

## The Meaning of Palimpsest

In early times a palimpsest was a parchment or other material from which one or more writings had been erased to give room for later records. But the erasures were not always complete; and so it became the fascinating task of scholars not only to translate the later records but also to reconstruct the original writings by deciphering the dim fragments of letters partly erased and partly covered by subsequent texts.

The history of Iowa may be likened to a palimpsest which holds the record of successive generations. To decipher these records of the past, reconstruct them, and tell the stories which they contain is the task of those who write history.

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WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

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## Illustrations

Special thanks go to Lester Milligan, to the Mason City *Globe-Gazette*, to E. C. Musser, Art Reynolds, Safford Locke, and Jo Moore Stewart. The 4-Page color insert was by Art Reynolds and the 10 pictures of the 1968 stage play of *The Music Man* were by Jo Moore Stewart.

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THE PALIMPSEST is published monthly by the State Historical Society of Iowa in Iowa City, William J. Petersen, Editor. It is printed in Iowa City and distributed free to Society members, depositories, and exchanges. This is the June, 1968, issue and is Number 6 of Volume 49. Second class postage paid at Iowa City, Iowa.

PRICE — Included in Membership. Regular issues, 25¢; Special—50¢

MEMBERSHIP — By application. Annual Dues \$5.00

ADDRESS — The State Historical Society, Iowa City, Iowa 52240

# THE PALIMPSEST

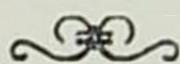
EDITED BY WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

VOL. XLIX

ISSUED IN JUNE 1968

No. 6

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## Historical Beginnings

Few men have wielded a greater influence than Walter Damrosch in the field of music. Born in Germany in 1862, Damrosch was the holder of many honorary degrees from leading American universities. He founded the Damrosch Opera Company in 1894 and organized the New York Symphony Orchestra into a permanent orchestra in 1903. He served as musical counselor of the National Broadcasting Company from 1928 to 1947 and was the founder and nationally famous conductor of orchestral radio concerts for public schools and colleges from 1928 to 1942. It was while deeply immersed in such musical activities that Damrosch declared on February 10, 1928, that "Iowa is the most musical State in the Union." He based his opinion upon the response of his listening audience to his radio broadcasting.

If this remarkable distinction is true, a number of forces have contributed to it. High among these would be the work of the Federated Music Clubs of Iowa, the Cornell May Music Festival, the

High School Music Festivals, and the impact of the radio programs presented by Walter Damrosch himself. That Iowa stood at the forefront among her sister states is attested by the high rank attained by many of her bands in national music contests. No city in Iowa eclipsed Mason City in the honors it attained in these colorful and highly competitive national music meets.

In 1928, the Mason City High School band took eighth place and in 1929 it won third place in national contests. During the 1930's, under the direction of Carleton L. Stewart, the Mason City High School band won Division I ratings in all nine national and regional band contests it entered. In addition, Stewart directed the Mason City High School symphony orchestra to five Division I and one Division II ratings in the national orchestra competition. Truly, the opinion of Walter Damrosch was being upheld by these outstanding young musicians.

It should be pointed out, however, that back in 1928 the number of Iowa high school bands was not very great. Thus, when a group of Mason City businessmen, headed by Lester Milligan, laid plans to observe the 75th anniversary of the founding of Mason City in 1928, they invited a number of bands to participate. A total of five bands (outside of Mason City) responded to their invitation.

Seven years later, in 1935, the convention com-

mittee of the Mason City Chamber of Commerce succeeded in getting the Iowa Bandmasters Association to meet in Mason City in 1936. It was the responsibility of the host city to invite bands from the surrounding area to attend and participate in the meeting of the Iowa Bandmasters. Eighteen bands responded to the invitation, and the entire community was delighted with the outpouring of music. It was decided to hold a band festival annually thereafter.

Meanwhile, the meeting of the Iowa Bandmasters Association in Mason City did not go unnoticed. Under the caption—"3 Days of Music at Mason City"—the *Des Moines Register* of June 21, 1936, noted:

The Iowa Bandmasters Association Convention will convene this evening with a concert by the Mason City municipal band in East park under the direction of Charles F. Weaver, with Karl L. King of Fort Dodge and Carleton Stewart of Mason City, president of the bandmasters association, guest conductors.

The original program of this 3-day session gives one an insight into band leaders, participating communities, and the type of music offered on this historic occasion.

The success of the 1936 Iowa Bandmasters Association meeting exceeded the most sanguine hopes of its proponents. A second, and highly successful, Band Festival was held at Mason City in 1937. This was followed by the third North

Sunday, June 21

8:00 P. M. At East Park. Concert by the Mason City Municipal Band; C. F. Weaver, Conductor.

1. \*"Boston Commandery"—March \_\_\_\_\_ *Carter*
2. \*"Raymond"—Overture \_\_\_\_\_ *Thomas*
3. \*\*Baritone Solo—Selected  
Walter Beeler
4. \*\*\*"Hall of Fame"—Selection \_\_\_\_\_ *Safranek*
5. \*\*Cornet Solo—Selected  
Craig McHenry
6. \*\*Brass Ensemble—Selected
7. \*\*\*"In a Moonlit Garden" \_\_\_\_\_ *King*
8. \*\*\*"Cyrus the Great"—March \_\_\_\_\_ *King*

\*Mr. Weaver conducting.  
\*\*Carleton L. Stewart, director of Mason City High School Band and president of the Association, conducting.  
\*\*\*Karl L. King, eminent composer and director of Fort Dodge Municipal Band, conducting.

Monday, June 22

- 9:00 A. M. Music Hall. Rehearsal of new music.  
12:00 Noon Luncheon of Bandmasters.  
2:00 P. M. Music Hall. Band clinic.  
6:00 P. M. Hotel Hanford, Buffet supper. Compliments of the hotel and business and professional men in Mason City.

Tuesday, June 23

- 8:30 A. M. Business session.  
10:00 A. M. to 10:25. Concert in Central Park. Lake Mills Band, Iver L. Moen, Director.  
10:25 A. M. to 10:40. Concert in Central Park. West Union Band, Norman C. Owen, Director.  
11:00 A. M. Parade of bands and floats, featuring musical organizations, ideas and figures.  
12:30 P. M. Luncheon and election of officers.  
12:00 to 6:00 P. M. Band concerts in Central Park with the following bands participating:  
12:00 Noon Alexander, Howard P. Berry, Conductor.  
12:30 P. M. Apington, Robert Leach, Conductor.  
1:00 P. M. Britt, Donald I. Moore, Conductor.  
1:30 P. M. Kensett, Ralph Geer, Conductor.  
2:00 P. M. Clear Lake, John Kopecky, Conductor.  
2:30 P. M. Greene, Earl G. Gary, Conductor.  
3:00 P. M. Hampton, F. O. Griffen, Conductor.  
3:30 P. M. Hanlontown-Fertile, M. W. Seipp, Conductor.  
4:00 P. M. Manly, Melvin Hill, Conductor.  
4:30 P. M. Marble Rock, O. K. Conklin, Conductor.  
5:00 P. M. Nora Springs, Robert Ruby, Conductor.  
5:30 P. M. Osage, H. L. Lindstrom, Conductor.  
6:00 P. M. Sheffield, M. E. Hunt, Conductor.

Also participating in the parade and at the stadium the Ackley School Band, Robert Leach, Conductor; Clear Lake Junior Drum and Bugle Corps, John Kopecky, Conductor; Mason City High School Band, Carleton L. Stewart, Conductor; and Drum Corps and Junior Drum and Bugle Corps of the Clausen-Worden Post of the American Legion.

The floats are by courtesy of a large number of Mason City civic organizations.

If rain should interfere, the morning parade will be changed to 3:00 P. M., and the stadium event will be held in the Armory.

Program of the 1936  
Iowa Bandmaster's Association  
in Mason City

7:30 P. M. Band concert and special features at Mason City's beautiful, lighted Roosevelt Stadium.

7:30 to 7:55. 1. Concert by the Northwood High School Band, winners of Division I honors at the Cleveland national contest. L. T. Dillon, Conductor.

8:00 P. M. 2. Grand entry of the visiting bands and floats.

8:15 P. M. 3. Mason City Municipal Band, C. F. Weaver, Conductor.

a. "March of Time"—Medley of Standard Marches.

b. Overture—"Zampa."

4. Exhibition Drill, Ackley School Band, Robert Leach, Director.

5. Specialties by Mason City Band soloists.

a. Baritone Solo—Selected, Walter Beeler, Ithaca School of Music.

b. Cornet Solo—Selected, Craig McHenry, Ithaca School of Music.

c. Brass Ensemble—Selected.

6. Exhibition Drill. The Junior Drum and Bugle Corps of the Clausen-Worden Post of the American Legion.

7. Grand finale by the massed bands.

"Iowa Band Law March" (King). Major Geo. W. Landers, Honorary Life President of Iowa Bandmasters Association, Director.

"Military Escort" (Fillmore). Carleton Stewart President Iowa Bandmasters, Director.

"Land of Plenty" (Barnhouse). Karl L. King, Eminent Composer and Director of the Ft. Dodge Municipal Band, Director.

"Stars and Stripes Forever" (Sousa). Directed by the incoming president of the Iowa Bandmasters Association.

# OFFICIAL PROGRAM

MASON CITY'S

Centennial--85th Anniversary--Band Festival

TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 1938

## Third Annual North Iowa Band Festival Day

Mason City Chamber of Commerce, sponsor

- 9:00 a. m. to 6:00 p. m.—Concerts in Central Park by visiting bands.  
 1:00 a. m. Centennial Parade of bands and floats.  
 2:30 p. m. Luncheon for visiting officials, bandmasters, queen candidates at Hanford Hotel.  
 7:15 p. m. Roosevelt Stadium—GRAND FINALE, crowning of the queen, drills, massed bands.  
 All events, all days free to the public. In case of rain the parade will be held at 4:00 p. m., and the stadium event will be held in the Armory.

### CONCERT SCHEDULE IN CENTRAL PARK

TIME	BAND	CONDUCTOR
9:00 a. m.	Sheffield	F. F. Griffen
10:00 a. m.	Rudd	D. T. Maurer
11:00 a. m.	Hanlontown	Wm. Watson
12:00 noon	Belmond	Harry Keller
1:00 p. m.	Ackley (marching)	Marlyn Ridout
2:00 p. m.	Humboldt (marching)	T. M. Talmadge
3:00 p. m.	Parade	
4:00 p. m.	Alden	Marlyn Ridout
5:00 p. m.	Alexander	Leonard A. Miller
6:00 p. m.	Kensett	Ralph Geer
7:00 p. m.	Britt	Wolfgang Edelmann
8:00 p. m.	Buffalo Center	L. A. Bergen
9:00 p. m.	Bristow	Frank A. Else
10:00 p. m.	Clarion	C. A. Burmeister
11:00 p. m.	Decorah	Russell H. Platz
12:00 noon	Dumont	M. W. Seipp
1:00 p. m.	Fonda	H. P. Berry
2:00 p. m.	Forest City	Hugh J. Croft
3:00 p. m.	Garner	Don Anderson
4:00 p. m.	Goodell	Phyllis Dougan
5:00 p. m.	Greene	Paul G. Prens
6:00 p. m.	Klemme	Martin Elstad
7:00 p. m.	Lake Mills	Marcus Boe
8:00 p. m.	Massed Band Concert	

General direction of Carleton Stewart with the following bands participating:

Alden—L. T. Dillon	Rockford—J. I. Haugen
Belmond—Keith Conklin	Rockwell—Ray C. Smith
Britt—V. F. Lunn	Ventura—John Kopecky
Decorah—E. L. Snyder	Clarksville—Ray C. Smith
Dumont—L. T. Dillon	Chapin—Frank A. Else
Forest City—Lester R. Yager	

### BROADCAST FROM MUSIC HALL OVER KGLO

9:00 a. m.	Osage	Frank Piersol
10:00 a. m.	Thompson	H. F. Barton
11:00 a. m.	Eagle Grove	A. O. Bogard
12:00 noon	Iowa Falls	J. E. Cook
1:00 p. m.	Hampton	F. O. Griffen

The combined bands from Hayfield, Swaledale and Thornton, under the direction of Karl Bohlen, will give a concert at I. O. O. F. Home at 1:30 p. m.

## OFFICIAL PROGRAM—Continued

### Fifth North Iowa Band Festival

Sponsored by the Mason City Chamber of Commerce

MASON CITY—TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 1940

### GRAND FINALE—ROOSEVELT BASEBALL PARK

JOSEPH H. HAMILTON, Presiding

- 7:00 p. m. Concert by the combined bands of Hampton, Belmond, and Britt directed by F. O. Griffen, father and his two sons, Forest and Durwood.  
 Music for a number of special events to follow is furnished by the combined bands of Clarion, C. A. Burmeister, director and Eagle Grove, Marcus G. Boe, director.  
 7:30 p. m. The Twirlers—Drum majors and special performers from the many bands.  
 7:40 p. m. The Star Spangled Banner—Flag raising ceremony.  
 7:45 p. m. Grand entry of the candidates for Miss North Iowa.  
 8:00 p. m. Marching—Waverly, Robert Bagley, director.  
 (The findings of the eleven judges are now opened, tabulated and their choice announced for Queen of the Festival.)  
 8:15 p. m. Presentation of the gifts and crowning of the Queen.  
 8:30 p. m. "New lights on the scene???"  
 8:35 p. m. Marching—The Iowa Training School Band from Eldora, I. A. Lowell, director.  
 8:50 p. m. Massed band numbers, directed by Carleton L. Stewart, Mason City. (All bandmasters direct own bands in concert.)  
 a. Semper Fidelis.....Sousa  
 b. The Footlifter.....Fillmore  
 c. Our Director.....Bigelow  
 9:00 p. m. Grand exit of the Queen and her attendants.  
 9:15 p. m. The entire audience joins in America and God Bless America, W. Earl Hall, leading.

GOOD NIGHT — DRIVE SAFELY — COME AGAIN

### Organizations participating in this Festival and their directors.

Ackley.....	Marlyn Ridout	Kiester, Minnesota.....	L. B. Olson
Alden.....	Marlyn Ridout	Klemme.....	Bernard Overhlem
Alexander.....	Clyde Freeman	Lake Mills.....	Daniel L. Martino
Algona.....	Dan Jensen	Latimer.....	Marlyn Ridout
Allison.....	Gordon L. Cosner	Manly.....	Lawrence Hahn
Aplington.....	R. C. Baskins	Marble Rock.....	O. K. Conklin
Belmond.....	F. F. Griffen	Mason City.....	Carleton Stewart
Britt.....	Durwood Griffen	Mason City Monroe Junior High	J. J. Fitzgerald
Buffalo Center.....	Wilbert Graber	Meservey.....	Margaret Huntsberg
Clarion.....	C. A. Burmeister	Nora Springs.....	E. L. Snyder
Clarksville.....	G. D. Boshart	Northwood.....	L. T. Dillon
Clear Lake.....	John Kopecky	Osage.....	Frank Piersol
Clear Lake Junior Drum Corps	John Kopecky	Riceville.....	Lester R. Yager
Dumont.....	M. W. Seipp	Rockford.....	Leigh Humstad
Eagle Grove.....	Marcus G. Boe	Rockwell.....	Charles F. Muelder
Eldora Training School.....	I. A. Lowell	Rudd.....	Leon W. Krafft
Elmore, Minnesota.....	A. W. Hull	St. Ansgar.....	Donald I. Barrows
Fertile.....	A. T. Grundahl	Sheffield.....	Meredith Griffing
Floyd.....	E. A. Sheldon	Swaledale.....	Clyde Freeman
Forest City.....	Hugh J. Croft	Thompson.....	J. F. Tesar
Garner.....	Harry K. Smith	Thornton.....	Byron E. Dillon
Greene.....	R. O. Morris	Ventura.....	John Kopecky
Hampton.....	F. O. Griffen	Ventura Drum and Bugle Corps	John Kopecky
Hanlontown.....	Lowell Lyford	Waukon.....	Darwin T. Maurer
Hayfield.....	Marion G. Arends	Waverly.....	Robert Bagley
Humboldt.....	O. Clifford Anderson	Wellsburg.....	R. C. Baskins
Joice.....	J. W. Schar		
Kensett.....	Ralph Geer		

(Over for Day Program)

Iowa Band Festival (for so it was known by name and by number) which was held in conjunction with the Centennial of the Territory of Iowa in 1938. The *Des Moines Register* of June 19, 1938, records as follows:

Band Festival Begins Today. — Thousands of visitors are expected here today, Monday and Tuesday for the city's observance of the Iowa centennial, Mason City's eighty-fifth anniversary, and the third annual North Iowa band festival.

The celebration will get under way this afternoon with an interfaith service in East park. In the evening a centennial concert will be presented by the municipal band, under the direction of Carleton L. Stewart.

Monday has been designated as reunion day and a reunion program will be held in Mozart Music hall. A concert will be given in Central park during the evening, followed at 9:30 p.m. by a pavement dance.

The climax of the celebration will come on Tuesday when bands and drum corps (47) will give concerts in Central park throughout the day.

The centennial parade of bands and floats through the business section is scheduled for 11 a.m. Tuesday. The 47 bands and drum corps compose more than 2000 musicians.

Thirty-three of the towns whose bands will participate in the festival have entered candidates for Miss North Iowa. The queen will be crowned at the closing event at Roosevelt stadium Tuesday evening.

During the years 1939-1942 inclusive, the North Iowa Band Festival was held with steadily mounting enthusiasm. World War II then intervened and no Band Festivals were held for the

duration. When peace was restored in 1945, preparations were made to resume the North Iowa Band Festival. The first Band Festival after World War II was included with the 5-day celebration of the Centennial of Iowa Statehood in 1946. This happy coincidence was doubtless brought about by the fact that Lester Milligan was not only a founding father of the North Iowa Band Festival but he was also the chairman of the State Centennial Committee on which the present writer also served.

The 1946 Centennial celebration featured the first showing of the United States Army's jet propelled "Shooting Star" as well as a Superfort and at least 16 other planes. The United States Army Band began a 10-day Iowa tour by being featured at the North Iowa Band Festival. It joined forty other Iowa bands in the colorful morning parade. The climax of the 1946 program was the crowning of Marilyn Fowler of Greene as queen of the North Iowa Band Festival.

By 1946, the North Iowa Band Festival was so much a part of Mason City life that it had become customary to link other important events with it. Thus, both the Territorial and State Centennials had been celebrated with it. Now, in 1953, Mason City was approaching the 100th anniversary of its founding and the 15th North Iowa Band Festival. Plans were laid to make this the biggest Band Festival yet. Fully 86 bands and queen

candidates had come to the 1952 Festival, a far cry from the 17 bands that had participated in the massed band concert in 1936. In 1948 and 1950, Meredith Willson, Mason City's beloved native son and one-man Chamber of Commerce, had returned to his home town. In 1953, he was returning again to participate in the musical extravaganza. The 100 bands and 100 queens, with the more than 5,000 band members, added color and verve to what had long been known for its brilliant pageantry. The Manchester High School Band was chosen to give a special marching demonstration under the direction of Erling B. Hanson. Bruce Stengel, the amazing baton twirler from Wisconsin, put on two performances.

The 100 bands and 100 queens proved a fitting climax to the 100th anniversary of the founding of Mason City. Meredith Willson and Carleton L. Stewart directed the massed bands and Jacqueline Maulson of Manchester was crowned queen of the Centennial Festival.

A distinguishing feature of the North Iowa Band Festival is the unflagging enthusiasm that permeates each session. The reproduction of the programs contained herein reveals that the format has not varied since its inception, except for the addition of the nomination of a queen to represent each band from which the North Iowa Band Festival queen is chosen. The reason for the unqualified success of the Festival must be attributed

to the whole-hearted cooperation of different segments of the Mason City community. To this must be added the enthusiastic support of surrounding communities in the preparation of their beautiful floats and the annual return of their bands. As a result, the Band Festival has made a tremendous impact on the social, cultural, and musical development of Mason City, and the other Iowa communities that have returned almost yearly to participate in the colorful event.

The *Mason City Globe-Gazette* of June 6, 1958, aptly summarized these contributions:

Hundreds of women work in the churches which feed the visiting bands so that the restaurants may be free to serve the thousands of people who follow the event. Many others serve on committees which handle the multitude of details necessary for such an affair.

CO-OPERATION of the public bodies of city and county is generous. The Iowa Safety Patrol moves in every available man to help handle the crowds.

The county lends material for platforms, the city mobilizes street, fire, police and park departments to help with the big day.

The contribution of the Mason City Public Schools is especially notable and definitely necessary in holding the festival. They turn over without charge the entire facilities of the high school building and several down-town grade buildings for band headquarters during the day.

They also contribute the equally important facilities at Roosevelt football and baseball fields for the night show. The entire custodial force is placed at the disposal of the festival for erection of platforms and bleachers.

A committee of hostesses from the Mason City Wom-

an's Club is in charge at each school building during the day. The behavior of the large crowd of youngsters has always been extraordinarily good.

The Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. open their buildings during the day for free swims in the afternoon. The festival committee provides theater tickets, to which the youngsters add a nominal sum good for any show during the afternoon.

A notable contribution has been that of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, which for years has handled the morning parade. They have learned to move this two hour event with admirable on-time precision.

The parade crowd is estimated at from 35,000 to 40,000 persons. The night show will exceed 15,000. A series of concerts by visiting bands is held during the day in Central Park. The queen candidates also make a special appearance there at 2:30 p.m. on their way to the theater.

The North Iowa Band Festival is a big event. It involves a lot of planning, a lot of co-operation, and a lot of work. Its sponsors are well repaid, not only in good will for the host city, but also in the satisfaction of providing a day of enjoyment and fellowship for some of the finest young people in the world.

It was out of such splendid teamwork that Mason City entered upon a decade of North Iowa Band Festivals during which time three were destined to be especially outstanding. The first was held in 1958 following the smashing success of Meredith Willson's *The Music Man* on Broadway. The second was held in 1962 following the appearance of Warner Brothers glamorous hit production of *The Music Man*. The third was held in 1968 on the occasion of the 30th North

Iowa Band Festival, which also marked the reunion of the graduates of Mason City High School in 1918-1919. The presence of Meredith Willson at each of these Band Festivals was in itself a guarantee of success.

It was the universal applause accorded Meredith Willson's *The Music Man* that added a new note and a new dimension to the North Iowa Band Festival. From 1957 on, Mason City would have the sobriquet—River City—a name that was destined to be better known to most Americans than Mason City itself.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

BROADWAY'S LONG RUNNING PLAYS

(As of November 1, 1967)

Life with Father	3,213
Tobacco Road	3,182
My Fair Lady	2,717
Abie's Irish Rose	2,327
Oklahoma!	2,246
South Pacific	1,925
Harvey	1,775
Born Yesterday	1,643
*Hello Dolly	1,574
Mary, Mary	1,572
Voice of the Turtle	1,558
Barefoot in the Park	1,532
Arsenic and Old Lace	1,444
The Sound of Music	1,442
How to Succeed in Business	1,416
Hellzapoppin	1,404
The Music Man	1,376
Funny Girl	1,348
Angel Street	1,295
Lightnin'	1,291

(\*) Still running

World Almanac 1968

## Broadway to Mason City - 1958

All Mason City was agog with anticipation as the 20th Annual North Iowa Band Festival drew near. The town's favorite son, Meredith Willson, would be back home in June to share with his friends the accolades that had been won by *The Music Man*, his smash Broadway hit, that was the talk of the musical world.

The *Mason City Globe-Gazette*, alert to the spirit of the times, dedicated its Band Festival Edition of June 6, 1958, to *The Music Man*. According to one *Globe-Gazette* writer:

Since the first drum roll of "Seventy Six Trombones" resounded on Broadway the night of December 19, 1957, *The Music Man*, Meredith Willson's loving tribute to his native city and state, has piled up the most impressive set of statistics since Joe DiMaggio batted safely in 56 consecutive games.

By May 19, five months after the opening, *The Music Man* had played to 294,930 satisfied customers, and with mail orders piling in at the rate of 500 a day, the box-office is now selling tickets through December 27 . . . The little town of River City, Iowa, has captured the hearts of people all over the country, appealing to ministers of all faiths and children of all ages. Church trains have been organized to come to New York to see *The Music Man*, and theatre parties of standing room have been sold to groups unable to secure tickets.

The financial figures are no less impressive. *The Music Man* grosses almost \$70,000 a week, which is well over three million dollars a year. It has virtually paid back its \$300,000 investment at the rate of approximately \$18,000 a week profit, and will probably pay its backers back \$10 for every dollar invested.

The repercussions of this fabulous success story were felt in every Iowa community—large and small. Mason Citians were especially proud of their gifted prodigy, who over the years had been a veritable one-man Chamber of Commerce in promoting his old home town. Willson's love of Iowa and Mason City did not go unnoticed by others. The following, by Tim Taylor, appeared in part in *Cue* magazine, New York's entertainment weekly.

New York—It has long been the opinion of a substantial block of citizens here and in Hollywood that Meredith Willson's avocation is music, but that his real job for the past 30-odd years has been that of ambassador-without-portfolio from the sovereign state of Iowa.

