

THE BAND

FOSTORIA HIGH SCHOOL BAND NATIONAL CHAMPIONS OF 1923

CHAPTER 1. THE MUSIC MAN COMES TO TOWN, 1919

John W. Wainwright was born on October 30, 1889 in Lisbon, Ohio. At about age 16, Jack left school, and began a career in the printing business. In 1910, he took a job with the Oberlin Tribune to operate a Linotype machine. In 1911, he enrolled in the Oberlin Academy, a preparatory school, and in November 1913, he formed a Boy's Band. In May 1914, the band marched in the Decoration Day parade and later made appearances in other cities. Wainwright was a student at Oberlin College Conservatory of Music from 1914--1917. During his student days there, he taught many of the wind instrument classes. He directed the Oberlin college band from 1914 until 1918 when he enlisted in the Naval Reserve Band in Cleveland.

In the fall of 1918, the Naval Reserve Band was on tour, traveling by the Nickel Plate Railroad. They gave a concert in Fostoria, Ohio. School Superintendent, F. H. Warren, was impressed and he and Wainwright discussed the possibility of forming a band in Fostoria.

Wainwright was discharged from the Naval Reserve Band in December 1918, and by February 1919, he had worked out the details of organizing an instrumental music program for the Fostoria school system. It included a high school boys' band. Music instruction was not yet part of the school curriculum, so each student paid \$3 per month for membership in the band plus a private music lesson each week. Wainwright worked out an arrangement with the C. C. Conn Company to purchase instruments on a long-term deferred payment plan. The students each paid an additional weekly fee for the instruments.

The first instruments arrived in February 1919. On June 4, the newly formed 60-piece band marched in the May Decoration Day parade. Many thought it would be amateurish and crude, but it was musically far above expectations. After that, the band had the support of the community.

Jack Wainwright was not only a talented musician, but also a perceptive teacher, a skilled organizer, a clever promoter, and a creative showman. He was strict, demanding, and dramatic, but still managed to keep the affection and loyalty of the band members. Perhaps this was because he placed students in the band as soon as they began to learn their instrument, and he arranged for frequent public concerts for which the young musicians were applauded and admired. They were rewarded from the beginning for their hard work.

Wainwright listed the essential qualities a music supervisor must have in developing a championship band:

1. The music supervisor must be a musician and a director.
2. The music supervisor must be a leader among boys.
3. The music supervisor must possess a thorough knowledge of band and orchestral instruments.
4. The band director must be a salesman, a promoter, and a fund raiser for the band.



CHAPTER 2. THE NATIONAL TOURNAMENT IN CHICAGO, 1923

Military bands had existed for centuries. In the mid-1800s the number of community bands and professional bands grew. They were the primary sources of musical entertainment at concerts, dances, civil ceremonies, and parades. But by 1920, the number of bands had diminished as the phonograph, moving pictures, and jazz became popular. The band industry was in danger.

The Music Industries Chamber of Commerce, composed of manufacturers, publishers and dealers in the music business, was scheduled to hold a conference in Chicago in June, 1923. At first, they were only looking for a band to provide entertainment. Then the idea of sponsoring a contest was suggested. The idea caught on, and late in March or early April, the organization of The Schools Band Contest of America, as it was called, was begun. By then there were enough high school bands to make a competition possible, and the event would inspire the establishment of new high school bands and therefore increase the sale of instruments.

Although the Fostoria High School Band was less than four years old, the director, its director, Jack Wainwright, was ready to show the world what they had accomplished. After their first parade in early June, 1919, the musicians rehearsed all summer and by fall were ready to perform concerts. When school started they rehearsed every Monday night from 6:30 to 8:30. Later the school board gave the band permission to rehearse on Tuesdays from 12:45 to 1:45 during the school day. In the spring of 1920, the band began to raise money for uniforms by charging admission to their concerts and soliciting donations from local groups. By the end of 1921, they had raised the \$2000 necessary to purchase 65 uniforms. In 2023, this amount would equal \$33,500.

The Fostoria community was solidly behind the boys. The Band Boosters Club, also called the "Tooters Club" was formed. The mothers of band boys formed their own organization called "Mothers of the Band Boys". Community leaders helped with the logistics of transporting 62 teenaged boys, their instruments, and uniforms, from Fostoria to Chicago. Fortunately, the Nickel Plate railroad, a line running from Buffalo to Cleveland to Chicago, had a scheduled stop in Fostoria. Money was raised for two additional passenger cars to be added to the train on the days the band traveled to Chicago and back to Fostoria.

Director Wainwright had his hands full overseeing the musical aspects of the trip. There were the additional tasks of keeping financial accounts and arranging for sightseeing activities and transportation to keep the boys busy. Someone needed to be on hand to take charge if a band member fell ill or had some other problem. There had to be arrangements for transporting and safely storing instruments and uniforms. So several adult helpers also accompanied the band.

The Fostoria Daily Review, predecessor to the present-day Fostoria Review Times, was the primary local paper in Fostoria, Ohio. They sent reporters to Chicago and published frequent articles about the band contest of 1923, beginning on June 1, and continuing at least through June 14. The Fostoria Daily Times also published news about the band. Chicago's many newspapers also reported the contest, which was the first of its kind. There was popular interest in the young musicians, and the frequent parades in the Loop, the center of Chicago, were enjoyed by many Chicagoans. It is from these news dispatches that we learn what went on day by day for the week that the Fostoria High School Band was in Chicago.

The Timeline

Saturday, June 3 - The Fostoria High School Band departs from Fostoria at 11:40 p.m. on the Nickel Plate Railroad.

Sunday, June 4 - Fostoria Band arrives in Chicago Sunday morning, marches to Municipal Pier where they will be housed.

Monday, June 5 - Fostoria Band serves as welcoming band to other arriving bands.

Tuesday, June 5 - First day of competition. Fostoria Band visits the Stock Yards.

Wednesday, June 6 - Second day of competition. Fostoria plays their competition piece in the morning, plays at the Drake Hotel in the evening.

Thursday, June 7 - Third day of competition, announcement of the winner in the afternoon. Massed bands play.

Friday, June 8 - Fostoria band visits Fields Museum, attends Chicago-Boston baseball game at Wrigley Field.

Saturday, June 9 - Fostoria prepares to welcome the band.

Sunday, June 10 - The band arrives home by train at 5:38 pm to tumultuous welcome.



A full width photo of the Fostoria High School Band headed page 1 of the June 2nd issue of the Fostoria Daily Review. The photo above was taken at the same time with the addition of the two youngest musicians, dressed in white sailor suits: Billy Lampe at the left and Jimmy Carter at the right. The band members were not yet wearing their new uniforms which were military in style and included caps and capes.

SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 1923

FOSTORIA DAILY REVIEW, Saturday, June 2, page 1

Fostoria Band to Play On Wednesday; Leaves Tonight 11:40

Wednesday, June 6, is the day the Fostoria High School band will play its contest numbers at Chicago.

This is the word received this morning by THE REVIEW from Milo C. Lloyd who went to Chicago last night for the purpose of making the final arrangements and to see that

everything was in readiness when the boys arrived.

Through the elimination process only forty bands are now eligible to play and of course Fostoria is among that number. Three concerts have been booked by Mr. Lloyd for the band during their stay in the Windy City.

Mr. Lloyd said that things look bright for the Fostoria boys in the contest; also that he had arranged to sleep the boys at the Municipal Pier for the seven

nights in Chicago which means that the boys will have a fine opportunity for sight seeing from Wednesday after the contest until they leave for home the following Sunday morning.

Everything is in readiness here now for the departure of the boys from the Nickel Plate station tonight at 11:40. They have been asked to report at the special cars at the depot by 9:30. They will make a short parade prior to going to the station.

SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 1923

FOSTORIA DAILY REVIEW, Monday, June 4, page 1

35,000 Hear High School Band in First Chicago Concert

(Review Staff Special)
Chicago, June 3 —
Fostoria's High School band, under the direction of J. W. Wainwright has taken this city by storm. Scarcely had the band arrived in Chicago than it was made the official welcoming band of the Music Industries' Chamber of Commerce. A delegation from New York, Boston and many of the Eastern States arrived in Chicago at one o'clock and were met at the depot by the Fostoria band. A parade through the downtown streets under police escort and a concert in the Avenue of Palms at the Drake Hotel

completed the activities for the afternoon.

A bus took the band to the Municipal Pier, the \$5,000,000 recreation spot of Chicago, where the band had its dinner and a rest for an hour. Toward eight o'clock there were more than 10,000 persons on the pier and at the request of the management of the Pier the boys consented to play a number. The applause was so terrific that an encore was demanded. Before the band had been assembled a quarter of an hour, 35,000 persons had listened to their numbers. A regular concert program was rendered, and but for the insistence of the management of the School Bands' Contest of America that the boys have a

deserved rest, the Fostoria High School Band would be playing past midnight.

To Broadcast Concert

J. L. Carter who accompanied the band to Chicago Saturday night and remained with them Sunday brings back the report that the Fostoria musicians are booked to broadcast a program Tuesday evening between the hours of 6 to 9 Chicago time. Local radioites will have to tune in from 5 to 8 o'clock.

Mr. Carter said this morning that the boys are given the best of accommodations and their quarters in the Municipal Pier Hotel are guarded continuously by a sergeant and a squad of regular army men.

It appears that J. L. Carter, the father of Jimmy Carter, was a bit confused about the time difference between Chicago and Fostoria. 6pm Chicago time would be 7pm Fostoria time.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE, Monday, June 4.

The following article was reprinted in the Fostoria Daily Review article cited above.

Headed by mounted police, the high school band of Fostoria O., first to arrive of the entrants for the national school band tournament to be held here this week, marched proudly along Michigan avenue early yesterday morning on its way to "Camp Dever" as that portion of the Municipal Pier where the competing bands are to have their sleeping quarters, has been named.

Following them in automobiles came the earliest arrivals amongst 20,000 music merchants, manufacturers, publishers, and phonograph men expected here this week

for the national music trades convention at the Drake Hotel.

Sponsors of Meet Arrive

These comprised the New York and Boston delegation, 300 strong, headed by Richard W. Lawrence, president of the Music Industries Chamber of Commerce, under whose auspices both the contest and the convention are being held. The Fostoria band escorted them to the hotel.

The Gary high school band, probably the most spectacular of the entrants' new Hussar uniforms in which they have been fitted out for the occasion, will arrive in Chicago this

morning. Gary is sending three bands altogether, two high school and one grammar school, while other bands are due to arrive from Centerville, Ia., Louisville, Ky., Richland Center, Wis., Oklahoma City, and Harvey, Ill. Each band will parade though the loop and Michigan avenue on its arrival.

Chicago Bands Compete

Chicago school bands competing include: Marshall, Harrison, Hyde Park, Tilden, Lane, Lindbloom, Austin, Calumet, Fenger, and Bowen. The contest begins tomorrow in Grant park.

It may have been director Wainwright's strategy to be the first band to arrive in Chicago. That way the Fostoria Band received a lot of exposure and publicity, and also had time to become oriented to the city.

All the members of the participating bands (about 2000 young musicians) were housed on the Municipal Pier (now called the Navy Pier.) The Municipal Pier had been built a few years earlier, extending eastward into Lake Michigan, primarily as an amusement area. But it also seems that parts of it were under the administration of the military. One account relates that when the boys reached their sleeping quarters on the Municipal Pier, they were supplied with cots. Each boy set up his own cot and made his bed with a blanket that he had brought from home. The fact that the sleeping quarters were supervised by Army officers implies that this may also have a temporary facility for returning soldiers and sailors. The quarters were nicknamed "Camp Dever" after William Emmett Dever, the newly elected mayor of the city.



The band arrived in Chicago at the LaSalle Street station, lower left. They marched to the Municipal Pier (now called the Navy Pier) where they slept, upper right. The contest was held in Grant Park, across from the Congress Hotel, lower right. The band played at the Drake Hotel, upper left.

