

Adelphi Community Band celebrates 125 years

The Adelphi Community Band it is reasonable to assume that
was organized in 1880

Adelphi Community

The Adelphi Community Band was organized in 1880 when it was called the Hallsville Band. The band marched in parades, festivals, homecomings, fish fries, concerts in the park or under shade trees. The band became a very important part of the community around that part of the state of Ohio.

When the group of musicians got together in 1880 to form this band, Monte Long of Circleville was the first director. Other early directors were John Wittwer, Bill Patterson, Otis Larch, Vic Swinehart, Sol Reigle and John Gill who was also the director of the Circle City Band of Circleville in the early 1900s.

Members of the Hallsville Band in 1890 were: Cliff Walker, Bryon Strawser, Ed Maag, Dennis Pontious, Ben Reed, Doug Walker, Frank Strawser, Ellersey Dresbach, Will Strawser, Cap Wall, Chauncey B. Pontious, Andy Wiggins, and Luther Jones.

The instrumentation of this group included five cornets, five baritone horns, one bass horn, one snare drum, and one bass drum.

According to the Aug. 7, 1880 issue of the Chillicothe Gazette was the following statement: "The Adelphi Cornet Band went into practice to play for fairs, campaign meetings, etc."

So apparently there was also an Adelphi contingent in existence at that time, and due to the proximity of the two communities

it is reasonable to assume that some of the members of the two bands were one and the same. Another mention of the Adelphi Cornet Band was found in an old program of the fourth annual reunion of the Bowsher-DeLong-Mowery-Reichelderfer families held Aug. 22, 1899, in the Stumpf's Grove near Adelphi. It stated the Adelphi Cornet Band provided the music and Ida Mowery of Tarlton was the soloist.

It later changed it's name to the Bowsher's Bunch around 1903. Apparently there were many persons by this name in the community and in the band. In 1924, the band changed it's name and reorganized under the name of Adelphi Community Band.

The band played concerts and marched in parades in a time in history when a town and its folk were the world. It was a time before radios, televisions and movies offered an escape. A time when people worked hard — all day long, six days a week. A time when no one ventured too far from home.

The folk loved to turn out and listen, to forget about work and enjoy themselves for awhile. In the times of 1880 to the 193's many communities had a community band.

The era of the community band has declined much in the time from 1940s to present time. However, the Adelphi Community

on

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Band has survived all these changes.

In the last few years there seems to be renewing of the Community Band spirit. Various communities have organized community bands, orchestras and

ADELPHI COMMUNITY BAND

brass groups.

The Adelphi Community Band in recent years has been playing at many festivals and fairs within a 70 mile radius of Adelphi in southeastern Ohio. The band has a membership of 25 men and boys

and one woman. The ages of the band members ranges from the teens to some in their 80s. One member, Herman "Bill" Hinton joined the band as a teenager in

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1924. He was one of the trombone players but in recent years he had served as the manager and director of the band until his death on June 20, 2000. John Brown, one of the trumpet players, was appointed the director of the band and is still director. Glenn Hinton serves as the manager of the band.

The band makes about 25 to 30 appearances each year from April to October, practicing most Monday nights in their rehearsal hall in Hallsville during that seven month period.

The band has played at the Clarksburg Field Days for more than 60 years. In 1980, the band was invited by Congressman Clarence Miller to play a concert at the steps of the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. This was to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Adelphi Community Band.

A few years ago the band played for events of the Governors Inauguration in Columbus.

In July, 1992, the Band played a concert at the International AmeriFlora '92 Show in Columbus.

The Adelphi Community Band was honored at the 1994 Ross County Fair for more than 50 continuous years. A banquet was held during the fair and the Band was one of the organizations so honored. Presently, it has played at the Ross County Fair for over 60 years.

The Adelphi Band has played concerts and been in parades of the Circleville Pumpkin Show for over 80 years. Many years ago, the Band played several times each day of the Pumpkin Show for the various "free acts" that performed.

The band plays most of the traditional marching music style music. Their library of music includes many of John Philip Sousa marches, Henry L. King marches and most of the popular marches written by many writers.

It has been said by many persons watching a parade even before they can be seen, "That is the Adelphi Band coming." Their music has a unique and familiar sound.

It is the hope and wish of all the present band members that many other bandsmen will join this fine band and keep the spirit of the Adelphi Community Band alive forever.

The 125th Anniversary of the Adelphi Band will be celebrated in the year 2005 with several "Special Concerts" and several special engagements.

Written by Dale DeLong, trombone player.

ADELPHI COMMUNITY BAND

The 125 year-old-band is set to perform at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Pickaway County Pavilion.