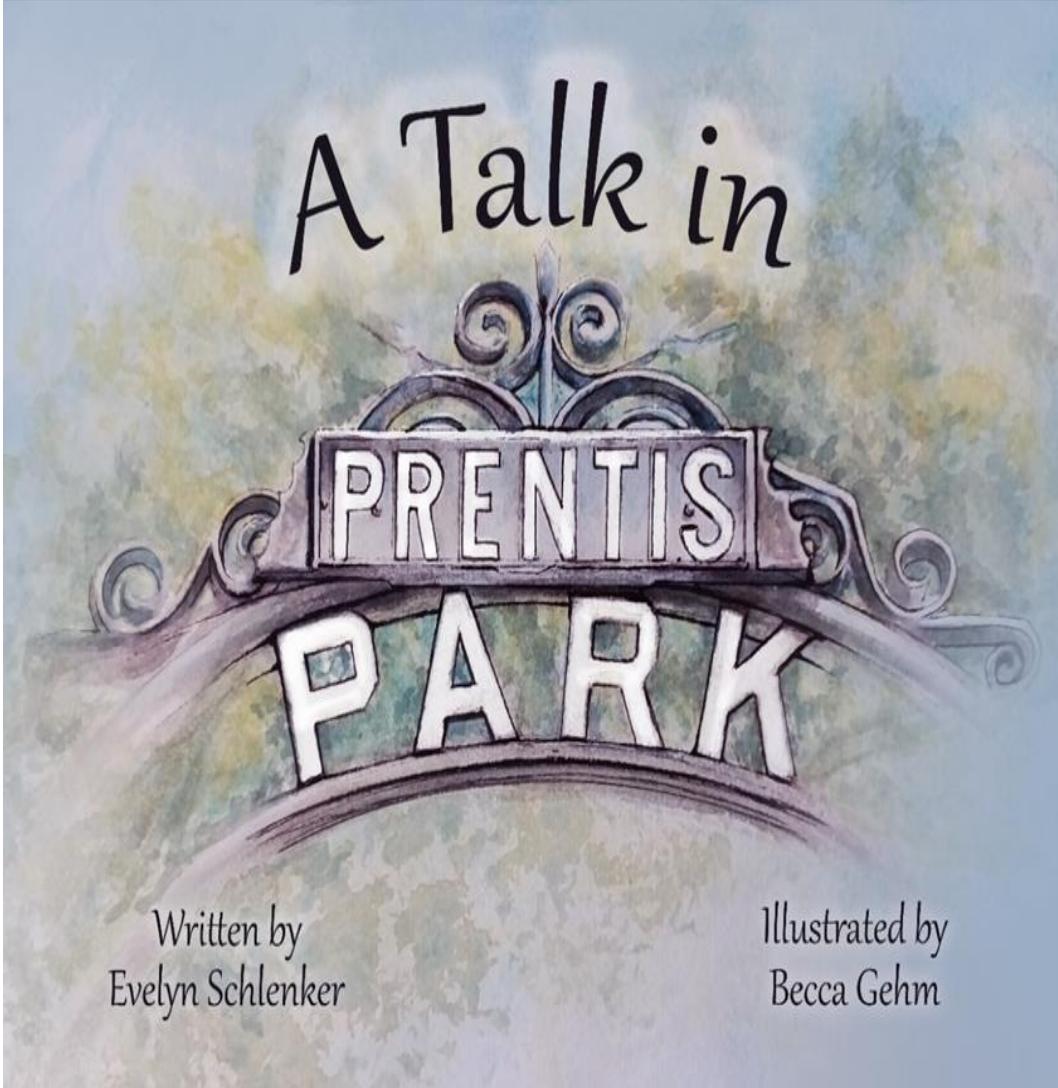


A Talk in



PRENTIS

PARK

Written by  
Evelyn Schlenker

Illustrated by  
Becca Gehm



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Thanks to Tim Schreiner for the schematic of the arch in the book.

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It was July and so hot in Vermillion.

Ninety-two degrees in the shade!

George and his sister Jean had their swimsuits under their clothes. They grabbed their towels and money for snacks, slid on their flip-flops and hurried to Prentis Park Plunge pool.



When they entered the swimming area they spotted their mother's close friend, Marsha, reading a book in the shade.

"What are you reading today?", George asked.



Marsha answered "A new book on the history of Prentis Park. The park is 100 years old now!"

"Wow!" Jean exclaimed.

