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ADELPHI BAND IN 1890. The day the Hallsville Adelpi Band played in Chillicothe when Campbell was campaigning for governor, bandmen posed in front of their handsome band wagon, driven by the father of the late local high-wheeled bicyclist Don DeLong. First row, Cliff Walker, Byron Strawser, Ed Moore, Dennis Fontaine; back row, Ben Road, Doug Walker, Frank Strawser, Erby (sic) Draback, Will Strawser, Cap Wolf, C. B. Fontaine, Andy Wiggins, Luther Jones. Photo courtesy of David Fontaine.

scioto saga

Adelpi Band going strong at 93

By BARBARA R. KALFS (left in a scene)

In 1888, some fellows on Hallsville-Adelpi way decided to put together a musical aggregation.

Little did they envision the century day impact their action was to have. The Adelpi Band, a permanent fixture of area fairs and festivals, is perhaps the oldest continuously band in the state. Its fame is such that men and boys from other communities have sought seats with the band which has served its association with Adelpi.

This weekend (May 25-26), the 85-year-old organization will provide the toppling band for Adelpi Bologin Festival via its 40th anniversary celebration to commemorate Memorial Day, past and present.

Arthur L. Hinton of Route 2, Laureville, current manager and a veteran Adelpi bandman, supplied the saga with some pertinent data about the band while other musicians are tapping their memories for a sequel.

The Adelpi Community Band was formally organized in 1888. 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 Adelpi and now, starting the first of every April, practices from 8:30 p.m. Monday to the first floor of the Adelpi Masonic Lodge.

Most Lopez of Chillicothe, the first conductor, also directed

several bands in neighboring communities. John Wimmer Hill, Paterson, Ohio; Larch, Vic Schelbert and Ed Tiptoe were just a few of the earliest music makers.

In April, 1894, the Knights of Pythias Lodge at Adelpi organized a band under the leadership of another Chillicothean, Fred Powell. Since then, according to Arthur Hinton, Adelpi has had a shared community band heritage.

B.W. Conner of Pikeston has been manager 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," including the 50' upon among band members.

During the year, Frank Hinton, Charis Frazzette and Robert, Doug major for the present 20 members. It George W. Hill of Route 1, Laureville.

The volunteer learners are in great demand and their fees are added to the band's ability. Each plays upon his own instrument for which the treasury furnishes

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

Performers with the 184 "re-organized" band who still are active participants include David Patton of Kingston, tuba; Herman Hinton of Route 2, Kingston, trombone; Curtis Hinton of Route 2, Laureville, bass drum; Arthur L. Hinton of Route 2, Laureville, baritone.

There's no generation gap in the band and never has been. F.M. Bowser started playing at festivals and parades with the Adelpi 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 Adelpi music makers. Arthur Hinton's son-in-law, Raymond Maxson plays mace drum

and his grandson, Eric Maxson, trumpet. Curtis Hinton's son-in-law, Roger Egan, mace drummer, and grandson Steve Egan, cymbalist, are faithful members.

Herman Hinton's son Glen and grandson Casey roll along on the mace. Hugh Clark Jr. of Hallsville and his son are able trumpeters with grandson Charles among the trumpeters.

Men drive from near and far to rehearse concert programs and prepare for the fall season. Tom Parkson of Waverly, baritone; Ned Testinone and John Brown, both of near Lancaster, trumpet; James E. Toole Jr. of Route 4, Chillicothe, trumpet;

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

Zane Trace, clarinet; Eugene Giddens of Route 4, Chillicothe, mace drum; Ed Bennett of Kingston, tuba; Raymond Hedgen of Laureville, trumpet; John Mathew, tenor horn; and Jeff Mathew, trumpet; Richard Cryder, trumpet; and Mike Cryder, trombone; grandsons of Mrs. Ada Cryder, Estelma Adelpi Hallsville area resident.

Last year, the bandmen made their longest trek, driving 130 miles and back in one day.

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