

BAND *and* GLEE CLUB

Glee Clubs and Orchestras of Young Junior

A new student activity was begun in 1928. This new organization was the Glee Club. About sixty students joined the club, which was under the direction of Miss Elizabeth Bradford. Later in the year, an operetta entitled "Ghost of Lollypop Bay" was presented by the Glee Club. Miss Bradford was compelled to resign, and Miss Mray Strother, supervisor of music in the city schools, took up the direction of this musical and continued the work for the rest of the year.

In 1929, the Glee Club was organized again under the direction of Miss Strother. There was little work done by the club this year, because Miss Strother had to devote most of her time to the operetta to be presented by Young Junior High and Dothan Senior High Schools.

In December, 1930, Miss Strother, assisted by Mrs. Whatley, presented by the Glee Club in a most enjoyable program consisting of Christmas carols. The club was accompanied on the piano by Miss Benelle Hornsby.

In 1931 the Glee Club, directed by Miss Marie Turner, and the Speech Class, directed by Miss Frances Turner, presented a musical comedy entitled "Pickles". This was greatly enjoyed by a very appreciative audience when given at the City Auditorium.

At the beginning of the school term of 1932, the Girls' Glee Club was organized with Miss Marie Turner as leader. Many possibilities were discovered among the girls after the "try-outs".

During the Christmas holidays of 1933 Miss Turner resigned as supervisor of music in the city schools, much to the regret of the entire student body.

In September of 1934, "try-outs" were held by Miss Montine Lisenby to find those who were eligible for membership in the glee club. Eighty-five were selected as members. The boys' club is the first organization of its kind in the history of the school. This club was expected to fill an important place in the musical activities of the school. Both boys' and girls' clubs presented a Christmas cantata entitled "Chimes of the Holy Night." The spring rehearsals were devoted to training for entrance in the state glee club contest which was held in Montgomery in May of this year.

Miss LeMerle Penn assumed leadership of the glee club and director of public school music in the fall of 1936.

In 1947 and again in 1948 the glee clubs were presented as a part of the annual spring plays at the Dothan High School Auditorium.

As a part of the observance of National Education Week in November of 1948 the glee club broadcast over WAGF. During this term the club presented a program for one of the civic clubs and at Dothan High School. Members of the school band attended the Music. Each year the glee clubs of Junior and Senior High Schools exchange programs. Again in November of 1949 the glee club broadcast a program over WAGF in observance of National Education Week. The annual junior and senior glee club concert was held this year on May 4 at the Dothan High School.

A similar plan of programs was continued during the period from 1950 to 1952.

Young Junior High School and the entire Dothan City School System was deeply saddened because of the sudden death of LeMerle Penn, glee club director and music supervisor. Her death in an automobile

accident just as school opened was a great loss.

After some weeks, Robert Livingston became director of the glee club of our school, while Mrs. Charles Dunseth served as accompanist and as supervisor of music in the elementary grades. Two programs were presented by the glee club this year. One at Senior High and one and our school.

Mr. Livingston and Mrs. Dunseth continued to work with the glee club during 1953-1954. One joint public performance with the senior glee club was presented in December. A group of eight grade members also presented a number as part of the graduation exercises.

ORCHESTRAS AND BANDS

The first orchestra of Junior High was organized in 1931, under the direction of Miss Marie Turner. Eleven members were enrolled, and during the third period on Wednesdays and Fridays they met for practice. This new organization not only gave programs at Junior High, but also at other city schools.

The second Junior High orchestra was organized the next year with an even larger membership than that of the preceding year, although there was not so great a variety of instruments.

In the fall of 1937 a band was organized at Young Junior under the direction of Mr. F. M. Boyd. The band increased to approximately thirty members during the term and made several public appearances during this first year of its organization.

The band continued to grow during the years following under the direction of Mr. Boyd, who served as band director until May of 1941.

Upon the resignation of Mr. Boyd during the summer months, Mr. Howell Hampton became the new director in September, 1941. For several years there was no separate Junior High band, but the more advanced players from this school were members of the Dothan High School Band. However, work was begun during 1946-1947 to reorganize a Young Junior High School Band and uniforms were ordered but did not arrive in time to be used during this school term.

The fall of 1947 found the Young Junior Band working hard to be ready for its first public appearance, the parade for the homecoming game with Tallahassee. The band with their bright, new black and gold capes and page-boy caps was most attractive as they led this bicycle and scooter parade through the heart of town. They again performed at the game that night. On the following page is a picture of this band with its new uniforms.

We proudly present the Young Junior High School Band.



1947-1948

Members of band took part in the festival that is held in Troy each Spring during both the 1947-1948 and 1948-1949 terms. Separate parts of the concerts were given by the Young Junior High Band for the first time during 1948-1949. Two of these concerts were given this year and in each the band performed quite well.

In September of 1949 Hobart Hall began work as band instructor. During the 1949-1950 term the Junior High Band, consisting of 43 members, played for 2 football games and participated in the Home Coming Parade, Kiddie Parade and also the parade at the end of Safety Week in the spring.

For the first time a separate concert for the Junior High band was held. This concert was presented at the school auditorium on April 20, 1950. Most of the funds derived from this concert were used to purchase music for the band.

The band continued to grow and improve during the next year, 1950-1951. This year Mr. Hall selected O. C. Brown to serve as drum major instead of the former practice of using a majorette. The band again took part in the Home Coming Parade, and the Kiddie Parade. Several band members attended the district music festival in Troy during the spring. The band and glee club presented a joint program on April 26 in the school auditorium.

Mr. John P. Kendrick became director of the band in the fall of 1951 when Mr. Hall left Dothan.

With the removal of the ninth grade to Senior High School, Young Junior High had no regular band in 1952-1953. Two classes in band were held throughout the year. Several of the more advanced students were members of the Dothan High School band. Mr. Kendrick resigned at the close of this year.

In the fall of the 1953-1954 term Mr. Lee Jeffers became director of the band. Two classes in band instruction were held during the year, but there was no regular band. A group of the more advanced students presented a program in connection with the Eighth Grade Day program, and a small group took part in the commencement exercises