It's true that Willson has amassed a lengthy list of impressive credits as a musician, composer, conductor, radio and TV performer, and author, but some of us are convinced that his sorties into show business merely camouflage his undercover activities as one-man Chamber of Commerce for the land of the Hawkeye.

During the past few months there has been a notable lack of mentions of Iowa on radio and television, a fact which led to the ridiculous rumor that the wily propagandist and the state house gang in Des Moines had come to a parting of the ways.



But, no. It turns out that Willson has been hard at work putting the finishing touches on his magnum opus, a musical comedy. And guess where all the singing and dancing in this new show which he calls *The Music Man*, takes place?

Yup. Capital eye, oh, you, ay.

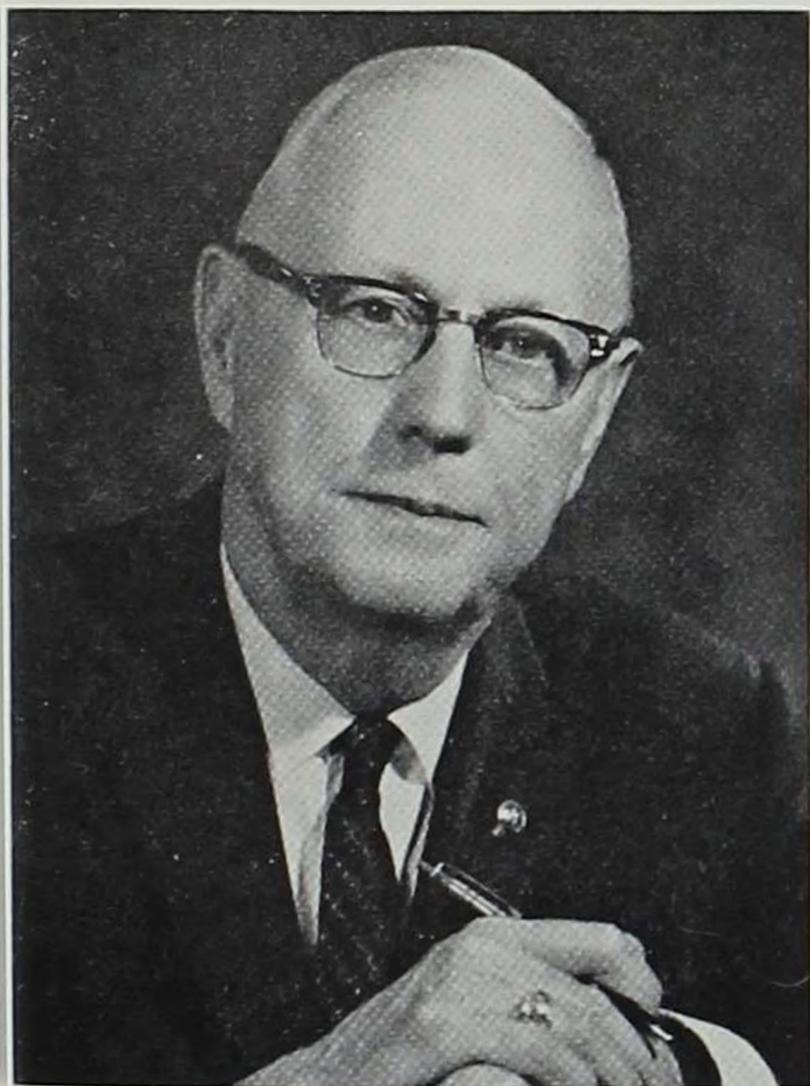
It was with no little pride that the *Mason City Globe-Gazette* noted in its Band Festival Edition on June 6 that 5,000 musicians would take over "River City" in 1958. Fully 87 bands (77 of them from North Iowa towns) would participate in the colorful ceremonies. The bands came from points as far distant as Ayrshire and Ruthven in the West, Blairsburg and Wellsburg in the South, New Hampton and Cresco in the East, and Huntley and Janesville in Minnesota. Nineteen North Iowa counties were represented in this outpouring of musicians, with Kossuth County boasting the largest number of band entries with ten. Cerro Gordo (not counting Mason City), Franklin and Hancock counties stood next with eight bands each.

Mason City bent every effort to make the 1958 Band Festival the most outstanding that had been held in twenty years. Parade Chairman David L. Hirsch, aglow with excitement, had assured the public it would be "the finest, biggest, most spectacular parade in the history of the North Iowa Band Festival." Those who witnessed it were lavish in their praise. The parade included more than 30 floats, 93 marching bands, and shiny con-

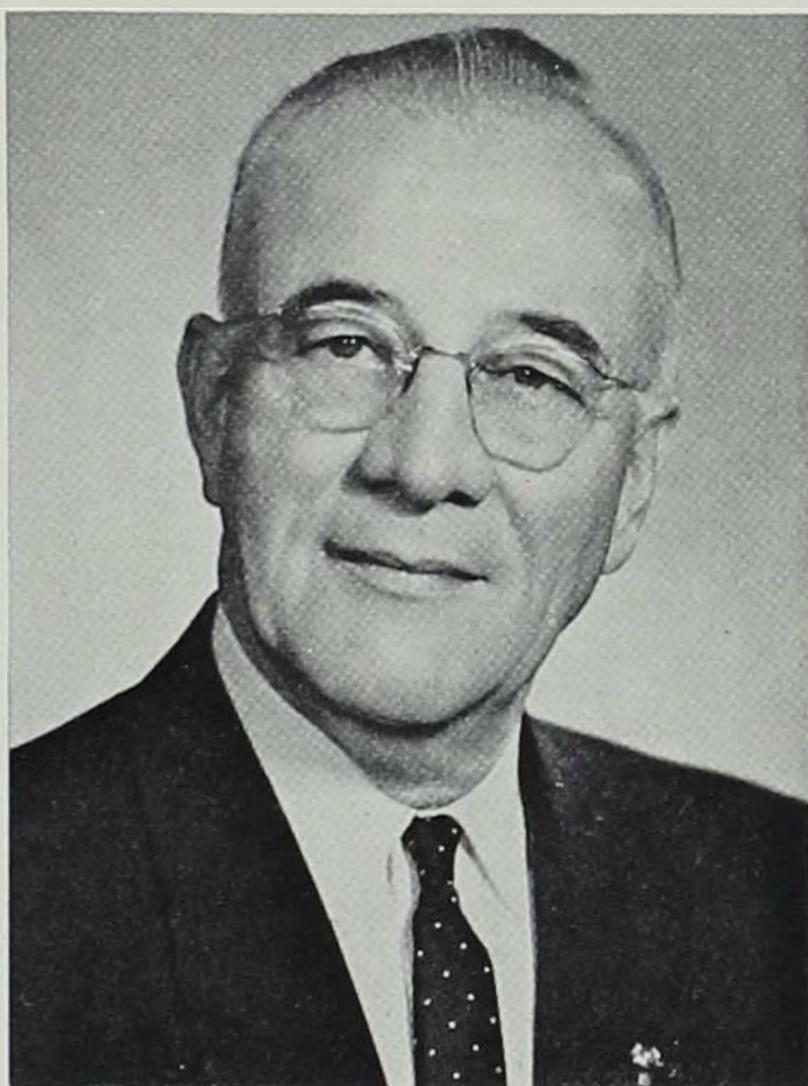
vertibles carrying the 87 queen candidates and a host of distinguished guests, including Governor Herschel Loveless and his wife, Lieutenant Governor William H. Nicholas and his wife, Mayor and Mrs. George Mendon, Meredith Willson and his wife, and bandmaster-composer Paul Yoder of Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Perhaps the most exciting feature of the parade was the "76 Trombones" group led by Willson. This spectacular unit, made up of 208 musicians (including 11 tubas and 11 drums) was selected from 22 of the participating school bands. The bands were arranged in alphabetical order by towns, headed in each instance by a queen candidate riding in a convertible. Those bands with musicians in the feature band followed the others so that their members had time to rejoin their own units before embarking along the parade route. Floats were interspersed between every third or fourth band. The last 12 floats in the procession were the special "Music Man" floats which told the story of Meredith Willson's musical comedy hit in colorful tableaux.

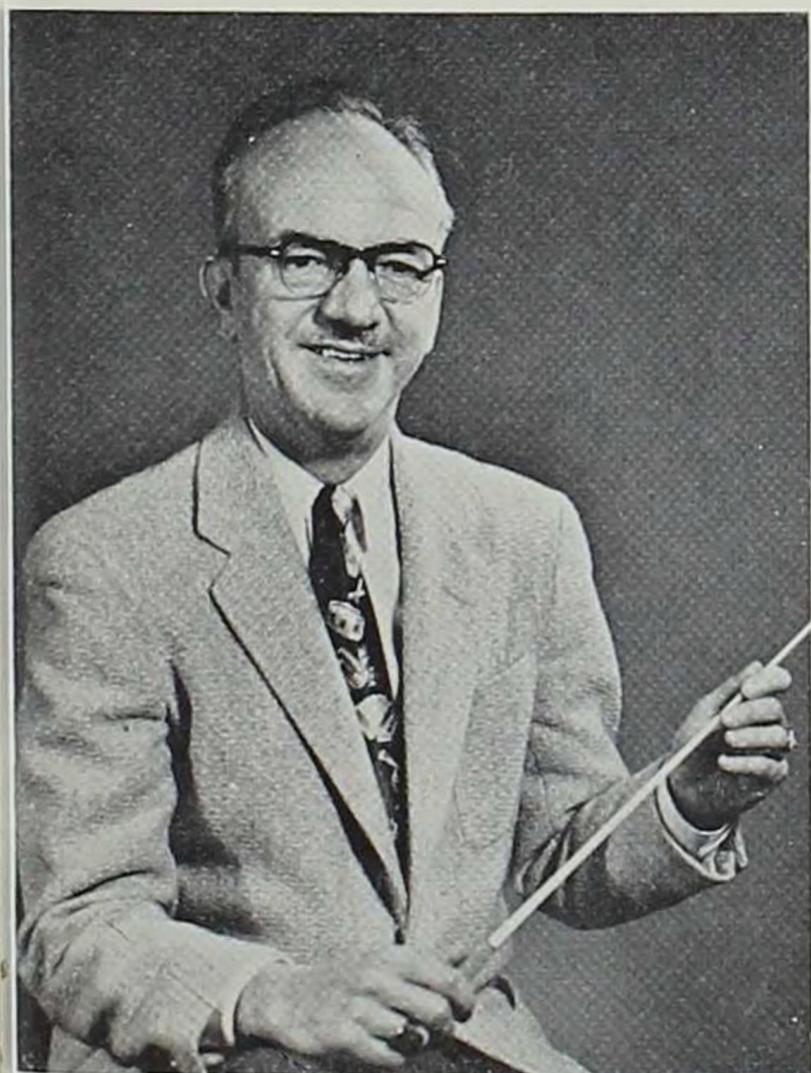
The evening show, always the climax of the Band Festival, was viewed by thousands of spectators. It began with more than 5,000 young musicians marching onto the field and taking their place in the stadium. These were followed by the entry onto the field of Miss North Iowa who in turn was followed by the Miss North Iowa queens



Lester Milligan



Dan G. Klemnauer



Carleton L. Stewart

### Some Founding Fathers of the North Iowa Band Festival

Lester Milligan was chief executive of the Mason City Chamber of Commerce and in this capacity also took the lead in securing and promoting the Band Festival through the years.

Carleton L. Stewart was bandmaster of the Mason City High School band and was president of the Iowa Bandmasters Association when it first met in Mason City in 1936.

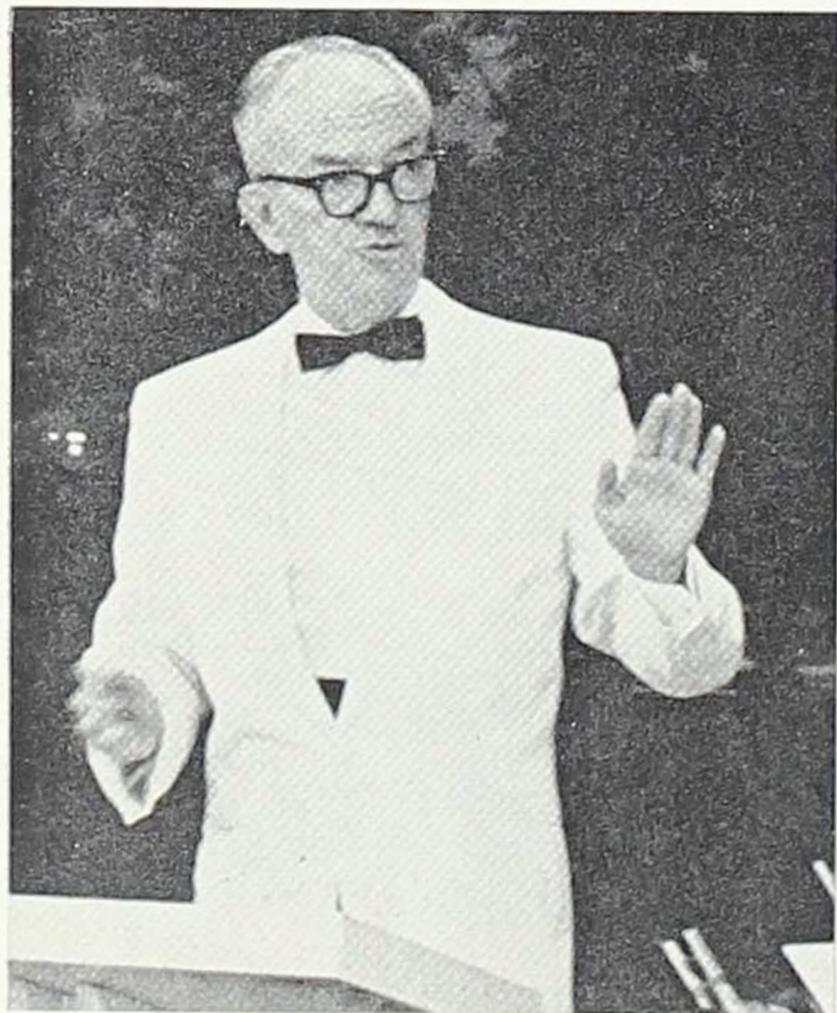
Dan G. Klemnauer was chairman of the conventions committee of the Chamber of Commerce. He was succeeded by William Nichols, Ray Seney, and currently Robert Douglas.



Frank Simon



William F. Santelmann, USMC



Carleton L. Stewart



Cliff Bainum  
Northwestern University



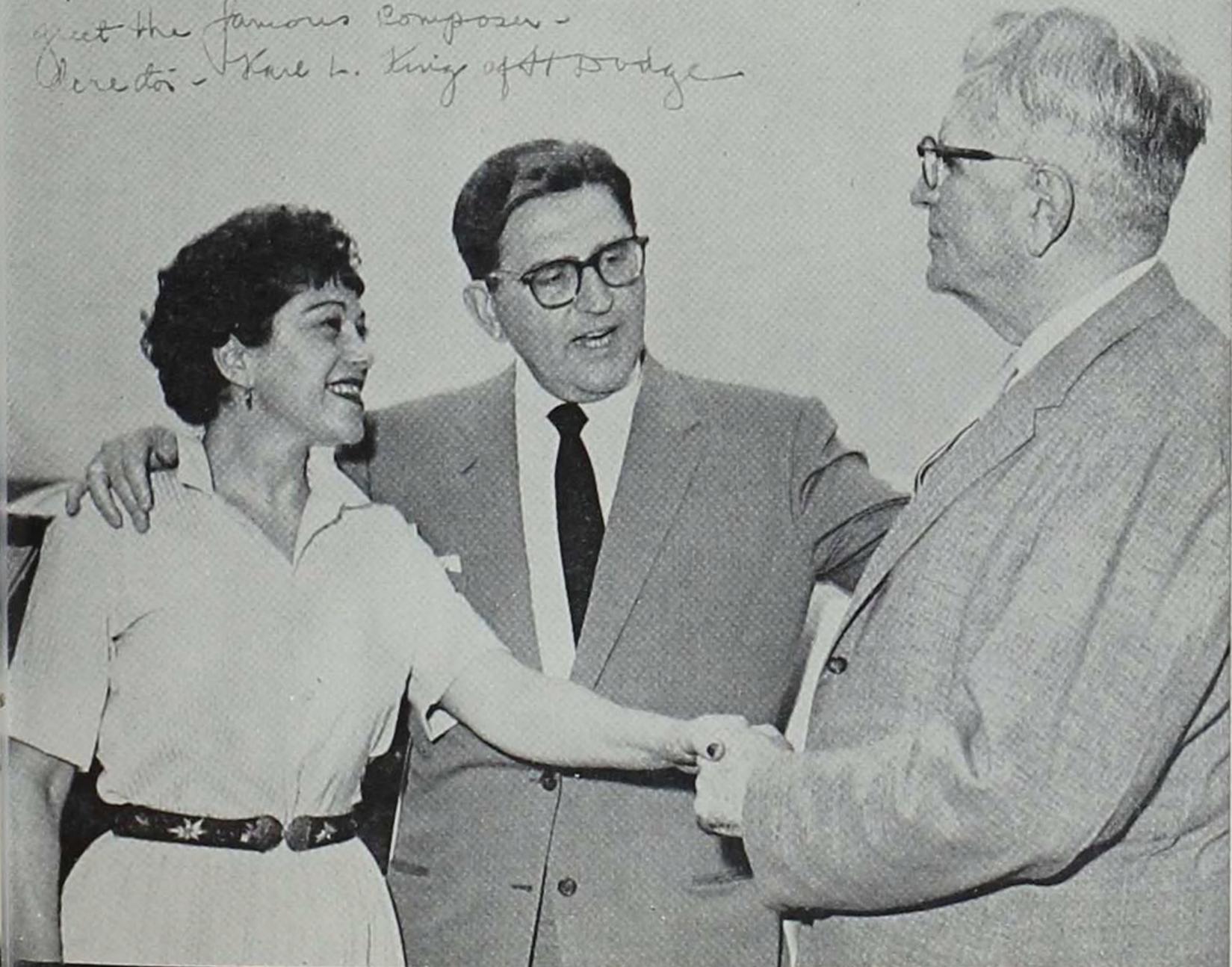
Paul Yoder  
Fort Lauderdale



Fred C. Ebbs  
University of Iowa

Meredith and Rini Willson greet Karl King of Fort Dodge.

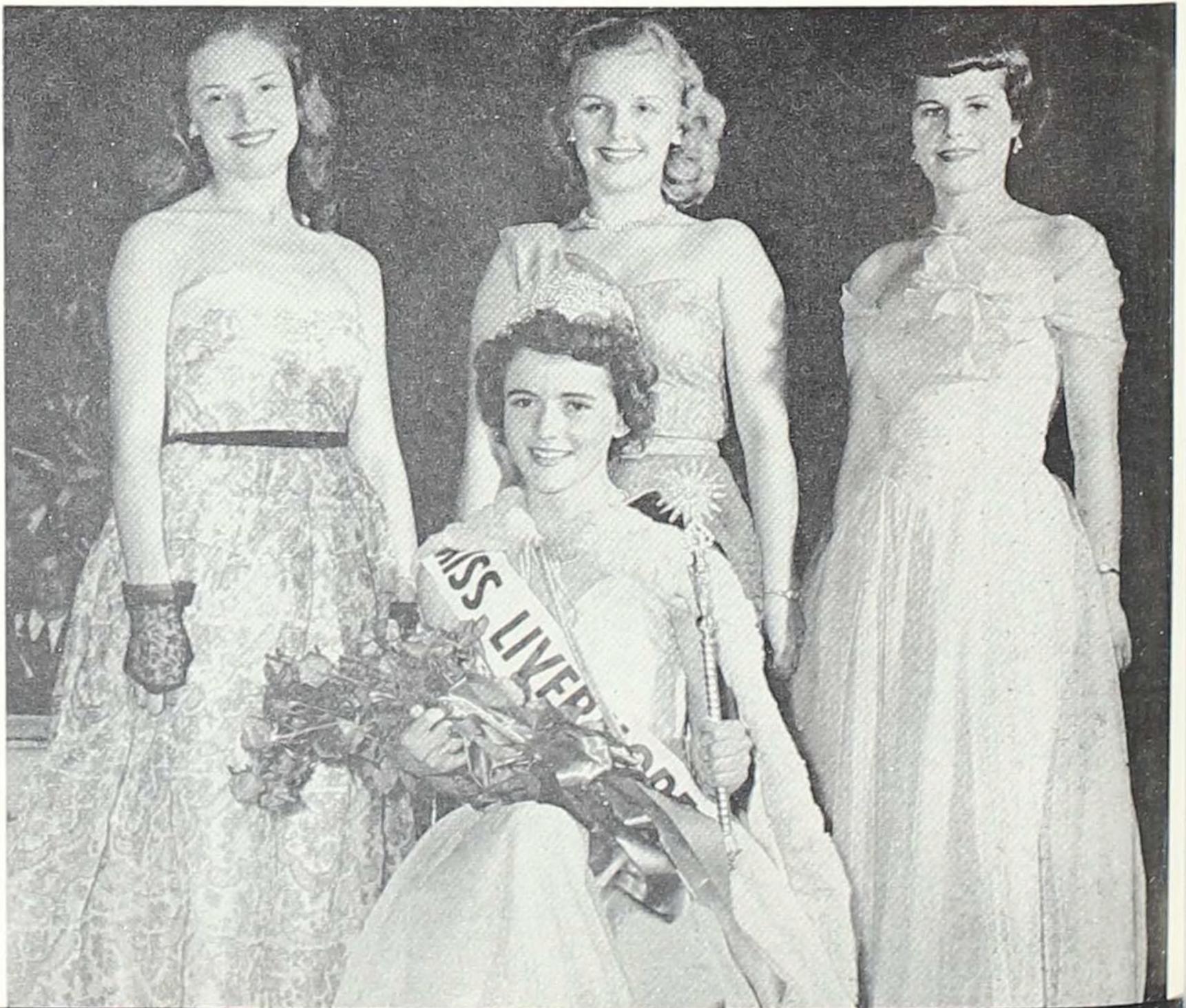
*Meredith & Rini Willson  
greet the famous Composer -  
Director - Karl L. King of Ft Dodge*





The first queens—Shirley Morgan (1938), Marjorie Smith (1939), and Charlotte Ann Foss (1940), attend to the crowning of the fourth queen—Alberta Joslyn of Clear Lake (1941).

Four queens since 1946—(standing): LaDonna Gleiden (1949), Marilyn Fowler (1946), Shirley Eycler (1948), and seated—Kay Kayou (1950).

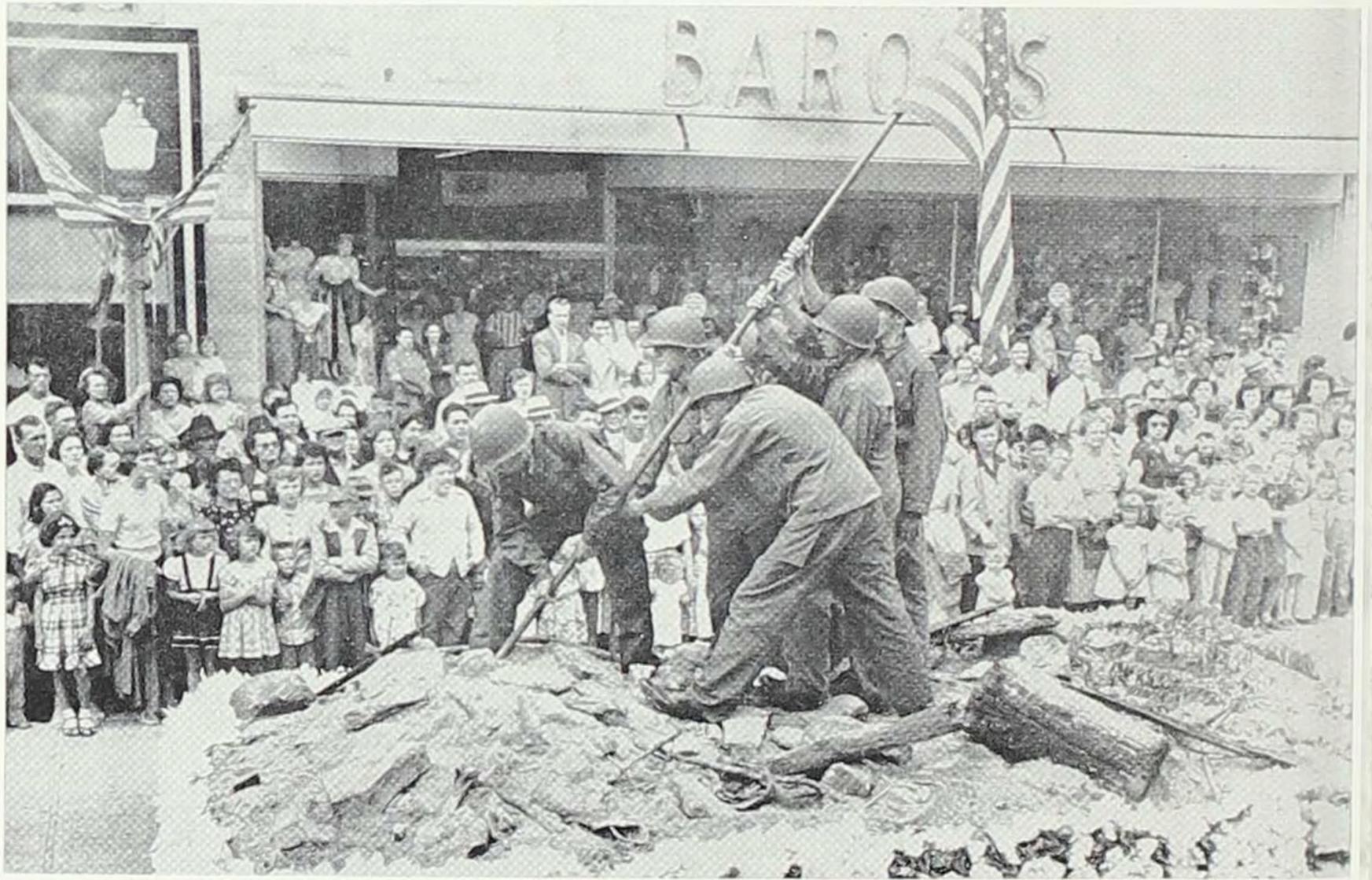




Sue Tenold, Northwood, and her retinue in 1957.



