CHAPTER VIII

The Indians Depart

The Indian mind became more concerned in the 1850's and 60's as the expected encroachment of the whites manifested itself. The Indians would not cause trouble as they were aware of the Menominee treaty of 1831 which gave the United States government title to the land they now lived on. As whites took up more of the village land for homesites, the Indians quietly receded to the rural areas surrounding the village.

The year 1861 brought the Civil War and the attention of the village focused on Shiloh and Vicksburg and less on the Manitowoc mixed band of Indians. With the close of the historic conflict, an interest in the settlement of farms became apparent in the village. German immigrant farmers would quickly replace the Indian in village life. Some of the early settlers have left us accounts of the pioneer farms and the farmer's encounters with the Indians. One such account is that of Mary Palm Taddy. Mary was born in Two Rivers in 1861. She recalled as a small girl the visits by Indians to her farm home. The Indians usually wanted to swap some trade item for food. They would often peer through the farmhouse windows to see what food was available. Imagine the expression on a girl's face as she turned to a window which framed the fierce features of an Indian.

Game was abundant and the dominant forest provided much of the meat supply for both the pioneer farmer and the Indian. Mary Taddy recalls how she set snare traps in the woods to secure game. Strands of horsehair were employed to make the noose used in catching wild rabbits.

The Indians that moved to the back country set up camps several miles out of town. These camps were covered with drifting sands as the Indians eventually left the territory. One
such camp was located on the Sandy Bay Road near Molasses (Molash) Creek.

The day came for the Manitowoc Mixed Band when they could take the settlement pressure of the whites no longer. Between 1869 and 1871 the remaining Indians said their goodbyes and headed for the Menominee Reservation near Shawno.

The withdrawal of the Indians 1831-75
The settlers watched the Ottawas, Menominees, and Potto-watomis assemble their belongings preparatory to leaving. The Indians were an interesting lot dressed in blankets of red, green, and brown. Squaws, with papooses strapped to their backs, gathered the children and camp dogs for the jour-
ney. The men of the tribe fastened long poles to the sides of the Indian ponies. Across the poles were strapped the uten-
sils and other valuables of the band. A litter of puppies was given special consideration by the Indians and allowed to ride on one of the pole slings.

Soon they were gone and another page in the history of the village had been written. Indian lore has proved fascinating to many of Two River’s citizens of later years.

Mr. H.P. Hamilton, a long resident of Two Rivers, made a life study of collecting copper implements and ornaments of Indians. He succeeded in amassing one of the finest and largest collections of its kind in the United States. This collection was later awarded to the State Historical Society at Madison.

A visit to the former Indian campsites would prove interest-
ing. One such campsite produced the following items in their copper, bone, and stone forms:

1. Copper -- Arrow & spear points, knives, chisels, hoes, axes, celts, rops, spuds, gouges, adzes, awls, drills, needles, fishhooks, rings, bracelets, crescents, gorgets, pendants, and rolled cop-
per beads.

2. Bone - - - Awls, needles, and barbed harpoons.

3. Stone - - - Flint-Arrowheads, spears, knives, hammer-
stones, notched pebble net weights, grooved granite axes, hammers, scrapers, pipes, paint cups, pieces of ochre, gorgets, and other ceme-
monial artifacts were numerous.

In addition, items not produced by the Indians such as Span-
ish coins and traders’ wares were found.

One grave opened in 1898 near Molasses Creek, contained fragments of human bones and an extraordinary lot of imple-
ments consisting of one hundred and seventy leaf-shaped blanks and points, one stone bead, a flint knife 10½ inches long, a copper spear, sixty-four small copper beads, and a necklace of 64 large copper beads.

The years that next passed saw the Indians on their reser-
vation and the Two Riverites busy with the job of building
a city. As time passed a realization set in the minds of the whites. It was a realization that some fitting tribute be paid the redman.

The Manitowoc County Historical Society decided to erect a monument to Chief Mexico and thus pay honor to the Indian lore he represented. The monument was erected at Manitowoc Rapids. The date of August 8, 1909 was set for the dedication ceremony. Fully four or five thousand persons witnessed the unveiling of the monument.¹

The large stone marker contained a copper plaque with an inscription "Peace and Friendship" and pointed to the "Waum-pum's" accomplishments among which were the signing of Indian treaties at Butte des Morts in 1827 and Prairie du Chien in 1829.

¹ L. Falge, The History of Manitowoc County; Volume I, p. 17.