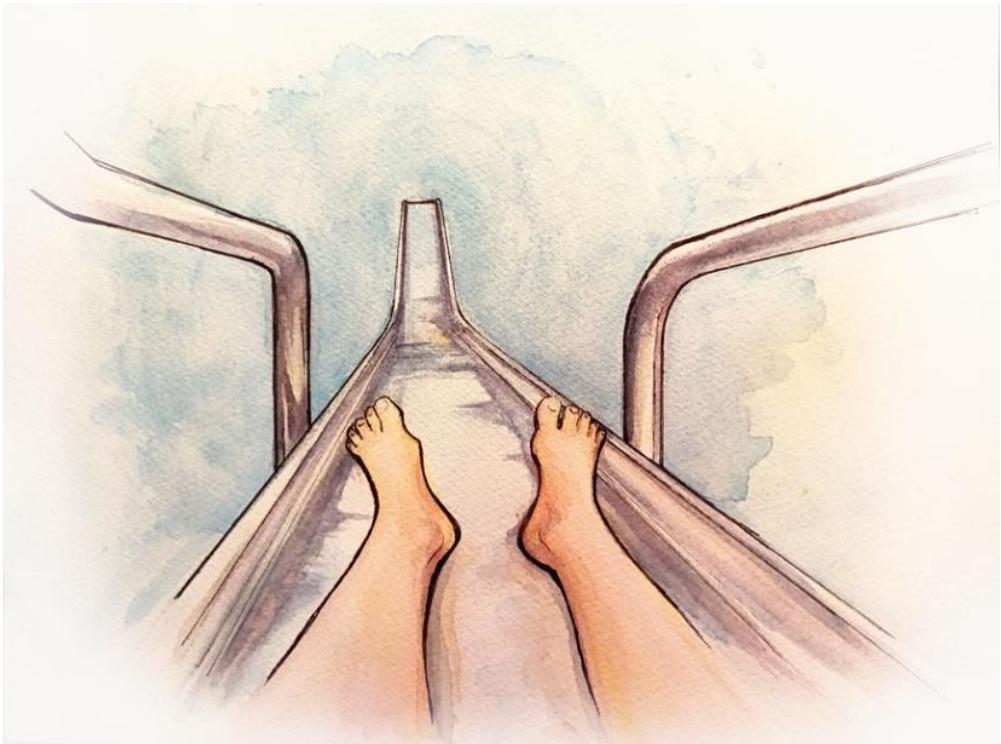
"So, it started in 1923?" Said George, proudly.

Since they were at the pool, Marsha asked, "Did you know that Prentis Plunge is the third pool in Prentis Park?"

George answered "Really?"

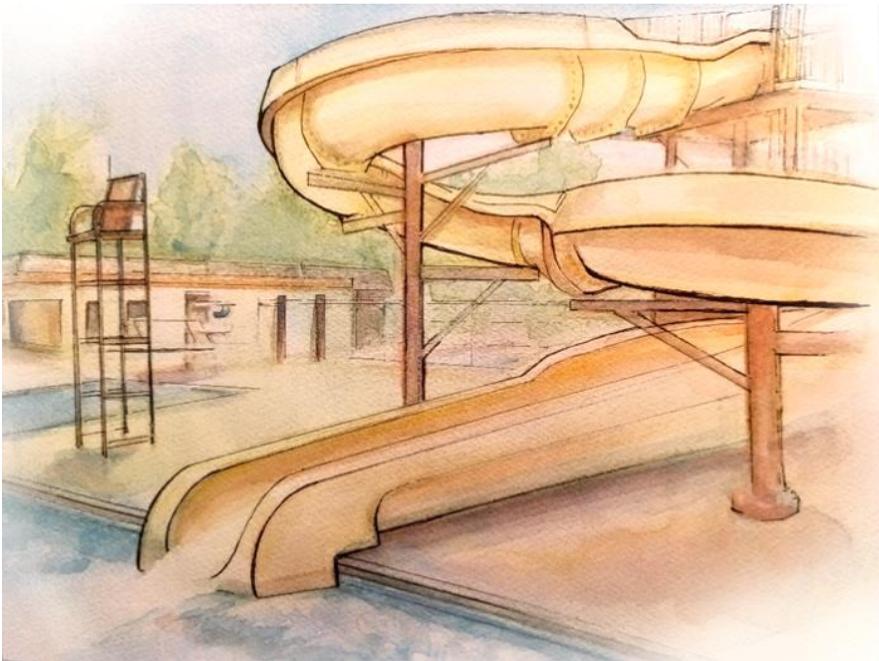


Marsha answered, "I remember the first pool had a big metal slide that got so, so hot going down! There was also a kiddy pool with a fountain that the kids loved to run under."



Marsh went on, "The second pool had a big curvy slide, like the one we have in our pool.

On the Fourth of July there were parades in the park and swimming contests for children of all ages."



At the end of the contest, the kids dove for money thrown into the pool! Both my children loved doing that!”

