

**WHERE
DID
WE
COME
FROM
?**

By
Joseph "Joe" R. Boley
Retired Great Bend USD 428 Band Director (1958 - 1994 retired)
Edited
Kacyi Teghtmeyer
Great Bend High School USD 428 English Instructor

Presented to the Kansas Bandmasters Association
2024

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?

Researched & written by

Joseph “Joe” R. Boley

for

Kansas Bandmasters Association

(to be used however the board desires to do)

Introduction

The author of this literary composition is Joseph “Joe” R. Boley, retired Great Bend, USD 428 Band Director as of 1994. Positive and humorous memories of a KBA session in 2022 led me to wonder, “where did we come from?” How/why did we become a gathering of band directors?” So as a hobby I began to research, and the following words will address that question.

My apologies to the professional authors and research professionals for having no formal end notes, but I have verified my searching scheme with newspapers.com, visiting museums, visiting historical societies, consulting library personnel, and family interviews.

Needless to say, the composition is probably unfinished as further research may bring up answers to the phrase used several times: additional information unavailable.”

“Where Did We Come From?” will be donated to the KBA board when completed.

Definitions

1. The word “association” attached to the name of a band implies that a band has been incorporated by obtaining a charter from the state secretary - also - simply an organizational name used as being a club, or society, or an organized group with similar interests.
2. G.A.R.: Grand Army of the Republic. Union veterans.
3. Encampment: a group of Civil War veterans meeting for a state or national reunion.
4. Gathering or tournament: a number of town bands attending an event and usually following the routine of a grand parade, individual band concerts or playing contest for prize money, business meeting and speakers, socials and banquets, (baseball game), opera house entertainment by host town, and a massed band concert with a guest director.
5. “Material/sentences in quotation marks”: Family or individual notes or newspaper articles.
6. Miscellaneous: editorial comments by the author.
7. Regimental Band: a state National Guard unit organized in a town.
8. Band gathering purposes: foster friendship, improve individuals by hearing others, and promote bands.
9. The word “military” attached to the name of a band: indicated a use of woodwind instruments as used during the popular John Phillip Sousa Military Band of the 1880s.
10. Newspaper editors coined the following terms:
 - a. “the Silver Cornet Band” due to the nickel plated finish
 - b. “the band boys” or “boys in the band” rather than men

THE EARLY DAYS

The First Kansas Band

*An Introduction Adapted from Edward Bumgardner of
The Kansas Historical Quarterly – August 1936 Volume #1*

www.kancoll.org

“Joseph Savage was a member of the Hartford, Vermont village brass band. In 1854 he decided to emigrate to Lawrence, Kansas, via the Emigrant Aid company as they offered reduced railway rates. Joseph arrived in Boston to join the emigrant party bound for Kansas. To his surprise he met his brother

Forrest and two cousins of the Hazen family, who also had been members of the Hartford band. Their four instruments were “one E flat copper key bugle, one brass post horn in B flat, one B flat cornet, and one B flat baritone.”

These Vermont musicians made up the nucleus of the first known civilian band in Kansas. Gradually new members joined the band. They furnished music for the first July 4th celebration in Lawrence in 1855. Other celebrations would follow.

A publication in 1883 listed over forty bands in various towns around the state. The band boys enjoyed playing for their community, but were also happily obliged to play for the county fair, the state fair, expositions, and reunions as they proudly demonstrated their talents.

EARLY DAY TOWN BAND MEETINGS

Example 1

1. The First Kansas State Fair was held in Leavenworth, October 6 - 9, 1863. The Lawrence band had been giving concerts and attended the State Fair. Recorded information as to other band participants could not be found.

2. No information concerning local or state fair gatherings could be found for 1864 or 1865, but several communities were organizing a town band to play concerts and assist in celebrating local festivities. Many were also filing incorporation papers and receiving their charter from the state.

3. October 2 - 5, 1866, the Kansas State Fair was held in Lawrence. Newspapers reported that the Topeka brass band and the Paola Silver Cornet Band played for various fair “exercises.”

4. An organization, named the State Musical Association, met during the fair and several resolutions were passed. They also made plans for the 1867 State Fair to be held in Lawrence. However, the organization was later identified as a group of choir directors.

5. Several town bands in the area agreed that a Western Musical Association should be organized. Additional information unavailable.

6. Other county and state fairs followed the routine of gathering bands together for competitive tournaments and also furnished music for various “exercises” throughout the fair grounds.

Example 2

Grand Army of the Republic GAR

The GAR was founded by Benjamin Franklin Stephenson, an Army regimental surgeon, and Chaplain Reverend William J. Rutledge. Their efforts resulted in the formation of the GAR in Decatur, Illinois, in April 6, 1866. Honorably discharged members from the Union Army, Union Navy, Marines, and Revenue Cutter Service (U.S. Coast Guard) were eligible to join. State and National reunion meetings were named encampments and involved parades, campfire sessions for social gatherings, business meetings, banquets, political orations, and band concerts competing for prizes.

The Department of Kansas was established in December 7, 1866. The first statewide encampment was held in Topeka in 1882 and the last state encampment was held in Emporia in 1943. The National organization dissolved in 1956.

MISCELLANEOUS

The two examples above illustrate the innate desire of the band boys to compete for prizes and “win” for their community. Thus, unknowingly the fair invitations and GAR encampments were possibly responsible for nurturing this innate desire by holding invitational tournament band contests and eventually area associations. Similar events may have been held but were not promoted by local newspaper editors of the area.

1879

CENTRAL KANSAS BAND CONVENTION

A committee of band directors met at Newton, Kansas, October 30, 1879 for the purpose of organizing the Central Kansas Band Convention. Several bands were present and expressed an interest in the idea. It was decided to hold the convention in Newton, November 26-27. The leader of the Halstead band was elected president. Secretary H.V. Lee of Peabody was instructed to contact neighboring bands to take part in the convention. The band meeting was "...adjourned to play the national airs."

On the second day meetings and socials were held, and later Great Bend, Halstead, Newton, and Peabody furnished band entertainment at the Newton Opera House. The two-day affair was noted as an "...occasion well ahead of anything of the kind ever before held in the state." Additional information unavailable.

1880

The Dodge City Cowboy Band was organized in 1880 by C.M. "Chalk" Beeson with eighteen members conducted by Professor Drake. They became known as a "convention" band and could not be found in any of the following organized band associations in "Where Did We Come From". Owners, managers, and music directors changed periodically during their famous forty years of popularity. Note: the reader should research newspapers.com for comprehensive historical news articles about this organization.

1881 – 1884

KANSAS BAND UNION

The *Kaw Valley Chief* newspaper (Perry, Kansas), February 4, 1881 reported the following: "There is some talk of organizing a brass band association in this section...there are no less than ten or twelve bands within a radius of twenty-five miles...let's hear from other bands."

By August the *Daily Commonwealth* newspaper of Topeka encouraged all Kansas bands to send a representative to a state band convention to be held during the Kansas State Fair at Topeka, September 1881. Their purpose was to consider the organization of a state association for town bands. According to the *Clay Center Dispatch*, the idea of having a state band association did not originate with the Dispatch Band of Clay Center alone as the idea had been discussed by others for several years. The idea of the union included having trials of skill (playing contests) to improve playing skills, foster friendships among the participants, create more interest in bands by hearing each other, and mainly improve the ability of band musicians by having concerts and reunions.

Twenty-four bands and several representatives met at the Topeka Courthouse and organized a state band organization named the Kansas Band Union in 1881. Del A. Valentine, editor of the *Clay Center Times* newspaper and at times director of the Dispatch Band, was elected president. George Higinbotham of the Manhattan band was elected secretary. A board of directors were elected and a committee appointed to organize the tournament for 1882. Member bands were requested to attend the Topeka State Fair each year and compete in a tournament with \$600 in prize money awarded in various categories.

Following the meeting the bands played the "Dispatch Overture" at the court house. The composition had been written for the occasion by Matt C. Holman, music professor and band leader of the Marysville town band, Marshall County, Kansas. The combined bands then marched to the fair grounds playing "Hail Columbia" and at the fair grounds they all played "Montrose" a quickstep march. The day ended with the band playing the overture again in front of the crowded grandstand.

1882

KANSAS BAND UNION

The first annual meeting of the Kansas Band Union was held in conjunction with the Kansas State Fair and the GAR encampment, September 12-16, 1882, in Topeka. Over forty bands participated in the parade on Kansas Avenue and the following fourteen Kansas Band Union members competed for prize money and awards.

First Class: Clay Center Dispatch Band, Emporia Knights Templar Band, Marion Center Band,

Topeka Capital City Band, and the Dodge City Cowboy Band .

Second Class: Burlingame Band, Hiawatha Band, and Sabetha Band.

Third Class: Osborne band, Lyons Band, Rossville Band, Wichita Beacon Band, and Washington Knights of Pythias Band.

The premium prizes presented by the State Fair Association were as follows: First class: 1st premium, \$225 and Gold Medal to be retained if won three successive years. Second class: 1st premium, \$175, 2nd premium, \$60. Third class: 1st premium, \$40, 2nd premium, \$25.

The Knights Templar Band of Emporia won 1st premium in First class, \$225 and the gold medal. The Dispatch Band of Clay Center was awarded \$175 for second place, and the Topeka Capital City Band was third. The second and third class bands met the next day, but no results were published.

Other bands attending the fair included Chanute, Dexter, Galena, Hartford, Lakin, Milford, Newton Independent's Band, Pleasanton, the Rifles of Emporia, Topeka City Brass Band, Winfield Courier Band, Mirabile, Missouri band, and the Negro population was represented by a band.

The judges were F.W. Banta, Kansas City, Missouri; John Buch, Lawrence, Kansas; and J.B. Marshall, Topeka, Kansas.

All bands were required to participate in the mid-morning parade September 13 and the grand concert was led by Professor Lewis Heck. A photograph was taken by a Mr. Snyder after the first group rehearsal. Those participating in the band contest were to meet at the fair grounds race course following the parade. The grand concert took place at the fair grounds grand stand at the closing day ceremonies.

A summary of the rules and regulations governing the contest were as follows:

1. The contest was open to all amateur bands of Kansas.
2. Registration was due to the Kansas Band Union secretary by a required date.
3. A band member was required to be a member of the band for more than one month.
4. The contest took place on the Topeka Fair Grounds.
5. Order of playing was determined by a drawing.
6. Bands entered in First Class were required to play three pieces, Second and Third Class played two pieces. Each class chose their own selections.
7. Three judges were hired by the Fair Board.
8. Points of the contest were awarded for tempo, attack, finale, execution, playing of solo parts, harmony, selection of music, tuning, and instrumentation.
9. The bands receiving premium awards in first class were expected to furnish music the remainder of the week.

1883

KANSAS BAND UNION

The second annual band tournament sponsored by the Kansas Band Union was held in conjunction with the Kansas State Fair in September 1883 in Topeka. The Daily Commonwealth newspaper of Topeka issued a circular to the brass bands of Kansas reporting that all amateur town bands, whether members of the union or not, were welcome to participate in the full fellowship and exercises sponsored by the band union and the fair association.

The first premium was \$250 and gold medal, second premium was adjusted to \$200, third premium \$75, and fourth premium \$50. Contest rules were also slightly adjusted.

