

Heritage Preservation Month Trowbridge Park Band Shell: Part 2

According to a newspaper article in the Waseca Journal, Wednesday April 21, 1915, “The band-stand will cost \$1500.00. It will be built of concrete and absolutely fireproof. The dimensions will be 28 feet by 20 feet. The concrete work will be done by J.A. Erickson & Son. The basement will be divided up into toilet rooms, a store room and a confectionery stand. The upper part will consist of a platform for the band. It is expected that excavation for the basement will begin this week, and it is hoped to have the stand ready for the weekly band concerts which will commence about the middle of May”. The band stand was also built with a tin roof, made to look like tile.

The July 29, 1915, edition of the Waseca Herald contains an article about the formal opening of the band shell, which according to the article was “...one of the largest outdoor gatherings ever attended in Waseca...it is estimated that over 3,000 people were present in the park during the ceremonies.” There was an automobile parade headed by the Waseca band ending at the park, with a further performance by the band. A welcoming speech was made by Henry Habein, President of the Park Board, which had been in existence for only one year. Senator Moonan, an intimate acquaintance of Ira Trowbridge, then spoke of Mr. Trowbridge as the “founder of Waseca” with a tribute to his character and public spiritedness and Mr. Trowbridge’s desire that “the property they now stood on should be conserved for park purposes, and it was eminently proper that it should bear his name.” He went on to remind his listeners that the “... Waseca County Fair Ground, now a very valuable property, was secured from Mr. Trowbridge for a nominal consideration.” The speaker then complimented the citizens of Waseca on their generosity, public spirit and progress of the city. The ceremony was completed with cheers given for the donors of the band stand and the singing of “America” by the audience. A granite corner stone in the southwest corner of the building bears this inscription: Erected 1915 in memory of Ira C. Trowbridge founder of Waseca, A.D. 1867.

Photographic
Postcard: 1920