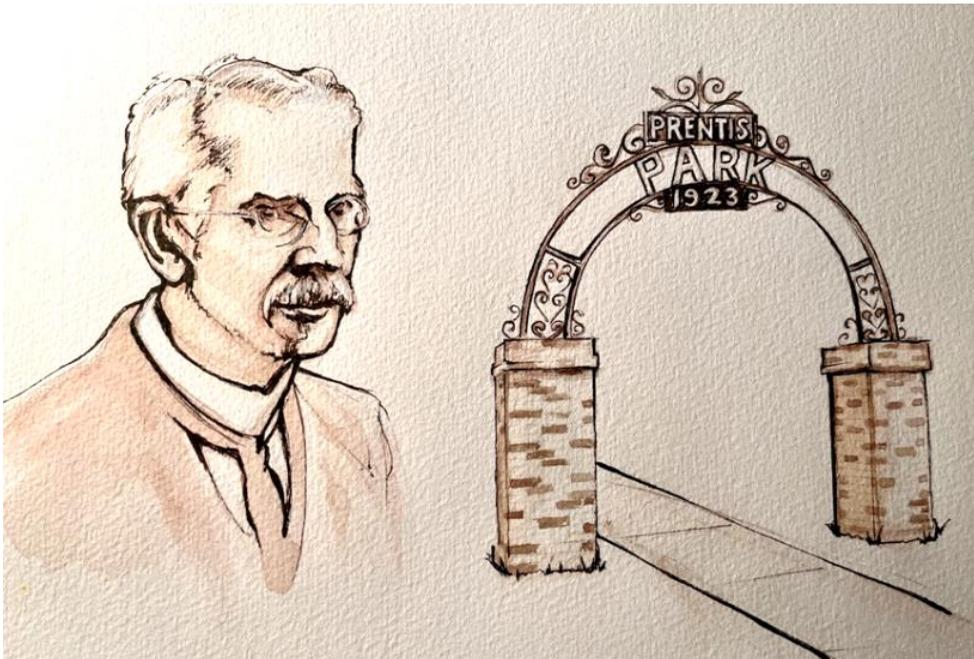


Jean asked, “When was the third pool built?”

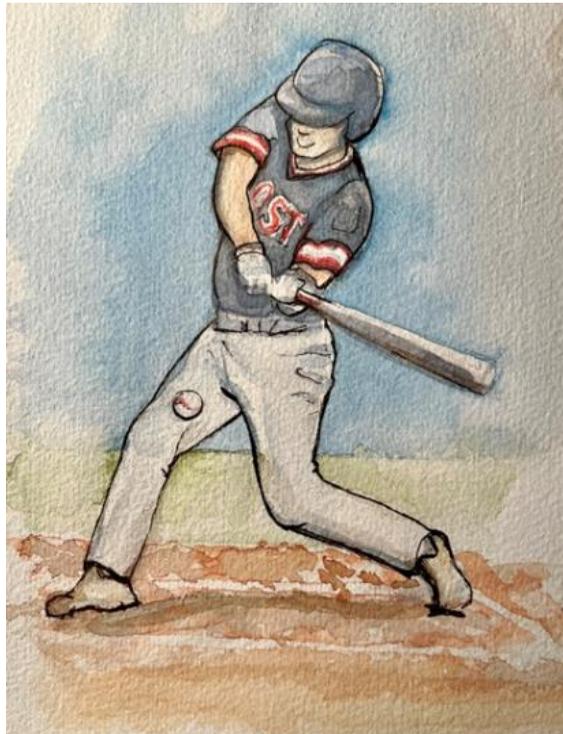
“In 2017. You were about 2 years old.”  
Said Marsha.

George asked excitedly, “What about the metal arch at the park entrance when we walked up Main Street? So beautiful!”

Marsha replied, “Well two arches for the two park entrances were donated by Charles Prentis, who gave the city most of the land for the park.



Prentis wanted the arches to show the name of the park and the year he donated some of the land, 1923. Seven years later he gave more land for ballfields.”



George stated proudly, "Our older brother, Fred, played for the Wallace Post 1 team won the state championship in 2022!

Also, also, my uncle Paul played for the Grey Sox for three years.

Love watching baseball!"

Marsha asked, "Do you or Jean play ball?"

George responded, "We have, but we like swimming best."



Jean, had her hand up, excitedly asked,  
“Did Mr. Prentis build the stone wall?  
We saw a play there last year and got  
ice cream.”

Marsha answered, “No, the stone wall  
or bandshell was built by my  
grandfather Ole Anderson.”



“His sons and friends got the three round buhrstones from old flour mills and put them into the wall.”