Hostesses to the queen candidates in 1960.



Raising "Old Glory" over Iwo Jima.



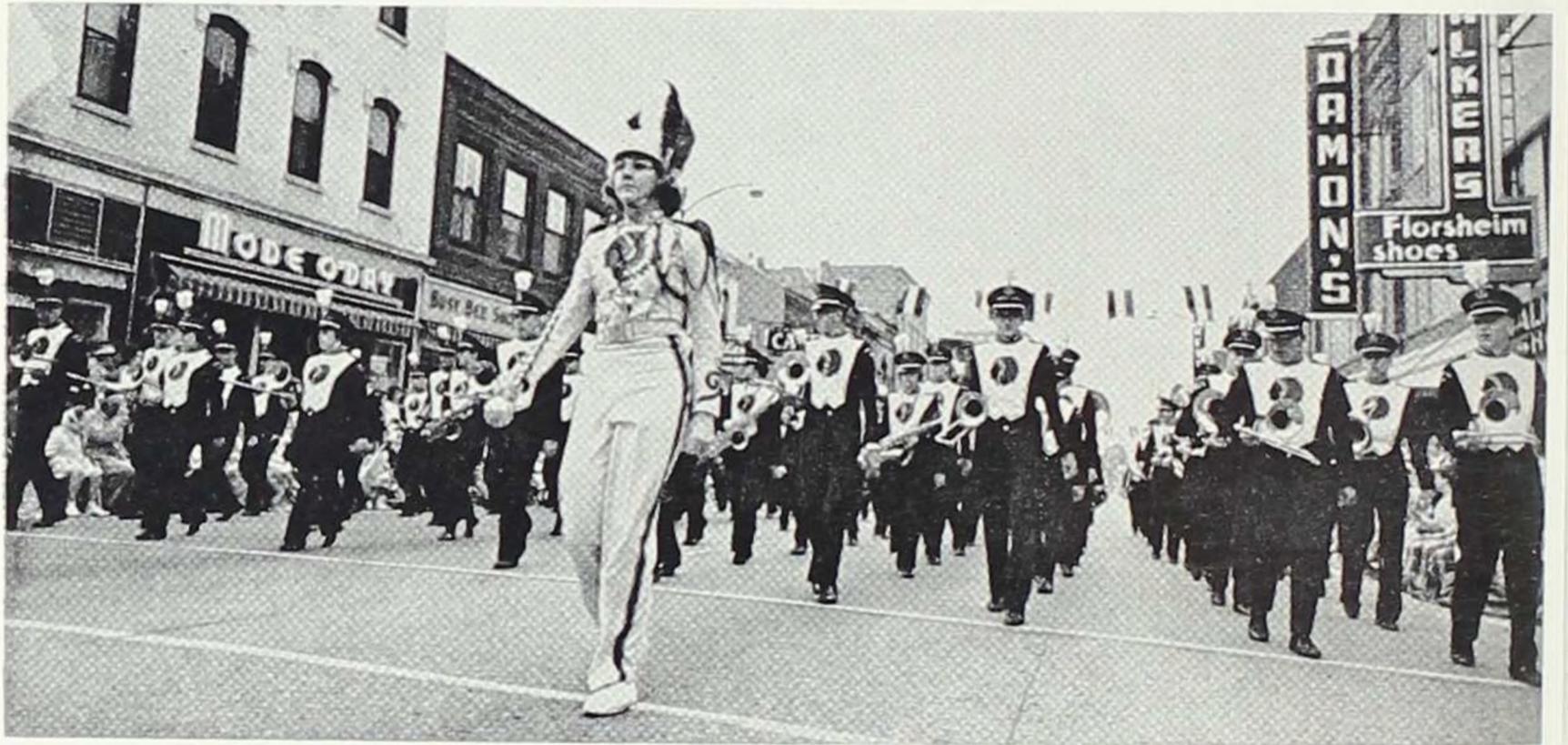
The Osage centennial occurred in 1956.



Ventura float depicted wild game.



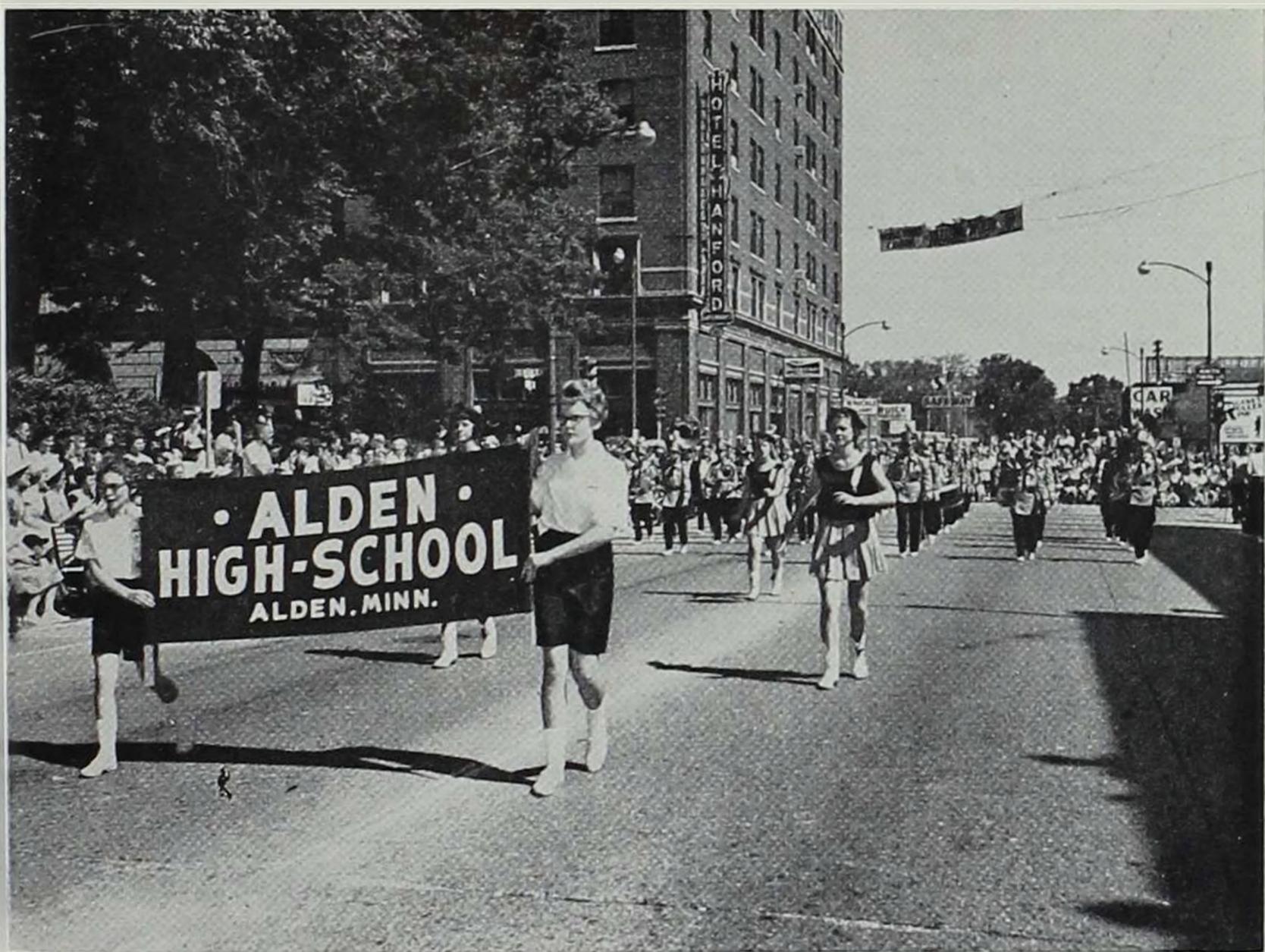
Swimming and boating are great at Clear Lake.



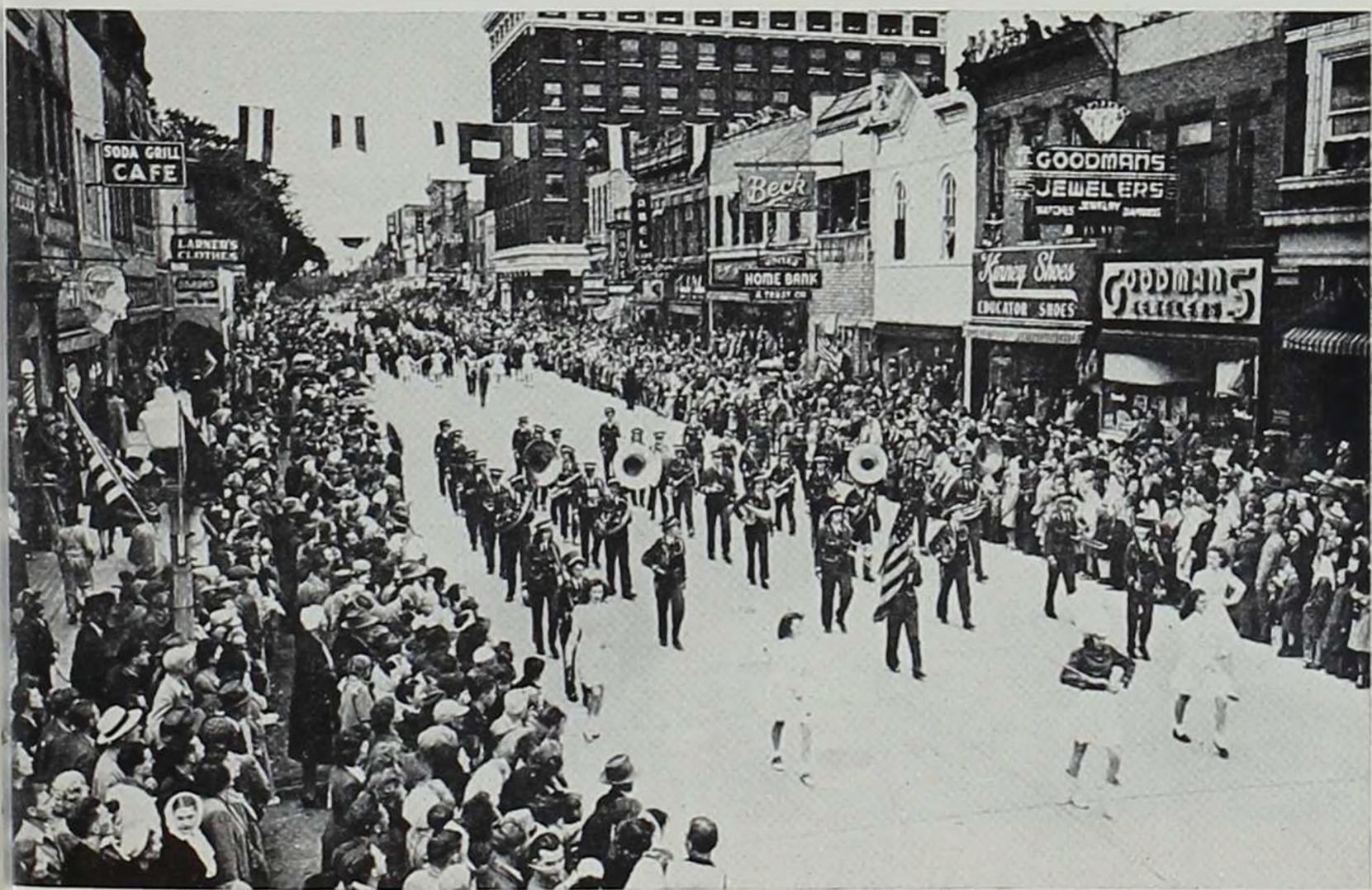
Drum majors and drum majorettes cut fancy figures.



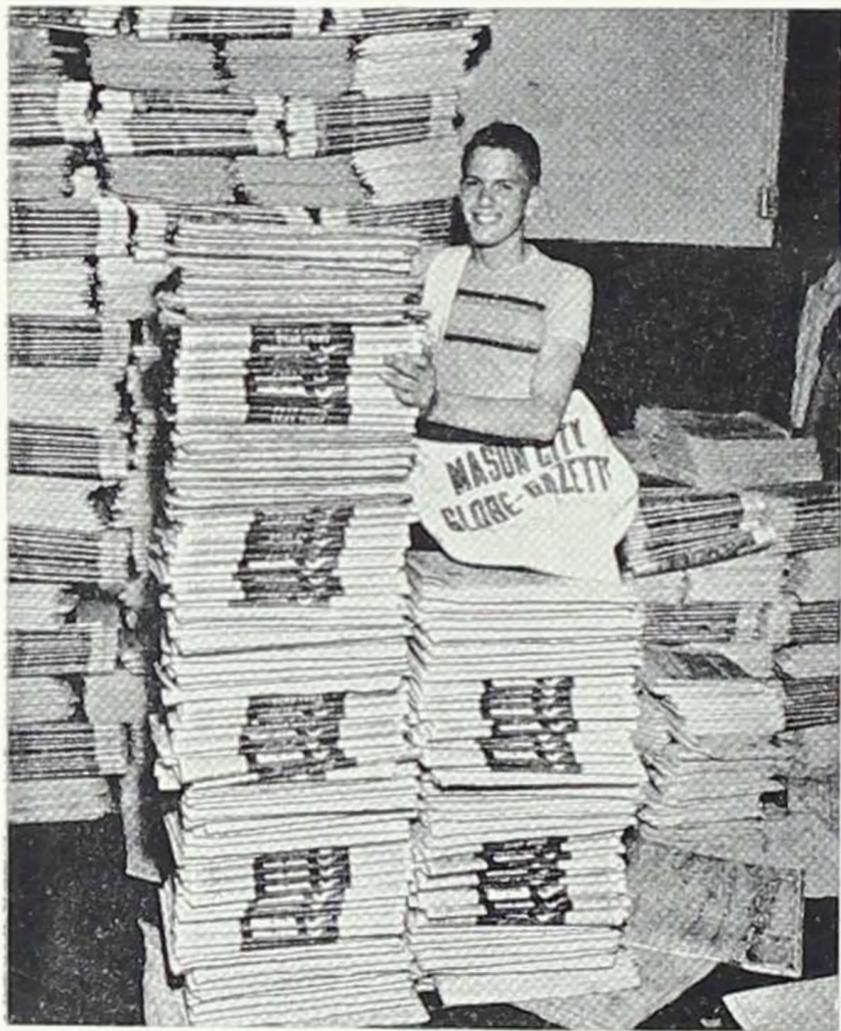
The Britt band always makes a fine showing!



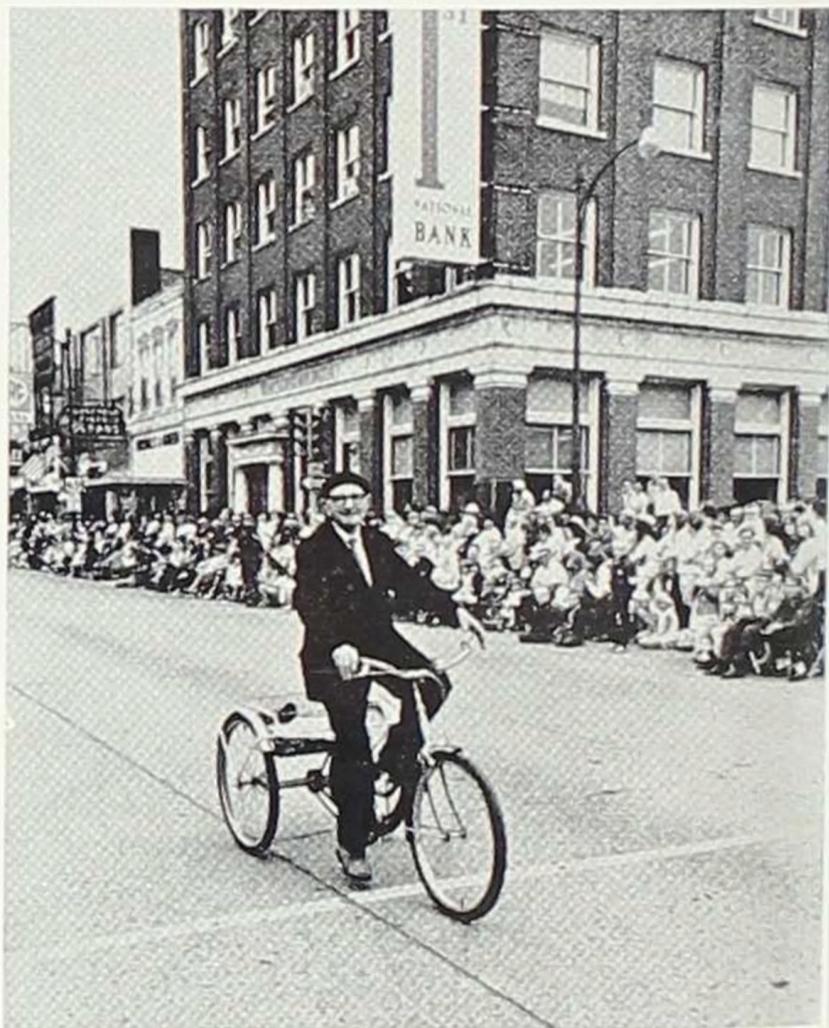
Minnesota bands add color to every Festival.



Thousands watch as 91 bands march on parade in 1952.



*Globe-Gazette* features Band Festival in Centennial Edition.



W. A. Storer, an early band director, rides in parade at 88.



It can get chilly in June . . .



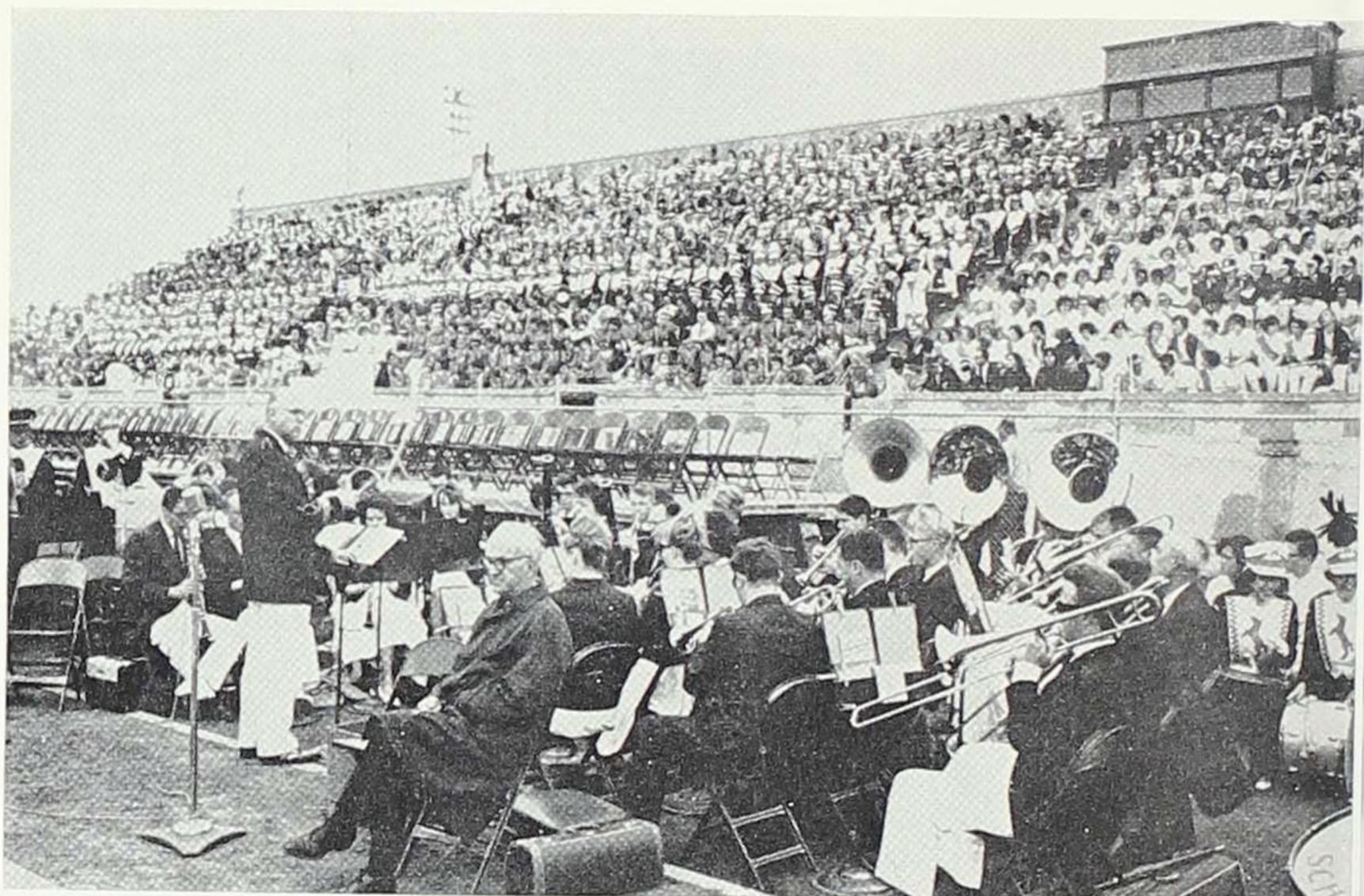
but folks are ready for any weather.



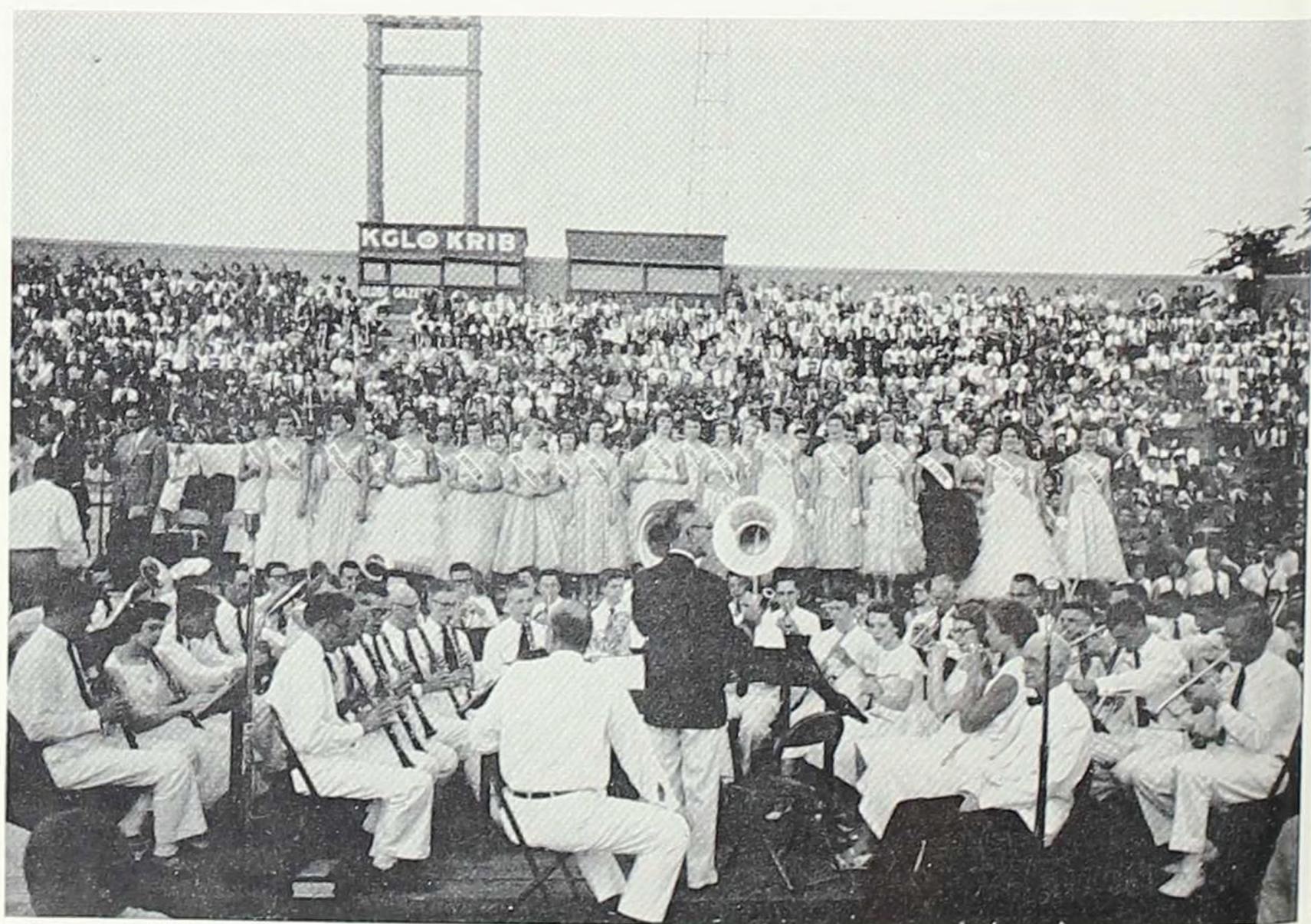
After the parade the crowd disperses.



