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## The Bandon Concert Band, The Leading Musical Organization of Southwest Oregon

The "Bandon Concert Band," and played quite a number of good pieces, among which were the Red, Blue and Green Marches, well re- membered by the old band boys. After our first Leader had made all the money he thought possible out of the Band and the people, he severed his connections with the or- ganization; we will, however, give him credit for doing good work with the Band, and more than all, start- ing it out right. Garnaud was a finished musician, and could not be

Filled with the same fire that prompted the creation of the old Bandon Cornet Band, about the 22nd day of February, 1902, C. S. McCulloch and a few of his faithful followers conceived the idea of organizing another band, consequently mustered together as many of the old confederates as could be persuaded to take any interest in the affair, and together with a number of the young and more enthusiastic bloods of the town, raised funds enough to buy a bristling bunch of tin cans of the famous Jean Marbeau style; this, however, could not have been accomplished but for the charity of Clarence Lowe, who had dealers' prices on musical instruments and gave the boys a very liberal discount. Well, to make a long story short, the instruments came and the boys cast lots to see who should get which, and if the writer remembers correctly, Joe McCord won first pick and went off home smiling behind the Bb Bass, which, by the way, was the most expensive and most attractive of the instruments; Earnie Boak got the next draw and picked up a Bb Cornet, with the remark that he would take one nearer his size as an experiment and see what he could do with a little one first; other draws followed as interesting as the first two, but we don't remember just who or what they were, only that Lawrence Stitt fell heir to the Tuba, and George Manciett got snared on the Tenor Drum; all other instruments being divided up, except one Eb Cornet which Herb Manciett was bribed into taking, and the Bass Drum which went begging, principally for the reason that it could not be blown or was not made of polished brass; nevertheless, the organization went to work learning the scale with a vengeance, and the first real work was accomplished when our well-remembered French friend, Louis Garnaud, was imported from Chehalis, Washington, with his Cornet, Violin, Guitar, Mandolin and Whistle, to teach the new Band how to "Um ta ta."

After six months of thorough drilling, very much to the credit of this Leader, the Band sounded considerably like a musical organization,

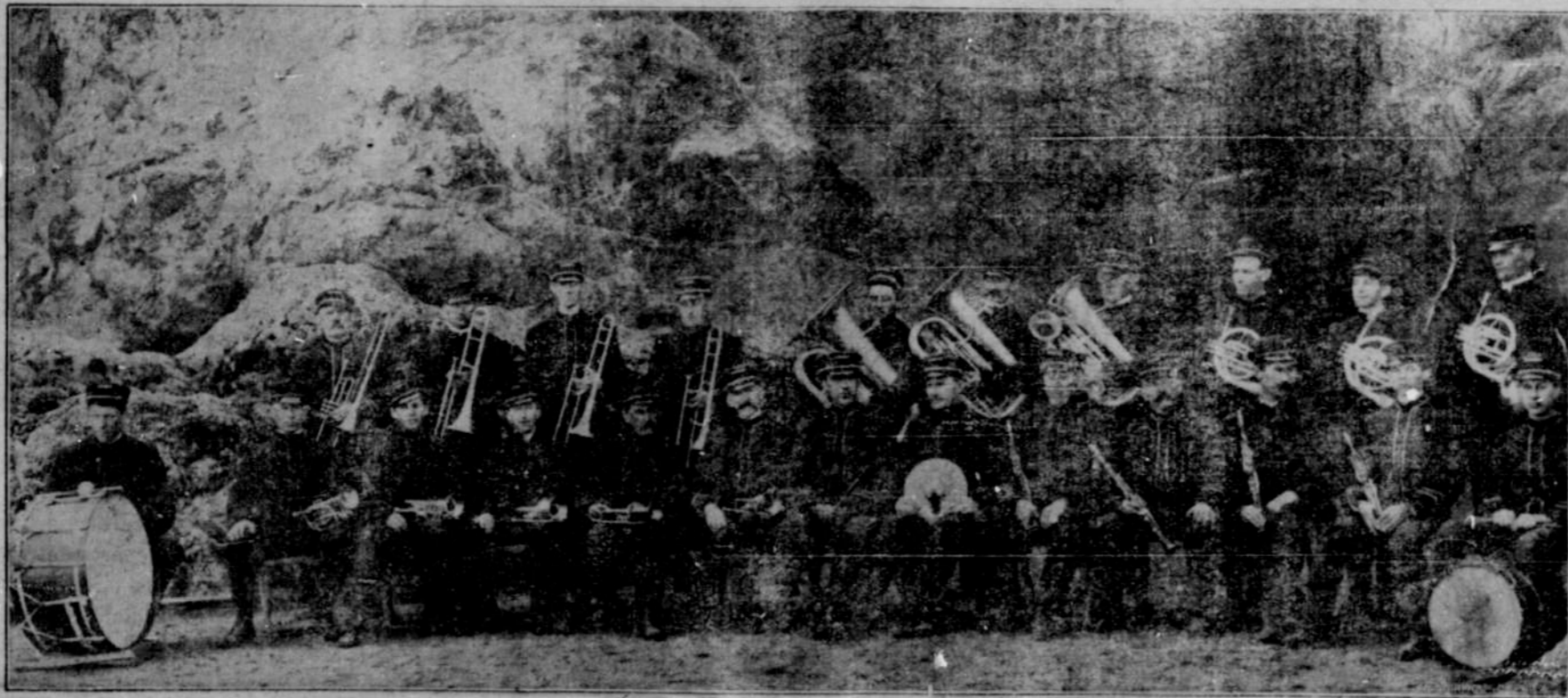
To make a success of a country band, give it a standing, keep up the interest of the musicians, and, in fact, have and maintain a good organization, it is necessary to keep Directors who understand their business, preferably imported men. The next Director to follow was Charles J. Franchi, of San Francisco, a student of Billy Mayhood, and a musician and gentleman in every respect; an ambitious worker for the Band, a fine cornetist, and a

