

WHITING, The Village of

The village of Whiting, named after George A. Whiting, founder of the George A. Whiting Paper Company of Menasha, Wis., and the Whiting-Plover Paper Company of Whiting, was incorporated Nov. 13, 1947, the newest corporate entity in the county. It takes in all of Sec 9 in Town 23, Range 8, a tier of lots along the north line of Sec 16, and that part of Sec 8 lying on the left (east) bank of the Wisconsin River. In the process it absorbed the Original Town of McDill on the east of Sec 9 as well as McDill's Addition in the southeast corner, in addition to an area once known and platted as Conant Rapids which lay between sections 8 & 9 next to the river.

In the 1890s a district known as Whiting was located near the paper mill and it was probably from this that the citizens of Plover township revived the name for the new incorporation.

For about two years prior to the issuance of the Circuit Court order for incorporation, numerous meetings were held to discuss the proposition of setting aside a separate village in the town of Plover immediately to the south of the city of Stevens Point comprising an area of about one and one-half square miles. The proponents of incorporation felt that the fast developing industrial area, already with three paper mills, was better suited for municipal government than township government.

After several set-backs, in which figures as to population and other requirements were challenged in the courts, an order was issued permitting voters in the proposed area to express their preference and the final tally of the election held in the McDill School on Nov. 8, 1947 was 248 for and 44 against incorporation.

The first election for village officers was held Dec.

6, 1947 when the following were named: Thomas Leech, president; William Hopkins, Henry Glenzer, Eugene Cooper, Dr. Henry A. Anderson, Howard Cater and Allen B. Willard, trustees; Ben Redfield, clerk; Earl Gyrion, treasurer; Ray Hager, assessor; William Amsbaugh, justice of the peace; Mike Tylka, constable; and Barney Omernick, supervisor.

In the ten years which Whiting village has been in existence most of the hopes of the original incorporators have been realized. New streets have been laid and all have been given permanent surfacing. A park system has been established along the Plover River, and a volunteer fire department, equipped with two modern fire trucks, has been organized. An up-to-date street lighting system has been installed since 1949 and many of the lights are of the mercury vapor type. Despite these improvements, the village has never levied a special tax for local purposes.

Serving the village, with a population of 855, in 1957-58, were Dr. Henry A. Anderson, president; Roy Folz, Thomas Leech, Howard Cater, Henry Glenzer, Allen B. Willard and William W. Hopkins, trustees; Ben Redfield, clerk; Early A. Gyrion, treasurer; Raymond G. Hager, assessor; Joseph Tylka, justice of the peace; Glenn C. Pike, constable; Ray Sarnowski, health officer; and Albert Price, supervisor.

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