



# The Blacksburg Community Band Newsletter

Volume 6, Number 2  
July 1994

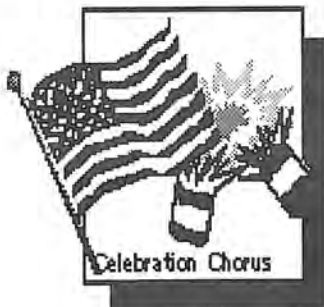
Rachel Landry - Editor  
Ed Schwartz- Layout & Design

## From the President

by Mary Keffer

I would like to thank everyone for their effort and support. All the concerts so far this year have been well attended by band members. I am continually amazed by such dedication. We don't always have a huge audience, but that's okay. Our audiences are always appreciative. At Narrows, an older gentleman with a rake never missed a beat, and at Warm Hearth, Dan Conway's little boy enjoyed the puddle! Anyway, despite the size of the audience, the point is to play-which we have been doing very well. Our concert at Roanoke's Festival in the Park was taped for the public radio station. I think we have reason to be very proud of ourselves.

Of course, if it's a big audience you want the July 4th concert is the place. This will be our sixth July 4th concert and probably the biggest. We had a record number of members play last year and we are hoping to do even better this year. Everyone who receives this newsletter, please try to come to the concert on the 4th, if you can! Dress rehearsal will be at Squires, in the Tech Band room, on Wed., June 28th at 7:30. The concert begins at 8:30 at Lane Stadium on the 4th. See you there!



## Coming Attractions

July 4th

The July 4th concert has become an annual performance for the band, despite swarms of mosquitos, and rain. This year is no exception. To add to this year's festivities, a band picnic will take place on July 2nd, followed by the traditional Town Parade and concert on the 4th. The parade this year will feature something a little new — a **decorated** band float. (If you would like to help, see Mary Rhoades, percussion). Of course, everyone always looks forward to the fireworks too. July 4th festivities will begin  
*(continued on page 2)*



## In This Issue

- 2...July 4th Festivities
- 3...Band Picnic
- 4...Adios to Grace Baldwin
- 4...Summer Musical Enterprise
- 5...In the Spotlight
- 6...All You Ever Wanted to Know About...
- 7...Musical Quiz
- 8...Schedule At-A-Glance

# The Blacksburg Community Band Newsletter

## Fourth Facts

contributed by Mary Rhoades

Was the Declaration of Independence really signed on July 4, 1776?

Of the 56 men who signed this important document in American history, only one man actually signed it on the historic date. That man was John Hancock, whose name appears above and larger than all that other names. It wasn't until August 2, 1776 that 52 other men signed, for it was then that the Declaration of Independence was transferred to parchment, a clothlike paper which can be preserved a much longer time than ordinary paper.

The other three men signed it much later, one as late as 1781. That man, Thomas McKean of Delaware, had left the original meeting in 1776 to join George Washington's army, and didn't realize that he hadn't signed the Declaration of Independence until five years later.

Would you believe...

The names of all the signers of the Declaration of Independence were kept secret by the colonists for almost a year, because the British government had offered a \$2500 reward for those men's names, considering them guilty of high treason, a crime punishable by death!



## Music Library Notes

Since the conception of the band, two very dedicated members have dealt with the organization of all music. Now, one of our librarians is band president (Mary Keffer), and the other librarian is moving (Grace Baldwin). Because

(continued from page 1)

at 4pm at Lane Stadium. Musical performances and food will add to the fun. The highlight of the evening will begin around 8:30 pm (that's the band). The Celebration Chorus will be joining the band singing such patriotic favorites as **God Bless America**, **This Land is Your Land**, and **Stars and Stripes Forever** (there are words to that).

This year's Celebration Chorus is being conducted by Susie Howell. The Chorus was formed in 1990 to offer the community another opportunity for vocal performance. Its members include members from other local choirs and singing groups, and performs only once during the year-July 4th. The chorus has been a success in the past, and is getting bigger each year. They are an asset to the band's 4th of July concert in providing some musical diversity from our regular concert season.

The Program for the 4th is as follows:

### Program

- Bravura March - Band
- Star Spangled Banner - Band and Chorus
- God Bless America - Band and Chorus
- American Folk Rhapsody #4 - Band
- This Land Is Your Land - Band and Chorus
- St. Louis Blues March - Band
- Stars and Stripes Forever - Band and Chorus
- The Blue and The Gray - Band
- Armed Forces Salute - Band and Chorus
- Testimonials to Liberty - Band and Narrator
- America, the Beautiful - Band and Chorus



*Library Notes continued*

Mary already devotes many hours to the band, she is going to need some help with the music. Being librarian does not take much time, except when the music changes because the music is already very organized. Please consider this duty for yourself.