Some find comfortable spots in the park.



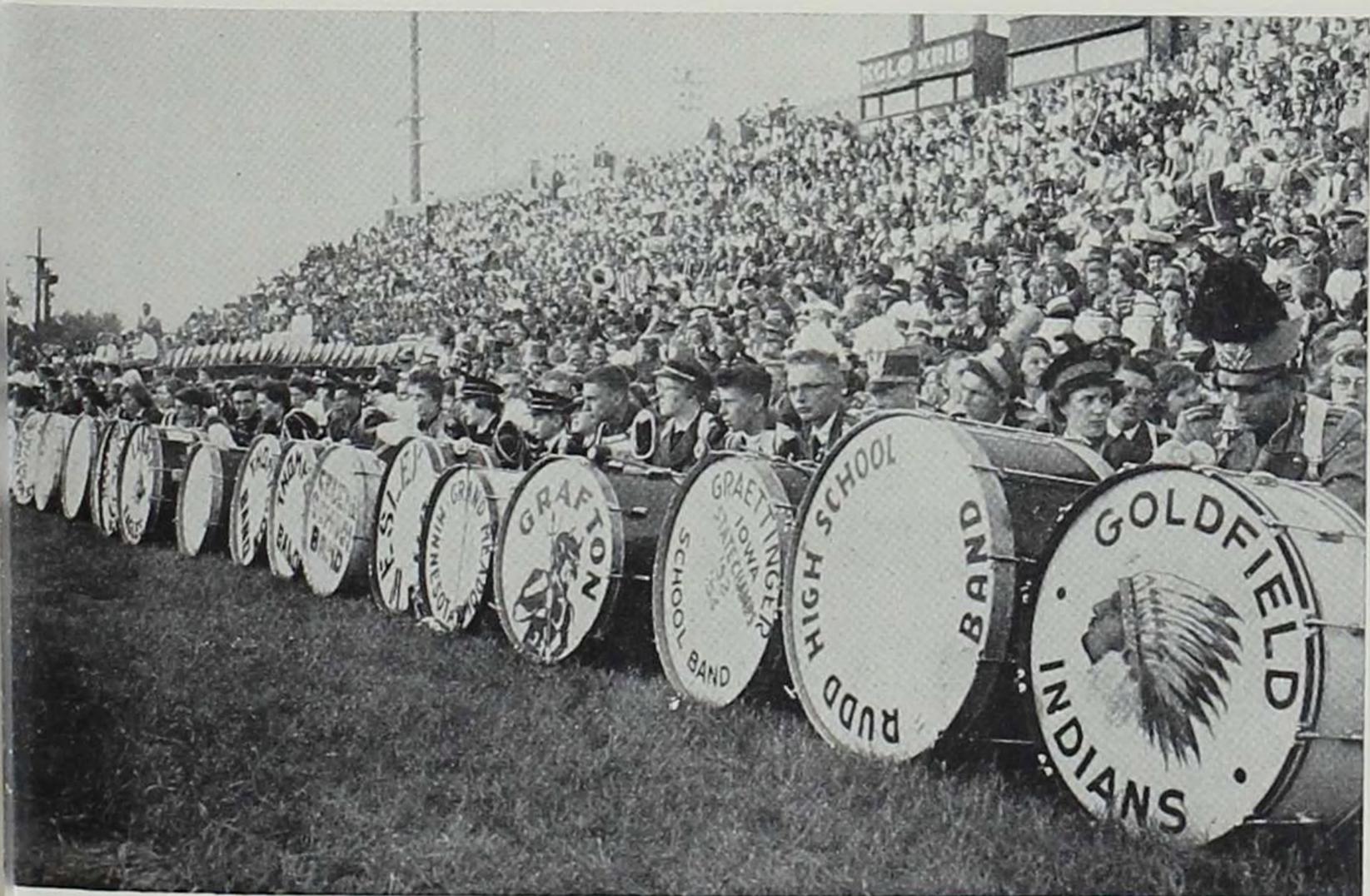
The grandstand fills early for evening show.



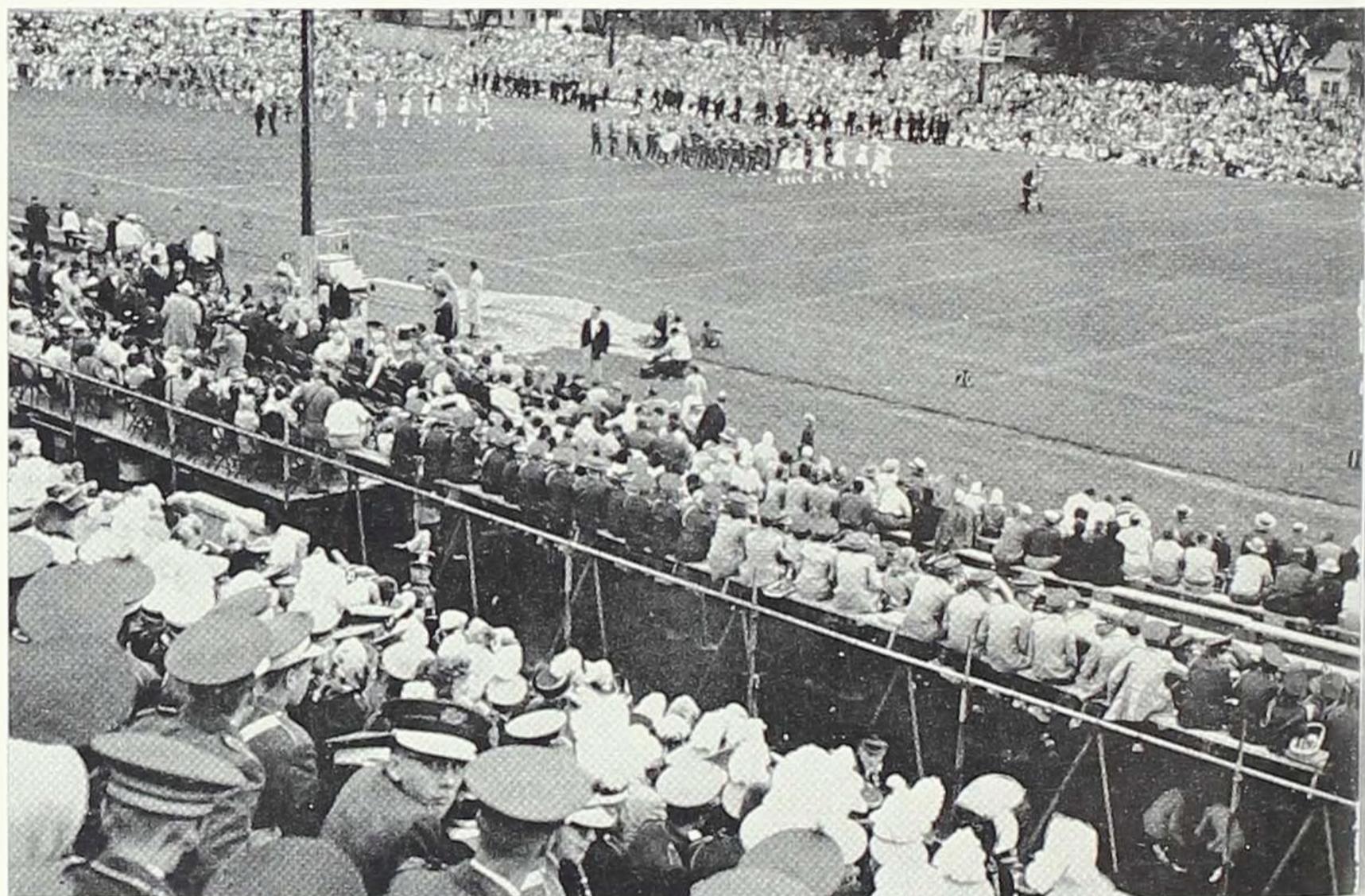
The 1956 queens line up for their introduction.



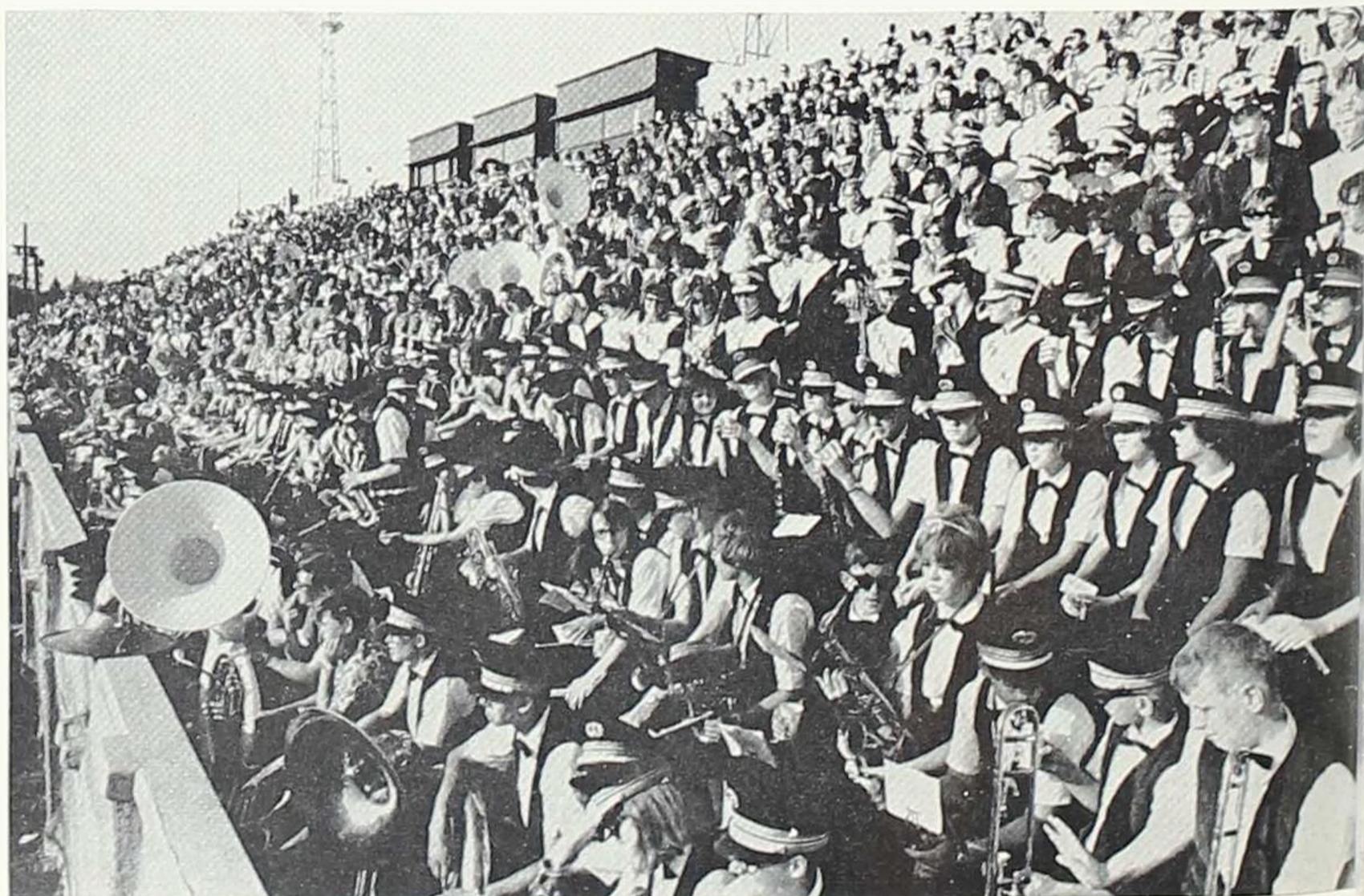
The drummers occupy the lower seats; the clarinet and piccolo players head for the top.



A band is known by the drum it beats!



It takes a long time for 80 to 100 bands to parade upon Roosevelt Field . . .

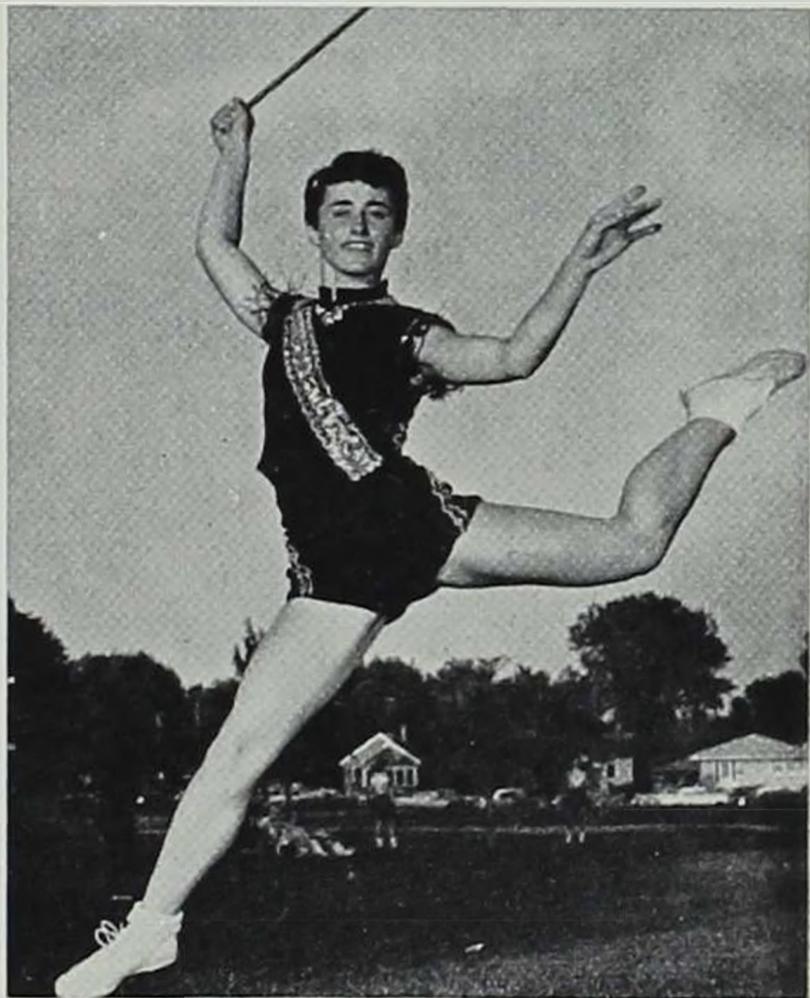


and seat 5,000 musicians in the grandstand!

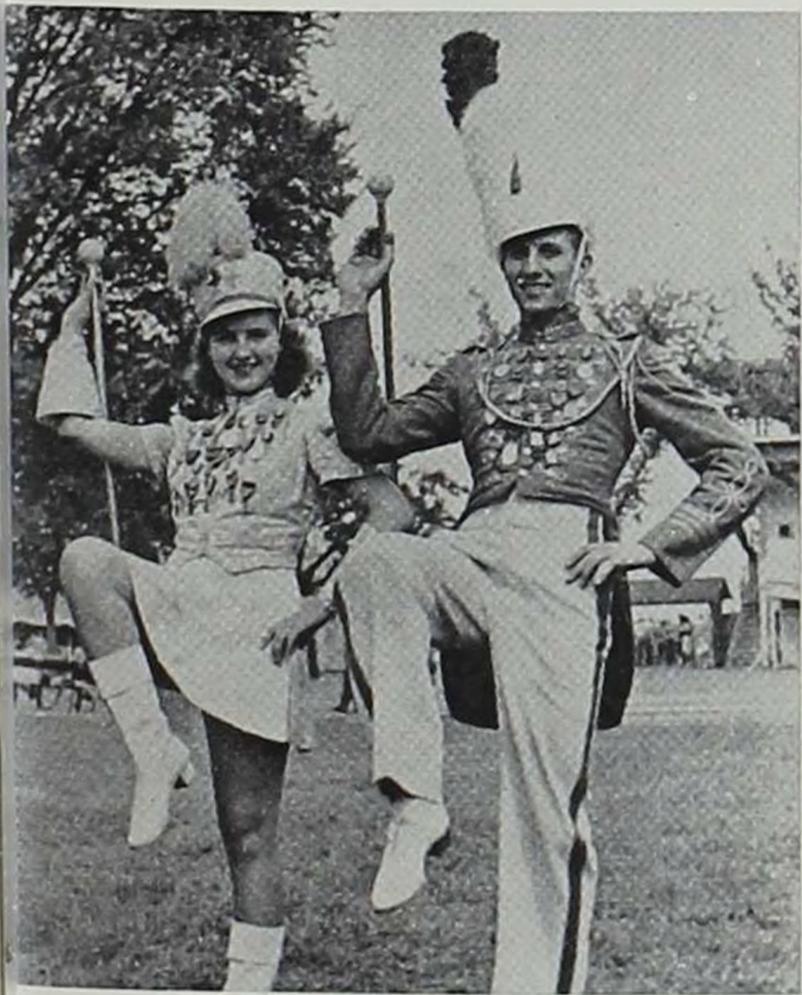
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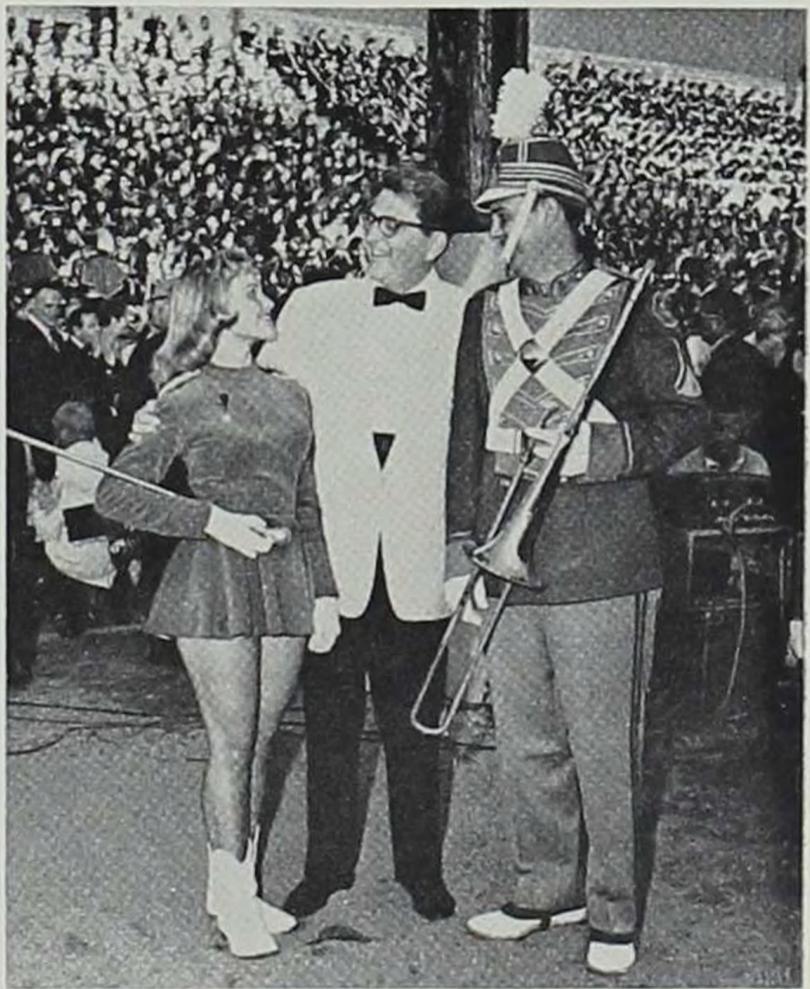
Joice Rice



A high stepper in 1956.



Missouri sent Karl and Mary Evelyn Thurman as featured twirlers one year.



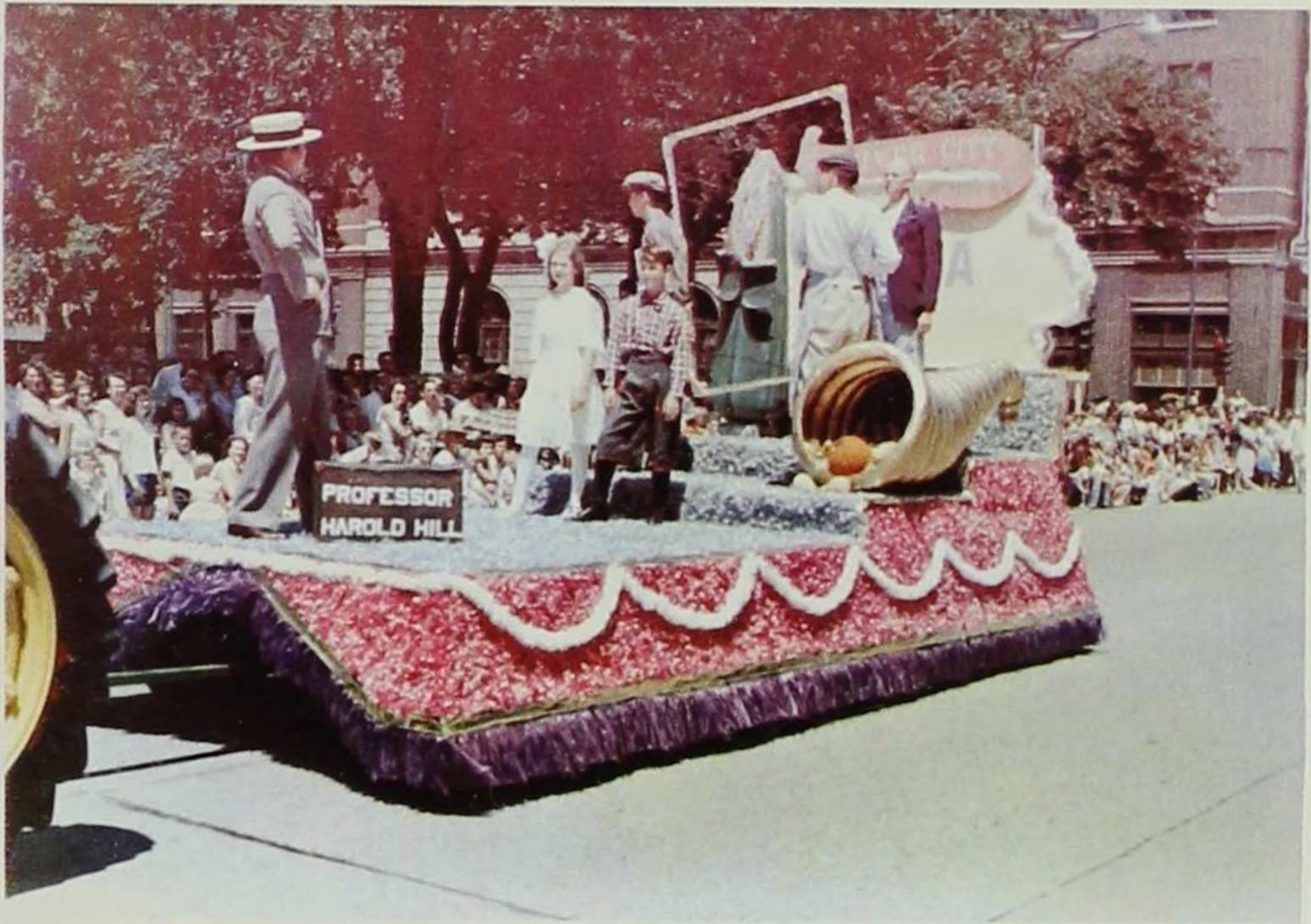
Meredith Willson greets a pretty majorette from Charleston, West Virginia in 1962.



