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FIRE LEVELS LODGE AT DEER TRAIL RESORT

10 Top Stories Recalled...

The year 1962 was another 12 months full of major — and minor — news in the Tomahawk area. The weather, school changes and elections were major happenings. As in the past, The Leader in its New Year's edition again lists the big stories. These were our Top 10:

★ The severity of last winter's weather made it a hot item. Every resident was affected by frigid temperatures that reached a low of 40 degrees below zero March 1. In addition, one reading of —32, three of —30 and three of —28 were recorded. Total snowfall was over 70 inches.

★ Activation of Tomahawk's national guard unit was a top 1961 story, and the company's return last August was an important 1962 event. After nearly 10 months at Fort Lewis, Wash., the group came home in two detachments for a return to civilian-soldier life.

★ School district consolidation went into effect in July. For the first time ever, all city and rural schools in the area started classes the same day in the fall as part of the new Tomahawk joint unified district. Making up the district are the city, Towns of Nokomis, Bradley, King, Skanawan and Tomahawk, most of Harrison and part of Rock Falls.

★ Heading the city's industrial news was acquisition by the Harley-Davidson Motor company, Milwaukee, of a majority interest in Tomahawk Boat Manufacturing corporation. Diversification in products resulted, with the plant manufacturing motorcycle saddle bags, tractor cabs and other items in addition to boats.

★ Unfortunately, Lincoln county had a share in one of Wisconsins' highest traffic tolls. As of last week, 12 persons had died on Lincoln county highways.

★ The September primary election provided one of the closest political races in county history. Tomahawk's George J. Theiler lost to Fred Roger, Merrill, by eight votes — 1,597-1,989 — for the Republican nomination as state assembly candidate. A recount of votes resulted, which set Roger's winning margin as 21. A beer sale referendum and school board election helped spark keen interest among voters.

★ One of the most heated city council sessions in years came in April. The aldermen approved an ordinance providing for sidewalk extensions to the high school property and referred a petition to limit the number of beer licenses to a referendum at the fall primary. At the election, residents defeated a proposal that grocery stores not be permitted to sell packaged beer.

★ The Chamber of Commerce had a full schedule of summer promotions, including Pow Wow Days July 1-4, a Maxwell Street Sale Aug. 10 and Aqua Days Aug. 11-12.

★ Mrs. Elmer D. (Ruth) Foster, 68, Tomahawk, last of the eight children of the famous poet Eugene Field, died April 30. Mrs. Foster lived here for 48 years. Other deaths in 1962 included Mrs. William I. Macfarlane, 80, a pioneer city resident, in June; Oscar Newberg, 60, retired city fire chief and former postmaster, in July; and Dr. Carl Eklund, 53, the city's Antarctic explorer, in November.

★ In sports news, it was a good year for the Hatchets at Tomahawk high school. They were third in Lumberjack conference basketball and tied for second in football. Highlight of the year, however, was last spring's track team. The squad topped seven of a possible 14 school records, set two conference marks and equalled a third. They lost only one dual meet and came within six points of winning the league championship. For the first time in history, Tomahawk was represented at the state track meet — by pole vaulter Tom Gabriel and weightman Don Dorski. Dorski won a first in the shot put.

We Predict for 1963...

What will make the headlines in 1963? This week The Leader makes its annual predictions concerning some of the stories — notable and not so notable — to be expected next year. The predictions are based on facts, insight and guesswork. Here's what we foresee:

★ Changes will come in the education system. The rural areas will have kindergarten, all seventh and eighth graders will come to Tomahawk and plans will be started for a building project.

★ Major civic work will include street resurfacing, curb and gutter construction and installation of new storm sewers. The projects will be made possible by federal approval of the city's request for funds through the public works bill. An important area job will be the start of highway 51 improvement north of Merrill.

★ Although originally approved on a one-year basis, the addition of radio dispatchers at the police station will become permanent.

★ Tomahawk residents enjoyed a drop in the tax rate this year. Such will not be the case in 1963. A higher county tax, a rise in school costs, the expense of police station radio dispatchers and purchase of street department vehicles will push the rate above the 53.6 of last year.

