

...and the band plays on...



Community bands. They marched in at a time in history when a town and its folk were the world. It was a time before radios, television 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.

So the bands began. People like John Philip Sousa piqued everyone's interest in them from the 1890s to the 1920s by composing marches and touring America and Europe with his band.

The folk loved to turn out and listen, to forget about work and enjoy themselves for awhile. It seemed every town had a band — even Hallsville in southern Ohio.

The era of the community band has long since ended, but the Adelphi Men's Band, which originated in Hallsville, has survived the changes.

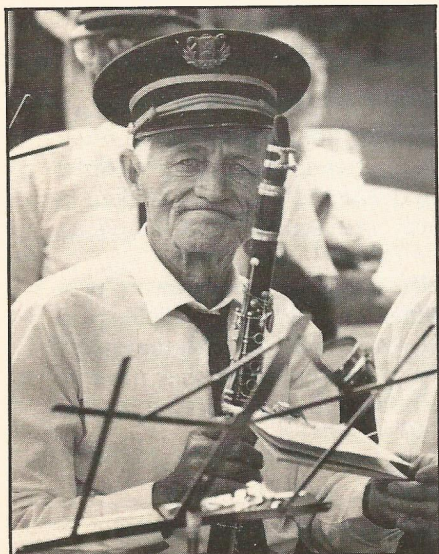
This band has been playing at parades, festivals and for organizations since 1880 when it was first called the Hallsville Band. It later changed its name to the Bowsher's Bunch around 1903, and finally became the Adelphi Men's Band when it reorganized in 1924.

Recently, the band played at Ashville, OH's Old-Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration. The players' favorite songs are marches, many composed by Sousa and J.L. King. People mingled around the shade tree where they played. Some stayed and watched, tapping their toes; others just glanced as they walked by.



Three band members who joined as teenagers in 1924 still play. Trombonist Herman Hinton, 76, from near Hallsville, has been the director for the last three years. His 75-year-old brother, Curtis, of Laurelville plays the drums, and 76-year-old David Pontious of Kingston plays the tuba. Pontious is the only member still playing whose father, Chauncey, joined the 1880 Hallsville Band.

Starting out with about a dozen members, it now has around 30 members — ranging in age from 11 to 95 — from Highland, Ross, Pickaway, Fairfield and Hocking counties. The band makes about 25 appearances a year from



photos and story by DENISE MURRAY



April to October, practicing most Monday nights in Hallsville during that seven month period.

Hinton says he hopes the band continues forever; however, it has a hard time recruiting young people.

"One of the problems I see is interesting the young people from school," he says. "We pick up some, but some don't stay. They play in marching band then lay it aside once they get out of school."

(Continued on page 19)



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP PHOTO: The Adelphi Men's Band adds spirit to the parade at Ashville, OH's Old-Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration. Herman Hinton, 76, has been in the band for over 60 years, directing the last three. (From left) Trumpeters James Tootle, Jr., Jeff Mathew and Gary Thomas belt it out "con gusto." After riding in the parade, band members (from left) Glenn Hinton, Harold Kromer, Billie Myers and Curtis Hinton carry the beat in the town's park. Clarinetist Richard Norton pauses between marches. Billie Myers, 11, is the youngest member.

...and the band

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The band, which plays for a fee, presently seems to have good support and enough people who want to play, Hinton said.

In 1985, the band was presented a plaque at the Circleville Pumpkin Show for 60 years of appearances. In 1980, Rep. Clarence Miller (R-Lancaster) invited the band to appear in Washington, D.C. for its 100th anniversary.

Members of the band according to instruments are: TRUMPETS — John Brown, Don Waliser, Jeff Mathew, James Tootle, Jr., Tom Kline, Gary Thomas, Dana Myers and Matt Mills; BARITONES — Clifford Kerns, Tom Paridon and Darrell Goodman; TROMBONES — Dale DeLong, Hugh Clark, Jr., Dean Redd, John Mathew and Jim Pollard; BASSES — Herman Hinton, Jr., Neal Redd, Robert Hansley, David Pontious, and Edward Bennett; DRUMS — Curtis Hinton, Glenn Hinton, Eugene Gildersleve, Harold Kromer, Charles Fletcher and Billie Myers; CLARINETS — Gilbert Wamsley, Ralph McCollister, Richard Norton and J.M. York; CONDUCTOR — Herman Hinton.

It's a wonderful world...

