

Columbia Park Band Shell 201 W Arnold St.

The Columbia Park Band Shell was built in 1931. It was designed and built by Frank A. Felhofer and Sons in the Art Deco style. The band shell was originally used as the home of the 135th Medical Regiment Band, and it now serves the City of Marshfield for band concerts and public events. It was listed on the State and National Registers in 2008 and the Marshfield Municipal Register of Historic Places in 2010.



Ald. Finney made a re-



port on the bids for a stone crusher. Motion made and carried that the matter of purchasing a stone crusher be re-referred to the board of public works with instructions to report on the same at an adjourned meeting.

The finance committee reported on the following bills, and recommended that they be allowed, and charged to the general fund:

A. F. Gerwing, salary and sundries	\$ 50.22
B. Michael Griffin, salary	50.00
L. C. Schubert, salary	45.00
James Tallant, special police	3.00
Fred Warsinske, special police	3.00
C. S. Vedder, salary and express	53.65
Peter LaBelle. salary	45.00
Wm. S. Albright, assessing 26 days	78.00
American National bank, loan to general fund	500.00
First National bank, loan to general fund	500.00
Thos. Wright, building bandstand	343.00
Goggins & Brazeau, labor on city hall bonds	23.29
M. W. E. L. & P. Co.. lights for city hall	21.60



The above postcards of the Northside City Park (Columbia Park) with the Stand Pipe (water tower) and original Band Stand about 1910. Top postcard looks northwest from the corner of Arnold St. and Chestnut Ave. Sidewalk along the bottom of the lower postcard runs parallel to Chestnut Avenue.

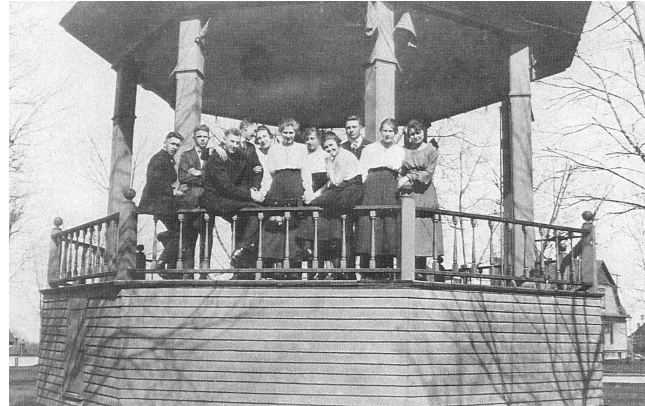
Top postcard is from the North Wood County Historical Society Collection and the lower postcard is from the Don Schnitzler collection.

(from The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin, 16 Jul 1903, Thu • Page 4)

The finance committee recommend that the following bills be allowed and charged to the general fund:

A. F. Gerwing, salary and sundries	150.09
B. Michael Griffin, salary	50.00
L. C. Schubert, salary	45.00
C. S. Vedder, salary and express	51.05
Peter LaBelle, salary	45.00
Wm. S. Albright, assessing 19 days	67.00
A. A. Koplein, hauling hose cart to Winch fire	5.00
Anton Schmidt, hauling hook and ladder to Winch fire	2.50
Fuller & Mills, hauling H. & L. to 1st ward fire	2.50
W. A. Sexton, (treas.) salaries of firemen	12.00
Henry Horn, justice of peace dockets	15.75
Rembs & Sturm, poor order	13.50
Geo. H. Reynolds, poor order	.66
E. Ludington, painting bandstand	20.00
M. W. E. L. & P. Co., electric light supplies	31.76
M. W. E. L. & P. Co., lights for city hall	11.52

(from *The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub*, Marshfield, Wisconsin, 17 Sep 1903, Thu • Page 8)



The Columbia Park band shelter, sometime after 1903. The Parbs family, who lived at 403 West Arnold Avenue, along with their friends and neighbors, found the band shelter, a great place for posing for a picture. Photo donated for the Marshfield History project by Carla (Parbs) Erdmann)

PLAN THING BEAUTY



OF RARE

FOR NORTHSIDE PARK—IS AN IDEA OF CIVIC PRIDE COMMITTEE.

