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Miffed Village To Secede From State

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WINNECONNE, Wis. (AP)—Winneconne, an east central Wisconsin village of 1,273 persons, nestled in the center of Winnebago County, is tired of feeling left out, and wants to make sure it won't happen again.

So, Village President James Coughlin announced Thursday night that as of July 22, Winneconne will secede from the state of Wisconsin and will be a sovereign state.

It's part of a move by village officials to put Winneconne back on the map. The village was inadvertently left off the official state highway map for 1967.

The secession will climax a day of civic celebration, complete with a Declaration of Independence, a Winneconne State flag raising and boat racing.

Red buttons bearing the phrase "We Like it Where?" will be sold to persons entering town to join in the festivities. That is similar to a state promo-

Meeting Scheduled

ALBANY — Albany Lutheran Women will meet Thursday, July 20, with Mrs. Otis Albertson, Evansville.

tional slogan—"We Like it Here."

The day will be highlighted by a phone call from Coughlin to Gov. Warren P. Knowles, demanding that the village be returned to the map. The telephone conversation will be carried throughout the town by means of a public address system.

Months ago when the light-hearted controversy broke out, Knowles was quoted as saying he considered Winneconne very necessary to the state. He is expected to meet the village's demands, in which case the secession will come to an end.

Take No Chances
But, village officials are taking no chances. They have several ideas about how the village can operate independently for long periods of time, if necessary.

For defense purposes, the village has a navy—consisting of one boat, and an air force—consisting of one plane.

For income, says Coughlin, the village may become an international duty-free port. Winneconne is on an international waterway, though the village is hard pressed at the moment for forcign trade. But any ship—at least any small ship—can reach the village by going through the St. Lawrence Seaway, into Lake Michigan, into Green Bay, into

the Fox River, through Lake Winnebago, and up through the Wolf River.

Pole Tax Considered
Another idea for income says Coughlin—noting that Winneconne is a popular fishing spot—"would be to place a 'pole tax' on persons carrying fishing poles. The village might also place a 'pole watchers tax' on persons caught watching fishermen.

But, you can't stay independent forever. And, should Wisconsin refuse to put Winneconne back on the map, the village is thinking of annexing itself to another state.

California is being considered, Coughlin said, because the winters are nicer there.

Contest Staged
The secession idea, actually, was the result of a nation-wide contest on how to get Winneconne back on the map. The winning suggestion was submitted by Kay Klipstein and Jan Badke of Washington, D.C. They will be flown here for the July 22 celebration.

WSCS Plans Picnic

ALBANY—The WSCS of the Albany Methodist Church will meet at noon Thursday, July 20 in the village park for a picnic dinner.

Winneconne officials are hoping this will be a lesson to state government. It is serious, after all, says Coughlin, when fishermen don't know where to come, businesses don't know where to relocate and residents don't know where to move.

How can a booming community continue its dizzying growth if it's left off the map?

Winneconne officials want to be sure it won't happen again.

Winneconne residents want to be able to say—with certainty—"We like it here."

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