# The Blacksburg Community Band Newsletter

## Social Happenings

by Cheryl Clark

The social committee would like to thank you all for helping make the Spring Concert's reception a resounding success. Your generous donations were greatly appreciated by all who attended. We had the best attendance to date for this function, as evidenced by the temperature of the room and the emptiness of the serving trays. We hope you had a wonderful time.

Our next band social will be a potluck band picnic with members of the Celebration Chorus on July 2, at Nellie's Cave Park. This is a family event, so please bring your family, and friends. Festivities will begin at 4:00pm, and continue until dark. Everyone is asked to sign up for and bring a covered dish for 12. Also, if you own athletic equipment which you could lend for the event, please sign up accordingly. The band will be providing drinks, ice, and place settings. As this is sure to be a memorable event, we expect to see everyone there!



Answers: to the *Musical Quiz* on page 7:

1. Francis Hopkinson
2. Hayden
3. Chopin
4. Girl of the Golden West
5. J.S. Bach
6. Most of his great symphonies were composed after he became deaf at age 30.
7. John Philip Sousa
8. The harmonium
9. "Veni Creator Spiritus"
10. Handel
11. Schubert
12. "Stars and Stripes Forever"

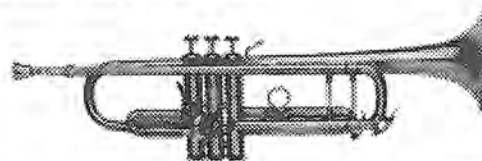


## What Song Was That?

by Joe Montague

Several of the selections in our current folder of band music are medleys of American tunes. The medley **The Blue and The Gray (Civil War Suite)** by Clare Grundman contains among other American songs, **Dixie**. Well publicized as the rallying and marching song of Confederate troops during our Civil War, **Dixie** later became quite literally the Song of the South. Apart from its patriotic and martial use by its adoptive parents south of the Mason Dixon line, **Dixie** has quite an interesting history.

According to the **Sampler of American Songs** (1969), **Dixie** was a bread and butter response to an urgent Saturday night request from Jerry Bryant (Bryant's Minstrals) to his resident composer for a new "walk-around" to be ready for a Monday morning rehearsal with afternoon performance. Despite a feeling by the composer, David Brumet, that the time was much too short for the writing and polishing of a completely new piece, he promised to do his best. Brumet worked through the chilly, rainy Sunday in his drab boarding house environment. Shivering, he responded to his wife's urging and sympathy with "I wish I was in Dixie." The light was on! Brumet took up his violin to improvise a tune for his first line and the remainder of the words and music came easily. By the end of the day the song, which ironically was to become the most popular song in the South, was completed. (Ironically because Brumet was a Yankee!)



# The Blacksburg Community Band Newsletter

## Adios, Amiga!

by Mary Rhoades

This summer we will lose one of our founding members, Graciela (also known as Grace) Baldwin. Graciela resides in the clarinet section almost every week, and makes it to most concerts. You must have noticed her devoted fan club who accompanies her to the performances — husband Dirk, daughter Gisela, and son Peter. Gisela asked me to tell you all that one time she helped Mom mow the lawn even though it was raining.

Unknown to most of you is that Graciela is a native of Panama and has a degree in Music Therapy from Eastern New Mexico University in Portales. She moved to Lubbock, Texas after she graduated and worked with severe and profound mentally retarded people at the Lubbock State School. No, that isn't where she met her husband. She has also worked as a music therapist and as a trainer in developmentally based education.

Graciela and her family will leave Blacksburg to return to Lubbock in July. She is looking forward to seeing her old friends, but will miss our band, the trees and hills, the greenery and living in a small town. She asks all of you to remember the founding philosophy of our band--have fun playing music!! Graciela's new address is 4910 62nd street, Lubbock, TX 79414, and she expects to hear from you!

## Summer Musical: MAME

by Ed Turner

Well, it's that time again freinds, it's time for the start up of the summer musical. This year we are going to do **Mame**. Since many of you are not familiar with this highly successful musical, let me give a little background information.

**Mame** is a musical comedy by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee, based on the Patrick Dennis novel and play "Auntie Mame." The lyrics and music were written by Jerry Herman. Before **Mame** became one of the most successful musicals of the 1960's, it was a very popular Broadway play, and a movie starring Rosalind Russell. The Broadway musical cast Angela Lansbury in the title role. Later, Lucille Ball picked up the lead role in the movie version.

The heroine, Mame, is a delightfully eccentric and boisterous lady who suddenly inherits an orphaned nephew, Patrick Dennis. Somehow she must fit him into her own crazy scheme of life. The play traverses an eighteen year period, beginning in the last strident years of the the roaring twenties, carrying Mame and her nephew through the depression, and ending in 1946 with Mame directing her crazy ideas at Patrick's son.