The Music Industry Convention was held at the Drake Hotel, about a mile north of the Municipal Pier. The hotel was newly built, having been completed in 1920. It was and still is the hotel for visiting heads of state and other important visitors. In 1923, the hotel included 535 rooms, several restaurants, two large ballrooms, and a Palm Court. Of special interest to the band was the fact that radio station WDAP broadcast from the hotel. (The call sign was changed to WGN in 1924.) In the early 1920s the daily format included luncheon and dinner music by Henry Selinger and his Drake Hotel Concert Ensemble, and sometimes from the ballroom, dance music provided by Jack Chapman and his Orchestra. Dr. James L. Carter, the father of Jimmy Carter, reported that the Fostoria band would be broadcast on Tuesday evening, June 5, and invited Fostorians to tune in. Since WDAP was one of the most powerful radio stations in the United States it was quite strong enough to reach Fostoria. Although we don't have a complete list, it's apparent that the Fostoria band broadcast more than once from this early station.



The Drake Hotel as the Fostoria High School Band would have seen it. Note the old cars in the photo.

TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 1923

FOSTORIA DAILY REVIEW, Tuesday, June 5, page 1, continued on page 5

Band Visits Stock Yards, Plays 9 A.M. Wednesday

(By Review Staff Special),
Chicago, June 5 —

Thousands of people in the biggest city of the West have heard and applauded the Fostoria High School Band.

Whether they concert at the Drake Hotel, the Municipal Pier, the Apollo Theatre or on the streets of Chicago, they bring down the crowds.

This afternoon the boys were guests at the stockyards. They will rest tonight without other engagement, then called to quarters.

Tomorrow morning at nine o'clock the youngsters will show the critics their form and technique, using "The Bohemian Girl" as the vehicle to national championship honors.

All of the local lads are in the pink of condition, sickness and blues being conspicuous by their absence.

Fostoria Band Boys Are Snapped by Newspaper

A three column picture of Fostoria High School Band boys in the writing room of the Municipal Hotel at Chicago,

writing to their friends here, appeared in this morning's issue of the Chicago Tribune.

The boys in the picture who could be identified were: Howard Wikel, Park Burtscher, Charles Carroll, Vigie Switzer, James Carter, Ralph Sackett, Wilbur Schultz, and Howard St. John.

The following from the Chicago Herald-Examiner was reprinted with the front page article above.

Twenty thousand players, manufacturers, merchants and salesmen of musical instruments of all kinds invaded Chicago yesterday to attend the four-day convention of the Music Industries Chamber of Commerce at the Drake Hotel.

At the same time the vanguard of school bands, with a total of about 2,000 juvenile musicians, arrived to start in what will probably be the greatest school band tournament ever conducted in the United States.

The first band contest took place at 9 o'clock this morning opposite the Congress Hotel. The chief judge is Capt. W. H. Santelman, leader of the United States Marine Corps band. The first bands to enter will be the high school outfits.

CHICAGO EVENING AMERICAN, Tuesday, June 5, page 1 of General News Section, continued on page 6, column 3.

Horace Says Music Lure Unchanged.

Visits Municipal Pier Where Boys of U.S. Will Compete in Band Contest. by Horace A. Wade

. . . I wended my way along the Municipal Pier to the east end where boys from every known region of the United States had gathered to take part in the National Band School Tournament to be held tomorrow in Grand Park . . .

I walked about at the Municipal Pier, watching the boys and their instruments and the cots that they set up themselves under the supervision of Maj. Beals and Capt. C. E. Hutchin. And after satisfying my self with goggling

everything in sight, I plied them with a few questions.

"Tell me," I asked Jim Carter from the Fostoria High School of Ohio. "Is your band going to win the first prize offered?"

Already Decided

"Sure." He looked at me quizzically as though wondering why I came there asking such foolish questions on already decided events. "Why," he speculated, studying his instrument carefully and fondly, "there ain't a chance of us losin' out with me on the band." And he turned to the cornet as I fled from the blast.

Next came Billie Lampe, about the size of a piece of soap after a week's hard wash, and I popped the same questions to him. "I'm on the same band as

Jim," was the response, "and — honest — I think we'll carry off first honors. No foolin' either." And he lifted his instrument, almost as tall as as himself and grinned happily at my 100 pounds of avoirdupois.

But Charles Carroll from Fostoria took the cake when it came to real, honest to goodness enthusiasm. "Are we going to win? That's one thing we ain't goin' to do nothin' but." He peered at me over the edge of his spectacles.

Cheered Them On

"Say," he then burst out with "all Fostoria is rootin' for us: How can we do other than mop the rest of 'em up." And he squinted in the general direction of "the only town in the world. . . ."

The three boys mentioned in the article, Jimmy Carter, Billie Lampe, and Charles Carroll were not actually high school students. They were elementary students, and formed a trio of two cornets and one drum. They acted as mascots to the Fostoria High School band, and although not allowed to participate in the contest because of their age, they participated in all the other performances and entertained with novelty numbers during breaks in band concerts. I suspect the reporter stylized their language and their responses to suit his own folksy style. Jimmy Carter did wear spectacles, but I'm not aware that Charles Carroll did, so that detail may have been misrepresented by the reporter. It's interesting that the confidence apparently exhibited by the boys at this time, two days before they competed, was genuine and not included because the reporter had foreknowledge of the final result of the competition.

CHICAGO DAILY POST, Tuesday, June 5, page 1, continued on page 3

This article mentions the bandstand, apparently a temporary construction erected just for the contest. More information was provided about the judge, Captain W. H. Santelmann. Several of the bands were named and one band included girl musicians.

CHICAGO DAILY TRIBUNE, Tuesday, June 5

Bandsmen From 35 High Schools in Melody Race

Seven High school bands today will open the boys' band contest in Grant park, opposite the Congress hotel, the principal entertainment feature of the convention here of 20,000 members of the Music Industries Chamber of Commerce.

The boys will begin playing at 9 o'clock and will continue

throughout the day. Other bands will play Wednesday and Thursday. Prizes totaling \$5000 will be awarded. Capt. W. H. Santelman, leader of the United States marine corps band, will be the judge. Thirty-five bands will participate in the contest.

Harrison Tech Entered

The bands playing today will be from high schools in Evansville, Ind., Fostoria, O., Centerville, Ia., Louisville, Ky.,

Richland Center, Wis., and Cedar Rapids, Ia. Harrison Tech will represent Chicago.

An address by George E. Roberts, vice president of the National City Bank of New York, opened the business session yesterday at the Drake Hotel. . . .

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1923

CHICAGO EVENING AMERICAN, Wednesday, June 6, page 1.

The article by Wade, published on Tuesday, June 5, was republished on Wednesday, June 6, with the addition of a picture of Jimmy Carter, pretending to play a large Sousaphone. The artistically altered photo was captioned: Jimmy Carter of Fostoria, Ohio, High School Band, who blows a horn twice as big as he is at the National School band tournament. Photo by Chicago Evening American staff photographer.

This photograph was re-published on the front page of the Fostoria Daily Times, Monday, June 11, 1923. Jimmy's mother, Lena Rees Carter, was somewhat dismayed to notice that Jimmy was clad only in his undershirt and a harness arrangement intended to anchor his long stockings.



FOSTORIA DAILY REVIEW, Wednesday, June 6, page 1

Fostoria High Band Plays Concert Number

(Received at 11 A.M. Fostoria time.)

Chicago, June 6 — (Review Staff Special.) —

When the Fostoria High School Boys' Band finished the "Bohemian Girl" in their contest this morning, they received a most tremendous ovation from the thousands of people who were on hand to hear the boys from Ohio play.

And how those boys did play! Never in their history have

they played as well and with such expression and technique; these coupled with their wonderful "stage presence and deportment" won for them applause that was deafening and which continued for some time.

J. W. Wainwright, the director, was master of the situation at all times and led his

boys though the number (as one man expressed it) in as fine a manner as John Philip Sousa ever dared to do.

Notwithstanding that there are a large number of bands in the contest, it is expected that the Fostoria band will land within the money. The first prize is \$1,000; the second \$500; third, \$300; and fourth, \$200.

Music lovers and critics were astounded when the Fostoria band started the "Bohemian Girl" as their contest number, believing that it was entirely over their head and they would be unable to even make a dent into the real way it was written to be played. But the boys had not played five bars before they eyes of these critics started to pop out and they slid over the edges of their seats so as not to miss a single note; they were dumbfounded, surprised and then gratified to think that a High School boys' band would first even undertake to play such a number as their contest selection, that that they were playing it as real artists and as first chair men play it.

Throughout the entire number the thousand were held spellbound and hardly a sound could be heard except that of the "Bohemian Girl" from the band.

And when the band concluded, hundreds rose in their seats and cheered them to the echo.

And then the applause was deafening. Professor Wainwright in his extremely modest way, and after continual applause, acknowledged the plaudits of the crowd with a simple nod.

Critics who saw Prof. Wainwright lead declare that they have never seen such a leader, carrying his method in a

demure way, that seemed to draw so much out of his musicians.

The applause accorded the Fostoria band exceeded all other competition numbers thus far.

All of the band boys are in the best of shape and they played as they never played before.

It is thought that the prize winners will not be made known before tomorrow afternoon (although they may be announced tonight). It is the present plan to mass all of the bands after the last one has played in the contest for one or two numbers in massed formation and then probably the winners will be announced.

Tonight the boys have accepted an invitation to play at the Drake Hotel.

Watch Old Glory at the Review, page 1, center column.

Judging from the reports from Chicago, there is a bare possibility that all of the bands competing in the High School Section of the National Contest will have finished their respective numbers by evening.

Just how long it will take the eight judges to decide the first, second, third, and fourth prize winners is problematical. Whether they will go into conference immediately after the last band plays, it was impossible to learn by wire this noon.

However, if the winners are announced in Chicago any time up to midnight, Review staff men on the job at Chicago with the band will wire the result immediately to THE REVIEW and REVIEW readers are cordially invited to call either

147 up to 7 P.M. or 678 after that time.

Any information we receive we will be delighted to impart to the many anxious waiting band boosters of Fostoria.

In case awards are made this evening, The Review will turn on its Old Glory electric flag in front of THE REVIEW and bulletins will be posted in the windows.

However, it is highly improbable that awards will be made this evening so do not let your spirits fall in case you are up-town and do not see Old Glory lighted.

The Review is, as it always has been, anxious to serve, especially at this time, for the benefit of the thousands interested in the Boys Band.

So watch for Old Glory and feel free to phone us, either at 147 or 678.

Even if the boys find that there are better bands in the contest and do not come away with one of the prizes, they are already victors for every report coming from Chicago says, "The boys are behaving like gentlemen and are a credit to Fostoria." —

By Jack Wainwright
Chicago, June 6 —

Harrison, Chicago, Austin, Ill., Rockford, Ill., Emerson, Gary, In., Centerville, Iowa, Boone, Chicago, Evansville, Inv., Newtrier, Ill., Calumet, Mich., completed the first round of the high school band contest yesterday.

At nine this morning, the Fostoria High School Band started the final round with the other twenty bands remaining in competition for national honors.

The day brought forth a number of splendid bands,

particular mention going to Rockford, Ill.

The Fostoria boys are confident, but not overly so. Chicago is for our boys from every appearance and with the setting of the sun on Wednesday, we will be pleased to wire victory.

By Milo Lloyd, With Boys' Band

"Our boys are behaving like perfect gentlemen and are causing no trouble whatsoever.

"They are the pride of Chicago and I wish all Fostorians could hear them play

and see how they conduct themselves.

"Everything looks fine for the boys to win one of the prizes and the band that take first from them will have to step some."

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 1923



The 1923 Fostoria High School Band in formation at Grant Park, Chicago. The Congress Hotel is out of sight at the left. The Auditorium with its three distinctive arches is visible at the left. The Art Institute of Chicago is in the background at the right.

