

ADELPHI BAND WRITEUP 1996

The Adelphi Community Band season began with a rehearsal on Monday night April 8th at Hallsville. It was a most unusual year. There were 2 rain-outs, a mud-out and a back-out. More about that later.

The opening performance was at Chillicothe April 27th, a sequi-centennial celebrating 200 years since the founding of the town. Since it was such a large celebration, the parade committee requested we be in place 2 hours before the 1:30 parade. Unfortunately the turnout was one of the lowest of the year - 11 members. There was a conflict with the Pumpkin Show Band. The low brass section was especially hard hit. 2 clarinet players were in the front row. The number played was "When the saints go marching in" and one observer said it sounded very good.

The band claims to be continuous since 1880 but program notes that day said the band started in ~~1874~~ or 1876. And the Bicentennial magazine published by the Gazette says by 1873 there were 3 brass bands in Chillicothe, and one each in Adelphi, Massieville, Bainbridge and Bourneville. And the Greenfield band wagon was in Chillicothe around 1876. And the Adelphi Band is still swinging.

The band performed the next day at Piketon Dogwood Fest. with a parade at 2:30 and a concert afterward at the gazebo.

Next came the 2 rain-outs. On Saturday morning May 4th the Amanda Special Olympics were rained out. Fortunately we were notified ahead of time not to go. At the McArthur Wild Turkey Fest. the same day this was not so. The parade was scheduled at 6:00 P. M. and the rain wouldn't quit. After

sitting in cars for a while at the parking lot the band left. We don't perform in a heavy rain.

Next came Pleasant Hill cemetery, Adelphi cemetery and the Feast of the Flowering Moon parade at Chillicothe. Memorial Day was celebrated at Hallsville with a half-hour performance of marches at 9:30, a parade to the cemetery at 11:00 and a playing of hymns around the Buchwalter monument.

Next came the Kingston Fest. at the town park. But the rain was so much that week and the mud too great to set-up and it was cancelled.

Following this mud-out came playing for the harness races at the Pickaway County Fair and a concert at Yocktangee Park, Sunday June 30th at 7:00 P. M.

The July 4th celebration at Ashville is a highlight of the year. The Grand Parade is at 11:00 and a concert is afterward. This year a small platform was in place for the performers. But it wasn't big enough. Now what kind of bad would that be - half on and half off? Actually it almost turned out that way as 3 members and the director did get on.

The band has begun to play at reunions if the price is right. In other words pay us to play.

Next came the Cook reunion at a farm just north of So. Bloomfield. Saturday July 13th the band performed in a parade at Gibsonville after a year's absence. For a small town it was a large parade with many horses and mules. The band members received a certificate of participation to hang on the wall.

At the Laurelville Fireman's Fest. July 20th the band

performed at 4:30 and joined the parade line at 5:30 for a 6:00 parade.

The performance at the farm on Dry Run was a repeat from last year. John Brown directed and with the open air performance we could see and hear each other better.

The 81st annual Clarksburg Field Day was the first engagement in August. In the past the band would play at 1:00, get in the dinner line at 4:00 and play afterward at 5:30. But the last couple of years the band has been scheduled at 1:00 and 3:00 or 3:30 and thereby doesn't eat together. Some stay and some don't.

I have a comment about the Field Day program. A picture of the band has the caption performing in the sixties. But James York right in the middle of the picture joined the band in late 1975. And the band director in the sixties was Rod Shaw not Ray Connett. The caption should read late seventies.

At the Ross County Fair (2 days) the band played a half-hour before the harness races and during the races until the director says it's time to go.

The band was invited to Pleasantville for the first time in a long time. The parade formed on the other side of town beside the railroad tracks. We led the parade.

For the second year in a row the band played for the VA hospital flower show with many dignitaries present.

The band played for a street fair but it was held in the backyard across from the post office in Circleville. A large band turnout included 7 trumpets, 5 trombones and 4 bases. But only one clarinet.

The next performance was Stoutsville Labor Day with a parade at 10:00. We also play afterward but must wait on all the little kids and babies to show off.

For the last 2 years at the Hallsville Indian Summer Fest. it's a parade only at 6:00. No afternoon concert.

This was followed by Green's Farm concert, and the Amanda Soya Fest. parade.

At the Jackson Apple Fest. the band played at 5:30 on the main square. There was a crowd listening but very unresponsive. At the 7:45 parade it was entirely different. We were cheered at every playing of the march.

At Mt. Sterling the band was set to go but had to back-out. Not enough could go.

The Fairfield County job is pretty much all day. We play at 9:30 for a while and then play for the harness races at 12:30. Again until the director says it's time to go. Last year the races were rained out.

A new happening for the band was playing at the Adelphi Methodist Church back yard. The church people were very appreciative of our coming.

We played the Pumpkin Show as usual - Friday and Saturday night parades and a concert Saturday night. Our concert time was pushed up to 6:15 to make room for the Ohio Univ. Band at 7:00. As many of you know this band jumps around and swing their instruments like they are toys. And the drums are very loud. Some like this kind of performance and some don't. I'll leave it at that.

Pumpkin Show concluded the performing schedule. Total performances for the year was 28. The season ended with a band appreciation dinner at Hocking Hills Lodge for the sixth straight year. Band member Ed Bennett is the host.

The music we play is mostly marches such as National Emblem, Stars and Stripes, Invercargill, Men of Ohio, Barnum and Bailey and Robinson's Grand Entry. We do vary the program with Night in June, Beautiful Ohio, Lassus Trombone, Let me Call You Sweetheart, and an occasional overture or waltz.

The band does not march anymore. In a manner of speaking we have been on the wagon for 10 or 12 years.

In conclusion the band has played most towns and festivals in south central Ohio for a long time.

It's been my privilege to be a member of this band since 1960 - 36 years. We will continue to make great music for a long time.

Faithfully submitted

Gilbert Wamsley