The History of Eau Galle

Eau Galle is a small town on the Eau Galle River/Lake. Eau Galle is a town with a long history, though the important events now lie in its past. White man are said to have made their appearance on the Eau Galle River as early as 1832. The real history began in 1838 - 1839 when Captain George Wales and Thomas Savage came to Eau Galle. They built the first water powered saw mill in the area. It took them over a year to build both the mill and the dam to run it. The mill brought many jobs to Eau Galle, and more or less made the town of Eau Galle, by bringing businesses in. Eau Galle use to be quite a big town, a logging town that is. In 1844 Captain George Whales retired and Carlson and Rand took over the mill. By 1879 or 1880 all the lumber in the Eau Galle area had been cut, and the saw mill was remodeled into a rolling flour mill, which was also the first in the area. But in 1899 the mill burnt down and was not rebuilt; since then Eau Galle hasn't seen anything like its former activity and is, today a quiet farming community.

History of the Eau Galle Dam

The Eau Galle dam has been in the area since 1838. This pre-dates the first water powered development in Eau Claire by a decade. The dam was first used as a water powered saw mill, by Captain George Whales and Thomas Savage in 1838. By 1866 all of the timber in the Eau Galle area had been harvested, and the dam and the mill were sold to Carlson and Rand. Carlson and Rand then converted the water powered mill into a mill for the grinding of grain the flour. The use of the roller process in this operation was the first in the state. Then in 1898 the water power turned into electricity with the founding of the Durand Light and Power Co. The Eau Galle dam then supplied power to Eau Galle, Durand, and Arkansaw. In the 1900's Durand Light and Power Company sold to Northern States Power. In 1961 Northern States Power decided to phase out its electricity generating plant due to the rising costs. The question arose, what to do with the dam? Dunn County decided to buy the dam to preserve the recreation and scenic value of Eau Galle Lake, and the history of the dam.
Yesteryear In Eau Galle

In the late 1800's

1) **Dam** - still backs up the Eau Galle River today

2) **Lumber mill** - burnt down in 1897 and many more mills have been built and destroyed since then

3) **Feed mill** - was operated by Palmer Miles

4) **Black smith shop** - run by Mr. George Phillips

5) **Moody's Furniture Store / Moody's Hall**

6) **Mr. & Mrs. W. Smith's Boarding house** - where many of the mill hands ate their meals

7) **School house** - currently the Eau Galle Town Hall

8) **Globes Hall** - was the meeting place of the Royal neighbors, the Woodmen, Foresters and Beavers

9) **Doctor's Office / Drug Store** - was built in 1895 and run by Dr. P.H. Doughty, the 1st Dr. in town

10) **Gerry's Store**

11) **Carson and Randy Company Store**

12) **General Store** - run by Ed Drake, and by Toni Helmueler

13) **Farmer's Store** - run by Earn Drake

14) **Rooney's Hotel**

15) **Two Boarding houses** - provided mill hands with places to sleep, were also destroyed by fire
16) **Power Plant** - started in 1899 by the Durand Power and Light Company, it ran off the dam

OLD CHEESE FACTORY - The Cheese Factory is no longer in Eau Galle, a new Cheese Factory was built on Highway 25.

**Eau Galle Today**

Eau Galle today isn't such a popular town anymore. The only businesses left in Eau Galle are the bar, Schlosser's saw mill, Bob's Auto body, and two churches. The Eau Galle Lake provides recreation in the small town. During the summer the lake is full of boats and jet skis, and Pineview Park is filled with people swimming and grilling. During the winter the lake is full of ice shacks, and people fishing.

This information was found in The Dunn County News paper special edition of Wednesday, July 7, 1976, and was converted to this page by Angie Weissinger.