An Ornamental Wall Around Water-tower to Hide Its Unsightliness.

The Ladies Civic Pride and Park committee has hit upon a novel idea for enhancing the beauty of the North side park. The scheme calls for an ornamental wall of cut stone, eight or ten feet in height, ornamented on top, with lions' heads at probably four points, with water sprinkling spouts in their mouths, and basins beneath each to receive the water, while shrubbery, flowers and clinging vines are to be planted around the base of the structure. The object of the wall is to hide the unattractiveness of the stand pipe.

Dr. Doege, to whom much credit is due for the progress made in park improvement, especially on the Southside, has become interested in this project, in fact actively interested, having already drawn a sketch of the proposed improvement and enlisted the service of an architect to draft plans.

The committee recently raised over \$300 by popular subscriptions for civic improvement, a portion of which, probably half, it is understood, will be used for the ornamental wall. A rough estimate of the cost was given as \$500. After the city authorities have granted the desired permission to go ahead with the project and the plans have been approved, ways will be devised for raising the balance of the money needed.

(from The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin, 20 May 1915, Thu • Page 1)



City Park Square (Columbia Park) pouring sidewalk near Stand Pipe in Center of park sometime prior to 1927. Note the Band Stand behind the workers.



City Park Square (Columbia Park) sometime prior to 1927. Note the Band Stand behind the two gentlemen and the dresses worn by the women.

North Side Park/ Columbia Park

OFFICIALLY NAMED COLUMBIA PARK

SUGGESTION OF NAME FOR NORTH SIDE PARK ADOPTED BY COUNCIL.

Call it Columbia Park hereafter.

At its regular session Tuesday evening the city council ratified the Ladies' Civic Pride and Park committee's action of naming, the north side park Columbia park. The matter of the committee's action was brought before the council in a communication from Mrs. E. C. Pors, president of the committee.

(from The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin, 05 Aug 1915, Thu • Page 5)



City Park, Marshfield, Wisconsin Postcard. The sidewalk goes through the park as it does now from Southeast to Northwest. Notice the base of the original Band Stand near the right of the picture.

From the Donald Schnitzler Postcard Collection

CITY ENGINEER CONDEMNS BAND STAND AT PARK

Structure Which Has Served City for Many Years Found to be Unsafe.

Condemned as unsafe, the band stand in Columbia Park which has served the city for many years, is believed to be doomed for destruction. Acting upon the advice of the city engineer, who issued the order that the band stand was unsound, the 135th Medical Corp band abandoned it use last night and played its weekly concert program on the park lawn. Future concerts will likewise be held on the lawn until other accommodations are provided.

The city engineer in his next report will inform the common council of the unstableness of the band stand. The stand is thought to be in such condition that it would, be futile to reinforce it for continued use. In all probability some action will be started, to gain the council's approval for building a new stand of an entirely different type to replace the condemned structure.

(from the Marshfield News-Herald, Marshfield, Wisconsin, 25 Jun 1927, Sat • Page 1)



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(from the Marshfield News-Herald, Marshfield, Wisconsin, 25 Jun 1927, Sat • Page 1)

PLAN TO CON- INGS HERE FOUND UNSTABLE

DEMN BUILD-

City Engineer to Recommend New Band Stand at Next Meeting of Council.

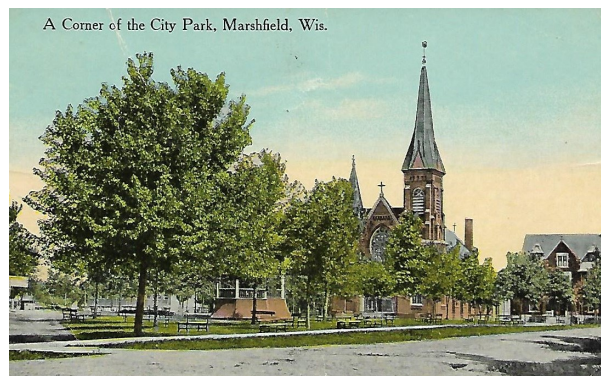
Recommendation that a suitable platform or a new band stand be erected in Columbia park to replace the present structure, condemned as unsafe, will be made by City Engineer Westenberg at the next meeting of the common council on the first Tuesday in July. In all probability the old stand will not be reconditioned, the city engineer declaring that the expense involved in such a procedure would not warrant the plan.

