went back with him to Wausau.

Faith in the agricultural possibilities of Marathon County was not confined to Kickbusch. A number of Wausau businessmen and merchants conducted farms that were models for the community. B. G. Plumer imported a Durham bull in 1860 to improve cattle, and Sam A. Quaw began to improve

sheep as early as 1873. Such men wished to prove, as they wished to improve, the agricultural possibilities of land in which they had genuine faith. Their names recur again and again in the history of local farming as leading experimenters and innovators, as crusaders for better stock, better crops, and a deeper understanding of the possibilities of the soil. Their first concerted activity began in 1867 when an agricultural society was formed. B. G. Plumer and August Kickbusch deeded eighty acres of ground just southwest of the village limits for a fairgrounds. Supporters contributed supplies and labor for the first buildings and helped with the clearing of the grounds. A fair was held that September, the beginning of a continuously expanding activity. Its premiums totalled \$243.50; in 1929 they exceeded \$16,000.

II THE COUNTRY FILLS IN

By 1870 12,000 acres of land were cleared and in farms. The emphasis at that time was upon cash crops. Grains--hay, oats, and wheat--predominated here as in southern Wisconsin; potatoes were an ever-present staple. Scrub cattle furnished milk and beef; sheep were used both for wool and mutton; swine were raised for pork. In that year only 53 pounds of cheese were produced in all of Marathon County, and butter was manufactured only for home consumption. There was prosperity in town and county alike, and a local newspaper one day in

January, 1871, reported the Wausau streets crowded with farmers importing and exporting produce, for 21 teams had been counted at one and the same time hitched in front of the Kickbusch and Pacher stores.

So it continued through the seventies. In winter the farmers came to town, their sleighs banked high with wood or billowing heaps of hay, the plopping of their horses' hoofs accompanying the smooth sound of sleigh runners sliding across the snow. When they returned home at dusk they carried goods purchased or secured by trade. Fairs came every September now, offering premiums for exhibits in field and garden products, household products, domestic manufacture, mechanical exhibits, millinery and fancy work, meat cattle, horses, sheep, swine, poultry, fruits, and flowers. There were plowing matches, drawing matches, and horse races too. But the respite in town, at market or fair, was but a slight interval, for work on the land was never done. Farm buildings must be erected, improved, repaired, or enlarged; the land demanded attention, the livestock care, and year after year the farmers whittled at innumerable stumps just as loggers whittled at the forest.

Toward the end of the decade settlers came more swiftly. The whack of axes as men cleared the land and the hiss of green wood as farmers fired surplus logs were no longer unaccustomed sounds. When the Wisconsin Central Railroad

was built north along the western boundary line of Marathon County in 1871 and 1872, Spencer, Unity, Mann, Colby, and Abbotsford were founded. Settlers, clinging close to the line of the road, spread west into Clark County and east into Marathon. Between Wausau and "The Line" was a wilderness that filled in slowly.

When Wausau was incorporated as a city in 1872 there were 6,028 cattle, 2,231 sheep, 1,851 swine, and 984 horses in the county--many more animals than people. The Wisconsin Valley Railroad, which had come to Wausau in 1874, had been given 200,000 acres of county land, 140,000 of which were immediately offered for sale at \$2.50 to \$5.00 an acre. Four thousand acres were sold by 1875. That year 18,000 acres were under cultivation--5,500 acres in grasses, 5,000 in oats, and 4,500 in wheat; barley and potatoes occupied 650 acres each. Though the short growing season remained a continuous obstacle, the raising of corn was hopefully tried, and in 1876 occupied 355 acres. Wild cranberries were gathered by men, women, and children wading through the river marshes.

Depressions had a stimulating effect on agricultural settlement. When work was hard to find in the city men turned to the land, for surpluses had not yet become a problem in farm areas. Thus Marathon County benefitted by colonization during the difficult 1870's. As prices for land were higher in the southern part of the State, prospective settlers tended

to come north. An interesting development took place at this time. Fred Reitbrock, member of a Milwaukee law firm, came to Wausau in the spring of 1876 on a business matter and purchased land in the western Marathon County town which now bears his name. At the same time a number of Polish families formerly employed at the Bay View gristmills near Milwaukee had been left jobless by the depression. In 1877 and 1878 forty of these families exchanged their Milwaukee homes with Reitbrock for some of his Marathon County land. The community of Poniatowski was thus founded. Reitbrock did much for the community; at his own expense he extended the Wausau-Rib Falls road to the land and provided extensive credit.

Later Reitbrock extended his operations westward and Athens became his center. Here he built a log building to shelter arriving settlers until they could get located on places of their own. He and his partners widely advertised their Marathon County holdings, and as an inducement to settlers mentioned that there had been placed "numerous polanders on these lands at very reasonable terms. These people readily prove the worth of the land and make settlement easier." Neighbors in the wilderness are a luxury, and the presence of these "polders" undoubtedly served as an attraction to other settlers. Reitbrock extended his road to Athens, then still farther west to Dorchester. When his

partners refused to accept the terms of the Wisconsin Central Railroad to extend a spur line to Athens, Reitbrock built his own railroad line in from Abbotsford. He also started a lumber and shingle mill at Athens, but when it was suggested that he build a company store, he refused because he disliked one-man towns.

In 1878 the State board of immigration publicized Wisconsin lands in this country and abroad. Pamphlets which included a description of Marathon County were published in German, Swedish, and Norwegian. These pamphlets were sent by settlers to their kin in Europe, they were distributed by the board to persons embarking for the Atlantic passage, and they were passed among new immigrants while they waited in the temporary crowded roosts of their ports of entry. Marathon County, advertised in this general way, received its share of settlers. But even more important were the efforts of J. M. Smith, who came here as a contractor for the Wisconsin Valley Railroad. The railroad had paid him partly with land, and he later bought up additional large tracts of the railroad grants. He then established a number of branch offices, and at railroad stations and other points likely to attract attention he distributed hundreds of little wooden boxes containing samples of Marathon County grain. Acting as an agent for others as well as himself, in 1878 he threw 170,000 acres on the market at \$2.50 to \$5.00 an

acre. This land he continued to advertise honestly and intelligently, bringing in new settlers every year and encouraging them after they had arrived by his reasonable terms and long-time credit. Between 1870 and 1880, 8,308 farmers settled in the county, stimulating depressed business activity in Wausau. The arrival of the railroads meanwhile had added a further inducement to settlers: the formerly worthless hardwood lumber now could be shipped out by rail. The mills took birch, maple, oak, and basswood for sawing, and the timber on each farm, instead of being merely an obstacle to clearing, now became a salable resource.

Nevertheless, by 1880 settlers still had not ventured far from either the railroads or the rivers. East-west strips of settled land, following the rivers or through roads, connected the Wisconsin River settlements with those on "The Line." The greatest concentration of rural settlement was within a 12-mile radius west and northwest of Wausau. But thin bands of settlement followed the banks of the Little Eau Pleine, the Big Eau Pleine, and the Big Rib Rivers; another followed the road that ran from Wausau to Big Rib Falls and then on to the Reitbrock property; still another ran parallel to the northern boundary of the county out to its northwestern tip. Except in the vicinity of Wausau there was comparatively little settlement east of the Wisconsin River, but well

defined groups occupied Mechanics' Ridge, and settlers were sprinkled along the banks of the Big Eau Claire River.

Between these ribbons of settled land were large unoccupied areas. Some of it was tax-free railroad land which was not pressed for sale because of the sure prospect of rising prices. However, after the tax-exemptions were cancelled in 1880, the railroads offered many inducements to prospective settlers in an effort to liquidate their holdings. In 1886, for example, a man desiring land for a farm was provided free transportation by the Wisconsin Valley Railroad from any point in the State to Marathon County if he bought 80 acres, one-half fare if he bought forty, and a reduced fare home if he bought nothing. When he arrived in the county he was provided a conveyance and a "land-hunter," and if he bought land he was extended \$25.00 in credit upon clearing five acres. New settlers arrived steadily, but though competition from southern Wisconsin was lessening, newly opened lands in the West were bidding against Marathon County for settlers. A rather plaintive statement in a Wausau paper admitted that Marathon County land was hard to clear, but that once cleared, "it is worth more than the time and trouble compared to land value in the west."

Though it was many years before all the good land was taken up, this period of intensive advertising marked the beginning of the transition between pioneer and modern

agriculture in Marathon County. When new settlers arrived they found that State agencies were becoming actively engaged in farmer-education. The Agricultural Experiment Station, founded in 1883, was a constant source of information and was available for consultation on specific problems. In 1884 seed corn of tested samples and first class seed were furnished to Marathon County farmers by the Station in an effort to improve the crop. Farmers' Institutes, beginning in the late eighties, also brought information directly to the farmer.

A significant factor in this period of transition was the importation of farm machinery into the county. At the fairs the shiny, red-painted implement took its place of interest beside the prize bull, the bundles of timothy and clover, and the pens of blue-ribbon poultry, with a salesman present to point out its numerous virtues. Binders, stump-pullers, and other machines were sent on tour, and field demonstrations were given first at one place and then another in the county; sometimes, as a climax, contests would be held between machines manufactured by rival concerns.

The woodlot retained its importance in the farmers' economy. There were times when winter work in the woodlot produced more income than the crops and livestock. Wood was used for railroad ties, tan bark, shingles, posts, staves and heading, spoke and hub timber, and fuel.

The sparse settlement was not without its advantages, for the prices of farm produce were higher than in southern Wisconsin. In 1886, for example, the Marathon County farmer received 8¢ more per dozen of eggs, 25¢ more per bushel of potatoes, 8¢ more per pound of turkey, chicken or duck, and 10¢ more per pound of butter than did the farmer in the south. The shorter growing season had its drawbacks, but the nearly virgin soil yielded heavily. A Mr. Hunt, in 1886, announced that he expected a harvest of over six hundred bushels of potatoes from less than two acres. In 1889 F. K. Wilcox claimed that he had raised 116 bushels of corn ears, 155 bushels of potatoes, 75 bushels of oats, 35 bushels of buckwheat, 1 bushel of onions, 10 bushels of beets, and 13 bushels of tomatoes from only $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land. This harvest, which was registered in a year of drought, was on exhibit for all who needed visual proof.

III DAIRYING BEGINS

Meanwhile wheat growing throughout the State had been encountering rave difficulties for numbers of years. The soil was becoming exhausted, for wheat taxed it heavily. Chinch bugs added their ravages to constantly decreasing yields, and the better wheat lands of the west were offering new and serious competition. At this time W. D. Hoard was urging farmers to turn to dairying, and Marathon farmers, realizing that the county could raise magnificent grass

crops, took his arguments to heart. Though in 1885 hay, oats, wheat, potatoes, beef and pork were still the leading products, milk products also were becoming important; that year 232,450 pounds of butter and 4,317 pounds of cheese were manufactured.

In October, 1887, Marathon County farmers were invited to Farmers' Institute held at Stevens Point to hear lectures by "talented and successful farmers and men of experience" on crops, cultivation, stock, and dairying. There was immediate agitation to hold similar meetings at Wausau. Two years later the first Institute was held here, and thereafter they were presented periodically at various places in the county. The main discussion centered on the advantages of blooded over scrub stock for dairying.

Before the Babcock test was devised the dairy industry was chaotically lacking in standards. Farmers were paid by the weight of the milk they sold, regardless of its richness or quality. Some persons watered their milk or extracted cream before delivery, yet received the same price as those who had, with effort, patience, and expense, been improving their stock and watching feed. The dairy factory paid a minimum price, which gave the farmer little reason to attempt the production of rich milk. Babcock's test, which furnished a quick, cheap, and simple method of determining the butter-fat content of milk, was announced in 1890, and thereafter both the marketing of milk and the improvement of herds were put on a standardized basis.

By 1895 five creameries in Marathon County produced 718,075 pounds of butter, and 10 cheese factories manufactured 51,114 pounds of cheese. Though the quantity of cheese produced was one-fourteenth the quantity of the butter, it represented only one-thirtieth the value. The fact that more milk is needed to manufacture a pound of butter than a pound of cheese accounted only partially for their difference in value; some of the difference was due to the poor quality of cheese manufactured, for haphazard methods of manufacture resulted in a product of unpredictable quality. Though Marathon County possessed a cool climate advantageous for cheese-making, the lack of scientific methods of moisture and temperature control made it impossible to standardize the curing of cheese.

In those days cows, mostly scrubs, were considered exceptional milkers if they produced 250 to 300 pounds of butter in one season. Factories operated only six or seven months of the year, for at other times so many of the cows were dry that there was no surplus milk on the farm for sale. Domestic manufacture of milk products, which had been going on since pioneer days, gave more significant competition to the factories in butter-making than in cheese-making. Though anyone could own a churn, it required too much time and care for individual farmers to manufacture each day's supply of milk into cheese,

and the vats in which the milk was slowly heated were too large for an ordinary farm kitchen. Cheese-making in Marathon County therefore was a factory process from the moment it reached any significance, while it was many years before creameries reduced the domestic manufacture of butter to relative unimportance.

While dairying expanded, agricultural progress along other lines continued. The use of agricultural machinery was facilitated by a drop in farm implement prices between 1880 and 1890. A self-binder which cost \$315 in 1880 sold for \$130 in 1890; a corn planter which cost \$80 in 1880 sold for half that price ten years later; the cost of a riding cultivator dropped from \$45 to \$25; and many other machines were reduced in price from 35 to 50 per cent.

This maturing agriculture did not yet mark the end of pioneer settlement, though a man could now buy his acres partially improved, and cleared farms were for sale. Unbroken land could be bought for \$5 to \$10 an acre, but much of it was sandy soil, fit for "potato growing" as a newspaper commented, "through knowledge of land treatment." As in previous years, settlers were offered the double inducement of salable timber on their land, and the chance to work for \$30 a month in lumber camps during the winter, or for \$75 a month if they brought a team to camp.

The State started an experimental orchard on the Ed Single farm. In the spring of 1896, 600 trees of carefully selected stock adapted to northern Wisconsin climate and soil were planted, and another 150 trees were added the next spring. Sugar-beet raising, encouraged throughout the State by the Agricultural Experiment Station in an effort to provide another cash crop, failed and was soon abandoned. There was always a certain amount of experimentation in crops that failed to become successfully established. As early as 1883, 664 pounds of tobacco were reported raised, but during the 1890's only E. Heimann was able to raise the plant, and tobacco-growing in Marathon County never progressed beyond the hobby stage. One of the first group efforts to improve livestock occurred when the Marathon County Breeders Association was formed in 1892 to improve the quality of draft horses.

In 1895 the county had 3,142 farms, 103,543 acres of improved land, 22,500 cattle, 17,500 sheep and 7,000 horses. Hay was the leading crop; oats were second with 22,000 acres devoted to their growth. Wheat was reduced in importance to 4,500 acres. Approximately 3,000 acres were in rye--an indication of the growing use of sandy soil--and 1,500 acres in barley. Corn growing had increased to 1,000 acres. Beans, peas, and apples were planted, and a variety of miscellaneous fruits grew in the farmyards throughout the county.

Marathon County products were now able to compete with those from any well-established county in the State. During these years Marathon County farmers captured the first of a long series of prizes. R. E. Parcher, a "gentleman farmer," received a bronze medal and a diploma for his exhibit of Japanese buckwheat in the Chicago Columbian Exposition, as well as honorable mention for the color, quality, and uniform size of the peas he showed. Marathon County agricultural exhibits at the State fair took first prize in both 1899 and 1900. In the 1900 exhibit the lumber industry was represented by sixteen different kinds of native woods, panels of polished veneer, a bale of excelsior, and a refrigerator of quarter-sawed oak filled with cheese and butter, 23 varieties of crab apples, 37 of apples, 12 of plums, 4 of grapes, and many cans of small fruit. The exhibit was embellished with decorating paper made from Marathon County wood at the Wausau Paper Company's new paper mill at Brokaw.

The scientific approach to the problems of agriculture continued to become increasingly important, though not without opposition. Even the Babcock test at first encountered some who resented the "meddling," and a local newspaper objected to the State's testing farmers' milk because the test was "very misleading and very incorrect. Milk in the same can will show a varied test depending on the condition

of the milk." But this attitude was not general. The creameries desired instruction, even if suggestions did come from "book-farmers," as University agricultural experts were called; in September, 1900, some of them hired experts to judge their butter. By 1900 there were approximately 30 cheese factories in the county. Home butter-making was in part supplanted by factories owned by combinations of farmers, and four of the eight creameries were co-operatives. The cheese factories were usually small one-man plants, and though the creameries were outnumbered four to one, butter production was greater than that of cheese.

The use of machinery continued to increase rapidly as Wausau dealers sold fifty mowers and binders in June, 1900. This year approximately 200 farm machines were sold, twice the number of the previous year. Scientific selection and breeding of stock paralleled the displacement of primitive methods of cultivation. By 1905 there were many breeds of registered livestock in the county--Shorthorn, Hereford, Aberdeen-Angus, and Red Poll beef cattle, Guernsey and Holstein milch cows, Shropshire and Leicester sheep, Angora goats, and pure-bred draft and coach horses. The Wisconsin Dairymen's Association held its thirty-third annual convention in Wausau in 1905, a recognition of Marathon County's importance as a dairy center.

The varied educational efforts were not without their effect. Marathon County livestock and produce began to compete successfully in the international field. Yeksa Sunbeam, a Marathon County Guernsey from Reitbrock's Helendale farms at Athens, was the first cow in the world to produce the equivalent of 1,000 pounds of butter in one year. Marathon County grasses, competing with grasses from all over the world, took the grand prize in their field at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, St. Louis, in 1905. Marathon residents began taking their stock to fairs in surrounding counties, and in some instances captured prizes. Taking advantage of the growing interest in prize-winning and competition, in the fall of 1908 the Wausau Merchant' Association decided to give \$1.00 credit prizes to farmers showing the best products in a given class on weekly market days.

The double purpose cow--middling good both for beef and for milk--was rapidly losing favor. Cows were bred for milk-production alone, and were further specialized as yielders either of large quantity or of high butterfat content. At first many farmers had believed that increased feeding would multiply milk production almost without limit. When Hoard had preached selective breeding throughout the State many years before, and a farmer would say "the breed is in the

corn crib; there is nothing in breed and everything in feed," Hoard would retort, "tell me how to feed a long, razor backed hog so as to make a Poland China of him!" By now the idea that feed alone affected milk production was abandoned and breeding associations were formed. Because an association could purchase and support a pedigreed sire that no individual could afford, many farmers thus could have the use of an animal otherwise beyond their income. Reitbrock, particularly, continually stimulated the interest of farmers in pure-bred Guernsey stock through the showing of his animals at local, State, and international livestock shows, and in September, 1909, a Guernsey Breeder's Association was organized.

The University of Wisconsin at Madison was a rich source of instruction in other fields as well as dairying. The County Asylum farm was selected in 1909 for demonstrations of improved cultivation of crops already grown and for testing new crops which might possibly be introduced into this soil and climate. This assured continuous experimentation and demonstrations instead of such sporadic trials as the orchard planted on the Ed Single farm in 1896.

Another effort to improve dairying was the State drive to eradicate bovine tuberculosis. When Harry L. Russell came to the Agricultural Experiment Station his education had already led him through the foremost bacteriological laboratories in

Europe, especially that of Koch in Germany. It was from Koch that he learned the principle of the tuberculin test which distinguished healthy cows from those sick of tuberculosis. Russell was convinced that dairy herds must be cleaned of the disease.

