

Adelphi Band tuning up for 50th fair

BY JANE RIDARSKY

Members of the Adelphi Band will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the band's first performance at the Ross County Fair.

One of 12 organizations that have participated in the Ross County Fair every year since 1924. Members of the band have been invited to a special fair edition. **Inside**

Following in the footsteps of his father, C.B. Pontious, who played with the Adelphi Band when it started in 1880.

The younger Pontious began playing bass with the band when he was 15 years old, and has been a member of the group ever since.

50 years

A list of all 12 organizations that have participated in all 50 Ross County Fairs is part of a special look back at the fair's first 49 years — and a look ahead to the 50th — in today's special fair edition. **Inside**

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The younger Pontious began playing bass with the band when he was 15 years old, and has been a member of the group ever since.

"I'd do anything to play in the band," Pontious said. "That was a good way to get out of the work."

Herman Hinton, Pontious' classmate, joined the band about the same time. He played trombone for about 65 years before becoming band director in 1989.

"It was just part of life, part of living," Hinton said. "I've always enjoyed it."

Playing in the Adelphi Band seems to have become a family affair for many members. Three of Hinton's four brothers played in the band before their deaths, and two sons are in the group.

Jarrad Mathew, an eighth-grader at Zane Trace, joined the band four years ago to play with

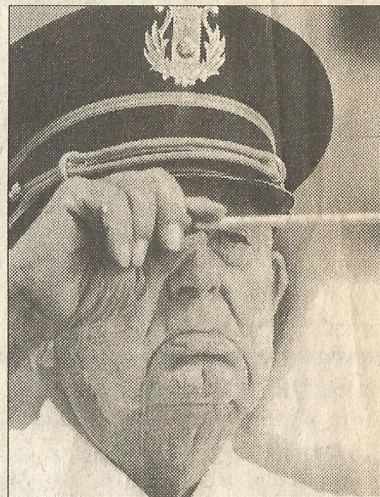
his father, Jeff. The younger Mathew used to sit on his father's lap during performances. When Jarrad Mathew learned to walk, he'd walk up to his father in the middle of a performance, Jeff Mathew said.

"He'd stick his face right in the bell and he'd laugh and laugh," Jeff Mathew said.

Jeff Mathew has played trumpet with the Adelphi Band for 28 years. He started in the seventh grade.

"We were raised a couple of miles from Adelphi, and I grew up pretty much watching them play," the elder Mathew said.

Both Mathews said they hope to play with the band as long as Pontious and Hinton have.



Toril Starmer/Gazette

Herman Hinton directs the Adelphi Band. He and bassist David Pontious have been with the band for 70 years.

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