

# Parade highlight of Dog

Well, dear people, since we have left the "ice age of '96" and are now entering the monsoon season, which is supposed to be spring, I wanted to travel somewhere and talk about something besides skiing or ice. So, we found the Dogwood festival in Piketon, Ohio.....or rather, George was to play with the Adelphi Band at this festival.

I decided to go along and I'm glad I did.

We were hoping for sunshine but the sky was overcast and the clouds were hanging heavy and low. But it was nice, just getting to travel again and getting to tell you about it.

As we traveled south, the pale lilac of the flowering dogwood trees began appearing along the highway, with a background of black and gray trees and the soft pale green of the young foliage; and then the deep dark green of evergreens. Once in a while you could see the white dogwood fighting to begin showing their beautiful petals.

A mile or so before we got to the town of Piketon, we saw cars lined along the highway. The "Tall One", as observant as ever, said, "something is going on here.." But it took us both by surprise as we traveled on in to Piketon. People, the whole place was packed with vendors and people. Vendors were side by side, up and down every street, selling everything one could ever hope to find anywhere. And, any kind of food you could possibly want to eat. The smells were wonderful on this cloudy day.

There is something special about festivals in early spring after a long cold winter. The people are laughing and talking with each other while eating all this wonderful food.

We spent quite a bit of time looking for a place to park and had a good chance to see how much of the town had parts of the festival in it.

After we parked, George handed me the camera and said, "Marti, you'll have to work today." The

## Travel with Marti

By Marti Sprague  
Photos by Sprague Photography

the rest of the Adelphi Band members. Since I was left by myself, I decided to look around.

This festival was unlike any I've seen. All the vending booths were individually owned. There wasn't any big company with rides and their own commercial food vendors. A small amusement company was on hand to provide pony rides and other rides for the smaller children.

There were bandstands on every street, with people performing all day long. There was just enough space between each performance area so the sound systems wouldn't overlap. Our Own Kenny Yahn and the Kountry Knights were there, sounding as wonderful as ever. If you like country music, you must hear this group.

The drummer is outstanding with his solo on "Wipeout." Roger Lee and Betty came by to visit. They will be at our Spring Fling In The Park and Ducky Downs on June 1st at Eyman Park.

It was time for the parade to start and I had a wonderful spot from which to get some pictures. First was the Piketon High School Band. They did one heck of a job and looked so "smart" in their red and white uniforms. The Shriners were there with their clowns and cars, giving candy to the kids. These guys work in every community and they are a very dedicated group of people.

Then came all the "regular parade" units of fire trucks, ambulances, and police and sheriff cars.....representing those essential services which we so often take for granted.

The horse people of the area were well represented, riding some very

bright green and white uniform. The Flag Corps did a fantastic job.

Next came the vintage cars, with a very impressive lineup of cars; 4-H groups; boy scouts and girl scouts; and the festival queen.

Then came an acrobatic team of youngsters. They did some of the best precision acrobatic routines I've ever seen.

By this time the rain had arrived but it didn't stop the parade.

Next in line was the Adelphi Band, one of the oldest, if not the oldest "continuous" bands in Ohio. No females ever played in this band and most of its members are close to or past 60 years of age. They draw their members from all over central and southern Ohio. The Director, Bill Hinton, is in his 80s and has been with the band for over 60 years..