Most of the farmers found it hard to believe a normal-appearing animal was sick just because it ran a slight fever soon after a tuberculin injection. They naturally resisted the drastic remedy of butchering infected animals to save the rest of the herd. Demonstrations were held to prove the necessity of fighting the disease. At a Farmer's Institute held at Wausau in 1909 a tubercular cow was killed in the market place, and its diseased internal parts were exhibited for all to see. A newspaper wrote, "A number of people have suddenly lost their appetite for meat." Just a few months before, thirteen head of full-blooded Red Poll cattle, condemned as tubercular, had been killed. The State had helped the owner bear the loss by paying two-thirds the appraised value of the slaughtered animals. This was not an exceptional case. In the early days of the test, 25 head of the thirty in the prize herd of the University itself were found to be reactors and killed. Sometimes only a few animals went to their death, sometimes all in a herd but one or two were killed; but each year a greater number of disease-free

animals stocked the barns in Marathon County.

The dairy industry in the county had now assumed undisputed leadership over other agricultural pursuits. Of the 59,089 cattle on Marathon County farms in 1910, 31,284 were milch cows--a definite decline in the proportion of beef cattle. Though other livestock had increased, they in no way threatened the dominance of the dairy herd. In 1910 there were 24,000 sheep, 18,000 swine, and 12,000 horses on the farms.

The use to which milk was put had changed by the end of this transitional period, and in 1909 more cheese than butter was manufactured. That year Marathon County produced 2,472,774 pounds of cheese and 2,202,720 pounds of butter. The domestic manufacture of butter dropped from 62 per cent of the total county output in 1905 to 44 per cent in 1909. Domestic manufacture of cheese dropped from a mere .7 per cent to less than .08 per cent of the total production in the same period.

By the end of the decade, though large areas of the county still were forest, cutover, or swamp, 50,000 acres were in grasses, 38,000 in oats, 12,000 in barley, 7,000 in potatoes, 4,000 in rye, 3,500 in corn and 210 acres in fruits and berries, while more than 7,000 apple trees bore witness to the success of the orchard experiment begun in 1896. Peas, which had covered 4,500 acres in 1900, were grown in increasing quantities during succeeding years. As strains adapted to the northern

climate were developed, more corn was planted. Wheat growing had passed into permanent insignificance by 1910, even yielding place to corn. From 8,000 acres in 1900, wheat plantings were reduced by half in 1906, and in 1910 there were less than 2,000 acres. In that year not only wheat but the entire local grain supply was inadequate to fill the demands of two elevators at Wausau, due in a measure to a severe drought which ruined the pea crop and wiped out the marketable surplus of hay, oats, barley, rye, and corn. So scarce was feed that although some farmers had received as much as \$25 a ton for hay in early summer, many were forced to sell their cattle later on. To prevent a wholesale liquidation of herds Wausau merchants extended unusually generous credit terms and Wausau banks offered to loan money for the purchase of feed.

In 1910 there were 5,080 farms, an increase of 19 per cent over the number in 1900. In the same interval the county's population had increased 27 per cent, reaching 55,054; farm acreage had increased 20 per cent to 532,876 acres; and improved farm land had increased 27 per cent to 184,153 acres. The value of all farm property had increased 136 per cent, of farm land 147 per cent, of farm buildings 149 per cent, of implements and machinery 156 per cent, of domestic animals 72 per cent, and of farm land per acre 106 per cent.

IV IMPROVEMENTS

An established dairying signified the successful application of ideas which had been merely experimental a few years before. But agricultural experiments continued. The contact between new ideas and farm activities grew closer as crops, livestock, and rural mechanical, economic, social and cultural problems were scientifically investigated. The relatively short period during which land had been tilled in Marathon County had not permitted the development of ingrained, traditional methods of husbandry, insensitive to changing needs and methods. Alfalfa, first grown successfully in this region by Anthony Vetter in 1910, was planted and raised by numbers of farmers within the next few years. A large bundle of alfalfa with four-foot stalks was exhibited in Wausau in 1914 to influence farmers to raise this quick-growing dairy feed. Though not yet important in the agricultural economy of Marathon County, leaders are still trying to establish it.

Scientific aids for agriculture took a new turn as farmers themselves supplied data to be correlated at the Agricultural Experiment Station. At a meeting in April, 1915, the Marathon County order of the Wisconsin Experimental Association decided to hold two meetings a year rather than one. At that time farmer-members were experimenting with growing certified potato seeds and the planting

and cutting of soy beans. Agitation for proper land use received attention. Crop rotation did not relieve all the strain on the soil, and the extension service of the University was urging proper fertilization. In 1916 some farmers ordered limestone co-operatively, buying in carload lots. In 1917 S. M. Quaw, continuing his long, valuable career, experimented with rock phosphate, finding that it improved the corn crop the first year, though producing no discernible results on other crops. In April, 1917, the Marathon County Farm was organized and cows and swine were purchased. The intention was to maintain a farm on which feed would be raised for the cows, milk would be fed the hogs, and the hogs sold.

Meanwhile a new type of farm had been begun, one which reached its most noteworthy development here. In 1909 the four Fromm brothers, Henry, John, Walter, and Edward, who lived in the town of Hamburg about 20 miles northwest of Wausau, bought a pair of red foxes to raise for furs. Their father had refused to help them get black foxes, but on one occasion when he was away from home they persuaded their mother to mortgage a farm she had inherited for \$6,700, with which they bought three full-blooded silvers, two vixens and a fox. For a time they crossed their reds and blacks, but by 1917 had completely culled out the red strain and owned 50 pair of silvers. By 1921 this number had increased to

250 pair. Other tracts were purchased--breeding ranges, rearing pens, and open range--and the Fromm fox ranches became the largest in the world. On more than one occasion single sales totalled more than \$1,000,000.

The swift prosperity and publicity given this ranch stimulated the raising of foxes and other fur-bearers throughout the State, until Wisconsin now produces 40 per cent of the Nation's silver black pelts. In 1936 the Fromms held an auction at their farm, the first time any large-scale selling of pelts was attempted outside of New York. The sale was a great success, and the annual Fromm auction is now one of the principal events in the fur trade. Meanwhile the Fromms had experimented early with the medicinal root, ginseng, under the persuasion and guidance of J. H. Koehler of Wausau, an authority on the subject, whose own investments in ginseng were large. Though recently the market has been seriously impaired by wars in China, the crop for years was valuable, and the Fromms became leaders in its growth.

The entrance of the United States into the World War produced a shortage of farm labor. Wheat raising increased when in March, 1918, the State Council of Defense asked Marathon County to plant at least 480 more acres of the grain. The War caused also an increase in the price of land, and by the spring of 1918 farm values were very high. Many farms in the county were purchased by men who had sold

their southern Wisconsin property at \$150 to \$200 an acre and moved north to cheaper land. But the close of the War brought with it grave economic difficulties affecting Marathon County farmers. From its peak in 1919, within the next few years their gross income dropped more than a third. The cost of living, which had closely followed increases in income, did not drop so sharply, and agriculture entered a period of difficulties.

Until 1918 various officials such as teachers at the County Agricultural School had been engaged part-time in disseminating information about new processes and better methods among farmers. In 1918 a Mr. Swoboda, hired on a full-time basis by the county, became the first official who might be called a county agricultural agent. In the same year a Mr. McNeil became the county's first full-time 4-H club agent, doing work which also had previously been sporadic and relatively unorganized. The activity of the 4-H clubs grew rapidly and continuously from that time onward.

At about the same time the co-operative movement began its increasingly significant role in the agricultural economy of the State. The co-operative butter and cheese factories, when they first arose in Marathon County, were the natural result of the need of individuals to group themselves so that the specialized function of milk manufacture could be handled at one place rather than on scattered farms. Later

the vigorous sponsorship and support of co-operatives became a basic part of the programs of some large and influential farmer organizations such as the American Society of Equity.

Related in spirit to the marketing, producing, and buying co-operatives were the breeding associations which concerned themselves with stock improvement. Another co-operative effort toward herd improvement grew steadily through the second decade of the twentieth century. The Spencer-Unity Cow-testing Association, formed in 1918, and the Wausau-Marathon Cow-testing Association, formed in 1919, attested a recognition of the need for careful and accurate knowledge concerning each cow. Under the slogan "Get rid of the boarder cow" records were kept of each animal so that farmers could cull individual cows producing less than the cost of feed and labor. This not only brought increased direct returns but raised the value and reputation of the county's breeding stock. A small fee to the cow-testing association would obtain the service of a specialist who would test and report on a farmer's herd.

At this time 2,273 pure-bred animals were registered, and the varied efforts to improve stock, crops, and marketing conditions had a decided effect on the dairy industry. Dairying supplied three fourths of the farm income, and in 1920 Marathon County ranked sixth in the State for the value of its dairy

products, a value which had tripled since the previous decade to reach \$7,185,167. In the number of dairy cattle it was the third ranking county in the State with 54,284 head on the 6,058 farms. It is possible that the proportionate discrepancy in the two rankings was due less to poorer cattle than to the fact that a considerable quantity of milk was sent for manufacture to other counties. The concentrated rural population along "The Line" in the western part of the county sometimes patronized Clark County factories, and farmers in the northern part of Marathon frequently found the shorter haul to Lincoln County convenient. Convenience was not the only determining factor, for Marathon County was so predominantly a cheese-producing region by this time that milk for butter was often sent out of the county.

Creameries had reached their peak of 29 in 1910, then declined to 14 in 1920; in 1921 only 406,124 pounds of factory butter were manufactured. Farm production of butter, still a significant proportion of the total produced in the county, had amounted to 174,614 pounds in 1919. There were 143 cheese factories in 1920 and cheese production manifested great vitality, having increased almost nine-fold since 1909; in 1921 18,899,940 pounds were produced. The home manufacture of cheese paralleled this increase to a degree, though only the negligible quantity of 14,455 pounds was manufactured on farms in 1919.

Pioneer days had disappeared by now. With the vanishing of the frontier surpluses rather than crop shortages became the great problem, and the farmer began turning his eyes from the sky to the market bulletin. Yet pine stumps, whose resinous wood had resisted decay for decades, were still abundant. A new incentive for clearing these stumps occurred when surplus war explosives were offered to the farmers at low cost. As early as 1919 4,000 pounds of government explosive was available for purchase at the county agent's office in 100 pound lots for a mere eight cents a pound plus freight charges. Again in 1922 picric acid, safer than dynamite, was offered to the farmers, the government charging only for crating and transportation. About 2,000,000 pounds of picric acid, sodatol and pyrotol were distributed by the county agent from 1919 to 1927.

The assorted aids which the State offered dairying were augmented by the efforts of the farmers themselves under the leadership of the county agent. Dairy production reached a peak in 1925 which was not surpassed for a number of years. From milk received from the 6,717 farms in the county 26,157,447 pounds of cheese and 2,349,197 pounds of butter were manufactured; the number of cheese factories reached 150. By 1927 Marathon County ranked third in the State in total gross income received

by farmers with \$12,759,000. Sixty-one per cent of this was from the sale of milk and only 14 per cent from crops; livestock and livestock products other than milk accounted for the remaining 25 per cent. Yet the newness of this rich development was attested by the fact that there were only 57 silos per 100 farms in the county, less than the State average of 65.

Though dairying was more stable than most other specialized forms of agriculture during the 1920's, the collapse of 1929 severely affected that enterprise. The average price of milk dropped to 84¢ a hundredweight, the lowest figure in decades, and cheese production dropped to 15,991,870 pounds. Furthermore, though the price paid for milk increased after 1933, a very severe drought affected Marathon County that year. Farmers drove their bellowing cattle over the highroads, vainly searching for available pasturage. As feed crops failed herds that had been built up by years of breeding and culling were sent to the slaughterhouse, and the work of decades frequently had to be begun over.

In 1935 the 7,039 farms included 783,199 acres of Marathon County's 1,009,408, an average of 111.3 acres per farm. That year Marathon County, the State's largest, had more land in farms than any other county; it ranked third for land in crops; and was first by far for land in pasture, with 53.4 per cent of its farm area in pasture and 35.4 per cent in cropland.

In 1924 a new market for milk appeared when the first condensery in the county opened, and by 1936 three large condenseries were operating in Wausau, Stratford, and Marathon City. They manufactured 4,541,304 pounds of sweetened and unsweetened condensed whole milk, sweetened condensed skim milk, and powdered milk. In the same year 907,000 pounds of casein, a new milk derivative used as a substitute for rubber and bakelite, were manufactured.

Today the cheese factories use most of the county's milk. In 1936 they manufactured 20,496,099 pounds of American cheese, 497,500 pounds of brick and Muenster cheese, 122,863 pounds of Swiss cheese, and 117,403 pounds of other cheeses. Though there has been a tendency for cheese factories to consolidate, more than a hundred are sprinkled throughout the county in villages, towns, or at crossroads. In early days the farmer who took his milk to the cheese factory would return with whey for the pigs. Whey contains a great deal of fat, and after it had been proved that the fat could be removed and treated, whey butter was placed on the market. It is valued, priced, and sold much the same as creamery butter. In 1936 seven creameries manufactured 2,147,725 pounds of creamery and whey butter.

A tremendous amount of milk supplies the cheese factories, creameries, and condenseries; 3,477,000 hundredweight were produced in 1937, an average of 52 hundredweight per cow.

This milk brought an average price of \$1.56 per hundredweight, almost double the low rates of 1933. Preliminary estimates for 1938 gave Marathon County 108,000 cattle, of which 75,200 were dairy cows. About half were Holsteins, a little less than a quarter were Guernseys, and the remainder were mainly mixed breeds.

Other livestock has increased little or not at all since 1900. The preliminary estimates for 1938 gave Marathon County 22,200 swine, the biggest group in the northern district; the number of sheep had dropped to 8,000; and there were 14,300 horses.

In 1936, 310,561 acres were in crops, 94.4 per cent of them feed grains and hay. Clover and timothy hay still led in acreage, accounting for 32.7 per cent of the land used; oats were sown on 20.6 per cent of the cropland, corn on 11.5 per cent, and tame hay other than timothy and clover on 10 per cent. Indicating the decline of cash crops, barley and potatoes, though occupying twice the acreage devoted to rye, peas, or alfalfa, were grown on less than five per cent of the total crop land.

The total gross income of Marathon County farmers in 1936 amounted to \$10,827,897. Livestock and livestock products accounted for 78 per cent, crops for the remaining 22 per cent.

Income from milk amounted to 51 per cent of the total gross income; potatoes, the largest cash crop in the county, produced only 6.2 per cent; and 13 per cent was derived from sources other than livestock, livestock products, and the 20 principal crops. Though the county ranked third among the State's 72 counties in total gross farm income in 1936, it ranked only thirty-ninth in income per farm and thirty-second in income per acre of farmland.

Meanwhile a change in rural social life also had occurred. Of primary importance was the development of a system of good national, State, county, and town roads, keeping pace with the increasing popularity of the automobile and providing facilities for social gatherings and visits, church activity, educational opportunity, and the other functions of communal life. The 4-H clubs, with their broad programs of better practical farming, homemaking, recreation, beautification, and social development, grew to have 1,600 members, the largest in any county in the State. The Future Farmers of America, an organization seeking to develop farm leaders, established branches in Wausau, Athens, Stratford, and Colby, each with about 50 members. In 1939 the Farmers' Institutes were replaced by a series of meetings on the general subject of "Farm Management," held throughout the county under the sponsorship of the State University's College of Agriculture.

Under W. J. Rogan, county agent for many years, the activities of the University's Extension Division have expanded into a great variety of services. The county employs full-time a home demonstration agent and a boys' and girls' club leader, and also a part-time dairy leader. At the beginning of each year a special Marathon County Agricultural Committee, working with the Extension office, meets with these county leaders and sets up a program of projects, or goals to be attained within the year. Among their more important activities are encouragement of co-operative marketing, development of breeders' clubs, improvement of livestock and dairying, poultry work, and the organization of 4-H and women's clubs.

The principal farmer organization in the county is the Farmers' Equity Union, formed when the previously-dominant but waning American Society of Equity merged with the Farmers' Union, which had entered the County in 1932. Partly as a heritage from organizational work, partly through the exigencies of their economic situation, there are a number of co-operatives, most of them concerned with dairying and particularly with cheese-making. Other noteworthy co-operatives are a wool-growers', which markets its product in Portage; an oil and gas co-operative; and a co-operative burial association in Spencer. The Stratford Livestock Shipping Association is the second-largest of its kind in the State.

According to the 1930 census 68.4 per cent of the farms were mortgaged to a value of \$13,666,529, second only to Dane County. Marathon County is relatively new on the agricultural scene, so the amount of mortgage debt that has accumulated is an indication that its farms are good risks rather than an indication of decline. Farm tenancy, eight per cent in 1936, is lower here than in many other parts of the State. The percentage of farm operators working off their farms for pay or income is more significant in revealing the economic condition of the farmers. In 1929 37 per cent of Marathon County farmers worked off the farm for pay or income at a time when the State average was 24.6 per cent. By 1934 51 per cent of the farmers in Marathon County worked off their farms and the State average rose to 31.5 per cent.

The farmer of years ago heard only the lowing of his own cattle and was connected with his neighbor by a rutted road, a river, or a single railroad track. In 1938, 90 per cent of the farmers of Marathon County owned their own automobiles. Farm and Home programs came to the 63 per cent of the Marathon farmers who possessed radios; 59 per cent of the farmers' wives owned power operated washing machines. Many farms, however, did not possess other important modern conveniences. More barns than kitchens were piped for running water, and only eight per cent of the farms had bathtubs.

The rivers and the marshes are still here, as they were when John LeMessurier tramped north to Big Bull Falls, when

the Pittsburghers, disappointed and bitter, hacked their way to settle Marathon City, and when the "polanders," with new life given them, opened farms. But by and large the acres of clover and timothy hay, and the cattle grazing in stumped pastures, have taken for their own the land that forest once covered.

- (1) Wausau
- (2) Harold E. Miner
Hugh T. Moore
- (3) Words - 6,850

FINAL

Government and Politics

Miner
Moore

Government and Politics

In its political thought Wausau has always manifested a certain insularity. For four decades, from before the Civil War, when Marathon County stubbornly voted against Lincoln, to the hectic 1890's, when it finally refused to be stampeded after Bryan and bimetalism, it was a staunchly Democratic outpost in a generally Republican State. This was largely due to the fact that here particularly "low-German" immigrants had penetrated in large numbers before railroads and other communications made the process of assimilation easy. They began as a fairly homogeneous and isolated community, wanting only to work out their lives according to their own traditions, which they relinquished with reluctance.

If there is any clue to the rather erratic shiftings of local political sentiment, it lies in the conservatism of these German farmers. Their opposition to Lincoln's Republicanism was based on stubborn resistance to the changes demanded by the abolitionists and the prohibitionists. Even when they supported reform movements they were manifesting

an essential conservatism. When they went solidly Green-back in the latter 1870's, they sought not currency reform so much as retention of the system they found when they arrived and to which they had become accustomed. And later their acceptance of Robert M. La Follette originated as a protest against the technological and financial changes impacting ever more directly upon their rural, 19th-century lives.