FOSTORIA DAILY REVIEW, Thursday, June 7, page 1

Full page photo of the band at the top of page one.

Fostoria High School Band Nat'l Champs

Director Wainwright and His Boys Bring Coveted Honor to This City; Chicago Contest Keen but Local Lads Equal to the Occasion.

Chicago, Ill., June 7. — Staff Special — Fostoria wins first prize in the national band

contest which has been on here all this week in connection of Civic Music League Convention.

This carries a prize of \$1000.

When the judges announced the decision early this afternoon thousands heard the verdict and pandemonium broke loose. It is doubtful if ever any organization that has visited Chicago has made as many friends and followers as the High School Band of Fostoria under the leadership of Jack

Wainwright as everybody is calling him now in Chicago. The professor prefix has been forgotten and it's Jack the leader of the best boys' band in the United States.

Old Glory Turned On

The REVIEW wire was dated at Chicago this afternoon at 2:46 and through wonderful work of Western Union was in the Review office before 3.

Old Glory at THE REVIEW was turned on and a big bulletin

was posted in the window and then the shout went up.

Not only did the boys win the first prize money but if they did not take down the first in department it was because some other band was tied with them at 100%. The boys played the "Bohemian Girl" as their big contest number.

Jack Wainwright, director, said before he left — "If these boys don't win FIRST prize in this contest I will be badly mistaken. I have been in touch with most of the high school bands of the country and I feel that our boys can bring home the banner." Jack was right. And as is customary with him his thoughts are always on the fine work begin done by the boys and never thinks of himself.

Not only is Fostoria proud of every one of the boys but it is grateful and most appreciative of the fine work done by Jack Wainwright, as director of this band.

Jack shows that he can rightfully be considered as the leading director along with the leading band.

Hats off to Jack and the band.

Wainwright Leads Massed Bands

Second Place: Harrison, Chicago; third: Council Bluffs; Fourth: Hyde Park, then in order, New Castle, Richland Center, Wis., Paw Paw Mich., Pittsburgh; E. Chicago, Gary, Evansville, Cedar Rapids, Louisville, Rockford, Hannibal.

At 4 this after noon according to long distance telephone to REVIEW, Jack Wainwright was called to the platform in front of Congress Hotel and Secretary Patrick Henry introduced him to 75,000

people as the greatest leader he had even seen conduct a boys' band and then place a purple ribbon on his breast and proclaimed him the first leader of the first band. Jack then was given the distinguished honor of directing the massed bands of 2000 pieces playing Star Spangled Banner.

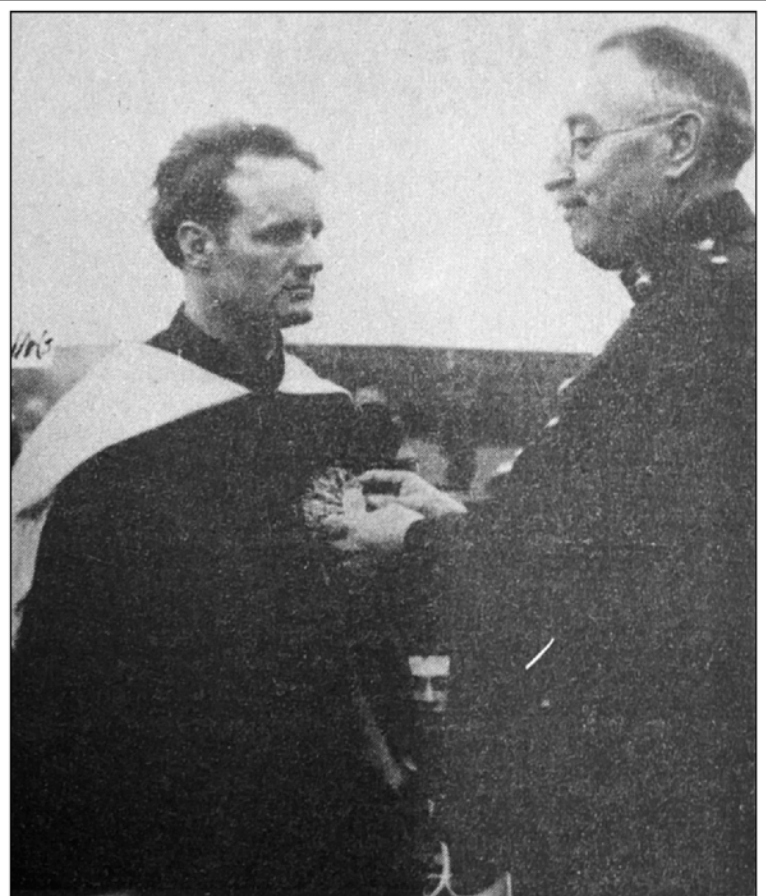
The boys are invited to a theater party tonight, baseball tomorrow and banquet at night.

While the Fostoria band was playing its contest number yesterday morning, another band paraded past them; playing vigorously; Jack stopped his

band immediately and every member sat motionless until after the band had passed and Jack moved his baton to go on. This act along in the minds of the thousands placed him in a class by himself they say.

At the conclusion of the number Jack broke down completely but was buoyed up by the thousands of admirers.

While it is indefinite when the band will come home, arrangements should be made tentatively and when the word is received, when they will arrive, Fostoria will be all set to give them the welcome they deserve.



AWARD PRESENTED—Captain W. H. Santelman, director U.S. Marine Band, Washington D.C., awarding first prize ribbon to J. W. Wainwright, director Fostoria High School Band, winners of the first prize, National School Band Contest of America, June 1923.

When one considers that our band came from the smallest town of any entered in the contest, we certainly should be pleased at the showing and be on hand to WELCOME THEM HOME.

Phones of Review and Editor Busy

From 6 o'clock until the time of going to press today the Review phones and been ringing almost continuously with anxious ones seeking any word from Chicago relative to the band contest winners. Last night the Review phone was busy until almost midnight as was the phone at the home of the Editor of the Review and of course information was gladly given.

Let'em Toot, 'Twill Make 'Em, Says Musician

Chicago, June 7. — What America needs is a "horn for every boy," declared P. W. Dykema of the University of Wisconsin's music school in an address before the annual convention of the Music Merchant's Association. "The musician wishes more music, not for its own sake, but for its citizenship value."

"Community music also makes better citizens," he said.

"Every man, woman and child needs to sing more frequently." . . .

The article goes on to promote more music in society.

Page one, right column, a collection of short items:

Music Secretary Congratulates Fostoria

Chicago, June 7 — Fostoria is to be congratulated on the

wonderful showing made in the contest today. You may expect very good news before closing Thursday.

PATRICK HENRY,
Secretary, Schools Band
Contest of America.

Band Sets Pace in Morale and Neatness

Rev. J. A. Baynton arrived this morning from Chicago, where he visited the Fostoria Band about an hour last evening. He saw the boys file into the Drake Hotel, where they were to play for the dinner hour and also for a dance there last evening, but he was unable to wait and hear from then on account of his train leaving so early.

He reports that the Fostoria Band is setting the morale for the entire company of bands. In most every case the band leader abandons the boys when they arrive in Chicago and goes on a trip of his own, leaving the boys to their own devices. However Mr. Wainwright, the director of the Fostoria Band is with the boys and he also reports that our band is very well marshaled.

Mr. Baynton visited the Municipal Pier where the boys are quartered, and while there he talked to the man who has charge of housing the bands. He said that Fostoria was certainly to be congratulated on the boys in their band, also that they were the pride of the building inasmuch as their quarters were so neatly kept.

Howard St. John Writes

In a postal to his father, Howard St. John writes that the band seemed to make a big hit with its contest number and already offers had been made to the band to play several

engagements in Chicago before they return home.

Chicago, June 7 —

Been in Chicago four days and most of the Windy City know of us. From the greatest assortment of boys' bands in United States, we are slowly emerging to some place near the point.

Leading musicians gathered here have congratulated our band and its director so much that praise has become a common factor of daily life.

Decision will reach Fostoria at three this afternoon.

J. M. Jerpe.

2,000 At Drake Hotel

In a wire from W. S. Patterson who is with the Band in Chicago he says that 2,000 people heard the band play their concert last night at the Drake hotel and loudly applauded them.

"The boys have won in their contest as gentlemen and the worst we can get as musicians will be honorable mention, but I look for something even better."

Reports Thick and Fast

There were reports on the street this afternoon that an operator at the B&O had picked up a message going over the wire that Fostoria and another band were playing off a tie for first place.

Also it was reported this morning on the street, via the grapevine, that the Fostoria band had scored 48 points out of a possible 50.

With the excitement as keen as it was in Fostoria for the past 24 hours, any report didn't take long to be circulated.

Fostoria Band Will Be In Big Demand

With the winning of First Prize in the National Band Contest at Chicago, the Fostoria High School Band undoubtedly will receive scores of offers from Chautauquas, Theaters, Resorts, etc. for engagements. And no matter where they play, it has now been completely documented that the boys are probably capable of putting over anything they may attempt.

CHICAGO EVENING POST,
page 1

Fostoria High Is Winner of School Band Tournament

Harrison Tech and Hyde Park Win Second and Fourth Prizes

Fostoria, Ohio, high school's band was awarded the scholastic brass band championship of the United States and \$1000 at the close today of the school band contest conducted in connection with the convention of the Music Industries Chamber of commerce.

Harrison Technical high school and . . .

The announcement of ratings as judged by Capt. W. H. Santelmann, leader of the United States Marine Corps Band, was made after the twenty-seven bands in the tournament had paraded the loop and then played all together in Grand Park. Part of the concert, which included "The Star Spangled Banner", "American Faire!", and "Stars and Stripes Forever", was conducted by Raymond Baird, 7 years old.

. . . The article goes on to name other winners and participants. Concludes with a report on the "midnight frolic" to be held at the Drake Hotel, with the participation of seven orchestras. . .

CHICAGO DAILY NEWS,
page 2 or 3.

Two Chicago Bands Win Money Prizes

Harrison, Second in Contest, Hyde Park Fourth; Fostoria O., in First Place

CHAPTER 3. FOSTORIA PLANS A BIG WELCOME

FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 1923

CHICAGO AMERICAN, Friday, June 8, page 1 of General News Section.

Fostoria Ohio, Wins School Band Meet

The high school band of Fostoria, O., today won the first prize in the band contest held in Grand Park and conducted by the National Music Trades Convention.

Two Chicago high schools . . .

With horns of all sizes the school assailed Chicago with every selection in the band category. All bands joined in the mass concert at 3 p.m. and the forty-five bands, led by "Little Sousa", a boy of 7, blew music that shook the Congress Hotel.

"The prizes were given on a percentage system of fifty points," said Captain W. H. Santelmann of the United State

Marines, chief judge. "Ten points each were allowed for tone quality, expression, intonation, and precision."

The ten schools next in order received \$100 each. More than fifty schools were represented, twenty-six coming from other states.

CHICAGO DAILY TRIBUNE, Friday, June 8, page 1

Page one featured an almost full-page photo of the massed band concert.

Captioned: GRAND FINALE. Massed bands of high school students playing on the lake front at the close of the

brass band contest, which was won by the band from Fostoria, O., the prize being \$1000. The conductor of this huge body of musicians was the youthful leader of the Fostoria band. Second prize of \$500 went to Harrison Tech of Chicago. \$300

to Council Bluffs, Ia., and \$200 to Hyde Park. Awards of \$100 were made to the bands of twenty-two other high schools. The contest was held in connection with the convention of the music industries.

FOSTORIA DAILY REVIEW, Friday, June 8, page 1 several articles and continues on page 3.

Heroic Sons of Fostoria to Return From the Field of Conquest Sunday Evening

Sweeping Victory at Chicago Puts "City's Pride" in a Class by Themselves; Home Coming Welcome to be a Tribute to Their Fidelity.