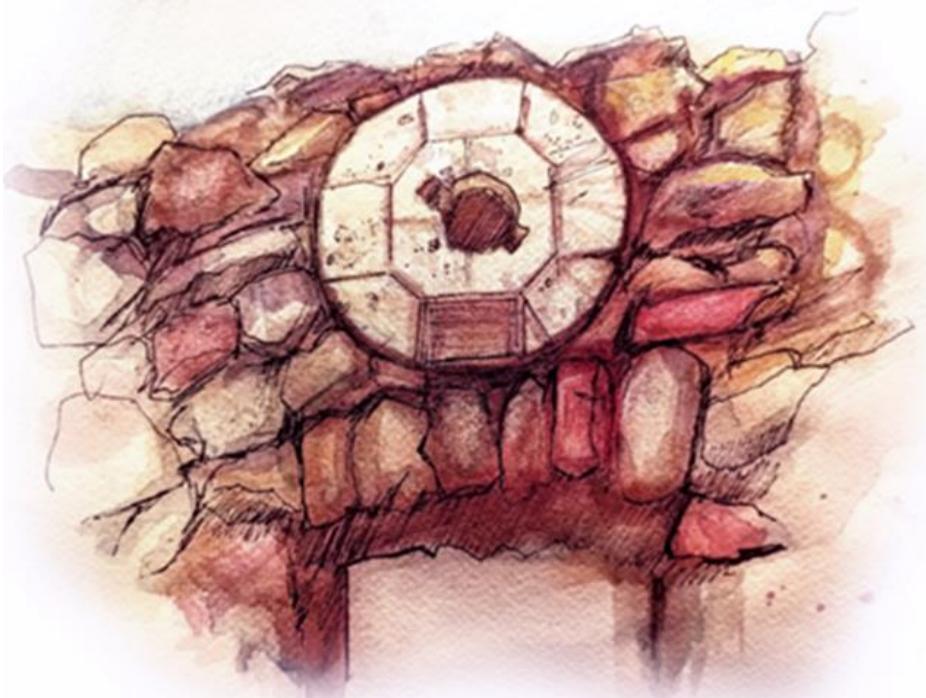
Marsha showed the children a picture of the stone bandshell when it was first built from her book.

Courtesy of Jerome Anderson



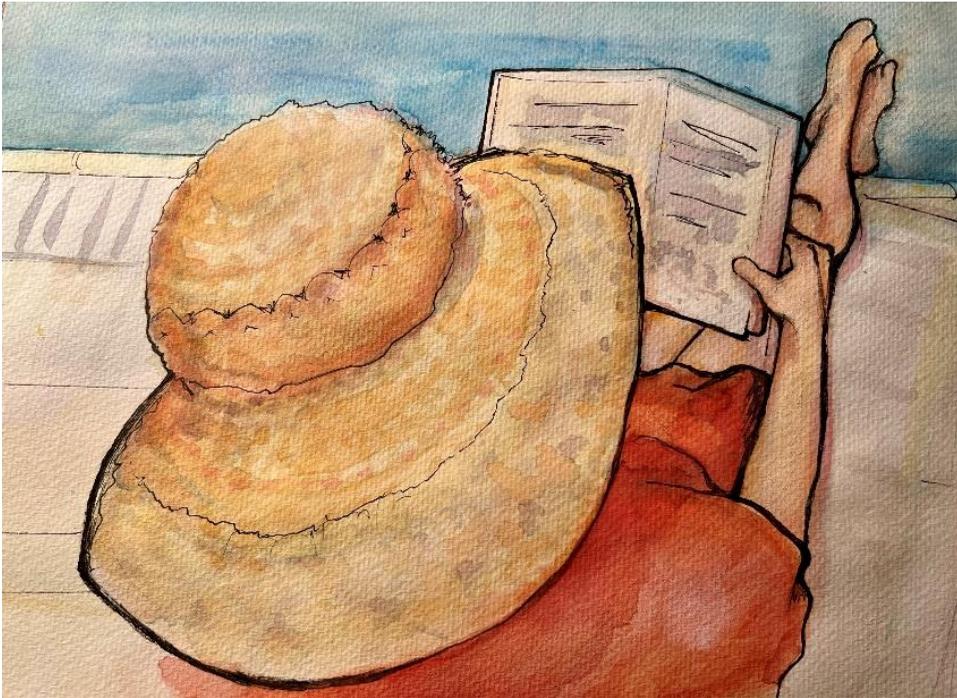
“What’s a buhrstone?” asked Jean.

“It’s a very large stone used to grind grain into flour.” Marsha replied.



Where did the other stones in the wall come from?” George asked excitedly.  
“The stones came from all over Clay County.” Marsha said.

Jean was getting very impatient asking  
“Don’t you want to go swimming? It’s  
too hot!”



Marsha said, “Yes, Jean, you are right.  
I’ll tell you more about the park later!”

With that, all three got ready to go swimming. Marsha carefully placed the book into her bag.