I Things Take Shape

The earliest governmental institutions were formed and refined to meet the needs of the developing community. Walter D. McIndoe is regarded as the first man to accept Big Bull Falls as a home town rather than merely as a field of economic operations. When he arrived in 1845 the settlement had but the semblance of organized government, being included in the vague, far reaches of Portage County. McIndoe undertook the task of organizing the State Constitution which gained Wisconsin membership in the Union in 1848.

Statehood had its effect, and the nucleus of organized local government was formed on October 10, 1849, with the establishment of the Town of Big Bull Falls by order of the Portage County board. In the resulting election, John Stackhouse was chosen town chairman, E. A. Pearson

and Hiram Martin supervisors, Levi Flemming overseer of highways, D. R. Clement clerk and treasurer, and Henry Engler assessor. In the same election four justices of the peace and two constables were elected, but only Charles Shuter, justice, and Alva Newton, constable, took oath and went through the other formalities necessary to qualify. The rest were fined ten dollars each for their negligence, but there is no record of their having paid the fines.

McIndoe, elected to the assembly as a Whig in 1849, introduced a bill for the organization of Marathon County, with boundaries including all the territory north of the present Marathon County. The village of Big Bull was renamed Wausau and designated as the county seat. In a special election held on April 2, 1850, called to fill county offices until the general election of that year, John Wiggington was elected sheriff, Timothy Soper, coroner, Joshua Fox, clerk of circuit court, clerk of the board of supervisors, and register of deeds, Henry C. Goodrich, county surveyor, John Stackhouse, county treasurer, and John Q. A. Rollins, district attorney. In the general election, however, when officers were elected for the first regular two year terms, Charles A. Single became sheriff, Timothy Soper coroner, John A. Corey clerk of the circuit court, clerk of the board of supervisors

and register of deeds, Morris Walrad county treasurer, and Henry C. Goodrich surveyor. At another special election Thomas Hinton and Milton M. Charles were elected supervisors of the Town of Marathon, which at that time included the whole county. There were then four election precincts in the county, the polling places being at the homes of Thomas Hinton on Jackson Street, Dennis Warren on Pine River, George J. Goodhue on the Eau Claire, and George W. Kollock at Little Bull Falls.

Until 1852 county business was transacted in any available room, usually at the home of some official. In 1851 Thomas Hinton had begun a county building; when he failed to complete it the job was turned over to Hiram Calkins and Asa Lawrence, who finished it late in 1852 at a cost of \$325. This structure, however, was little more than an office for County Clerk Asa Lawrence.

Marathon County at that time was attached to the third judicial circuit of Wisconsin, which included all the territory of the Wisconsin River valley. Court first convened here on August 25, 1851. There after court was held in Wausau several times before the creation of the seventh judicial circuit in 1854, but either through lack of a courthouse or lack of crime, the terms were limited to one day; at

one period no session was held for over a year. The election of judges was set for "town meeting day" of the spring elections. Although such elections were frequently contested the candidates never claimed party affiliation; they were either nominated by the bar or proposed by the people themselves. George W. Cate was elected first judge of the seventh circuit in 1854 and held the office until 1874.

Not until 1868, when the third county building was completed, did the circuit court have quarters of its own. Until then halls were rented whenever sessions were held. The minutes of the county board for Aug. 18, 1851, record that four dollars was paid the "Sons of Temperance" for the use of their hall for a courtroom. In 1859 M. D. Corey was allowed \$33 for the same purpose. After this Charles Single's Forest Hall was rented by the county board at \$100 a year.

In 1852 the town was platted within the limits of Forest, Fifth, McClellan streets and the river, though the settlement did not fill out these boundaries until about 1860. Wausau was gradually becoming an important river town and a trading center for the surrounding country, and the need for public improvements was pressing. On April 5, 1853, the county board passed its first road tax, and in August it voted to build bridges over Moore Creek, Bull Creek, Trappe River, and

Pine River. Thereafter various petitions for small roads or improvements were granted. Nevertheless, the need for a good main highway remained unsatisfied. In August, 1854, it was "ordered that a notice be published in the Stevens Point Wisconsin Pinery for four successive weeks, calling an election of the voters of Marathon County, for the purpose of testing the sense of said voters in relation to loaning the credit of said county, for the purpose of assisting in the building of the South Line and Wausau Plank Road. Also that notices be placed in each election precinct for the same purpose." At this election the bond issue was approved 77 to 2.

This referring of an important public question to direct decision by the people is typical of the contemporary conception of local self-government. The officials were considered largely as administrators to carry out policies decided by the people themselves. In Wausau the period was brief; from this time onward the delegation of powers and policy-making authority constantly increased with the complexity of governmental affairs. As late as 1872, however, the establishment of a high school was decided at a special meeting of taxpayers called by the school board.

In 1854 the county levied a tax of \$3,802.28, which paid for salaries, court expenses, bridges, and a small amount

of office furniture. At the same time it was decided to sell the little county office for \$50 and build a courthouse and jail. W. D. McIndoe had sold the county the tract which still is the courthouse square, and upon it in 1855 Charles Philbrick built a \$950 jail and Charles and Thomas Single put up a \$650 office building. Even these new quarters were too small to house the circuit court. Next year the county divided itself into the four towns of Wausau, Eau Claire, Mosinee, and Jenny. Later other towns were created, and in 1861 the county was divided into three voting districts, each to elect one commissioner to a three-man County Board.

Local political organization was further facilitated by the incorporation of Wausau as a village on April 6, 1861. Previously the settlement had been merely part of the Town of Wausau. The first village officers were F. A. Hoffman, president of the board of trustees, Thomas Single, clerk, Henry E. Lawrence, street commissioner, C. A. Single and D. C. Wylie, fire wardens, and F. A. Farnham, surveyor; other village board members included Jacob Paff, John Irwin, and John C. Clark.

Until 1860 the only political machinery was a general caucus at which candidates were nominated more on their qualities as individuals than in partisan terms. With the growth of

population, the advent of newspapers, and increasing consciousness of party alignments, however, came a stronger organization of political parties. Early in the 1860's the Democrats began to call party conventions; since the Democratic nomination was tantamount to election, the only means by which an opposition candidate could be successful was to run as an independent.

Though McIndoe, Single, and others of the earliest elected officers were Whigs, the slight influx of German-born voters between 1850 and 1852 was sufficient to turn the party balance toward the Democrats. The county remained stubbornly Democratic for the next forty-four years in almost total disregard of what went on in the State and Nation at large. Not even the intense excitement of the slavery issue of the Civil War could swerve its allegiance.

The Democratic vote had a demonstrable and explicable correlation with the proportion of foreign-born in the population: while they constituted a third or more of the people, the vote was Democratic; when they dropped below a fourth, the Republicans came to power. These Germans had come to America desiring religious freedom and greater opportunity to make a living. Democracy as a political and social ideal meant little to them; they willingly followed the leadership of their pastors and their spokesmen. And there were several aspects of Whigism, and later

of Republicanism, that repelled them. The Eastern Yankees who dominated the Whig Party had a tendency to consider themselves the only true Americans and to look down on immigrants as aliens of foreign cultures. This attitude crystallized in 1852 in the rise of the American or Know-Nothing Party, which sought to restrict public office to native-born Americans and to withhold the ballot from any immigrants who had been here less than 21 years. The Whigs, furthermore, were generally regarded as the party of wealth; the Democrats tended to be favored as the party of the common man.

When the Republican Party was formed in 1854 it attracted many former leading Whigs, a number of prominent Know-Nothings, several Prohibitionists, and, of course, most Free-Soilers and abolitionists. The new party wooed the more recent German immigrants by carefully avoiding mention of either abolition or prohibition; in 1854 it exultingly pointed out there was "not a word about temperance in the platform;" but the opinions of individual Republicans could not be overlooked. The Republican stand on the all-engrossing issue of slavery was sufficient to attract most of the "'48ers"--the cultured German liberals who had fled to Wisconsin following the political persecutions of 1848 in Germany. But the slavery issue had little appeal to the Marathon County "low Germans", who knew

little and cared less about the fate of people a thousand miles away from their own struggles in the tough pine forest. Local Germans resented attempts to interfere with their beer-drinking fully as much as attempts to deprive them of citizenship, both identified with Republicanism.

By the 1860's the provincialism of this attitude relaxed somewhat without changing the result. Slavery was debated before capacity audiences. The first newspaper was Whig, then Republican. Still, most of the local leaders in all fields remained Democrats, controlling local political thought by their personal influence as much as by their politics; and, led to a large extent by its pastors, the county gave Douglas a substantial majority over Lincoln.

Bi-partisan political machinery was rudimentary until 1872, when, at a nominating convention held in the courthouse, the right of one of the delegates to be present was challenged on the ground that he was a Republican and a supporter of U. S. Grant. Admitting his affiliation, the delegate nevertheless pointed out that the convention was for the nomination of county officers, and had nothing to do with politics. The assemblage was then told that the convention had been called by and for Greeley supporters only. Three delegates thereupon withdrew; a Republican convention was called; and the system of general

non-partisan meetings was permanently ended. Until 1906, when the direct primary was inaugurated, party conventions were the core of local politics.

Public improvements in the city and county lagged behind the fast-increasing needs of the growing community. In 1859 the County Board had arranged to have the courthouse square cleared of stumps in anticipation of its use as a site for a new county building, though construction was deferred for eight years. Finally, in 1867, the Board voted to build a new county building, which was completed by August Hett on September 25, 1868, at a cost of \$7,500. This building had room for sessions of the circuit court.

One of the first acts of the new village board was to divide the community into two fire districts, each under the charge of a fire warden. The revenue from fines and license fees was set aside for the use of a fire department, and a crew of volunteer fire fighters was enrolled. Pails, poles, ladders, and cable were acquired to equip a hook and ladder company, but not until September 1, 1868, did the village purchase its first fire engine, a little hand pump. The following year an engine house was built, the second floor of which was used as a community gathering place and a meeting room for the village board.

II The Torchlight Era

Wausau was incorporated as a city on March 18, 1872, when the citizens secured a special charter from the legislature providing for the annual election of a mayor and other officers. The first election under the charter was held April 9, 1872, with the population of about 1,500 casting 425 votes. The village board, presided over by President Carl Hoeflinger, was in session in the old engine house when the newly elected mayor and his city council appeared in the room. After Hoeflinger had made a short speech congratulating the mayor and council, the board gave up their seats at the council table and the city officers took their places. The council was then called to order and Mayor August Kickbusch gave his inaugural address. The new officials--John Patzer, city clerk; John Ringle, assessor; and Bartholomew Ringle, police justice, all Democrats--were then installed in office.

Under the new city government plans for long needed improvements quickly took shape. Three thousand dollars were appropriated for grading the crude streets, bridging the slough, and making other improvements. To help ladies avoid muddying their skirts, planks were laid across some of the principal crossings. In 1872 the United States Land Office was brought here from Stevens Point. A boom in both population and business began with the arrival of the first railroad in 1874, providing

both new problems and new revenues for the generally alert and active local officials. The local Democratic power remained unshaken in the presidential election of 1876; Tilden was given an unprecedented majority in Marathon County and Bartholomew Ringle was elected mayor.

But then began the period of depression. Lumber prices began to fall, collections on bills were slow, and the hopes of the newly born city shrank with its treasury. Ringle's administration could barely maintain the streets as business conditions became steadily duller.

The election of 1877 came at the very pit of the crisis. Without abandoning their allegiance to the Democratic Party, the people of Wausau elected an administration which included a conspicuous number of important business men--J. C. Clark as mayor, and as supervisors, B. G. Plumer from the first ward, Jacob Paff from the second, Carl Hoeflinger from the fourth, and Alexander Stewart from the fifth. The city treasury was virtually empty, its principal resource being \$4,000 worth of county orders, based on tax-delinquent property and worth but 70 to 75 cents on the dollar. Little could be done but keep the streets and bridges in repair, with the administration barely managing to prevent the city from going into debt. The administration of Clark ended in a series of court fights in

which actions were brought against both city and county governments seeking the cancellation of tax debts.

Many people blamed the panic primarily on a contraction of currency preparatory to the resumption of specie payment, and the Greenback Party, founded in 1874, suddenly became widely popular. In 1877 Samuel F. Carey, orator, artist, and actor, came to Wausau to talk on behalf of the Greenback program. The effect of his speeches was electric. He completely overwhelmed his audience with word pictures of universal hardship, vividly predicted the ruin and distress to follow. A Greenback club organized immediately and established a weekly paper, the Torch of Liberty, with M. H. Barnum as editor.

The election of 1878 was the most bitter contest of the city's history. Friendships of long standing between politicians were broken as the entire political alignment of county and city was upset. Out of the turmoil all parties emerged with partial victories, but the Greenback Party, headed by some of the strongest elements in both older parties, was especially successful in the local field. Its leaders included D. L. Plumer, August Kickbusch, and F. W. Kickbusch, erstwhile Democrats; R. E. Parcher, James McCrossen, and Conrad Althen, former Republicans, and such orators as Barnum and Robert Schilling of Milwaukee, not previously prominent in politics.

The Republicans, ignoring local offices, concentrated all their efforts to elect T. C. Pound to Congress and J. A. Kellogg to the State senate. The growing Democrat-Greenback coalition, less strong elsewhere in the districts than in Marathon County, failed largely because of bitter personal dissension among the leaders. In the county elections Greenbackers and Democrats divided honors four to four, the former electing G. W. Ghoca, sheriff, Henry Miller, county clerk, and A. W. Schmidt, register of deeds, while the Democrats elected J. R. Bruneau, county treasurer, Hugo Peters, clerk of circuit court, and William N. Allen, county surveyor, and each party elected one assemblyman--the Democrats, John Ringle, and the Greenbackers, F. W. Kickbusch. For city offices the entire Greenback ticket headed by D. L. Plumer was elected by a big majority. The complex campaign thus emphasized the city's political insularity, for the farther from Wausau the vote extended, the less was Greenback influence manifested.

Tax litigation was rampant, and the new administration, already willed an empty treasury, was forced to face an increasing number of tax cancellation suits. To make matters worse a decision of the State Supreme Court in 1878 seriously threatened the whole taxation procedure, and Mayor Plumer had as many as twenty court actions served against him in one day.

Plumer refused settlement or compromise, had the statutes scrutinized for loopholes, and eventually made complete collections. For the time being, however, public enterprise was as badly stricken as private; the only notable achievement was the draining of the marsh on the east side of the river in the southern portion of the settlement, which had long been an important contributory cause to the city's appalling child mortality rate.

Meanwhile increasing settlement along "The Line"--the area near the railroad on both sides of the boundary between Clark and Marathon Counties--brought about a movement to create a new county. The 1877 legislature was ready to pass the bill; neither of the old counties opposed it, for the region was then thought distant and poor. Colby, center of the best-populated districts, was to be the county seat. But representatives of Spencer, Unity, and other sawmill settlements with relatively large seasonal populations combined to demand that the county seat be selected by ballot. The two rival groups stalemated the bill until the end of the session. By the following year the dispute had made both Marathon and Clark Counties aware of the potentialities of the region, and they strongly opposed the division. Although introduced several times thereafter, the separation bill was never so much as favorably

reported out of committee, and Marathon County consequently remains the largest county in the State.

The year 1879 saw a revival of business. The Greenback Party, its objectives partly attained, collapsed with the return of good times, and its leaders drifted back to their old affiliations. Schooled in the art of showmanship by the fire-eating Greenback campaign, they gathered full strength for the presidential elections of 1880. The Democrats, somewhat weakened perhaps, nominated W. C. Silverthorn for Congress in the eighth congressional district and staged a huge rally and barbecue in the courthouse square. Crowds of people filled the streets to listen to the speeches of General E. S. Bragg and Col. E. Juessen, a brother-in-law of Carl Schurz, who spoke in German. Then a wagon bearing a whole roasted ox was drawn into the square, followed by other wagons full of bread and apples. At the height of the festivities Gen. Bragg was handed a telegram from which he dramatically read to the assemblage the news that Maine had gone Democratic. The crowd, in a high pitch of excitement, continued celebrating throughout the day and into the evening, when speeches were given in Music Hall. Not to be outdone, the Republicans soon countered with a barbecue of chicken and geese, and with speeches by the congressional candidate, T. C. Pound, and a local German speaker, S. Koslowski.

Thereafter both parties held more meetings until the day before the election.

Again the county proved different from its neighbors by going solidly Democratic. Though the Greenbackers threw what little strength they still had to the Democratic ticket, and though Silverthorn received a majority in Marathon County, he was defeated by Pound, who carried a Republican majority in the other counties of the district. The entire Democratic county ticket was elected, however, and in the city J. E. Leahy, a Democrat, began the first of three successive terms as mayor.

By 1880 the Milwaukee, Lake Shore and Western Railway reached the city and a general industrial expansion was well under way with new factories being built and old ones enlarged. Tax levies in Wausau for city purposes, not including the State, county, or poor taxes, rose from \$19,406 in 1881 to \$48,288 in 1884. In the latter year the people voted in favor of municipal ownership of the proposed waterworks, which were completed in the fall of 1885 at a cost of \$115,000.

The census of 1880 had given Wisconsin one additional seat in Congress, and Marathon County was transferred to the new ninth congressional district of sixteen counties, about one third of the entire State. Although the new district was generally Republican, charges of corruption in connection with

the nomination of Isaac Stevenson for Congress over two highly-favored rivals hampered the party in the election of 1882. Though Stevenson won by a scant margin, the Democrats elected John Angle as State senator in the 21st senatorial district, sent Leahy to the State assembly, and captured the entire county ticket.

By 1884 the torchlight era was in full swing. Political clubs were formed by both parties. Local speakers held meetings in all of the surrounding towns and villages, and party rivalry extended even to the number of torches carried in the processions. The Republican Blaine Club opened its campaign with a parade and a meeting, with Lucius Fairchild, candidate for the United States Senate, as speaker. In reply the Democrats staged a larger procession with ex-Senator James R. Doolittle as speaker. Rockets and red lights accompanied the meetings and speeches were given in German and English, with Joseph Brucker stumping the German towns for the Republicans as the "silver tongued pinery boy." Again Marathon County went Democratic in the National, county, and city elections, giving Cleveland and Hendricks 3,358 votes to 2,144 for Blaine and Logan. When the news arrived in Wausau of Cleveland's election a huge bonfire was built half way up on East Hill.

In the spring of 1885 the controversy over the county division bill, which by that time had become a perennial matter,

resulted finally in an open break among the county board members. The chairman of the board had appointed a committee to lobby against the bill. When the board met that spring after the adjournment of the legislature, a motion was made to pay the chairman of the board the sum of \$114.60 for expenses incurred by the lobby. This motion was bitterly opposed by the members from the towns on "The Line" who had favored the division. They introduced an amendment "to pay the towns of Spencer, Brighton and Hull the sum of \$40.00 to reimburse these towns for their expenses in lobbying for the bill." During the debate which followed a member drew a parallel between this claim and the Civil War debt, using the words "rebels" and "secessionists" and throwing the meeting into complete disorder. The amendment was defeated, however, and the motion was finally carried, adding a final blow to the cause of county division.