How Contest Was Scored

Fostoria's mark was 34 out of a possible 40. Ten points was perfect — Fostoria was given 9 for tone quality, 7 for intonation, 10 for precision and 8 for expression.

The Fostoria, Ohio, National Championship High School band will arrive home

from Chicago Sunday afternoon at 5:38 over the Nickel Plate.

All Fostoria want to be at the station then, ready to give them the WELCOME HOME they deserve.

The boys will leave Chicago at 10:35 A.M. on two special cars attached to the regular train. Shortly after they leave Chicago they will have the exclusive use of the diner until all of them have had their dinner. The two cars will be taken off the train here.

All other bands left Chicago immediately after the announcement of the winners. The Fostoria boys now are sightseeing in an educational way.

Every man, women and child who is able to be there, not alone for the reason that they have been declared National Champions and have won the \$1,000 prize, but something far greater — they have won the admiration and plaudits of thousands for their Christian-like character and behavior during their entire stay in Chicago.

So Fostoria should show them the honor that is due them and that those who aim high in constructive ideals are faithfully, enthusiastically and conscientiously recognized as the real heroes of life.

The Boosters Committee are now at work outlining a

simple reception as far as ostentation is concerned, feeling that the boys' thoughts will be first of parents and home, but all want to be on hand to say at least, "We're mighty proud of you."

Details for the reception will be published in THE REVIEW tomorrow, but right now date yourself for the Nickel Plate station for Sunday afternoon, June 10, at 5:38.

Sharps and Flats From Windy City

"Boys, I'm proud of you. I have talked rough to you at times, possibly mean and peevish and have been unstrung for weeks past, but it was for your own good largely and I" — and that was as far as Jack Wainwright got in his speech to the boys following the announcement that they were national champions, for a chorus of boys shouted, "Oh, keep still, Jack, you have said nothing to us that we did not deserve and we're for you 100 per cent strong as we always have been.

That's the spirit shown by both the boys and their leader and the same spirit that carried the leader and band into the National Championship.

The boys were in the Auditorium hotel parlor at this time.

Then the boys went to eat where one of the delegates to the Music convention inquired of Jack Wainwright where he could see the national champions.

"There they are," said Jack, "look them over."

You don't mean it," replied the stranger, "well, I am more proud of them more than ever

now, for I want to day to you that they are the best behaved bunch I have even seen, perfect gentlemen in every particular, clean and snappy looking and acting as if they were out to a meal with their best girl."

Following the announcement of the winner, Bill Richards rushing wildly up to Jack, threw both arms around his neck and kissed him on both sides of the cheek before the 75,000 people.

And speaking of osculation, following a concert at the Drake Hotel as one of the three midgets, Billy Lamp, Jimmie Carter and Charles Carroll, had played, a richly attired woman broke through the band circle and grabbed the three youngsters, throwing her arms as far around the three as she could and kissed them most vehemently, with tears streaming down her face at the same time.

The Fostoria band had almost the largest number of pieces, the average of all the 40 bands being about 52; Hyde Park had 65.

So positive was the Allegheny, Pa., band of winning first prize that they did not have enough money to get home with, as they figured on using the prize money.

Bands from Gary, Louisville and Cedar Rapids all were boasting openly that there was nothing to the contest but their own organization, while no such speech or anything bordering on it came from the members of the Fostoria band.

Some of the organizations wore most wonderful suits, the Gary uniforms costing in the neighborhood of \$125 a piece, the money being donated by wealthy women of the steel town.

The Cedar Rapids band was accompanied by a large delegation of citizens from the Iowa town with a woman in charge. This band also played the "The Bohemian Girl" as their contest number and the woman made inquiry when the Fostoria boys were to play. She was on hand through all of the F. H. S. number, but was never seen after that.

While the Fostoria boys were practicing Tuesday the white leader of the colored H. S. band from Hannibal, Mo., was a most interested spectator. After the practice had been concluded the leader went up to Jack Wainwright and in a sobbing tone congratulated Jack and the boys for their wonderful work shown even in practice and said that he was not going to have his band play in the contest now, so far superior was the Fostoria band to his own. Jack, in his demure way, accepted the congratulations and prevailed upon this leader to stay in the contest which he did.

While the contest was on and after the Fostoria boys had played, Prof. Warren was standing listening to one of the other bands playing. He noticed a man next to him very much interested and who was a total stranger what he thought of the contest. The man replied that it was wonderful.

"What band is the best in your estimation thus far?" asked Mr. Warren of the stranger.

“Those boys standing off there wearing those red capes will come mighty near winning the first prize,” replied the stranger, and he didn’t know Mr. Warren either.

And speaking of Mr. Warren brings a good story to light. Of course everybody knows that he went along to assist with the boys in any way, keeping them from danger, free from pickpockets and slickers, etc., but when Mr. Warren went to pay for a meal on Tuesday he discovered, much to his surprise and chagrin, that one of those self same slickers from whom he was guarding the Fostoria boys, had “nipped his poke” containing \$40; and that probably accounts for his wiring home to one of his friends, “Please send me some more money.”

Good eats and sleeps have been given the boys, according to the reports brought back home today.

The band played at the auditorium last night and were guests of the Harrison theater; this morning they went to Lincoln Park where they visited the greatest zoo in the world; this afternoon they are guests at the Boston-Chicago National League baseball game and tonight at the Chicago theater.

Tomorrow morning they will visit the wonderful Field’s Museum.

They were offered an engagement at the Chicago theater which seats 5,000 people for next week, but it was not considered at this time.

In addition to winning the cash prize of \$1000, they also won a number of special prizes donated by different musical firms, the greatest being a \$550 set of kettle drums; other prizes were reed instruments.

The kettle drums were given by the Leedy Mfg. Co. of Indianapolis. Mr. Leedy was born and spent much of his early life in Fostoria, his father having a drum factory years ago on S. Main street. He is a brother-in-law of Tom Hatchet of this city.

Three Fostorians who accompanied the band made up a prize for the boys who kept the finest bunk to be inspected by the regular army major in charge of the pier sleeping rooms. The boys in Chuck Hunt’s “apartment” won although the major had a mighty hard time picking the best one.

One of the boys developed a little sore throat and a Fostorian took him to the doctor of the Auditorium hotel and introduced the little chap as one of the national champs, who had contracted a sore throat playing his instrument. “Well, I am glad to meet him,” said the doctor, and he proceeded with the swab following which he wrote a prescription.

“How much?” said the Fostorian, and you can imagine the Fostorian’s surprise when the doctor without blinking an eye said, “Five dollars,” and the Fostorian paid it.

This Fostorian insisted that his name not be used but he’s back home now.

The wonderful kidding spirit that prevailed, indicative of the high morale maintained

through the fine and most effective and painstaking work done by Jack Jerpe, F. H. Warren, Milo Lloyd, Glenn Grace and Lester Switzer, is indicated by their repartee which followed after Jack Wainwright had kidded one of the boys about ordering 4 or 5 desserts.

“Hey, cut that out; you don’t need as much dessert as that, besides you never get that much at home.”

“You don’t get any according to the way you look, ‘skinny’, laughingly replied the boy. And the boy got the dessert.

Fostoria won and it won against 40 of finest bands in the country.

The difference in directing bands was in evidence during the contest. Directors, with one exception, assembled their bands on the platform; told them what to do, to fix their music, straighten their horns, etc. That exception was Jack Wainwright. The boys knew what to do when they hit the platform and they did it and didn’t move a muscle. Jack walked up the five steps to the platform to the director’s stand and the band was OFF on the “Bohemian Girl”. It made a big hit.

Elks Adopt Resolution, page 3

Mr. J. W. Wainwright, Director and members of the F. H. S. Band.

Fostoria Lodge B. P. O. Elks Number Nine Thirty-Five unanimously adopted a resolution at tonight’s meeting that it was most fitting to send Past Exalted Ruler and Grand District Deputy, Ohio

Northwest, Geo. A. Snyder, as a personal representative to convey their congratulations on your most wonderful achievement at the National Band Contest today. This Lodge and all Fostoria is proud of the honors that are yours. Hats off to the Greatest Director of the Best Boys' Band in the United States.

Sincerely yours,
C. C. KINSEY,
Exalted Ruler
C. D. FRY, Secretary
June 7, 1923

Country Club Sends a Wire page 3

The following is the wire sent to Jack Wainwright and the Band that night by the Fostoria Country Club:

Fostoria Country Club
House, June 7.

One hundred and seventy-five members of the Fostoria Country Club are celebrating your wonderful victory here in the club house tonight. Notwithstanding that you anticipated many bunkers, sand traps, holes and the rough, we are pleased indeed to learn that you kept in the middle of the fairway, using the right club and iron and the right time and place. We congratulate you. Your wife is an honored guest here tonight

The Fostoria Country Club

Review Leads by 24 Hours

Gratified and pleased over the victory of the Fostoria High School band at Chicago? Well, we should say we were for we consider ourselves true and loyal Fostorians and firmly believe in boosting and getting back of any real project that has for its aim, constructive and

unselfish ideals, and what could be finer than that to get back of the F. H. S. band boys, the leads of today and the leaders of tomorrow. The clay from which we are moulding the patterns for the constructive foundations of the future.

And with this rejoicing in the success of the band, THE REVIEW is doubly proud of the fact that continued to LEAD BY 24 HOURS. This was again demonstrated last night when THE REVIEW gave its readers not only the first news of the victory but a real story while come other people who do not have the wonderful news connection which the REVIEW has was running around in circles trying to find out something from Chicago, telephoning hither and thither, backward and forward.

So we say we are mighty gratified with the double victory and pleased again as usual to LEAD BY 24 HOURS and give the REVIEW readers the news when it is news.

The following Block text was a near repeat of the block text from June 7, Thursday

Let's give the Fostoria band a real reception when it arrives home.

Let's show the boys that are proud of their record in Chicago.

While it is indefinite when the band will come home, arrangements should be made tentatively and when the word is received, when they will arrive, Fostoria will be all set to give them the welcome they deserve.

When one considers that our band came from the smallest town of any entered in the contest, we certainly should be

pleased at the showing and be on hand to WELCOME THEM HOME.

They not only have played wonderful music in Chicago and every single report, without exception, says the BOYS WERE PERFECT GENTLEMEN AT ALL TIMES AND WERE A CREDIT TO FOSTORIA.

Let's all meet them when they come home.

Flower Shower for the Returning Band

Plans were made this noon to shower the band with flowers from the balcony of the Hays Hotel as the parade passes. All mothers and friends of the band boys who have flowers for this purpose please notify Mose Lloyd or B. M. Solomon at once.

Here is the yell — start learning it now:

10-20-30,
1-2-3-4,
Fostoria High School Band,
Rah-Rah-Rah

Everybody walks — keep your cars at home.

Watch for complete details of reception in REVIEW tomorrow.

Toot-Tooting Puts Fostoria On Music Map

Says Chicago Herald-Examiner

Fostoria, O., was blown right smack into the center of the musical map of the United States yesterday by its . . . (missing line.)

The youthful musicians, rating 34 out of a possible 40 points, won the national high school championship and its \$1000 prize: Harrison, Chicago,

32; Council bluffs, Ia., 31; Hyde Park, Chicago, 30.

The awards, based on scoring by Capt. W. H. Santelman, director of the United States Marine Corps Band, were announced after a

parade thru the loop and a "massed" concert in Grant Park, in which the competing bands took part.

Led by "Little Sousa"

In the latter Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever," was played with Raymond Bard, 7, a musical prodigy known as "Little Sousa," directing the mass of musicians.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 1923

FOSTORIA DAILY REVIEW, page 1, several articles

Wainwright Leads Massed Bands at Chicago with full width photo from Chicago Tribune

Boys Getting Anxious to Return Home

PRIZES WON BY BAND

Cash	\$1000
Set of tympani drums	\$450
One Silver Clarinet	\$160
One Haynes Flute.	\$168
Total	\$1778

The boys had an opportunity to play last night for \$500 but they needed the rest more than the money.