★ A small group of Lincoln county aldermen-supervisors again will push for construction of a new Lincoln County Teachers college. Town chairmen will help defeat the proposal, however, in the face of higher district school costs and a recognition that Wisconsin's entire county college system is to be revamped.

★ Construction will start on two new church buildings in Tomahawk. As predicted last year, plans for these buildings will be announced soon.

★ City sponsorship of the swimming instruction program at Crystal lake beach will be dropped unless area town boards vote to help support it financially. Bus service to the beach will be extended to participating towns.

★ In athletics, the Tomahawk high school Hatchets will bring home honors. The basketball squad will be dark horse conference foes and will hold first place alone. The team will win the WIAA sub-regional and one game in the regional. The track team will be fortunate. One of its members will win a first in the Class B state meet.

★ In the April election, two of the four races for alderman-supervisor from Tomahawk will be contested.

★ In the spring the city will start construction of sidewalks on its property leading to the high school. As ordered, home owners will do the same, giving youngsters a safer route to the school.

★ The Chamber of Commerce, acting on a suggestion heard at its annual meeting, will form plans for an extensive recreational attraction designed to attract visitors throughout the year. A non-profit corporation will be set-up to finance the venture.

★ There will be a major real estate transaction on Wisconsin avenue. Two new stores will also begin operation in the business district.

★ A man of national prominence will visit Tomahawk for a speaking engagement.

★ The year 1963 will prove the banner year for industrial improvement and expansion in Tomahawk with a resultant increase in employment. There will be expansion of operations of two local firms resulting in new markets for locally produced merchandise. Of major importance will be the addition of a new company.

Heavy Loss in Spectacular Blaze Wednesday

A widely known Tomahawk area resort, Deer Trail lodge on Lake Nokomis, burned to the ground yesterday (Wednesday) afternoon as firemen and volunteers attempted to fight the blaze in sub-zero weather.

One report was that the damage exceeded $250,000.

The lodge, a T-shaped building about 150 feet long and 80 feet wide, was leveled.

The fire was reported to have started from an effort to thaw frozen water pipes in the rear of the structure. Fanned by winds, the flames swept down hallways, engulfing the entire structure.

The lodge housed 14 guest rooms, a convention hall, two dining rooms, bar and offices, according to Johnny Mueller, manager. Nothing of consequence in the building was saved, with furnishings, liquor and food supplies and office records all destroyed. An automobile in a basement garage was pushed to safety, however.

Damage Estimate

Mueller could give no immediate estimate of the damage. One press service report, however, said that owner Carl Mar-

ty of the Northernaire, Three Lakes, set the loss in excess of a quarter of a million dollars.

Tomahawk firemen took three trucks to the scene. The Town of Nokomis jeep and trailer unit

CLOTHES SOUGHT FOR VICTIMS OF FIRE

The Chamber of Commerce will head a drive to provide clothing and personal articles for Deer Trail Lodge employees who lost their possessions in Wednesday's fire.

The blaze destroyed the belongings of the manager, a housekeeper, cook, two waitresses and three bandboys. Mrs. Lesh DeLaire, C of C executive secretary, said that the sizes of clothing needed are available from her.

it and a Wisconsin Conservation department tank truck also were at the site. No injuries were reported.

Mueller said he was getting room charts ready and he and the eight person staff were doing other work in preparation for checking in 21 guests who were to arrive at the summer-winter resort Wednesday. Twelve had already arrived when the fire broke out but were not yet checked in. Some were given accommodations at the Northernaire.

Mueller said employees fought the flames with extinguishers but were unable to stop the fire. Firemen used water from their trucks and then set up portable pumps on the shore of Lake Nokomis, pushing water through 2½ inch lines to the trucks.

Flames tore through the wooden frame structure, however. The lobby, dining rooms, office and bar section in the front collapsed first, followed by the section housing the convention hall, kitchen and guest rooms. Several guest cottages were not damaged.