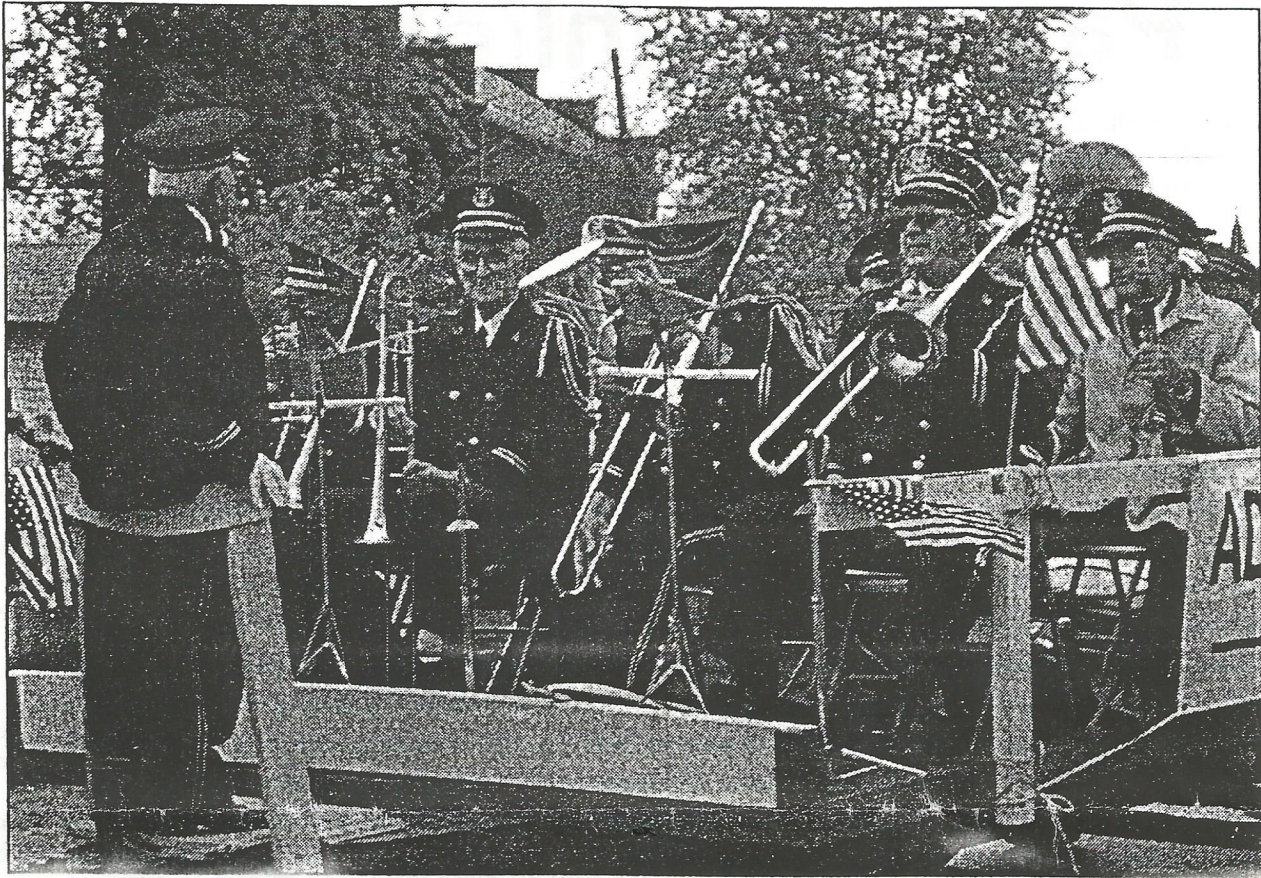
The Adelphi Band is one of the busiest bands around and can't play. I was so proud of this band, as they passed, people stopped and applauded.

There is one man who is 73 and has been very ill but did he blow that tuba. His name is Robert Hansley and he and his wife Roberta will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary May 12.

And, of course, I can't forget the trombone players. One man, Jerry Voss, plays the trombone like one I've heard since the big band days.

The Adelphi Band put on a concert after the parade on the Village Green and there was a good crowd of people there to hear them. The men may have a few years on them but until you hear them play you can't appreciate the beautiful sound this band gives.

# Wood Festival at Piketon



The trombone section of the Adelphi Band led by Director Bill Hinton.

Fillmore, which is one of the reasons George enjoys playing with them so much. They always close each concert with *The Stars and Stripes Forever*. The last strain features a piccolo solo and this is played in the Adelphi Band by Cliff Kerns—on the euphonium...an outstanding feat for a valve instrumentalist.

After the concert, Jerry asked George and me to go eat supper with him at the White Lake Club, at Waverly, Ohio. When you walk across the threshold of this restaurant, you step back 150 years. The huge timbers forming the walls of this room are the original walls of a log cabin built on this spot in the mid 1820's.

The lake was dug in 1935 and an August cloudburst filled it overnight, according to tradition. It became White Lake with the signing of the charter on Dec. 13, 1938. The front door opens into what looks like an old-fashioned living

room with a huge rock fireplace. You go on through this beautiful room and out in to the spacious dining room, which served as the screened back porch for many years.

Audrey and Dick Ford are the owners now and act as host and hostess. They make every effort to make you feel welcome and comfortable.

The menu is extensive, with well prepared, very tasty food. The dining room atmosphere is conducive to relaxing in an informal setting, as you look out on White Lake, which almost surrounds the restaurant.

We spent over two hours with Jerry, eating and catching up on what we all had been doing since we last saw each other.

And me, being like I am, had to tell him about George being inducted in to the Area Agency Senior Citizen Hall of fame in Columbus on May 22.

Jerry has always been interested in our travels so we spent some time telling him about George's latest endeavor ...publishing the first *Travel With Marti* book, which will go on sale the week of May 6th in New Holland, Jeffersonville, Washington C.H.

It goes back seven years when Jeff Pollard published the first "*Travel With Marti*" in the *Record-Herald*. Since then, I've been telling you about some of the places I've traveled to and things I've done. And, it makes me very happy to have so many of you tell me you feel as though you were there with me.

The Piketon Dogwood Festival is always held the last full weekend of April. The hour it takes you to get there is through some wonderful scenic countryside and, if you go, I know you'll have a great time..

See you later,  
Marti