Each band played three selections and were judged on: attack, tempo, finale, execution, playing of solo parts, harmony, selection of music, and instrumentation.

The first prize of \$250 was awarded to the Dispatch band of Clay Center (26 points) and the gold medal (originally awarded to Emporia in 1882). The second prize of \$200 was awarded to the Emporia Knights Templar, but they refused to accept the prize due to controversy in awarding points. The third prize was awarded to Abilene, but the amount was not published by the newspaper and apparently Newton did not receive any prize money. The Manhattan band did not compete.

The Emporia band and those in attendance were very dissatisfied and surprised with the judges'

decision. The judging committee marked the band down for playing music that required additional instrumentation. Many of the band members returned to Emporia declaring they would have nothing further to do with the fair. Later an Emporia citizen, by way of a letter to the editor, challenged the Clay Center band to a monetary duel according to rules set down by Emporia.

1884

KANSAS BAND UNION

The Kansas State Fair opened in September 11, 1884, in Topeka. No publicity pertaining to the band union sponsoring a band tournament in conjunction with the fair was found. However, rules were published and judges were chosen for a contest by the fair association. The Dispatch band of Clay Center was the only entry. The fair association awarded the first premium of \$300 to the Clay Center band, and the band retained the gold medal. The band continued to serenade the crowded grounds each day of the fair as required.

No further print information could be found pertaining to a Kansas Band Union for 1885, but in April the Salina cadet and Germania bands tried to organize a District Band Association with several surrounding counties to hold yearly tournaments. Even though the local newspaper editor supported the idea, the effort apparently failed.

1885

Early in 1885 the Kansas GAR Department President, Major T.J. Anderson contacted D.V. Valentine, of the Clay Center band to have the Kansas Band Union band tournament in conjunction with their third annual state reunion and encampment in September at Topeka. He was surprised to learn that the union had been dissolved. Even so, a band contest with premium prize money was held during the encampment in the fall and several bands attended, but the event was not sponsored by the former band union.

Town bands attending the event included Cherryville, Clay Center, Clyde City, Hutchinson Ringold (sp) band, Emporia Knights of Pythias, Lyndon, Manhattan, Marion, Newton Excelsior Band, Parsons, Pleasanton, Topeka's Marshall Band, Waterville, Yates Center, regimental bands from Lawrence and Salina, Smith Center, the Mechanic's Band from Peabody, and the juvenile band and the regimental band from Winfield. The Negro population was represented by a band from Wamego and a Topeka Negro band.

1885

GOLDEN BELT BAND ASSOCIATION

In the meantime, the *Salina Herald* June 25, 1885 reported the following, "...A band union was effected in this place (Salina) Tuesday evening embracing about ten bands." The counties involved were Dickinson, Ellsworth, Lincoln, Marion, McPherson, Ottawa, Rice, and Saline. Fifteen delegates were chosen and officers were elected. Elected officers and band directors were to meet again on July 10th. The *Lindsborg News-Record* named the organization as the Golden Belt Band Association.

The *Saline County Journal* (Salina, Kansas), August 20, 1885, reported that the directors of the Golden Belt Band Association held a meeting at Solomon City and adopted ten rules and regulations for the new organization. President Will R. Evans, Salina band leader, signed the document. The rules adopted were very similar to the rules and regulations adopted by the Kansas Band Union of 1881.

The new band association entered into a contract with the Saline County Horseman's Association (aka Horse Fair Association) to hold a band tournament in conjunction with the September meeting of the horsemen's association at Salina.

However, a problem with band entry deadlines, money to be donated for prizes, and false statements resulted in a controversial meeting between the two associations. The horsemen's association agreed to offer \$250 as prize money, but at the tournament the amount was announced as only \$112 to be divided in prizes. As a result of the disagreement or misunderstanding the tournament was cancelled. The bands appreciated the citizens supporting the band issue so the seven bands paraded the streets and formed at the intersection of Santa Fe and Iron Avenues and delighted the citizens with an entertaining

musical concert, free gratis.

Later the band association drew up a document named "Resolutions of Respect." The issues were listed and reprimanded the horsemen for not living up to their agreement. The band association ruled that no band in the district would attend any meetings sponsored by the Saline County Horsemen's Association. The issue received considerable amount of print in the local newspapers.

MISCELLANEOUS

County, town, and fraternal organizations continued to apply for state charters to become incorporated with a constitution, by-laws, officers, and board members to manage their local band as a business.

1887 - 1888

POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY BAND ASSOCIATION

Band leaders of Pottawatomie county met in August to organize a band tournament. They voted to hold their first annual gathering in Westmoreland. The Olsburg News-Letter in September 1887 reported that the county band tournament was a success even though rain interrupted a few of the street concerts. Events of the day included a drama presented by the Olsburg band boys at the opera house, a community dinner, concerts in the hall, and street concerts in between rain storms. At the business meeting L.O. Woods of St. George was elected chairman and L.D. Hart of Havensville as secretary. The members voted to organize an annual band tournament and their organization was named the Pottawatomie County Band Association. They also complimented the Westmoreland band boys for their hospitality and efficient management of the gathering. Six bands attended but only the following were listed in the news item; Havensville Knights of Pythias, Olsburg; the Black Jack Band from St. George, and Westmoreland. Marysville was unable to attend due to poor band enrollment that year.

An early August newspaper item reported that the second annual band tournament of the Pottawatomie County Band Association would be held in Westmoreland August 22 - 23, 1888 at McKimmen's Grove. Tents were furnished free of charge and the boys would be encamped in true military style. At the close of dinner there were toasts and responses for the amusement of all gathered. Afterwards the delegates met in the court room to make plans for 1889. New officers for 1889 were James McKowan of Westmoreland, president, and ---- Jenkins of Wamego, secretary. According to news items the second annual tournament was a grand success. Indoor and outdoor street concerts were held. Special music by the Black Jack Band of St. George and the host Westmoreland Silver Cornet Band preceeded the banquet to the delight of all gathered.

Later a band meeting was held in Wamego and the executive committee decided to hold the third annual tournament at Wamego, Sep 23-24, 1889. Bands expected to attend were from Blaine, Havensville, Mt. Union, Olsburg, Onaga, St. George, Wamego, and Westmoreland. Very little information was found for this meeting other than no prizes were awarded.

1890 - 1893

KANSAS BAND ASSOCIATION

Seventy-five Kansas band men met Monday, December 29, 1890, in Hutchinson, Kansas and organized the Kansas Band Association. The representatives elected E. Hollister of Arlington as temporary chairman and P.D. Lamoreux of St. John as secretary.

Delegates elected were from the Sedan Cornet Band, the Citizen Band of Medicine Lodge, the Halstead Cornet Band, the Kingman Knights of Pythias Band, the Hutchinson High School Band, the 2nd Regiment Band from Hutchinson, the Harper Knights of Pythias Band, the Arlington Cornet Band, the Nickerson Cornet Band, the Reno Band of Haven, and Woolley's Band Association from St. John.

A constitution and by-laws were presented and adopted by those in attendance. The association did not compete for prizes "...and no public criticism shall be made as every band, whether good or otherwise, shall be heartily welcome and pass the time in thorough enjoyment."

The following officers were elected: President, E. Hollister of Arlington; vice-president, C.A. McBain of Sedan; Secretary-Treasurer, P.D. Lamoreux of St. John; and Musical Director, M.

Waston (sp?) of Hutchinson.

1891

KANSAS BAND ASSOCIATION

The first annual reunion of the Kansas Band Association was held at Hutchinson, June 1 - 3, 1891, and was well organized by the Hutchinson 2nd Regiment Band. The fifteen town bands attending the event included Arlington, Assaria, Burrton, Cunningham, Garden City, Larned, Nickerson, the Pratt Citizens' Band, Sterling, Sedan, Woolley's Band Association from St. John, and the Knights of Pythias Bands from McPherson and Medicine Lodge. A grand street parade was enjoyed by those in attendance and concerts were given at Riverside Park. A business meeting was held to elect new officers and "...in every respect it was a highly successful and interesting affair." The 1892 reunion was scheduled to be held in Kingman.

Secretary P.D. Lamoreux made up certificates for member bands, wrote an annual reunion report, and published the new constitution and by-laws in a small pamphlet. The information was mailed to all members in September.

1892

KANSAS BAND ASSOCIATION

The Kansas Band Association held their second annual reunion at Kingman, May 16 - 18, 1892. The Kingman Knights of Pythias Band organized the affair. The meeting included a street parade and a grand concert by the combined bands. Twenty bands were expected to attend and learn new ideas from each other.

The April 1893 issue of *The Bandman* journal published the Kansas Band Association constitution and by-laws as adopted at the 1892 meeting. *The Bandman* was edited and published by W.H. Caman and Elmer May in Wellington, Kansas. The first publication of *The Bandman* was in February, 1893. W.H. Caman was director of town band activities in Wellington and the publication always contained interesting items pertaining to band music, world-wide band activities, syndicated band news, editorials, music advertisements, and featured biographical information about noted band individuals. Unfortunately the final issue may have been published, July 1, 1893. (see later)

1893

KANSAS BAND ASSOCIATION

The Bandman publication reported the attendance and business issues of the Kansas Band Association reunion held in Hutchinson in May 22 - 24, 1893. The town bands attending the event included Arlington, Ashland, Coldwater, Ellsworth, Garden City, Heizer, Hutchinson 2nd Regiment Band, Kingman Knights of Pythias, Kingman Amateur Band, Lincoln, Medicine Lodge Juvenile Band, McPherson, Milan, Mullinville, Pretty Prairie, Peabody, Pratt, Russell, Wellington, Wilson, and Windom. Various band-related topics were discussed at the business meeting and new officers were elected.

1894

KANSAS BAND ASSOCIATION

The 1894 reunion was scheduled to be held at Ellsworth and *The Bandman* journal was named as the official publication for KBA.

The Ellsworth area newspapers reported the dates for the reunion to be June 4 - 6, 1894 rather than a previously announced May date. However, after several discussions the fourth meeting of the Kansas Band Association was scheduled to be held at Ellsworth in September. A grand parade was to take place and concerts were to be held in the spacious auditorium. News items encouraged attendance and due to the economic depression, an endeavor to reduce expenses for visiting bands were to be as low as possible. Businessmen agreed to assist, railroad fares and accommodations were made, over seven-hundred members pledged to attend, and extensive preparations were being made, but "...sufficient encouragement from our citizens is needed."

The Ellsworth band and other area bands continued to give concerts and be active in 1894; but

no reunion was held at Ellsworth other than in September 1894 when Professor Stienberger of Topeka, the director of the Kansas Band Association, visited Ellsworth and greeted several of the band boys in a meeting. Additional information was unavailable.

1891

NORTHEASTERN KANSAS BAND ASSOCIATION
(aka Western Band & Orchestra Association)

Selected band musicians from the northeastern towns of Hiawatha, Horton, Morrill, Reserve, Sabetha, and Fall City, Nebraska, formed a 44 member band and were named the Northeastern Kansas Band Association in 1891 (aka the Western Band & Orchestra Association). By having a combined band there would be no prizes to be won or lost and thence no bitterness or contention over the results. Concerts were to be given at each town during the year. The band apparently dissolved after a short time.