A wooden canopy, topped with a Christmas tree and a small section of the front porch were the last to fall.

Fire Chief William Engelman said flames were billowing from windows at the east end of the building when the first fire truck arrived. He said the hose kept firemen from entering a side door and that they had difficulty walking past the east end. The first truck had to be moved because of the flames, he said. Eight members of the fire department were at the scene.

Long History

Deer Trail lodge has long been one of the most complete resorts in the Tomahawk area.

Originally a small gasoline station and grocery store, it was started by Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Johnson in 1930 and grew to a large lodge with 12 cabins, a swimming pool, riding stables and other facilities situated on 200 acres of land.

From about 1951 until 1965 it was operated by Mrs. Johnson and her son, W. C. (Woody) Johnson. On April 1, 1955 it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Lyle McCloskey, formerly of Skokie, Ill. When they purchased the resort they noted it had a capacity of 160 guests and required a staff of 40.

Mueller became manager of Deer Trail in 1961, with a grand opening staged June 20 of that year. Entertainment at the opening program was provided by performers from the famous Northernaire.

Mueller opened the lodge with a Hawaiian atmosphere and operated it as "Johnny the Beachcomber." It had a night club atmosphere and specialized in Hawaiian foods.

Mueller came here from the Hayward area, where he and his parents operated Barker Lake lodge and golf course.

Ironically, Deer Trail lodge soon is to receive national publicity. A news cameraman of American Broadcasting company was there Sunday to film a snowshoe softball game to be telecast on an ABC show sponsored by Volkswagen automobiles.

DEER TRAIL LODGE — Only the front entrance of Deer Trail lodge and a part of the east section, hidden by smoke, were standing when this picture was taken about 3:30 p.m. Wednesday. The front canopy was decorated with a Christmas tree and boughs. Twenty-one guests were to arrive at the widely known resort Wednesday. —Bronk Photo

First Baby In Area Rates Many Prizes

Everything from his first haircut to a wide description of clothes and other items again await the first baby of the year born in the Tomahawk area.

It's all part of the annual First Baby Contest sponsored by The Tomahawk Leader and 39 cooperating businesses. To qualify, the 1963 baby must be born in a Tomahawk hospital or in a home attended by a Tomahawk physician.

In Trading Area

The contest is limited to the residents of the immediate Tomahawk trading area. The attending physician must state the exact time and place of the baby's birth, its sex, weight and name and the name and address of the parents. The information should be sent to The Leader.

The first baby born after midnight Jan. 1, 1963 will be declared the winner.

The prize list is published in a full page advertisement in this week's issue.

Cooperating businesses are U. S. Industries Inc., Bradley Bank, The Bridge, Krueger Shoe Store, Tomahawk Surplus Store, Joe's Mug & Jug, Langlois Barber Shop, R & N Locker Service, Hy-Land Lakes Dairy, Hanke's Super Market, Central Drug Store.

Lorna's Tots to Teens, Kall's IGA Foodliner, Schoepke's Beer Depot, Madame Monta's Children's Shop, Day's Radio & TV, Coast-to-Coast Stores, Bennett's Sporting Goods, Lee Standard Service, Bohmasch's, Milady's Beauty Shop, Kahn's Bar, Nick & Sons Furniture.

Merrill Woolen Store, The Tomahawk Leader, E. O. Jones, Jeweler, A & P Food Store, Dr. Maggio's, Madge's Service Center, Tomahawk Drug Co., Nelson's Super Market, 1-Hour Martinizing, Dar's Cities Service, Federated Department Store, Doug Morris' Ben Franklin, Gamble Store, Raymond Lumber Co., Myers Photo Studio, Gennes Motor Sales and Service Drug Store.

CAMP 10 OPEN

The Camp 10 ski hill will be in operation daily during the holiday season, the Rhinelander-Timberhawk Ski corporation announced this week. The hill opened Monday for free skiing, was closed Christmas Day and then started daily operation.