In line with the condemnation of the band stand in the city park, the city engineer declares that



Looking north from Blodgett St. into City Park (Columbia Park). St. John's Church is behind the white Band Stand in the center of the photo. The Stand Pipe (water tower) located in the center of the park is on the left.

From the Donald Schnitzler Postcard Collection



Looking northwest from the corner of Chestnut Ave. and Blodgett St. into City Park (Columbia Park). St. John's Church and Parsonage behind the park on the right. Base of Band Stand is visible near the lower center of the picture, dated 1914.

From the Donald Schnitzler Postcard Collection

similar proceedings may be leveled against other structures in Marshfield, including one or two business places. The procedure in all such cases requires that owners must repair their buildings or dismantle them.

(from the Marshfield News-Herald, Marshfield, Wisconsin, 28 Jun 1927, Tue • Page 1)



OLD BAND BEING TORN DOWN TODAY

STAND IN PARK

Condemned as unsafe, the band stand in Columbia Park today is being dismantled to make way for a new; platform to serve as a temporary band stand. Construction of a platform was authorized at the July meeting of the common council last night, and building operations will begin at once, City Engineer Westenberg announced today. The temporary structure will be used until provisions can be made to erect a more elaborate and modern type band stand.

(from the Marshfield News-Herald, Marshfield, Wisconsin, 06 Jul 1927, Wed • Page 1)



PLANS BEING BAND STAND

DRAFTED FOR NEW

Proposed Structure For Columbia Park Will Accommodate 60 Musicians

A shell-shaped interior, designed to create an effective dissemination of musical tones, will be a feature of the new band stand which the city council has ordered for construction in Columbia park, according to G. A. Krasin, architect, in whose office the plans for the new stand are being drafted.

The council plans to have the stand constructed near the center of the park with the front facing southeast.

The dimensions of the stand will be 28x58 feet with a height of 32 feet. It will be a frame structure of classic architectural design, and will accommodate 60 musicians. Four elevations of eight inches each will afford all players an unobstructed view of the band director.

The foundation of the stand will be concrete and the roof will be constructed with composition material. At the rear of the band stand there will be an entrance way leading to rest rooms and store rooms beneath the structure.

(from the Marshfield News-Herald, Marshfield, Wisconsin, 16 Feb 1929, Sat • Page 3)



Motion by Seidl, seconded by Finucane, that the following resolution be adopted: "Resolved by the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin, that the plans and specifications for the construction of a new band stand at Columbia Park be accepted and adopted and that the City Clerk be and is hereby instructed and authorized to advertise for bids for the construction of same and that the Board of Public Works be and are hereby instructed to award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder providing that said bid does not exceed \$5000.00.

All Aldermen present (15) voting aye. Motion carried.

(from the Marshfield News-Herald, Marshfield, Wisconsin, 18 Apr 1929, Thu • Page 11)

BIDS ON BAND- BY BOARD

Council Will Be Asked To Approve Proposal Of Local Man

Clarence Jackson, Marshfield, was the successful bidder for the Job to construct the new city bandstand which will be located In Columbia park, Northside. His bid was \$4,850.

The bids, numbering two, were opened at a meeting of the board of public works Monday. The other bid, submitted by F. E. Felhofer, was \$5,583.

The board voted that the lower bid be accepted and to recommend to the city council that the mayor and city clerk be authorized to enter into a contract with Mr. Jackson for the construction of the stand. Action on the board's recommendation is expected to be taken at tonight's meeting of the council.