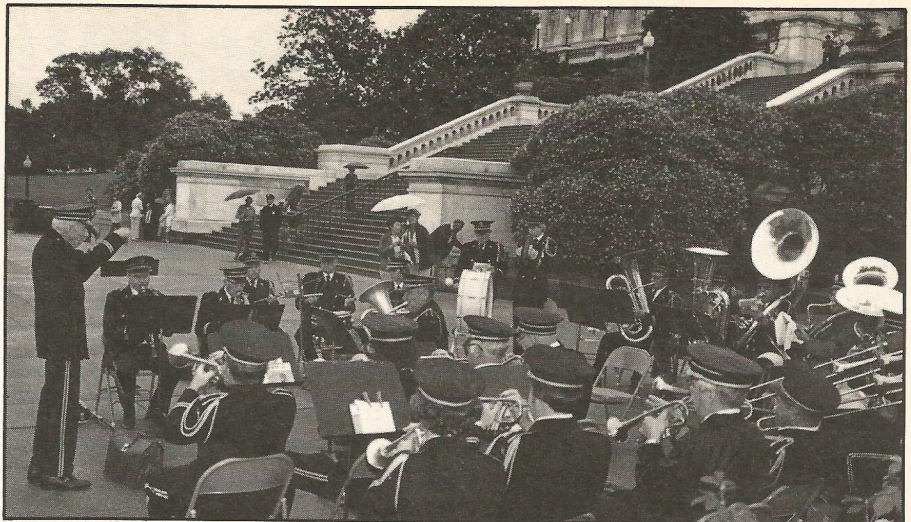
by SILVIA HENKEN

— Husband and I left for four days and when we returned I went to the basement laundry area and discovered the iron was on. Had I not turned it off before I left or had one of the boys actually ironed something? I'll never know because I won't ask. Some things I do not want to know.

— One of my pet peeves is the driver who asks if you want to stop at yet another scenic overlook and you say, "No," but he stops anyway. I don't mind the stopping as much as the asking.

— You know you're getting older when your family's happy times are sitting around as adults recalling the family's happy times in Jayco camper when kids were young and we were together. The closest I've yet come to empty nest syndrome is more like empty Jayco syndrome. That came when it was time to set up the pop-up tent camper and I realized Dad would have help from only one person — me!

— Our bride used this psychology — she went to the drug store on the morning of the wedding and bought some smelling salts. "If I know I have it, I know I won't need it."



—courtesy of the Ohio Dept. of Aging.

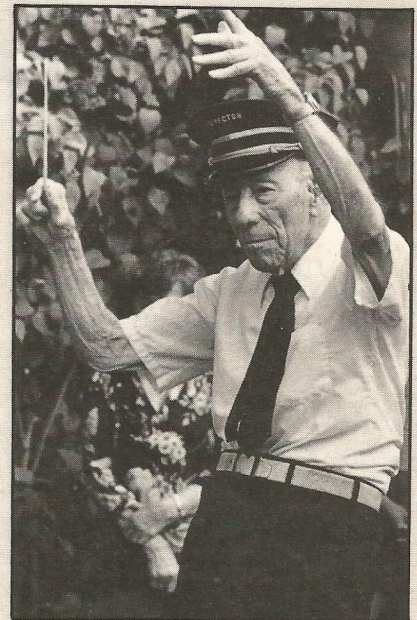
The Adelphi Men's Band, celebrating its 100th anniversary, plays at the U.S. Capitol Building in 1980. Connett is the conductor.

A lifetime of music

Raymond Connett can't stop the music. At age 96, he still picks up the baton and occasionally directs the Adelphi Men's Band.

Connett, of Piketon, directed the band for about 17 years until retiring in 1984. Several years before directing, he played the tuba and then later switched to the clarinet.

Connett's life revolves around music. He started as a member of the U.S. Army Band during World War I. He then studied music at Ohio University, initiating its first marching band in 1923. After leaving the university, he became a band director for public school systems first in Topeka, KS and then in several Ohio counties. He retired from the school systems in 1970, opening a piano repairing and rebuilding shop in Piketon.



—courtesy of the Waverly News-Watchman

Connett directs the Adelphi Men's Band at Piketon's Dogwood Festival in April.

— We laugh at ourselves as investors. I got a \$5 rebate for buying a huge box of detergent. That was more than the last dividend check we got from one of our better stocks.

— Isn't that just like a man — a man coach of a girls' softball team in the state playoffs! "I told the girls they'd had a good season and if things didn't work out, I didn't want to see any tears out there." Irony of the day: Game was such a heartbreaker, even he had to fight back the tears.

— A famous church leader visited Colombia, South America, and I think he spent his time talking to the wrong peo-

ple. Instead of preaching to the hungry masses yearning for some decent quality of life and exhorting them to avoid class violence, why wasn't he preaching to the handful of well-fed wealthy who own 90 percent of the arable land and telling them to give the "least of their brethren" some kind of break.

— Life is filled with ironies. When your children are young you do not have the time or energy to read about child-rearing. Now that I'm in my middle years and the kids are past the formative period, I'm reading all this great stuff on parenting. (I consider children past the formative stage once they can get their own Cheerios.)