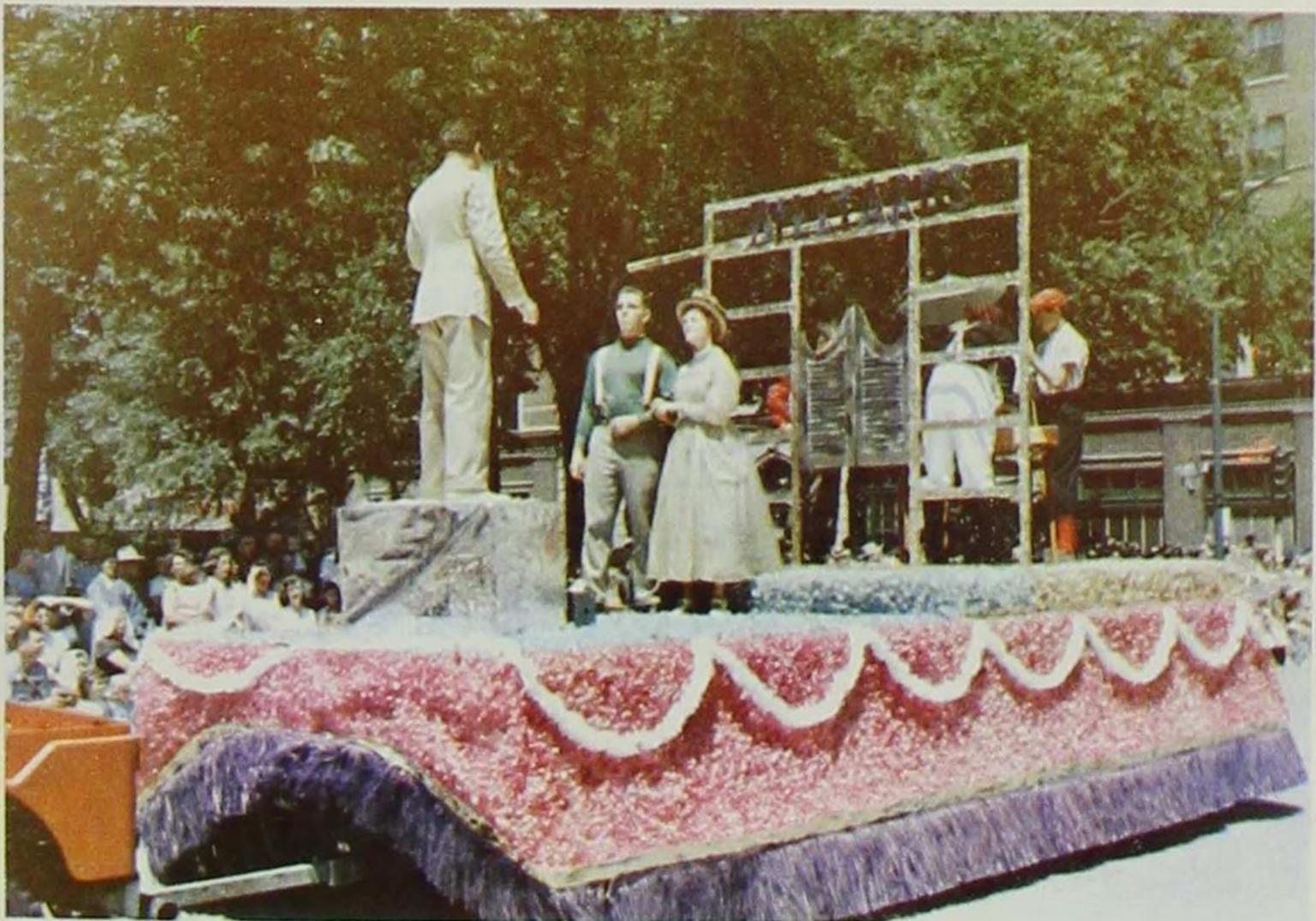
School buses cover acres of ground during Festival.



Bumbershoot proves excellent popcorn receptacle.



Iowa Stubborn



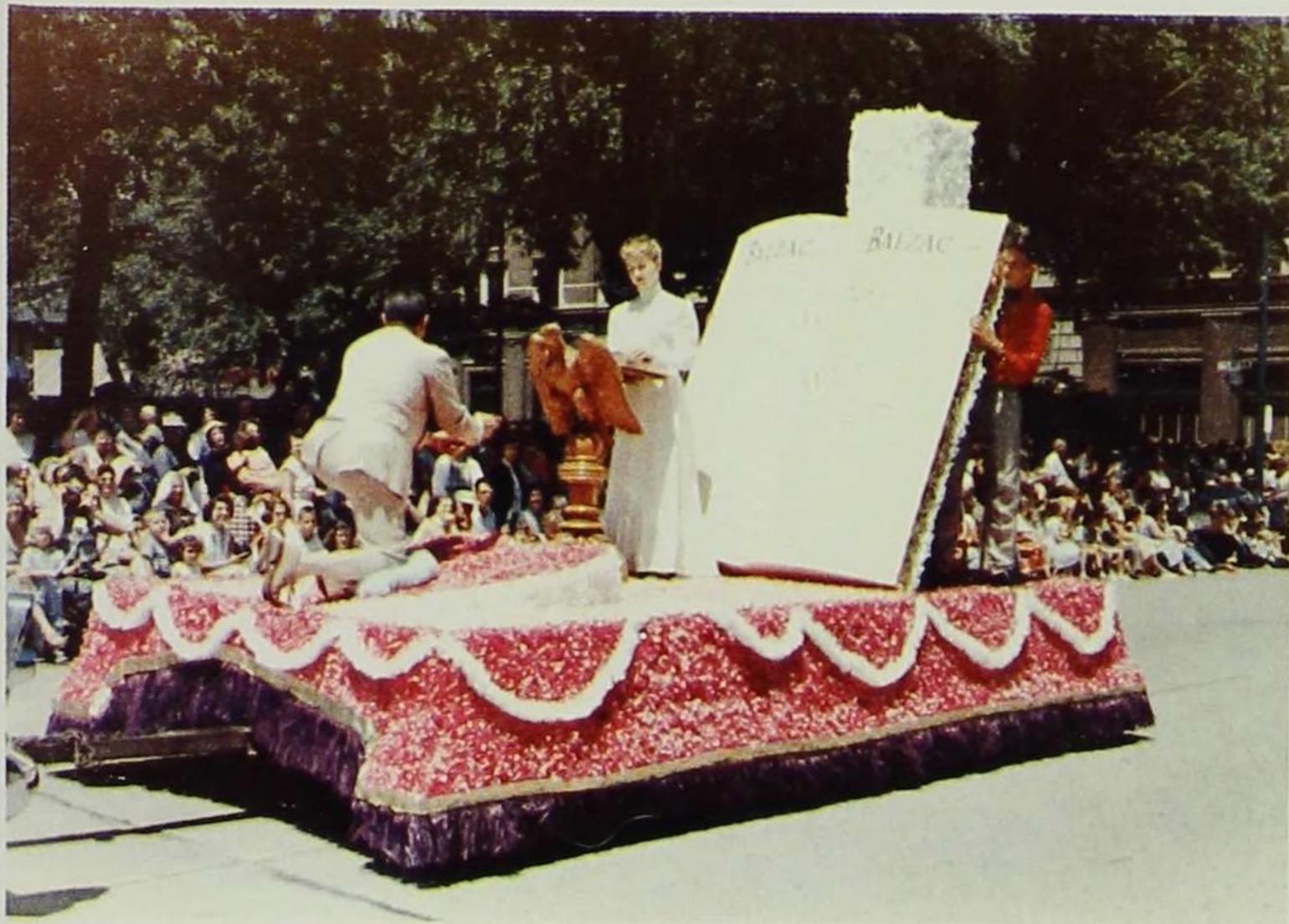
Ya Got Trouble



Seventy-six Trombones



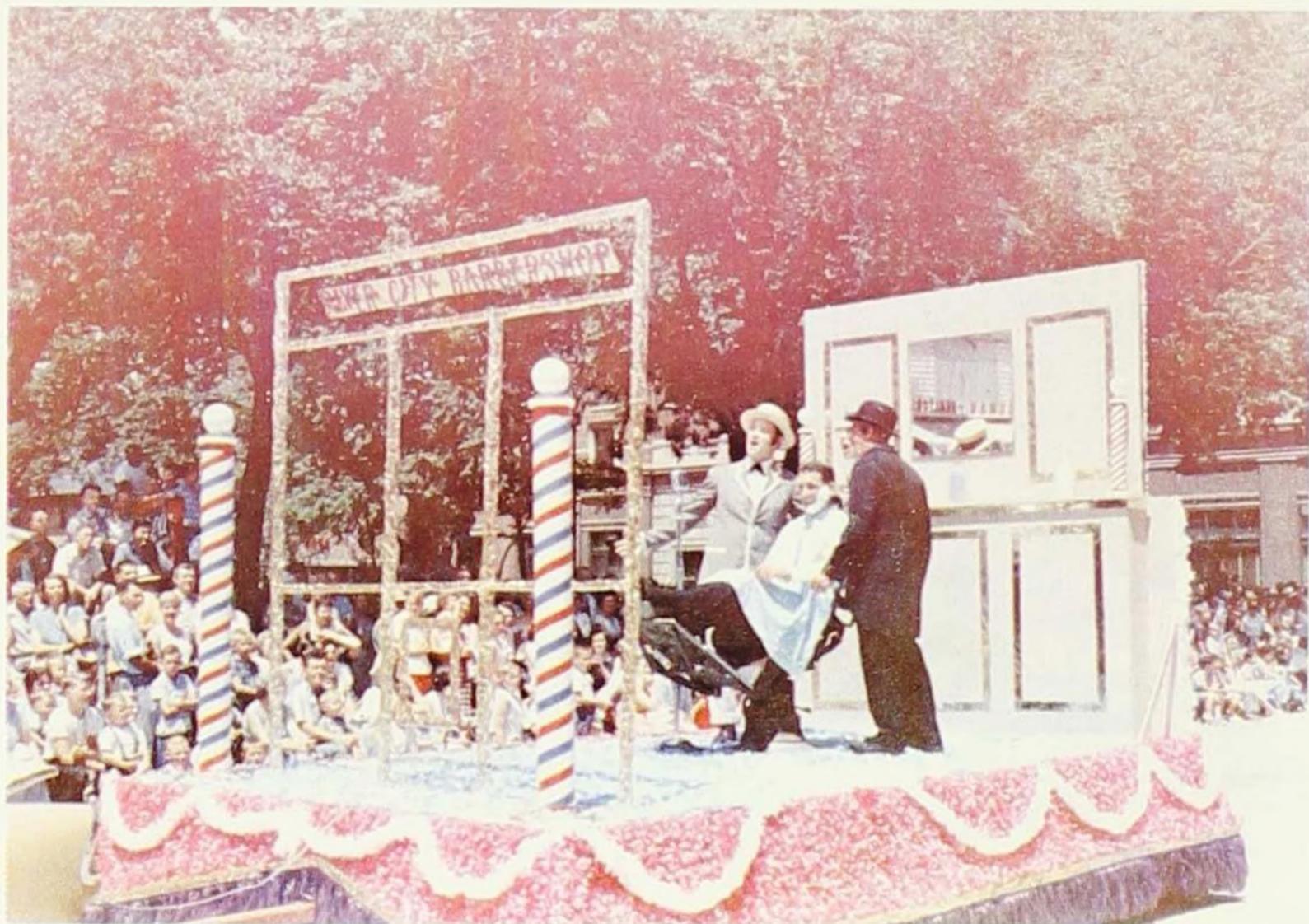
Wa Tan Ye Girls



Marian—Madam Librarian



O-ho the Wells Fargo Wagon is a-comin' down the street



Buffalo Bills—Lida Rose



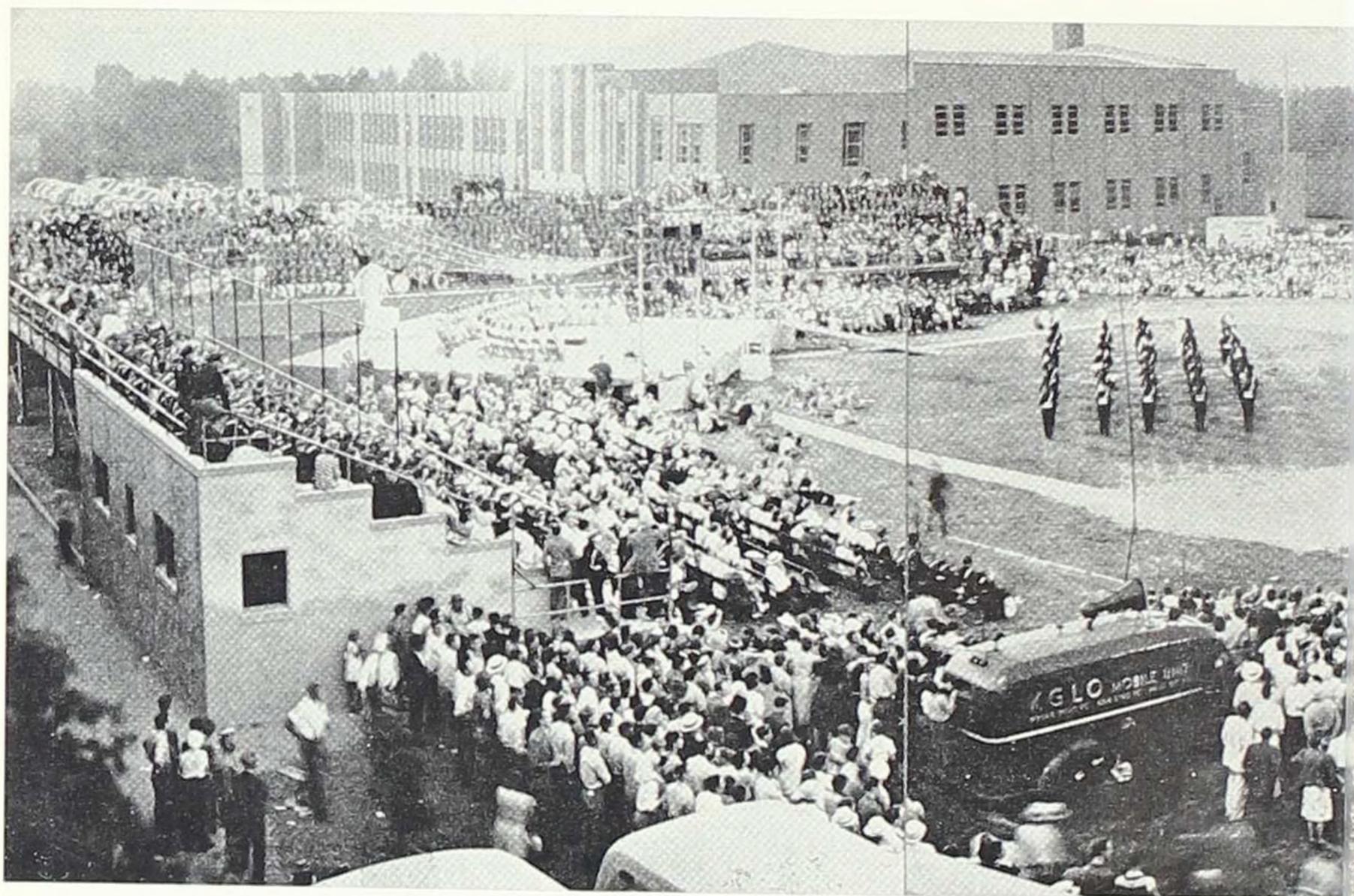
The Footbridge—Till There Was You



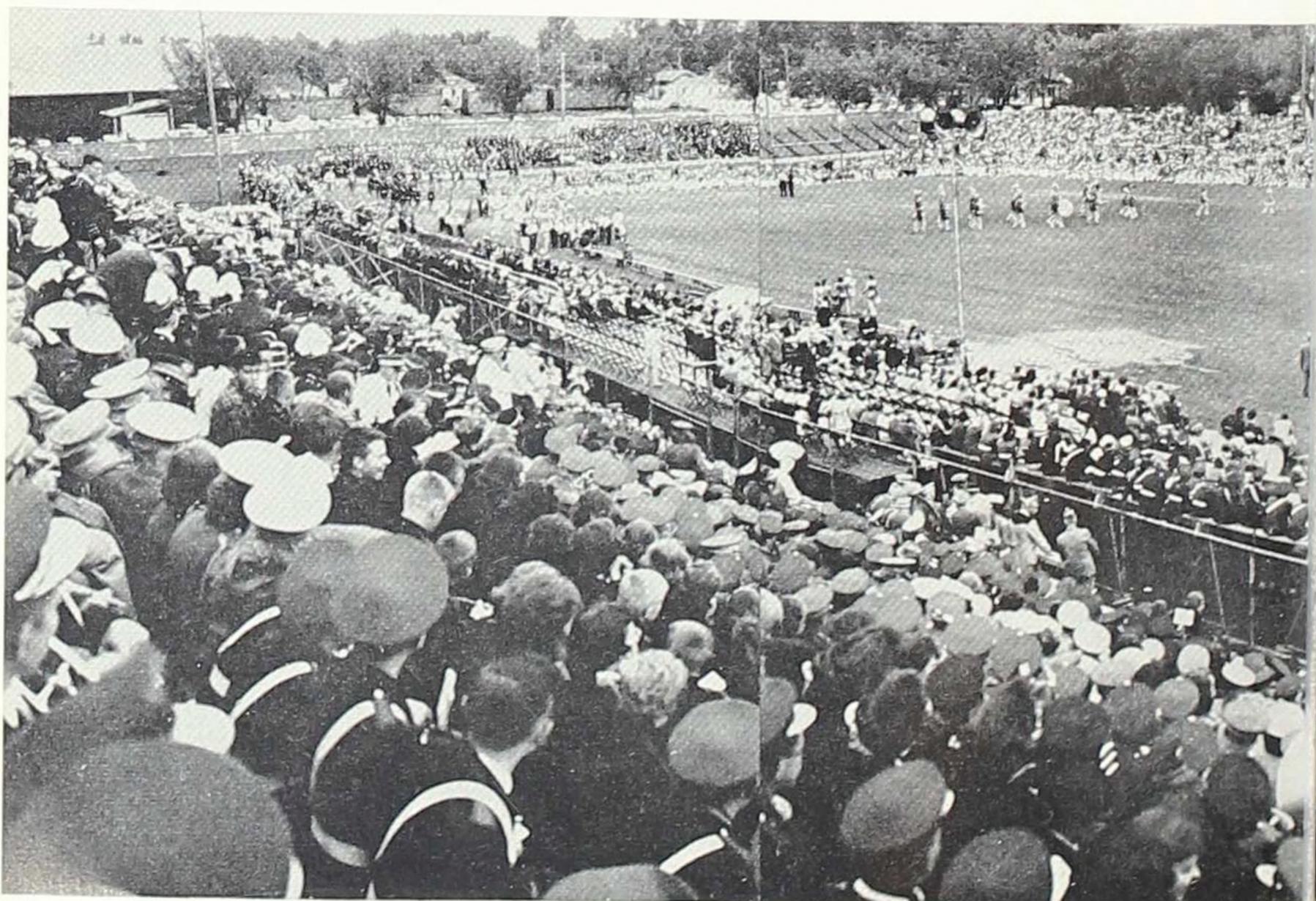
Bil and Cora Baird return home for the Festival.

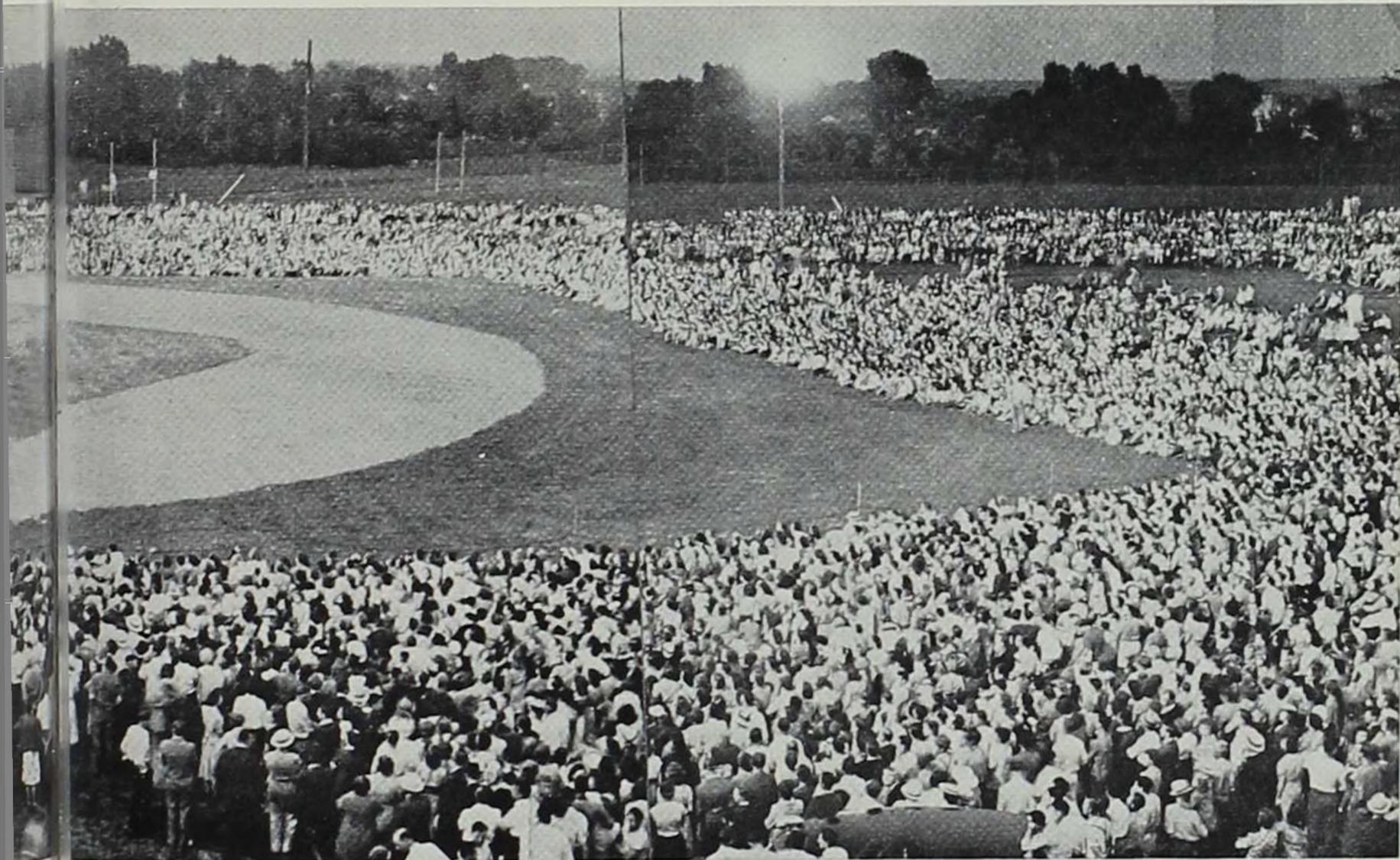


Bandmaster O. K. Conklin of Marble Rock missed only one Festival—because of an operation.