The site for the stand, which is to face Chestnut street, was staked out today. It is at a point about 15 feet east of the standpipe. The intention of the contractor is to begin construction work as soon as possible after the contract has been signed.

(from the Marshfield News-Herald, Marshfield, Wisconsin, 07 May 1929, Tue • Page 1)

Officials Raise Contract For Band-

Objections To Con- stand

The contract for the construction of the proposed new city bandstand for Columbia park, the proceedings for which had advanced up to the recommendations of accepting the low bid, had not yet been signed this morning, according to J. A. Schindler, city clerk. Whether it would be signed was uncertain.

The judiciary and finance committees and the city attorney, to whom the recommendations of the board of public works were referred for approval before letting the contract, an action taken because of objections to clauses in the specifications giving the designer of the stand certain exclusive authority in the building work, adopted the following resolution at a joint meeting yesterday:

Text Of Resolution

"Resolved, that the contract for the erection of the bandstand be drawn in such a manner that all questions and disagreements between owner and contractor relating to interpretation of the drawings and specifications or to the kind and quality of the work and material required thereby shall be referred to a building committee of three aldermen, to be appointed by the mayor; their

questions and disagreements between owner and contractor relating to interpretation of the drawings and specifications or to the kind and quality of the work and material required thereby shall be referred to a building committee of three aldermen, to be appointed by the mayor; their decisions shall be final, conclusive, and without appeal; further, that the owner shall be permitted to engage a superintendent and an inspector to have charge of the work with the authority usually vested in superintendents and inspectors, and that C. B. Wharfield, city building inspector, shall be such superintendent and inspector.”

The motion to adopt the resolution was made by Alderman Finucane and the second was made by Alderman Winch.

Amend Section Six

On motion of Alderman Winch, seconded by Alderman Riplinger, section six of the bandstand specifications were amended to read as follows:

“All sub-contractors must be approved by the building committee before the contract is signed.”

The members of the judiciary committee are: E. L. Riplinger, chairman; R. T. Finucane, R. H. Spencer.

The members of the finance committee are: E. L. Wright, chairman; S. H. Winch, Alex Schulte.
(from the *Marshfield News-Herald*, Marshfield, Wisconsin, 10 May 1929, Fri • Page 9)

Two letters were written to the *Marshfield Times* editor from a C. L. Rowe, with the second being dated, 02 January 1931. Because the *Marshfield Times* was no longer in operation at that time, the letters were forwarded to the *Marshfield News-Herald*. This excerpt is from the *Marshfield News-Herald's* reply to C. L. Rowe:

“... Not being an "old-timer," there are many points raised, in your letter that we cannot answer, but there are some people in Marshfield who could explain what you want to know. We hope they write to you. But, there are some things we can tell you. For years Marshfield drank from wells. Now we have one of the finest water systems and as good water as can be found in the state. We have a modern sewage disposal system, including a disposal plant, just rebuilt last winter. The old water tower on the hill opposite the Catholic church was razed only a few months ago and a new and larger one erected about three blocks from it on another promontory. The hill you write about is beautiful little Columbia park. Some time, we hope, a bandstand will be erected in the park ...”

(from the *Marshfield News-Herald*, Marshfield, Wisconsin, 09 Jan 1931, Fri • Page 4)

Meeting of the Board of Public Works held in the Clerk's office March 2. 1931.

Meeting called to order at 7 :30 P. M., by Chairman Sheff.

Members present : Sheff, Hints. Varney. Finucane and Riplinger.

The following bids for constructing the proposed band stand in . Columbia Park were opened and read:

Anton Krohn, frame construction with' copper flashing \$5,360.00.

Anton Krohn, frame construction with galvanized -flashing \$5,104.00.

Anton Krohn, brick construction \$6,343.00.

Wm. Krasin, frame construction with copper flashing \$4,480.00.

Wm. Krasin, frame construction with galvanized flashing \$4,260.00.

Wm. Krasin, brick construction \$4, 849.00.

