

8 injured Ali Khamenei today told a group was empty at the time.

# 97-year-old killed in his bed

10-16-87

By KARA HITCHENS  
Gazette Staff Writer

PIKETON — A 97-year-old Pike County man who was Ohio University's first band director was found dead in his home from a gunshot wound to his head just after midnight.

Raymond Connett, 97, of 525 Second St., was found lying in his bed about 45 minutes after he was shot.

Connett's body was taken to Hamilton County for an autopsy.

Pike Sheriff's deputies arrested Edgar Dixon, 64, of West Street, on a charge of aggravated murder and aggravated burglary. Dixon was Connett's ex-son-in-law.

Dixon is being held without bond at the Pike County Jail but authorities said he will probably be transferred to another holding facility.

Pike police arrived at Connett's house about 12:05 a.m. and found Dixon in the front porch waving a shotgun and threatening to shoot anyone who came near him, Sheriff's Lt. Mike Bickers said.

Deputies and a SWAT team surrounded the house, trying to convince Dixon to put down the gun, Bickers said. After 45 minutes, Dixon relented and was arrested.

Bickers said Dixon reportedly arrived at Connett's house, shot off the front door lock and went inside just before midnight.

Connett's daughter Iris, who is Dixon's ex-wife, was inside at the time, but was not injured.

Neighbors of Connett's two-story, brick home said Connett and Dixon had been feuding.

## Connett OU, area's music man

The Gazette staff

PIKETON — Raymond Connett will be remembered as Pike and Ross counties' music man.

Connett, 97, of 525 Second St., Piketon, was a 1931 graduate of Ohio University where he later became the school's first marching band director.

He was honored in 1981 with the Statehood Achievement Award. A 17-year member of the Adelphi Community Band, Connett said in an 1986 Gazette interview he played every instrument except the harp.

In the interview, Connett said that at age 8 played cornet with the Ringling Bros. Circus during its visit to Athens.

Connett attended every OU Homecoming ceremony since 1931. He was scheduled to conduct the band in the Star Spangled Banner at OU's homecoming game next week, according to OU Band Director Ron Socciarelli.

Connett was honored at OU's 1986 homecoming parade.

Socciarelli said he was to call Connett today to confirm his coming to Athens. "It's such a sad, sad thing. Why would anyone want to do that to him?"

Edward Bennett of Kingston, who made music with Connett as

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part of the Adelphi Community Band, said he was shocked to hear of his death.

“He always enjoyed music played in a rousing rendition,” Bennett said.

Connett grew up in Athens County but lived the last 38 years in Piketon. He enrolled in OU in 1908 but his education was interrupted to serve a tour of duty during World War I.

He owned and operated a piano tuning business from his home and taught music and band in several Pike County school districts. He was music director at Beaver schools before it joined with Stockdale to become Eastern Local.