PARK RIDGE, The Village of

Park Ridge, aptly named after the ridge that follows the west bank of the historic Plover River, voted for incorporation at an election held in Viertel's Garage on Jan. 25, 1938. The village lies wholly in Sec 34, Town 24, Range 8, originally a part of the town of Hull, and contains 133.4 acres, or less than one quarter section of land. The petition for incorporation was signed by Horace Coleman, Jr., George Lovejoy, Oscar Hofmeister, Joseph Johnson, and George Bacon. Apparently there was some thought of calling it "Plover Hills" as the document of incorporation was written with this name throughout but corrected in ink above the scratched name of Plover Hills to make it Park Ridge, which was also spelled in the early documents as one word, "Parkridge."

Family heads who are listed in the original census were Henry Ebel, Leo Hofmeister, Wm. A. Wolenschlager, Verne Somers, Ernst Viertel, Sr., Tully Richter, Ernst Viertel, Jr., Roger Emmons, John Schlessner, Arnold Anderson, Arthur Hetzel, Melvin Clarin, Walfred Engbretson, Warren J. Broten, Charlie Engbretzen, Oscar Hofmeister, Jean Kitowski, George Haertel, George Lovejoy, Adolph Borski, Otto Viertel, Gretchen Viertel, Edward Cholewinski, Dorothy Newby, George Thorin, George Perrin, Alton Whitney, George Ressler, Ray M. Peabody, Horace Atkins, Arthur Olson, George Bacon, Horace W. Coleman, Jr., James Grubb, Joe Johnson, Edward Drefcinski, Mary Jane Drefcinski, Alois Razner, Joseph Sanks, Floyd Sage, Beatrice Clussman, Anton Krembs, Alex Mansavage, Fred Bablitch, Raymond Harrer, Ray Golla, Joe Turzinski, W. M. Tepp, Madaline Adams, and John A. Kalpinski, who with their families, made up a population of not less
than 150 to qualify for incorporation.

At the election for incorporation held January 25, the total number of votes cast was 56, of which 52 were for incorporation and four against. At the first election of officers held Feb. 18, 1938 the following members were named to the first village board: H. W. Coleman, Jr., president; J. C. Johnson and George Lovejoy, trustees; Elinor Bacon, clerk; Oscar Hofmeister, treasurer; A. A. Hetzel, assessor; Horace Atkins, supervisor; Joe Turzinski, constable; and Charles Engbretson, justice of the peace.

A few months after incorporation, a movement got under way to dissolve the incorporation and revert to the town of Hull. This petition, dated July 14, 1938, was acted upon at a special meeting of the village board held July 19, 1939. On a motion made by George Lovejoy and seconded by Joe Johnson, the resolution was tabled. The reason given for this action was that the village plan had not been given a fair trial.

In 1939 the village got help from the federal Works Project Administration to improve its streets, and at a meeting held Aug. 31, 1939, the board voted "to notify the City of Stevens Point to keep their two ton trucks (when loaded) off the streets of Park Ridge after they have been oiled."

The income for the 1940 budget was established at $3,207.28, and the total valuation, according to the 1939 assessment roll, was $111,650, fixing the tax rate of $23 per $1000 assessed valuation.

After Oct. 3, 1940 a new ordinance prohibited the "keeping of horses, cows and pigs in the village of Park Ridge. . . ."

At the regular board meeting held Oct. 31, 1940 it was resolved that the plat of Plover Hills, a subdivision north of H-10 in the NE 1/4 of Sec 34, be accepted, but no further action was taken to include this subdivision in Park Ridge. At the same meeting the village constable was authorized the purchase of a revolver and holster not to exceed $18 in costs.

Action to build a new village hall was taken in
December 1940 when a special assessment of two mills was established to cover the increased taxes. The attractive new hall, constructed of Ellis stone, was completed the following year. The Park Ridge Garden Club, a women's civic organization, has also done much to landscape and beautify the village as well as the embankment along the Plover River.

Serving the village of Park Ridge, with a population of 312, in 1957-58, were H. R. Brezinski, president; H. D. Anderson and Mark Makholm, trustees; Robert S. Lewis, clerk; Robert P. Steinbeck, treasurer; George Johnson, assessor; Clifford Swanson, justice of the peace; Paul Kirby, constable; Herman L. Toser, health officer; and Joseph T. Hannon, supervisor.