

Adelphi Band Honored

1980

This is one day (Tuesday) when I would really like to be in Washington, D.C., for this morning at 9 o'clock, the Adelphi Community Band will be playing a concert on the White House lawn. Hopefully Jimmy will come out of the Rose Garden to hear them. I am sure his smile will be even broader just to listen to this band that is one of the oldest, if not the oldest band in Ohio. It is 100 years old, having been organized in 1880.

The band members want you to understand that none of them have been playing in it that long, but several of the members have been active in it for over half of that time.

Four men have been playing in the group since 1924. They are Herman (Bill) Hinton, his brother Curtis (Dave) Hinton, Bill's son Glen Hinton and Dave Pontious.

Gene Gildersleeve, as a small boy, would go to band practice with his Dad and started marching with them when he was 12. He started playing the drums with the band 53 years ago and is still playing them. Now his grandson, Jim Fletcher is a drummer with the band.

The band has played for other presidents, but always when the president was in the area. This is its first trip to the White House or to Washington.

The first conductor was Mont Long of Circleville. Leaders to come after have been Fred Powell, of Circleville and Frank Hickman, Charles Proxmire and Roderick Shaw, all of Lancaster.

The present conductor is Raymond W. Connett, who played with the U.S. Army band during World War I (yes, World War II! Mr. C. is 90 years old). After coming out of the army, he continued his study of music and was one of the persons responsible for getting the Ohio University band started in 1923. He has been instrumental music teacher in a number of Ohio high schools and has been

leader of the Adelphi band for 15 years.

No festival, Memorial Day service or all-day fish fry is complete without the Adelphi band, and the Pumpkin Show at Circleville wouldn't be the same without the band marching in the parades and giving a concert a few times during the week. In fact, the only time some people attend that function is the day the Adelphi band plays. They have played at the Pumpkin Show every year for the past 50 years.

The other young men who have been with the group for a number of years are Don Waliser, nephew of Bill and Curtis Hinton, and Hugh Clark Jr. Both played with the Salt Creek High school band in the 30's and 40's, and joined the Adelphi band at that time. During his college days, Waliser was a member of the OSU marching band.

The band is picking up the tab for the trip for the band members and their instruments. Members of their families and friends who accompanied them took care of their own expenses. The trip was made by the T. J. Willis charter bus service of Hallsville.

Band members making the trip to Washington, besides those mentioned were J. Brown, J. Tootle, J. Matthews, N. Tomilson, M. Junk, J. York, G. Wamsley, T. Pardin, H. Hinton, B. Hansley, E. Bennett, J. Bennett, D. Poling and L. Savage.

In the years past, gone but not forgotten, Laurelville was a Saturday night town, when the farmers came into town to get their groceries and the townspeople went up town to visit with their country neighbors, and during the summer months, for many years, the Adelphi band came into town and gave a Saturday night concert. People would bring their chairs and sit around the bandstand that had been erected, or stand and listen to the band for the entire time they were playing, for then, as now, it was both a pleasure and a treat to hear this talented group.

I just hope that Washington, D.C., appreciates them as much as the home folks do.