

The Drum- Major



Property of Vincent Wise of 31
M.C.M.

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PUBLISHED BY THE

Catholic High School Band

OF

Hamilton, Ohio



*On The Occasion Of The First
Anniversary Of Its Organization
February 1, 1931*

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Dedication

*To the spirit and zeal of all organizers,
to their ideal, "Carry-On," this book is
earnestly dedicated. May their devotion and
perseverance be the inspiration of many others.*



R. B. Jennings



Alfred L. Beigel Sm.

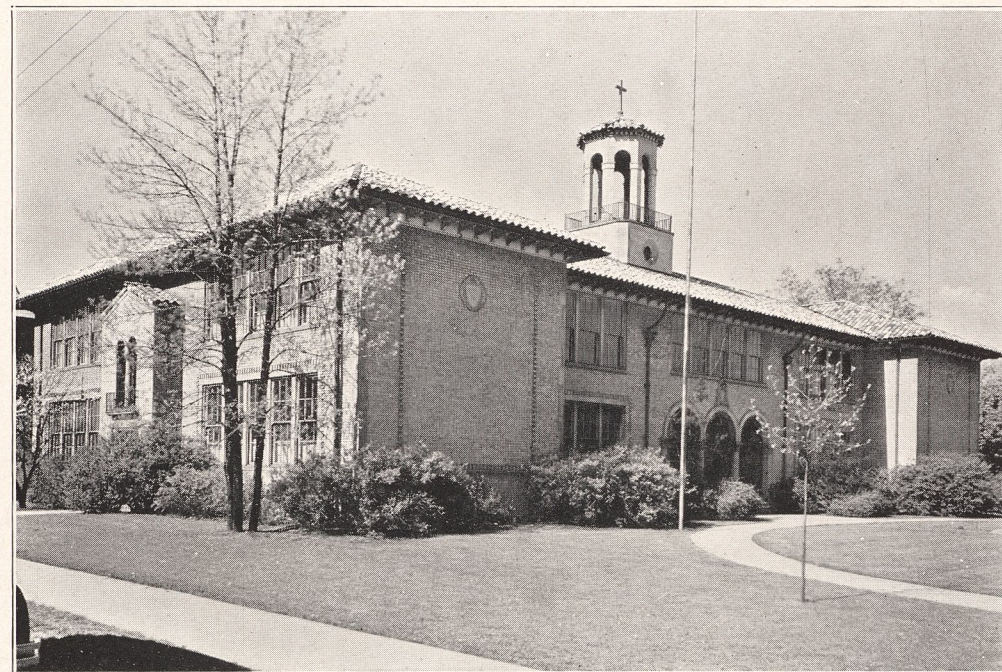


Edwin J. Weber Sm.





Bro. Thomas G. Leibold.



Hamilton Catholic High School



SEPTEMBER, 1909, first saw the opening of Catholic High School, when students from the various parishes who had successfully passed the eighth grade were admitted to the care of the Brothers of Mary.

Before the school originated, each parish had its own grade school, but had no chance to further develop the talents of the youngsters in a Catholic High School. The pastors of Hamilton, therefore, seeing a necessity for higher education, thanks to them, succeeded in putting through the idea of Catholic High.

The Brothers of Mary were called upon by the Board of Wardens to teach, and it is through them that the school has turned out such a successful lot of graduates, three-hundred in less than a score of years.

First to have the honor of being Principal at Catholic High was Brother Edward Knust. He and those who were to assist him, arrived in the late summer of 1909, and in September the scholastic activities were begun with approximately sixty students. Four years later, 1913, Catholic High saw its first graduating class.

There have been many in charge since Bro. Edward, among them Bro. Alfred Beigel, the present principal, and all have filled their positions in a manner that does credit to the Society of Mary.