1892

SUMNER COUNTY BAND ASSOCIATION

In 1892 the Sumner County Band Association was organized at a meeting in Belle Plaine. Their purpose was to futher the musical cause among bands, to get acquainted, discuss projects, and advance the appreciation of band music in the county. Band membership included Belle Plaine, Caldwell, Conway Springs, Corbin, Milan, Rome, South Haven, Wellington, and the Winfield Military Band. The bands were to meet once or twice a year and members were encouraged to attend the band reunion to be held in Hutchinson in 1893.

Their first semi-annual meeting was held in Belle Plaine in February 1893, and the second all-band reunion was held at Milan in September.

Apparently Conway Springs was to have been the host town for the reunion in April 1894, but their only public hall had been destroyed by a fire, so the meeting was postponed, and the June reunion meeting was scheduled to be held at Milan. However, Wellington invited all of the county bands to attend the July 4th celebration in Wellington.

1893 - 1894

MISCELLANEOUS

Later in 1893 twenty-five band men representing Hiawatha, Horton, Morrill, Reseve, and Sabetha, met for the purpose of organizing a large miliatry band of the best musicians in their section of the state. A news item from the the *Horton Headlight-Commercial* newspaper, March 9, 1893: "The new military band was organized in Sabetha last month, the band association will be a good thing for the boys."

During the day concert playing was enjoyed by all members in attendance and a grand banquet was given before the business meeting. Officers were elected, various resolutions were passed, desired size of the band was debated, expenses were discussed, and another meeting was proposed. The members departed after playing more concert music as they hoped another meeting would result in future concerts, but no more meetings were held. The group did not re-organize, but rather members continued playing in their own local town band. No name was found to identify any more information of this group.

In the meantime several counties were organizing associations. A band association was formed by Ellsworth, Russell, and Wilson with a membership of forty and in March 1894 the Great Bend Register reported the Barton County bands had met and wrote a constitution, by-laws, and elected officers. Thirty band men attended and elected Great Bend director, E.E. Epperson as the musical director. The bands of Butler County also organized as an association in August and Lincoln County bands organized in August. Additional information unavailable.

1895 - 1898

SOUTHERN KANSAS AND OKLAHOMA BAND ASSOCIATION

The Southeast Kansas newspapers in September 1895 reported news related to the Mammoth Band

Tournament and Bicycle Race given by the bands of southeastern Kansas and the Pittsburg Wheelmen. Approximately fifteen bands with over three-hundred musicians played several concerts and cheered the Wheelmen from Kansas and Missouri to victories. The news articles, by editors, encouraged the bands to organize a southern band association on a temporary basis. By October 1895 the idea became the Southeastern Kansas Band Association, complete with officers and a committee to arrange a time and place for a meeting to take place in May 1896.

1896

SOUTHERN KANSAS AND OKLAHOMA BAND ASSOCIATION

The *Winfield Daily Courier*, September 16, 1896, reported the following: "...A permanent organization named the Southern Kansas and Oklahoma Band Association has been formed." Bands attending the Winfield gathering included Alton, Arkansas City, Belle Plaine, Caman's Military Band from Wellington, El Dorado 1st Regiment Band, Milan, Sedan, Wichita 1st Regiment Band, and Guthrie, Oklahoma. After the election of officers and business matters concluded, the bands formed in one grand consolidated band and marched through the streets of the city playing in unison. As a special treat the band members were allowed free trolley rides over the city, an unexpected thank you by the Winfield city fathers.

1896

In 1896 an April issue of the *Smith County Journal* reported that the promoters of the Smith-Phillips county brass band members decided to have a meeting at Kensington to perfect an association with area bands and in July 1896 the Sedgwick County Cornet Band Association was chartered and the board of directors were from Andale.

1897

SOUTHERN KANSAS AND OKLAHOMA BAND ASSOCIATION

The Southern Kansas and Oklahoma Band Association met in Winfield, September 14 – 16. 1897. The bands attending included Belle Plaine, Eaton, El Dorado, Harper, Hutchinson 2nd Regiment Band, Millan, Winfield, Newkirk, Oklahoma and Stillwell, Oklahoma. More than three-hundred musicians were in line for the grand parade downtown and later concerts were given at Island Park. Activities included the Grand Trades Display, Merchants' Carnival, and a grand ball at the armory.

1898

SOUTHERN KANSAS AND OKLAHOMA BAND ASSOCIATION

Railroad lines advertised fare reductions for those attending the 1898 Cowley County Fair held in Winfield. The Southern Kansas and Oklahoma Band Association members were invited to attend the band gathering. However, the only band featured at the fair was Caman's Winfield Military Band. The band had recently returned from the Trans-Mississippi & International Exposition at Omaha, Nebraska. The bandmen were very proud that the band was the only Kansas band chosen to represent the sunflower state at the exposition. Additional information unavailable.

1898

CENTRAL KANSAS BAND ASSOCIATION

The *Emporia Republican*, Sept 1, 1898, reported the following: "...Music hath charms to soothe the savage breast...so it is very fitting that the big band carnival should be here on the same day that the cohorts (populist party) of reform and Democrats have their county conventions." Bands attending the event included the Americus Selected Knights, Cottonwood Falls Juvenile Band, the Emporia 1st Regiment Band, Hamilton Military Band, Lyndon Bald-Heads Band, Melvern, Severy, and the Woodbine Cow Boy Band. All the bands competed in the playing contest and the Cow Boy band from Woodbine collected first prize and the Lyndon Bald-Heads Band placed second. All other bands received a monetary award by dividing up prize money collected from registration fees and gate receipts.

The bands attending the carnival and contest met in a business meeting and organized a permanent association named the Central Kansas Band Association. Officers and directors were elected and the

association proposed to hold a carnival and contest in Emporia every year.

By 1899 Abilene, Council Grove, Hutchinson, Junction City, McPherson, Newton, Ottawa, Paola, and Salina joined the association. However, a meeting was held in Abilene to discuss the location of the carnival/contest for 1899 and competition between towns became very heated and the meeting was called off. Emporia, Abilene, and Ottawa were making overtures to hold the contest in 1899, but no decisions were made and no print information could be found pertaining to the continuation of the previously successful tournament that had received so much publicity in 1898.

1899 – 1905

MISCELLANEOUS

Several newspapers throughout the state ran a syndicated release reporting on the well established Southwestern Band Association in Missouri. Galena and Columbus, Kansas, usually attended the tournament when it took place in Springfield, Missouri.

The Ottawa County fair board met in 1899 and Captain T.C. Lemons, leader of the First Regiment band of Ottawa, proposed forming an eastern Kansas and western Missouri band association if the fair would sponsor a band tournament. The proposal was not accepted.

The original Geary County band association held a meeting September 1900 in Junction City in regards to disposing their uniforms as they had disbanded. The former member town bands continued giving concerts in their own hometowns.

An area band organization, composed of town bands from Buhler, Inman, Moundridge, and Spring Valley, held their second annual reunion in June 1901. Additional information unavailable.

In 1902 the newspaper editors were “pushing” for a Barton County band association as there were bands in Ellinwood, Galatia (2), Great Bend, and Hoisington. The editor made the following statement, “...it would be quite appropriate to have semi-annual get togethers and have a good time entertaining the public – ok bandmen?” Additional information unavailable.

The leader of the Ellis Union Pacific Band, E.S. Pierson was talking up the idea of a state band association that would meet once a year and compete for prize money. Additional information unavailable.

Several northwest area bands continued to attempt the notion of organizing an association in 1903. F. Hammerschmidt, celebrated musician at Phillipsburg, attempted to form a northwest Kansas organization made up “...of the amateur reed and brass bands located in western part of Kansas and a portion of Nebraska.” The band convention held in Phillipsburg was a musical success but no area association was organized.

The following headline appeared in the *Topeka Daily Herald*, March 7, 1905: “New Law Enables City to Pay for Summer Concerts.” The Legislature passed a bill enabling cities in Kansas to provide city tax funds for free public band concerts. “...The mayor and council of cities are hereby authorized to appropriate from their general revenue fund and contribute such amount as they may deem proper, not to exceed fifty dollars per annum for each thousand people in said city, to the use and benefit of instrumental music or band organization that will furnish music free of charge in the parks or public halls of said city at such times and places as the mayor and council may direct.”

1907 - 1908

JEWELL COUNTY BAND ASSOCIATION

Bands from five different towns in Jewell County met at Mankato for their first annual Jewell County Band Association reunion and Band Jubilee in October 1907. Officers were elected and annual meetings were to be arranged. The bands were from Burr Oak, Ionia, Jewell City, Mankato, and Webber. After the grand parade and concerts the bands attended the football game and over one-hundred musicians entertained the crowd with another unison concert.

1908

JEWELL COUNTY BAND ASSOCIATION

The second annual Band Jubilee was held in September 1908 at Burr Oak. The Randall band

had joined the association. Additional information unavailable.

1910

George York, director of the Fowler Band, was approached by the Liberal Democrat newspaper editor of the possibility of organizing a Southwestern Band Association in 1910. The Fowler band seemed favorable of becoming one of the bands in the association and bandmaster J.J.Padden of Liberal expressed interest; however, the idea never materialized and the Meade News reported that J.J. Padden formerly of Liberal had been secured to direct the Fowler Band.

1910 - 1911

BEAVER VALLEY BAND ASSOCIATION

Beaver Valley was the name of a short branch-line railroad of the Chicago, Burlington, & Quincy Railroad Co. from 1887 to 1926, now known as the Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado railway line. The line ran along the Kansas-Nebraska border connecting with a few small towns in Nebraska and continued west to St. Francis, Kansas, and into Arapahoe County, Colorado. Town bands along the line would meet, serenade each other, and board the train for the next small town stop for another serenade.

May 1911 was publicized as the second meeting of the Beaver Valley Band Association in Danbury, Nebraska. Other towns attending the meeting included Indianola, Lebanon, and Wilsonville from Nebraska. Kansas towns included Atwood, Bird City, Devizes, Herndon, Ludell, and St. Francis. The day of activity included concerts by the bands, grand combined concerts, a baseball game, winding of the May Pole, a basketball game, supper, a play at the opera house, closing with an evening concert and dancing. The band men voted in a president and a secretary. They also voted to have two meetings a year.

Lebanon, Nebraska, was the site for the association's meeting number three in September 1911. All member bands attended and over one-hundred-fifty musicians gave concerts, played for the baseball and basketball games, and ended the day with a one act play that was appreciated by the large audience.

The meeting in 1912 was to be held at Herndon, Kansas, but owing to a conflict in dates the "musical riot" was postponed. News articles continue to report concerts and booster trips by the Atwood band and other town bands, but no information pertaining to an association meeting by the bands along the Beaver Valley railroad line could be found.

1913 – 1920

MISCELLANEOUS

During this seven year period the notion of organizing a group of town bands in an association has not been occurring. However, hundreds of bands in small towns and populated cities were organizing and re-organizing. Bandmen continued to join Regimental bands of the Kansas National Guard; others performed with the Chautauqua circuit; bands provided entertainment at state/county fairs, participated in GAR encampments, and participated in their own local celebrations. Ladies' bands were common; the Negro population formed bands for their Emancipation Days, and fraternal organizations and lodges organized their own bands. Many band organizations applied for state charters to be incorporated and were seeking to solve financial problems by attempting to take advantage of a band law passed by the state legislators in 1917.

