

# Wawasee band wows 'em at Atlanta football game

What you saw disembarking from three Indiana Motorbus Co. buses at Wawasee High School Tuesday morning were 124 high school band students and their 14 chaperones, all happy, smiling, but very tired.

They had just arrived home from a motor trip to Atlanta, Ga., where they proudly performed in the famous Field Show Festival, the equally famous Peach Bowl Parade, and the New Year's Eve televised football game between the University of Virginia Cavaliers and the Purdue Boilermakers. Their pre-game performance was seen by millions who were at home on New Year's Eve to enjoy afternoon football.

It proved to be a successful trip for the Marching Warriors who captured a 2nd division rating in their Sunday Field Show performance and a 1st division rating in their parade performance on Monday.

"We were particularly pleased with our parade rating," said band director David S. Blackwell. "We were rated on a national scale and received the highest rating possible."

"We had a great time. It was a very successful trip," Blackwell added. "As long as we have the support of the corporation and the communities, I would like to do this kind of trip again. It was a good chance for the kids to see a different part of the world."

Tired they might have been when they arrived home, but this wasn't the case when they left on their southern trip. They were in a real gala holiday mood at the high school Friday afternoon, with their parents and friends, all in euphoric anticipation of their trip to Atlanta.

The band had been chosen to participate in Atlanta by the All-American Festivals of Salt Lake City, an organization that puts together such affairs.

#### Dinner First

There was a band practice session at the high school under director Dave Blackwell, then, a dinner, all this from 3 to 6 p.m.

Friday, after which goodbyes were exchanged and last-minute hugs from family and friends. Then the excited young musicians boarded the buses for an all-night trip, their expectations high.

They were to arrive at Atlanta between 9 and 10 a.m. Saturday. Never mind the tiresome ride; they met it all with the glee only young minds and bodies can muster.

Once at Atlanta, there was time for shopping and sightseeing at the famous Peach Tree Center, followed by a guided tour of Greater Atlanta, the colorful, old diamond of the South. It included sights such as Stone Mountain, old colonial homes, an authentic 17th century plantation, Capital Square and the famous Ebenezer Baptist Church of the late Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., and his late father, Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr.

At 9:30 a.m. Sunday the band was bussed to the Georgia Tech Stadium for a mass band rehearsal, for the All-American Peach Bowl Field Show Festival, at Grant Field at which nationally known adjudicators were on hand to critique the field show bands that performed.

The Wawasee High School band performed at 1 p.m. A picture-taking session followed.

(Note: Chaperone Richard Wysong, vocational director, was ever-present with his home video cassette recorder in order to put together the Wawasee-High-School-Band-At-The-Peach-Bowl-In-Atlanta-Georgia-1984-Story for local viewing.)

At 7 p.m. Sunday the Wawasee High musicians congregated at the Grand Ballroom of Colony Square for the All-American Awards Banquet. The balance of the evening was to be spent at the All-American Festival's Awards Dance.

#### Big Game New Year's Eve

Following breakfast at their hotel on New Year's Eve, it was busses loaded and they were off for the big parade staging area.

Dress: Full band uniform.

The colorful — and memorable — Peach Bowl Parade stepped off promptly at 11 a.m. New Year's Eve with the Wawasee band participating, ending at the Atlanta Fulton County Stadium for the band pre-game extravaganza. It was every man for himself at lunch.

Then for the big game, starting at 3 p.m. After the game, it was to be boarding the buses and heading up Interstate 75 for Indiana — and home.

It was a big occasion for the young musicians. One they'll long remember. They arrived home at 9 a.m. January 1.

If parents of the band members had any misgivings, they needn't have. The young musicians were well chaperoned. Making the trip with them were band director David Blackwell and his son David, Jack and Karen Parr, John and Carol Hurd, Richard and Dot Wysong, Richard and Helene Taylor, Judy Finan, Bess Steller and William and Ann Troup, Lois Welty and Judy Miller.

## Prepare your car for winter

Your car owner's manual is the first item to check when preparing the vehicle for another rough winter, according to the AAA-Chicago Motor Club.

A thorough re-reading of the manual will remind you of the recommended schedule for maintenance — which you should be following. It will also give important information such as the location of dipsticks and the proper way to check windshield washer solvent.

Complete winterization is a combination of minor tasks you can accomplish yourself and major maintenance which should be performed by a competent technician.



WARRIOR BAND MARCHES IN PEACH BOWL PARADE

## Elkhart County Sheriff's Department honored

The Elkhart County Sheriff's Department became the first sheriff's department in the United States to receive accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies in a public ceremony on Friday.