Progress of Music

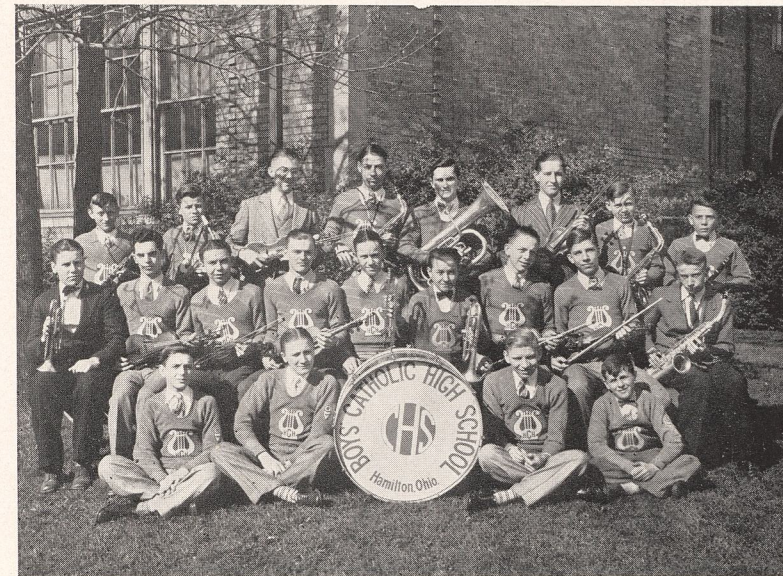
AS all know the success of the band did not come all of a sudden. There had to be preparation for it, and that preparation was found in the various musical organizations that were in existence at the school in the past years. Starting with the year 1928, and even before, music always played a great part in the life of the school. Orchestras, choirs, glee clubs were always to be found. When Bro. John Schuetz was made principal of the school, he encouraged the idea of a band but at that time there was insufficient material to guarantee the success of the venture, and it was allowed to die a natural death.

In 1928, Bro. Joseph Walters was in charge of music in the school, and as the picture shows there were still a few who followed the call of



the Muse. According to history, the big events of the year as far as the orchestra was concerned, were the annual play given in February and the Commencement Exercises held in June. It was just about this time that the orchestra was organized in St. Joseph's Parochial School, which was destined to play a large part in the future musical history of Catholic High School.

At this point it may be well to pause and give a word of consideration to one who was never mentioned in connection with the success of the present band at the High School. This is no other than Mr. Robert Mick, organist at St. Joseph's Church. It was due to his initiative, organizing ability and persistence that a group of boys was finally gathered together to form the beginners' orchestra. He labored under great difficulty. The very foundations of music had to be installed into the minds of the boys. There was no chance to pick



from those who had some training. He himself had to do the training. And then as soon as he had some of them in line that they could serve him, the time came for them to graduate and they took with them the results of his labor. But it was not in vain that he had worked. They were grateful for the work

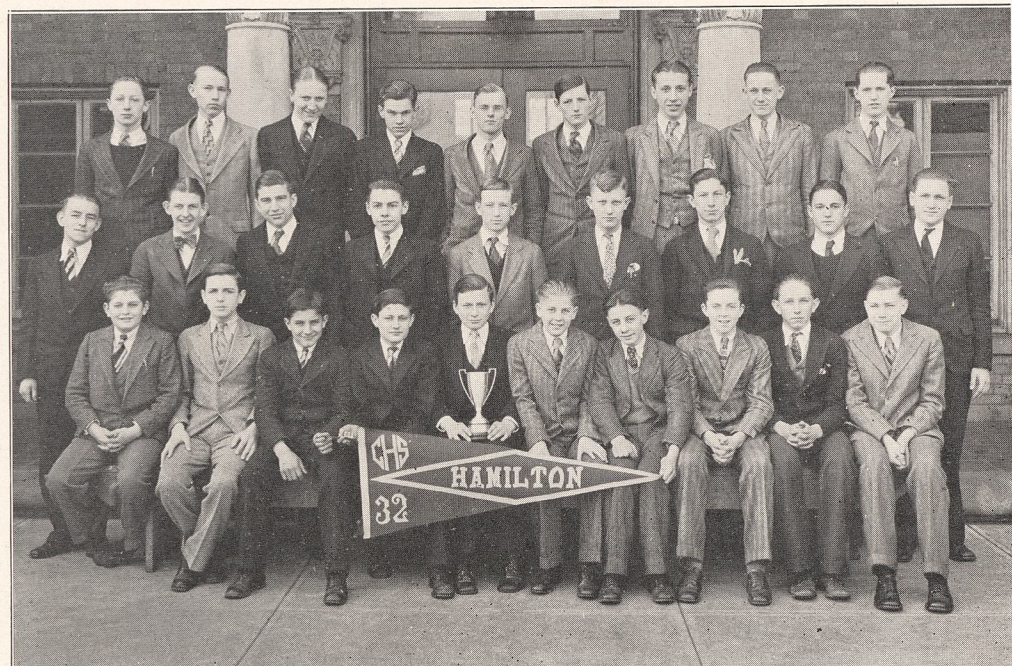
that he had undertaken for their benefit and they are still to be found on occasions playing for the benefit of the school in the Church Auditorium.

