

Hugh Clark makes music a way of life

By KRISTOPHER WEISS
Gazette Staff Writer

HALLSVILLE - Hugh Clark created the soundtrack for his life. He began playing music in the orchestra at Salt Creek Township High School in the '30s. He joined the Adelphi Community Band on Memorial Day 1938, played for the Philippines' independence in 1946 as a member of the U.S. Army's 86th Division Band, appeared at Ameriflora in 1992 and took part in nine of Adelphi's 31 gigs in 1998.

"I have no way of knowing how many shows I've played," Clark, 76, said.

Clark has memories of his 61 years with the band in the form of photographs, newspaper clippings and a baseball cap honoring his service. The memories are warm.

He tried to join in 1937, but the band was full. He's played under five directors and still plays with two men who were already on board when he signed up: Herman Bill Hinton, who joined in 1924, and James Tootie, who made his debut in 1937.

He likes to talk about overtures, marches and waltzes the band plays. Playing at the Circleville Pumpkin Show. Celebrating the band's 100th anniversary in Washington, D.C. in 1980. Performing for Dwight Eisenhower and Richard Nixon.

That's a lot of memories. So, which is Clark's favorite?

Know Your Neighbor

Name: Hugh Clark
Age: 76
Address: 7081 Ohio 180
Family: Wife, Phyllis Maxine, 74, children Mary Sue, 48, Charles, 46, Donald, 43, and five grandchildren
Occupation: Retired line operator at DuPont

"I've got a lot of them, but the favorite would be the players," the slide trombonist said. "One person doesn't make a band. We have the bass, the trumpets, the percussion. (It's) a well-balanced band."

The love of music has kept Clark playing in the band for 61 years. But that love goes only so far.

"This boom-boom bang-bang amplified music turns me off."

Clark has seen a lot of his band mates pass away over the years and members now range from teen-agers to octogenarians. Health problems were the reason for missing performances last year and he hopes to play with the band more in 1999.

"It goes against the grain for me to be with a walker on the front porch and watch them go by," he said.



Hugh Clark Jr., of Hallsville, just finished his 61st year with the Adelphi Community Band making him one of the oldest players on the historical band.
Tim Johnson/Gazette

If you would like to nominate a person for this feature call Kristopher Weiss at 773-2111 ext. 72.

Tip of the day

Valentine's Day getaway ideas

Couples seeking a restful, romantic or adventurous weekend getaway for Valentine's Day can get the latest information by calling 1-800-BUCKEYE. Trained travel counselors provide callers with the most up-to-date details on a variety of holiday events, attractions and special discounts throughout Ohio.

With just one toll-free call, travelers can access information on everything from medieval castles and hot-tub chalets to wine tastings and romantic winter hikes.



Top Billboard hits

The top pop singles as of Friday are:

- Baby One More Time - Britney Spears
- Angel Of Mine - Monica
- Have You Ever? - Brandy
- Nobody's Supposed To Be Here - Deborah Cox
- All I Have To Give - Backstreet Boys



Tomorrow

Is winter over? Will there be another six weeks of winter or is spring on the way? If it's spring time, you better get cleaning.

Clipped By:



mathew5554

Sun, Mar 17, 2019