Indiana Attorney General Linley Pearson, Elkhart County Commissioners Thomas Romberger, Hal Doriot and John Bentley and Accreditation Commission member Sheriff Richard Elrod were among the dignitaries in attendance. Elkhart County Sheriff Dick Bowman accepted the award on behalf of the department.

Romberger noted that at this time the accreditation process is entirely voluntary. He said the department applied for accreditation in 1983, was inspected by a team from the national commission in September of this year, and received notice of its "qualification" in November.

Each agency that applies for accreditation is evaluated on 34 mandatory standards and 221 optional standards. In its first inspection, the department met all the mandatory and 198 of the optional requirements. At this point, only four other law enforcement agencies in the country have been awarded accreditation.

The status will be good for a five-year period. If at that time the department wishes to maintain its accreditation, it will have to re-apply to the commission.

#### Praise Bowman

Both Pearson and Romberger praised the work of the department and Sheriff Bowman in obtaining this status.

Pearson, who was recently elected to a second term as Indiana Attorney General, called this an historical day in Elkhart County.

"This department is a pioneer," he noted. "It is a department that will serve as a model for the 21st century. Law enforcement, to be good, has to be respected. This honor is a sign that Elkhart County is receiving first class law enforcement service."

Romberger commented that the accreditation process was set up to increase four aspects of law enforcement: agencies' capabilities to control crime, delivery of services, cooperation between agencies and citizen and employee confidence in agencies.

"Bowman and his department have set a standard that will be kept up in the county for a long time to come," Romberger said. "This is a lasting contribution to law enforcement in this county."

Bowman, who has been in of-

fice since 1975, accepted the award from Sheriff Elrod, a present member of the accreditation commission and past president of the National Sheriff's Association. Elrod is presently the sheriff of Cook County, Illinois.

"I am very proud to be here today," Bowman said. "There have been many notable events since the sheriff's department was formed in 1830, but none more so than this. This is a major milestone in our agency."

"I owe a lot of thanks to the people who stood behind us in seeking this status," Bowman added. "The County Council, County Commissioners and many members of the department who were deeply involved in the accreditation process helped make this possible."

"We are proud of our newly-acquired status," he concluded. "The people who will gain the most from it are the citizens of the county; the people we work to serve."



GUEST SPEAKER — Indiana Attorney General Linley Pearson delivers a short address at the accreditation ceremony on Thursday at the Concord Performing Arts Center. Pearson was re-elected to a second term in November. Pictured at right is Elkhart County Commissioner Thomas Romberger.



AWARD PRESENTATION — Elkhart County Sheriff Dick Bowman, left, accepts a certificate of accreditation from Sheriff Richard Elrod of Cook County, Illinois. Elrod is a member of the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

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#### VIRGIN ST. JOHN

The smallest of the three U.S. Virgin Islands is also one of the loveliest and least-developed of the West Indies. And, it will stay that way. Three quarters of its twenty-one square miles of luxuriant green mountains and talcum-powdery sands have been set aside by the government as the Virgin Island National Park. The Park Service makes it easy for visitors to enjoy this tropical paradise. From their headquarters in the tiny candy-colored village of Cruz Bay, they run hikes, snorkeling excursions and bus tours that explain the history of the island. You may also want to take the half-mile trail through the ruins of Annaberg, a 19th-century Danish sugar mill, on your own.

If you have been planning an "escape," this may be just the place to go. Call WARSAW TRAVEL (269-6771) 1-800-342-5521 and inquire about our specials, tours or just that special place you want to visit. We are a full service travel agency and we are totally computerized to give our clients fast and accurate service. You will find us located at 1301 N. Detroit, Monday thru Friday 9-5:30. Saturday 9-1. Happy New Year!

TRAVEL TIP: Caneel Bay is the one big resort on St. John.



ASSOCIATE EDITOR — Jo Sturgis, 22, has been named associate editor of the community corner pages of the Mail-Journal, according to Arch and Della Baumgartner, publishers, and editor Jeri Seely.

Miss Sturgis has been with The Papers Incorporated since May 1984. She also serves as church page editor in addition to her duties as general assignment reporter and photographer.

A 1984 graduate of Manchester College, Sturgis received a B.S. in speech communication with minors in journalism and business. She resides in Syracuse.



ASSOCIATE EDITOR — Mark Weinstein, 25, Warsaw, has been named Associate Sports Editor of the Mail-Journal, effective Wednesday, Jan. 2. The announcement was made by Arch and Della Baumgartner, publishers.

Weinstein joined the Mail-Journal staff November 14, 1983 as a reporter. He graduated from Grace College in 1982 with a BS degree in Speech Communication and Journalism.

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