

Pittsburg State University

Pittsburg State University Digital Commons

Books

Caney Valley Historical Society & Museum
Complex

2021

A History of Caney Bands, undated

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.pittstate.edu/caney_books

Recommended Citation

"A History of Caney Bands, undated" (2021). *Books*. 11.
https://digitalcommons.pittstate.edu/caney_books/11

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Caney Valley Historical Society & Museum Complex at Pittsburg State University Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Books by an authorized administrator of Pittsburg State University Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@pittstate.edu.

**A HISTORY OF
CANEY BANDS**

Caney Valley Historical Society

A HISTORY OF CANEY BANDS

Americans are known throughout their history as people who shared what they had with others. The growth of bands was simultaneous with the growth of our country and this was true in Caney early in this century. Around 1905 after a try at building an organized boys band without too much success, some men living in the prospering town of Caney got together for the purpose of maintaining a city band, and were: Clarence Brown, trombone, George Danforth, Ben Foote, clarinet, Bud Pearson, and Frank Hardaman, Bass Drum, J. Knapp Snare drum, Charlie Bowen Jr., Clarinet, Ted Bowen, Clarinet, "Tater" Merrill, baritone, Ralph Knapp, tuba, Bob Franks, alto horn, Jeff Handy, Oat Wood, Frank Nelson, cornet, Charlie Bowen, cornet and Director.

Shortly after this time, and after a few lessons, Adrian Todd joined this group, it rehearsed regularly and played summer concerts. During the winter a small group of them amused themselves by playing at the roller skating rink, then located behind the Chronicle office, now a feed storage building. The Band made yearly excursions to the Dewey Roundup, playing the week, and to the Pawhuska Indian Payment, a big celebration in that day.

Later (possibly 1920) Al Utterbach was the band director, the usual membership being about 20, often, extra players would be imported to assist in special events. Another group was organized about 1900-05, it was a girls band, members of which were Mrs. D. M. Leach, and Marie Stamm. It is thought that there were 13 members, and that Al Utterbach directed them.

It was this group and other interested residents that caused the schools to include a school orchestra in the curriculum as early as 1925, reported at that time as a group of 14. Chorus members numbered 70 students, a mixed quartette named Ed Fitzpatrick as Tenor, with Miss Wilma Haggard as director. In 1926 the orchestra had 25 members including Ruth Dougherty (Estes), Louise Dougherty (Franks), and Anna Leach (Wetmore). But something new was added this year, a new organization was mentioned, a Boys Band directed by Mr. Popkins, the Superintendent of Schools, held evening rehearsals. Four of the members were: Vernie Waller, clarinet, William Noah, clarinet, Leon Wetmore, saxophone and Charles Lingle, bass. Others were John Jarvis, Sam Hardaman, Edward Dougherty, and Bob McClure. In 1927 a few new members among them one Deryl Pendleton, a budding cornet player. Included in some to the remarks about this group was this: "Loud applause always greets their appearance."

In 1928 Miss Zula Coon was vocal music teacher, and Mr. Neal Hollis instrumental director. The Band had 34 members and new music and instruments. Their accomplishments being that of creating a lot of pep at athletic events. A dedication of an annual reads "Mr. Popkins has spent a great many extra hours in band instruction during his years in Caney and although the present organization is not perfect it is proof that Caney High may have a musical organization of which it is proud in years to come." Billy McBurney, Imogene Jarvis, Woodrow Leach, Guy Dow, Earl Swank, Dorris

Pendleton and Harold Winkler, were added to the roll. For the first time the band rehearsed daily for an hour during the school day, orchestra also had an hour, and listed a full instrumentation with the exception of a bassoon. Cora Jean Hepner (Lingle) was a member of the drum section. 1930 found the music department sporting an orchestra, band and drum corps of 12 members. Miss Wilda Dunbar was grade music supervisor, the orchestra took a I rating at Pittsburg festival, several high school band members had been asked to play in the City Band in the summer concerts. A member remembered a big trip, in those days, as the band journeyed to Tyro, a thriving community, to attend a Halloween celebration, playing a concert there. Mrs. Elizabeth Williams, Harry Daniels, Carl Killion, and Ruth Dow (Burris) were faculty members.

