

Eichenlaub ran a bakery on Main Street and also played the sliding trombone in various bands. When he died in 1881 his funeral at St. Peter's Church was attended by the Mechanics' Cornet Band. Stan. Burkley, the music dealer, presided at the church organ.

Colored Band

In 1880 a colored brass band was organized by Harry W. Williams a well-known Chillicothe barber. They were given permission by City Council to practice in the Enterprise Engine House on Walnut Street. This band became known as the Chillicothe Excelsior Cornet Band and was active several years. In November 1881 they went up to Kingston and treated the villagers to some fine music. Mr. J. W. Hoover of Kingston acted as drum-major, using his cane as a baton. About midnight he took them down to his residence, threw open his parlor doors and was rewarded by some very fine vocal music. The band left for Chillicothe about 3 a.m.

Adelphi Band

Adelphi had a band as early as 1873. It seems that village was always a musical place. A correspondent reported in May 1880 that in the village at that time there were ten pianos, nine organs, a brass band, several harp players and an excellent vocal choir.

In 1898, when Senator J. Benson Foraker spoke at Memorial Hall, on West Main Street, he had been delayed in getting here by a train wreck. The Adelphi Band kept up the spirits of the crowd during the wait.

Londonderry Band

In 1894 a band consisting of 22 men was formed at Londonderry. The members were assessed \$3.50 each to secure funds with which to buy horns. Forty-two dollars was collected and Mr. Schockey of McArthur was secured to teach them. The Londonderry Band held a festival at Vigo to raise money to buy uniforms which cost over \$8 a man. They were prohibited from blowing their horns coming and going to rehearsals and also against any use of alcoholics at band practice. (Fig. 7)

In 1894 some of the young men of Bourneville formed a Silver Cornet Band under the leadership of Capt. P. A. Rhodes.

Kirchenschlager's Orchestra

Chillicothe was treated to some excellent music after John Kirchenschlager, Jr., a cornet player, formed a small orchestra in November 1879. Other members of this group were Charles Hirn, piano; Otto Huber, flute and Ed Frey, violin. They were all first-class artists and it was said that Chillicothe was at last able to furnish her own hall music, something she had not done before for years. Later George Frey, Louis

Voelker and Moses Long joined this orchestra. In 1882 they disbanded when four of its members left to join a travelling show company out of Richmond, Virginia and Chillicothe lost a fine orchestra.

However, in the meantime, another talented orchestra had been assembled by Albert Tritscheller. Other members were Fred Tritscheller, Wm. Mader, Charles Mader and George Wissler. Albert taught the violin here for many years. He was the son of Dr. Frederick Tritscheller who had come to this country with Karl Schurz and others in 1848 from Germany's Black Forest. When Prof. Tritscheller made a trip to Germany in 1891 he entertained the ship's company with his Stradivarius. He had some difficulty in passing through customs at Hamburg as they thought he was attempting to smuggle his fine instrument into Germany to sell. After he gave the officials a full violin recital of his best selections he passed inspection.

Charles F. Mader

Charley Mader was one of our finest cornet players. He left Chillicothe in the early 1880's and went to Marion, Ohio, where he led their brass band. In Marion he taught Warren G. Harding the rudiments of horn-playing. Returning to Chillicothe he played in the 20th Century Band and gave music lessons at his Mill Street home. He directed the Clarksburg Band at the Republican Rally in Clarksburg on September 20, 1910. On that occasion our soon-to-be president, Warren G. Harding, was pleasantly surprised to discover his old friend and teacher. He recalled how Charley looked cross at him many time when giving lessons and also when they played in the band together at the Ross County Fair. Harding, who played the slide trombone, became President of the U. S. in 1920.

To give an idea of the crowd at this barbeque for Harding there were counted on the grounds that day 1200-plus buagies and 208 autos.

Ladies' Mandolin Club

In the mid 1890's a number of our young ladies formed the Ladies' Mandolin Club. At a benefit for the hospital held at Masonic Opera House on December 1st, 1896 the following Misses performed: 1st Mandolin - Valletta Reutinger, Celia Kellhofer; 2nd Mandolin - Martha Briggs, Ada Maurer; 1st Guitar - Dora Brown, Fannie Beymer; 2nd Guitar - Anna Perkins, Florence Wright, Anna Lautenklos, Bessie Slane.

They also played in the concert hall of the new Foulke Block in 1897 at the first annual meeting of the Ross County Historical Society. They gave entertainment in the days when "socials" were "sociable." (Fig. 8)

Patriotism and Music

The closing years of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century were patriotic and musical times. In 1898 our boys were off fighting battles in Cuba and the

Fig. 10 – THE ODD FELLOWS BAND (Photo on front cover)

The Odd Fellows Band. Identified in May 1984 by Charles "Buck" McFerrin who may be the only living member. 1st row: Clarence Lewis, Walter Reis, Albert Tritscheller. 2nd row: Bill Bair, Will Huff, "Red" Cavins, Frank Minch, Harry Oyer, _____, Badger. 3rd row: _____, Charles Crowe, Charles Davenport, Garnel Uhrig, "Red" Huff, Charles "Buck" McFerrin. Back row: _____ Uhrig, _____, Wilfred Agin, Adam Uhrig, Jesse Young. Mr. McFerrin recalls that they played in many concerts and in parades in Cincinnati. Photo by Fred C. Mader, brother of Charles F. Mader. c. 1920.



Fig. 11 Meaco Band. This photo was published in Mead Co-Operation magazine February 1921. (Courtesy of Mr. McFerrin.)



Fig. 12 Chillicothe Grange Orchestra. c. 1925. L to R: Eddie Somerset, Ada Simon, Charles Tomastik, Buddy Orr, Clarence Simon, Lyle Vester, Ophia Smith. This group played at all Grange affairs in Southern Ohio.