F. A. Felhofer. frame construction With, copper flashing \$4,596.00.

F. A. Felhofer, frame construction With galvanized flashing \$4,396.00.

F. A. Felhofer, brick construction \$4,779.00.

Motion by Finucane, seconded by Hintz, that the bid of F. A. Felhofer for \$4,779.00 for constructing the band stand with brick be accepted, and the Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized and instructed to enter into a contract with the said F. A. Felhofer for said work. Motion carried.

(from the Marshfield News-Herald, Marshfield, Wisconsin, 09 Mar 1931, Mon • Page 9)

CITY STARTS BANDSTAND



WORK ON NEW

Structure at North End Columbia Park to be Half Shell Shape

A building permit was Issued to the city of Marshfield this week for the construction of a band stand in Columbia park. Work has already begun on construction. The band stand is being built at the north end of the park and is to be in the shape of a half shell. Brick and wood are being used in the construction of the stand. It is expected that the concrete, for the foundation will be laid the first of next week.

(from the Marshfield News-Herald, Marshfield, Wisconsin, 21 Mar 1931, Sat • Page 2)

Band Stand Will Be cert In May



Ready For First Con-

Indications assumed from the progress already made in the construction of Marshfield's new band stand in Columbia park show that it will be in readiness in ample time for the first concert of the year on Decoration day.

There are but three days of brick work left to be done on the building, after which will follow the building of the shell formation on the inside which will provide the acoustics. The shell is to be made of redwood and spruce in two sections running parallel, one inside the other, about 16 inches apart.

Seat 60 Musicians

The new band stand is of brick and concrete construction with a four-ply built-up asphalt roof. The width of the concert stage at the front is 39 feet, the maximum depth 21 feet, curving in a 180 degree arc to the front. It is expected to comfortably allow a concert by 60 musicians. As in theatrical circles, up stage is at the rear, the platform having a noticeable slant to the front so as not to obstruct the view of those among the audience who are close to the stage.

A concrete foundation four feet in height upon which the brick work is constructed shows off the dark brick above in a most handsome manner. The brick is laid horizontally except for panels in the pilasters where the bricks are vertical, making decorative vertical panels at each corner.

Emblematic Stones

At the top of the band stand are to be laid a row of white stones around the entire stand, with a stone at both sides of each corner engraved with a musical emblem in the form of two heraldic trumpets crossed in front of a drum.

Storage rooms are to be built on both the north and south sides of the band stand behind the shell, with entrance from the exterior leading through at each side, and the rear. Space is being left so that at some future time lavatories may be provided in the band stand building.

Considerable work is being done in filling in with dirt which is to be seeded and landscaped providing admirable surroundings for Marshfield's new out-of-door music concert stage.

(from the Marshfield News-Herald, Marshfield, Wisconsin, 18 Apr 1931, Sat • Page 5)

Expect 5,000 At First Concert In New Stand

Citizens of Marshfield in Columbia Park.

Finishing touches are work of the open air

now assured that Marshfield's band will present its concert Memorial Day in one of the finest bandstands in the state.

Preparations are being made to entertain nearly 5,000 people in the park besides those who will be able to listen from cars and their homes. Seats for more than 4,500 are being brought from the fair grounds for the occasion and will be placed in the park in front of the new bandstand.

Band Well Prepared

According to Al Rasmussen, band director, the band is well prepared for the concert and with the bandstand coming up to expectations the concert should be one of the most enjoyable ever to have been presented in this city.



*The new Band Shell in Columbia Park, ready for the first concert to be held on Memorial Day, 1931.
Post Card from the North Wood County Historical Society Collection.*

Marshfield's new bandstand is built after the identical plans and specifications as that of Elkhorn, which city is reputed to have the finest stand in the state today.

The new bandstand here is patterned after the latest developments in the science of acoustics. It is of the shell type and most modern in every respect. The shell is made from a patented method which insures maximum acoustics by expelling every vibration toward the audience in an even manner. The strips of the shell are each identical with the other in every way eliminating any possibility of one group of vibrations receiving a stronger echo than another. The effect of the shell is to mellow the tones of the instruments, making the volume round and concentrated.