An explanation: for a short period of time a few band associations used congressional district numbers to identify locations for area semi-annual meetings. There were eight districts from 1893 to 1933.

1921

SIXTH DISTRICT BAND ASSOCIATION

The Colby Tribune (Colby, Kansas) February 9, 1921 reported, "...A long step toward a better organization of the bands in the Sixth district." Tom S. Howell from Salina met with several of the best bands in the area to convince them to be members of the Kansas Band Association, an organization he planned to organize in Salina in October 1921. At this time he was acting as secretary for the association and visiting the congressional districts in Kansas to promote his idea. The visiting bands

were from Atwood, Brewster, Cawker City, Colby, Goodland, and St. Francis.

After the organizational meeting a banquet was held and speakers thanked the bands for their service to their communities. The evening came to a close with the local band giving a concert at the opera house with over six hundred in the audience to cheer the band on to success.

1921 – 1923

SOUTHWESTERN KANSAS BAND ASSOCIATION

During the Pratt Jubilee in August 1921, a band association was named. The band musicians took the name of Southwestern Kansas Band Association. The member bands were from Coldwater, Dodge City, Greensburg, Haviland, Isabel, Meade, Medicine Lodge, Pratt, Sawyer, and Stafford.

1922

SOUTHWESTERN KANSAS BAND ASSOCIATION

In August 1922 the Southwestern Kansas Band Association sponsored the band tournament and contest at Pratt in conjunction with the Pratt Jubilee celebration. Bands of the association attending were from Harper, Medicine Lodge, Minneola, Pratt, and St. John. First place prize money was awarded to Medicine Lodge, second place to Harper, and third place to St. John.

1923

SOUTHWESTERN KANSAS BAND ASSOCIATION

The annual band tournament of the Southwestern Kansas Band Association was held in Medicine Lodge in conjunction with the Barber County Fair, October 10, 1923. Each competing band played three selections and assembled for a combined grand concert after the contest. Bands expected to attend were from Anthony, Ashland, Bucklin, Coldwater, Greensburg, Harper, Haviland, Hudson, Kingman, Kinsley, Macksville, Minneola, Pratt, Protection, St. John, Stafford, and Turon. A banquet was held and social time was enjoyed by all as they toured several instrument company displays.

1921 – 1926

KANSAS BAND ASSOCIATION

Tom S. Howell, Salina Municipal band director expected fifty town band managers and directors to attend a meeting October 3, 1921. All assisted in organizing the Kansas Band Association. The constitution and by-laws were written with the purpose of elevating the standard of bands, making bands a business institution, and securing proper laws to permit all cities to vote on a tax to support their bands. No list of band managers or directors could be found, but those in charge scheduled the first annual meeting at Emporia in March 1922. The association planned on meeting two times a year with district meetings held when convenient.

1921

THIRD DISTRICT – KANSAS BAND ASSOCIATION

The Kansas Band Association of the third congressional district held their first district meeting in Arkansas City, December 11 - 12, 1921. The object of the meeting was to elect delegates for the state meeting to be held at Emporia next year. Bands noted in the article included Arkansas City band and orchestra, Cedar Vale, and Winfield. The Independence band had transportation problems and were not

present. Due to poor road conditions several were unable to attend. Even so, plans were tentatively made to hold the next district meeting in Winfield, and the next one at Cedar Vale.

Entertainment was organized by Arkansas City band director, Dr. R.G. Richards. Prominent band men from Emporia, Salina, Hillsboro, Herington, and Arkansas City were speakers. At the business meeting a resolution was passed criticizing the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers for demanding a license fee from those establishments furnishing music for picture shows, dance halls, and restaurants. On the final day the local symphony orchestra presented a concert during social time and members were offered a tour of the Winfield mental institution and the Chilocco Indian School at Newkirk, Oklahoma.

1922

SIXTH DISTRICT – KANSAS BAND ASSOCIATION

Colby was considered to be the headquarters for the Northwest Kansas Band Association of the sixth district. The bands of the area met at Colby, February 1922. KBA secretary, Tom S. Howell, from Salina, was guest speaker. Business meetings covered several topics related to plans for KBA, legislative concerns related to financing town bands, discussed ideas to promote friendship, and agreed to send local band information to the new periodical, *The Bandmen*, published in Salina, Kansas by Mr. Howell. The guest bandmen were escorted to the State Experiment Station and other points of interest in Colby. An evening concert was provided by the Colby senior and junior bands and a banquet was served by the Commercial Club. Atwood, Cawker City, Colby, Brewster, Goodland, and St. Francis were represented at the meeting.

1922

KANSAS BAND ASSOCIATION

Twenty-five delegates met at Emporia in March, 1922 for the first annual meeting of the Kansas Band Association. Business discussions were held with F.K. Reasoner as acting president. Great Bend representative Ed Chapman agreed to speak to legislators concerning the band tax levy situation. Professor J.A. Gulska, of Atwood, volunteered to write a march dedicated to “Pap” Grady, a KBA board director and former band director of the Emporia band. Grady was to be in charge of arrangements for the March meeting but had recently died of injuries received in an elevator accident while attending the American Legion convention in Kansas City with his Emporia Municipal Band. The piece was titled “The Emporia March.” The meeting concluded with a concert by the Emporia band and a banquet. No bands or towns were listed in the news releases publicizing the meeting.

1922

KANSAS BAND ASSOCIATION

In November 1922 the semi-annual meeting of KBA was held in Herrington. The major business resolution dealt with lobbying the state legislators to adopt the Iowa Band Law to secure tax money to support the town band. Another item was a resolution adopting a standard of rules for band contests, and the American Society of Composers were once again condemned. H.A. VanderCook of Chicago gave several interesting talks and illustrated his new method of playing wind instruments, especially brass instruments. A supper was served and the Herrington Boys' Band and the Herrington Ladies' Band made quality presentations and instrument stores displayed their band products. The social hour was filled with band members playing various pieces under the baton of Mr. VanderCook, a “jolly character,” and others took up the baton in hopes of “tricking” the boys into making humorous mistakes, “watch the baton boys.” Also the boys made good humor of discussing “...obsolete E flat cornets.” Bands present were from Anthony, Arkansas City, Concordia, Great Bend, Holton, Junction City, and Salina. The boys expressed themselves as having a fine and profitable meeting. The next annual meeting was scheduled for Arkansas City.

1923

KANSAS BAND ASSOCIATION

F.K. Reasoner, director of the Anthony band, was elected president of the Kansas Band Association at their meeting held at Arkansas City in November 1923. The Winfield band played a concert and H.V. VanderCook of Chicago was the featured speaker. During the business meeting two resolutions were approved. One requested that KBA bands enter contests only sponsored by KBA in order to make an attempt in standardizing contest rules. Another resolution approved the playing of appropriate jazz music by KBA member bands, but opposed member bands playing “jazzed up” popular songs, religious hymns, and the “classics.” No town band names were found in any publications.

1924

KANSAS BAND ASSOCIATION

Band directors attending the annual convention of KBA in November 28 - 29, 1924 in Parsons were greeted with the following headlines... “Band Men Battle For Recognition...State School Law

Irritating.” During the business meetings new officers and board members were elected and general discussions concerning the welfare of bands in Kansas by improving quality of music and standardize conducting and programming. Mr. Tom S. Howell, association secretary and now from Kansas City, Kansas, requested that the “Music Booster” news of Kansas City be the news organ for KBA. Heated comments arose in the discussion of the state law prohibiting band masters (directors of town bands) from teaching instrumental music in public schools unless they acquired credits in violin, voice, and piano for a certificate. The Jenkins Music Company representative remarked that “...there has been big advances in band work in public schools as well as the city bands...soon band will be a part of the regular school work.” After a banquet the bandmen visited the Katy (Missouri-Kansas-Texas rail line) Railroad shops, had a tour of the town, and an evening concert by the Parsons High School orchestra. The bandmen then retired to the hall for their annual “windjammer” session complete with cigars and band rehearsals with “blue notes” as well as “wet ones.” Bands listed in news articles only included Coffeyville, Girard, Hillsboro, McPherson, and Parsons. Local band director W.E. Thomasson was in charge of the affair for the band men of Kansas.

1925

Miscellaneous

Tom S. Howell moved from Kansas City, Kansas, to Parsons in September 1925 and directed the two bands in Parsons, the Katy Railroad Band and the Parsons Municipal Band. Howell was responsible for organizing the original KBA at Salina in 1921. He was the secretary for several years and was a promoter of association bands and also wrote a sample Kansas law document permitting cities and townships to support a band with a city tax. During his tenure at Parsons he organized the Southeast Kansas Municipal Band league in the summer of 1931 with twelve area towns (the towns could not be found in any area publications). They were to hold reunions twice a year, but no further information could be found.

1925

KANSAS BAND ASSOCIATION

The KBA met in conjunction with the Missouri band association in Kansas City, Kansas, November 1925. During several business meetings the directors exchanged ideas concerning military band enlistment, band sponsorship, the effect of public school bands, and band tax laws. The Kansas City newspapers gave considerable space to the convention and speeches by F.K. Reasoner, president from Great Bend; Frederick N. Innes from Chicago, Director of the Innes Band; S.A. Dapp, military service band director from Leavenworth; F.A. Buescher, manufacturer of band instruments; and R. Ritchie Robertson, bandmaster of the three-hundred piece Boy Scout band in Springfield, Missouri. (Mr. R. Ritchie Robertson was the father of James Robertson, nationally known Wichita University and Wichita Symphony director during the 1950s and 1960s). The dinner was furnished by four music businesses from Kansas City. Election of officers took place with William Thomasson of Parsons elected president. By late evening the approximately 100 bandmen “repaired “ to the meeting room for their annual “windjammers” meeting. Few towns were listed and only a few directors were identified.

1926

Miscellaneous

A lengthy article in the *Wichita Eagle*, June 27, 1926 reported the following: “...a national school band association was organized at Fostoria, Ohio...(no date given)...the first contests included state bands winning first place in a contest from the national association member states...the first national contest was won by Joliet Township High School Band, Joliet, Illinois; 2nd Fostoria, Ohio; and 3rd Ogden, Utah...trophies were awarded...two national associations intend to sponsor contests to promote the general development of the school band movement each year. During this era the national associations were the Music Supervisors' National Conference and the National Bureau for the Advancement of Music. (see also: The *Victoria Globe* (Victoria, Kansas), May 19, 1927.

1926

KANSAS BAND ASSOCIATION

The Wilsey community band won three loving cups and three other prizes at the annual meeting of the Kansas Band Association in Junction City Friday, November 26, 1926. Fifteen bands were in attendance. Prizes were given as to the following categories: the band traveling the longest distance, the band having the most Conn instruments, the most family members in a band, the oldest musician, and the largest percentage of the band's membership at the state meeting. A parade and grand concert were given and an item discussed at the business meeting related to changes the legislators are making in the band law. The 1927 convention was scheduled to be held at Winfield. Charles O. Brown, formerly of Council Grove, was elected secretary-treasurer. Additional information unavailable.