By this time local considerations were becoming subordinate to State or National issues in political thought. Though local leadership and the local viewpoint retained a greater or lesser weight throughout the next decade of transition, as exemplified in the Bennett law controversy, still the old tendency to see public affairs purely in terms of the individual barnyard was gradually breaking down. Cleveland's position on the tariff outweighed Mark Barnum's plea for a single standard

of morality. When the German, Irish, and Scandinavian farmers left their clearings on Friday nights to talk around the stove in store or saloon, they discussed not the virtues of the fatherland but the President's veto of the dependent pension bill.

Thus by 1898 the tariff question was uppermost in popular interest, and although it brought about Cleveland's defeat, he retained his majority in Marathon County, partly through the wily debating tactics of State Senator Neal Brown. The Republicans brought John F. Scanlan from Chicago to debate the tariff issue against Brown. While he quoted volumes of statistics, Brown won the debate with the remark that "according to Mr. Scanlan's notion, when whiskey was low in price times were good and when whiskey was high, times were bad, and it may be that these facts may have influenced Mr. Scanlan's notions as to what were good and bad times."

In 1890 the local Democratic majority coasted along with the State-wide landslide resulting from the Bennett law controversy. This law, passed by the legislature of 1889 under the Republican administration of Gov. W. D. Hoard, provided in part that: "No school shall be regarded as a school, under this act, unless there shall be taught therein, as part of the elementary education of children, reading, writing, arithmetic, and United States history, in the English language," and also

stipulated that children must attend the school in the precincts in which they lived. The law was resented by foreign language speaking groups, Lutherans, and Catholics as an attack upon their languages and their parochial schools. In the State conventions the Republicans promised amendment of the law, but the Democrats declared for its outright repeal. While the Republicans attempted to defend themselves with the slogan "for the little red schoolhouse," the Democrats rode to victory on the retort "for all the schools!" So strong was the feeling in Marathon County that George W. Peck, Democrat, received 3,500 votes to Hoard's 1,391.

The Democrats were still in power during the election of 1892, when the county gave Grover Cleveland a large majority over Benjamin Harrison, and the Democratic county and city tickets were elected along with the congressional and State assembly posts. The financial panic of that year, however, ruined the Democratic Party, and by 1894 the Republicans, out-voted for thirty years, began an irresistible resurgence. They captured the congressional seats and split the local offices with the Democrats.

The panic had caused the city to fall badly into debt. The more than sixfold increase in population between 1870 and 1890 had necessitated large amounts of construction--schools, waterworks, sewers, and pavements. During the great

flood of 1886 an accidental washout had provided drainage for a large tract of East Side swamps; though this added much potentially valuable land to the urban area, the city now had the task of cleaning and improving the grounds and repairing the damage. So extensive were municipal obligations that during the incumbency of John W. Miller in 1894 it was necessary for the city to borrow \$75,000 from the banks. With only a few short stretches of business street having even cedar block pavement, and the others as muddy as country lanes, it became necessary to macadamize. A high school was imperatively needed; machinery had to be bought; the water supply at the new waterworks was found inadequate and a growth of algae was choking the mains. In 1895 Mayor H. E. McEachron directed the construction of the Seventh Street sewer, a new main sewer outlet servicing the middle and eastern portions of the city, and drained some marshes, adding to the chronic depletion of the treasury a bond issue of \$12,000. Six successive city administrations struggled with an empty treasury, until in 1898 the municipality had bonded itself to the statutory limit and borrowed an additional \$50,000 from the banks.

Business began reviving in 1894 and local politics were completely enveloped by National issues. During this period William J. Bryan and his demands for bimetallic currency

dominated the Democratic Party, while a loose third party, the Populist, had entered the field in 1891 with a program of bimetallism and government ownership of public utilities. The campaign saw a decisive breach in the Democratic ranks, the older Democrats standing faithfully by Bryan while the younger men supported the Republican candidate, William McKinley. In Marathon County the Democratic power was finally broken. The immigrants, now better assimilated, were less preoccupied with their peculiar religious or nationalistic viewpoints. Above all, the back of Democracy had been broken by the financial panic. As the county obtained increased contact with and appreciation of outside opinion, the example of national business leaders, driven more firmly than ever toward Republicanism by Bryan's currency program, made their party seem the representative of stability and prosperity. Though former State Senator J. E. Leahy canvassed the county for Bryan and the famous "Horr and Harvey" debate was distributed in thousands of circulars, the bright outlook which launched the Democratic campaign faded with the coming of the election, and for the first time since its existence Marathon County gave a Republican presidential candidate a slim majority. McKinley received 3,958 votes to Bryan's 3,829.

The rise of the Populist Party was significant locally in only one election--that of 1896, in which E. J. Anderson was

elected mayor. During his administration Anderson managed to reduce the city's indebtedness somewhat, though a new bridge was ordered and plans were made for the drainage of the eastern and southern portions. Wausau had long been clamoring to have some sort of State institution located here; now, having lost the State Normal School to Stevens Point, it was demanding to be granted the State Home for the Feeble-Minded. Anderson's administration, however, was merely a conspicuously isolated period of economy in a general tendency toward greater municipal expenditures, and by 1900 the city debt had reached \$195,000. Nevertheless, a contract was let for macadamizing Grand Avenue, bridges were built to McIndoe Island and to Barker and Stewart's mill, and Seventh Street was opened from Franklin to Grant Streets. On July 1, 1902, the city by ordinance placed itself under the General Charter Law of the State, and thereafter officers were elected biannually, as in other Wisconsin cities. Wausau thus became a city of the third class, comprising an area substantially the same as today.

III The Larger Scene

The Republican ascendancy continued in the elections of 1898, though the Democrats again salvaged the larger number of the county offices. The election of 1900 revealed an increase in the strength of the Republicans, who won even a

majority of the county posts. But the victorious Republican governor was Robert M. La Follette, whose popularity in Marathon County and in Wisconsin represented a greater departure from traditional Republicanism than Democracy had meant since the Civil War.

The election of 1902 brought little change in the general political situation. La Follette carried the election in Marathon County on the Republican ticket over his Democratic opponent, David S. Rose, and the parties divided the county offices. In the district Republican convention there was bitter opposition by Clark County delegates to the renomination of State Senator A. L. Kreutzer, for they considered it their turn to name the candidate. So intense was the feeling that the Clark County delegates threatened to bolt the convention. Senator Kreutzer was nominated, however, and won the election despite the fact that the Democrats named a Clark County candidate, expecting to profit from the quarrel.

In 1904 the Republicans for the first time succeeded in electing every candidate on the county ticket. This was the last campaign in which candidates were selected in the time-honored conventions, for the direct primary law, passed in the last term of La Follette as governor, took effect in the 1906 elections.

Despite the fact that Marathon County had been giving

Gov. La Follette majorities for six years, they were voting not for him and his reforms so much as for the Republican label he bore. In 1908, with La Follette seeking nomination for the presidency, Wausau sent to the Republican National convention the only Taft delegate from the entire State, Alexander Stewart. When Taft was nominated Marathon County gave him a majority of 500 votes over the Democratic candidate Bryan.

La Follette and his followers constituted one of two sharply different wings of the Republican Party whose struggle dominated State politics and was fought out in the primary elections. For State office, nomination in the hotly-contested Republican primary was tantamount to election. In this intra-party struggle the Progressive wing soon became established in Marathon County. E. A. Morse, elected to Congress in 1906, 1908, and 1910, was one of the early followers of La Follette; he was followed by Edward E. Browne, another Progressive, whose long career extended from 1912 to 1930, when he was replaced by Gerald J. Boileau, also a Progressive. But though La Follette's anti-monopolism appealed strongly to the individualism of the German farmers, they were by no means his complete disciples. Thus when Isaac Stevenson, an early follower of La Follette, joined the conservative wing of the party on his election to the United States Congress in 1908,

he nevertheless held his constituency; and James O. Davidson, who filled the vacancy left by Gov. La Follette when the latter entered the Senate in 1906, drew the Marathon County Progressive vote in two successive elections thereafter though he had joined the Stalwart ranks during the interval. The Democrats were generally unimportant during this period, though they did send William W. Albers to the State Senate in 1906 and Nicholas Schmidt to the assembly in 1906, 1908, and 1910.

Meanwhile the city debt of Wausau was being reduced at an average rate of \$10,000 per year, permitting the extension of water and sewer facilities and additional street improvements. The tax levy for 1904 was \$112,205; for 1905, \$106,793. In 1904, under Mayor E. C. Zimmerman, the city erected its own street lighting system and bought electric current from the local utility at 2 3/10 cents per kilowatt. But under the administration of M. H. Duncan, from 1906 to 1908, demands for civic improvements became increasingly pressing. New wells were dug for the water system, a water tower was erected, and some four miles of street were macadamized. By the close of his term in 1908 the city debt had risen to \$220,000; the tax levy for 1906 was \$136,467, for 1907, \$161,070.

During the administration of John F. Lamont, 1908-1912, the city erected two fire stations, added to its sewage

facilities, increased the water piping, and paved more streets. Moreover, it took steps to install its own municipal lighting plant, but was restrained by a decision of the State Commission of Public Utilities that current was being furnished the city at a reasonable rate by the private utility.

In the latter part of 1911 a movement arose to adopt the commission form of government, under which the city would be governed by a mayor and two commissioners. In accordance with State law, a petition was circulated and filed. The movement was opposed, however, by the strong German Alliance, a central organization representing several German societies, which believed the commission system an absolute form of government capable of becoming oppressive. At a public discussion in the Opera House the Alliance was represented by John Ringle and Anton Mehl, while the system was upheld by R. P. Wilcox of Eau Claire and A. C. Schmidt of Wausau. It was clear before the debate was finished that public sentiment was against the proposal, and it was defeated at the polls on February 12, 1912, by 2,000 to 738.

After the elections of 1908 it became obvious that the Republican Party in the Nation at large was badly divided. The effect of this breach was felt immediately in Marathon County, where between 1910 and 1917 the voters approved only

eight out of 21 Republican candidates for State or National office, and four of these eight were Progressive. The district's representatives at the 1912 Republican National Convention were pledged to support Senator La Follette for President. This convention was highlighted by the nomination of Taft over Theodore Roosevelt and the latter's independent candidacy. The split resulted in the election of the Democratic candidate, Woodrow Wilson. Marathon County gave Wilson 4,443 votes; Taft, 3,033; Roosevelt, 1,274; and Eugene V. Debs, Socialist, 597, an increase of 322 from 1908. The Democratic gubernatorial candidate, J. C. Karel, received 4,374 votes in the county to 3,865 for Francis McGovern, his victorious opponent; county offices were divided.

Meanwhile the city, having reduced its levies by drastic economies in 1909, was once more faced with financial problems. The total tax levy for all city purposes for 1908 had been \$204,456; for 1909, \$130,353; for 1910, \$154,262; and for 1911, \$168,823. In the spring of 1912 the net bonded and State debt of the city was \$255,000; in October an additional issue of \$40,000 in waterworks bonds was floated. Damage caused by the flood of July 24, 1912, made necessary extensive street repairs and the replacement of bridges. At the same time the people had voted decisively to build a new city hall,

an undertaking which had been delayed since 1906. By 1913, despite an increase of the tax levy to \$210,718, the interest-bearing debt of Wausau approached \$375,000.

The World War was a perplexing time for the German people of this region. Though they strove to live down the implications of their obviously Teutonic culture by surpassing themselves in manifestations of patriotism, there was a steady undercurrent of resentment at the suspicion with which they were often regarded, their enforced registration as alien enemies, and the hatred suddenly poured upon their most harmless and cherished institutions. La Follette and Victor Berger, Milwaukee Socialist leader and congressman, at this time won many friends for understanding and voicing their viewpoint, and for opposing the war before its declaration and the intolerances of wartime afterward, on the grounds of sane Americanism. In 1918 both Marathon County assembly districts elected Socialists, Charles Zarnke and Herman A. Marth; though C. B. Bird of Wausau, running as a Republican, was elected to the State Senate, he lost Marathon County by a slight majority. By 1920, however, this feeling had largely subsided; the county shared the Nation's reaction against everything connected with the war, and in its new Republican zeal even gave majorities to a few anti-La Follette candidates.

Except during the Republican division and the war period Marathon County gave little support to Democratic State or National candidates between 1896, when the party lost its local power, and 1932, the beginning of Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. Up to the election of 1934, when the independent Progressive Party was first tested, its vote in extra-local elections was entirely Republican save for the majority given the independent candidate for governor, Charles B. Perry, in 1926. During the same interval the Progressives made substantial gains. Though in the post-war 1920 landslide the conservatives captured State Senate and assembly posts, the Progressives sent E. E. Browne to Congress and Dr. Joseph Barber to the Republican National convention in Chicago. In 1922 the Progressive candidate for governor, John J. Blaine, swept the county with 10,652 votes, and the Progressives captured the congressional, State senatorial, and assembly offices. Dr. Barber was elected to the State senate, J. W. Salter to the assembly from the first district, and Henry Ellenbecker to the assembly from the second district.

The 1924 election was much the same, except that Miss Mildred Barber, daughter of Dr. Barber, replaced Salter in the assembly. In 1926 two changes occurred, with Matt J. Berres, Progressive, replacing Mildred Barber, and the conservative wing sending Otto Mueller to the State Senate to begin eight years of service. Between 1926 and 1932, though there were

several changes in office holders, the general party alignment remained much the same, with the Progressive faction becoming firmly entrenched in the county.

In the Roosevelt landslide of 1932 the county gave Democrats majorities for all State and National offices. Albert G. Schmedeman received 15,462 votes to Walter J. Kohler's 8,580; Frank J. Shortner and Frank E. Bachuber, both Democrats, went to the assembly with substantial majorities. In 1933 the Progressives formally abandoned the Republican label and set up their own third party, and in the 1934 campaign regained much of their former strength. The veteran conservative, Otto Mueller, was replaced by Roland R. Kannenberg in the State Senate. Rudolph A. Meisner, elected to the assembly from the second district, was the only Democratic survivor. Still heavily Progressive in 1936, the county gave Franklin D. Roosevelt 17,898 votes for President over Alfred M. Landon's 7,328. In 1938, however, the Republican resurgence completely captured Marathon County, with only one Progressive, John Dittbrender, assemblyman from the second district, surviving the upheaval. Otto Mueller was returned to the senate to begin his fifth biennial term.

Wausau and Marathon County have thus felt the influence of most of the major political parties in the history of the United States. Starting with Whig tendencies, they soon fell

under the influence of Jacksonian Democracy. From 1852 to the panic of 1892, Democratic Party supremacy in local politics was disturbed only by the Greenback flareup of 1878 and 1879. Thereafter, until 1934, when the Progressive faction split from the Stalwarts, the Republican Party became the dominating political influence, conservative at first, but leaning ever more toward progressive influence, which became dominant during the World War.

And while running the gamut of parties, the community has also sampled most Yankee political institutions--town meeting, caucus, convention, primary; town government, village corporation, and two city charters. Into less than eighty years of political identity the community thus compressed an entire evolution of the phases of self-government.

- (1) Wausau
- (2) Hugh T. Moore
Harold E. Miner
- (3) Words - 4,930

FINAL

The Schools

The Schools

In 1848, two years before the organization of Marathon County, Miss Katherine Livingston began teaching a private school at Big Bull Falls. The exact nature of this school is unknown, though presumably Miss Livingston was brought here by parents who contributed jointly toward paying her an \$8 monthly salary and took turns at boarding her. No more is known of this first formal school.

In March, 1854, the board of the Town of Marathon passed a school tax of half a mill and established the first public school at Wausau. Its original teacher was either "a young beardless youth named Rousch, who had six scholars," or W. A. Gordon, who was preparing himself to practise medicine. Quarters were rented; the first classes were held in a rough log building owned by Thomas Hinton, and the next year were moved into Louis Holter's vacant tailor shop on the southwest corner of Third and Jackson Streets. A few years later school was held in the west half of the Louman Stevens building at 211 Forest Street, the east half of which was occupied

by Silas Stoddard's shoe shop. From 1858 to 1863 the schoolroom, papered with newspapers and furnished with plain wooden benches, was used for Presbyterian Church services.

From 1856 to 1857 the upper floor of M. D. Corey's carpenter shop at 207 Washington Street also was enlisted for school purposes, classes being taught by Miss Mary E. Slosson (later Mrs. John Tuttle), the first woman teacher in the public schools, for a salary of \$4 a week and board. She was succeeded by Miss Louise Dexter (Mrs. John Peters), who in 1857 was furnished with an assistant, Miss Caroline P. Halsey, elder daughter of the Presbyterian minister, Charles F. Halsey. Other early teachers were Mrs. Daniel Kline, Miss Perry and Miss Cole.

Shortly before 1860 select schools began to spring up, the first taught in 1858 by Mrs. Harriet Wylie, wife of Dr. D. B. Wylie, in a building on the southeast corner of Washington and Second Streets. Classes were held in the front room on the first floor; the rear room was a carpenter shop; and Mr. Gudsole, the owner, lived upstairs. In 1859 a fire broke out, and two small boys sleeping upstairs were suffocated by smoke.

A second school was conducted by Miss Eliza Dexter in the basement of Judge Bartholomew Ringle's building at

213 Jackson Street. Other private schools were established by Mrs. George Casterline in her home on the southeast corner of Third and Washington Streets; by the Rev. Thomas Green in the building now occupied by the Dudley-Hirsch Provision Company on the corner of First and Jackson Streets, which then stood at about 206 Scott Street; and by the Rev. Emil Schultz, Universalist minister, and his wife and his sister, in the residence now standing at 516 McClellan Street. The first school on the West Side stood almost opposite the present site of the transformer station of the Wisconsin Public Service Corporation on Harrison Boulevard; the Rev. J. T. Gaskill, a Methodist minister, was the teacher.

Sitting on long crude benches with desks in front, the children learned the multiplication table to the tune of Yankee Doodle: "Five times five is twenty-five, and five times six is thirty." Mental arithmetic was standard on the curriculum. Wide-eyed boys and girls read in geographies imported from the East that here in the West Indians were in constant conflict with the whites, wild mustangs were taken by lasso, and large herds of buffalo roamed the prairies. But most universally remembered by pioneers are the McGuffey Readers which were in use from the 1850's to the 1890's. Historical America sprang vividly colored from their pages. Washington, Ticonderoga, the execution of Nathan Hale, and

Paul Revere were there, and reading really wasn't so bad an adventure with heroes. Spell-downs were often more fun than work. Every other Saturday afternoon the girls would help the teacher scrub the floor and the boys would carry buckets of water to them. When any boy committed an offense, every boy in school was made a party to the crime, and all had to write penitential letters home.

In 1862 the Old White School House, the first public school building erected in Wausau, was built on what is now the playground of the Washington School. The largest and most pretentious structure in the entire county, it was an imposing two-story edifice set on the edge of the village among the stumps and rotten pine logs. Here school was taught in 1862 and 1863 by Dr. W. H. Searles, a young man just graduated from Lawrence College. After him came James Pound, an unpopular pedagogue who received rather rough treatment during his two years of service. Occasionally he was waylaid by disrespectful youngsters, once he was thrown out of a window by an indignant citizen. Following Mr. Pound came six other principals within the next ten years. In October, 1869, the school census showed an enrollment of 57 pupils in the primary grades, 52 in the intermediate, and 67 in the grammar department. "Better school accommodations are needed and the people must soon

see that they could gain much by making necessary improvements," the Central Wisconsin warned.