It was in another way that his work did an amount of good, and the Catholic High School was the one to benefit. The picture of the 1929 orchestra shows a remarkable improvement in personnel. The reason is obvious. The boys graduating from St. Joseph's School were beginning to make their presence known and felt. Of course that does not mean to imply that St. Joseph's was the only school represented.

The greater interest in music made itself felt in the organization of the Schubert Clef Club.

This greater interest accounts for the attempt at a band the following year. It is another fulfillment of the proverb, "Great oaks from little acorns grow."





Organization of the First Band

WHEN finally it was decided to step up in line with the rest of the schools, which at that time were boasting a military band, immediately the question of finance was brought to the fore, and it was indeed a serious question.

But here is the point where the merchants of the town came to the rescue. A huge drive was started that was to end at a final awarding of prizes at a grand card party. Catholic High was favored by almost every one of the merchants in town, and beautiful prizes were freely donated for the grand drive and card party.

As an incentive to urge the boys then attending the school to do their utmost for the campaign, a silver loving cup was promised to the class that showed itself the best in the drive for donations. It will be to the everlasting credit of the Class of Sophomore B of 1930, that they took this prize. It will also be permanently imprinted in the memory of that same class, just how the cup was won,—that final drive, rush and anxiety until the last gong sounded. There were many rivals for the prize, and many close, also.

At present the cup rests, beautifully engraved, in the library, in the presence of all, for all to admire.

Those boosters and merchants who were the first to show their good feeling toward this new venture, are hereby tendered our sincerest gratitude.

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The First Band 1929-1930

ON October 1, 1929, Bro. Edwin Weber started the latest project of Catholic High School,—the band.

Bro. Thomas Seebold was principal at the time, and at his suggestion Bro. Edwin investigated to see if the attempt would be feasible. It was his belief that with a good deal of work it could be accomplished.

It was right then and there that the work started. Anyone at all who was interested, was allowed to make a tryout for the instrument that he desired. A stranger coming by chance into the school of an evening would



be at a loss to explain the weird noises proceeding from here and there and everywhere. That is all that can be said. They were just noises. By and by, though, these noises began to approach something like a series of definite tones. Results were coming.

Only two months after the date of organization the band made its first appearance, at the opening basket-ball game of the season.

Later it was learned that trips to Dayton caused considerable comment. People wondered how a school of two hundred could put out a band of thirty-five members, while others of much larger enrollment had no band at all.



HERE he is—lancier outfit, shako, baton and all—Charles "Bill" Fey, the leader of the band on parade. When it comes to looks, Bill certainly is there. However, he has more than just appearance, he has the goods. On parade he is right up in front leading and signalling, and the rest of the band follows right in line, even if "everybody is out of step but Bill."

When Bill stepped out on that first night, he was greeted first with "Oh's and Ah's" and then a round of cheering and clapping.

But it is not all play. Many an afternoon, saw him prancing up and down at home trying to master the art of the baton. But that was not enough. Bill got a special twirling baton, and started the real work. To the accompaniment of a victrola—Bill strutted and twirled the stick, and strutted again, until it began to look more like an endurance contest than anything resembling band practice.

But then, this just goes to show that although there may be glamor to the job, there is work there also.