Will Seat 60 Musicians

Between 50 and 60 musicians may be seated on the stage which is 39 feet wide at the front with a maximum depth of 21 feet. The building is constructed of faced brick and stone, on a concrete foundation. Near the top of the pilasters at each corner a three foot stone is inlaid which is engraved with a musical symbol comprised of two trumpets crossed in front of a drum and music rack.

(from the Marshfield News-Herald, Marshfield, Wisconsin, 27 May 1931, Wed • Page 2)



*The new Columbia Park Band Shell in 1931.
From the North Wood County Historical Society photo collection.*

CONGRATULA-



TIONS



Front view of band shell.



Back view of band shell.

The concert at Columbia park on the evening of Decoration day was a distinct triumph for those who conceived and built the modern band shell. The sounds of the band instruments were clearly heard in the cars parked on Chestnut street and even farther away.

Mr. Felhofer, however, had to hear some criticism, but in his good-natured way he accepted it and went on to explain that no effort was spared to make the stand the equal of any in the state.

It is scientifically built and will, with some minor re-arrangements as to seating of both band and audience, be a distinct asset to our city, which is rapidly forging ahead in the way of civic pride and improvements. Congratulations, Mr. Felhofer.

But along with the more or less destructive criticism a number of citizens busied themselves with listening to the concert from various sections of the park and offered constructive suggestions. Mr. Lloyd Felker with his usual esprit de corps is one of the men who earnestly put the new shell to test, and if his suggestions offered to this writer are placed before the proper authorities, the concerts will no doubt be much improved in future. As to the band Mr. Felker believes a re-arrangement of the instruments will be helpful. Also the seating should be somewhat differently arranged, he feels.

The quartette also tried out experiments, once facing the audience and then facing the shell. The boys sang well and with some more experimenting results will be achieved that will make similar numbers a great enhancement to the park entertainments. Congratulations, revelers! A number of us at least appreciated your efforts and enjoyed your songs.

The high school band was a surprise to many, no doubt. The students under able leadership carried out their part well, and the old reliable military band under the baton of Mr. Rasmussen looked fine in its new home and performed admirably. Congratulations, bands.

But after all does it not seem tragic that there is so much noise and commotion at the concerts. Surely they are planned and prepared for people who have a distinct appreciation for music. But one must needs come to the conclusion they are community get-togethers rather than dignified concerts. While the boys were straining their every nerve and vocal muscle grown folks in goodly number were conversing on this and that and the other thing; and people who really wanted to hear could not because of the conversation. The commercial club and other civic organizations are zealously active in making Marshfield a dignified little city. But what, with pop and ice cream vendors disturbing and youths upsetting benches and shouting as though they were at a circus, is going to become of our concerts. Cannot something be done to eliminate a good portion of that unnecessary noise. Why not rope off the seating section? Why not detail two squads from the guard company to keep turbulent spirits quiet? It can be done. Rochester, Minnesota, a city not as large as Marshfield enjoys absolute quiet during its concerts. For there Kongenial Kops Keep Kids Kwiet. And is it necessary that cars leave during the playing of a number. Saturday night as some of us were bending our ears to hear some fine harmonies from the quartette, a tin or aluminum lizzie began it irritating purr to get away from the curb, and, of course, the effect was entirely lost.

It is the sincere hope of the News-Herald that at least a few of the given suggestions be tried out for a finer and better concert and as an expression of appreciation for those who make the entertainments possible.

(from the Marshfield News-Herald, Marshfield, Wisconsin, 01 Jun 1931, Mon • Page 4)

HAIL TO THE BAND

Monday evening the 135
played its first public



Medical regiment band
concert of the season

in the new shell at Columbia park and, conservative estimates say, 3,000 men, women and children, in arms and otherwise, listened with rapt attention to a program that consisted largely of martial music, but was nevertheless interspersed with light, popular features and one heavier number, the overture, "Barber of Seville." That is something. That is an indication of something that should be highly gratifying not only to the members of the band and its congenial director, A. J. Rasmussen, but to the city fathers especially.