Philippines. In that year Henry Holcomb Bennett, local author, wrote his patriotic poem "The Flag Goes By." Bennett's verses helped instill into the average American a greater respect for his flag and for his country than any other similar poem. It was also set to music and printed in thousands of school text books and hundreds of newspapers in every state of the Union.

The Citizens Cadet Band was organized by Prof. Charles F. Mader and gave their first concert on May 27, 1899 in front of an audience of nearly 1000 persons at the courthouse.

The famous American military band of John Philip Sousa was creating quite a stir in 1900. On March the 10th of that year Sousa brought his seventy-five piece band to Chillicothe and played a rousing concert at Memorial Hall.

A new brass band began in March 1903 when the following men started rehearsing: John McArdle, Lou Fuchs, Will Haemmerle, Charles and Andrew Ebenhack, Charles Davenport, Miles Townsend, Walter Ireland, Adam Uhrig, Karl Enderlin, Albert Tritscheller and Tom M. Armstrong. All read music readily and only such musicians were accepted in this group which became the 20th Century Band.

In 1908 the Fraternal Order of Eagles built the fine bandstand especially for the 20th Century Band. It still serves well in Yoctangee Park.

During World War I band concerts were given in front of the Camp Sherman Community House by such crack military bands as the Headquarters Band and the 14th Infantry Band. With the war over, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Band was organized in 1919. (Fig. 10)

Meaco Band

In June 1920, a movement was started by employees of the Mead Pulp & Paper Co. to organize a brass band to play at their ball games, picnics, etc. Will Huff was engaged to teach the 27 members who signed up. He composed several pieces for them including: "Meaco Overture," "Meaco Waltz" and "Scioto Waltz." The members of this first and only successful industrial band ever organized in Chillicothe were as follows:

Wm. C. Ludwig, cornet; Aulty Selby, cornet; John Cutright, cornet; Wm. Davis, cornet; Edgar Hess, clarinet; Max Vermillion, clarinet; Lyle Amos, clarinet; Howard Layman, clarinet; Ken Schilder, clarinet; Walter Breth, tenor saxophone; Charles "Buck" McFerrin, tenor saxophone; Alphonse Krug, alto saxophone; R. H. Harding, C melody saxophone; Ernest Mikesell (manager), baritone saxophone; Atwood Jones, trombone; Larry Miller, trombone; Carol Shay, trombone; Herbert Ludwig, trombone; Robert Evans, ballad horn; R. C. McCollister, upright alto horn; Lewis Christman, ballad horn; Wm. Zeisler, ballad horn; Wm. Schachtele, bass horn; R. H. G. Smith, bass horn; C. R. Buchanon, baritone horn; J. McConnell, tenor drum and Mervin Lewis, bass drum.

At the time, Ernie Augustus commented that a busy afternoon in a boilershop was mild in comparison to the noise made by these Meaco horn blowers but Director Huff soon had them mastering the treble clefs, measures and beats. (Fig. 11)

Dance Bands

Before the end of World War I the jazz band was established and the big band era began. Many well-known dance bands played at the Winter Garden. It was a fine amusement hall built in 1919 at the upper end of Paint Street. It is no longer standing. Elks Hall and Maple Grove Hotel were also favorite stands for the big bands which came in on busses.

In the 1920's and 1930's some of our local musical groups included: orchestras by the Chillicothe Grange (Fig. 12), Willard Spetnagel and Blue Moon (Fig. 13) and Walt Sears' "Georgia Rattlers": Karl Hunn, Ed Batteiger and Hugh Jennings.

Our first high school band was organized by Russell Squire at the beginning of the school year in 1929. It was a marching band which added a touch of color and some noise at home football games. Their uniforms consisted of toboggans, blue and white sweaters and white trousers which they purchased themselves. Marjory Huff was the lone female member. Her father Will Huff, Sr., wrote their marching song. The drum major was Don Wharton who procured his uniform from Ohio State University.

Great changes occurred after W.W. II when electronic amplification added great volume to band music. The Beatles came on the scene in 1964 and revolutionized musical entertainment. The electronic synthesizer was introduced in 1970 and the rest is recent history of which we are familiar.



Fig. 13

Blue Moon Orchestra at Winter Garden. c. 1928. Front row: Wm. Harris, Hubbard Fromm, Ed Somers, Harold "Red" Calver. Back row: Jim Smith, Charles Tomastik, Kenny McRoberts, Bernard Giffin, Josef E. Clark, Maynard Thomas. They played together for three years at stands from Columbus to Portsmouth and over WAIU radio. Later some went on to college and some joined Walt Sears' Orchestra.

All photographs are from the Ross County Historical Society archives unless otherwise noted.

The Chillicothe Jaycees

OLD FASHIONED FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Schedule of Events

- 1.) 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. Flea Market, Craft & Exhibits, Concession
- 2.) 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Old Fashioned Childrens Games
- 3.) 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. Fire Engine Rides/Hayrides
- 4.) 2:30 p.m. Registration for Water Battle
- 5.) 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Firemens Water Battle
- 6.) 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m. Activities in the Grandstand
 - a.) 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. "John and Toni"
 - b.) 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Miss South Central Ohio Box Luncheon and Auction featuring Christina Baxla
 - c.) 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Ed Willis
 - d.) 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. Mark Thacker
 - e.) 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. Great Seal of Ohio Band
 - f.) 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tad Free
 - g.) 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Adelphi Community Band
- 7.) 9:45 p.m. (Dusk) Fireworks ! ! ! ! !

Old Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration Yoctangee Park Layout