In November of this year John Palzer opened an advanced evening school conducted in the German language with Woodbury's German and English Grammar as a text. "It is very desirable that Wausau should have a high school where people can educate and prepare their children for college," the Central Wisconsin commented. "We are glad to see our German friends moving in this direction and wish them success." In 1872 a class in penmanship was organized by D. J. Cole, and about this time also the Wausau Seminary opened, offering English, French, and German in 20-week courses under the guidance of Miss Schultz and Miss Smith.

Meanwhile, in 1871, a committee consisting of W. C. Silverthorn, R. P. Manson, and R. E. Parcher had urged the establishment of a high school, saying "It is folly to crowd into the common schools the higher branches of learning." They recommended procuring a State loan of \$5,000 and raising an additional \$4,000 by taxation. In 1873 the School Board called a special meeting of the taxpayers at which establishment of a high school was approved. The next year the graded system was established, presumably with high school courses included, though the date of establishment of the first high school cannot be definitely ascertained. There were no high school graduates for another decade.

Until 1874 the schools of Wausau were conducted under the County Superintendent's direction. However, after the incorporation of the city in 1872, the City Board of Education and City Superintendent, both elective officials, took over control of education.

From the first the city and its original superintendent, B. W. James, were taxed with the problem that persistently pursued subsequent administrations for many years--overcrowding. By 1873, with all departments of the White School jammed, the city floated a \$10,000 bond issue to build the \$25,000 Humboldt School on the grounds of the present Central School. It was the first brick building in Wausau, and had a seating capacity of 550.

Meanwhile the citizens were by no means satisfied with their schools. In 1874 a letter in the Central Wisconsin argued: "We have long felt as if the course of studies in our schools might be much improved if some of those which are of little use in after life, as algebra, geometry, rhetoric, the dead languages and some others, should be set aside, and more attention given to the natural sciences, such as botany, chemistry, climatology, meteorology (sic)...which have a bearing upon the pursuits of rural life." This letter expressed a growing trend of opinion in favor of more practical studies.

While this protest was gathering force, an attack from another direction threatened the very existence of the school system. In March of the panic year 1877 Bartholomew Ringle, who had previously served as police justice, mayor, and county judge, proposed to close the schools as an economy measure. "The amount to be saved," retorted the Torch of Liberty, "could have been saved on printing for the city or by eliminating some other form of public graft or incompetency." A little later the same paper reported that Ringle "now proposes to do away with a principal, stop the teaching of all branches except those taught in our common country schools, and make such departments independent of the others; thus destroying the grade of the school, reducing our school system to the level with the backwoods log schoolhouse status, depriving one-half of our children of any further chance to advance and totally destroying the chance of any and all poor children to acquire such an education as would enable them to enter the respectable field of teaching, in which so many poor boys and girls have found the means to fit themselves for useful and honorable situations in society...The old man is in his dotage, his second childhood is upon him, and he ought to be relieved from further official cares."

The threat had no consequences. In 1881, with a combined attendance of 1,000 as compared to 868 in the previous

year, the Schools were reorganized. The high school principal became city superintendent ex officio, thus precipitating a controversy that lasted many years as to whether the combined jobs were too much for one man. The curriculum was laid out in a course of twelve years, three of which were primary, three intermediate, two grammar, and four high school. In 1882 German was introduced in the school curriculum with Professor Philip Imig teaching it. He was followed by Hans J. Heise, who soon turned to journalism.

When the establishment of a new State Normal School was decided upon in 1883, Wausau bid for it aggressively. "From this region," said the Torch, referring to northern Wisconsin, "are gathered the principal revenues of the government and yet the appropriations of Government monies for internal improvements are given to the lower Wisconsin and Fox river, and the shores of Lake Michigan. Nearly all of the public school funds are gathered from this vast wooded district and yet the Normal schools are all located in the southern part of the State. Why should not Stevens Point, Wausau or Merrill have a Normal School as well as Platteville, Whitewater, Oshkosh or River Falls?" Ironically the paper won its argument but lost its fight: Stevens Point got the school.

The first senior high school class under the new system was graduated in 1884. It was composed of two pupils, Miss Elizabeth C. Rhodes and John E. Eggers. Reporting on the commencement exercises, the Central Wisconsin of June 14th declared: "The only criticism to be offered was that the two pupils graduating lacked training in elocution and oratorical studies and practice. The graduating class certainly exhibited strong minds and deep thought and research in the topics they handled, but both the subject and effect were injured by lack of just what was needed at that time."

In 1884 the free high school system was voted by the common council, and in 1885 Wausau High School was placed on the accredited list of the State University. By the following year instruction was being given in German, reading, grammar, literature, arithmetic, ancient and modern history, geography, and bookkeeping. In 1886, also, an ungraded elementary night school was established for those unable to attend during the day but who wished to continue their studies. It was especially useful because boys of grade-school ages frequently worked in the mills; it had an enrollment of 26 in its first year.

The city was badly in need of additional grade school facilities. The Humboldt Annex, called the "Foundry school" because of its proximity to the foundry, had been

built in 1880; in 1881 the Grant School had been erected on the site now occupied by the Pied Piper Shoe Company; and in 1883 the Franklin School was erected. Nevertheless, a survey made by the Central Wisconsin in the latter year showed that "all departments are overcrowded. Many of the teachers have from 70 to 90 scholars and are crowded three in a seat." The seating capacity of the six schools was less than 1,100, although the city contained 2,000 children of school age. Classes were being held in an abandoned carpenter shop.

In the face of this condition the City Council made an appropriation for the construction of two schools. The Board of Education, however, used all the money in building the Columbia School in 1885. This action by the board brought a wave of protest. The Torch complained that its business was "arranged by a minority of members," and that it had "little or no interest in the schools." On March 19, 1885, this newspaper revealed that "nearly one fourth of the children (on the West side) growing into manhood are non-attendants of the public schools, some on account of the long distance to the schoolhouse, but most of them because there was no room even if they could attend. Children now attending the schools on the west side, are only allowed one-half days' attendance...."

"But then, ignorance breeds submission to 'Ring' rule like filth does disease; besides the shining intellects of our local bosses are not supposed to look further than a glass of beer and an appropriation from the City fund for some selfish scheme of their own. But we appeal to the fathers and mothers of our city. Guard your little ones, by insisting on more liberal appropriations to the common schools and less waste in City government."

Meanwhile the allied subjects of compensation for teachers and the quality of teaching had been thoroughly discussed. As early as 1878 the Torch had bewailed the lack of ability among teachers, writing "It should be the aim of our school board to increase the grade of teachers. It is a mistaken idea that a person who simply knows the alphabet is by virtue of that knowledge, competent to teach the alphabet; it is a mistake to think that a mastery of the common branches is sufficient qualification to teach those branches--our teachers need more than these." The salaries of teachers in primary and intermediate departments were still only \$33.33 per month, while that of the principal, G. W. Witter, was \$1,000. The principal's salary was increased \$200 the following year.

While the public schools were fighting for better equipment, private tuition schools became numerous and flourishing, filling, in a measure, the need for higher

educational facilities. In 1882 Mrs. M. C. Hughes and Miss Fannie LeGross opened a select school in the recitation room of the high school building, charging a tuition fee of \$200. Other private schools were those of the Misses Clara and Lute Judson, who set up classes in the White School in 1885; of Miss Lute Single, who opened a school for children under twelve years of age the same year; of Miss Emma Briggs, who opened a school to fill in the summer vacation periods; and of Gearhart and Bardeen, who opened the Wausau Telegraph college in 1883.

In the meantime, parochial education was developing along a number of lines. Though pastors and church members, especially in earlier years, had always done some elementary teaching, the establishment of formal classes and schools had to await the growth of congregations with sufficient resources. As early as 1871 the Rev. E. T. Briggs had established a class of 32 in the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1879 the Zion Lutheran congregation established the first parochial school, with a Mr. Dornfeldt as teacher; this school acquired a building in 1884, when the congregation erected a new church building and turned the old one over to the school. St. Stephan's Lutheran congregation organized a Christian Day-school under C. Geise in 1882, only a year after the founding of the church; the following year the Rev. F. Kern,

pastor of the Evangelical St. Paul's Church, opened a night school at the church. In 1883 the Catholic Society of Wausau dedicated St. Mary's School under the management of Father Richards. Responding to the demand for a more practical curriculum, in addition to the usual public school subjects St. Mary's School gave instruction in sewing, knitting, and other useful arts. Four Sisters from Milwaukee taught 100 students the first year.

The fast development of the parochial schools, and the teaching of foreign languages in the public schools, aroused dissatisfaction in many parts of the State. Even here, despite the old-country traditions of the people and their loyalty to their churches, the Torch argued in 1877: "What would the advocates of German in our public schools think of a free school system in Germany where the public monies were taken to defray the expenses of teaching the English language to the children...This is America." In 1889 the Republican State legislature passed the Bennett law, requiring children to attend schools in the districts in which they lived and stipulating the use of English in the elementary schools. The Torch defended the law, saying "The free schools are for the education of Americans... In the English we all meet on common ground and here we want to say in plain English that right, truth, common sense and common

honesty demand that the teaching of the German or any language other than the English should be at once and forever stopped in our free public schools." But the people saw in the law only an attack upon parochial schools, a piece of Know-Nothingism; the Republicans were vengefully trounced the next year, and the Bennett law was repealed.

In 1889 the historic Old White School, its former glory now reduced to shabby dilapidation, was sold for \$225, the board of education keeping the bell. After that school was held for a time in a part of the building now the home of John F. Montay at 302 E. Randolph Street. During the ensuing decade the school system was considerably modernized. The combined office of city superintendent and high school principal was discontinued, and two superintendents were chosen, one for the high school and the other for the grades, thus providing "two strong men at the head of the schools." The efficacy of birching as an aid to study and good behavior was questioned, and new subjects appeared in the curricula. In 1890 an oral school for the deaf was started. In 1891, following the success of Mrs. Lillie G. Craven's private kindergarten in 1889, a kindergarten branch was added to the public schools. In 1892 the Board of Education placed music permanently in the program, arguing that it could be "learned when the pupils were wearied from their other

work and not able to do their best." Drawing was added in 1897.

In 1899, after two years of newspaper campaigning, William R. Johnson of the Lincoln School purchased equipment with his own money and, without waiting for the sanction of the school board, established the first course in manual training. His move was so popular that the board sent him to Chicago for a course of study in the work. The following year domestic science and manual training equipment were installed in the High School building, and Mr. Johnson became principal and director of manual training in the Lincoln School. "If nothing more it has awakened an interest in our schools where that interest was most needed," the Central Wisconsin announced in January of 1903. "It has brought home to the minds of many parents, who previously looked upon the schools as a sort of necessary evil, the fact that the school is for their children."

In 1890 commercial and physical education departments were added to the High School curriculum, whereupon, in the opinion of the Central Wisconsin that institution became "a model of its kind and the envy of cities that have less progressive and up-to-date people."

The 1890's also saw a continued expansion in school building. By 1897 it had become necessary to rent

classrooms in the Baptist Sunday school, the basement of St. Paul's Church, and M. M. Partridge's store building. Accordingly the Washington School was built in 1889, the Lincoln in 1892, the Longfellow in 1894, and a new High School in 1898.

Meanwhile interest in adult education was becoming more active as the State provided facilities. In 1894 a committee was organized to secure a University of Wisconsin extension lecture course. At a meeting presided over by School Superintendent W. R. Moss, it was agreed that Wausau and Merrill people should sponsor the project jointly to share expenses. From a broad list of courses offered the citizens chose one on astronomy under Professor George Comstock. The admission fee was \$1.00 for adults and 50 cents for children.

In 1886 the Wausau Business College, now known as the Wausau Institute, was established by Professor C. M. Boyles, with five students. In 1888 the business college and the high school cooperated in introducing lecture courses in Wausau. Instructors from both institutions gave lectures at both schools. Among the subjects thus taught were chemistry, penmanship, music, political economy, social science, government and foreign countries. In comment, the Torch stated: "We fully believe that the signs of the times

indicate that a great revival in education is soon to take possession of the United States, that the coming man is to be learned, that the almighty dollar is to be, with him, a secondary consideration, a means, not an end; that the American is to lead the world in Science, Art, Music, and Literature." Under Professor E. D. Widmer, who took over the management in 1906, the business college came to be a noteworthy institution throughout the entire north-central region of Wisconsin.

In 1893 Gillberry and Right, wood-carvers from Boston, opened a school of carving in Wausau, and Professor H. Glucksohn opened a school for Jewish children in the Business College building, giving instruction in the Bible and in the Hebrew language.

In 1895 the Northwestern Training School for Nurses was organized and incorporated by some of the leading women of Wausau. Operated in connection with Dr. Douglas Sauerhering's Riverside Hospital, it offered lectures by Dr. F. R. Zeit of Medford, Dr. O. T. Hougen of Grand Rapids, and Drs. W. W. Wilson, P. J. Taugher, L. E. Spencer and Sauerhering of Wausau. Six pupils were admitted for the first year and thereafter the enrollment was limited to ten.

Meanwhile county educational authorities had been working for a number of years on a plan to train rural

teachers. Hitherto country schools had been supplied by graduates from the high school's course in teaching methods. A hint of the inadequacy of this system is given by the fact that in 1889, among the high school graduates who passed the examinations for rural teaching certificates, some were refused permits because they were under 16 years of age.

After 1895 County Superintendent John F. Lamont spent two years or more investigating problems of rural teaching. His report to the County Board is of historic importance in Wisconsin education. He found that the current lack of popular interest in rural school work was caused, not by a reluctance to spend sufficient money, but by a conviction that such expenditures were unjustified in view of the poor quality of teaching. Lamont thought that the remedy lay in better teacher training. It had been realized for a long time that the State Normal Schools were unable to supply competent teachers for rural schools. They graduated 400 students annually from the advanced courses and only about 200 from the elementary courses. The city schools of the State employed an estimated 2,600 teachers, the rural schools 9,800; there was a turnover of 2,500 teachers each year. In view of these facts it seemed clear that the State Normal Schools would be unable to supply enough teachers even should the rural school districts pay salaries sufficient to hire

their graduates. Lamont's solution was a county normal school, which would provide properly trained teachers from within the communities themselves and would give local young people facilities for higher education.

In 1898, upon receiving Lamont's report, the County Board passed an ordinance establishing a County Training School for Teachers and appropriating \$3,000 a year for its support. This ordinance was illegal because the county then had no power to set up such an institution. Therefore Assemblyman G. E. Vandercook of Marathon County introduced in the 1899 legislature an enabling act, drawn up by State Superintendent L. D. Harvey, giving an annual State aid of \$1,250 to such schools. Backed by A. L. Kreutzer in the State Senate, the bill was passed and the "Marathon Plan" went into effect the same year. The school opened September 11, 1899, in the new high school building, with O. E. Wells as principal and Miss Rosalia Bohrer as assistant. It gave a 40-weeks course of instruction. Thirty-four pupils enrolled the first quarter, 40 the second, 40 the third and 44 the fourth.

Dunn County soon organized a second county normal school. Both institutions were closely studied by educational authorities, for they were the first of their kind in the United States. The success of the plan was manifest in

the first annual report of the school, which announced that at least five more counties were preparing to establish similar institutions. Commenting on the first commencement in 1900, when 23 teachers were graduated, the Central Wisconsin said "It may safely be said that the school has successfully passed through the experimental stage, and that almost all that was claimed for it has been accomplished." In 1902 Superintendent Lamont declared "the work of the graduates of the Marathon County Training School for Teachers is far better than the work of those who have not had special preparation for the profession of teaching. It is refreshing to note the clean cut, progressive work of the training school teachers."

In 1901 the legislature passed a bill providing for the establishment of county schools of agriculture which were to bear the same relation to the educational system as did the county normals. Still enthusiastic over the whole idea, Marathon County in 1902 established the Marathon County School of Agriculture and Domestic Economy, and Foster & Son of Ashland built a structure to house both the Normal School and the Agricultural School. M. R. B. Johns of Madison was engaged as principal of the Agricultural School, and Miss Emma Conley became assistant in charge of the Domestic Economy department. Boys were taught treatment of

soils, plants, and animals, blacksmithing, mechanical drawing, carpentry, and rural architecture; girls learned cooking, laundering, sewing, floriculture, home management and decoration. Academic subjects included English, history, civil government and commercial arithmetic with farm accounts. In 1917 and 1918 the school drew \$5,343 in State aid; nevertheless, at the end of the school year of 1917 the county board abolished the institution.

In 1904 Superintendent Karl Mathie reported an enrollment of 3,241 in the public schools, 773 in the parochial schools. The population was growing so rapidly it was estimated that two extra rooms would have to be added to the school plant annually to provide for the increase in the numbers of children. There were 11 male teachers and 68 female teachers. The practical subjects were still popular; 346 boys took manual training, 45 girls took sewing, and 122 took cooking. The parochial school movement had continued; in 1908 the Trinity Lutheran School was organized, and in 1913, that of St. Michael's Church. Both St. Mary's School and the Zion Lutheran School acquired new buildings in 1916.

The school authorities had been progressive in the field of child health. As early as 1894 the Board of Education had adopted a rule that no children should be

admitted into a public school unless they were vaccinated. Medical inspection was established in 1909, but a few years later this work was taken over by the City Health Department. In 1915 a school nurse was employed by the Health Department; later a second nurse was added to assist in follow-up work, and at present the Health Department is aided by the Children's Infirmary, one of the departments of the Federated Charities, which works in cooperation with the schools. In 1923 a free dental clinic was established, the equipment being provided through the efforts of the Kiwanis Club. For two years the local dentists contributed time to this undertaking; then the Board of Education took over the work. Meanwhile the school for supernormal pupils, organized in 1902, was supplemented in 1919 by a school for backward pupils.

Under the State law of 1911 requiring cities over 5,000 to set up vocational schools, the Wausau Industrial School was organized in 1912, at first holding classes in the newly-built Grant School (1910) and the Franklin School, and later, when the new city hall was completed, in the old city building. When the Central School was opened in 1919 the Industrial School was transferred there, where it occupies the first and part of the second floors. Until that year most of the students held jobs and attended classes only a few

hours each week. Facilities were limited, and it was difficult to give instruction in all desired fields. After 1919, however, a machine shop, a painting and decorating department, and a sheet metal department were added; the following year a commercial department was installed. Then as new units were added to the Central School, the Industrial School acquired increased space and facilities. The student body was gradually shifting from a part-time to a full-time basis; attendance at the evening schools also was increasing. Woodworking instruction obtained more space; printing and auto mechanics departments and an English room and library were added.

At present (1939) the Industrial School offers instruction in general metal work, drafting, machine shop, woodworking, printing, electrical work, linotype operation, auto mechanics, and welding. For girls there are homemaking and personal improvement courses. The commercial subjects are taught under joint auspices of the high school and the Industrial School. A vocational agricultural department, replacing the old county agricultural school, gives classes in theoretical and practical farm methods one day a week for more than 100 farmer boys, while a complete University of Wisconsin extension division freshman program, taught

by university instructors and giving university credit, has been added. The enrollment of 601, largest in its history, crowds the shop departments far beyond capacity and leaves the facilities inadequate. The evening school in 1938 taught more than 1,700 pupils.