It means that the money spent for the erection of the shell at the park was by no means in vain. It means, too, that the people of Marshfield and vicinity enjoy wholesome music, it means, further, that Marshfield community people will have a place to which they can take their guests with a feeling of pride and it means, last but by no means least, that the concerts are filling a real want in the hearts of citizens.

And it is certain they are filling a real want and especially at this time. There are families who, because of the continued stress in the economic world, cannot permit themselves anything in the way of entertainment because of the costs. In the free concerts Marshfield has an opportunity for doing a real community good. Men women and children cannot live on bread alone. The band concert where all meet on an equal basis furnishes something besides bread, but nevertheless, decidedly necessary. Cheering music is a wonderful tonic to the soul that is downcast. At no time since the Inauguration of the free concerts are they as needed as right now.

Mr. Rasmussen has emphasized that not too stringent rules be adopted to curb noises. "It's free entertainment for the people of the city and community", he says. It goes without saying that a band leader appreciates quiet. Director Rasmussen does too, but he feels that as time goes on and a real appreciation for good music develops, the attention will become better.

Already, he indicates there is vast improvement. The spirit of the director in using kindly persuasion and educational methods to achieve his ends brands him as a man of outstanding esprit de corps. Again we say Hail to the band.

(from the Marshfield News-Herald, Marshfield, Wisconsin, 01 Jun 1932, Wed • Page 4)

HOLY NAME MEN ASSEMBLE HERE

**More Than 4,000 At-
Rally in Park Sunday**

tend Field Mass and

HEAR FOUR SPEAKERS

Marshfield, irrespective of creeds, yesterday gave a courteous and enthusiastic welcome to hundreds of Holy Name Society members and their families from all parts of central Wisconsin who assembled here for a rally, the first of its kind ever held in this city.

The occasion was one of solemn religious ceremonies and varied messages brought by prominent members of the clergy and laymen, including utterances from Monsignor Peter Pape, La-Crosse, diocesan Holy Name director and representative of the Right Rev. Alexander J. McGavick, bishop of La Crosse diocese.

Accepting the most conservative estimate of attendance made by those practiced in the handling of multitudes upon the occasion of ceremonial, the throng that gathered in Columbia park in the morning for the field mass and reassembled in the same place for the afternoon program, exceeded 4,000 persons.

Mass and Procession

The morning service in terms of Catholicism was a solemn high mass preceded by a procession of Holy Name Society members that wound its way from St. John's school grounds along West Blodgett street part of North Central Avenue, West Arnold street and into Columbia park. The mass and the processional were followed by solemn benediction of The Blessed Sacrament.

The bandstand in the park served as an improvised sanctuary and in it was erected an altar banked with flowers and foliage and glowing wax candles. In this setting Father Anthony Muehlenkamp, of Athens, celebrated the mass. Assisting him in the rite were Father Urban Baer, Wuerzburg, as deacon; Father Anthony Fischer, Athens, as sub-deacon, and Father A. Schmitz, Marshfield, as master of ceremonies. St. John's male chorus, directed by Lloyd L. Felker, sang "Mass Solennele."

Monsignor Reding Preaches

The sermon of the mass was preached by Monsignor William Reding, Wisconsin Rapids. The theme that dominated his discourse was a discussion of the principals and objectives of The Holy Name Society, mainly the profession of faith in Christ's divinity and a consequent respect and reverence for Him. The end of the mass and dispersal of the large throng of worshippers followed the reposition of the Blessed Sacrament from the park to the tabernacle in St. John's church.

Then came the afternoon program and with it the renewal by hundreds of Holy Name men of their vows of fealty to country and to church. In the same improvised sanctuary where the morning mass was celebrated, Father H. P. Toeller, pastor of Sacred Heart church, opened the afternoon exercises with prayer.