1927

NORTH CENTRAL KANSAS BANDMEN

Several news items reported that the North Central Kansas Bandmen had held a meeting in June 1927 at Stockton. No bands were listed.

The June 1928 edition of the *Osborne Farmer* newspaper reported a semi-annual meeting of the North Central Kansas Bandmen meeting at Osborne with over four-hundred band men and as many as ten area bands attended. The statement implies that the north central members are a district association of the Kansas Band Association.

The following information was found in the *Cawker City* newspaper August 15, 1935. The North Central Kansas Bandmen met for their fourth semi-annual meeting. The organization incorporated and was awarded a charter by the state and named the Kansas League of Municipal Bands No.1. Members understood that the association was the only chartered band organization in the state in 1935. Charter members included Cawker City, Beloit, Jewell, Lucas, Osborne, Sylvan Grove, the Tipton American Legion Band, and the Tipton Knights of Columbus Band.

1928

In October 1928 Kansas newspaper editors were promoting a meeting to be held in Salina in an attempt to organize a Kansas Municipal Band association. In the meantime the following was taking place.

1928

CENTRAL KANSAS BANDMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Several Kansas newspapers, as well as the *Belleville Telescope*, of November 8, 1928 reported the following, "... Belleville is a member of the Central Kansas Bandsmen's Association formed at a meeting at Salina last week..." Other towns of the association included Beloit, Bennington, Concordia, Cuba, Ellsworth, McPherson, Minneapolis, and Salina. Future conventions were scheduled for Salina in April 1929 and Concordia in September 1929.

The organization was to be non-profit and self-supporting. No contests were to be held, a constitution with by-laws was adopted, officers were elected, they made a proposal to meet twice a year on a rotating basis, no admission was to be charged the public for concerts, only municipal bands were members, each band paid membership dues, a banquet would be served, and members were to promote interest in municipal bands and promote a fraternal feeling among band members. Additional information unavailable.

1929

KANSAS LEAGUE OF MUNICIPAL BANDS

In April, 1929, the Belleville, Beloit, Bennington, Clay Center Cuba, Ellsworth, Manhattan, Minneapolis, and Salina Municipal bands met in Salina and inaugurated the first meeting of the new Kansas League of Municipal Bands. After the parade individual band concerts were presented by each band from the four bandstands along the main thoroughfare. Later a massed band concert was given for the public at the Memorial Hall. Karl L. King, director and composer of the Fort Dodge, Iowa, Municipal band was the guest conductor and speaker. Over four-hundred musicians were present to play in the massed band. The two day event concluded with a banquet.

The second meeting of 1929 was held at Concordia in September with president Wilbur L. Sherrard in charge. All league member bands attended and gave individual band concerts, held business meetings, social gatherings, and a combined band concert led by J.C. McCanles, director of University of Kansas bands. On the last day a banquet was sponsored by the local Chamber of Commerce.

MISCELLANEOUS

The first/original incorporated Kansas League of Municipal Bands that evolved from the North Central Kansas Bandmen of 1927 apparently disbanded. More comprehensive information pertaining to the new 1929 league was found in the publication entitled, Kanhistique, October 1997 (originally published in Ellsworth).

The article, "And the Band Played On," by James J. Brown, General Manager of the Salina Municipal Band, not only includes history of the (new) Kansas League of Municipal Bands, but he also writes a history of the chartered bands of the new association. According to Mr. Brown, and reported in the Minneapolis Messenger, Thursday, May 7, 1931, "...the idea originated in Minneapolis in the fall of 1928. The Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce was deliberating on plans for the Fall Festival and Fair to be held here the first week of October. In an effort to get something different for that year, it was suggested that one of the three days be made a 'Band Festival Day.' "

Mr. Brown also reported the following, "... no reason has been found as to why, when or where the Kansas League of Municipal Bands organization dissolved, but after the last convention on August 2, 1935 in Ellsworth, no further convention dates or locations could be found."

1930 - 1935

KANSAS LEAGUE OF MUNICIPAL BANDS

Bands attending the June 1930 convention at Belleville were from Belleville, Beloit, Bennington, Clay Center, Concordia, Cuba, Ellsworth, Mankato, Minneapolis, and Salina. Bands played individual concerts at the bandstands erected around the courthouse square. The grand parade was followed by a banquet provided by the local Chamber of Commerce. Afterwards an evening massed band concert was given at the fair grounds. Arrangements were made to broadcast the concert over station KGBZ out of York, Nebraska.

1930

KANSAS LEAGUE OF MUNICIPAL BANDS

Ten bands met at Ellsworth in September 1930 for the fall convention of the Kansas League of Municipal Bands. An added feature of the convention was the showing of free movies all day at the Golden Bell theater.

1931

KANSAS LEAGUE OF MUNICIPAL BANDS

Minneapolis played host for the Kansas League of Municipal Bands in May 1931. All member bands attended the massed band concert directed by guest conductor, W.T. Quick from the University of Nebraska.

In September 1931 the meeting was held at Beloit. Parades, concerts, and a watermelon feast were planned. All member bands attended the massed band concert.

1932

KANSAS LEAGUE OF MUNICIPAL BANDS

The Salina board of directors and executive committee of the KLMB agreed to hold the fall 1932 convention at Clay Center. The massed band concert took place after the banquet at Kenwood Park where eleven bands gave a concert led by Fred Jewell of Worthington, Indiana.

The Kansas League of Municipal Bands held a semi-annual meeting at Clay Center 1932. Each band played a program that was heard on K.F.B.I. Manhattan members were invited to attend as guests of KLMB. Member bands were led in a massed band concert by J.J. Richards, municipal band director at Pittsburg, Kansas.

1933

In August 1933, the KLMB met at Abilene, Kansas. The Council Grove band had been invited to join the league; however, director Charles Burg could not secure adequate transportation to make the trip. The Manhattan band was invited as a guest of the league. Other members included Abilene, Beloit, Belleville, Bennington, Clay Center, Concordia, Cuba, Ellsworth, Hillsboro, Mankato, Minneapolis, and Salina. Only one league meeting was scheduled in 1933.

1934

KANSAS LEAGUE OF MUNICIPAL BANDS

Only one convention was scheduled by the KLMB for 1934 and it was held in Salina in September. The guest performer, conductor, and speaker was Dr. Frank Simon from Cincinnati, Ohio. At this time Dr. Simon was director of his own famous Armco Band, which played for the National Broadcasting Company, WLW Cincinnati.

1935

KANSAS LEAGUE OF MUNICIPAL BANDS

The board of directors chose Ellsworth for their convention in August 1935. Karl L. King nationally known composer and director from Iowa was the guest conductor. Parades, concerts, and the massed band included Hoisington Municipal Band as they had been invited as a guest. Another meeting of the league was not scheduled.

Several area band associations of the 1930s were as follows:

1931

Southern Kansas Band Association

The Southern Kansas Band Association was organized in June 1931. The concerts were given in Central Park at Conway Springs. The association bands included Conway Springs, El Dorado, Halstead, Newton, and Oil Hill. Each director was involved in directing the massed band. Newton was host for the meeting in August 9, 1931 at 3 p.m. in the Military Park. Don C. Heltzel, local band director, led the massed band concert. Additional information unavailable.

1931

Kaw Valley Band Association

The first meeting of the Kaw Valley Band association was held in Wamego, Sunday, June 1931. Six bands played an evening program at the Wamego park. Two hundred members of the association included bands from Alma, McFarlane, Onaga, Wamego, and the Santa Fe RR band of Topeka. The next meeting was held in Onaga, August 9, 1931; however, rain was responsible for a postponement of the meeting. On September 6, 1931 the association met in Topeka with a massed band concert at the State Fair grounds. The Manhattan Municipal band, directed by R.H. Brown, joined the association. The next meeting of the association was at Manhattan, October 4, 1931. The bands all took part in the dedication services for the new wing of the I.O.O.F. home west of Manhattan. Additional information unavailable.

1931

Southeast Kansas Municipal Band League

The Southeast Kansas Municipal Band League was organized by the well known Kansas band man, Thomas S. Howell, in 1931. He was director of the municipal band at Salina for over 10 years, a former director of the American Legion band in Kansas City, and organized the Kansas Band Association in 1921. At this time, Howell was hired to direct the Parsons Municipal Band and also took over the M.K.T. (aka Katy band) Railroad band which involved managing groups in Parsons, Kansas; Sedalia, Missouri; Waco and Denison, Texas. Howell was very familiar in organizing associations and he saw a need for such a group that would benefit all the large towns of this section of Kansas.

Several area band representatives were called together for a band convention July 15, 1931. They created the Southeast Kansas Municipal Band League and they planned to hold reunions two times a year. Charter bands attending the first meeting at Parsons in 1931 were Coffeyville, Fort Scott, Independence, Iola, Pittsburg, and Parsons. League regulations included the following rules: only

municipal bands were eligible for membership, no contest between member bands would take place, free entertainment will be held in business districts of the host city, a parade and individual band concerts were required, and a combined band concert with each director directing one number would end the day. Also the rules stated that bands were asked to furnish music for dancing. Additional information unavailable.

1932 – 1936

Kansas Band Association

Several newspapers reported the re-organizational meeting of the “old” Kansas Band Association. The meeting was held in October 19, 1932 at the Emporia National Guard armory. Towns represented at the meeting were from Council Grove, Emporia, Great Bend, Junction City, Parsons, White City, and Winfield. Officers were elected in the morning and board members were elected at the afternoon session.

1933

Kansas Band Association

The first convention was scheduled for Friday and Saturday following Thanksgiving in 1933. *The Monitor-Press* (Wellington, Kansas), April 1933, reported that the second number (issue) of Harry Caman's paper, *The Bandman*, made its appearance; however, no other issues were found.

1934 – 1935

Kansas Band Association

Conventions may have been held in 1934 and 1935 as the Manhattan newspaper reported the following in November, 1936: “...the sixth annual convention of the Kansas Band Association was held in Junction City.” Additional information unavailable.

1932 - 1938

Tri-State Band Association

In December 1932 several towns in northwest Kansas, southwest Nebraska, and eastern Colorado organized the Tri-State Band Association with the purpose of creating good will and community spirit in the area. The meetings were to have individual band concerts and close with a massed band concert directed by a prominent guest conductor.

1933

Tri-State Band Association

St. Francis was the first site for the inaugural convention that was held in June, 1933. Bands participating in the event were from Atwood, Bird City, Brewster, Herndon, Ludell, and St. Francis. The out of state bands were Benkelman, Nebraska and Burlington, Colorado.

1933

Tri-State Band Association

The August 1933 meeting in Atwood featured the “peppy” American Legion Drum & Bugle Corps from Atwood. At a business meeting at Herndon in October new officers and representatives were elected.

1934

Tri-State Band Association

The first meeting in 1934 was assigned to Benkelman, Nebraska, and the second yearly meeting was held in August 1934 at Bird City. During the year Goodland, Kansas; Wray, Colorado; and Haigler, Nebraska joined the association.

1935

Tri-State Band Association

The first gathering in 1935 was assigned to Brewster and the second yearly meeting was assigned to Ludell or Herndon.

1936

Tri-State Band Association

In 1936 the meeting was held in Herndon and in August 1936 St. Francis hosted the meeting for the second time and Oberlin joined the association.