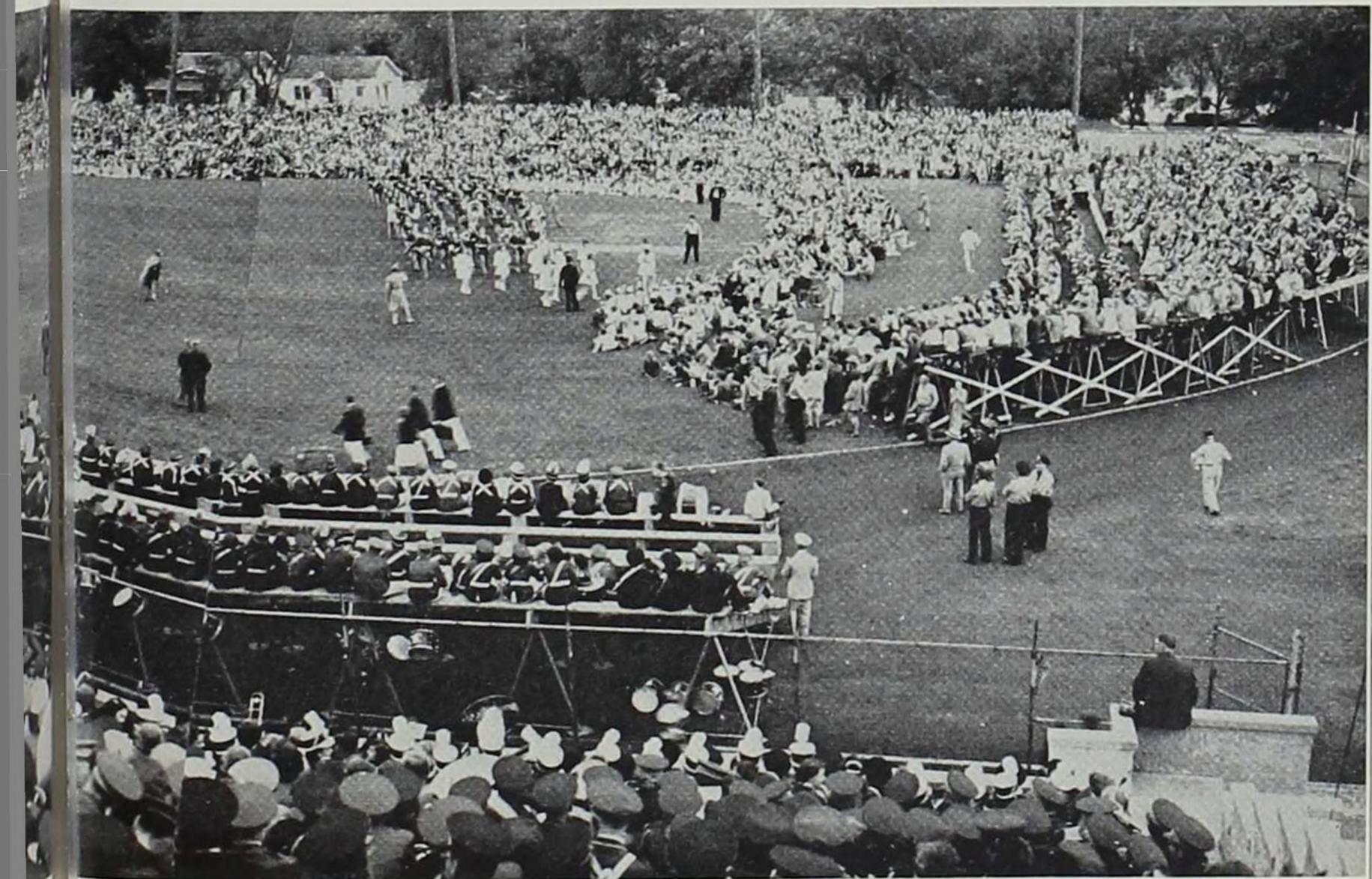


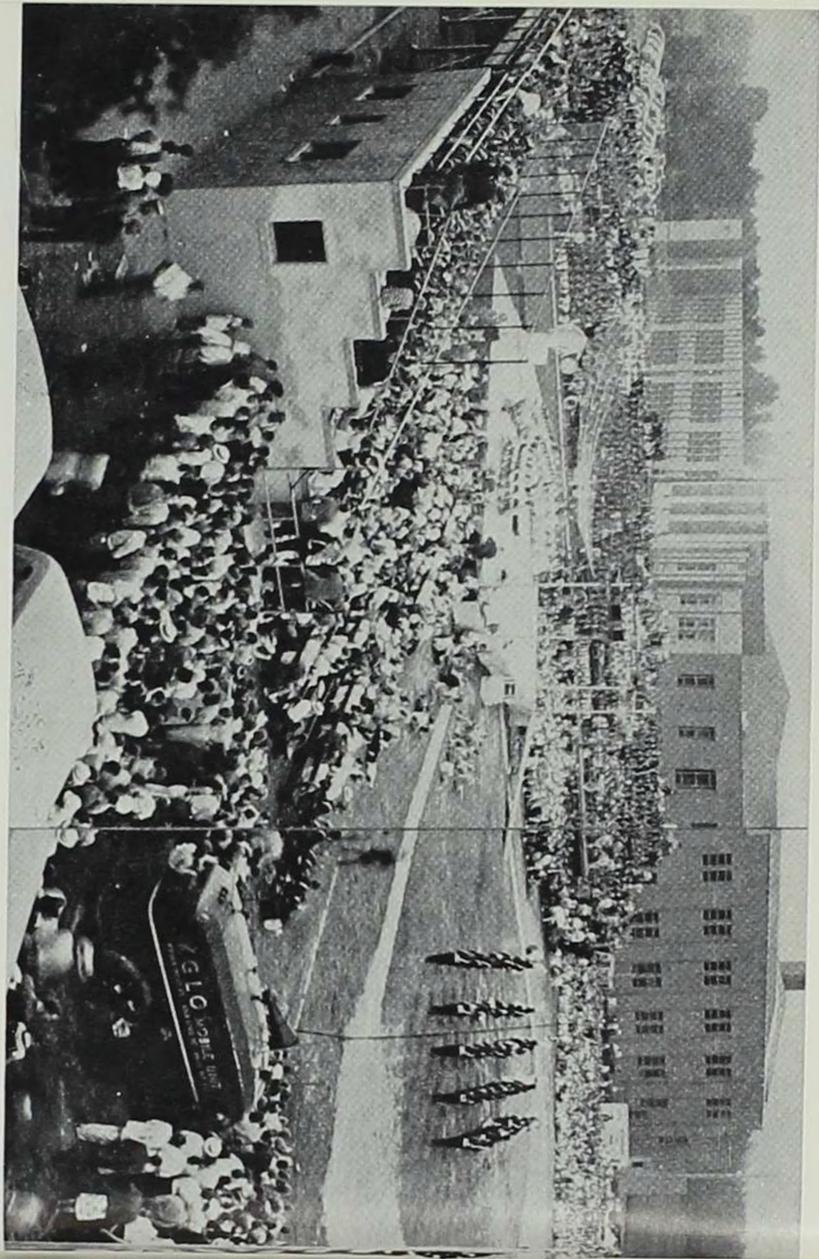
Thousands view the mass band program, the coronation of the Queen of the North



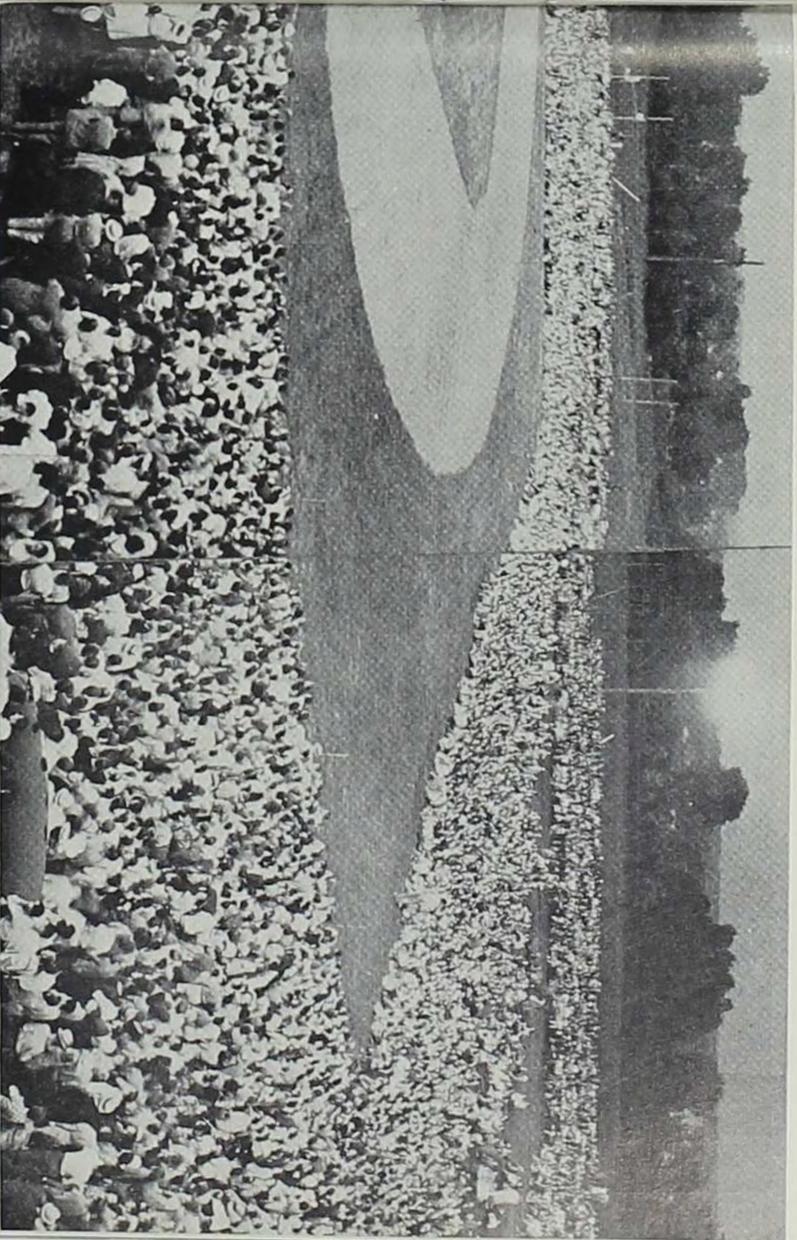
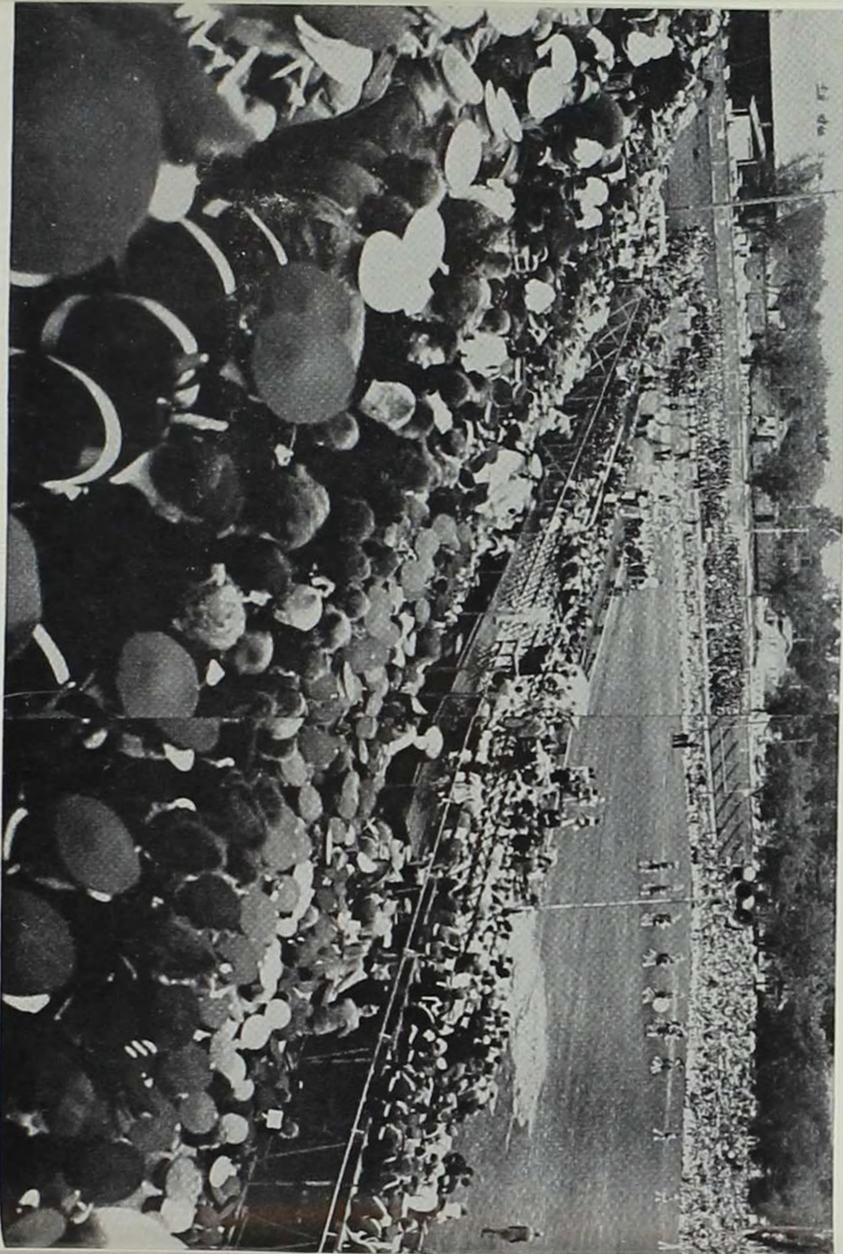


Iowa Band Festival, and other entertainment. The bottom picture shows the 1954 crowd.

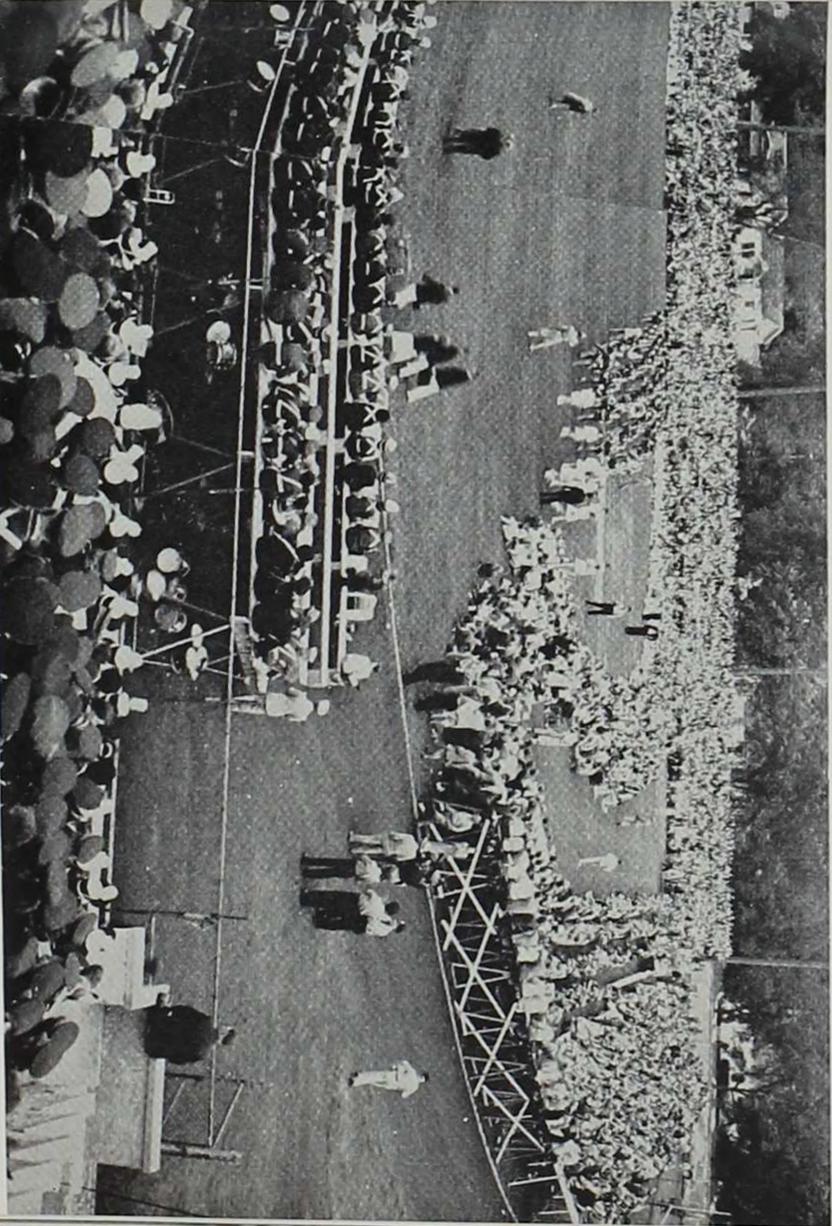




Thousands view the mass band program, the coronation of the Queen of the North



Iowa Band Festival, and other entertainment. The bottom picture shows the 1954 crowd.

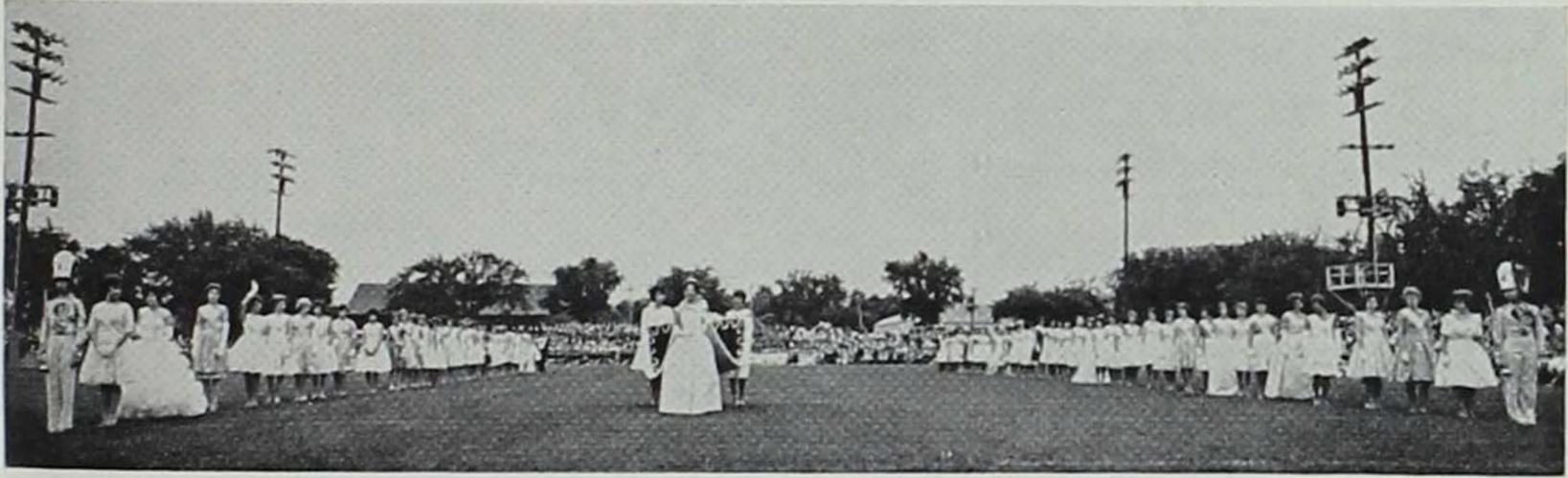




Miss North Iowa of 1963 poses with the queen candidates.



The queen candidates at the 1959 North Iowa Band Festival.



The presentation of the new Miss North Iowa is eagerly awaited.



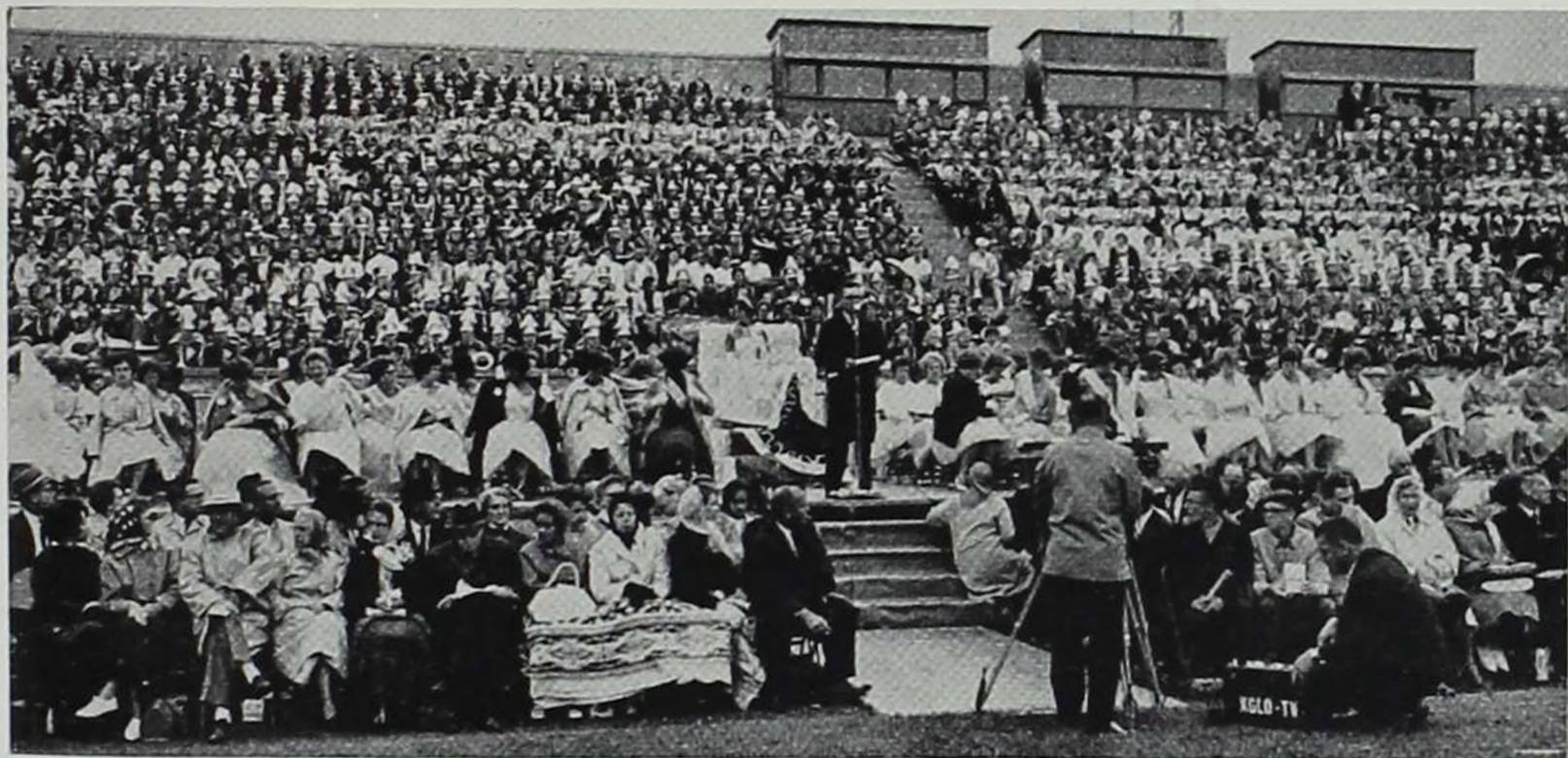
The 1955 annual luncheon for the queen candidates was a happy affair.



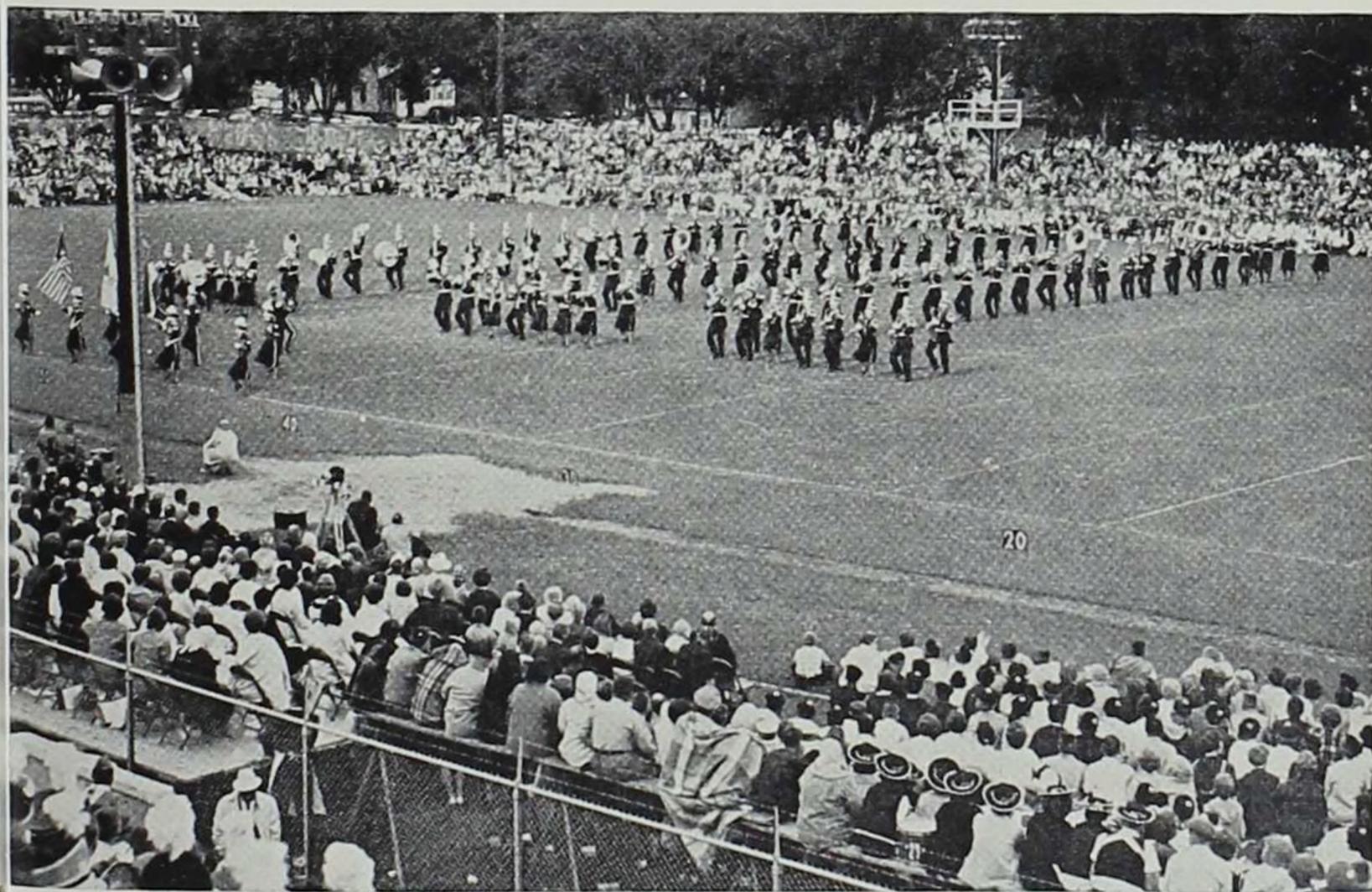
In 1958 Meredith Willson led the colorful parade.



In 1968 Willson watched the 81 competing bands pass in review.



Rain or shine (and it almost always shines) the stands are packed.



The prize-winning champion Lockport (Illinois) band performs on the field for an appreciative audience in 1963.



The Lockport band parades down Federal Avenue in 1962.



Another view of the champion Lockport band on parade.



The famous Mason City "Rusty Hinge" quartet was the inspiration for Meredith Willson's creation of the "Buffalo Bills" in *The Music Man*. Here the "Hinges" meet the "Buffalo Bills" for the first time in 1962.



