



ADELPHI BAND in 1890—The band played in Chilliottie when Campbell was campaigning for governor, bandsmen posed in front of their handsome band wagon, driven by the father of the late local high-wheeled bicyclist Dan DeLong: first row, Cliff Walker, Byron Strawser, Ed Maag, Dennis Pontious; back row, Ben Rood, Doug Walker, Frank Strawser, Eler-sy (sic) Dresback, Will Strawser, Cap Wall, C. B. Pontious, Andy Wiggins, Luther Jones, (Photo courtesy of David Pontious).

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Adelphi Band going strong at 93

Other and his grandson, Eric Maxson, Zane Trace, cyclarinet; Eugene

Adelphi

By BARBARA B. KALFS
(140th in a series)

In 1880, some fellows out Hallsville-Adelphi way decided to put together a musical aggregation.

Little did they envision the modern day impact their action was to have. The Adelphi Band, a permanent fixture at area fairs and festivals, is perhaps the oldest community band in the state. Its fame is such that men and boys from other communities have sought seats with the band which has never lost its association with Adelphi.

This weekend (May 25-28), the 93-year-old organization will provide toe-tapping tunes for Adelphi Bologna Festival visitors and stirring martial medleys to commemorate Memorial Day, past and present.

Arthur L. Hinton of Route 2, Laurelville, current manager and a veteran Adelphi bandleader, supplied the Saga with some pertinent data about the band while other musicians are tapping their memories for a sequel.

The Adelphi Community Band was formally organized in 1880. Although it had a home in the hearts of listeners, there were initial problems in establishing a headquarters. The group met variously in Hallsville and Adelphi and now, starting the first of every April, practices from 8-10 p.m. Mondays in the first floor of the Adelphi Masonic Lodge.

Mont Long of Circleville, the first conductor, also directed

several bands in neighboring communities. John Wittwer Bill Patterson, Otis Larich, Vic Swinehart and Sol Riegle were just a few of the earliest music makers.

In April, 1924, the Knights of Pythias Lodge at Adelphi organized a band under the leadership of another Circlevillian, Fred Powell. Since then, according to Arthur Hinton, Adelphi has had a shared community band heritage.

R.W. Connett of Piketon has been maestro for the last six years. He chuckles about one of the most frequently put questions, "What's the age (of the band)?" to which he usually replies, "From eight to 80," indicating the age span among band members.

During the years Frank Hickman, Charles Proxmire and Roderick Shaw have served as directors. Drum major for the present 32 banders is George W. Rihl of Route 1, Laurelville. The volunteer tunesters are in great demand and their fees are added to the band "kitty." Each player owns his own uniform for which the treasury furnishes

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part of the purchase price. Other than some percussive pieces, the players also provide their own instruments.

Performers with the 1924 "re-organized" band who still are active participants include David Pontious of Kingston, tuba; Herman Hinton of Route 2, Kingston, trombone; Curtis Hinton of Route 2, Laurelville, bass drum; Arthur L. Hinton of Route 2, Laurelville, baritone.

There's no generation gap in the band and never has been. F.M. Bowsher started playing at festivals and parades with the Adelphi musicians when a mere 14 and his two brothers, Amos and Hayes, also joined in.

There's a strong familial strain which keeps up the beat for the Adelphi music makers. Arthur Hinton's son-in-law, Raymond Maxson plays snare drum

and his grandson, Eric Maxson, trumpet. Curtis Hinton's son-in-law, Roger Egan, snare drummer, and grandson Steve Egan, cymbalist, are faithful members. Herman Hinton's son Glen and grandson Casey roll along on the snares. Hugh Clark Jr. of Hallsville and his son are slide trombonists while grandson Charles is among the trumpeters.

Men drive from near and far to rehearse concert programs and prepare for the full season: Tom Paridon of Waverly, baritone; Ned Tomlinson and John Brown, both of near Lancaster, trumpets; James R. Tootle Jr. of Route 4, Chillicothe, trumpet;

Gary Thomas of Circleville, trumpet; retired teacher E.J. Frederick of London, French horn; Gilbert Wamsley of Circleville, clarinet; Paul Davis of

Zane Trace, cytarinet; Eugene Gildersleeve of Route 4, Circleville snare drum; Ed Bennett of Kingston, sousaphone; Raymond Hedges of Laurelville, trumpet; John Mathew, trombone, and Jeff Mathew, trumpet, Richard Cryder, trumpet, and Mike Cryder, trombone, grandsons of Mrs. Ada Cryder, lifetime Adelphi-Hallsville area resident.

Last year, the bandmen made their longest trek, driving 120 miles and back in one day
(Continued on Page 9)

If it's on
the house



ADELPHI K of P BAND — Early players in The Adelphi Knights of Pythias Band shown here (circa 1930) were: first row, from left, Charles Harrel, Charles and Gene Gildersleeve; second row, Damon Pontious, Curtis Hinton, Earl Patterson, Wayne Dresbach, Clyde Beougher, David

Pontious, Arthur L. Hinton, Demp Pontious, Clyde Huffer, F.M. Bowsher; top row, O.S. Mowery, John Hinton, Ellerslee (sic) Dresbach, Amos Bowsher, Perl Hinton, Wayne Luckhart, Chauncey Pontious, Orval Pontious, Herman Hinton.

(Photo courtesy of Arthur L. Hinton)

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(Continued from Page 4)

for an appearance at a Cadiz Festival.

This year, the band debuted for the Dogwood Festival in Piketon. It is regularly included in the Ross County Fair programming, providing harmonious interludes during the harness racing program as well as special concerts. Among other regular stands are the Hallsville-Tarleton Fish Fry, McArthur Fourth of July celebration, Circleville Pumpkin Show, Kingston Geranium Festival, annual parades at Ashville, Adena, Laurelville and Adelphi, Clarksburg Field Day, Fairfield County Fair, and band

concerts in Yocangee Park, Chillicothe.

The Adelphi Band also performs in the Chillicothe Halloween Parade which marks the close of its season each year. To celebrate, members fete their faithful feminine supporters at a banquet the week following the final performance.

The musicians travel to their dates in private automobiles and there is always an enthusiastic crowd of applauding wives, sweethearts and relatives. There are no band husbands and boyfriends in the audience as the group has not yet had a player on the distaff side of the clef.