Several members of the Community Band  
*(continued on page 7)*



# The Blacksburg Community Band Newsletter

## In the Spotlight

As a way to get to know different members of the band better, each newsletter will feature three randomly selected lucky band members who will share a little about themselves. A special thanks to Elizabeth Bowles for this idea.

**Kendra Kohl (clarinet):** Kendra has played clarinet with the Community Band since the first year of its inception. She has served the Band as its treasurer, co-chairperson of the Social Committee and keeper of the scrapbook. Having been in Blacksburg for 16 years, the Kohls recently built their dream house on 74 acres in the Catawba Valley. Kendra last year completed her bachelor's degree in Business Administration at Radford University. She is currently enjoying her role as "stay at home mom" with her two boys ages 8 and 12. Her hobbies include gardening, "farming" the 74 acres, power walking, reading and, of course, playing the clarinet.

**Greg Pappas (euphonium):** Greg hails from Fairfax, Virginia, where he's lived all his life. He came to Virginia Tech in the fall of 1991 as a freshman majoring in International Business. Since coming to Tech, Greg's interests have expanded to include Spanish and Economics. He plans on graduating in May, 1995, and hopefully getting a job, possibly working for the government. A new member to the Community Band, Greg has played euphonium for 9 years, and trombone for 5 years. He also has a few years of voluntary marching band tuba playing under his belt, but gave that up to be drum major. Greg also has played with the George Mason University Symphonic Band, which he enjoyed a lot.

**Russell Holladay (trumpet):** Russell joined the trumpet section in the Spring of 1993. He is a native of Newport News and is a graduate of Ferguson High School. Russell was selected to the All-Virginia High School Band. He attended Virginia Tech and was a member of the Highty Tighties. Russell says that during his years at Tech, he learned to play Tech Triumph, Dixie and National Emblem March "real loud" and learned to march "real good."

Russell taught Distribution Education in Richmond County and Stafford County for eleven years. While living in Fredericksburg, he was a member of the Mary Washington College Community Orchestra and played in a brass ensemble which specialized in authentic Civil War music. Russell moved back to the Blacksburg area in 1984 to complete graduate work at Virginia Tech. In 1986, Russell began working for Montgomery County Public Schools as Director of Vocational Education and is currently serving as Director of Personnel.

Russell lives in Christiansburg with his  
*(continued on page 7)*

## The Blacksburg Community Band Newsletter Staff

Editor.....Rachel Landry  
Layout & Design.....Ed Schwartz  
Copy Editors.....Ed Schwartz  
Feature Writers..... Don Hall, Joe Montague  
Contributors.....Rachel Landry, Mary Keffer, Ed Turner, Renee Jacobsen, Mary Rhoades, Cheryl Clark  
Distribution - 300

# The Blacksburg Community Band Newsletter

## All You Ever Wanted To Know About... The Trombone

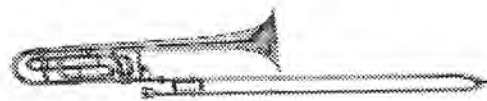
by Don Hall

Webster's defines the trombone as: A brass instrument consisting of a long cylindrical metal tube with two turns and having a movable slide for varying the tone and a usual range one octave lower than that of the trumpet. Trombones have been around since the middle 15th century. Written references to trombones have been found as early as 1459, and trombones have been depicted in German and Italian paintings done between 1460-1480. The oldest surviving trombone was manufactured by Erasmus Schnitzer in 1551, and is part of the Nuremberg Collection. The trombones basic design has remained unchanged over the past centuries. Around 1820, with the invention of a satisfactory valve mechanism, trombones became more complex, losing their simplicity. Other than the addition of valves, the main modifications have been in the slide and the materials of manufacture. Other changes have been mainly to design the instrument for a particular purpose like tonal range or comfort. The main types of trombone, (non-valved) are the treble, alto, bass, and contrabass. Due to the length needed to achieve the proper tones for the contrabass, Nuremberg instrument makers doubled the slide so that there were four telescoping sections instead of the normal two. The contrabass has been replaced in modern times with the tuba. The treble trombone was revived in the 1930's as a "special effects" instrument for the Dance Band. Generally, on the tenor and bass trombones are used in bands and orchestras today.

Trombones are currently manufactured of malleable yellow brass of approximately 70%

copper to 30% zinc, with one of the "white bronzes" used for the mounts and sometimes the moving parts. In the 18th and early 19th centuries it was not uncommon to find instruments made of copper with mountings made of yellow brass. Also, the quality of metal alloy varied from one batch to the next so that it was difficult to make instruments exactly alike. To make an instrument the "brass" metal was pounded flat, cut, shaped, soldered and/or pinned together. Modern manufacturing techniques permit the bell and tubes to be manufactured from sheets of metal so that there are no solder joints along the length of the instrument, only at the mounting joints. Thus, refinement in materials manufacturing and assembly techniques has resulted in improvements in the trombones sound quality.