In 1931 Charles Walker was employed as director, the Band took first place at a Tri-state festival held at Pittsburg. Quoting: "It is hoped that better times will soon arrive and we again may be permitted to demonstrate our ability in music at future contests." The depression was in full swing, no trips were made that year-1932. Raymond Charles and Alice Sternberg were new members, in a group of 37. In 1932 A. L. Triggs, was hired as Music Director in the schools, patrons remember a Little German Band entertaining at the athletic events in the gymnasium, and Charles Mattix, Billy Toner, Junior Pearsall, Dick Quiett, Vesta Penfield, Howard Gillham, John David Holyfield, William Scimeca, were all budding musicians. Limited activities, continued in 1933, new members were Wesley Roberds, Fern Edinger, Jules Charles. We see Melba Mills, Barbara Jean Graves, and Maxine Lambillotte are added to the group in 1934. This year the band met three times weekly before school, "so that Caney could have a real Band." Marvin Lee, Stanley Woods, and Dwight Jones can be found in the pictures of the band that year, 1935, this year they elected their first drum major, Harve Truskett.

Director Raymond McCrum (still residing Ft Scott, yet a Band Director) led the Band to a first place at the Pittsburg festival, 1936. Successful in their efforts were Shirley Carinder, Melva Sullivan, Billie Scimeca, Bob Webber, Salvatore Scimeca, Billy Carinder, LeRoy Kincaid, Charles Mull, M. L. Pearsall, Mike Scimeca, Juanita McDermitt (Sircoulomb) a bugler, Ray McQuillen, tympanist, Bill Toner, Drum Major. Five Girls in white led 58 marchers with C A N E Y on their sweaters. Dave Evans was director in 1937, now he owns a Music Store in Chanute. 1938-9 Jack Oliver was director and had as students Buddy Bridenstine, Polly Bridenstine, Steve Wilson, Betty Wemmer, and Ed Denman. They wore capes, blue hats, and white trousers, then the uniform. Others playing in the band were Geneva Drybread, Lowell Woolf, Roberta Whitney, and Jim Harris. A parade of chilli suppers, paper drives, concerts and generosity culminated a rewarding effort and in the parade of Armistice Day 1941---NEW UNIFORMS. A Junior Band was pictured in the school annual for the first time in 1943, 33 students and making their appearance for the first time were Phillip Anderson, George Penfield, Ray Stewart, Jerry McNichol, Norman Fuqua, Wesley Atkinson, Patty Pendleton, Billy Rogers---new faces in the Senior Band were Glen Seaver, Bob Bunch and Pat Shannon, Fay Hollingsworth and Charles Dancer. They were directed by Ernest Justice this year. Miss June Steeper directed in 1944 teaching Joan and June George, Darrell Brewer, Rosemary Bunch, Fay Boles, Elsie Scimeca, Mildred Shippey, LaDonna Graves, Dick Marion, Ann Carinder was Drum Major. Ferd Estes, Jerry Dancer, J C Young and Dava Jo Ikerd all

made up the Junior Band that year. In 1945 Ralph Fuqua, Evelyn Mull, Glen Hayes, Charles Watkins and Nanette Bridenstine were noted as being important in activities this year. Miss Elizabeth Ann Griffith was a new director. Among her problems were Jerry Smith, Roland Bradford, Lila May Hollandsworth, Donald Lee, and Dick Lamb.

Evald Nordstrom was employed as Director in 1946. Advanced to Drum Major in 1947 was Patty Pendleton, marching under her leadership were Don Carriker, Eleanor Adams, Sue Gregory, Marlene Lambillotte, Beverly Sullivan, Blaine Jenkins, Mary Catherine Pocock, Bill Denman, Tom Rogers, Delores Ashbrook, Jerry Holt, Wyman Newcomb. An orchestra was added to the efforts of the music department in 1948, membership of 28. Noted in the Band were Pat Estes, Forrest Coltharp, Philip and Quentin Anderson, Frank Endres, Jim Gaskill, Barbara Gaylord, Lynn Patterson, L. D. Phillips, Dick Surrett, Edward Wakeland, Mavis Wagner, and Sylvia Waggonner. New faces in 1949 were Marilyn Mills, Helen Hollingsworth, Bill McClure, Bob McCall, Helen Sue Williams, and Sue Lambdin. In 1950 a color Guard of 4 boys—Dick White, Gene Covell, Nolan Smith, Bill Barrett. We also read of Sandra Perry, Elmer Patterson, Gary Crawford, Bob Ellis, Connie and John Tyler, Pat Brown, Don Liberman, Ted Gregory, Jim Estes, and Clifford Ellis. 1951 and 1952 were big years, a large group each year. Lou Ann Sheldon, Shirley Houser, Maurene Maze, Nancy Garrett, Charles Lingle, Kay McBurney, Ethel Carinder, Dick Aggas, Bob Jenkins, W. G. Williamson, Rex Mills, Don Redding, Rickey Piesker, Bob Hill, Gerald Lovejoy, Kenneth Cales, Edmund Freisberg, and Mary Franks.

Maurene Maze was selected to lead the marching band the following year, of 1953. She led David Wetmore, May Ann Estes, Brenda Morris, Pat Gregory, Sarah Sheldon, Kenneth Aiken, Victor Hollandsworth, Gary Asher, Bob Simpson, Warren Edmundson, all first year members.