"Three—four—one," another rehearsal starts at 7:15



Tommy Smith

NO fancy uniforms here. The only hint at that sort of thing might be the shirt sleeves. Rehearsal night means a night to work. What is lacking in positive art is more than made up in good will, and even as Charity covers a multitude of sins, so good will may be said to cover the grossest of errors. If those who compliment the band on its achievements would step behind the scenes on rehearsal night they would understand the how and why of these achievements. It is work, drill and more work.

One very interesting party who is never present at the rehearsals, but who accompanies the band and the teams and spurs them on to greater achievements is our little Green Devil mascot, none other than Tommy Smith. He admires and sort of fears the great big horn that Edgar Bodenmiller plays. He once expressed the desire that Santa Claus bring him a great big horn. Maybe he will.





H. C. H. Band of To-day

HERE is the band that has done the honors for Catholic High School during the year 1930-31.

As will be seen by examination, there is a considerable increase in size. This was to be expected from the very beginning, for when planning the band, the loss by graduation had to be considered. This loss, it was hoped, would not be considerable, but as events turned out, it was, by far, greater than was at first anticipated. Even at that, the recruits from the ranks of the Freshmen, helped in a very large measure, to swell the number.

It is hoped, though, that enrollment is not the only improvement. Although the band is organized only a year, it has shown itself remarkably well for that space of time. It is not every organization that can boast of having made its first appearance only two months after organizing. And during that space of time, half of the members had to be trained in the use of the instruments that they were to play.

It is this band today that is the first to have marched in a parade under the name of Catholic High. Although organized last year, there was little opportunity for marching. But in this present year parade activities started with that for the Holy Name, followed with Armistice Day.

Perhaps some day we will read in the papers of Hamilton Catholic High School Band taking a prominent place in the national band contests.



Armistice Day Parade



Privileged Members in 1930

SHORTLY after the first appearance of the band Jacobi-Murray Photographers asked to have some representative members of the band for a window display. Together with the Drum-Major these boys were chosen, and quite a display it was. As can be seen, there was quite a variety of instruments. Edgar Bodenmiller with his Sousaphone was quite a contrast to Robert Ruhlman and his cornet. Some one remarked that Ed is very much wrapped up in his instrument. For the medium instruments Harold Hessler and Joseph Savelli made a very presentable appearance with their mellophone and trombone.

Let us hope that some day when they are playing first chair of their respective instruments in some great nationally known band or orchestra they will be able to look back with pride to the day when they made their first appearance in the little town of Hamilton in the first band of the Catholic High School there.