The "Rusty Hinges"—Dr. Ray Kunz, Earl M. Dean, Fred Shaffer, W. Earl Hall—occupy a float in the 1958 parade.



Meredith Willson greets Hollywood stars on their arrival at the Mason City airport in 1962.



Willson detects a sour note as Robert Preston, star of *The Music Man* on stage and screen, attempts a few notes on the trombone. Producer-director DaCosta and Shirley Jones enjoy Robert Preston's efforts.



(Top) Scene I: Rock Island train scene—July 4, 1912. (Bottom) Scene 2: Center of town. Song—"Iowa Stubborn".

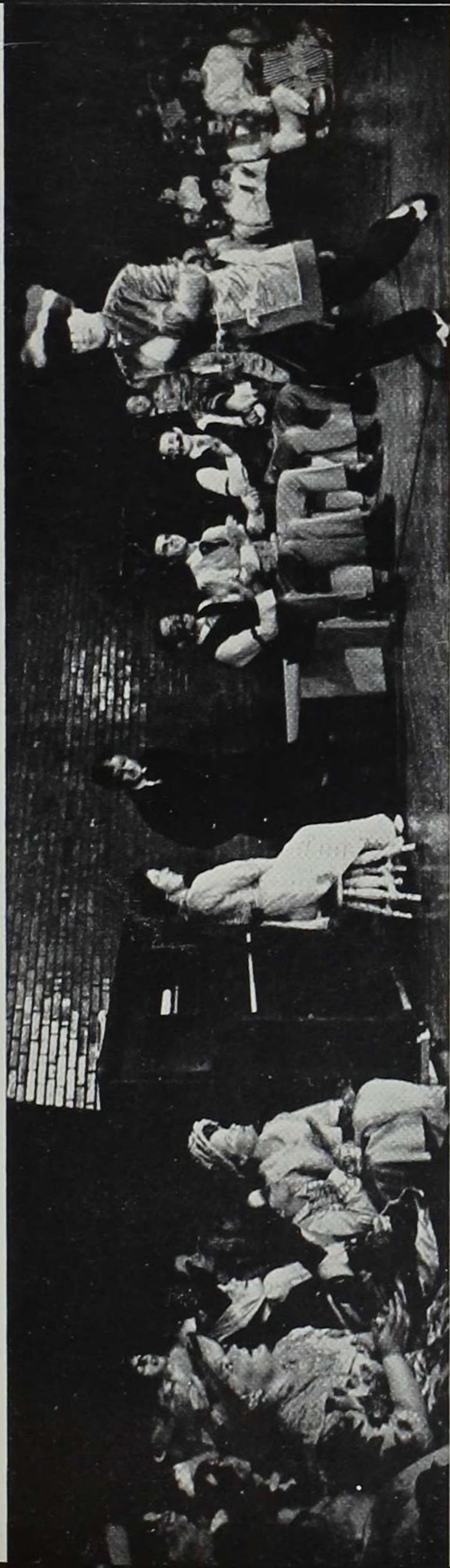




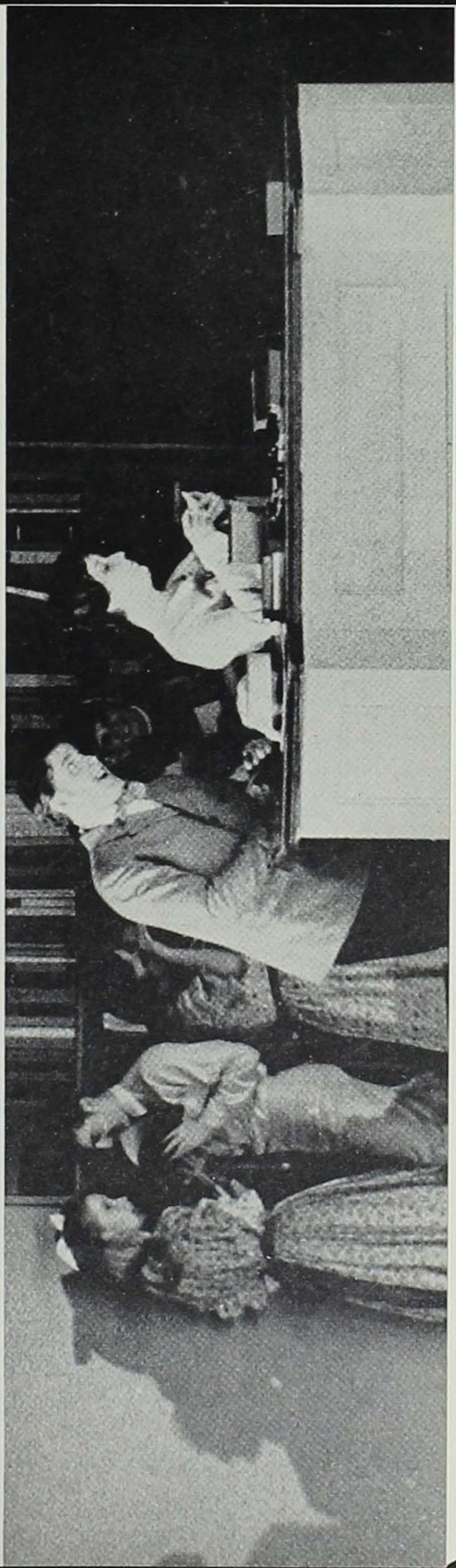
The Music Man says River City is in for "Trouble".

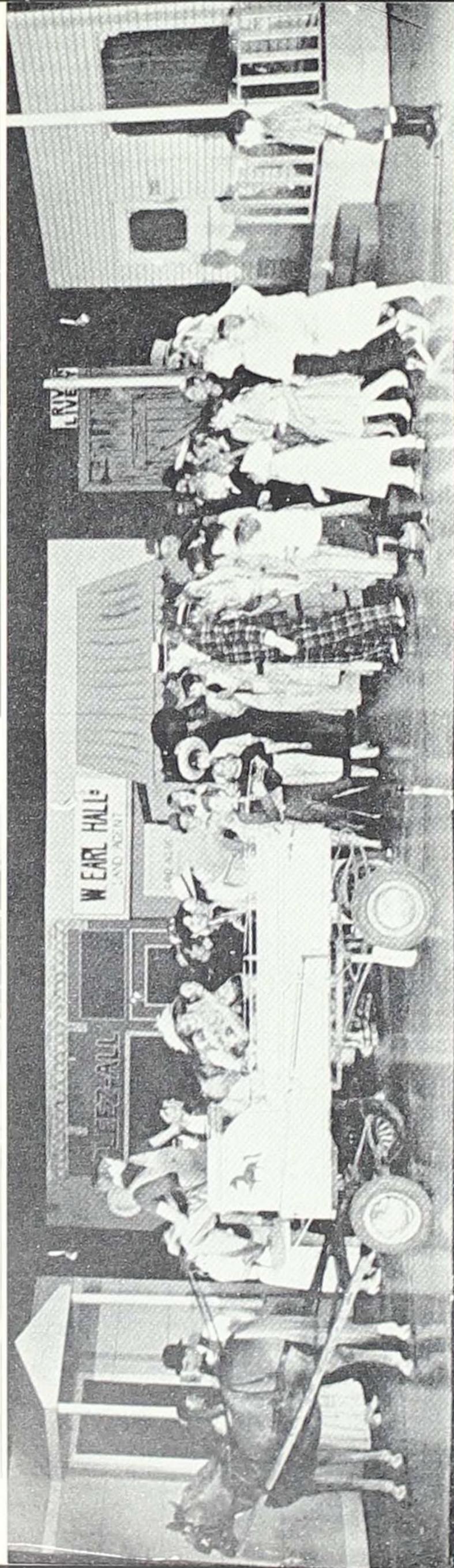


"Pick-a-Little, Talk-a-Little, Cheep, Cheep, Cheep."

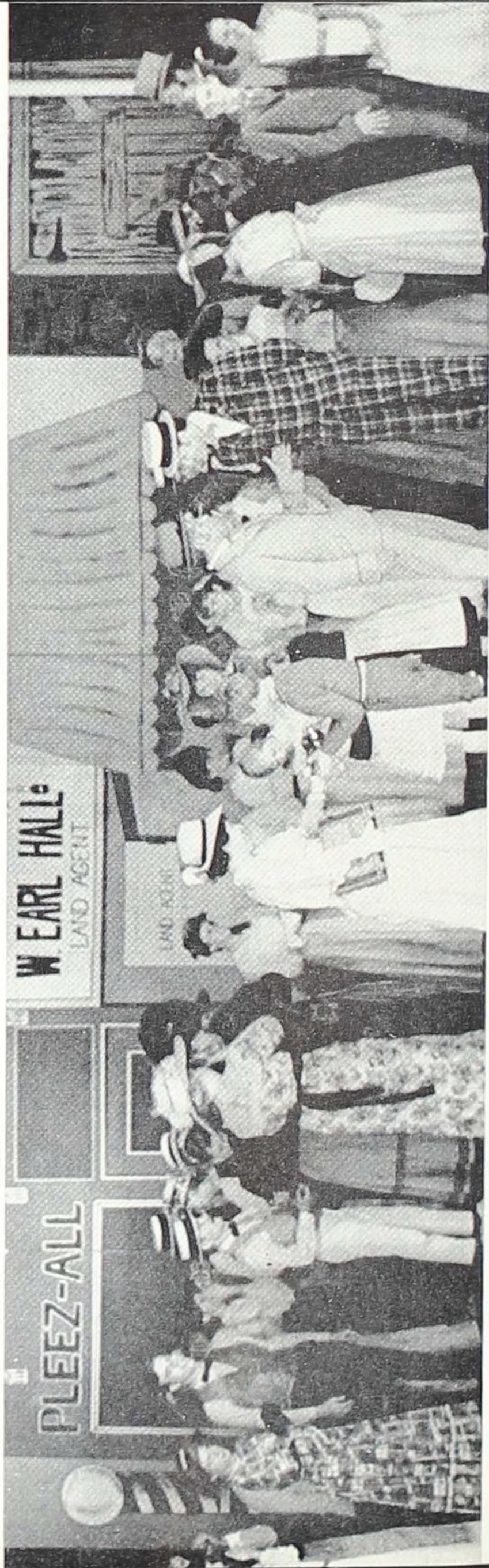


(Top) Professor Hill sings "Seventy-Six Trombones" in Madison gymnasium. (Bottom) Interior of Madison Library--  
"Marian the Librarian".



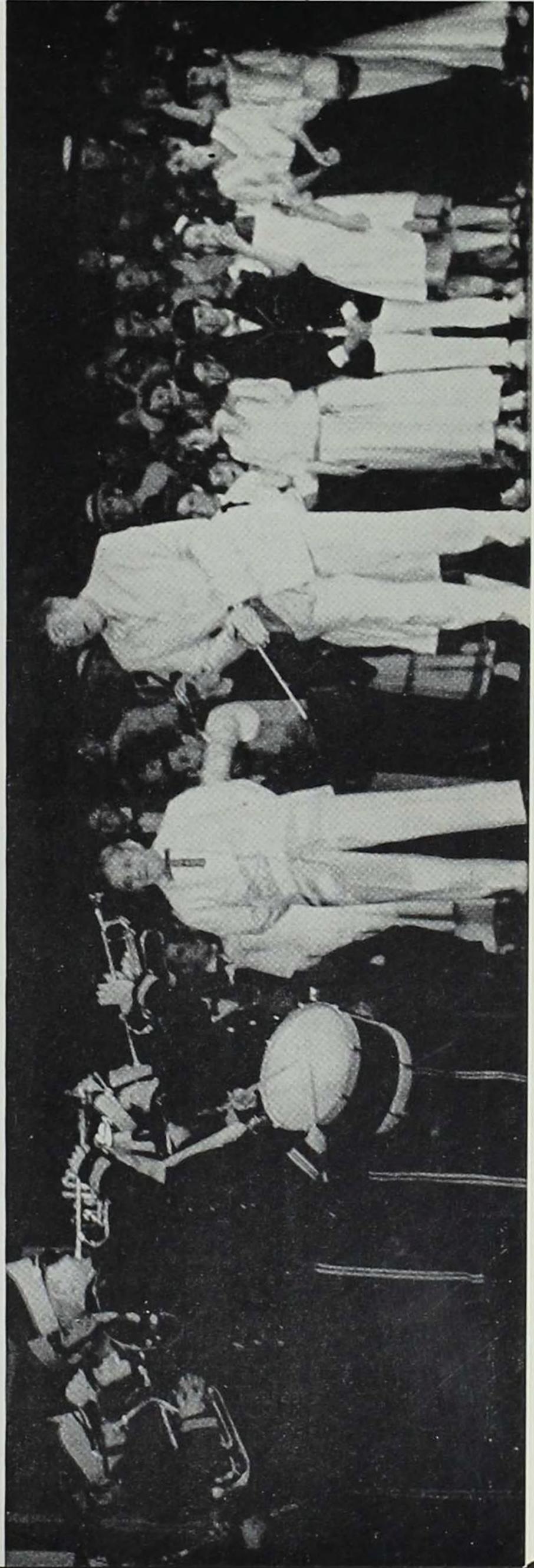


(Top) The "Wells Fargo Wagon" arrives in River City. (Bottom) Marian, Amaryllis, Winthrop examine the newly arrived cornet.





(Top) "Shipooopi". (Bottom) Boys Band.





Meredith and Rose Mary Willson greet crowd in 1968.

Petersen discusses with Willson his Band Festival picture layout for *The Palimpsest*.



of other years and these in turn by the 87 queen candidates for 1958.

Enthusiastic and prolonged applause greeted the renditions of the massed band concert at night. The fine performance under the direction of Guest Conductor Ralph Yoder was a thrilling experience for all who attended the Band Festival.

The long day of music, parades, and concerts came to a close with the crowning of Miss Jan Clark of Bancroft who, as Miss North Iowa, would reign as queen until her successor was named in 1959. Miss Clark was the 18th girl to be chosen Miss North Iowa during the 20 years of the festival. The custom had been inaugurated in 1938 but three World War II years had intervened in which no Band Festival was held. During this period 1,211 queen candidates had competed for the honor of Miss North Iowa.

During the 20 years the North Iowa Band Festival had been held, 1,324 visiting high school bands had marched down Federal Avenue to the applause of thousands. More than 65,700 players had participated in these Band Festivals and many times that number of friends, relatives, teachers, spectators, fathers, mothers, yes and sweethearts, had beamed with pride and joy as their loved ones passed in review. For the success of the Band Festival is due in no small degree to the encouragement given the young musicians along every step of their career.

An unusually astute observer, who had attended many Band Festivals, has expressed his feelings as follows:

The person who misses the Band Festival misses the color, the crowds, the girls; the music, the bands, the girls: the marching, the laughter, the girls; the cheers, the hot dogs, the girls; the fun, the queens, and the girls.

All this is true, and perhaps a bit more might be added. The tremendous success would not have been possible without an unquenchable community spirit, whole-hearted cooperation, dependable teamwork, the enthusiastic participation of neighboring towns, and the sheer love the young Iowans have always had for music in all its varied forms.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

*THE FILM DAILY TEN BEST PICTURES — 1962*

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## Hollywood to Mason City - 1962

A wave of enthusiasm swept through Mason City when Warner Brothers announced plans for holding the National Press Preview of their new movie—*The Music Man*—in the Palace Theater in River City on June 19, 1962. Almost everyone was familiar with the typical Hollywood extravaganza, but probably no one dreamed the extent to which Warner Brothers had prepared to go to see that *The Music Man* received good press releases for movie lovers everywhere. What made this news all the more electrifying was the fact that national celebrities would be on hand to participate in the 24th Annual North Iowa Band Festival.

The list of notables who would be on hand included Robert Preston (Mr. Music Man) of both the Broadway production and the movie, and Shirley Jones, beautiful and talented co-star of the movie. Producer - Director Morton DaCosta would also be on hand as would the famous Buffalo Bills quartet. Arthur Godfrey was flying in to Mason City to serve as Master of Ceremonies. To cap it all—Meredith and Rini Willson would be at home to show their friends of stage and screen just how wonderful a town "River City"

## THE BANDS ARE COMING

From Maine to California—yes, literally

Here they are by states, number of students, adults, which includes directors, chaperones, and drivers, and total personnel as now reported, with any special names of bands . . .

	Band Members	Adult Personnel	Total
ALABAMA—			
"Sidney Lanier", Montgomery .	92	15	107
CALIFORNIA—El Cerrito . . . . .	96	88	104
COLORADO—"Demon", Durango	112	17	129
FLORIDA—			
"Terry Parker", Jacksonville ..	90	14	104
GEORGIA—"Blue Rambler", Newton county, Covington ....	85	10	95
IDAHO—Weiser . . . . .	78	10	88
ILLINOIS—Lockport . . . . .	113	31	144
INDIANA—"Lincoln", Vincennes . . . . .	133	26	159
KANSAS—"Sr. Hi Cowboy" Dodge City . . . . .	130	20	150
KENTUCKY—Mayfield . . . . .	133	14	147
LOUISIANA—Bassier City ....	98	18	116
MAINE—"Edward Little", Auburn . . . . .	89	12	101
MARYLAND—			
South Hagerstown . . . . .	132	20	152
MASSACHUSETTS—Agawam .	99	12	111
MICHIGAN—Sturgis . . . . .	99	21	120
MISSISSIPPI—Tupelo . . . . .	100	15	115
MISSOURI—Jefferson City ....	160	—	—
NEBRASKA—Gordon . . . . .	75	15	90
NEW MEXICO—"Topper", Los Alamos . . . . .	89	17	106
NORTH CAROLINA—Cary ....	90	11	101
NORTH DAKOTA—Milnor ....	74	18	92
OHIO—Carrollton . . . . .	95	8	103
OKLAHOMA—"College High", Bartlesville . . . . .	123	15	138
PENNSYLVANIA—Lebanon ...	114	28	142
RHODE ISLAND—			
"Veterans Memorial", Warwick	92	9	101
SOUTH DAKOTA—Madison ...	60	8	68
TENNESSEE—"Treadwell", Memphis . . . . .	100	14	114
TEXAS—Plainview . . . . .	110	13	123
WEST VIRGINIA—"Stonewall Jackson", Charleston . . . . .	104	12	116
WISCONSIN—"Bay View", Milwaukee . . . . .	125	28	153
Totals . . . . .	3090	448	3538

### MAIN EVENTS—

**Monday Eve.**—General Community Open House.  
**Tuesday**—Parade, 9 a.m. Picnic at noon. Afternoon band concerts and Queens, Central Park. Mid-afternoon marching band finale, Roosevelt stadium. Nite, GAND FINALE at Roosevelt Stadium.

How do we raise this money? By personal hard selling solitation. Experience in selling some 30 firms who almost unanimously agreed to 4 times their normal Festival amounts, shows that it can be done by sitting down and explaining the "hard facts" of the campaign. It can't be done by telephone, mailing a card, or timidly asking the prospect: "You don't want to . . ."

**Hard Fact No. 1** is that we accepted this project—it's ours, a community responsibility. Thirty other towns are raising from \$2,000 to \$12,000 each to send their bands to Mason City. Can we do less than our share to make the affair a success?

**Hard Fact No. 2** is that the proposal, as outlined on the inner pages (lifted from the 1961 annual report of the chamber) was accepted by a representative group of 45 men and women chamber board, band festival, industrial committee folk . . . without pressure . . . with Quint of Warners out of the room . . . and by a unanimous vote. We believe any similar group in Mason City would have likewise accepted such an opportunity-challenge.

**SO . . . here's how!** Personal calls on prospects RIGHT NOW. Failure to get cards out has hurt several recent MC campaigns. Ask for home office approval promptly, where needed so that all subscriptions may be reported at the dinner Monday evening, March 5.

**DO NOT MAIL** or return cards to Chamber office. Bring to March 5 dinner for reporting CASH? yes, if they want to give it, but don't take \$5 now, when you can get \$20 between now and June. Pledges should be paid by June 10 at the latest.

**Prizes? Yes.** Drawings for tickets good for each: 10 such double tickets for seats for morning parade, afternoon marching contest, night show . . . and FIVE PAIRS for the Press Preview of the MUSIC MAN PICTURE. These last named, incidentally, will be more precious than gold or radium!

Let's show the community, the state and OURSELVES that here's one campaign we can complete in 2 weeks. LET'S GO.

Your hosts for the receptions:

Monday, Feb. 19—Richards Music Corp.  
 Monday, March 5—Warner Brothers.

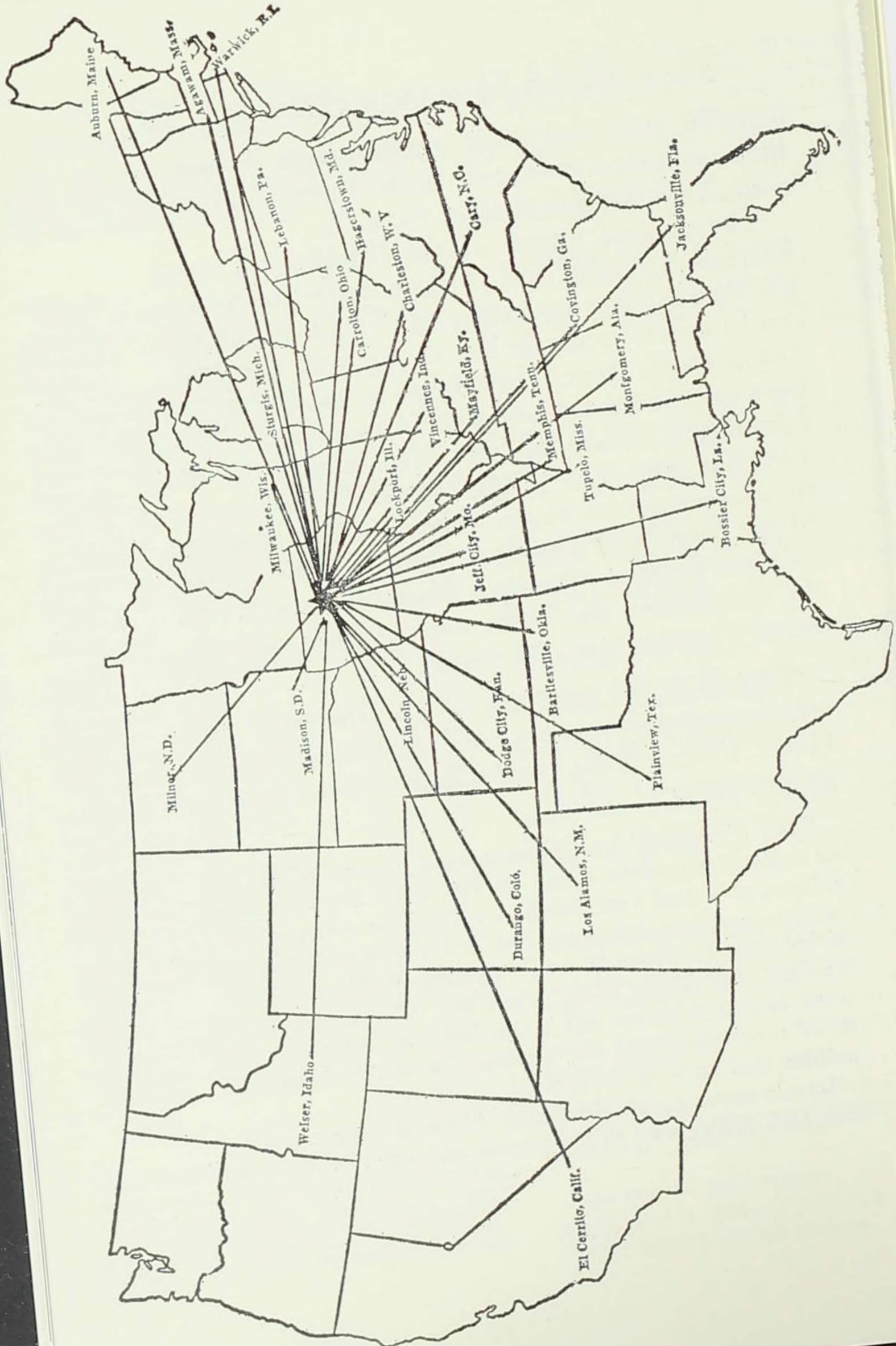
actually was, and what grand people (albeit a little stubborn perhaps) those Iowans actually were, once they got to meet them.

The general format of the North Iowa Band Festival naturally had to be changed to fit into the Warner Brothers program. This time not only the Mason City bands but all the Iowa and Minnesota bands were to play hosts to bands that had been invited from every state in the Union. That competition would be keen was attested by the fact that more than \$13,000 in prizes—plus a national tour—were to be offered in the National Music Man Marching Band Competition Festival. Warner Brothers, Richards Music Company, and the Greyhound Bus Lines were primary supporters of a spirited national contest.

Typical of the reactions of the celebrities who represented the press are the keen observations of Hazel Flynn, *Hollywood Citizen-News* motion picture editor.

Over a thousand trombones instead of just 76 split the air over Mason City today as this town threw a lollapalooza of a dual celebration . . . The first national competitive marching band festival and the world premiere of Warner Brothers' film of Meredith Willson's Broadway hit, *The Music Man*. They had a band festival for years in this area but this is the first time it took on national proportions and also became *The Music Man* competition tied up with Hollywood. . . .