In 1954 there was a large Junior Band, more than thirty-five members, and playing for the first time, were Mike Taylor, Maridene Witter, Hal Taylor, Patty Durscherl, Gordon Bradford, Linda Notestine, Max Crocker, Keith Smith, Betty rink, Marcia Allison, and Diana McBurney.

Some of these students graduated just last year, and each year the students now playing were added until we have the present 70 members in the Senior Band, 45 in Junior Band program, and 30 students in Lincoln School.

There are many omissions and probably mistakes, but we wish to thank Adrian Todd, Bob Franks, O. P. Charles and Yetta Liberman for their information and assistance.

Americans are known to share their history as people who shared what they had with others. The growth of bands has simultaneous with the growth of our country and this was true in Caney early in this century. Around 1905 after a try at building an organized boys band without too much success, some men living in the prospering town of Caney got together for the purpose of maintaining a city band, and were: Clarence Brown, trombone, George Danforth, Ben Foote, clarinet, Bud Pearson, and Frank Hardaman, Bass Drum, J. Knapp Snare drum, Charlie Bowen Jr., Clarinet, Ted Bowen, Clarinet, "Tater" Merrill, baritone, Ralph Knapp, tuba, Bob Franks, alto horn, Jeff Handy, Out Wood, Frank Nelson, cornet, Charlie Bowen, cornet and Director.

Shortly after this time, and after a few lessons, Adrian Todd joined this group, it rehearsed regularly and played summer concerts. During the winter a small group of them amused themselves by playing at the roller skating rink, then located behind the Chronicle office, now a feed storage building. The Band made yearly excursions to the Dewey Roundup, playing the week, and to the Pawnee Indian Payment, a big celebration in that day.

Later (possibly 1920) Al Utterbach was the band director, the usual membership being about 20, often, extra players would be imported to assist in special events. Another group was organized about 1900-05, it was a girls band, members of which were Mrs. D. M. Leach, and Marie Stamm. It is thought that there were 13 members, and that Al Utterbach directed them.

It was this group and other interested residents that caused the schools to include a school orchestra in the curriculum as early as 1925, reported at that time as a group of 14. Chorus members numbered 70 students, a mixed quartette named Ed Fitzpatrick as Tenor, with Miss Wilma Haggard as director. In 1926 the orchestra had 25 members including Ruth Dougherty (Estes), Louise Dougherty (Franks), and Anna Leach (Netmore). But something new was added this year, a new organization was mentioned, a Boys Band directed by Mr. Popkins, the Superintendent of Schools, held evening rehearsals. Four of the members were: Vernie Waller, clarinet, William Noah, clarinet, Leon Netmore, saxophone and Charles Lingle, bass. Others were John Jarvis, Sam Hardaman, Edward Dougherty, and Bob McClure. In 1927 a few new members among them one Deryl Pendleton, a budding cornet player. Included in some of the remarks about this group was this: "Lord applause always greets their appearance."

In 1928 Miss Zola Coon was vocal music teacher, and Mr. Neal Hollis instrumental director. The Band had 34 members and new music and instruments. Their accomplishments being that of creating a lot of pep at athletic events. A dedication of an annual reads "Mr. Popkins has spent a great many extra hours in band instruction during his years in Caney and although the present organization is not perfect it is proof that Caney High may have a musical organization of which it is proud in years to come." Billy McBancy, Eugene Jarvis, Woodrow Leach, Guy Dow, Earl Swank, Dorris Pendleton and Harold Winkler, were added to the roll. For the first time the band rehearsed daily for an hour during the school day, orchestra also had an hour, and listed a full instrumentation with the exception of a bassoon. Cora Jean Hepner (Lingle) was a member of the drum section. 1930 found the music department sporting an orchestra, band and drum corps of 12 members. Miss Wilda Dunbar was grade music supervisor, the orchestra took a 1 rating at Pittsburg festival, several high school band members had been asked to play in the City Band in the summer concerts. A member remembered a big trip, in those days, as the band journeyed to Tyro, a thriving community, to attend a Halloween celebration, playing a concert there. Mrs. Elizabeth Williams, Harry Daniels, Carl Million, and Ruth Dow (Burris) were faculty members.





The above photograph, courtesy of Mrs. H. G. Stone, 202 N. Wood, shows the Caney City band of 1897. Pictured left to right are George Goodrich, H. G. Stone, A. F. Gregory, J. F. Blackledge, and D. H. Plowman. Second row H. A. Bird, Jeff Handy, A. L. Utterback and Ben Foote. Third row, Bud Plowman, Charlie Wilson and E. E. Stone.