1937

Tri-State Association

Burlington, Colorado, hosted the event in June 1937 and Atwood held the gathering of bands in August 1937.

1938

Tri-State Band Association

The association met at Benkelman, Nebraska, in June 1938 and Burlington was to be the host later in 1938. No information was published pertaining to this meeting.

Guest directors for the Tri-State Band Association meetings had included Col. H.P. Sutton of McCook, Nebraska; Russell Wiley of the University of Kansas; J.C. McCanles of the University of Kansas; J. Forest Cook from Colorado University; Col. Sutton from McCook, Nebraska; Billy Quick from the University of Nebraska; C.F. Lebow of the Salina Municipal Band; Dr. Forest C. Castle of the Norton Municipal Band; Carl Malmberg of Hays, Kansas; Harley Hoak assistant band director from Hays State College, one of the original founders of the association; and H.M. Snider, another original founder of the association.

1933 - 1934

Blue Valley Band Association

The Marysville Advocate (Marysville, Kansas), July 27, 1933 reported the following, "...Bands from eight towns, including the Marysville Municipal band, have united to form an organization of two-hundred musicians for the purpose of giving concerts through the playing seasons."

The organization was known as the Blue Valley Band Association and the first concert was given at Barnes, Kansas on August 18. A parade was held and a banquet provided prior to the evening massed band concert. Other town bands attending the event included Blue Rapids, Waterville, Clifton, Hanover, Washington, Randolph, and the Winkler Juvenile band. The member bands agreed to give three combined band concerts a year on a rotating basis with member towns. The remaining schedule was to be worked out among the band directors.

On August 30, 1933 the Blue Valley Band Association members met at Marysville to take part in a ceremony that brought together Kansas and Nebraska highway commissioners. The occasion celebrated the dedication and opening of the new bridge at Kansas Highway 77 & 36.

The September 1933 meeting was held at Blue Rapids in conjunction with the Marshall County Fair. Besides band concerts there were parades, baseball games, pony races, and balloon ascensions. A special feature was the arrival of the Frankfort, Kansas, fifty piece drum and bugle corps.

1934

Blue Valley Band Association

An article in the *Belleville Telescope*, August 23, 1934 reported, "... the association held a convention in Bird City yesterday with bands present from Kansas, Colorado, and Nebraska towns." The article was the final print material found involving the Blue Valley Band Association.

1940s

MISCELLANEOUS

The "roaring twenties" and "the dirty 30s" brought about many changes in the local economy and advancement in modes of transportation. Social norms were changing and technology was taking over the entertainment industry. The 1940s continued these changes in lifestyle. The family could listen to an outstanding performance by professional musicians without leaving the homey, comfortable living room sofa and with the twist of a control knob one could move the musical program to another station on the radio or the television. Silent movies were not only filmed with sound but were also in color. Professional entertainers could depend on air travel to keep a contract for a live performance miles from home and immediately return to the big city for another scheduled performance.

During the war years the town band boys went off to fight for their country as older adults joined the ranks of airplane factory workers and moved to the city. The town band was fading. However, a few were surviving by using more school-age musicians who were receiving adequate musical training in their school band with educated college instructors.

Schools were forming into their own league bands and college music departments were sponsoring band camps with band clinics taught by outstanding professionals. The grouping of adult town band associations was not a viable idea anymore. Even so, the tradition of town band concerts continued in many communities by sponsoring a municipal band supported by the city.

College and public/private school band directors were joining national band organizations and eventually many states were organizing their own band director conventions. Their purpose was the same as the dated band gatherings of years gone by. The association would carry on the idea of individual bandmen gathering together and engage in educational clinics presented by guest speakers, exchange ideas, listen to concerts and ensembles chosen to perform, become acquainted with other fellow bandmen of the day, promote band music in Kansas, and participate in social activities.

1938 – 1967

Additional information unavailable.

1968

EASTERN KANSAS BAND DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

Another organization in Kansas was known as the Eastern Kansas Band Directors Association and was organized in May 1968 with Larry Lutte, band director at Bonner Springs High School in Wyandotte County, as president of the association. The association sponsored a clinic for directors and also an evening Honor Band concert at Baker University, Baldwin, Kansas. The band students were selected on a tryout basis from the following high schools: Basehor, Bonner Springs, DeSoto, Eudora, Gardner, Garnett, Louisburg, Olathe, Ottawa, Spring Hill, Stanley, Tonganoxie, Turner, and Wellsville. The guest director of the clinic and concert was W. Francis McBeth, chairman of the Department of Music Theory and Composition at Ouachita University, Arkadelphia, Arkansas. The stage band from Washington High School in Kansas City, Kansas, was also featured at the concert. (No director or clinician was named.)

1969 – 1971

Additional information unavailable

1972

EASTERN KANSAS BAND DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

Eastern Kansas high school band musicians were selected as members of an honor band concert given at the University of Kansas (Lawrence, Kansas) on January 22, 1972. Over two-hundred eastern Kansas high school band students tried out for the band that was led by Robert Foster, director of the University of Kansas band.

The event was sponsored by the Eastern Kansas Band Directors Association. Ed Badsky, director of the Olathe High School band, was president of the association. Additional information unavailable.

1973

Additional information unavailable

1974

KANSAS BANDMASTERS ASSOCIATION

The following news item is from newspapers.com, The Manhattan Mercury (Manhattan, Kansas), Thursday, July 11, 1974.

“Kansas bands to meet at KSU”

“The first Kansas Band Association Convention will be held July 18, 19, and 20 at Kansas State University and the University Ramada Inn.

Music clinics at the convention will include performance and rehearsal techniques, jazz improvisation, woodwinds, marching bands, and marching band arranging.

Conducting the workshops will be Dr. Francis McBeth, composer at Quachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark.; James Barnes, University of Kansas band arranger; Gary Foster, a woodwind specialist from Los Angeles, Calif.; and Phill Hewett, KSU director of bands.

Other activities during the convention will include exhibits, a golf tournament, a barbeque, and films.

Band members and directors also will present three free public concerts. The schedule:

July 18 – The Strategic Air Command Band and Stage Band from Omaha, Neb., will present a concert at 8 p.m. in the Manhattan City Park.

July 19 – The K-State Concert Jazz Ensemble and the Strategic Air Command Band and Stage Band will perform at 8 p.m. in the Manhattan City Park. The concert will feature Gary Foster, a leading West Coast jazz recording star. His latest album, “Super Sax,” is a tribute to the late jazz saxophonist Charlie Parker, said Hewett.

These concerts are sponsored by the Manhattan Recreation Commission and the Kansas Band Association.

July 20 – The KU Midwest Music Camp Band will present a concert at 3 p.m., in McKain Auditorium. The band is composed of Kansas high school students who attended the 1974 summer music camp sponsored by the University of Kansas and led by Russell Wiley conductor PLUS a very Special Guest.”

MISCELLANEOUS

However the official program for 1974 was different than the original newspaper publicity for the meeting stated in the above information.

The official program featured the following line up of events and acting officers as there had been no official election held. Larry Lutte, acting president; James Swiggart, acting vice-president; Mike McSwaim, acting secretary; and Frank Thompson, acting treasurer.

On the first day the golf tournament was held, exhibitors were in place ready to open, welcoming introductions were made, and the first clinic was given by the Military Airlift Command Band from Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, featuring Dr. Francis McBeth lecturing on “Performance and Rehearsal Techniques” with the band. An outdoor barbeque was held at the City Park followed by a concert at the City Park Pavilion featuring the MAC band and led by their conductor, Major Herman G. Vincent, Commander/Conductor. After intermission, Technical Sergeant Denny Englund led the “Shades of Blue” (the official MAC Show Band) in several jazz and pop selections. Jazz by the pool was scheduled for the evening featuring the Palace Drug Store Co. Dixieland Band.

Friday, July 19, the board of directors met and the first clinic continued with Dr. McBeth and the MAC band demonstrating “Performance and Rehearsal Techniques” part 2. There was a reading session for concert band and marching band publications compliments of Southern Music, Inc. and presented by the MAC band. A clinic was later given by Gary Foster entitled, “The, Do's & Don'ts For Beginning Woodwinds.” He also gave a general woodwind clinic after the wives luncheon and style show. A stage band reading session and a jazz improvisation clinic ended the day of formal events. In the evening “Jazz in the Park” featured the Kansas State Jazz Ensemble, MAC Stage Band, and Gary Foster. Marching band films were available and the evening concluded with Jazz by the Pool featuring the Marion Roberts Trio.

Saturday, July 20 opened with the Phi Beta Mu breakfast, visit the exhibits, a National Association of Jazz Education meeting, and James Barnes (University of Kansas band composer and arranger) presented a clinic entitled “Marching Band Arranging.” After lunch the KBA business meeting was held and a Grand Concert in McKain Auditorium was presented by the University of Kansas Midwest Music Camp Band conducted by Dr. Russell Wiley. Commander Arnald Gabriel, Commander of the U.S. Air Force Band, was a surprise guest conductor.

Tom Miles (Abilene, retired band director) music camp librarian and Robert Foster, remember

unloading and setting up the band in the July heat. They were rewarded with loud enthusiastic cheers from the band directors when Commander Arnauld Gabriel was announced as the special guest director.

1975 – 2023
contact
kansasbandmasters.com
for official programs

BIBLIOGRAPHY INFORMATION

Larry Lutte

Larry Eugene Lutte was born in 1939 at Farley, Missouri. He attended West Platte High School, attended Central Missouri State College, and graduated with a BME degree in 1961.

Larry was band director at Grandview High School, Grandview, Missouri, from 1961 to 1965. On May 10, 1962 he married Barbara Lee Scott of Bonner Springs, Kansas. In the meantime he had received a Master's Degree in Music from the University of Kansas in 1965.

The following article is from the Salem, Ohio newspaper, June 1965, reporting news from Leetonia, Ohio; “...the new instrumental music instructor is Larry Lutte, age 26, of Bonner Springs, Kansas, a graduate of Central Missouri State College, where he received his BME degree; and Kansas University where he was awarded a Master's degree. For the past four years he has been the band director at Grandview, Missouri.”

Lutte was responsible for organizing many music activities involving the community as well as establishing a successful band program for the school system. His tenure in Leetonia was from 1965 to 1967.

The Lutte family returned to Bonner Springs, Kansas, in the summer of 1967, and Larry was hired as band director at Bonner Springs High School, his wife's alma mater. Later he moved to Shawnee Mission East High School.

In Ohio Larry had been engaged with an Ohio state band director's association. During a Kansas teachers meeting [upon returning recently from Ohio] he convinced his fellow band directors of the area that the OBA idea should be a model for a Kansas organization. He also pledged to provide the funds to finance the start up of the organization. Thus an Eastern Kansas Band Directors association sponsored a band clinic and concert in May 1968 with Larry Lutte, “...band director at Bonner Springs high school is president of the association.” The guest director was W. Francis McBeth, chairman of the Department of Music Theory and Composition at Ouachita University, Arkadelphia, Arkansas; Band students from Basehor, Bonner Springs, DeSoto, Eudora, Garner, Garnett, Louisburg, Olathe, Ottawa, Spring Hill, Stanley, Tonganoxie, Turner, and Wellsville participated. The stage band from Washington High School in Kansas City, Kansas, was also featured at the concert/clinic.