Musically, the free-slide principle has endowed the trombone with a refinement which is found nowhere else in the orchestra save among the unfretted strings. Every position of the extended slide is finally determined by ear (an experienced player can do this instinctively). Extremely subtle degrees of inflection are possible, and the trombonist can temper the intervals between notes to an extent beyond the reach of other wind players. The trombone is the only wind instrument that can be played completely in tune all the time. Of course, reverse is also true. Musical quality rests mainly on the abilities and skill of the player.  
*(continued on page 7)*



# The Blacksburg Community Band Newsletter

## Musical Quiz

by Renee Jacobsen

1. Name the signer of the Declaration of Independence who was a noted musician.
2. Which composer was familiarly known as Papa?
3. Who was the Poet of the Piano?
4. What American play is the subject of an opera by Puccini?
5. What famous musician walked 150 miles to study music?
6. Did Beethoven compose most of his great symphonies before or after he became deaf?
7. Who was the March King?
8. What musical instrument was invented by Benjamin Franklin?
9. The armies led by Joan of Arc had a favorite hymn. Name it.
10. Who was the German musician who received a royal appointment in England?
11. What Viennese composer was noted for his melodious songs?
12. What is the most popular march in American music?

*(continued from page 6)*

For more information about the trombone, I recommend **The Trumpet and Trombone**, by Philip Bate and **The Trombone: The Instrument and Its Music**, by Gregory. These and other fine books may be found at the Carol Newman Library at Virginia Tech. With the additional trombonists joining our community band, we have developed an awesome low brass capability. So lets play some good "bone" music, Ed. You other "sections" had better start recruiting, or play louder.

## Band Membership

### New Members

#### TRUMPET

Matt Davis  
Terry Fairbanks  
Penny Goode  
Carter Hall  
Lindsey Holladay  
Megan Ross  
Bob Walker

#### FLUTE

Susan Barnard  
Lori Keck

#### HORN

Tom Springer

#### TROMBONE

Remi Howell  
Steve McGovern

#### TUBA

Dan Conway

*Dana Spencer* has continued taking attendance on a weekly basis.

E-MAIL addresses have been added to our roster. If you would like to receive info from Ed via this medium, please give Dana your E-MAIL address.

*(continued from page 4)*

are involved in this years production. *Don and Amy Hall, Rachel Landry, Janine Cloutier, and myself* are members of the orchestra. Although the orchestra slots have been filled, this all volunteer production still needs people to help with a variety of behind-the-scenes roles. If you are interested in helping with jobs like building, painting, sewing, lights or audio, please see me and I'll send you in the right direction.

**Mame** will be performed at Squires Haymarket Theatre from August 24-28, and at Radford's Preston Auditorium from September 1-4. Hope to see you all there.

*(continued from page 5)*

wife, Suzanne, and his two children--Russell, Jr., and Lindsey. Russell's hobbies include hiking, traveling to new places, and choosing from among his collection of 800 compact disks for listening selections from Albinoni to Zappa.

# The Blacksburg Community Band Newsletter

## Upcoming Schedule At-A-Glance


**July 2, Sat.** - Band & Chorus picnic,  
Nellie's Cave Park, Blacksburg, 4 pm

**July 4, Mon.** - Blacksburg 4th of July  
Parade, Blacksburg Middle School, 2 pm

**July 4, Mon.** - Lane Stadium, 4th of July  
Concert, 8:30 pm

**July 13, Wed.** - Shawsville, Brookmeade  
Retirement Center, 7 pm

**July 22, Fri.** - Pulaski, Jackson Park  
Gazebo, 6:30 pm


**Aug. 6, Sat.** - Blacksburg, Steppin' Out,  
Festival Stage, downtown Blacksburg,  
12:00 noon. 

## Disclaimer

The Blacksburg Community Band Newsletter is an occasional communication organ of the Blacksburg Community Band (sort of).

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily anyone's in particular, so they are not necessarily the views of the Blacksburg Community Band, the Town of Blacksburg, the Commonwealth of Virginia or the United States of America! Believe what you wish to believe, forget the rest.

If you have a problem with anything in this rag, contact our lawyers in Boston, the law firm of Dewey, Cheetham & Howe (firm on retainer by Click & Clack).

If you decide to litigate one of our writers, let us know so we can run the slanderous louse out of town. 

**The Blacksburg Community Band**  
**725 Patrick Henry Drive**  
**Blacksburg, VA 24060**