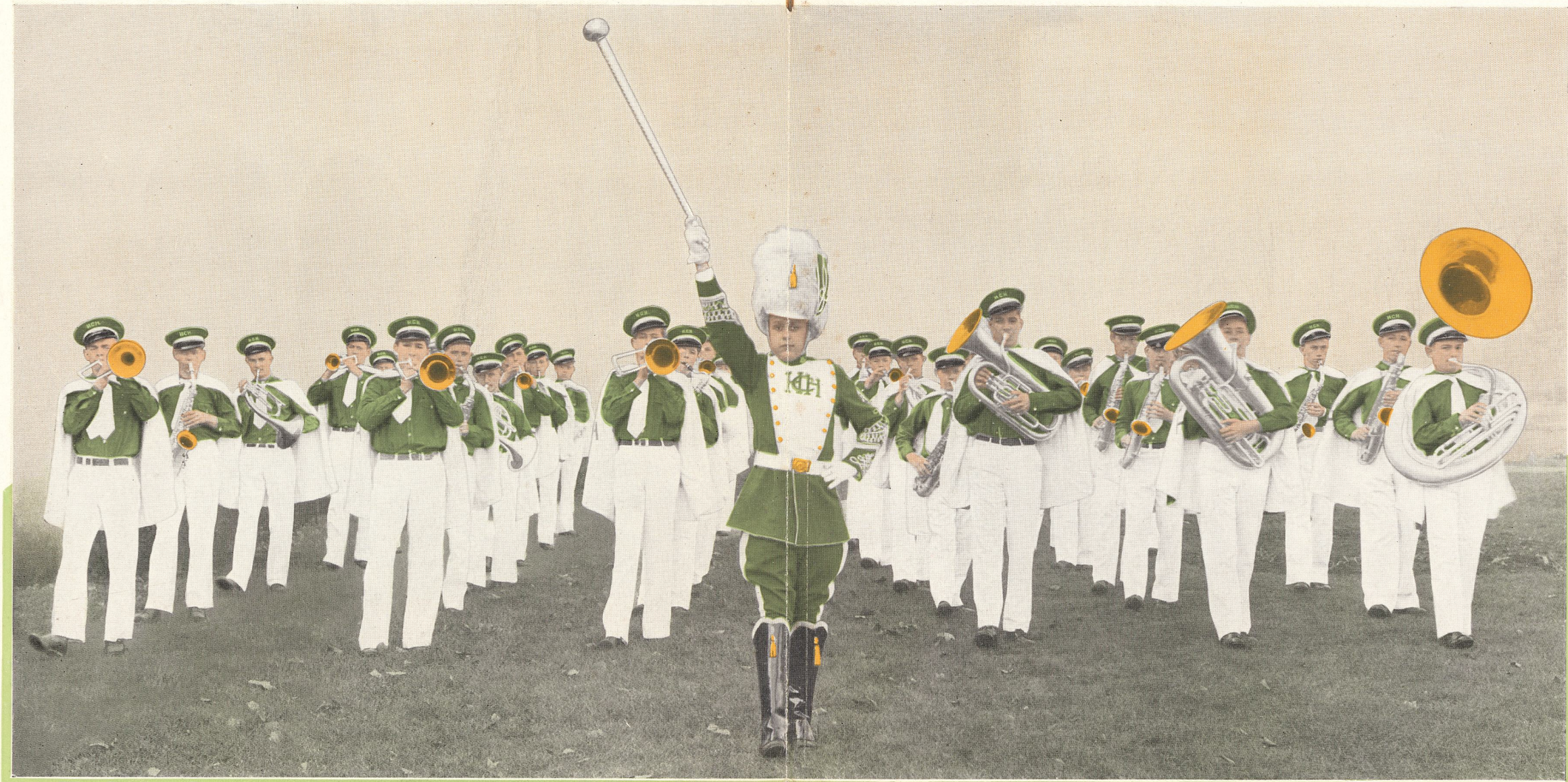


On Formation

THERE they are—spelling it out so that the world can see it—an “H” for Hamilton, and the green and white for Catholic High. But with all the show that it makes, nevertheless it must be said that the band seems almost a “JINKS” to the football team. For every one of the home games at which the band played, the team turned in a defeat, but just as soon as the music makers had a day off, just so soon would the team rally and a victory was the result.

The picture of the band from the rear was taken from an upper floor of the First National Bank, and is an exceptional one of its kind. The crowd is there, the boys are there with green and white standing out clearly against the somber background of buildings and street. And as those who were there will remember, the weather threatened to make things still more somber, and perhaps even a little moist, but thanks to the guardian of the celestial gates, that was averted. It was at this parade that moving pictures were taken, and the same was done for one of the football games.





Here They Come!



Band by Groups



Peppy Junior B



HERE is the class that came to the fore in the past few weeks. Although the smallest class in the school, it has the honor of being the class to have done the most work in the matter of making THE DRUM-MAJOR a success.

Naturally publishing a book of this kind, means financial backing, and Junior B was there with the goods. Elmer Woltering showed them all how it should be done. When it comes to practical business matters, we must look to this class. Well, it is the Business Class. Undoubtedly that accounts for their financial success.

Three prizes were awarded to the three students doing the most work for THE DRUM-MAJOR. The winners of these prizes were: Junior B, Elmer Woltering; Freshman B, Julius Uhl; Freshman B, Paul Welsh. Many others were close to these, but one must be better to be a real winner and these three were. They did just a little more work than the others, and to them goes the glory.

Later, in the Variety Night contest Junior B under the leadership of Robert Lawyer, again took the lead of all others and thereby captured the 1931 Spirit Trophy. Hats off to Junior B.

The band certainly thanks all those who worked so zealously for the success of the DRUM-MAJOR and Variety Night.

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