NOTE: newspapers.com – Kansas City Star, Fri, May 17, 1968

Band Directors Sponsor Clinic for 15 Schools

“The newly organized Eastern Kansas Band Directors association will sponsor a clinic and concert tomorrow at Baker University, Baldwin, Kansas...guest director for the clinic and concert will be W. Francis McBeth, chairman of the Department of Music Theory and Composition at Ouachita University, Arkadelphia, Arkansas...the stage band of Washington High School in Kansas City, Kansas, also will be featured at the concert...students performing will be from bands at the high schools in Basehor, Bonner Spring, DeSoto, Eudora, Gardner, Garnett, Louisburg, Olathe, Ottawa, Spring Hill, Stanley, Tonganoxie, Turner and Wellsville...Larry Lutte, band director at Bonner Springs High School in Wyandotte County, is president of the association.”

NOTE: from KBA Memories by Larry Lutte:

“...having received a favorable response from the other directors, it was decided to form a committee with the purpose of setting up the framework of the KBA and to plan the first annual

convention/clinic and they appointed Larry Lutte as president....the first convention was planned for July 1974 at Manhattan, Kansas. The main clinician was Francis McBeth, Chairman of the Department of Music Theory and Composition at Ouachita University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. The stage band from Washington High School in Kansas City, Kansas was also featured at the clinic concert. Band students and directors from Basehor, Bonner Springs, DeSoto, Eudora, Garnett, Louisburg, Olathe, Ottawa, Spring Hill, Stanley, Tonganoxie, Turner, and Wellsville participated.”

The family moved to Chino, California in 1974 (probably in August). The following was reported in the Chino, California newspaper, September 1974; “...Lutte came here this summer and was very impressed by the sincerity and friendliness of Chino and its citizens...within three days he made the decision to buy a house and moved here...he has been a band leader for thirteen years and has a master of music degree from the University of Kansas...for the last few years he had taught in the Shawnee Mission district in Kansas ...he will continue to work on a doctorate of administration degree at the University of Southern California...he was encouraged to move to Chino by a principal (Terry Terril) that he had worked with in Missouri and is now the principal of CHS.”

Larry returned to the midwest after experiencing the effects of year-round school and directing a band program. He was hired as band director at Ralston, Nebraska in 1977 and is listed as the band director of the Ralston High School band when they attended the Nebraska State Fair in September. In February 1981 the Ralston High School band was the feature guest band at the second annual University of Nebraska honor band concert. Even though Ralston was a suburb of Omaha they had a successful fund drive to attend the Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington D.C. in April 1981. The band received a second place finish in overall competition by placing second in marching and eighth in concert competition. They were the only Nebraska band attending the event.

The following is from a feature article found in the *Omaha World-Herald* newspaper, March 19, 1986 entitled, “Plants”: “...Larry Lutte, owner of L and L Landscaping at 14532 West Maple Road...entered the interior plant business about five years ago.” As Larry related, “...the landscaping business was a venture that the family had in mind for some time.” He was in business from 1980 to 1999.

In the meantime his parents had settled in Florida. Note the following information found in the *Orlando Sentinel* newspaper, Dec 17, 2017: “... Larry Lutte and his wife Barbara moved to Florida 23 years ago (1999-2000). Two years later, in 2001, the seasoned saxophone player took over the Lake County Dance Orchestra as its director and became a member of the Orlando Symphonic Band for fifteen years. He re-organized the 18 piece orchestra of Lake County and renamed it the LC Swing Big Band. The band included professional musicians, band directors, and amateurs. The organization continues to perform concerts and charity events each September through May in Central Florida.”

Print information found in the *Orlando Sentinel* (Orlando, Florida) May 19, 2019, “...the 17-piece jazz ensemble band, the LC Swing Big Band, under the direction of Larry Lutte, will present the season's final performance at 3 p.m. Sunday at GraceWay Church, on Radio Road and Morningside Drive, Leesburg.” It was the 62nd season finale played by the band. As of 2023, after the Covid pandemic, he was still playing alto saxophone and directing the LC Swing Big Band.

Lutte also reports that “...during the hot summer months, the Luttes come back to Bonner Springs, Kansas, where they play in the band.”

From Larry Lutte for 2024 -

“My life remains active in music and church. This is my 24th year as director of LC Swing Big Band. A seventeen piece jazz ensemble plus vocals. We do concerts throughout central Florida. I am 85 years old and I guess retirement is around the corner. I direct the GraceWay Presbyterian Church Bell Choir, play alto sax in the praise band each Sunday, and sing in the choir. I am also a member of the Leesburg Rotary.

Our family has scattered over the US so we don't see as often as we would like but we do manage to get together for holidays. Musically yours, Larry Lutte 352-360-9168.”

James “Jim” Swiggart

James “Jim” H. Swiggart was born in Chandler, Oklahoma, on January 9, 1940. His mother's family had many musicians. One in particular was his grandfather who played cornet in the Agra, Oklahoma, “Queen City Band” in 1905-1907. The band was sponsored by the Queen City Times, Muskogee, Oklahoma, and the newspaper also sponsored a “Queen City Band” in Muskogee in 1905, but it was later taken over by the Muskogee Commercial Club (aka Muskogee Merchants Band).

The Agra band played July 4th celebrations in 1905, 1906, and 1907. In 1905 they played concerts at the first Lincoln County Fair held at Chandler, Oklahoma, and for the fair in 1906, they also gave concerts at Stroud and Wagoner, Oklahoma. In November 1907 they played for the inauguration of the state of Oklahoma at Guthrie (the original Territorial Capitol) and were in the 1908 Muskogee Jubile parade celebrating the passage of the bill removing the sale of Indian lands.

Swiggart began playing trombone in the fifth grade and was promoted to the high school band by the second semester. He was in choir and band in junior high school and high school. During this time he was gaining stage experience by singing solos and playing trombone solos at state contests as well as singing lead parts in high school Gilbert and Sullivan musicals and operettas. He was in the All-State Band and All-State Choir as a Sophomore, Junior, and Senior.

The Chandler High School vocal teacher was on the staff at the Inspiration Point Fine Arts Colony and many of Jim's classmates attended the summer music camp that had been founded in 1950. His stage career continued as they formed their own opera company during his Junior year and produced smaller operas in the First Christian Church in Chandler. The Inspiration Point Fine Arts Colony was five miles west of Eureka Springs, Arkansas. The name was changed in the 1990s when they needed to recruit college and graduate singers to audition for roles in the summer opera company. Thus the IPFAC is now known as the Opera in the Ozarks at Inspiration Point. From 1955 to 1958 he rehearsed at the Point with students who became internationally acclaimed opera stars, nationally known conductors, and also played in the pit orchestra for many of the productions.

Swiggart graduated from Chandler High School in 1957 and received a double major in Voice and Instrumental Music Education from Oklahoma City University. He attended Wichita State University and earned his Masters Degree in Music Education in 1969 and at Oklahoma University he finished 2/3rds of a doctoral program.

His high school band directing career took him to Watonga, Oklahoma (1961-1963) and Blackwell, Oklahoma (1964-1970). His Blackwell band was chosen as the feature marching band at a four-state marching contest at Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri. As the feature band the Blackwell band marched after all the other bands, and were followed by the Missouri State University Band. After the performance the Mizzou band members stormed the students with shouts of praise, “... as they felt we were like the Texas A&M band, but smaller.”

At Hutchinson, Kansas (1971-1978), the concert band was selected to perform for the National MENC convention in Boulder, Colorado and the jazz band competed many times at International jazz competitions held in Nevada. Swiggart was very involved with the Sky Ryder Drum & Bugle Corps and witnessed the transition from American Legion competition to Drum Corps International (aka DCI) competition in 1972. Several marching band trips were made to present half-time performances at the Kansas City Chiefs football games. On their first trip, Robert Foster, director of the KU football marching band invited the Hutchinson band to march their pre-game ceremonies at Lawrence. The college students were amazed how well the flag routines were choreographed, as the college band only carried their flags, and the drum line was highly congratulated for their drum corps style of playing and marching.

Don Corbett was the Municipal band director during Swiggart's tenure at Hutchinson and he well remembers playing the concerts in the park near the convention center and especially the elderly cornet player that played “The Carnival of Venice” just as he had played it with the John Phillip Sousa

band.

In 1979 the Swiggart's moved from Kansas to Moore, Oklahoma. As head band director the Moore High School band competed in three major football bowl events and also entered concert band competitions that led to becoming the National Champion Concert Band of the year in 1987 at Nashville, Tennessee, playing "The Pines of Rome."

He left the Moore, Oklahoma, program and was a band director in Putnam City, Oklahoma, during 1990 and 1991 and then retired at age fifty-two.

In 1989, Swiggart was asked to take over the General Director position at the Inspiration Point Fine Arts Colony near Eureka Springs, Arkansas. He was General Director from 1989 through 2013 and retired again after the 2023 season. Previous to this new music adventure he had charge of a summer band camp at IPFAC. After the opera season was over outstanding students had the opportunity to practice and perform advanced literature with outstanding professional musicians - conductors i.e. Dale Kennedy, William Wakefield, and others. The Band Camp began in 1979 and continued for 11 years.

As of 2023 he continues to conduct honor groups, engages in music consulting for school systems that are struggling and do not have administrative support, has for a time taught full time when needed in Arkansas schools, continues his church mission as choir director, and conductor of two civic bands. Jim and his wife, Janice, of sixty-two years, live in Holiday Island, Arkansas .

While teaching in Hutchinson (1971-1978) he attended a Kansas State Teachers Association meeting. Jim relates the following: "...there was nothing pertinent for the band directors, similar to what I had experienced in Oklahoma and Texas. I was in a restaurant and met the KSU band director, Phil Hewett and a band director from Texas who had just moved to Kansas. We put our heads together and tried to figure out what could be done to raise the bar for band directors in Kansas. I went back to Hutchinson, talked to several guys in our area, including Bob Lee. I got help from them (Bob) in assembling an address list and put out an invitation to all on the list to become the foundation of a band directors organization like Oklahoma and Texas. I had Oklahoma organization documents through Harry Haines and we used all that to become an active organization. Bob Lee, Bill Lilley, Phil Hewett, and the Wendell Hodges family were several that helped put the organization together."

Ed Bartley (retired) remembers that Bob Hollowell, executive-secretary of KMEA, was very suspicious of such an organization, as he feared that the organization would pull members away from Kansas Music Education Association. He and his followers attended the first convention as band directors, and decided it was a good idea.

From Jim Swiggart for 2024:

"After my teaching career I retired to operating the "Opera in the Ozarks" near Eureka Springs for twenty-five years (1989-2013). I later returned to teaching in Carroll County Arkansas and took bands to contest's and resurrected the Berryville band for four years and competed in the Cotton Bowl in 2003.

