

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	Jack Rembold
Austin	Jim Wheeler	Lyle	Rachel 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	Donna Angell
Buffalo Center	Michael Day	High	Sidney Stott
Burt	Paul Espe	Osage	Barbara Hunt
CAL	King Gleason	Plainfield	Russ Phillips
Charles City	Robert Gower	Radcliffe	Lawrence Emmons
Clarion	Robert Snater	Rake	Robert Hiorns
Clear Lake	Ludvig Wangberg	Rockwell-Swaledale	Richard Staebler
Corwith-Wesley	Dick Week	Rudd - Rockford -	T. A. Christiansen
Delavan	Rodney Johnson	Marble Rock	Dean Torkelson
Dows	Dwight Mennenga	Ruthven	Warren Jones
Dumont	Arnold Rabe	St. Ansgar	Lester Mahaffay
East Chain	Stanley Curtis	Sentral	Carrroll Sougstad
Ellendale	Mark Skroch	Sheffield-Chapin	Donald Knispel
Elmore	Gary Paulson	Swea City	W. T. Henley
Emmons	Anita Gardner	Thompson	Keith Van Bronkhorst
Forest City	Sigurd Fardal	Titonka	Charles Clorba
Fredericksburg	O. K. Conklin	Tripoli	Paul Davoux
Frost	Rodney Parrish	Turkey Valley	O. M. Kepler
Garner-Hayfield	John Kromer	Twin Rivers	Russell Heitland
Garrigan	Norbert Rezac	Underwood	Herb Streitz
Glenville	Laverne Wolheim	Ventura	Thomas Engquist
Greene	Ray Holtz	Waseca	Elson Heggen
Hampton	L. Maurice Feese	Waterville-Elysian	David Earp
Kanawha	William Eden	Wells	George Curtis
Kasson-Mantorville	Darryl Johnson	Woden-Crystal Lake	
Keister	Milton Glende	Wykoff	

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 schools 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 band concert.

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

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

City in quest of fame and fortune. He entered the Damrosch 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*.