Company Seeks State Cooperation In Reservoir Development Proposal

The Wisconsin Valley Improvement company is seeking the cooperation of the conservation commission in constructing reservoirs on the Somo, Spirit, Newwood, Copper and Rib rivers.

In the opinion of one observer, conservation writer R. G. Lynch of the Milwaukee Journal, the cooperation might be forthcoming.

Lynch attended a recent meeting of the commission in Poynette at which M. W. Kyler, vice-president and general manager of WVIC, and R. C. Wylie, assistant vice-president, outlined their plan.

Lynch wrote, "Officials of both (Wisconsin Valley and the conservation commission), judging by comments outside of the commission meetings, have decided they will benefit by a little swapping. One of the swaps may revive the Newwood river dam in Lincoln county."

The conservation commission has been the only deterrent to WVIC's progressing with construction of a dam on the Newwood. The company sought to condemn state owned land for the flowage, but was prohibited from doing so by a supreme court decision.

Kyler said Wylie asked that they be permitted to present to the commission, at an early date, the following program:

1. An explanation of the company's present operations and areas of interest.

2. A general outline of WVIC's proposed expansion program and the many facets of conservation to be benefitted.

3. A request for the commission to approve the department's participations which will result in comprehensive, long range plans, leading to an uninterrupted program of construction and creation of public recreational facilities in the entire Wisconsin River valley.

Supreme Court Ruling

Kyler wrote Conservation Director L. P. Voigt that "if such a plan of action is put into effect, we would expect to discuss proposed reservoir sites and related developments on the Somo, Spirit, Newwood, Copper and Rib rivers. The construction of the Newwood reservoir has been halted not by a decision based on the merits of its existence, but on a supreme court ruling on our inability to acquire state owned lands by eminent domain."

Kyler noted that "The growing water problems all around us serve as a reminder of the need for a continuing program of water conservation and planned use for public recreation in our state. I am sure that you, the commissioners and the department, recognize this need and are willing to work with us toward a solution of the problems. Therefore, I am writing to suggest a program of mutual cooperation and planning."

He said WVIC plans already contemplate that potential shoreline lands will be available for public and private development alike. He said camping and picnicking sites, recreational and wildlife areas and thousands of acres of fishing and boating areas will be major results of the new reservoirs.

21 Reservoirs

Wisconsin Valley's present reservoir system is composed of 21 reservoirs on headwater tributaries of the Wisconsin river. Sixteen of these are natural and five are manmade.

Wylie told the commission the effect of the operation was the wholesale elimination of destructive flood flows and the augmenting of natural low flows to a useful level. He said stable stream flow helped contribute to increased generation of electric city, readily available paper processing water, stream pollution abatement, economic stability and recreational advantages.

"Our proposal to build additional reservoirs is based on a very real need for additional storage capacity to help us finish the job we set out to do 55 years ago," Wylie said. "Uncontrolled headwater tributaries can and do upset our control measures periodically."

"The contribution of these structures, present and future, to water conservation should be enough to elicit support of them. See COMPANY, Back Page

Dispatchers Go on Duty

Around-the-clock radio operation at Tomahawk's police station will go into effect Jan. 1, Chief Fred E. Brunow said Monday.

As authorized last month by the city council, dispatchers will be hired for desk service from 4 p.m. to 8 a.m., when the station has normally been unstaffed. At the start, officers working longer hours will do most of the dispatching. Additional personnel will be hired, Brunow indicated.

The council in its annual budget set aside $7,200 for the hiring of dispatchers.

Temporarily, contact between the station and the squad car will be by "civilian band" radio.

When operating on the narrow band setup, local police will be in direct contact with police agencies in Merrill, Rhinelander, Antigo, Eagle River, Minocqua, Fond du Lac and Shawano. Radio traffic for Madison will be through a state police station atop Rib Mountain at Wausau.

HEAD START — This was the scene that greeted firemen when they arrived at Deer Trail lodge Wednesday. The call came in about 1:30 p.m. The east end of the building was in flames and fire soon swept the entire structure. —Bronk Photo

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