I retired from public school teaching again and also from the Opera in the Ozarks position, but still remain on the board of directors. We are building a new \$34 million dollar theatre with help from the Walton Family Foundation. I am in my 66th year as a church choir director and conduct the Carroll County Community Band during the school year, and the Bella Vista Community Band in the summer. I play jazz gigs on trombone in a small ensemble in this area. Jim"

Phillip "Phil" W. Hewett

Phil Hewett was born July 15, 1933 in Newton, Massachusetts. His parents were William Robert and Vivian Hill Hewett. While living in Boston, Massachusetts, he heard a marching band and announced that he wanted to play drums and march. A disagreeing mother allowed him to do so only if he continued his piano lessons.

In the 1940s the family moved to Fort Worth and Hewett graduated from Paschal High School. Even though he was a promising quarterback his coach advised him to pursue his musical talent rather

than injure his hands. By the time he graduated from high school he was playing professionally with dance bands and for road shows in the Dallas and Fort Worth area. Before leaving Fort Worth he had played professionally with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra and the Fort Worth Opera.

After graduating c1950 Hewett joined the Navy, attended the Navy School of Music, made a goodwill tour to Europe, and graduated in 1954. He taught at DelMar Junior College, Corpus Christi, Texas, for one year, then returned to Fort Worth, Texas, and attended Texas Christian University where he graduated with his BME degree in 1959. For a period of time in 1959 he directed the band at Boyd, Texas, and as an undergraduate at TCU he was a faculty member teaching percussion classes. At TCU he proudly reminded others about "...playing in the TCU band at age thirteen and had [earned] five TCU band letters by the time I enrolled..." (as a freshman). In the meantime he had married Joyce June Johnson in Corpus Christi, Texas, December 21, 1957.

Hewett was hired as band director at Eastland High School, Eastland, Texas, in 1959. His bands and individual student musicians ranked high in area competitions. He was band chairman for the Eastland Jaycee Peanut Bowl parade, choir director for the Methodist Church, an officer in the Junior Chamber of Commerce, in 1961 he was honored as "Young Man of the Year" by the Jaycee club, and for two years he was director of the YMCA Day Camp. Joyce was active in civic and church affairs and a member of the local string ensemble and the Abilene symphony.

Hewett returned to Paschal High School in 1962 and replaced his former band director, N.J. Whitehurst. Prior to retiring Whitehurst had taught at Paschal twenty years and taught Phil as a student. Phil was president of the Fort Worth Band Directors Association for four years and the Paschal marching band was chosen to march the Cotton Bowl Parade for three years and also presented pre-game and half-time shows at the Cotton Bowl. The PHS band won several state awards and the PHS Stage Band won two national championships, including the "Doc" Severinsen national title. At Pittsburg, Kansas, they won the Kansas-Missouri-Texas Tri-State Stage Band Festival. He was often called on to be the music conductor for the Miss Fort Worth and the Miss Texas Beauty Pageants and in 1967 his band represented Texas in the Cherry Blossom Band Festival in Washington D.C. In 1968 the PHS Stage Band was selected to play for the grand opening of the Hemisfair in San Antonio, Texas. Phil was an active clinician and adjudicator for bands and stage bands during his tenure in Texas.

In 1968 he resigned his position at Paschal High School to become assistant director of the Kansas State University marching band, athletic bands, and was professor of the jazz program. He also used a fellowship to eventually earn his Master's Degree in music.

Several class members may recall Hewett telling the following story early in his college career. He was called into the athletic department by the new head football coach, Vince Gibson, a coach full of fire, gritty enthusiasm, and a "hard nosed" disciplinarian much like Phil Hewett; "...Mr. Hewett, Kansas State is going to have the best - - - football team in Kansas, and you are going to have the best - - - - football marching band in Kansas.....what do you need...?" Apparently the figure was not high enough, as Hewett remained a unique fundraiser with different fundraising companies and with local fundraising projects. One news item reported that..."Phil had a knack at raising funds."

During his first couple of years the "Pride of Wildcat Land" marching band grew to a membership of 284 musicians, 4 drum majors, 13 twirlers, 12 in the flag line, the "Pridettes," and 12 staff members. The size even grew larger over the next few years of his tenure at KSU.

During his first year the marching band rehearsal hall in the Nichols Gym building was destroyed by a fire on Friday, December 13, 1968. All equipment and music was lost in the fire except for a couple of sheets of music in Phil's briefcase at his home - the title, "the Wabash Cannonball." It is now the signature pep song played by the "Pride of Wildcat Land" marching and pep bands at all athletic events. He also originated the all sports chant, "eat 'em up, eat 'em up, KSU."

In 1970 he was named secretary of the Kansas Chapter of the National Association of Jazz Education and in 1972 the KSU Jazz Ensemble won the College Jazz Festival at the Kennedy Center in

Washington, D.C. The marching band made nationally televised appearances during the half-time at professional football games, the jazz band won competitions at the Wichita and Kansas City Jazz Festivals. Phil also inaugurated the Central States Jazz Festival and continued the KSU Band Day.

A terrible auto accident in 1975 resulted in continuous health issues, but even in a leg cast, or using a cane, or crutches, or a wheelchair he remained up beat instructing the marching band and carrying out his duties at public performances for football games and basketball games.

In 1976 he conducted the Concert Jazz Ensemble when they won first place at the Montreux, Switzerland Jazz Festival. A marching band appearance on television in 1980 resulted in a trip to England to play the for the opening ceremonies of the Wembley Cup soccer championships. An agent for the event remarked, "... get the 'purple band'." Also the Jazz Ensemble members from the band played at the University of Oxford in England, Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club, London, England, and at Hyde Park, England.

Notable music celebrities that Hewett was acquainted with or invited to the KSU campus were Doc Severinson, Maynard Ferguson, Chuck Mangione, Bob Hope, Red Skelton, Lionel Hampton, Ed Shaughnessy, Buddy Rich, Nancy Wilson, Marilyn McCoo, Marilyn Maye, Dionne Warwick, and especially Woody Herman as Phil and Joyce helped nurse him back to health after he survived a serious automobile accident while enroute to KSU for a jazz concert, date unknown.

Several band directors attending KSU summer clinics will remember how Hewett would proclaim the values of having a band association in Kansas as he had been involved with in Texas. His "preaching" finally paid off, as in 1974 the first meeting of the Kansas Bandmasters Association was held at KSU and he was executive secretary from 1974 through 1980.

Hewett resigned in August 1982 due to continued health issues, numerous operations, and a doctor's recommendation. KSU President Duane Acker stated, "...Phil instilled a lot of spirit and tradition while he was here, those will remain long after he is gone." He accepted a band directors position at Rockport, Texas, a few miles northeast of Corpus Christi, Texas. Joyce remained in Manhattan for a time because of her daycare center, and their children, William and Allison as they continued their education at KSU. A former band member recalled, "...he was tough but would crack a quick smile and wink at you - then with his southern Texas drawl he drew you in and you were hooked."

In 1985 Phil and his wife returned to Eastland, Texas, where their two children had taken up residency. He was the school district band director until his retirement in 1990. He had always commented that "...Eastland is home to us..there are great people here." Phil and Joyce then moved to Olden, Texas, a few mile northeast of Eastland, Texas. Retirement was not to be, as he organized the ULTRA Club Big Band (aka Wild Phil's big band) and gave private percussion lessons. The big band supported the Tarleton State University Fine Arts and Speech Departments but also played for social dances, private parties, and fundraising events. The band was made up of TSU musicians as well as musicians from the community.

Philip Hewett, age 68, died Sunday, February 3, 2002. Frank Tracz, KSU marching band director remembers staying in contact with Phil and sending him one of their new student band jackets personalized with "Band Director" across the back. At the 2001 Cotton Bowl during an appearance by the KSU marching band, Tracz turned the baton over to Hewett for a final run through of his cheers he had written over the years for the band. As they said good by, "...there were tears in his eyes.

KANSAS BANDMASTER ASSOCIATION

sponsors

Marching Band Championship

2015

Courtesy of Dennis Kerr

"In 2013 a group of directors (names unknown) met at Valley Center High school to discuss KBA hosting a championship for Kansas marching bands. The meeting came about after many online

discussions regarding needing a consistent approach to adjudication for marching bands in Kansas. A set of adjudication forms was developed from criteria of many different state championships.

During this meeting the adjudication forms were approved to present for KBA membership approval and a format for the competitions was set. The proposal was approved by the KBA board and presented to the leadership of KSHSAA to receive approval to move forward. KSHAA approval was contingent on it being titled as the KBA Marching Championships and not a Kansas State Championship.

Once the proposal was completed it was presented to the membership and KMEA members at the KMEA In-Service workshop in February of 2014. While there were many questions the overall response was positive for the institution of the Marching Championship.

The first competition was held on October 17, 2015 at Washburn University. The competition was open to all schools in any classification. Twenty-one schools in classes 3A to 6A competed in the championship. In the Preliminary competition the 3A champion was Riverton High School, the 4A champion was Buhler High School, the 5A champion was Topeka West High School and the 6A winner was Olathe North High School. The finals championship was the top 12 scoring bands from Prelims and ended with a tie for the Championship between Buhler High School and Olathe North High School.

After five successful years there was a lot of discussion that we needed something for the small schools of Kansas. The 4321A Championship was organized and was originally to begin in 2020. Due to the pandemic it was decided to delay the beginning of this championship until 2021. The first small school KBA championship was held at Hutchinson Community College on October 16, 2021 with ten schools participating. Class champions were 2A McLouth High School, 3A Independence High School and 4A Goddard High School. The first KBA Small School Champion was McLouth High school. The success of the 2021 Small School Championship doubled participation in 2022.

The 2023 Championships will be the 8th annual Open Class and the 3rd annual Small School KBA championships. The Marching Championships have brought a national standard to marching bands of Kansas for all levels. It has also created a stable adjudication system that is being used widely across the state for many different festivals and contests. The overall success of the KBA Marching Championships has allowed the organization to have a stronger financial base which helped with the implementation of the KBA Jazz Band Championships inaugurated in 2023 at Friends University, Wichita, Kansas.”

KANSAS BANDMASTERS ASSOCIATION

sponsors

Jazz Band Championship

2023

Friends University, Wichita, Kansas

possible contacts to be made

Marla Webber – Nick Schroeder– Travis Johnson – Dana Hamet – Avian Bear

February 2024

Hi Florida friends:

I really enjoyed receiving your kind card of information. So glad you are involved and enjoy Florida.

Enclosed is my FINAL writing about, "Where Did We Come From" - it has been a very interesting topic to research. We do a lot of this at our historical society library for others; plus a lot of filing and sorting and looking up information for radio program times we do and local club programs.

Depending on weather, etc., I'm attending concerts in about a 3 hour driving radius. Just finished attending Delano Jazz Orchestra, plus again at Andover for Trombonafide, and Hutchinson Jazz Festival. You may have heard that Friends Univeristy is gutting their Fine Arts building to remodel, so have't found out if there is a second year Jazz Championship or not.

That is so neat that you met Larry Lutte, and quite a coincidence. You will find him in the enclosed material as an important beginner of KBA. You will also notice in my research of newspapers that he is a "little off" on claiming (which I didn't use) to be the originator of KBA; you will find the clue when reading his bio and matching dates, in other bios, etc.

This writing will be posted on the KBA site as a free PDF . My thank you to them for allowing me to sell my book at the conventions, etc. - Frank, Alex and the others have been so kind to work with.

Will always think of you guys with our past adventures and your kindness, friendship and life rememberances.

Musically yours,