

# Band concert draws crowds from surrounding counties

"Last Thursday the Southern Indiana Band Association held their annual meeting in Bloomington. Bands were present from Martinsville, Bedford, Spencer and Nashville, all of whom were the special guests of our City Band."

—*Saturday Courier*, June 18, 1881.

What do band members do on a holiday? The answer is no surprise: they play music.

That was certainly true when bands from all the counties surrounding Monroe County got together. Noted the newspaper, "The feature of the day was the grand parade of all the bands, and the music by all the bands playing together. The crowd was not very large, but a goodly number was dressed in their holiday attire."

That was only the beginning of the music-making. According to the *Saturday Courier*, the bands performed a concert in Mendelssohn Hall and a promenade concert in Mulikin's Hall.



## LOOKING BACK

By Rose McIlveen

The newspaper printed the program for the concert in Mendelssohn Hall: Overture by the Spencer Band; "Olivette" by the Bloomington Orchestra; "Oh! Fair Dove, Oh! Fond Dove" sung by Miss Ella Adkins; Overture by the Nashville Band; Waltz, "Tres Jolie" by the Orchestra; "Waiting" sung by Mrs. Jessie Buskirk; Overture by the Bedford Band; Overture by the Orchestra; "The Day is Done" sung by Miss Ella Tournier; and Overture by the Bloomington Band. Obviously, overtures were very popular.

Were the band members exhausted by that time? Not a bit. Commented the newspaper, "The boys then concluded not to 'go home until morning' by giving a dance at the

Orchard House. All of these entertainments were largely attended." The dance lasted from 11 p.m. until 3 a.m.

Shifting to specifics, the newspaper passed out praise for individual performances. "Much praise was also bestowed on the Bedford Band. L.C. Foote and Frank Owens being exceedingly fine players on the b flat and e flat, respectively. That triple tongue solo of Foote's was a grand treat to all."

A feature of the promenade concert was a contest for the "handsomest young lady in the room." A gold necklace was the prize. The result of the voting was: Lizzie Tillie, 236; Sallie Cherry, 81; Sible Hinds, 5; Ella Adkins, 5; and Nora Aley, 5.

Explained the *Saturday Courier*, "Miss Tillie carried off the prize. She is an estimable young lady, in every way worthy of the honor.

Another feature of the celebration was the possibility of finding a prize. The winner was Howard Tournier, who "got the piece of cake with the ring in it."

Apparently, formal judging of the respective bands was not part of the program. That did not stop the newspaper from expressing its own opinion.

"There was no premium offered for the best band, but it was the general opinion that the Nashville Band was entitled to the red ribbon. They made excellent music and were highly commended on every hand."

After all of the decorations had been taken down and the band members dispersed to homes in Martinsville, Nashville, Spencer, Bedford and Bloomington, there was time to take some satisfaction from the outing.

The newspaper reporter liked it enough to write, "On the whole, the event was a pleasant one long to be remembered by all participants."

And the Bloomington Band had some praise for local cooperation. "The city band return thanks to the Orchestra, Mendelssohn Society and to the citizens in general for valuable assistance at this entertainment."

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