

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 Tootle, 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

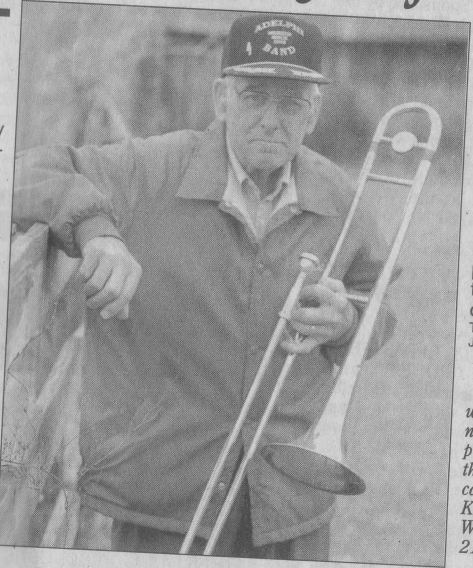
"I've got a lot of them, but the favorite would be the players," the slide trombonist said. "One person doesn't make a band. We have the bass, the trumpets, the percussion. (It's) a well-balanced band."

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 teenagers 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 Jr., of Hallsv just fir his 61 year w the Ad Comm Band r ing hir of the c players the hisi cal ban Tim Johnson/G

If you would li nominat person fo this featu call Kristophe Weiss at : 2111 ext.