

Friday Trivia Question:

In 1910, camp meeting was changed from Willmar to another town where it was held in a park within the nation's second oldest park system (second in age only to New York's Central Park). Where was the park located and why was camp meeting changed to that location?

Trivia Answer:

In 1910, the camp meeting site was changed from Willmar to Hutchinson because the Northern Union Conference was opening the Danish-Norwegian Seminary there on September 28, 1910.



The Hutchinson Park System was created when the Hutchinson brothers founded the town in 1855 and set aside 15 acres for parks, making it the nation's second oldest park system.

Camp meeting had previously been in "Hutch" in 1877 and 1878 when it was in the river park. In 1910, and again in 1911, it was held in North Park (Library Park), with most campers arriving by rail at the "Hutch" depots. After 1911, it was 56 years before camp meeting was held in Hutchinson again, in 1967, long after the seminary had become Maplewood Academy.

Incidentally, North Park is located between Main and Hassan Streets – Hassan being the original name for the Crow River. Hassan was the Native American name for "Maple Leaf" ... quite remarkable that Maplewood Academy later came to overlook the lovely town of Hutchinson and the "Hassan (Maple Leaf) River"!