Iowa's governor, the honorable Norman Erbe and Senator Jack Miller rode in the parade and attended the pre-



*HOLLYWOOD TO MASON CITY—1962* 231

miere which was held in the Palace Theater and staged with Hollywood eclat. Searchlights pierced the night sky and glamorous stars and civic and political notables were in attendance. . . .

The welcome was warm and appealing in its sincerity. The Chamber of Commerce, of which Jack MacNider is president, had been working on the organization of this event along with Warner Brothers officials, for 14 months and they did a noble job. The citizenry turned out in a body to pay tribute to their erstwhile fellow-townsmen and his party as well as members of the press from all over the United States and Canada who were covering the event. They made us all have a royal time.

Everybody in town co-operated and the population (30,000) was swelled to nearly three times its size as folks poured in from neighboring areas to share the fun. General Hanford MacNider, Retired, one of Mason City's and Iowa's leading citizens and Mrs. MacNider, threw a huge dinner party for the guests and celebrities at their beautiful estate at Indianhead. And everyone else helped with the food and comfort of the visitors from the ladies who prepared the picnic lunch boxes to the teenagers who drove the transportation cars for the officials and guests, also the boy scouts who acted as bell hops and baggage smashers. Others took the band boys and girls into their homes . . .

It was wonderfully-planned co-operation from the community as a whole. . . . The sort of thing that shows what even smaller cities of this country can do when their facilities for visitors are overtaxed.

Each of these bands was sent here by its hometown which had to raise from \$5,000 to \$7,000 for the purpose with the help of their local theaters and chambers of commerce. Take \$5,000 and multiply it by 30 and you'll get an idea of the money involved. Add this to the

# THE 24th NORTH IOWA BAND FESTIVAL

## The Music Man Marching Band Competition Festival

Sponsored by the Mason City Chamber of Commerce

TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 1962

Presenting Great Challenges—Housing, Hospitality and Finance!

The Budget is \$35,000, arrived at by experience with former festivals, best estimates of committees. This is a conservative budget figure and it will in all probably be exceeded. Many items will not "jell" until the actual event.

### This Budget Now Looks Like This

North Iowa Band Festival .....	\$ 7,000*
Advance mailings .....	2,500
Three meals for 3,600 band personnel ..	12,600
Programs (no advertising) .....	2,400
Hotel, meals and entertainment for special guests .....	5,500
Extra bleachers, platforms .....	2,500
Postage, printing, miscellaneous .....	1,500
Campaign .....	1,000
	<hr/>
	\$35,000

Warner Brothers and Richards Music Corp., our two principal co-sponsors, are putting in substantial amounts. Warner's present budget is \$75,000 and they expect it may run up to \$100,000. If they bring a picture personality here who is at work elsewhere, they must pay salary for the time involved. Richards and associated companies have offered prizes for the 5 best marching bands valued at \$15,000 . . . and have already spent nearly \$10,000 on ads in music journals and the advance mailing pieces which went to 22,500 bands over the United States.

Movie People and Press, Radio and TV representatives and writers will be our guests while here as is the custom at premieres. When a community accepts such an event, they accept these responsibilities. Impressions of these guests will make or break us!

The Press Preview will be at the Palace theatre, which is Warner Brothers' Mason City outlet. It will be entirely at their expense and of Central States Theatre Corporation.

\*Normal Band Festival Cost has been \$9,000, but the Iowa-Minnesota bands (hosts, this year) are giving up mileage this year. The total budget is thus around 4 times the amount subscribed for the North Iowa event in previous years.

How many people will come to Mason City? The 30 out of state bands have a registered total of 3,090 students, and 448 adults. See back page. Many parents and friends are coming at their own expense and motels and hotels are already committed for the 2 nights with reservations from every state. Jefferson City, Mo., wrote that 60 to 80 people usually went along with the band "on their own", wanted an entire motel in Iowa and Minnesota, which will not be competing. They will bring around 5,000 band members, plus queens and local community leaders.

A big business day? For some, yes. For others, no—a slow day. North Iowa Festival has never been sold as a direct one day of heavy general business. Those closest to it maintain that it had been a steady builder of "return trips" to Mason City.

Preview tickets will be for distinguished guests, plus 4 to each out of state band, 2 to each Iowa and Minnesota band. There will be many other personalities here such as noted composer-director of the massed bands, Paul Yoder; the judges of the marching bands, Fred Ebbs, SU; Gerald Prescott, Minnesota; Karl L. King, noted director-composer, Fort Dodge. Few, if any, tickets for Mason City people. After all, we're HOSTS.

48 states invited, how come 30 bands? There were 123 entries from 34 states, and many more requests since from bands which missed mailing or ads. Some were disqualified or simply fell out. Now it's THIRTY—and that's enough. Invitations to the 48 (Iowa-Minn. excluded) were calculated RISK . . . but the town and everything for miles around will be full with the third . . . it will take some doing.

What will we do for these out-state bands? Immediate campaign to house them in private homes, plus 2 breakfasts. A few prefer their own—one each at P. M. Park, Methodist Camp, Lake Shore Hotel and one at a MC grade school with own sleeping equipment. Also furnish Monday and Tuesday night dinners, Tuesday lunch and recreation Monday and Tuesday nights and Tuesday afternoon . . . likely a tea dance at Sur. Iowa-Minnesota bands will have Tuesday noon luncheon, theatre and swim privileges, are giving up their small mileage checks to help us finance the larger affair.

\$40,000 (minimum) that the affair cost Mason City and the \$100,000 which Warner Brothers put in the kitty, and you will get some idea of what the national marching band festival competition and world premiere of *The Music Man* cost.

But the cost in money is secondary to what this celebration and premiere involved in human values. The northern Iowa-Minnesota area opened its heart and gave even hard boiled newspaper men and women a terrific thrill. For who could watch young America marching proudly and playing stirring music, and a whole town going out of its way to support them and offer hospitality without being moved?

Did I say parade? Well, have you ever watched 121 bands march by? It went on for hours. . . . Big bands, little bands, bands wearing every color of the rainbow. . . . Playing every kind of a selection from "Stars and Stripes Forever" to "When the Saints Go Marching In" . . . and especially the score from *The Music Man*. . . .

They had pompon girls galore and strutting shako-wearing leaders. Pretty girls were everywhere for also in the parade were nearly 100 candidates for the title of "Queen of North Iowa," supplemented by many floats and displays of veterans' and like organizations.

After the parade everybody repaired to Roosevelt Field for the actual marching competition and the judging which went on until after sundown. Then came the premiere itself at the Palace. . . .

In between all the above somewhere there was a picnic lunch in the beautiful park with the Barber Shop Chorus Society of Mason City entertaining, the crowning of Miss North Iowa and the presentation of band awards. Then there was a big supper party after the premiere hosted by Technicolor and Technirama which company is especially proud of its work on the film.

Me? I'm tired but I can tip you off to the fact that the audience went wild over the movie.

I doubt if Mason City or Willson will ever forget this day. Nor will this writer, if only because she got to see the corn growing again, sat under huge dark green shade trees and on velvety lawns and smelled the wonderful scent of the meadows and clover in the area where she was born. . . . The great Middle West . . . and when this disciplined and talented young America proudly paraded with heads high playing beautiful music, much of it patriotic, something said to us "Don't worry . . . all is well with our youth."

The enthusiasm of Hazel Flynn, a veteran motion picture editor, was echoed by many others. Meanwhile, Iowans themselves burst forth with adulation for Meredith Willson. The whole country, as a matter of fact, seemed to heave a sigh of relief and exclaim, how fortunate we are that a clean, wholesome musical could still be a Broadway hit and become an outstanding movie attraction.

What of the marching bands and those prizes? First place, with over \$10,000 in band instruments, went to the Lockport Township High School Band, an outstanding unit that had won many state and regional contests in Illinois, and that had been judged best at the New York World's Fair in 1940. The Lockport group performed so beautifully that they were invited back to be the featured band at the 25th North Iowa Band Festival in 1963.

Since several of the bands had traveled long

distances, from points as remote as the Atlantic and the Pacific, it is worth noting the rank taken for the next four prizes.

2. Bossier City, Louisiana, High School Band
3. Lebanon, Pennsylvania, High School Band
4. Plainview, Texas, High School Band
5. Montgomery, Alabama, Sidney Lanier High School Band.

Mason Citians could relax following the departure of the Hollywood stars from their midst. Some wondered whether the North Iowa Band Festival would ever be the same, let alone the town itself. True, there were dreams of a real "River City" to be erected in the west half of Central Park, but such dreams are not always realized. Time alone would tell whether the elixir provided by *The Music Man* would actually bring this about. One thing was certain! Everyone was looking forward to the next North Iowa Band Festival—which would be the 25th. And there was no doubt in anyone's mind that there would be a 30th, a 40th, and a 50th. For music is an important part of the very existence of Mason City.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

## The 30th Festival - 1968

Interest in the North Iowa Band Festival did not slacken following the colorful Hollywood extravaganza in 1962. Fully 20,000 had seen the parade in 1967 and an even larger number—22,000—turned out in 1968 for the 30th Festival. There were 81 bands, 27 floats, and 71 queens in 1968, the latter lending beauty and glamour to the occasion. In addition to the 22,000 viewers, there were 5,000 musicians and participants in the North Iowa spectacle. Thirty years had not dimmed the interest.

Two bands drew widespread attention and applause in 1968. One was Davenport Central's snappy 92-piece high school band that had been invited to be the guest marching band under their director—F. E. Mortiboy. Receiving the warmest applause, however, was the Charles City High School band, which marched in a key position near the head of the parade. Although much of Charles City had been destroyed in the devastating tornado of May 15, the high school had escaped unscathed, and eighty members of the band had voted unanimously to attend the North Iowa Band Festival. The entire band, for reasons readily understood, was not able to come. "Sever-

al of our members have construction jobs, as a result of the tornado, and could not be here," Director Robert Gower declared, adding that "several of the members lost their homes and were beat up somewhat by the storm, but fortunately none was injured seriously."

The presence of Meredith Willson played no small part in the success of the 30th North Iowa Band Festival. Meredith had returned with his wife for the 50th reunion of his old high school class. His brother, Cedric and his wife, had joined him for the reunion. On Saturday, the Willsons had several sessions with their former classmates, visited the new historical museum, and saw an outstanding hometown production of *The Music Man* presented by the Mason City Community Theatre. On Sunday morning Meredith recalled some of his early experiences as he served as guest speaker from the pulpit of the Congregational Church. The following day he spoke to the Rotary and the Executive clubs. On Tuesday he took a leading part in the varied activities that had brought so many young musicians to his fabulous "River City."

W. Earl Hall, retired editor and publisher of the *Mason City Globe Gazette*, has written a warm tribute to his much-admired fellow townsman.

Fresh out of Mason City's high school in 1919, Meredith Willson left his home town headed for New York

# GRAND FINALE - ROOSEVELT FIELD

KEN KEW, Master of Ceremonies

— Field Opens at 5:30 P. M. — NOT BEFORE—

Entire football stadium proper and bleachers on the south reserved for visiting bands. Bleachers on the north for chaperones and visiting dignitaries. Bleachers for the public on the entire west side. Platform for bands, queens and local guests on east side. Visiting bands enter field through southeast gate from baseball field in order called.

5:30 P. M. — GRAND ENTRY of Bands begins

6:30 P. M. — Entry of Queens, Attendants, Colors, and color guard

## "STAR SPANGLED BANNER"

Processional of the reigning queen, Miss North Iowa of 1967 (Miss Gretchen DeBoer of Ledyard), former queens, and 1968 queens. Gifts presented to queens by Band Festival Committee.

Marching demonstration by the Central High School band of Davenport; F. E. Mortiboy, Director.

The crowning of the new Miss North Iowa.

Massed band numbers are:

- Officer of the Day March (Hall) ..... directed by Mortiboy
- Days of Glory (Cacavas) ..... directed by Mortiboy
- 76 Trombones (Willson) ..... directed by Meredith Willson
- Let Me Call You Sweetheart (Yoder) ..... directed by Mortiboy
- Accompaniments and incidental music by the Mason City Municipal Band, H. T. Paine, Director.

## BANDS AND BANDMASTERS — 1968

Ackley-Geneva .....	Frank Rice	Klemme .....	Don Mortensen
Albert Lea .....	Dale Danielson	Lake Mills .....	Dennis Dorwick
Alden (Iowa) .....	Barger Frank II	Lakota .....	Jon Englehart
Alden (Minn) .....	Ned Rasmussen	Ledyard .....	David Ronald Lee
Algona .....	Russell C. Guster	LeRoy-Ostrander .....	Earl Sherburne
Allison-Bristow .....	Wendell Olson	Lincoln-Central .....	Ralph L. Christison
Armstrong .....	Gene Van Nest	LuVerne .....	Jeck Rembold
Austin .....	Jim Wheeler	Lyle .....	Rochel Hudson
Ayrshire .....	Ron Fletcher	Meservey-Thornton .....	W. W. Schaefer
Bancroft-St. John .....	Richard Schwank	Nora Springs-Rock Falls .....	Henry Kalke
Belmond .....	Maurice Fahrney	North Central .....	O. G. Whiteis
Blue Earth .....	Lynn Woods	Northeast Hamilton .....	Bill Hayes
Bricelyn .....	Gilbert Hanson	Northwood-Kensett .....	Geo. Feuerhelm
Britt .....	Orville Brugger	Northwood-Kensett Junior High .....	Donna Angell
Buffalo Center .....	Michael Day	Osgoe .....	Sidney Stott
Burt .....	Paul Espe	Plainfield .....	Barbara Hunt
CAL .....	King Gleason	Radcliffe .....	Russ Phillips
Charles City .....	Robert Gower	Rake .....	Lawrence Emmons
Clarion .....	Robert Snater	Rockwell-Swaledale .....	Roberrt Hioms
Clear Lake .....	Ludvig Wangberg	Rudd - Rockford - Marble Rock .....	Richard Staebler
Corwith-Wesley .....	Dick Week	Ruthven .....	T. A. Christiansen
Delavan .....	Rodney Johnson	St. Ansgar .....	Dean Torkelson
Dows .....	Dwight Mennenga	Sentral .....	Warren Jones
Dumont .....	Arnold Rabe	Sheffield-Chapin .....	Lester Mahaffay
East Chain .....	Stanley Curtis	Sweo City .....	Carrroll Sougstad
Ellendale .....	Mark Skroch	Thompson .....	Donald Knispel
Elmore .....	Gary Paulson	Titonka .....	W. T. Henley
Emmons .....	Anita Gardner	Tripoli .....	Keith Van Bronkhorst
Forest City .....	Sigrud Fardal	Turkey Valley .....	Charles Clorba
Fredericksburg .....	O. K. Conklin	Twin Rivers .....	Paul Davoux
Frost .....	Rodney Parrish	Underwood .....	O. M. Keplor
Garner-Hayfield .....	John Kromer	Ventura .....	Russell Heitland
Garrigan .....	Norbert Rezac	Waseca .....	Herb Streitz
Glenville .....	Laverne Wolheim	Waterville-Elysian .....	Thomas Engquist
Greene .....	Ray Holtz	Wells .....	Elson Heggen
Hampton .....	L. Maurice Feese	Woden-Crystal Lake .....	David Earp
Kanawha .....	William Eden	Wykoff .....	George Curtis
Kasson-Mantorville .....	Darryl Johnson		
Keister .....	Milton Glende		

# IOWA'S FIRST AND ORIGINAL The Tenth North Iowa BAND FESTIVAL

Mason City, Tuesday, June 22, 1948

Sponsored by the Mason City Chamber of Commerce

- 9:30 AM—Band Concerts in Central Park
- 11:00 AM—Parade of bands, floats, candidates for Queen of the Festival
- 12:30 PM—Luncheon for bandmasters and wives, Hanford and Meredith and Mrs. Willson, guests of honor
- 12:45 to 5 PM—Band Concerts in Central Park
- 1:15 PM—All twirlers, majors, majorettes meet at Central School yard and go by bus to Roosevelt Fieldhouse for rehearsal by Thurmans
- 2:00 PM—Special appearance in Central Park of the candidates for Miss North Iowa representing 52 districts and schools
- 2:30 to 5 PM—Continuation of the Central Park Concerts
- 6:00 PM—Roosevelt Football Field—Grand Finale, featuring the Thurmans, Meredith Willson, the twirlers, marching bands, crowning of the Queen, and a band concert.

All events free to the public. In case of morning rain parade will be held at 4:00. If it rains in the evening, the parade will be held at Roosevelt Fieldhouse.

## Concerts — Central Park

- 9:30 AM—Sheffield, F. A. McCoy, director
- 10:00 AM—Northwood, A. J. Witham, director
- 10:30 AM—Osage, Ken Carpenter, director
- 11:00 AM—Parade of band, floats, queen candidates
- 12:45 PM—Buffalo Center, John Daacon, director
- 1:30 PM—Kiester, A. C. Huselid, director
- 2:00 PM—Appearance of the candidates for Miss North Iowa
- 2:30 PM—Eagle Grove, Marcus G. Boe, director
- 3:15 PM—Rockwell City, L. Maurice Feese, director
- 3:45 PM—West Union, Harvey Smith, director
- 4:15 PM—Webster City, Richard C. Baker, director

## Organizations participating in this festival and their directors

Alexander .....	Loren Tinkey	Marble Rock .....	J. Worth
Allison .....	M. D. Mussehl	Mason City High School .....	
Anamosa .....	Wm. L. Stusak	Monroe Jr. High .....	J. J. Fitz
Ayrshire .....	Miss Ione Lease	Roosevelt Jr. High .....	H. T.
Blairstown .....	Mrs. Hazel Bell	Municipal .....	Carleton L. S.
Bode .....	Lee F. Lybarger	Meservey .....	John K.
Britt .....	Durwood Griffin	Nora Springs .....	Mrs. Darrell S.
Buffalo Center .....	John Daacon	Northwood .....	A. J. W.
Clarion .....	H. P. Berry	Osage .....	Ken Car
Clear Lake .....	John Kopecky	Plymouth .....	Bobby
Cresco .....	Mervin N. Lysing	Rock Falls .....	Bobby
Dows .....	Miss Peggy Tobin	Rockford .....	Peter Far
Dumont .....	Robert Britcher	Rockwell .....	W. A.
Eagle Grove .....	Marcus G. Boe	Rockwell City .....	L. Maurice
Fenton .....	Loren O. Barker	Rudd .....	Marvin E. An
Fertile .....	Charles C. Bush	Sac City .....	Bob E.
Forest City .....	Sigurd J. Fardal	Sheffield .....	F. A.
Garner .....	Miss Barbara Jean Rankin	St. Ansgar .....	Ludwig War
Geneva .....	G. Lloyd Pressel	Swaledale .....	W. A.
Grafton .....	Miss Joan Bixler	Thompson .....	Bruce Osmu
Greene .....	M. D. Mussehl	Thornton .....	Mrs. Daryl J.
Hampton .....	Joe McCoy	Ventura .....	Miss Mildred K.
Hanlontown .....	John Micklick	Webster City .....	Richard C.
Hayfield .....	W. A. Storer	Wellsburg .....	R. C. B.
Kanawha .....	Miss Deloris Johnson	West Bend .....	Miss Helen Clai
Kiester .....	A. C. Huselid	West Union .....	Harvey
Lake Mills .....	Arnold R. Bode	The Moose Junior Girls Drum Bugle Corps of Cedar F	
Lone Rock .....	Mrs. L. A. Newbrough		
LuVerne .....	Marvin Rohm		
Manly .....	Miss Alice Selness		

(Over for night program and further details of the Festival)

City in quest of fame and fortune. He entered the Damosch School of Music (later to become the Juilliard) and a career which led him to the heights was under way.

As flutist for John Phillip Sousa and the New York Philharmonic . . . as director of several distinguished orchestras . . . as composer of music ranging from hit tunes to symphonies . . . as radio and television star . . . as head of the armed services radio in World War II . . . as author of such best selling books as *And There I Stood With My Piccolo*, *Eggs I Have Laid*, and *But He Doesn't Know the Territory* . . . and, not least, as playwright, Meredith visited the distant places in our world.

There can be no denying the genius of this young troubadour whose rise to fame was so meteoric. To play in Sousa's band before he had reached 21, to play in the New York Philharmonic before he had ever heard a great symphony orchestra, illustrate the early genius of Meredith Willson. To develop into a distinguished conductor and a creative composer and lyricist, is the story of this great but humble man.

Tim Taylor has written in jocular vein in *Cue* of Meredith Willson's deep love for Iowa. At the end of his hilarious analysis of Iowa's top press agent he ventured to suggest that *The Music Man* might receive some rough reviews since none of the Broadway drama critics were Iowans. Their reactions proved to be far from critical.

John Chapman's review in the *New York Daily Times* declared *The Music Man* was one of the "few great musical comedies of the last 26 years

. . . Book, lyrics and music are all captivating. It should be either twice as long or performed twice at each performance."

Brooks Atkinson, distinguished critic of the *New York Times*, declared *The Music Man* "glows with enjoyment" and was "a warm and genial cartoon" that was as American as "apple pie and a Fourth of July oration." Atkinson concluded it was "a marvelous show, rooted in wholesome and comic tradition."

The other critics were "equally laudatory" and "unanimously enthusiastic." John McClain in the *Journal-American* declared: "This salute by Meredith Willson to his native Iowa will make even Oklahoma look to its laurels." Frank Aston in the *World-Telegram and Sun* wrote: "It opens with a band tune suggestive of Western Conference football, runs in high spirit all the way to the pounding march air in the finale. Geographically this mood is fitting, for the show is Meredith Willson's dedication of his book, music, lyric gifts to his adored Iowa. It has more than rip-roaring entertainment; it has strength, a strength drawn from the fertile breast of this continent's Middle West."

From 1968 to eternity the North Iowa Band Festival will echo and re-echo to the lilting tunes of *The Music Man*.

## NORTH IOWA BAND FESTIVAL THRU 30 YEARS

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. Bands</u>	<u>No. Band Members</u>	<u>Queen</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Guest Conductor</u>	<u>Town</u>
1936	18	720			Alonzo Leach	Des Moines
1937	27	1,134			Carleton L. Stewart	Mason City
1938	47	2,015	Shirley Morgan	Sheffield	Carleton L. Stewart	Mason City
1939	48	2,075	Marjorie Smith	Clarion	Carleton L. Stewart	Mason City
1940	54	2,425	Charlotte Ann Foss	Belmond	Carleton L. Stewart	Mason City
1941	56	2,430	Alberta Joslyn	Clear Lake	Carleton L. Stewart	Mason City
1942	45	2,700	Bethel Lashbrook	Osage	Carleton L. Stewart	Mason City
— No Festivals during WW II years of 1943, 1944 and 1945 —						
1946	40	2,250	Marilyn Fowler	Greene	Hugh J. Curry USA Band	Washington, D.C.
1947	51	2,374	Elaine Broessel	Monona	Carleton L. Stewart	Mason City
1948	60	2,532	Shirley Eyer	Clarion	Meredith Willson	Los Angeles
1949	72	3,120	LaDonna Glieden	LuVerne	Frank Simon	Arizona
1950	90	4,297	Kay Kayou	Livermore	Meredith Willson Carleton L. Stewart	Los Angeles Mason City
1951	92	4,207	Audrey Madson	Hampton	Karl L. King	Fort Dodge
1952	91	4,000+	Gwendolyn Johnson	Ventura	Gerald Prescott	U. of Minnesota
1953	102	5,975	Jacqueline Maulson	Manchester	Meredith Willson	Los Angeles
1954	98	5,800	Judy Spangler	Corwith	Wm. F. Santelmann USMC	Washington, D.C.
1955	95	5,638	Sandra Knight	Rockford	Cliff Bainum	Northwestern U.
1956	104	5,542	Phyllis Ann Merritt	Osage	Cliff Bainum	Northwestern U.
1957	97	5,721	Sue Tenold	Northwood	Fred C. Ebbs	University of Iowa
1958	92	5,618	Jan Clark	Bancroft	Paul Yoder & Meredith Willson	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
1959	94	5,820	Joyce Ann Schutter	Buffalo Center	Paul Yoder	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
1960	92	5,444	Dorothy Schott	Joice	Carleton L. Stewart	Mason City
1961	88	5,250	Elaine Douglas	Osage	Paul Yoder	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
1962	118*	7,250	Vicki Ross	Britt	Paul Yoder & Meredith Willson	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
1963	82	4,932	Linda Wilkins	Clear Lake	Paul Yoder	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
1964	84	5,010	Deloris Sorenson	Hanlontown	Don Marcouiller	Drake U.
1965	77	4,732	Marilyn Alt	Sentral Comm. Fenton	Frank Piersol	Iowa State U.
1966	77	4,620	Carolyn Pearson	Radcliffe	Fred C. Ebbs	University of Iowa
1967	82	5,237	Gretchen A. DeBoer	Ledyard	Paul Yoder	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
1968	81	5,100	Jerri Shold	N.E. Hamilton, Williams, Iowa	F. E. Mortiboy & Meredith Willson	Davenport

\*Includes 30 out-of-state bands from Maine to California participating in the NATIONAL "MUSIC MAN" MARCHING BAND CONTEST sponsored by Warner Brothers, Richards Music Co., and others.

