

# TOMAHAWK ROSE FROM DREAM OF W. H. BRADLEY

The City of Tomahawk is a partial realization of one of the dreams of empire by the late William H. Bradley. He suggested the name of the city and its location, and was its guiding spirit in its early days.

The Land, Log & Lumber company was a giant corporation in the last decade of the nineteenth century, and owned great tracts of land in the Lincoln county and north to the State line. The Bradleys were large stockholders in the corporation. To log, manufacture and market the timber on these lands, Mr. Bradley conceived the plan of founding a city. In 1887 the legislature authorized Mr. Bradley and his assistants to build the main part below the city, and the Tomahawk Land & Boom company, which was organized for the purpose, took over the franchise, and immediately started construction. The line of C. M. & St. P. Railway was extended to the city in 1887. At this time there were two stopping places on the river in the locality, one owned by a pioneer named Boushner near the mouth of the Tomahawk River, and the other by Albert King at a point near Lake present King's dam.

A. S. Chilsen hauled the first load of lumber into Tomahawk for Mr. Bradley. He was employed by Bradley for about a year hauling lumber at the time Tomahawk was first being settled.

The dam was constructed at a cost of approximately \$250,000, and flooded an area of approximately 2500 acres. At one time the city boasted of half a dozen saw mills, the first having been built in 1888.

The City Plat was surveyed by direction of the Tomahawk Land & Boom company and was dated June 7, 1887.

Tomahawk was never organized as a village. At first it existed as an unincorporated village in the town of Rock Falls, and in 1891 it was incorporated as a city by special act of the legislature. Later on the city came under the general charter law.

The Tomahawk post office was established in September, 1887, and Frank A. Larsen was appointed postmaster.

The first mayor was Angus Bult, the first of a line which boasts such names as M. C. Hyman, J. D. Cotter, Robert C. Thielman, W. T. Bradley, A. E. Sutcliffe, Frank Thiel and Mark M. Raymond.

The bar was represented by A. H. Woodworth, Milo Woodbury and James O'Leary, and no one suspected in those early days that the city would ever be honored by having one of its boys selected to the federal bench as was done when the Honorable Patrick T. Stone was appointed judge of the district court for the Western District of Wisconsin.

The medical fraternity was first represented by Dr. J. D. Cutler, and Drs. J. W. Coon, Bird, Poutre and Lamb were others who eased the pains of the suffering when calomel was a favorite prescription and when diseases were called by pronounceable names.

In the early days the source of all information was located at the Bradley offices. There was the fountain head of all wisdom, whether the same pertained to grammar, rhetoric, logic, arithmetic, geometry, music or astronomy, to say nothing of law, politics or religion.

Those were the days of Frank Stark, T. T. Chave, Joe Wilson, W. E. Jeannot, S. D. Carpenter, Tom Kilroe, Louis Meadeau, John T. Sheehan and W. H. McDermott.

The city court was presided over by S. P. Samphier and he was ably assisted by J. A. Seth and James Kelly. In those days law was synonymous with justice.

There were also able chiefs of police, among whom were Edward Houshlian, Louis Mondou, Fred McWhitney and John T. Loftis.

The Marshall Fields and John Wanamakers of the day were John Dehnhafen, E. W. Whitson, Adnan Thum, D. C. Jones, C. A. Gesell and J. L. Wakefield.

The first bank was known as "W. H. & J. W. Bradley Bankers," and J. W. Froelich and R. D. Epley were early cashiers.

Hall L. Brooks supplied the world with posts and poles, and Joe Poutre, the McCormicks, McCutcheons, McFrides, La Meers and a host of others administered to the needs of the body in other delightful ways.

The Tomahawk was an early newspaper and editors Grayson and Ellersieck, of "The Leader" were worthy predecessors of our modern Wattersons.

Dr. J. R. Dodd was a leading dentist, and C. A. Seidle ran the photo gallery. C. O. Newbark sold the shoes, A. J. Olson and Everson Bros. were leading loggers and J. A. Mcginnis ministered the wants of the inner man.

Orville Londo ran the livery, Alex Fontaine the blacksmith shop

and P. H. Paul was the leading tonorialist.

Editor's Note: The above article was written by a Tomahawk resident 12 years ago.

The first library association, the Jenny Library Association, was established as early as 1875. The membership fee was \$1.00. These fees together with small membership fines and donated books gave one access to a great amount of choice literature.

A mass meeting was held in 1854 to vote on the building of a school house. There were no pupils at the start. This little building was Jenny's social center until 1872.

The first kindergarten was a private affair, started in 1874 with headquarters in the Champagne building.

## Jenny Hotel Was First Postoffice

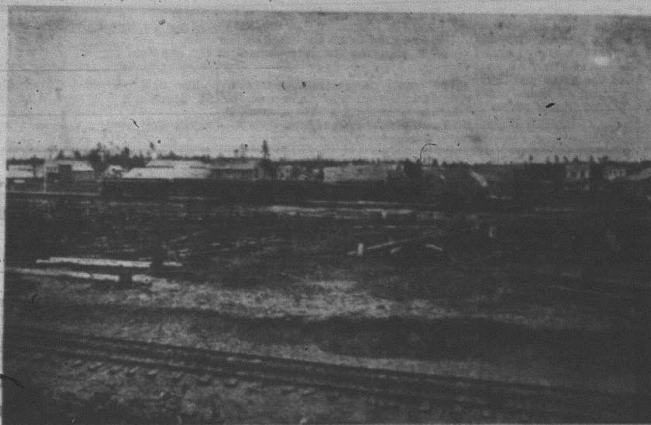
The original postoffice was in the Jenny Hotel, where it was first conducted by Cyrus Strowbridge. Mrs. William Averill was postmistress for a number of years while the office was still located in the Jenny House. Later, Charles Wiley had charge of the office and during his tenure it was moved to where Peterson's meat market is now located.

The present postoffice building was erected in 1915. Before that the quarters were in the Masonic Building, the office having been moved there in 1907 from a location on the old T. B. Scott property south of the present Citizens American Bank building near the railroad right of way. It had occupied these quarters since 1897, at which time it was moved from the Berard block across the street.

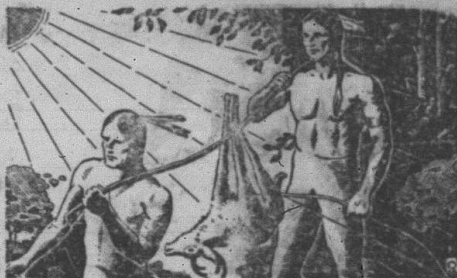
Thomas A. Calder was chief of the police department in 1901. He served until 1930 when the present chief, Hugo Haug took over the office.

## ESTABLISH NEW TOWNS IN COUNTY

The first new towns to be established were Pine River, Rock Falls and Corning, which were set off from Jenny in 1876. Rock Falls was created as the town of Skanawan, but its name was changed to Rock Falls in 1877. The next town was Scott, set off in 1881. Russell was formed in 1883. The town of Harrison was established by act of the state legislature, chapter 153, laws of 1889. The town of Tomahawk was created about 1898 from a portion of Rock Falls. The town of Birch was established at a meeting of the county board held Nov. 19, 1902. Bradley and Somo were set off from parts of Tomahawk in 1903 and 1905, respectively, by act of legislature, chapter 351, laws of 1903. Portions of Pine River and Russell were detached to form the town of Schley in 1903. Wilson was set off from Somo in 1912 and Skanawan from King about the same time. Townships 32 and 33, Range 5, East, were detached from the town of Scott and became the town of Harding in 1922.



The city of Tomahawk when it was four months old.



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