The parochial schools instruct another 1,700 children. The Zion Lutheran School has an enrollment of approximately 200; the St. Stephan's Lutheran, about 80; the Trinity Lutheran, more than 300; St. Michael's, about 200; and St. Mary's, the largest, more than 600. In 1931 a sixth parochial school, St. James', was opened and now teaches some 300 pupils.

In the public schools the principal problem of the past 25 years has been the greatly increased high school enrollment, part of the Nation-wide popularization of secondary education during the same period. Between 1910 and 1938 the number of pupils increased fivefold. In 1923 a junior high school, consisting of seventh, eighth, and ninth grades, was created; though the enrollment in the elementary grades was decreased very little by this step, some of the burden was temporarily taken from the high school. By 1931, however, the high school enrollment was as high as before the separation, grade school enrollment had not dropped, and the new junior high school had 830 pupils.

The onset of the depression in 1929-1930 further affected enrollments. The immediate effect was to sharply cut enrollment in the two high schools, from 1,588 to 1,400. By the next year an opposite trend had set in, as young people who otherwise would have found jobs were forced instead to go to school. Since then the elementary grades have shown a slow but steady decline, but the high school enrollment has risen steadily. From 1,400 in 1929-30 it rose to 1,746 the following year, to 2,008 in 1933-34, and to 2,469 in 1938-39. In the latter year the total enrollment in the schools was 5,095, of which 2,733 were in the grades (compared with 3,469 in 1929-1930), 1,001 in junior high school, and 1,468 in senior high school.

Though at times hard pressed for funds and facilities during this period, the secondary schools maintained high and progressive standards. Under S. B. Tobey, veteran city superintendent who served from 1905 to 1934, and his successor, E. C. Hirsch; Ira C. Painter, senior high school principal from 1911 to 1937, G. W. Bannerman, who replaced Mr. Painter after having served as junior high school principal since its founding, and E. H. Boettcher, present junior high school principal, one new service after another has been fitted into the

increasingly complex educational system. There are now complete physical, chemical, and biological laboratories; the art, music, industrial arts, domestic science, and French departments have expanded notably. The senior high school library, able to seat between 200 and 300 persons, has more than 7,000 volumes; the junior high school, about 3,500 volumes. Guidance and aptitude exploration have received increased attention. One of the most valuable developments in recent years has been in visual instruction. Every room in the public schools is equipped with electrical connections for the attachment of projectors and with screens for visual work. Pictures for classes in geography have been gathered, and lantern slides and stereopticons, film strips and projectors, portable moving picture machines and sound film projectors purchased. Among the more recently built schools have been the John Marshall, in 1922, the G. D. Jones in 1931, and the first unit of the new high school, built in 1936. The value of sites, buildings, and equipment now is estimated at \$2,360,000; there are 173 teachers, and the annual cost of maintenance is more than \$300,000.

(1) Wausau

(2) Dale Jenson

(3) Words - 6,845

FINAL

Arts and Letters

T & C 4/20/39 MS

Arts and Letters

Though the men who came north in the 1850's and 1860's to mow the great pine forests and raft their logs down the rivers brought with them none of the refinements of cultivated living, they liked to listen to a good yarn well told or a sentimental ditty about the tender maiden who loved a strapping lumberjack. Most of all, they liked the ballads that glorified their hard and lonely profession. The man with a lively fancy and a knack for dramatic song could go from lumber camp to lumber camp, always sure of earning a welcome by singing for a couple of hours in the evening, after the day's work was done and the woodsmen were gathered around the bunkhouse stove.

The lumberjack bards of the northern woods constituted a new variation on the type of the folk poet, creating a distinctive genre indigenous to the day and region. Technically crude, naive in thought and sentiment as it is, their verse has a certain enduring interest through its honest reflection of a familiar human type in exacting circumstances and the flavor it conveys of a free, energetic, and, at this distance, highly picturesque life. One of the

minstrels of the pineries was William N. Allen, who came to Wausau from eastern Canada in 1868 and spent more than a half century here as a surveyor and cruiser in the northern woods. He became a great favorite in the lumber camps. His songs, set to such traditional tunes as "Erin's Green Shore" and "Old Lang Syne," were sung by river pilots and bowsmen all along the Wisconsin and upper Mississippi. Some of them were eventually published in the Wausau newspapers under Allen's pen name "Shan T. Boy," and the Harvard University Press has included four of his poems in its collection, Ballads and Songs of the Shanty-Boy. A characteristic specimen of his work is his "Come All You Jolly Shanty-Boys":

Come all you jolly shanty-boys and listen
to my song,
'Tis one I've just invented and it won't
detrain you long,
About a pretty maiden, a damsel gay and fair,
Who dearly loved a shanty-boy upon the Big
Eau Claire.

The shanty-boy was handsome and a husky
lad was he,
In summertime he labored in the mill at Mosinee,
When chilly autumn came along and blew its
blasting breeze,
He worked upon the Big Eau Claire at chopping
down pine trees.

He loved a milliner's daughter, he loved her
long and well,
'Till circumstances happened and this is what befell,
The milliner swore the shanty-boy her daughter
ne'er should wed,
But Sallie didn't care a cent for all her
mother said.

So when brown autumn came along and ripened
all the crops,
She lighted out for Baraboo and went to
picking hops,
'Twas in this occupation she found but little
joy,
For thoughts came rushing to her mind about
her shanty-boy.

She took the scarlet fever, lay sick a week
or two,
Within a dreary pesthouse way down in Baraboo.
Ofttimes in her ravings, she tore her auburn hair
And talked about the shanty-boy upon the Big
Eau Claire.

When this news reached the shanty-boy his
labors he did leave,
His terrible anxiety was awful to perceive;
He hid his saw in a hollow log and carted off
his ax,
And hired him out as pilot on a fleet of
lumberjacks.

'Twas at the falls of Mosinee, he fell from
a precipice,
And put an end to his career and all his
miseries.
The bold Wisconsin river it is rolling o'er
his brow,
His friends and his companions they are
weeping for him now.

The milliner is bankrupt, and her shop has
gone to wrack,
She talks of moving some fine day way down
to Fond du Lac;
At night her pillow's haunted by her daughter's
auburn hair,
And the ghost of that young shanty-boy upon the
Big Eau Claire.

Come all you maids with tender hearts and be
advised by me,
Don't be so fast to fall in love with everyone
you see.
The shanty-boys are rowdies just as everybody knows,
They dwell up in the forest where the mighty
pine tree grows.

They're stealing logs and shingle bolls, and
telling loves and lies,
And playing cards and swearing is the way they
exercise,
But if you will get married for your comfort
and your joy,
I'd have your choice to fall upon an honest
shanty-boy.

In the first hard years of timber-cutting there were few women in the vicinity of Wausau, but as the lumbermen brought their wives and started to build permanent homes here, a village grew up about the sawmill camps. Now there were dances in the tavern at Mosinee and, during the 1860's, at Columbia Park in Wausau. On these occasions the music was provided by a one-man orchestra consisting of Mike Rousseau, foreman at the McIndoe mill, who played his fiddle and sang out the figures of the square dance in a stentorian voice.

With the arrival of several families of German immigrants during the 1860's, agitation began for some kind of musical organization. The first was a male chorus, the Maennergesang, which was formed in 1866 and continued through the next five years. Musical instruments were expensive, but the villagers were sufficiently intent on providing themselves with entertainment to "chip in" on the purchase of band equipment. Twenty business men volunteered their services, a director was secured, and in 1867 the Wausau

Cornet Band was established. Henceforward Wausau was never without a band or orchestra to play for its dances or other public functions. Regular concerts soon livened the social atmosphere.

In the 1860's Frances Miller, first of Wausau's young people to attain outside fame in art, spent her girlhood here. She became a protege of Longfellow's and wrote the story of her life in a 254-page poem entitled "Edalaine", modelled after "Evangeline." Later she studied singing, made her operatic debut in Milan, and returned to this country as a singer under the name of F. Rowena Medini.

The village now began to feel the need for a public gathering place. Late in 1869 Jacob Kolter opened Music Hall in the second story of his building on the northwest corner of Third and Washington Streets, and almost immediately the entertainment field widened. The Wausau Dramatic Society was formed. Presenting four or five productions a year to the accompaniment of Frank Schubert's band, it travelled by horse and buggy to perform at other settlements in the county and even journeyed as far as Appleton. Eventually the leading lady left town, the other ladies married, and the society broke up. Lectures, elocutionists, society dances and band concerts continued to divert the population, which in 1875 numbered 2,820.

Meanwhile, in 1871, Joseph Welsh, another forester bard of the Wausau region, had issued his Musings, a pamphlet of verse published locally. On its title page the author gives a thumbnail life-sketch which could serve as the type-biography of the northern woodsman poet of frontier days: "The happy thoughts herein contained were written during the leisure hours of the author while engaged as river pilot, soldier, farmer and day laborer..." Many of these "thoughts" celebrated the local scene, embroidering it with the sentimental fancies cherished by the lonely woodsman:

The Maid of Rib Mountain

.... Her cheeks are like cherries, and as for her eyes
 They glisten like diamonds, or stars in the skies;
 And for her behavior it is very complete,
 Her lips are like rubies and kisses so sweet.

And as for her headdress there is few can compare,
 It is made out of roses and lilies so fair;
 And her lovely auburn hair, it hangs dangling around,
 All over her shoulders more softer than down.

And as for her riches we'll not mention it,
 She has riches enough, she has virtue and wit.
 She has virtue and wit and what would you have more?
 She has my whole heart and I do her adore...

The place where she lives is the foot of a hill
 Near the foot of a mountain where runs a clear rill;
 The place where she lives, if you wish to know,
 Is the foot of Rib Mountain, where tall pines do grow.

In other poems Welsh employs the racy idiom of the logging camps to record glimpses of the lumberjack's intimate life:

The Barber's Spree

When first in Wausau I got tight,
 If rightly I remember;
 It was one dark and stormy night,
 About the month November.
 I started off, as I suppose,
 For the hotel to look,
 The sidewalk came against my nose,
 At every step I took.

I found the place as best I could,
 The landlord looked quite shaken;
 He says, 'You have been plowing mud,
 Or I am much mistaken.'
 'Well, yes,' says I a little shy,
 'But do not look with malice;
 Took too much deckload up in town,
 And need a little Ballast.'

'You leave my house, you dirty louse,
 You know I am no fooler;
 Or Dave Burnett you just can bet,
 Will put you in the cooler.'
 'You go to grass, my dear old lark,
 Burnett will never find me';
 So I steered my course off in the dark,
 And never looked behind me....

E. J. Rifleman, W. G. Brown, Henry J. McKay and Orvis Vaughan also composed verse that may be classified among the local products of lumberjack minstrelsy, though they often went outside the usual field for their subject matter. Their work in this genre closely resembles that of Allen, Welsh and other poets of the timberland, whose ballads and ditties have in general a pea-like similarity.

In 1871, the same year that Welsh's Musings was published, several men organized a literary society, the Pine Knot Club, and established a private library in the office of the Wisconsin River Pilot; a second German chorus, the Harmony Male Choir, succeeded the Maennergesang; and a singing class was under way.

Gradually, now, the rude and democratic society of frontier days was being sifted and stratified by the rise to affluence of a group of lumbermen, brewers, lawyers, merchants, and realtors who, through craft or luck, were managing to divert into their own pockets much of the wealth from the river and forest. The first symptom of this change was the appearance of several mansions which sprang up among the commonplace houses in the valley. These monumental piles of wood or stone, with their turrets, cupolas, carriage porches, bays, gables, and plate-glass windows, indicate the presence of a social class possessing the wealth and leisure to cultivate the arts but lacking, as yet, a taste likely to express itself in any other way than that covered by the term "conspicuous waste." Perhaps the most active and influential genuine local architect during this period was John Mercer, who built many of the large, comfortable, and, in some cases, elegant old homes along Grand Avenue in the

1870's, as well as a number of massive business places along Third Street. Examples are the Wisconsin Valley Trust Company's building on the southeast corner of Third and Washington Streets and the Masonic Temple, 514-18 Third Street.

The nature of cultural activities began to change. Alongside the spontaneous creation, performance, and appreciation of people seeking only to express or amuse themselves, a sophisticating impulse was at work. While minstrel shows, band concerts, impersonators, and German farces continued to hold the center of the scene, in one sector of the community a conscious effort toward self-improvement gradually took shape. In 1877 a group of young women formed the Ladies' Literary Society. All had recently come from the East; most were in their early 30's; some were college graduates. Their professed object was "to promote intellectual and social culture in this community and to advance whatever relates to the best interests of the city." At the conclusion of its first year Mrs. Mary Scholfield reported:

"The idea of this society being composed of ladies was simply that we might gain confidence and take part in proceedings that we should hesitate to do were the other sex present. Unaccustomed to speaking or reading before other than home audiences it was at first difficult for the

ladies to manage their voices even before one another. But by persistent endeavor we are beginning to feel a freedom in conversing and reading that we hope will pave the way to a greater diversity in our programs and increased benefit therefrom."

A newspaper item of 1878 states that "The Literary Club has grown into one of Wausau's leading societies....They have complete possession of the lecture field, making lectures successful only under their auspices...The work and aim of the society is to elevate the public in ways of entertainment and to cultivate a taste for good reading and culture in the literary field." Between the years 1878 and 1888 the society sponsored lectures on such subjects as "Sherman's March to the Sea," "Incidents and Battle Scenes of the Rebellion," "Love, Courtship and Marriage," "Culture and Beauty," "How to Attain One's Best," "The Boy of the Present Age," and "The Future Life." In this series came Mrs. Abbey Sage Richardson to speak on the economic causes of the current national depression, which she assigned to lavish spending of funds when money was plentiful. The Torch of Liberty, usually polite where the Literary Society was involved, took issue with Mrs. Richardson, opining that the hard times around 1878 arose from the transformation of

productive circulating capital into non-productive idle capital by its being funded in non-taxable government bonds.

The effort toward self-improvement along cultural lines gradually filtered down to a larger segment of the populace. In 1878 the Literary Society had opened its own reading room with some 700 volumes contributed by the Pine Knot Club. As yet, however, the general public had little access to reading materials. In 1886 members of the Methodist Church Congregation organized a lyceum with the purpose of establishing a public library and reading rooms, which, they believed, would "improve, morally and intellectually, the standing of the community." Even the youth were infected with the desire to pursue culture. In 1887 several young men formed a Roman History Club, and a few months later fifteen others organized themselves into a literary group.

In the meantime musical and theatrical performances continued much as before, with the difference that there was a larger proportion of more or less professional attractions, ranging from black-face minstrel shows to Shakespearean drama, which the public apparently accepted with complete impartiality. Road companies and local talent occupied the stage mostly with light comedies and Gilbert and Sullivan

operettas, while the German Dramatic Society continued to offer farce, melodrama and tragedy to the large foreign population, and two brass bands competed for the public favor at concerts, dances, and political functions.

Music Hall, which for about fifteen years had been the only building in the city devoted to theatrical performances, was gradually outgrown; and the members of the Masonic Lodge voiced a general desire when they urged the building of a larger and more imposing theater. Through the co-operation of prominent business men, the Grand Opera House was erected on Third Street in 1883. From this time on, for several decades, Wausau was well supplied with dramatic and musical entertainment from the outside. Much of it was mediocre or less, but it satisfied the demands of a public only a generation away from the wilderness and still in the gimcrack-mansion stage of artistic cultivation.

In the year following the opening of the theater two German singing societies arose. One, the Laetitia, disbanded after a short time, while the other, the Lieder-kranz, became a force in the city's cultural life and remains today one of the oldest, most firmly-rooted musical organizations. The first director was Frank Schubert, organizer of several brass bands in the earlier

days. The membership was chiefly composed of the ordinary citizenry, mechanics, clerks, storekeepers, and professional men. Like its predecessors, the Maennergesang and Harmony, the Liederkrantz grew out of the spontaneous impulse of a musical people for self-expression and communal pleasure. This unpretentious purpose was reflected in the popular nature of the music it performed. Though from time to time the society has given its attention to more exacting work, it has continued to cultivate chiefly the field of traditional German folk song. A background to these efforts was the work of singing masters and piano teachers, which from the 1870's on stimulated and was in turn affected by the community's musical activity.

Painting and literature were being cultivated by a few people here and there. Two studios, opened in 1885 and 1886, were advertising commercial portrait work and lessons in portrait painting. In 1888 the Torch of Liberty carried an item on the work of a local artist: "The portrait painting of Mr. Dan Finney has attracted the wide attention of the Wausau people. His paintings are life size and his handiwork rates him an artist of considerable fame."

Poetry invited the talents of several local versifiers. Unfortunately, few of them were content to

mirror their own inner experience or, like the lumberjack bards, to depict the familiar facts of their everyday life. Rather, they were determined to be literary in the commoner meaning of the word--turning out a quantity of banal sentiment decked out in the hand-me-down finery of conventional images. "A Poem," offered by the local press of 1885, is a representative example:

Morn, gray eyed, cloud-vestured maid.
 Her face a flush of rosy light,
 Peered coyly through the portals of departing gloom
 And roused the sleeping night;
 Whose paled face
 Set moonwise, in the midnight of her hair,
 Which tumbling fell o'er shoulders bare,
 A sprayless cataract of shredded silk,
 Rich sown with fire flies--
 Had gathered whiteness
 From a swooning moon now fled.
 From aqueous depths of chalice deep, she
 Drew beam-tinted dew, and quenched the
 Astral embers of Night's bivouac.
 And yet, more pondrous kind, she loved the languid
 eyes
 That spoke of wine quaffed late--of poppy draughts
 and dreams....

More interesting was the prose work of Neal Brown, lawyer, politician, business man, and civic leader. Brown was born in Jefferson County, attended the State University Law School, and by 1880 was a successful lawyer in Wausau. Later he held an influential position in the legal department of the Law and Land Association. Versatile and energetic, he soon engaged in numerous large-scale business

enterprises and entered politics as a Democrat, being several times elected to the State legislature. Brown's intellectual interests presently led him to take up literature as an avocation. He contributed regularly to the newspapers--most often on his pet subject, the tariff--and, beginning in 1893, published several volumes of essays and biography, Critical Confessions, Orthodoxy and Heterodoxy, John Marshall, and others. A lover of nature and the rustic life, Mr. Brown took pride in his origin, often asserting that there was no work on the farm which he had not done or could not do; frequently he drew upon this background for the writings through which he acquired a local reputation as a litterateur and homespun philosopher.

In 1891 the Grand Opera House was reconditioned. As for several seasons past, its stage was now occupied every Monday night through the winter months by itinerant troupes which "played" Wausau as a "one-night-stand" en route from Madison or Milwaukee to St. Paul. The bulk of the attractions were still melodramas, farces, musical shows, and sentimental romances: "The Paris Gayety Girls," "The Twelve Temptations," "The Sea King Opera Company," "Lew Dockstader's Minstrels," "Evangeline," "A Parlor Match," "All the Comforts of Home," "The Stowaway," "Held

by the Enemy," "The Waifs of New York," "Michael Strogoff," or "the great military drama," "Shenandoah."

