

How the Beaman Park was started

Fifty years ago there stood on east main street a square white house. A few years later the owner moved away and left the house vacant. The lot and cellar soon grew up to weeds making an unattractive place. One morning as I went down town I met Bertha Moor in front of this place and I said this is not a very nice looking place, why don't we start a park and she said fine – we went to the banks (?) to find out how to find out about the place and they said it was soon to be sold for back taxes \$50.00. Who ever we met that morning we told our story and soon had the \$50.00. Bertha said she would get brother Henry Eberhardt to come down with his old horse and shovel and fill the cellar and even the lot – It took hm the best part of a day -now with a tractor the job would only have taken an hour or so. Dave Simms (?) came by and he said he and Mrs. Simms owned the lot on the North and they would donate the lot. Bertha and I were appointed on the park committee. We conceived the idea of having a live Christmas tree for the park – and Ned McMartin went to Cedar Falls to the nursery and got one for us, it was not too large as I think we only spent \$10 (56?) for it. Mr. Herman Bein moved to town and took an interest in the project and we asked that he be put on the Park Board. We had little money, but put on several pancake suppers, flour milk and coffee were donated and we could then buy pork sausage for about 20 cts a pound and we gathered in quite a little money for those times. We put out shrubbery on the North and East and had a few benches added. Mr. Webb who then lived right across from the park was always a helpful person and in a short time his name was added to the park committee, He had a dance band at that time and they put on a few dances, proceeds for the park fund. The Legion Auxiliary have been one of our loyal supporters-they donated a flag pole one year, a picnic table at another time and for several years have given \$15.00each year to our park fund. Bertha Moore passed away and not too much later Mr. Bein. One day Mr. Webb said lets erect a band shell in the park in memory of all who served in the wars. Mr. Webb estimated the cost and we asked Ted Boss, Charley Vint and (blank) to go out and solicit the funds, and the band shell was soon to be erected. Mr. Webb did the overseeing he had a number of helpers but he put in many hours of hard work. We bough bronze tablets with the names of the men in the Civil War, Spanish American and World War one and two, these were placed in the band shell. Ben Rowe who then owned the building to the South donated twenty feet from his lot so the park now is two lots and twenty feet wide. In the early days of the park's existence the going was a little rugged. Now I think everyone appreciates the park and is ready to help with finances when the call comes. The Amvet Auxilliary for two years have sponsored food sales the first one they handed to the park committee \$100. And the last one \$87.00. Emil Vint and Ben Rowe are now on the park board with me – and I think they will see that the park continues to be the very attractive place that it is. Written June 10th 57. Mrs. T.L. Evans