Chicago - Staff Special, June 9
The National School Boy Band Champions spent Friday at the Fields Museum and at the Chicago Cubs-Boston game. In the evening they were the guests of the Chicago Theater.

The greatest moment of the Chicago trip was when the Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, Band marched to the stand playing. The Champions were then in the midst of the contest number that meant everything for them. It was evident to all that Jack and the boys were annoyed. Wainwright stopped and faced the other band and allowed them to finish. Then he faced the Champs, picked up the

break without a flow and amid deafening applause the crowd showed approval of courtesy and finished music. Saturday we bathe at the Y, go to Lincoln Park and say bye on Sunday when comes the real treat — HOME.

From Mrs. Wainwright

When Mrs. J. W. Wainwright was informed of the victory of the band and was asked what she thought of it, she said in her most charming and demure way; "Of course, I am delighted not only for Jack's sake and my own, but for the sake of those friends who have stood so loyally behind him."

To Miss McDermott
Chicago, Ill.

Miss Ida McDermott
Principal Fostoria High School
Fostoria, Ohio.

Dear Madame:

Lane Technical High School congratulates Fostoria upon its wonderful success in the recent band competition in the city of Chicago. I heard the Fostoria Band and was greatly pleased with its work, although I knew their good work would eliminate Lane Band from the contest.

Yours truly,
(Signed) Wm. L. Bogan,
Principal

" Pat Home"

After spending almost the entire week with the band boys in Chicago, W. S. Patterson returned home last evening bringing glowing accounts in every particular of the work and behavior of the band boys and their leader.

"If anyone had told me and I did not see it, that any crowd of 65 people, men or women, boys or girls, could go to Chicago for a week, receive the honors such as were bestowed upon our band boys, and still maintain their dignity and most wonderful (missing text)

(page 5) whether it was before or after the contest.

"Our boys played as they never played before and under most trying conditions, but they were equal to the occasion."

"The Drake hotel folks were so taken with the band that whenever a concert was to be played in the hotel, the management insisted on the Fostoria band and would take no other.

"The boys are in fine health and since the contest have been sightseeing almost every minute and no doubt they will come back with wonderful stories of this most wonderful trip."

In a letter to THE REVIEW today, one of the Boosters still in Chicago with the band writes of the fine work done during the week by Mr. Patterson, Jack Jerpa, F. H. Warren, Milo Lloyd and visitors from Fostoria in keeping up the morale of both the band and the director. Always on the job, says the writer, and the smile and slap on the back and cheery word were big factors in the victory.

We Did and Will

A Chicago friend of Clarence Brown wrote him the following this morning: "Send me copies of the Bingville Thunder containing stories about the band. If the natives don't appreciate the work of the band, they should be roasted good and plenty.

Brownie's friend got what he wanted.

Invite G.A.R.

The Norris Post No. 27, G. A. R. have been invited by the American Legion to attend the Colonial theater as their guests Tuesday afternoon.

If You Can't Walk, Ride!

While we want everything on foot, if possible, nevertheless we want nobody to stay away if they are unable to walk, so those who cannot walk are most cordially invited to get in their cars and join the parade after the footers have passed by.

"Everybody Out" is the watchword.

Band to Get "Cleaning"

The Sanitary Cleaning Works dry cleaned all the F. H. S. Band Uniforms before they went to Chicago free of charge and promised them to clean all their suits free if they won first prize at Chicago. Looks as if

they are in for a cleaning time next week.

Hail, Fostoria, Hail, page 1

On behalf of the art of music I congratulate you for having so good an organization as the Fostoria High School Band. You people ought to be proud and hold in high esteem such an organization. Let every one in Fostoria, the rich and poor contribute much or little for the financial support of the band — enlarge it in number, improve it with good instruments, and encourage the boys to pursue their studies.

The moment I heard the opening bars of the score I knew Mr. Wainwright was a leader and that his boys were musicians; I followed the selection carefully listening with a critical ear to the musical tones that intoxicated the souls of every music lover in the audience, and when the end came I recognized the good technique, expression, and the wonderful tone color with which they rendered the composition — last and most essential was the ensemble playing which reminded me of the ensemble of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

The contest held in Chicago was only for amateur bands, but I must say that the Fostoria band is far from being classed thus, for its work shows that it was been cultivated under the baton of an intelligent director. They played their number with much taste and musicality both, which qualities won the decision of every music critic.

It was my pleasure to facilitate Mr. Wainwright after the performance, and I foretold him the victory of the band — then I had the privilege of meeting Mr. F. H. Warren and

Mr. Lloyd to whom I said that I was not from Fostoria or had even been there, but that I had no doubt that the band was the best in the contest and sure enough, they got the first prize.

Now Fostorians, help the boys and let them not be satisfied because they won the first prize this year, assist them to keep up the good work for there are to be other contests and more contestants in the future and they must not give the first place to others. Do thus, for a brilliant future awaits them.

Yours in the Art of Music
DAVID RAMIREZ,
Chicago, Music Critic

Picture of the Band; Compliments Review, page 1

With the compliments of THE REVIEW and through the courtesy of the Boy Scout Troop No. 3, the wonderful 7 column half tone picture of the National Champion High School Band which you all know comes from Fostoria, O., printed on book paper were placed in the windows of many of the down town stores this afternoon.

Any one desiring one of these pictures to place in their window or on the windshield of their auto, when the boys come home Sunday, can secure same with the compliments of The Review at the REVIEW office. Come in early.

Fostoria High Band Babies Interviewed, page 1, continued on page 4

A rambling account, originally published in the Chicago Evening American, Tuesday, June 5, 1923, under

the title: HORACE SAYS
MUSIC LURE UNCHANGED.
An excerpt republished
on page 8.

Reception in a Nutshell

page 1

Here are the details as arranged by the Band Booster Committee, for the Home Coming Reception of the National High School Band Champions.

Everybody on foot at the Nickel Plate station Sunday afternoon at 5:38. Please keep your machines at home.

Get a flag, meet the train and follow the bands.

City Band and Girls Band invited to lead procession.

Boy Scouts to carry large American Flag at head of parade, then bands, the only autos to be allowed in parade carrying Jack Wainwright, his wife and children, Jack and Betty, Supt. F. H. Warren, Miss Ida McDermott, Jack Jerpe, Milo Lloyd, W. S. Patterson, Glenn Grace, B. M. Solomon, R. C. Guernsey, Harold Switzer; both cars to be decorated.

Reception committee will take Mrs. Wainwright and children and Miss McDermott to McComb in autos and board the train there.

Fred and Tad Morrison to arrange for suitable banners.

Boy Scouts to see to the placing of Welcome Home pictures of the band in windows and carry flags.

Scores of girls to be located on balcony at Hays House and shower band with flowers as they pass. Mothers and friends asked to give flowers and so notify B. M. Solomon or E. C. Lloyd.

Harry Mumma to look after bands.

Parade to start from Nickel Plate station then north on Union to South, east on South on Main; north on Main to Perry, north of Perry to High School and disband.

Everybody invited to hang out flags at least along the line of march.

No speeches just a word of Welcome Home.

Arrangements to be made later for a real feed and grand celebration in the near future.

Clarence Brown to look after badges.

F. M. Hopkins and Dr. V. H. Michener in charge of general arrangements.

Parents urgently requested to allow boys to alight from train join parade to High School and then they can give their worthy offspring a real parental welcome.

Say it With a Cheer!,

page 1.

Everybody happy, well I should say!

So get on your best bib and tucker and with an Old Glory to wave be at the Nickel Plate Station tomorrow, Sunday afternoon at 5:30, so that you can hear the train whistle that is bringing home the National Band Champions who are bringing home the bacon, rind and all.

All Fostoria wants to say Greetings and the Boys are waiting to hear you say it. They have it coming and let's give them what they have coming. It is small in comparison to what they have brought to Fostoria, so it's up to every mother's son and daughter to be on hand and march from the Nickel Plate Station to the High School, where the parade will disband. Remember there are to be no speeches, just the greetings

from thousands of throats as the boys arrive and as they parade to the H. S. building.

The Band Boosters committee have completed all arrangements and it's up now to Old Sol to shine his prettiest and do his part.

Even if the train is late, and Bob Hunt almost promises that it won't be and he says he will do his best to have it on time, but even if it is, what difference does it make, for can't we have a fine social time rubbing elbows with our neighbors and telling them how happy and delighted everybody is over the wonderful victory and what a grand and glorious feeling we all have.

Hang out the Stars and Stripes and those living along the line of march should hang out at least two for it's an honor to you to have the National Champions pass by your very door. That's real posterity stuff and don't overlook having Old Glory floating from the homes.

Boy Scouts this afternoon willingly distributed Welcome Home Pictures of the band given as compliments of The Review to all who desired to place them in their windows or on their auto windshields.

So be on foot Sunday afternoon at the Nickel Plate Station at 5:38 and see that your neighbor is there also.

Yells For the Victors

Alright all loyal students of the Fostoria High School, says Cheer Leader Krupp, be on hand at 5:38 Sunday afternoon at the Nickel Plate Station and give our Victorious High School Band some rousing cheers of welcome and appreciation for their efforts. Let's show 'em we're for 'em and bring husky lungs!

Pages 4-5: photos, ads of congratulations and welcome home from Fostoria businesses, including the following articles.

Achievements of Fostoria

The wonderful achievement of the High School Band in winning a clean cut victory in the contest at Chicago adds another National Honor to the collection of which Fostoria is justly proud. Fostoria has a nationwide reputation as a railroad center, a city of thriving

industries and is Nationally known for its athletic teams and individual athletes, for its beautiful women, in facial beauty and perfection of figure, and now the latest National honor in music circles.

Some of the many things through which Fostoria has been brought into prominence are:

National Band Champions

The best High School Boys' Band in the country, winners of the National Band Contest in Chicago, June 7, 1923. Not only

the finest band but the best leader of the finest band, Director Jack Wainwright, whose careful and patient training of the young musicians and absolute control of the situation at all times and under all circumstances scored heavily in bringing the honors to Fostoria.

The column continues with brief articles about other honors received in the past by Fostorians

CHAPTER 4. THE CHAMPIONS RETURN HOME

MONDAY, JUNE 11, 1923

FOSTORIA DAILY TIMES,
page 1

Like the Conquering Heroes of Old Fostoria's Victorious Band Received in Showering Flowers

Front page: Republished photo of Jimmy Carter with a Sousaphone. Captioned "When Jimmy Toots His Tooter Ter Toot." Jimmy Carter of Fostoria, Ohio, High School Band, who blows a horn twice as big as he is at the National School Band tournament. Photo by Chicago Evening American staff photographer.

Reception One Long to Be Remembered as Epoch in the City's March to Lasting Fame and Progress

Completely surprised and overjoyed was Jack Wainwright yesterday afternoon when Mrs. Wainwright, Betty, and little Jack boarded the train to give their welcome to the husband and father.

And there was not a dry face in that entire car as wife and children were taken into the arms of the husband and father.

And everybody was proud of the fact that their hearts were such that the tears flowed copiously.

A part of the reception committee drove Mrs. Wainwright, children and Miss Ida McDermott, whom every scholar in High or even ever attended High loves, to McComb to meet the homecoming heroes.



The party got aboard the first coach, Mrs. Wainwright and children being put in the lead followed by Miss McDermott, B. M. Solomon, O. C. Harding, R. C. Guernsey and W. F. Mauer, when they hit the last two coaches where the band boys were, the ovation was tremendous and the ladies were stopped at every seat, in fact when the boys spied Miss McDermott coming into their

coach, they grabbed for their coats and hats and started to slick up their hair. The party finally reached the rear coach and Jack was seated in the middle of the car. He spied his family and with a shout of joy and tears streaming down his face he grabbed them all and then — everybody cried for joy. The meeting was a most happy one and a scene never to be forgotten.