many pleasant events spent with Mr. and Mrs. Franchi, besides the last- ing effects of his splendid musical work. The Band, however, was again lucky, and secured another able Director in the person of W. Frank Harris, a native of Santa Ana, California, who reached Bandon about April 1st, 1904, from St. Joe, Texas. Prof. Harris took hold of the Band with the zest and spirit of his pre- cessors, and being a man of clever musical ability, besides having ten years' experience as a Director, and being of a genial disposition, a good judge of human nature, and clever at handling band organizations, was not long in winning the friendship

would tender his resignation; suffice to say that it was March the 1st, 1906, nearly two years from that date, when Prof. Harris tendered his resignation and retired from the musical business entirely and en- gaged in the abstract business with his brother in Santa Ana, California, with the announcement that had he intended to follow band directing, he would not have resigned. Bandon will always hold pleasant re- membrance of W. Frank Harris and his estimable wife. During this time the Band changed its name from the "Bandon Fire Department Band" to "Bandon Concert Band," as the organization had grown from fourteen to eighteen and twenty

men, and had added a Reed section in order to handle the grade of music which they had advanced to using. The next man the management undertook to secure was our present Director; however, we were disap- pointed in our first attempt. On June 1st, 1906, Frank Bowker, of Lead, South Dakota, was engaged to wield the baton over what had grown to be something of a substan-

tial musical organization, and held that position until about the 1st of September of the same year, when the management for the second time opened negotiations with Prof. E. B. Kausrud, of Wisconsin, but without success. We then got into corre- spondence with one Frederick N. Bartley, of Henderson, Texas, and closed a contract with him, not, however, without some misapprehen- sion, as Bartley seemed to be of an unsettled temperament. This man started for Bandon about September 7th, and got as far as Drain, Oregon, when some miscreant, who had more venom than conscience, had the audacity to advise him that he had been humbugged, or, rather, hood- winked by the versatile (hot air) pen of the Manager of the Bandon Concert Band, and that things which Bartley believed, were not, where- upon the gentleman lost his faith and returned to Portland, and wrote to the Band what had happened. We then telegraphed him and with the assistance of all our Portland friends tried to assure Mr. Bartley of our good faith, but without avail; he he wired us back, "Nothing doing, going South," and as we reflect upon what has since transpired, we are now glad that there was "no- thing doing," as we again opened negotiations with Prof. E. B. Kaus- rud, and this time calling to our assistance the influence of an old- time friend of his, was successful. A contract was signed, and he is still with us, an able director, a profes- sional musician, and a gentleman. The Band is now composed of twenty-four men, fully equipped with high grade instruments and fully uniformed, and we feel that we should be forgiven for a natural amount of pride when we say that not only the members, but the good citizens of Bandon and many others are proud of the organization which helps to sound the prosperity of Coos County and tickle the ear of the visitor with not only popular but standard music and operatic selec- tions.



The Bandon Concert Band, from a Photograph taken after a Concert on the Beach, June 23rd, 1907.

accused of being lazy; his nervous temperament was the only thing against him; he worked to the in- terest of the Band, and especially his own interest. With the passing of this man, however, the manage- ment learned one thing which had much to do with the musical stand- ing of the present organization (which, by the way, was organized under the name of "Bandon Fire Department Band") and that was: friends in Bandon to remember the

and confidence of the men, and the esteem of the entire public. Conse- quently, the Band again went ahead by leaps and bounds. Unfor- tunately, however, the Director tired of the quiet life of Bandon, and returned to San Francisco. After spending the summer in California, he again returned to Bandon, again resigning his position about the first of March, 1904, leaving many at sight within two months from the date of his announcement, or he

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