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(Gazette photo)

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By BARBARA B. KALFS
Gazette staff writer

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By **BARBARA B. KALFS**
Gazette staff writer

A century of making music will be celebrated at 8 p.m. Saturday when the venerable Adelphi Community Band takes center stage for the annual Chillicothe Kiwanis Club Statehood Day Concert in the Chillicothe High School auditorium.

Said to be the oldest band of its kind in Ohio, the Adelphi tunemakers first came on the local scene in 1880 when some Hallsville and Adelphi fellows formed the nucleus of just one of several area bands of that era.

Mont Long of Circleville was charter conductor, sharing his talents with other area musical aggregations. Among other early directors were John Wittwer, Bill Patterson, Otis Larich, Vic Swinehart, Sol Riegle and John Gill (former Denison University band director).

In 1924, the Adelphi band "reorganized" through the urging of the Adelphi Knights of Pythias Lodge under another Circleville director, Fred Powell. Of that "new" band, three charter members are still active after 56 years: tubaist David Pon-

tious of Kingston, trombonist Herman "Bill" Hinton of 16190 Charleston Pike and his younger brother, bass drummer Curtis "Dave" Hinton of Route 2, Laurelville.

Pontious and Bill Hinton were 14-year-old Centralia High School freshmen when they joined the band and Curtis was "12 or 13," he recalls.

Now a retired farmer, Pontious confesses, "I asked my Dad (Chauncey) about joining up even though I'd never had a lesson. He said 'You'll figure it out yourself' and that's what I did." (Chauncey, born in 1870, started with the band when 14 and played cornet and baritone horn through the years.)

Pontious and Bill Hinton must never have enough music making because they also are members of the Aladdin Temple Shrine Band in Columbus and have traveled with it throughout the country for convention parades. Pontious has been a Shrine band regular since 1949.

The two classmates were members of Centralia's first orchestra (1926-27) directed by Miss Florence Kile, they report.

Ross County Board of Elections director Bill Hinton says his only semi-formal training was in the high school orchestra.

"You've got to have the 'want' to really get with it (the band)," he declares. "Two of our sons have been in it; Herman Jr. on bass and Glenn on snares."

Curtis Hinton started on the clarinet but switched about 1940 to the beat of the bass drum. He recalls at one time there were five Hinton brothers in the band: the late Arthur and John, himself, Bill and Lloyd, who dropped out. Arthur was manager for years and after his death, Bill and Curtis took over that duty.

Curtis, who retired from farming last March, enjoys the band: "I'm greatly looking forward to this coming season even after playing all these years. We've always been on our own, buying our music, uniforms and providing our own transportation, mostly in private cars."

In yesteryears, the bandsmen reveled in their assignment of playing for the now-discontinued free acts at the Circleville Pumpkin Show. They formerly traveled in a multi-seated

Former Ohio parks chief seeks congressional seat

The former chief of the Ohio Division of Parks and Recreation will make a bid for the Republican nomination as the 6th District representative to the U.S. House of Representatives.

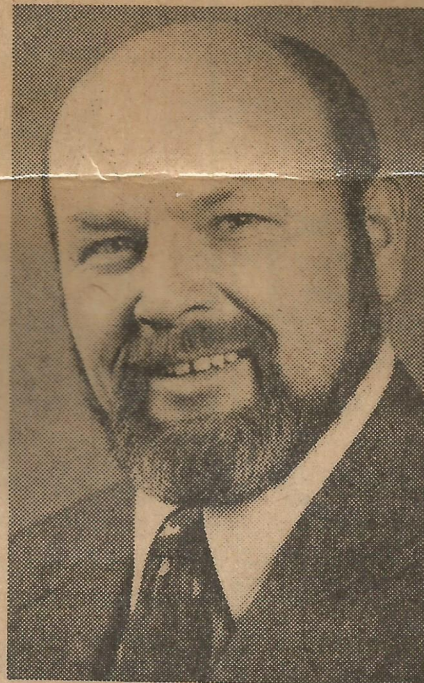
Ralph A. Vanzant, 38, of 7269 Ohio 753 southeast, Greenfield, has joined six other candidates for the Republican nomination aspiring to replace the retiring William H. Harsha.