Such dramatic stars as Frederick Warde, Julia Marlowe, and the celebrated tragic actress Clara Morris played here briefly in their tours over the continent, acting Shakespearean drama or the rhetorical concoctions in vogue through this era. In December, 1891, came Thomas W. Keene, a respectable provincial tragedian, who captured the town with his vivid, melodramatic portrayal of King Richard the Third. The Torch of Liberty, reviewing this performance, gives a hint of the quality of critical writing in the day and region: "...While we cannot repress the thought that such plays are better adapted to the war-like times in which they were written, they still have their uses. To show how vaulting ambition o'erleaps itself, and evil deeds come back to plague the guilty conscience, and how empty and shallow all the fancied joys that are sought at cost of others' rights, this play is a most vivid illustration, and to such evils fits all times and all people." In 1892 the Grand Opera House burned, and for the next seven years Alexander and Music Halls were the chief seats of public entertainment.

"It is a regrettable fact," editorially asserted the Central Wisconsin for April 14, 1898, "that there is

so great lack of interest in musical matters in Wausau. Music should be in our schools, choirs in our churches and a musical organization formed to stimulate sufficient interest to carry out musical programmes for the music-loving public." The following year saw the establishment of the Third Regiment Band. Under the direction of F. G. Dana the band gave weekly concerts in the courthouse square and made a tour of the eastern states on the way to a G.A.R. encampment week in Washington, D. C. When Dana's prospective departure threatened the organization's existence, several business men formed the Wausau Band Association and subscribed funds for retaining this indispensable leader. Meanwhile, still another German choral society, the Eichenkranz, was organized, and occasional concert troupes continued to whet the taste of the musical public.

The most emphatic response to the Central Wisconsin's call, however, came in 1896, when a school teacher and several other musically inclined ladies formed the Tuesday Musical Club. The aims of this organization, set forth in its charter, were: "To raise the standard of music appreciation in Wausau and to encourage further study of those whose educational advantages have been

along the line of music:--also to bring, from time to time, artists of note." Meetings were first held every two weeks at the members' homes, and the club undertook occasional concerts for the benefit of local young people studying in distant cities.

Under the beguiling head "Harmony Amidst Harmonious Settings," a local reporter of the time described one of these musicales: "In point of attendance it was a crush--in point of merit it was a gem, and in point of general result it was a complete success...The Audience was notable in that it was thoroughly representative of Wausau society, but it was not always as appreciative as it should have been. The program was well built up. The central figure of part one was, of course, the Chopin Nocturne, and the steps which led to it were of easy gradation... That melody was more popular with the audience than harmony, was evidenced by the hearty reception accorded Gambuzzi's Fisherman..." So great was the community's interest in the activities of the Musical Club that many townspeople were soon asking for permission to attend regular meetings, with the result that two years later the membership was increased. In 1899 the club joined the National Federation of Music Clubs. In 1906 the organization purchased a

grand piano and transferred its meetings to the newly-built Wausau Club.

Meanwhile Franz Winninger, an Austrian-born musician who had been teaching and conducting in Ashland for some years, settled in Wausau and took over the management of Columbia Hall as a concert and amusement place. The performances consisted of musical selections from a brass band led by Mr. Winninger, and songs, sketches, and acrobatics contributed by his daughter and five sons. Eventually the family left Wausau to go "on the road," and later split up into dramatic stock companies which toured the country for several years. The youngest son, Charles, subsequently appeared on the stage in New York and is now well known as a cinema and radio comedian. Another noteworthy local artist of the decade was Charlotte Lynn Campbell, soprano, who was designated to represent the State at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1892. Later she studied in London and Paris, did drawing-room and operatic singing in London, and toured this continent as soloist with an orchestra. Eventually she became a noted church singer in Boston.

The mobilizing of musical forces gathered momentum with the arrival of Jacob Reuter, a violinist of some note.

As a child prodigy Reuter had studied under the famous Willem Moebius and at fifteen had embarked on the career of a virtuoso violinist. But since, in these days, a foreign reputation was practically essential for musical success in the United States, he eventually turned to teaching and settled in Milwaukee. Toward the close of the 1890's Reuter came to Wausau as a teacher and immediately took a prominent part in the musical activities of the community.

Late in 1897 he organized the Philharmonic Society, a symphonic orchestra composed of local musicians and amateurs. After its early demise he formed the Beethoven String Quartette with Franz Winninger, Otto Mueller, and Miss Theresa Winninger. During the season of 1898-1899 he gave a series of concerts artistiques, with the assistance of local talent, playing music of Beethoven and Haydn, as well as selections from the violinist's standard repertoire--Paganini, Sarasate, Vieuxtemps, Wieniawski. Other recitals followed; and Reuter, finding the public responsive both to his violin artistry and his teaching, decided to remain in Wausau, to whose musical culture he has since contributed as teacher, organizer, soloist and composer.

In 1899 a second Opera House, soon renamed The Grand Theater, was erected on Fourth Street, to remain for several years the local center for dramatic and musical performances. As before, a variety of "road shows" alternated with home-town theatricals and concerts. In 1903 the Tuesday Musical Club ventured into the field of light opera with a presentation of "The Bohemian Girl." The favorable reception of this work encouraged the club to undertake further performances, and its productions of the standard operettas became annual events.

By this time the population was beginning to lose its Germanic character; the influx of immigrants had diminished, and there was now a new generation of native-born German-Americans, many of whom had little more than a nodding acquaintance with the institutions and language of their parents. It became increasingly difficult to find new blood for the distinctively German cultural groups, which had not as yet begun to adapt themselves to the changing conditions. German theatricals were now limited to sporadic performances, and their chief musical organization, the Liederkrantz, managed to get through the difficult period of transition only by a liberal transfusion from the corpse of the recently defunct Eichenkrantz.

Meanwhile the English and older American elements of the population had begun to take an interest in musical affairs. The first sign of a new, naturalized order of cultural effort was the formation in 1905 of the Wausau Choral Society, a mixed choir of 100 voices. This organization gave the younger, English-speaking generation an opportunity for musical expression and served the community at large by enabling it to hear choral works like "The Messiah" and the more exacting light operatic fare. Under the direction of its founders, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Howard, professional singers and teachers, the society enjoyed a few years of considerable influence, then, with their departure, quickly disintegrated. The Liederkranz managed to "carry on" in spite of language difficulties. On April 12, 1909, it celebrated its first quarter-century of existence with a silver jubilee festival, and during the next year and a quarter appeared at Merrill and Medford for the festivities of the Northwest Wisconsin Circuit of German Singing Societies, of which it was a member. In the meantime the Tuesday Musical Club had established a regular winter concert series, bringing to Wausau artists and musical organizations of the first rank; and the German churches, St. Paul's and St. Stephen's, were inaugurating juvenile bands and choirs in their Sunday schools.

Through these years of intensified musical activity, Wausau was also experiencing a renewal of literary interest. From 1897 on the city made annual contributions varying from \$600 to \$1,750 to the support of a public library which had grown out of the Pine Knot Club's gift to the Ladies' Literary Society in 1871. As yet, however, there was no permanent reading room, the books being housed at one time in the courthouse, at another in a vacant store-building. Finally, in 1907, the taxpayers subscribed the funds required by the Carnegie Foundation for a library grant, and the present Public Library building was erected and stocked.

During the same period there was a spurt of creative effort. In 1897 Edgar T. Wheelock and William H. Ellis established The Philosopher Press and began to issue The Philosopher, a Monthly Journal of Literature. In accordance with its motto, "Thoughtful, But Not Too Thoughtful," this magazine devoted itself principally to whimsical sketches, sentimental verse, and a department of quasi-philosophical observations, entitled "The Smoking Room", varying this fare of literary fluff with an occasional essay or story by such established authors as Zona Gale and William Allen White.

In 1903 the Press, which after its first issue had been taken over by Ellis and Mr. and Mrs. Philip V. O. Van Vechten, undertook to publish books by local writers, chief among whom was ^{Thomas} ~~William~~ Curran Ryan. Some of their bindings made to special order and hand-printed by Mrs. Van Vechten were notable for their typography and presswork. Out of his experiences as a lawyer Mr. Ryan, in 1903, wrote O'Hooligan's Fine Forms, a satire on the appellate courts; on the subjects of his special interest, astronomy and the philosophical aspects of religion, he produced two studies, entitled Intellectual Religion and Finite and Infinite. In the latter, according to a local historian, "he anticipated Einstein's limited universe at a time when this was heresy among philosophers," and "his theories were attacked and defended by leading scientists both in our country and in Europe." Eventually The Philosopher declined into a partisan political organ and turned to opposing William Jennings Bryan, Senator Robert M. La Follette, Sr., and other liberals in their attacks upon the trusts and railroads; in 1907 it suspended publication. Its office, known as The Log Cabin, was bought by the Christian Scientist congregation in 1912 and remodelled as a church. The machinery, name and

goodwill were taken over by Ed Steckel, who still operates a job printing shop under the old name.

The newspapers continued to offer a quantity of casual verse, submitted, for the most part, by subscribers; while now and then a pamphlet of verse from the hand of some business man, teacher, or lady-of-leisure would appear, privately printed. Among these publications was a miscellany by William J. McKay, one of Wausau's lumberjack bards. Now, also, a number of technical books began to be issued by professional men of the city. John H. Koehler edited the Ginseng and Golden Seal Growers' Handbook in 1898; in 1899 Dr. William A. Fricke, vice president and general manager of the Great Northern Life Insurance Company, published a text-book on life insurance, following it three years later with his Law of Distribution of Surplus Life Insurance Companies; and in 1905 appeared Dr. Miller's Dental Family's Friend. Meanwhile painting was being taught by Miss Charlotte Blaurock who had recently returned from several years of study in Europe.

Through these and the several following years, the Ladies' Literary Society continued to bring prominent speakers to Wausau, and for a time formed a university extension class, with lecturers from Madison. Aside from the usual contributions to the newspapers, for some time

after the Philosopher ceased publication there was little creative work which reached publication. In 1912 Ryan's Intellectual Religion appeared posthumously, and Judge Louis Marchetti published his History of Marathon County, the only comprehensive work of its kind until 1939. Three years later Frank Cramer published The Case of the People Versus the Lawyers and Courts, the earliest of several books by this author--The Method of Darwin, Triumphs & Failures of Medicine, How to Study, and Across the Desert With a Donkey.

In Wausau, as everywhere else, the World War considerably changed the complexion of cultural life. As a German-language organization the Liederkranz became the butt of jingoistic fervor, and the loyalty of its members was several times publicly questioned. Nevertheless it carried through its usual program, with the difference that the repertory was extended to include English and American, as well as German songs. Like the Tuesday Musical Club, the society also turned its efforts toward charitable work, singing for Red Cross and other benefits, and later it donated funds to the starving peoples of Germany and Austria--all to such purpose that its subsequent concerts were exempt from the post-war tax on amusements.

During this period there were regular public gatherings at which the community entertained itself by singing war ditties and listening to the rousing patriotic speeches of civic leaders. Wausau literature likewise registered the temper of the war years in the patriotic effusions, in verse or prose, which such times commonly evoke.

Through the early 1920's, William Allen, who had made Wausau his home for some fifty years, under his old pen name, Shan T. Boy, contributed to the newspapers a series of such satirical verses on national politics as the following:

I Do Not Choose to Run

...Supreme Court judges tried in vain
To find what Calvin meant,
And often asked him to explain,
What was his real intent.
But Calvin shut up like a clam,
As silent as a nun,
And said, in words severe and calm,
"I do not choose to run."

...And now he's in the Badger State,
Where summer days are cool.
He's on an oil magnate's estate,
Upon the river Brule,
With ten pound padlock on his gate,
All lumberjacks he'll shun,
And to himself he'll iterate,
"I do not choose to run."

...But of all beasts that roam the wood,
The Hodag "takes the cake,"
For when he seeks his daily food,
He makes the pine trees shake.
He is a beast of monstrous size,
He weighs a half a ton.
'Tis plainly seen in his fierce eyes,
He does not choose to run.

...When Calvin roams the northern wood,
On Lake Superior's shore,
Should meet a Hodag seeking food
And hear his awful roar,
He'll throw away his fishing rod,
His reel and fancy gun
And whisper to himself, "My God,
I think I choose to run."

From time to time Allen also printed poems on homely subjects and a quantity of nostalgic rhymed reminiscence of the lumbering days.

During this decade the nature of theatrical activities was undergoing a transformation which reflected a widespread technological change. In 1919 the Wausau Theatre was built, the first local amusement house designed specially for moving pictures. Touring companies continued to appear at the Grand Theatre through the winter months; but with the gradual decline of the "legitimate" drama outside of New York City, the number of theatrical presentations began to taper off. The new Grand Theater, larger and more commodious than its predecessor, was built in 1927 and equipped for both moving pictures and stage productions.

In a short time, however, it was converted into a talking picture house, and in recent years its stage has been used only for occasional home-talent theatricals.

The musical scene, meanwhile, has broadened. In the fall of 1927 several members of the Tuesday Musical Club formed a branch organization, the Musical Arts Club, with the object of "studying and performing the best in choral music for women's voices and the establishment in the city of Wausau of another worthy musical institution."

Earlier in the year the twenty-seventh annual festival of the East Wisconsin Circuit of German Singing Societies had taken place here. In anticipation of this event the Liederkrantz, which since 1910 had been a member of the circuit and had participated in all of its festivals except those of 1923 and 1924, issued a 40-page booklet concerning the Saengerfests and the special attractions for visitors to Wausau. The climax of the festival was reached when choral organizations from all over eastern Wisconsin, augmented by Cone's orchestra and assisted by Jacob Reuter, joined forces for a public concert in the Central School Auditorium. The Liederkrantz also provided the distinguishing musical feature of the following year, when it celebrated the centennial of Franz Schubert with

a concert devoted to his music. This season was further marked by another Liederkranz Schubert program in honor of the retirement from municipal judiciary service of its distinguished member, Judge Louis Marchetti, who, like Schubert, was a native of Vienna.

Meanwhile the Ladies' Literary Society, disbanded in 1889, had been reorganized in 1894. Adding to its former activities an increased interest in civic affairs, it planted 500 trees, cleaned up and beautified areas on the riverbank near Stroller's Bridge and Harrison Boulevard, provided ornamental gates for the Pine Grove cemetery, and obtained murals and paintings for school walls. It was also active in helping establish the library and the Mt. View Sanatorium. At present it has three departments, each specializing in its own type of program, while a general program is held once a month. Among the principal interests of the 265 members are public welfare, legislation, international relations, citizenship, education, music, art, literature, and public health.

Among the few literary publications of the past ten years are Harry C. Schwarz's How to Gain Your Greatest Desires, a religious-ethical tract, and the works of the late Karl Mathie, former superintendent of schools in

Marathon County. Mr. Mathie, who devoted the leisure of his retirement to writing, composed a number of poems, "A Prayer," "My Valentine," "Mea Spes In Deo Est," "A Christmas Peace," and "On Her Birthday;" a peace pageant, "World Open Thy Door" (1937); a play, "The Open Well;" and a Rotary drama, "The Spirit of Peace;" as well as several one-act plays. Though professional dramatic performances have been conspicuously few during the past decade, a company of local amateurs has established the Wausau Community Theater. From such "home-town theatricals" two Wausau girls have recently graduated into professional dramatic work: Carolyn McKay is under a long-term contract with the Columbia Broadcasting Corporation, and Lucia La Certe is now acting for the Paramount Motion Picture Company.

In comparison with their predecessors, the local painters of this period have been unexpectedly numerous and prolific. Among them are three women, Mrs. Janet Reid Kellogg, a graduate of the Chicago Art Institute who has exhibited in New York galleries; Helen McCarthy, who since 1934 has been a member of the Allied Artists of New York and since 1938 of the American Water Color Society; and Nina Kickbusch Griffin, now painting in Chicago. Mrs. William Below of River Forest, Illinois, may also be regarded as a

local artist, having begun her career in Wausau, where, as Helen Hudson, she was well known as a painter. Mrs. Below has had showings at the Art Institute and Drake Hotel in Chicago, the Oak Park (Illinois) Art Center, and the Belle Keith Art Gallery in Rockford, Illinois.

Among the more noteworthy local men painters is Leon Landmark, whose portraits, landscapes, and marine paintings have been shown in the Art Institutes of Milwaukee and Chicago. LeRoy Jonas, given an opportunity to study at the Chicago Art Institute after being wounded in the World War, exhibited at Art Institute shows, then returned to Wausau, where numbers of his paintings and portraits now hang in private homes. Donald Mundt, who has exhibited with the Chicago Artists' Society, the International Lithograph Society, and the Art Institute, painted one of 22 pictures chosen from 1,500 entries in Illinois to be exhibited at the New York World's Fair in 1939. After studying at Chicago and Yale University, Herbert Steinke, another Wausau artist, became an instructor at the Academy of Fine Arts in Chicago and later was appointed Director of Art in the Albany, N. Y. public schools.

Meanwhile a number of local musicians also earned reputations outside the strictly local field. Myron Duncan,

baritone, after studying in Italy and having his debut at La Scala, later sang with the Chicago, Philadelphia, and Cincinnati Opera companies, while Lucille Fletcher Hart also became a member of the Chicago company and Jane Abercrombie, after studying in Germany, became prima donna of the Aborn Opera Co. Another local singer, Selma Gogg Hummel, a member of the Tuesday Musical Club, became well known in concert and oratorio work in Chicago, though she was rejected by the opera company because she was too tall. Lawrence Bernhardt, after studying piano with Josef Lhevinne, now is a teacher in Milwaukee, and Helen Coates Broadfoot is a violinist with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra.

Music from earliest days has been the art most assiduously cultivated in Wausau. Today there are three bands, two drum corps, 10 permanent orchestras, two music clubs, two choral organizations, and 16 musical directors and teachers. In recent years the Tuesday Musical Club has joined the State Federation of Music Clubs, which has held three conventions in Wausau. Mrs. L. A. Pradt, prominent in musical circles since 1881, became president of the State Federation of Music Clubs and for four years was a member of the National Federation's board of directors.

During the past decade the Club has continued its sponsorship of a notable series of concerts, including visits by the Flonzaley String Quartet; Ernest Hutchinson, pianist; Albert Spaulding, violinist; and such singers as Mary McCormick, Reinald Werrenrath, Florence McBeth, Cyrena Van Gordon, and Katherine Meisle. It also continues to produce home talent operas. Meanwhile the Musical Arts Club has become an independent group, devoting a part of its work to concerts, in order to acquaint the Wausau public with choral music for women's voices.

The Elk Club's male choir, organized in 1935, also has been active in concert work, appearing frequently in other cities throughout the State as well as Wausau. Affiliated with the State and National associations of men's singing organizations, in 1939 it was host to some 500 clubs for a music festival. There are also a number of excellent church choirs and school musical organizations.

Though the Liederkrantz, the community's oldest musical organization, has recently acquired a hall of its own where it holds two public concerts a year, it continues to be active mainly among the German and working portions of the population. On May 6, 1934, it celebrated its golden jubilee with a festival in which German choral

organizations from all over Wisconsin participated, and on this occasion a speaker observed "The Liederkrantz has done more than any other single organization to preserve the tradition of popular folk songs and musical culture in the home and community." But its supporters and those of the Tuesday Musical Club tend to stratify upon social lines and to have constantly less contact with each other. While the sponsoring of concerts and encouragement of musical education continues on one level, the purely spontaneous, relatively untrained singing and playing for the pleasure of personal participation continues on another level, with little similarity of interest between the two.