Pastor Extends Greeting

Greeting was extended by Father A. J. Dorrenbach, dean and pastor of St. John's church, who had been directed by Bishop McGavick to make preparation for yesterday's rally.

In his message Father Dorrenbach said:

"I greet you most cordially and sincerely on this occasion that furnishes such a splendid demonstration of faith and loyalty of Catholics to one another and the outside world. Everyone deserves appreciation for responding to the appeal to make this religious assembly successful. I hope that this venture inaugurating the first Holy Name rally in the northeastern section of the diocese will be followed by other rallies."

The afternoon speakers were introduced by A. G. Felker, vice-president of St. John's Holy Name Society, and the first to be presented was Attorney A. C. Schubert of La Crosse.

Holy Name Principles

These were the key passages of his discourse:

"The fundamental purposes of the Holy Name Society are stabilization of the family, making its members good citizens of the state and nation, and good members of the church.

"In the world today, more and more society is being divorced from religion. One of the functions of the Holy Name Society is to bring into the lives of its members a stronger regard for religion.

"Religion is essential to well-being and its principles should guide Christian people in all their dealings."

The subject of Attorney Schubert's address was caught up by Father O'Toole, Wausau, second speaker on the afternoon's program, and he in turn made it the keyword of the solicitous homily he delivered to the audience.

World Needs God, Religion

He deprecated the world's noticeable lack of its recognition of God and religion and he said:

"Does the world need revival of Christian spirit today? We have only to look abroad in this world of ours and we see great physical and material evils. We see on all sides men deploring conditions of today. They cry out against inequality and lack of social balance in the world. For these material evils great efforts are being made to bring back some solace and prosperity to the

people. May they succeed!

"But back of these material evils there are moral evils eating cancerously upon the lives of all nations. Everywhere the cry goes up that something must be done. We find the home no longer the stabilizing influence of old. Parents easily excuse or shift responsibilities onto the state. Children more and more defy parental control and grow up without moral restraint. We examine statistics and find population rapidly nearing the standstill point. If this trend continues for 20 years we will find ourselves a dwindling nation. Our disrespect for law and order is nationwide. Red murder stalks open in broad daylight. Kidnapping, robbery, gangsterism, and racketeering have become big business of the day. Our crowded courts and the records of crime brought to our attention fairly shriek what is abandoned loyalty to God.

Signs of Moral Decay

"These are signs of moral decay. the greatest peril of any nation. Every nation of the past went down to ruin because of decay within. We must expect that unless God is given His place moral decay increasingly will imperil our civilization and cause our downfall.

"Only by meeting the gospel of Christ are we going to meet the evils that threaten society. If a foreign enemy invaded our shores what a rally there would be to defend the nation; yet, this enemy would not be half as bad as the moral enemy sucking at the life blood of our nations. Let us not deceive ourselves. The only remedy for these evils is that nations get back to God and religion. The Father of our country, George Washington, warned us 'not to cherish the illusion that we have morality without religion.'"

Members Renew Pledges

Monsignor Peter Pape, diocesan Holy Name director, concluded the afternoon speaking schedule with a mandate flung at those within the ranks of his own communion who neglect to instruct themselves thoroughly in the teachings of their faith.

"Far be it from us to look upon our society as a demonstration of strength or numbers," he said. "Rather it is our hope that our vivid attachment to our faith and our ability to explain it may encourage others to accept it."

Having made his brief plea, Monsignor Pape led all Holy Name members present in a renewal of their obligations. The words of the pledge of clean living and loyalty to nation and church were in themselves a prayer. And then— with the singing of "Holy God We Praise Thy Name," the rally was brought to a conclusion.

Twenty or more pastors of parishes located In this northeastern diocesan deanery attended yesterday's exercises, and by unanimous consent agreed to hold a rally next year at Wisconsin Rapids.

(from the Marshfield News-Herald, Marshfield, Wisconsin, 11 Sep 1933, Mon • Pages 1 & 2)



National Register of Historic Places

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