Had Enough Money for Trip

When it comes to handling the cash and looking after the financial end of the trip, hand it to Milo Lloyd is the universal opinion of those who were with the band constantly on the trip.

An itemized statement of the amount received and the expenditures will be made up today by Mr. Lloyd and published in THE REVIEW tomorrow. From present indications, Mrs. Lloyd says that there will be at least \$100 left in the fund raised for the Chicago trip.

Included were about \$275 for coats, ties, collars, suitcases for music and banner.

In speaking of the trip Mr. Lloyd said — It is impossible to estimate the value in dollars and cents, of the publicity given Fostoria. On the street — in street cars, at the pier, on the trains, in the hotels people were talking about Fostoria and the wonderful band and one of the best parts of the whole award is that the decision was a universally popular one. Those who heard the different bands play did not hesitate to say that Fostoria won it on merit.

Thanks for Making Trip Possible

“After the Fostoria Band had played, the director of the Louisville aggregation came to me and said: Supt. Warren, I am satisfied that your band will take first place, much as I dislike to think that we will be beaten” said Supt. F. H. Warren this morning.

“And this seemed to be the almost universal opinion around the Municipal Pier.

“Our boys played music and they marched with clock like precision and were constantly on their toes; I am proud of every one of them and I know that we all appreciate also the wonderful director we have in Jack Wainwright. He is a marvel.

“We are mighty grateful to those who made it possible for us to enter this contest.”

Citizens Turn Out Enmasse, Greeting the National High School Band Champions With Wild Acclaim

Never has there been such a homecoming for a school boy organization — never were returning Victors greeted with a more whole-hearted and spontaneous tribute of welcome

than that given the Fostoria High School Band Boys when they arrived home from Chicago yesterday afternoon.

With the flush of victory still on their faces, eyes shining with the light of having accomplished a notable achievement and yet eager for a sight of home, parents, and friends the members of the band clambered from their two private coaches directly into the waiting arms of all Fostoria.

Acclaimed National Champions, awarded the honor of being the finest school boy band in the United States, petted, praised and royally entertained at every turn during their stay in Chicago, yet the band returned to Fostoria apparently unaffected by the heights into which they had been whirled, the same fine appearing, unassuming organization of young musicians and true gentlemen that left the city a week ago; a high school band then, National Champions now.

The boys were extremely happy to be home again, justly proud of their wonderful victory and eager to hear the approval and praise that, after all, is the only praise that really counts —



ANOTHER SCENE AT THE NICKEL PLATE, CROWDS AWAITING TRAIN



that of the friends in the old home town.

Thousands at Station.

Thousands of Fostoria and people from the rural districts crowded the platform and all available space in the vicinity of the Nickel Plate station a half hour or more before the train was scheduled to arrive, all anxious for the first glimpse of the returning champs. The crowds kept coming until standing room was at a premium and to move a few inches in any direction meant the trampling of some one's pet corn. But the good natured, happy crowd didn't mind, in fact they didn't know whether they were walking on their own feet of some one else's.

Automobiles were parked by the hundreds filling every available nook and corner near the station and a solid string of machines lined both sides of the streets along the line of march from the depot to the high school building. The sidewalks from curb to buildings were also lined through the entire length

of the march by people who were unable to fight their way to a vantage point near the station.

Meet Train at McComb

Mrs. Jack Wainwright and children, Miss Ida McDermott and part of the reception committee, Messrs. B. M. Solomon, R. C. Guernsey and W. F. Maurer, O. C. Harding, were taken by auto to McComb where they boarded the train and accompanied the boys into Fostoria, giving them the first hint that a royal welcome was awaiting them upon their arrival here. The trip to McComb was made in the Will Daub automobile. Bill hated to miss the reception here, but like every one else he was out to make the home-coming a memorable one and he went with the one hope of beating the train back to Fostoria.

Pandemonium

As the train pulled in, and on time at that, with the two private coaches hooked to the

rear, pandemonium broke loose; a mighty cheer went up from thousands of throats, factory whistles were blown, bands played and a deafening din that nearly drowned out everything else, arose from the chorus of automobile horns. This "auto chorus" marked the passing of Jack Wainwright and his sixty-odd young musicians all along the line of march and was given a strong accompaniment by the hand clapping and cheers of the throngs.

Floral Baton for "Jack"

The happy crowds surged about the train as the boys files off, all eager to throw a word of congratulation and praise for the National Champs, to shake hands with them or give them a hearty pat on the shoulder as they passed. Many of the boys were smiling broadly while some were rather sober in their modesty. That they were all rather "stumped" at the magnitude of their reception and welcome-home was evident on their faces as the train pulled

SCENE ON MAIN STREET AS BOYS ARRIVE



in; a look that soon turned to pleasure and enjoyment.

As Jack Wainwright, the Best Director of the Finest Boys' Band in the United States, stepped from the train, he was presented with a baton, which although beautiful in the extreme, he will never be able to use in directing the band. It was a large floral design of surprising beauty, constructed of deep red carnations in the upper half and pure white in the lower, with a red and white streamer tied around the center.

This beautiful tribute was from Emerson Sackett. Two other equally beautiful designs were presented, one to Jack Wainwright and the other to Mrs. Wainwright from B. J. Enright, by Jimmy Crawford, Boy Scout Gold Medal Winner. The super director was touched too deeply by the big demonstration and the honors

showered upon him and his band to make a statement to those assembled and none was expected, in fact the tumult was so great that a speech would have been impossible. How Jack feels and the fact that he generously gives all the credit for the wonderful achievement to the members of the band is well known.

Shower of Flowers

With the band guarded on both sides by Boy Scouts, under direction of Clarence Brown, carrying long continuous streamers of Red and Black, the procession moved out on its march to the high school. The parade was headed by Boy Scouts, under Scoutmaster T. H. McDowell, carrying a large American Flag, followed by the City Band which with the Ladies Band kept up a continuous lively march. In the rear of the City

Band came two automobiles occupied by Jack Wainwright, Mrs. Wainwright and two children, Supt. F. H. Warren, Miss Ida McDermott, Jack Jerpe, Milo Lloyd, W. S. Patterson, Glenn Grace, B. M. Solomon, R. C. Guernsey, Mrs. F. H. Warren and Harold Switzer. The automobiles were followed by the high school band marching by twos and not playing as their instruments were cased and packed away. The Ladies' Band came next and was followed by hundreds of citizens and band boosters on foot. Automobiles brought up the rear.

As the procession passed the Hays Hotel on Main street, scores of pretty girls appeared on the hotel balcony with their arms filled with flowers. As the high school band reached this point, the procession was halted for just a few seconds while a

BOY SCOUT TROOP CARRYING "OLD GLORY"



shower of flowers rained down on the Champions.

No Time Lost

There was no time lost at any stage of the reception, even the train was on schedule. Through the excellent and efficient work of the reception committee in charge of Messrs. V. H. Michner and F. M. Hopkins the procession was under way a very few minutes after the train pulled in. The march to the high school was made in record time. There was no long winded and tiresome speeches of welcome to hinder the boys from getting quickly to their homes. Then the high school building was reached, the doors at the Perry street entrance were opened and the band marched directly inside where they put away their things and were at liberty to go at once. The parents were very considerate in holding back until the parade was finished

before meeting their sons. They were permitted to enter the building with them.

Achievement Appreciated

Some one has said, "Victories that are easy are cheap; those only are worth having which come as the result of determined effort." The demonstration yesterday proved conclusively that Fostorians realize the magnitude of the victory won by the high school band. Those especially who made trips to Chicago during the contest are aware of the great determined effort made by the local musicians in competing with and proving them selves better than any of the wonderful collection of bands that were assembled there for the contest.

To quote some more, this time from Shakespeare, "The man that hath not music in himself and is not moved with

concord of sweet sounds, is fit for treason, stratagems and spoils: let no man trust him." It was a self evident fact that there were no traitors present in the city yesterday, although some were so excited and enthused over the return of the band that they forgot to salute the flag as it passed at the head of the procession.

Decorations

The business section of the city, homes along the line of march and residences in other sections were decorated yesterday in honor of the home coming of the National Band Champions. American flags were in evidence in great profusion. Red and Black streamers and decorations were displayed on many of the store fronts. Automobiles were decorated with flags and hundreds of them carried the picture of the band. The band

pictures also occupies prominent places in the show windows of all the businesses houses in town, all of which shows that Fostoria appreciates the High School Band. What they stand for, what they have done, and what they will do in the future.

From the Returning Boys page 3

Babe Hurst — A wonderful time! The visit to the Field's Museum was equal to a small education.

Myron Liebengood (as the train pulled into Fostoria) — Gee whiz, look at the people, I didn't think there were that many in Seneca county."

Jimmie Carter — "Me for home," and away he went while his father and mother joined in the procession.

Joe Arnold — We had a wonderful time but we are glad to be back home.

Park Burtscher (to a Review reporter as he passed in the parade) — Did you get that night letter I sent you?

To Be Guests at Moose Concert, page 3

The Mooseheart Concert Co. that will be at the high school auditorium Wednesday night, June 13, under the auspices of the Fostoria Moose Lodge are graduates from Mooseheart.

Every member is an accomplished musician and master of several instruments. It will be a great treat for lovers of music to hear the Mooseheart Concert Co. The Fostoria High School Band Champions of United States, will be the guests of the Fostoria Moose lodge at this Concert.

Milo Brings the Check page 3

And before the band left Chicago, the cash prize was turned over to J. W. Wainwright in check form, who promptly handed it over to Milo Lloyd who was acting as treasurer and Milo has the check now. It was in the form of a cashier's check drawn on the Harris Trust and Savings Bank payable to J. W. Wainwright for Fostoria High School Band.

Check No. A210586 and dated June 8, 1923.

Croft Directs Flower Shower, page 1

The flower shower for the high school band given by high school girls from the Hays Hotel balcony yesterday, was supervised by Samuel P. Croft. He kept the weight well proportioned and limited the number allowed on the balcony at one time. This was done to avoid a possible accident as the balcony was not constructed to accommodate a great crowd and it was feared excessive weight might cause a collapse.

Jack Wainwright with Tears Streaming Down Cheeks, Thanks Everybody. page 1

"It is impossible for me to express my appreciation to the loyal citizens of Fostoria for not only their strong support but for this most wonderful and undreamed of reception" declared Jack Wainwright last night after his National Champions had been accorded the greatest greeting ever extended to anyone or anybody in the history of Fostoria.

"If anyone had any credit coming, give it to the boys in the band for they are the ones who delivered. There is not a question of doubt in my mind

but that those boys literally were inspired when they played their contest number: the "Bohemia Girl," was played as we had never played it before, not a single sour note or discord coming during the selection, notwithstanding that we played it under most trying conditions, begin interrupted as you know by another band. But the boys were equal to the occasion and it never rattled them a bit.

"We were treated royally in Chicago and the boys were objects of admiration everywhere they went. We are starting tomorrow getting ready for N. Y., next.

"Just say thanks over and over and to the people of Fostoria for this wonderful reception. I can't express myself in this respect as I would like to."

And then the tears started streaming down the face of this greatest of all leaders of the greatest of all High School Bands.

Jerpe Watched Over The Boys Day And Night, page 3

"Well that beats anything I ever saw," declared the leader of the Louisville, KY., H. S. Band to Jack Wainwright at the Municipal Pier, Wednesday morning after watching a silent chap the night before covering up his boys while they slept and digging up extra clothing for them.

"The next morning this director inquired of Jack Wainwright who that fellow was and Jack said it was Jack Jerpe one of their party.

"What's the best yet," he replied; "Here is one of your men looking after the comforts and welfare of my boys who are to play against you tomorrow morning in this national contest.