- (1) Wausau
- (2) Harold E. Miner
- (3) Words - 3,500

FINAL

The Newspapers

The Newspapers

In 1856, with a population of nearly 500, Wausau was dependent upon the Stevens Point Wisconsin Pinery for all the services of the press. The Pinery satisfactorily published the legal notices, tax lists, and official printing for two counties, but was far more concerned with publicizing the resources of its home city than those of the newer settlement to the north. Consequently a group of prominent Wausauans--among them Walter D. McIndoe--offered Jerome W. Chubbuck of the Pinery staff \$300 and a subscription list of 300 to 400 readers to found a newspaper at Wausau. The machinery of the defunct Jefferson County Republican was carried by wagon to the Fox River, taken upstream on a boat, hauled to Wausau on a sleigh, and installed on the second floor of a building at Fourth and Jackson Streets. The Central Wisconsin began publication of April 22, 1857.

Many of the city's 500-odd inhabitants assembled formally at Forest Hall on the eve of publication to celebrate the event with speeches, toasts, and dancing. They drank to "Our Chubbuck--may he entwine the rope about the horns of Big Bull and lead him into the green fields of wealth and renown" and to "The boys of the pinery--may they be worthy of the pinery girls!" They also prophetically hailed "The Village of Wausau--may

its great natural advantages be improved by art to their utmost extent, and where the forest pines now stand, may the spires of a city rise, the homes of thousands, and a great center of inland trade and commerce."

Then with the help of John Foster, a printer, Chubbuck set about his task of encouraging the growing self-consciousness of the community. Apparently his press arrived late, or was unaccompanied by type, for the first issues of the Central Wisconsin have been judged, from their make-up and type dress, to have been printed in the Pinery shop. Its files were destroyed by fire during the World War years, but a local historian has preserved a few items from the April 29 issue:

"Col. Shuter sold village lots last week to the amount of \$4,500.00.

"Three men were drowned at Grand Rapids, two at the Clinton Dam.

"Three rapids pieces belonging to J. G. Goodhue, above Little Bull, broke loose, became unmanageable, and passed through the falls to destruction.

"The bank of the river above the falls is lined with rafts; the Scholfield mill, burned last fall, has been rebuilt and has a gang edger of 21 saws, which recently cut 21,000 feet in day time and is the only gang edger in the county.

"The ice has gone out, six rafts of timber and three

of lumber...started out on Sunday."

Each of those nine rafts contained approximately half a million feet of merchantable wood.

Though he retained ownership of the Central Wisconsin for only three years, Chubbuck remains prominent in local journalistic tradition. Originally from Vermont, he was one of the printers who struck off the first issue of the Milwaukee Sentinel in 1837. After working in a number of Milwaukee shops he moved to Jefferson, Wis., in 1855; a year later he left for Stevens Point, where he was found by the Wausauans in search of an editor. He died in Wausau in 1885. Under him Valentine Ringle, Clarence Jenkins, Charles W. Johnson, and E. B. Thayer, all future editors, learned their craft. They became rivals at setting type by hand; a now discredited legend, told sometimes of one and again of another, says that they once attained a speed of 2,000 ems of long primer in an hour. They all had to "flip the frisket and pull the lever" on the old hand-press, until, according to Mr. Thayer, "their muscles bulged out like paving blocks on the high bridge after a prolonged wet spell." Johnson, unable to practise indoors his favorite art of throwing knives and hatchets, learned to hurl a needle with such force and accuracy that he could stick it an eighth of an inch into a pine board at a distance of 15 feet. Thereafter he took to flinging his needle at the trousers of his fellow workmen. Not

even the boss was spared, and when they heard Chubbuck's favorite by-word, "Fod's first cordial," roared forth in sudden pain and anger, the printers knew that the Central Wisconsin's founder had once more been needled by its future owner.

Despite the rejoicing at its birth and its monopoly on all official printing, the paper had a sickly infancy. Because of the difficulty of hauling in newsprint it was compelled on Sept. 30 and Oct. 7, when its regular supply ran out, to publish but one sheet on dark green handbill paper. Hard pressed financially, in 1860 Chubbuck sold controlling interest to a Mr. Sanford of Jefferson, his brother-in-law, who unloaded his investment on Carl Hoeflinger and Francis A. Hoffman in the same year. Hoeflinger and Hoffman moved the plant to the corner of Third and Washington Streets and engaged, as assistant editor, Mrs. Anna Gordon, first of several women who became noteworthy in local journalistic history. Under these Democrats the paper prospered no better than it had under Chubbuck, and in 1862 it was briefly transformed into the Republican Marathon County Record, published from the same plant by Clarence Jenkins. The old name was restored by the next owner, Michael Stafford, in 1863. Stafford was born in Ireland, came here in 1851, went into lumbering after leaving the paper, and was drowned in 1874 trying to run a lumber raft over Little Bull Falls in high water after his pilot had refused the task. Stafford and John C. Clark,

later also a lumberman, exchanged ownership of the paper three times before they let the publication lapse in 1866. It had passed through seven ownerships within six years.

Meanwhile the Democrats, dominant politically but voiceless save for the ^brief regime of Hoeflinger and Hoffman, acquired a new organ when the Wisconsin River Pilot was founded in 1865 by Valentine Ringle, with Chubbuck as its editor. Into its office, still standing at 313-315 Jackson Street, he brought in 1866 the first clumsy job presses ever used in Wausau; he also published the first wood-cuts, carved with a jackknife by his brother John Ringle in 1866-67.

The Central Wisconsin resumed publication in 1868 under Charles W. and R. H. Johnson, two nephews of Stafford; but Charles, who had helped publish a Confederate army paper, soon sold out to his brother. Thereafter this paper and the Wisconsin River Pilot, both intensely partisan, shared the field without interference for nine years. In 1870 Ringle erected and moved to a frame building still standing at 321 Third Street; here in 1871, under Hoeflinger's editorship, he began publication of the city's first German paper, the Wausau Wochenblatt. Type for the early issues was set by the Rev. F. Kern, pastor of St. Paul's church, who also helped write its political articles and news. With this paper reinforcing his Pilot he became powerful in maintaining the country-wide supremacy of Democracy in a Republican state, all through the years when the partisanships

engendered by the Civil War made this feat most difficult elsewhere. The Central Wisconsin, however, also prospered sufficiently to install the city's first cylinder press in 1875.

On August 9, 1877, appeared the most colorful paper in the city's history, the Torch of Liberty, founded by Mark H. Barnum as an organ of the newly founded Greenback party. This editor, preacher, and lawyer was born in Syracuse, N. Y., in 1834, came to Wausau in 1857, served in the Civil War, later worked for the Pilot, and was a resort-owner when he died in 1904. The rise of Greenbackism in 1877 temporarily disrupted the Democratic party in Marathon County and for two years threw local office largely into the hands of the militant currency reformers. As their champion, Barnum soon demonstrated the tartness of retort and controversy that was to bring him State-wide renown. William H. Allen, the "Shan T. Boy" of lumber camp ballads, wrote of the paper to which he became a paid staff contributor four years later:

In Wausau dwells an Editor,
A windy little man,
Who owns a local paper
On a candid outside plan.

Mark was a red hot Democrat
In Samay J's campaign;
But now he's troubled very bad
With greenbacks on the brain.

Ye citizens of Wausau,
If you wait a year or two,
You will see the Greenback Party
Looking mighty thin and blue.

You will see a windy editor
Wandering 'round dead broke
With nothing left of his smouldering Torch
But a tiny puff of smoke.

You will see a cullboard nailed across
The printing office door,
With a few small chunks of greenback pi
A slumbering on the floor.

You will see the Greenback devil
Out on a rousing spree
And cussing all connected
With the Torch of Liberty.

Despite this reception, in June of the following year the Greenback Club of Wausau found its journalistic venture so successful that it decided to found a supplementary German weekly, the Wacht am Wisconsin (Watchman on the Wisconsin), edited by Henry Miller. This paper lasted less than a year. The Urwald, an independent German weekly, was even less successful; it hired as editor a Milwaukee German named Sheben, who worked

two days, borrowed ten dollars, got drunk, and disappeared, reputedly because political opponents of the enterprise paid him to leave.

In 1880 the Pilot moved to a new location at 306 Washington Street and the Central Wisconsin acquired the city's first power press. The following year still another German paper was organized, the Deutsche Pionier, a Republican organ. Using the type and machinery of the defunct Watchman, it was edited by Dr. St. Koslowski, who left in 1882 because of differences in viewpoint with the German and Norwegian stockholders. In that year Eugene B. Thayer founded the "ausau Review.

Born at Princeton, Wis., Thayer at 10 years of age was working in the Central Wisconsin's shop; after serving on Wausau and Menasha papers as printer and foreman, he had taken over the Central's job office in 1876. Immediately after starting the Review, taking the other papers unaware, he cut the price of printing the county board proceedings from \$35 to \$25. His shocked rivals complained bitterly that no paper could do the work at that price, and Barnum, discovering Thayer to be the offender, proposed to build a kicking machine and "have Mr. Thayer try it out." The Torch by that time had two lively battles on its hands, for the Deutsche Pionier some three weeks previously had asked its readers to refrain from taking the Torch because it was not good for them, and Barnum had promptly retorted

by likening the German editor to a speckled horse on County Day for the airs he put on.

Although he sometimes feuded for the sheer joy of it, Barnum was a journalist of practical and advanced ideas. As early as 1878 the Torch had expressed awareness of the shortcomings of the contemporary press, whose columns were filled mainly with news about the editor's relatives or with highly personal editorial debates, too often dull, about current events. In 1883, while other Wausau papers were whipping up sentiment to have a State Normal School located here, Barnum wrote:

"The newspaper is the teacher to whom the people look for suggestions and for light on this and kindred subjects. That Northern Wisconsin editors have shirked their duties is too plain. In view of these facts, and many more that need attention, it has been suggested that a new society be formed to be known as 'The Northern Wisconsin Editorial Association', that questions pertaining to the interest and development of Northern Wisconsin be discussed and a union of action be secured."

Barnum failed to follow up the idea, which remained dormant for decades.)

The Cleveland-Blaine campaign of 1884 elicited unusual journalistic efforts. In the fall of 1883 R. H. Johnson, who as postmaster had a personal interest in helping the incumbent Republican administration, converted his Central Wisconsin into

a daily and hired Arthur J. Dodge of Madison as an editorial writer. In 1884 Thayer bought the old Wisconsin River Pilot, merged it with his Review briefly as the Pilot Review, then shortened the name to the Wausau Pilot, which is still being published. As the campaign neared its climax, Thayer, also, made his paper a daily, but the city, which could hardly have supported one daily, was totally unable to maintain the luxury of two; the Pilot returned to weekly publication immediately after the election, the Central Wisconsin only a few months later.

The Torch of Liberty, still primarily interested in currency reform, took no notable part in this campaign struggle. Barnum merely reiterated his stand as "independent in all things, neutral in nothing", and listed as his aims and ideas:

"1. To lessen the burdens of labor.

"2. To see women paid for the same service as well as men are paid.

"3. To make the male who violates the rules of morality as responsible to society as the female.

"4. To protect the little children until the rod shall be known in home or school no more forever.

"5. To encourage education, and drive out ignorance and superstition. Education prevents crime while ignorance fosters vice.

"6. To encourage the adoption of universal suffrage and exact equality of the sexes before law."

Valentine Ringle, who had retained the Wochenblatt when he sold the Pilot, withdrew from journalism in 1886 by releasing his German paper to Henry J. and Joseph J. Lohman; they in turn sold it to a stock company the next year, and in 1890 it became the property of H. J. Geise, a teacher of German in the public schools. In Mosinee the News, founded in 1886, became the first Marathon County newspaper outside of Wausau; in Wausau the Citizen started in 1887 but soon vanished. George Single, its editor, then joined the staff of the Central Wisconsin to the accompaniment of a barrage of jeers from Barnum.

The Torch continued to jibe at its rivals. In 1888 it ridiculed what was then, and to a large extent is still, considered one of the primary functions of a small-town paper: the fostering of local community pride.

"Robert (Johnson), of the Central, kicks like a bay steer because somebody reported there was a drought in Marathon County last May. It is the duty of a boom organ to deny there was ever a flood or a drought, a blizzard or a sunstroke, a Colorado beetle or a cinch bug in his locality. Robert once went to Milwaukee by rail and got back by skiff. He never saw anything dry in Marathon County unless it was a democratic voter."

By this time Barnum was ranked with the Republicans, turning the journalistic balance in favor of that rising party. But though his politics now agreed with those of the Central,

a fundamental difference remained. Generally the Central Wisconsin was bland, flattering, righteously proud of the accomplishments of the city and its leaders, while the Torch of Liberty remained to the end a whiplash relentlessly scourging every evil it found. The two thus complemented each other and together provided a powerful impetus toward progress.

The next decade, however, was one of great change throughout the community, politically, culturally, and economically. In the newspaper field the habits and traditions of thirty or more years were largely overthrown. It was a time of pioneering along new lines. The West Side Enterprise, started by Ed. Biggers in 1892, though short-lived, was the first attempt at a suburban publication. The next year a more important and successful newcomer arrived--the Herald, founded at 307 Washington Street by R. E. Powers and James D. McKay. In 1893 there was also started the Gefluegel Zeuchter, a German poultry journal--the fifteenth publication, the fifth German publication, the second magazine, and the first agricultural journal to be founded in Wausau. The following year the first issue of the Wausau Journal, house organ of the Wausau Business College and Normal Institute, appeared under the editorship of the College's president, W. S. Williams. The Teachers' Friend, a short-lived publication which appeared in 1890, was probably of a similar nature, though little is known of it.

The Pilot was published daily during the heated McKinley-Bryan campaign of 1896, but again had to lapse into weekly publication after the defeat which ended Democratic dominance of Wausau politics. Editor Young of the Deutsche Pionier died in 1897, and the paper was taken over by Gustave Stolze, who, upon his death in 1899, left it to his son Paul, a German-born bookbinder. In 1897 William Ellis and Mr. and Mrs. Philip V. O. Van Vechten founded the Philosopher Press, from which for a time they turned out hand-made books and a magazine called The Philosopher, featuring contributions by local writers.

In 1901 W. J. Jaeger and William E. Brandt founded a second suburban paper, an unpretentious sheet called Behind the Creek. This was the nickname of a district north of the railroad tracks on the east side of the river. Subject to ridicule because of their reputed toughness and of the uncouth things that occasionally happened there, the people from "behind the creek" had sufficient local self-consciousness to support their own newspaper. Both the district and the situation--even to characteristic German dialect--were expressed in a bit of verse:

Them papers think they're awful shmart
 I think they're awful sick
 When they go throwing shlurs around
 At us behind the Creek.

We have no pliceman here at all
No fire proteckshun round
Und burglars they are never seen
Upon this famous ground

We have no automobibbles
To make ourselves Kaput
Und when we want to ride around
We always walk afoot

The Crikets Crick below the Creek
The morning glories glow
The ripples of that fragrant shtream
Make musick as they flow

Und all along its winding banks
From morning until night
The kids and other animals
Are shquealing mit delight

We got a lot of shildren too
Dot makes our life enhance
Which goes to show that we am all
First rate Republicans

Und all that talk about us here
 Das holt der schwere note
 If you will let us please alone
 I guess we row our boat

My gracious how I wish to Gott
 That sewer would be laid
 To dam the Creek up clean across
 What all that trouble made.

.....

Behind the Creek prospered and moved downtown, where in 1904, under a new management, its name was changed to the Wausau News. That same year the flamboyant Torch of Liberty printed its last issue. Edgar Wheelock of Medford purchased it and transformed it into the Daily Record, Wausau's first successful daily. In 1905 The Daily Record began to use the first linotype in Wausau. In 1906 the News was bought by the Herald, which thereupon also became a daily; the following year the Record took over both papers, merging them into the daily Record-Herald. In 1910 another historic weekly expired when Robert H. Johnson, who had published the Central Wisconsin for 42 years, sold his paper to a company which changed the name to the Sun.

Thus by 1912 Wausau was served by the daily Record-Herald and four weeklies, the Sun and the Pilot, the Wochenblatt

and the Deutsche Pionier. All save the Pilot were soon to go. The period of personal journalism, when each paper expressed the personality of its editor, had departed when Barnum sold the Torch, and the process of amalgamating or killing old papers and of setting up new, brisk, but impersonal sheets had filled the interim. One of the outstanding characteristics of the past era had been the publishing of articles by local contributors. E. B. Thayer, veteran editor of the Pilot, recalled contributors outstanding in his memory:

"J. W. Chubbuck in general local and editorial work; J. C. Clark in direct expression and history; M. H. Barnum in fearless exposure and forceful writings; C. A. Single in his general reprovals and pointing out right ways; R. E. Parcher in plain, forceful language, pointing out what he thought to be right; W. C. Silverthorn in politics and laying down the law; C. F. Eldred in politics; Mrs. S. E. Stoddard in description; S. H. Alban in his beautiful sermons; Charles V. Bardeen in direct and pointed arguments; Mrs. C. V. Bardeen in description of the woods, flowers, and in poetry; B. W. James in general writing and Mrs. James in versatile articles on upbuilding; Neal Brown in philosophy and politics, preferably 'the tariff'; L. A. Pradt in humor and satire; W. N. Allen in poetry; B. W. Pulling in poetry; T. C. Ryan in the field of politics; L. Marchetti and John Ringle pertaining to the general welfare,

and history; 'Shanghai' Chandler in his 'whirlwind' attacks, humor, and satire, were some of the early day writers, who, in no small degree moulded the public opinion of this growing city. All were fearless and able and never hesitated to sign their names to any of their writings when occasion required. Wausau has able writers today among the laymen who could accomplish fully as much as the old regime if they had the disposition to do so."

The Sun was discontinued in 1917. In the same year the Democratic Wochenblatt and the Republican Deutsche Pionier, last of the partisan weeklies, were merged under H. J. Geise of the Wochenblatt, which upon his death in 1918 was bought by Emil Leicht of Winona, Minn., who still publishes it. In 1925 the America-Herald appeared as a German weekly but succumbed to the depression early in the 1930's.

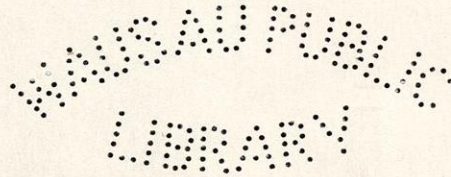
The outstanding development since 1912 has been the introduction of a number of farm papers. The Marathon County Farmer, founded in 1912, soon vanished. In 1918 appeared the Organized Farmer, which endured until 1922; the next year its place was taken by Frank Gruetzmacher's Marathon County Farm Journal. In the 1920's this publication, a 50- or 60-page slick-paper magazine, carried fiction by nationally-known writers, though still retaining touch with its local circulation through a page edited by the county agent and many articles of

Miner

The Newspapers

local farm interest. Now only a four-page newsprint sheet, the periodical is still published.

Aside from this, the local field is shared by the Record-Herald, a strongly Stalwart Republican paper, and the still vigorous weekly Pilot, the county's oldest newspaper. The Pilot is edited by E. B. Thayer, Jr.; the Record-Herald by J.L. Sturtevant, who, after several years of newspaper work in St. Paul and Chicago, turned to rural journalism and published the Waupaca County Post from 1889 to 1907. When the Record-Herald was formed in 1907, Sturtevant came here as manager.



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