He resigned his state government post last July to become vice president and general manager of Revenue Consultants Inc., a national consulting firm. He also has taught courses for Shawnee Technical College in Scioto County and farms a 900-acre family farm with his brother near Greenfield.

"This much interest in the primary represents one of the growing strengths of the Republican Party. This kind of excitement has to be good for the party," Vanzant said of the large field of contenders for the Republican bid. Harsha has held the seat for 20 years.

As chief of a major division of state government, Vanzant said he is knowledgeable of the potential problems of an expanding bureaucracy, which he cites as a major problem facing the country along with inflation.

A graduate of Ohio State Universi-



Ralph A. Vanzant

ty, Vanzant and his wife Elaine have four children and live in Fayette County near the Highland County line.

Ted Strickland is the only Democrat to announce his candidacy for the rambling 6th District, which extends from Pickaway County south to Scioto County and west to Clermont County.

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horse-drawn wagon from Hallsville to Circleville, but now go by car.

Then there were the memorable bean dinners at Gearhart's Grove on the Charleston Pike. The Adelphi band became a living, breathing calliope for the horse-powered merry-go-round at those events. As the horse plodded around its circle, young and old hopped on the carousel's wooden

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Adelphi band

seats attached to the capstan by ropes while the musicians provided accompaniment.

One of the most outstanding men to perform with the band was William L. "Will" Huff, noted Chillicothe composer-director-musician. He joined the Fillmore Music Co. of Cincinnati which published his works and sent him to various small towns to organize bands because Huff was a master of almost every instrument.

When John Philip Sousa's band cut its first gramophone record, Huff's "Salute to the Stars and Stripes" was included. In all, the versatile Huff composed more than 90 marches and other band and orchestra numbers, many of which are in the present band's repertoire.

Among other band directors have been Lancaster residents, Fred Hickman, Charles Proximire and Roderick Shaw, formerly of the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra.

Eighteen years ago, R.W. Connett of Piketon picked up the Adelphi baton which he is still swinging at a

young 89 years of age. This indefatigable founder of the Ohio University marching band will turn 90 April 20. He, too, is looking forward to a busy 1980 performance schedule.

In natty dark uniforms, the band has traditionally performed during the Piketon Dogwood Festival, Adelphi Bologna Festival, Ross County and Fairfield County fairs, Hallsville-Tarlton Fish Fry, McArthur Fourth of July celebration, Circleville Pumpkin Show, Kingston Geranium Festival, Clarksburg Field Day, Ashville, Adena and Laurelville parades and has given old-time summer concerts in Yoctangee Park.

There is no distaff clef in the band, but womenfolk are not forgotten. After the final appearance of the season, usually in the fall, the men treat their feminine supporters to a special dinner as coda to the year's end.

On roster of those who played at least once last year with the band are: Connett, director, bass or clarinet player; Trumpet - John Brown and

Don Waliser, the Hinton's nephew, Fairfield County; Jeff Mathew and Jerry Thomas, Pickaway County; James Tootle Jr. and Dane Poling, Ross County; Eric Maxson, Hocking county; Merrill Junk, Lake Charles, La., and John Cryder, Joliet, Ill.

Baritone - Tom Paridon, Pike County; and Ferdie Fraunfelder, Fairfield County; - Trombone - Bill Hinton and Hugh Clark Jr., Ross County; John Mathew, Jeff's brother, Marion County; Clarinet - Gilbert Wamsley, Pickaway County, and James York, Highland County.

Bass - Edward Bennett and David Pontious, Ross County; Robert Hansley and Herman Hinton Jr., Bill's sons, Fairfield County; and Roger Carroll, Pike County; Percussion - Bass drummer Curtis Hinton, Hocking County; snare drummers Steve Egan, Curtis Hinton's grandson, Eugene Gildersleeve and his grandson Jimmie Fletcher, Pickaway County, Glenn Hinton, Bill's son, and cymbalist John Bennett, Ed's son, Ross County.