You don't know how much I appreciate it, and its hospitality and service I thought existed only theoretically and practically had been forgotten.

"Where is this Jerpe. I want to see and tell him of our appreciation."

And other tell us Jerpe slept but little at nights as he was constantly up and around

tucking the little, as well as the big fellows in, covering up their feet and watching them as dearly as a mother does her children. That's real service.

Conducts Services on Train

Not only did Jack Jerpe constantly look after the

physical needs of the boys but the spiritual as well during the entire trip. On the way home from Chicago, Sunday, Jack held services on the train which was deeply appreciated by the boys and the "guardians."

TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 1923

FOSTORIA DAILY REVIEW, page 1



Indianapolis, Ind., June 9, 1923
Editor, Fostoria Daily Review
Fostoria, Ohio

Dear Sir: — We are mailing you today, under separate cover, a photograph of Mr. U. G. Leedy, president of the Leedy Mfg. Co., of Indianapolis. This is in connection with the presentation by our firm of a set

of "Universal" machine tympani, the value of which is \$400.00 to your band, this being awarded them as the prize winning band at the Chicago contest.

It is quite a co-incident that Mr. Leedy is a native of Fostoria, having been born only six miles from the city in 1867, and his parents moved to Fostoria when he was only four years old. He

resided there until 20 years of age. Mr. Leedy's wife was formerly Miss Zoa Hachet, who also lived in Fostoria the greater part of her girlhood. Mr. Leedy and Miss Hachet were married in Fostoria in 1906.

No doubt your paper is aware of certain other facts concerning him; however, we have included with the photo a

page from our catalog, which gives some further data would you care to use any of it. You have of course seen the photographs and write-ups that have been in the Chicago papers. The writer was there personally and presented the tympani to Mr. Wainwright and would like to state in addition that we believe this is the finest thing that could happen for your city. The attention of the whole City of Chicago was on Fostoria for a considerable period of time, to say nothing of hundreds of other cities in the United States. During a discussion amongst many of the prominent manufacturers at the Drake Hotel it was mentioned by one

and admitted by all that the publicity was worth \$100,000.00 to your City.

We wish to congratulate you most heartily and hope to see your band at every one of these tournaments and we would like to lay a little extra stress on the fact that you are exceedingly fortunate in having such an energetic worker as Mr. Wainwright and the slogan "Better the boy carry a horn than a musket" is one worthy of adoption for boys' bands all over the country and there is some talk of doing this.

Trusting you will send us copy of the paper regarding the band and again extending our congratulations we remain,

Yours very truly,
LEEDY MANUFACTURING CO.,
Inc.
By Geo. H. Way, Sales Manager.

The Leedy factory is the largest Drum Manufacturing plant in the world. It contains 25 departments and covers fifty thousand square feet of floor space. After leaving Fostoria, Mr. Leedy became a professional drummer of National note. Becoming dissatisfied with the quality of drums in general, he decided to try to make better ones himself, starting in a single room in 1898 at Indianapolis. In 25 years his plant has grown to be the largest of its kind in the world.

As the town slowly returned to normal after the excitement of welcoming home the championship band, there were additional items in the newspaper about the availability of band photos, a display of the instruments the band had won, and the tributes and banquets organized by various local organizations.

CHAPTER 5. BAND CONTESTS AFTER 1923

The first national band competition for schools, held in 1923 in Chicago, was organized by the National Music Supervisors Conference and the Band Instruments Manufacturer's Association. The intent was to encourage the growth of instrumental music in schools and thereby increase the sale of more instruments.

Following the 1923 "tournament", the Music Supervisors National Conference composed a list of rules that would encourage high school bands to improve their performance to a level that could be showcased in a national competition and compiled competition rules that were more fair. For example, by using a panel of judges instead of just one; by creating a list of acceptable compositions from which to choose; and by creating divisions based on the student population so that bands from large schools would not compete with bands from small schools. One of the changes was the formation of state contests. The champion of each state would then compete in the national contest.

OHIO STATE BAND CONTESTS OF 1924 AND 1925

1924 OHIO STATE CONTEST

While the committee on Instrumental Affairs was drawing plans for another national contest, Ohio was busy organizing the first Ohio State School band contest which was held June 5-7, 1924, in Fostoria.

The Fostoria Band Boosters were in charge of providing meals and housing for eight school bands during their Fostoria stay. The boosters found local citizens who would extend this kind of hospitality. The boosters also provided printed signs for automobiles which read, "**HOP IN...BAND BOOSTERS**". These cars provided free transportation around town for visitors.

Saturday morning, June 7, was devoted to a review of the bands and included a few light-hearted competitions. The bands competed for the best marching band, the best appearing band, the best appearing drum major, and the best looking bass drummer, the last to be judged by three Fostoria High School girls. Following this, there was a massed band concert featuring *Stars and Stripes Forever*, by Sousa, *Office of the Day* by Hall, and *Religioso No. 1* by Chambers. The massed band was directed by G. V. Sutphen, director of the Toledo High School Bands. All prizes were awarded at the end of the morning.

The Fostoria's band's program included *Independentis*, *Egmont Overture*, and *Atlantis Suite*. They won the contest. The Cleveland West Technical Band was second, and the Akron High School Band was third.

The June 7 issue of The Fostoria Daily Review carried the following article:

"Their appearance was the signal for a thunderous outburst of enthusiastic applause and greetings of confidence which lasted until the first crashing strains of the warm-up march had started. Oh! how that band

did play. Their interpretation and rendition of *Egmont Overture* and *Atlantis Suite* held the audience spellbound. The deafening welcome accorded the band when they came on the stage was a mere whisper

compared to the pandemonium that broke like a tidal wave over the auditorium at the conclusion of the final selection. What their hearts had told them was borne out by an unanimous decision of the judges."

BAND ASSOCIATION FORMED

During the 1924 Ohio contest in Fostoria, Jack Wainwright called a luncheon meeting of all Ohio band directors to form the Ohio High School Band Association. Wainwright was elected president and J. Merton Holbombe of Mansfield, was elected treasurer. Wainwright appointed Vivian Pearson secretary.

The purpose of the Ohio High School Band Association was the promotion of school bands, and improvement of standards of instrumental music education in the public schools of Ohio. In 1932, the Ohio High School Band Association changed its name to the Ohio Music Education Association, to include choral and general music activities.

1925 AND 1926 OHIO STATE CONTESTS

The Ohio High School Band Association voted to hold the 1925 contest on May 21-22, in the Akron Armory, Akron, Ohio. The Fostoria High School Band was the winner. They received a score of 94.66 out of a possible 100 points.

During 1924 and 1925, there were no national contests because not enough state contests had been held to meet the requirements. Consequently the Fostoria High School band retained its title of national champions during those years.

At the second Ohio High School Band Association meeting held in Mansfield on Nov. 1, 1925, they voted to hold the 1926 Ohio State Band Contest in Mansfield. J. Merton Holcombe, director of the Mansfield High School Band, was named to take charge of the contest.

Of the nineteen school bands that participated, Fostoria was heavily favored to win. The contest was held in the Mansfield Coliseum. Mansfield was declared the 1926 winner, with Fostoria being second place winner. Consequently, both Mansfield and Fostoria were eligible to attend the national contest.

THE SECOND NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BAND CONTEST OF 1926

The first national High School Band contest had been hurriedly organized in Chicago in 1923, and Fostoria had won that championship. In 1924 and 1925 there were no national contests. Instead of sponsorship by the band instrument manufacturers, the National High School Band Association was formed to organize band contests. Also during this period, high school bands had become more numerous and more advanced musically.

After two years of state elimination contests, the winners of those contests gathered for the national championship. Through the efforts of Wainwright and Superintendent F.H. Warren, Fostoria was named as the contest site. Fostoria was chosen because of its central location, and was easily accessible by many railroads. Prime consideration, however, may have been "Wainwright", an enthusiastic promotor, who knew as much about band contests as anybody.

A page in the program from the 1926 contest spells out the aim of the music educators.

PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT

“The National High School Band Contest in Chicago in 1923 won by Fostoria High School Band of Fostoria, Ohio, led to a widespread desire among those interested in school bands for the expansions of the contest idea on such a basis as to bring about more general participation among the public and private schools throughout the country. It became clear that the way toward this goal lay through the state contests, in which large and small school bands could enter without traveling too great distances. In order that the full educational benefit of these contest might be secured, their development was placed under the auspices of the Committee on Instrumental Affairs of the Music Supervisors’ National Conference. The National Bureau for the Advancement of Music is co-operating and its director is secretary.

The object of all these contests is the extension and improvement of band and instrumental music generally in the schools of the country. It is believed that the interest aroused by the local, state, and national contests, with wider participation in each annual repetition, will result in the near future in winning more adequate recognition of the educational importance of bands, and that this in turn will enable the bands more fully to serve their schools and their communities.”

The plan went on to define two classes of participants who would compete among themselves, but not with each other: Class A: Bands of senior high school age having an enrollment of 400 or more, and Class B: Bands from high schools with an enrollment of of less than 400.

Each band in both classes will play four types of composition:

1. A warming up march, not to be judged.
2. An assigned composition.
3. One composition to be selected from a list of twenty prepared by the Committee on Instrumental Affairs of the Music Supervisors’ National Conference.
4. Two well-known numbers to be prepared for playing in unison with other bands in its class.

There are to be three judges, approved by the National Committee. The bands will be judged on six points in the playing of both the assigned and the selected number with a maximum credit of 100 for each, that is, a maximum of 200 on each of the six points adding together those received for the assigned and for the selected compositions. The six points are: Intonation, Tonal and Harmonic Balance, Instrumentation, Tone Quality, Precision, and Interpretation.

A total of thirteen bands with approximately 800 students representing 10 states participated. The three judges were: William C. White, W. F. Robinson, and J. E. Maddy.

As in the 1924 Ohio State contest hosted by Fostoria, the local citizens provided lodging for the bands. The Band Boosters again provided free automobile transportation for the visiting bands. They also provided badges which read “Ask Me” worn by citizens who acted as walking information booths. All Y.M.C.A. facilities were available to the Band Boys, and if in uniform they were admitted free to the Colonial Movie Theater. Interestingly the organizers had included a Kindergarten in Room 20 of the high school for children 6 and under. Fostorians decorated the city with flags and posters in honor of the national event.

The Fostoria Band selected Barnum and Bailey’s march for the warm-up, played *L’Arlesienne Suite* by Bizet, the assigned number, and *Egyptian Ballet* as the number chosen from the list of accepted pieces.

The first place \$1,000 trophy was awarded to the Joliet Township High School Band, A.R. McAllister, director, with 92.6 points. The Joliet band had been organized in 1912 and was the longest organized band at the contest. Second prize was awarded to the Fostoria High School Band with 92 points. After the contest winner had been announced, there was a general parade of all the bands. The parade route began and ended at the high school on the corner of Perry Street and High Street, and thence south to Crocker on Wood Street, thence east to Main Street and north on Main Street to the high school. The parade was followed by a massed concert on the high school grounds, then prizes were awarded inside the school auditorium, and the event concluded with a concert by the National Champions.

Fostorians received the loss of the national title with good sportsmanship. Mrs. Wainwright recalls that it had been a "wrench" for Jack to relinquish the coveted national championship, which his band had held for three years.

Jim Guernsey recalled that although the loss may have distressed Wainwright at first, he quickly overcame it. Jack was a fighter and he wouldn't let anything get him down, said Guernsey.

McAllister, the director of the Joliet Champions, wrote Wainwright the following letter which was printed in The Fostoria Review:

"I want to take my hat off to you as the ideal citizen. You are the best school band director in the country. There is not another school the size of yours that has done half what you have. You are a most efficient organizer and promotor. There was nothing that could have been improved upon in handling the contest. Your wonderful city of Fostoria is in a class by itself. There is no city in the world which has ever approached the sincere hospitality shown by every citizen."

The Fostoria Daily Review headlines on Monday, June 7 included:

Fostoria Quiet After Tuneful Week of National Band Meet, Young Visiting Musicians Appreciate Fostoria Hospitality and are Reluctant to Leave, Local Band Led in Gradings on All Points Except Two.

There were other brief articles about the contest and Fostoria's place in the musical world., including this remembrance:

"The beloved leader had proved himself a strict disciplinarian at rehearsals over the period of training. Many a youthful musician has been whacked over the head with a baton and many others had successfully dodged them.

Jack was a musician and a director. He was a teacher who demanded perfection of this students and musicians. There was no "that will get by". It was "do your best now and do better the next time".

The bandsmen, some of very tender years, never were babied and all were treated as full grown musicians with a job ahead of them."

NATIONAL BAND ASSOCIATION FORMED

At the time of the 1926 band contest, the National Band Association was formed, and the following officers were elected: president, Hy Lammers, Ogden, Utah; first vice president, A.R. McAllister, Joliet, Illinois; second vice president, J.W. Wainwright, Fostoria; secretary-treasurer, C.M. Tremaine. The mission of the organization was to foster and promote the establishment of school bands and the development and improvement of band music in the schools. For the next seventeen years the National Band Association regulated the national contests.

After the 1926 National Band Contest, rules continued to be refined and an increasing number of bands participated in state and regional contests. In 1932, there was a dramatic decline in the number of bands registering for the competitions, probably due to the Great Depression and the cost of outfitting and supporting travel to a regional or national contest. There were also complaints that since only one band was declared a winner, all the other bands felt like losers. The rules were changed again to a grading system based on school size, and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners were announced in each division. There was no longer an overall winner. This system was in place until 1937 as participation declined. When there were only 10 registrations in 1938, the event was cancelled.



CHAPTER 6. THE FOLLOWING YEARS

POTLUCK, 1979, A RECAP OF THE 1923 FOSTORIA HIGH SCHOOL BAND

POTLUCK was a weekly column about Fostoria, written by Paul Krupp and printed in the Fostoria Review Times. Articles by Krupp about the Fostoria High School band were published in 1979 in a series of four installments: March 8, 15, 22, and 29. Krupp extracted information from the original newspaper articles, augmented by interviews with surviving band members and other sources. Here are excerpts from that series. Some of the information is repetitious, but there are also new details.

... James Carter is credited with the longest service record. He recalls starting his cornet lessons as first grader and playing in the band that same year. There was a set rule that music lessons were not to interfere with school work but three former band members, Ernest Duffield, James Guernsey, and James Carter all agree that they often left classes to attend lessons and special rehearsals. ...

... Frequent public concerts gave the band members something to work for and valuable experience. They also

provided entertainment for the community. Some of the band members went on to careers in music...

... High school English teacher, Mable Bourquin described the band's sound quality: "This band is unique in that it has more woodwinds than the average, and a partial substitution of French horns in place of alto horn, the sound was never brassy, and in restrained work it approaches the orchestra in richness ...

... Wainwright was a showman as well as a musician. For

example, he recognized that there were three younger boys, who could form a trio of two cornets and one drum, to be presented as band mascots, and perform novelty numbers during breaks in a concert program. Jimmie Carter, Billy Lampe, and Charles Carrel were about nine years old in 1923 when the band won the national championship in Chicago ...

... Student musicians from other towns were recruited to live in Fostoria and participate in the band ...

Krupp went on to tell the story of the 1923 National Boys Band competition. .

In April 1923, the Band Instrument Manufacturers Association organized a national competition for school bands. Fostoria was invited to participate. A Band Booster group was organized to raise the funds necessary to send 62 boys and a smaller contingent of adult helpers to Chicago. The community raised funds to send the band to Chicago where the contest would be held.

Thirty bands participated. Free to choose their competition selections, Wainwright chose *Bohemian Girl Overture* by Balfe. As a warm-up march he chose *The Spirit of Fostoria*

March which he and his wife had composed. The band rehearsed two nights a week and presented a weekly Sunday afternoon concert. Practice makes perfect ...

June 2, 1923

... Band departed for Chicago. Housed at Municipal Pier on cots. Each boy brought his own blanket. They played for the crowd on the pier that evening ...

June 5, 1923

... Many thought their selection, *Bohemian Girl* was beyond their capability and were

surprised at the feeling with which they played it ...

... Fostoria received a big ovation. 30 bands participated on bandstand erected near the Art Institute and the Congress Hotel between Michigan Avenue and the Illinois Central Railroad tracks. The judge was Lt. William H. Santelmann, conductor of the U. S. Marine Corps Band ...

... Fostoria won first place with a score of 34 out of 40 points. (The 40 points were divided into four, ten-point categories: tone quality,

expression, intonation, and precision.) The band was awarded \$1000 plus a \$450 set of tympani, a \$168 silver flute, and a \$160 Selmer clarinet. At the conclusion of the awards, Wainwright directed the massed bands in the National Emblem March ...

... Wainwright related: "We were one of the last bands to be called to the platform during the contest, and by then the strain which we had been under during the last few weeks, and especially since arriving in Chicago had begun to tell upon the boys, to say nothing of their director..."

... We started to play our number and everything went smoothly until about two thirds of the way through. Just as we

were about to begin the cornet solo, *Then You'll Remember Me*, through some conflict of arrangements, another high school band came directly toward us playing a lively march. Of course I had been holding our band down as much as possible so we were almost drowned out. What should we do, go on or stop? If we stopped suddenly, probably we would be counted out. If we went on we could not be heard to advantage and one of the most effective spots in the number would be lost. Just before the cornet picks up the solo there is a hold followed by a pause. During this time I turned questioningly to the judge, then turned quickly back and went on. It seemed but an instant until the word was sent for us to stop. I did so by calling out to the boys on the

next measure. And not one of them but heard and followed the instructions perfectly. As soon as the other band was notified of its error, we started again just where we left off and finished ...

... I have reason to believe that our band had won as much because they had demonstrated their ability to follow their director in any emergency as because of their interpretation and technical accuracy with which they played the composition ...

The Music

... Wainwright chose music that had repeated parts, and the band performed at a brisk tempo ...

AFTER 1923

After 1923, the Fostoria High School Marching Band was invited to play at various functions including the Ohio State Fair, the beginning of a tradition of inviting instrumentalists from other schools to participate in the State Fair Band which Wainwright directed from 1924--1930. Wainwright organized this and other events. The Band also participated in Ohio state competitions, continuing to hold the championship until 1926 when the national contest was hosted by Fostoria. The home-town band came in second.

During this period, state and national high school band associations were formed, and eventually evolved into Music Education Associations whose purpose was to promote the formation of school bands and improve the standards of instrumental musical education in the public schools. Jack Wainwright was active in several of these organizations and in 1926 he established the first music camp in the U.S. at LaGrange, Indiana.

Beginning in 1929 there was an on-going controversy between the Fostoria School Board and Jack Wainwright. The primary issues seemed to be over funding the band and the place of instrumental instruction and the band in the official school curriculum. In 1930 Wainwright resigned. In 1933, he accepted a position with South Side High School in Fort Wayne, Indiana, where he taught for 12 years until his retirement in 1945. He died in 1960.

In 1980, the city of Fostoria dedicated the Wainwright Memorial Amphitheater, located in Foundation Park, South Union Street, Fostoria.

THE PLACE OF THE 1923 FOSTORIA BAND IN HISTORY

In addition to the articles published in the Chicago and Fostoria newspapers at the time of the contest, the 1923 National High School Band Contest has been the subject of several later articles and dissertations which have contributed to this account .

In 1960, Emil Aaron Holz submitted his PhD dissertation to the University of Michigan. It was titled "The National School Band Tournament of 1923 and its Bands." He was interested in the school band movement and the growth of instrumental music instruction in the schools.

In 1977, Victor A. Markovich, researched the history of Jack Wainwright and the Fostoria Band for an article published in the Journal of Band Research in 1991. In the extensive list of sources at the end of his article, he mentioned interviews with band members, Ernest Duffield, James Carter, and James Guernsey. He apparently had extended conversations with Vivian Pearson, the secretary of the band.

Markovich, Victor A., "John William Wainwright: Pioneer Band Master/Music Educator, in Journal of Band Research, Troy, Alabama. Vol 26, issue 2, pp.33-44, 1991. Published for the American Bandmasters Association by the Troy State University Press. Also available at <https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/john-william-wainwright-pioneer-band-master-music/docview/1312115654/se-2>.

THE VFW BAND

Stories of the 1923 championship band continued to echo through Fostoria for years. In 1934, Ansel Dennis formed the Fostoria City Band. In 1942, the band was reorganized under VFW, Post 421, with Dennis remaining as director until 1947, when he retired. Richard Downs, director of the Fostoria High School Band, took the baton as the VFW Band director. Harold Saliers, director of the Methodist Church Sunday School Orchestra, was appointed the assistant director.

Downs began to prepare the band for the Ohio state band competition in Columbus in July 1947 and the national contest to be held in Cleveland in September. Several of the members of the VFW band were alumni of the 1923 Fostoria High School National Championship Band.

The VFW Band won the national title in 1947, and held that position for the following ten years, all under the direction of Dick Downs.

The complete story of the VFW band deserves a full account of its own.

LIFETIME BONDS

Members of the 1923 Fostoria High School Band National Champions formed bonds that lasted the rest of the lives. They met in periodic band reunions. Those members who lived in the Fostoria area often played together in local bands like the Fostoria City Band, the VFW band, Ernie Duffield's dance band, and pit bands for regional theater productions. And sometimes they got together casually for informal jam sessions.



In the band memorabilia left by my father, James Carter, there is a letter to him dated 1966, from Vivian Pearson asking for his memories of the band and what the experience contributed to his life. This was requested by Mr. Lynn L. Sams who was researching the history of the Old National School Band Contests. (This history apparently remained unpublished.)

Here is Jim Carter's reply:

April 1, 1966

Dear Vivian,

I was only nine years old at the time of the 1923 Band Contest, so what impressed me was some different than the older members.

I started playing cornet in about 1920 under Wainwright and was playing oboe when he left.

Although I played all the contest numbers, I was unable to play at the 1923 contest because I was too young and too small to march with the older ones.

At Chicago, I remember many things. We bunked at the Navy Pier, which was a very busy place in those days. The huge stuffed elephant at the Fields Museum, I never forgot. Also a visit to one of the meat packing companies — Armor or Swift, and my first radio broadcast. I was featured with another trumpet player, Bille Lampe, and Charlie Carro on "Stars and Stripes Forever" which was always our concluding number.

My picture, blowing a big tuba, taken at Navy Pier, made the front pages.

I enjoyed the Spring Vacation Tour Week every year. We meant many nice people and saw many things. It was like any professional group playing a matinee one place, packing up and playing an evening concert a few miles away.

The type of music we played, the discipline, various trips and many things we observed was quite an education in itself.

We enjoyed many famous guest conductors such as Goldman, Robinson, and others.

When going to school in Chicago I played in the St. James Methodist Sunday School Orchestra.

I played in the Lima City Band in 1934, besides the Fostoria City Band and later, the V.F.W. band, and am now playing in the local Methodist Church orchestra.

Music and musical instruments are still my hobby. I am restoring an old Wurlitzer cornet in A at the present time.

Some of the little sayings I recall many times in everyday living. Wainwright would get quite angry when someone was trying to blow a horn and chew gum at the same time. His remark would be, "You wouldn't take a bath with your clothes on?" If someone was blowing a few squeaks or sour notes, then blamed that on something was wrong with the instrument, he would say, "98% man, 2% instrument."

Mike Lombard's most famous words were, "No pracs, no profes", and so true in everything we do.

I hope my few remarks might be of some help to you.

Yours truly,
James W. Carter

