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AN EVALUATION  
OF  
COMMUNITY SUPPORT  
IN THE  
ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM

A Professional Paper by

Robert Paul Langen  

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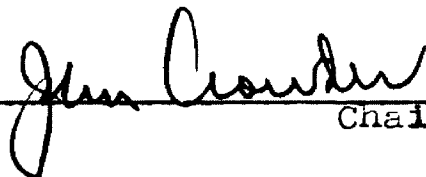
B.M., Montana State University, 1942

Presented in partial fulfillment of the  
requirement for the degree of Master of Music in  
Music Education

Montana State University

1949

Approved:

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Chairman of Board  
of Examiners

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Dean, Graduate School

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## INTRODUCTION

This was an empirical study. Instrumental programs were actually established in two school systems by the author.<sup>1</sup> Its purpose was to emphasize the role of active community financial and moral support in the establishment of these programs.

Hamilton (approximate population, 3800), and Darby (approximate population, 450), both in the county of Ravalli, Montana, were the two communities in which the instrumental programs were established. They are situated fifty and sixty-five miles respectively up a somewhat "dead end" valley, shut off, to some extent, from the musical activities available in other communities which are not so isolated. The towns in Ravalli County had, financially, the poorest schools in the state of Montana.<sup>2</sup> None of these schools had ever established instrumental music as a permanent part of their school curriculum. However, in 1940, a music teacher started bands in five communities which included Hamilton, but did not include Darby. This music teacher solicited members by permission from the

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<sup>1</sup>By the term "establish" it is meant that, with a reasonable amount of certainty, the music program would remain and continue to grow and improve.

<sup>2</sup>Office of State Superintendent of Schools, "Taxable Valuation Per Pupil", Montana Education, XXIV (April, 1948), 36.

schools, but in no other way did he have official connection with the school systems. Band rehearsals were usually held once each week for which each band member paid fifty cents. The instructor sold many cheap instruments, and after three years, left Ravalli County and the bands died out. Even though a certain amount of reluctance toward starting another program in Hamilton was noted, there were numerous citizens in Hamilton who had made efforts toward starting a community band. These were noble efforts, but against hopeless odds under the conditions as there was a definite lack of adequate performers and no training program taking place. There were no music stores in Ravalli County. Radio reception was poor. In Hamilton there were three part-time piano teachers and there was one vocal teacher in the grade school; there were no music teachers in Darby. Because of a Government Health Laboratory, Hamilton was unique in that it had a sizable number of scientists and other well-educated people in the community. A large chapter of the American Association of University Women was very active in Hamilton. Certain civic groups in Hamilton had sponsored music programs with talent from the Music School of Montana State University, which indicated musical interest on the part of these groups. Darby, being much smaller than Hamilton, had no influential civic clubs and organizations other than a Parent-Teacher Association and a very active



Women's Club. The children who attended the Darby school came from an extensive farming area; this made it difficult to ascertain, immediately, the attitude of the people toward a music program.

The plan for starting an instrumental program was first introduced in Hamilton during July, 1946. The Hamilton school superintendent, even though faced with problems of running an under-staffed school system with insufficient funds and an ever increasing enrollment, nevertheless, consented to include an instrumental program in the curriculum. However, sufficient funds were made available to pay for only half-time instruction. The Darby school superintendent and school board were then approached. They consented to pay for the remaining half-time instruction.<sup>3</sup>

Conditions in these two communities indicated that certain problems would exist at the beginning of the program. The school boards would have to do much planning and juggling of figures in order to eventually carry the financial responsibility of the programs. The initial cost of setting up the program would be greater than the maintenance of the program after it had been established.

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<sup>3</sup>The Darby school superintendent and the Hamilton school superintendent rendered assistance by contacting, in person, every Darby school board member, and persuaded them to include half-time instrumental instruction in the Darby school curriculum.

Not having had any extensive instrumental programs in the past, the schools lacked adequate facilities such as rehearsal rooms and storage space. Music classes had not been scheduled in the past and, therefore, presented another problem. A lack of understanding on the part of the students and parents would result in a lack of enthusiasm, and, therefore, present a serious recruiting problem. There was a noticeable lack of strong feeling toward the community need for an instrumental program--an inability to see the eventual benefits.

Need for outside-school aid was obvious from the beginning. Because of this, the best approach seemed to be the one which would produce results as quickly as possible with the greatest amount of appeal to the public. The strong public appeal and the comparative ease of building a band for quick performances made it an ideal vehicle for publicity and promotion. Because there would be only half-time instruction in each school, an extensive instrumental program was not possible. For these reasons, it was decided to first develop a band program in each school, with string instrument and choral work relegated to a secondary role, to be developed later as the groundwork would be laid through a band program.

## THE PROBLEM

The importance of outside-school support in the establishment and the maintenance of a school music program is beyond question. However, it is the awareness of the particular kind of support needed that is vital in effective utilization of community aid. The particular kind of support needed, and the extent to which it is needed depends on many factors, namely, (1) the type of music program, (2) the size of the community, (3) the location of the community, (4) the financial status of the community, (5) the financial status of the school, (6) the availability of facilities for music teaching, and (7) the cultural background of the people, and their attitudes in regard to music. These factors not only dictate the manner of community assistance, but also work the other way, and dictate the manner in which the music program renders assistance to the community.

The purpose of this study was to provide sufficient information to evaluate community support in the establishment of instrumental programs in Hamilton and Darby, and to present this information in such a way that it could be valuable as an aid in establishing and operating other music programs as well. In order to evaluate community support in these towns, it was deemed necessary to bring in all the above mentioned factors as functions in the evaluating

process. In addition, descriptive and extensive accounts of the problems encountered are presented, along with the methods by which these problems were solved.

A logical, step by step, development of the program is presented as much as possible. The problems and their treatment are listed chronologically as long as clarity can be maintained, but, because many problems prevailed simultaneously, there is a certain amount of back-tracking and overlapping. The material is grouped in two phases: the Beginning Phase and the Final Phase. There is no definite period of time contained in each phase. As an example, the beginning phase of problem "B" could be the first two months, whereas the beginning phase of problem "C" could be the first nine months.

#### A. Beginning Phase

The beginning phase deals only with the description of each problem as it existed at the outset, along with any immediate solutions by which these problems were treated. If the solution to a problem was not found at the beginning, it was relegated to the second portion of this paper, the "Final Phase".

1. Recruiting Instrumental Students and Procuring Privately Owned Instruments for the Students. During the

first few weeks of school, the recruiting procedure in Hamilton and Darby was the same; talks and demonstrations of band instruments were given in every class room, from the fifth grade through high school.<sup>4</sup> In addition, the Seashore musical test was given. Students who were interested as a result of the demonstrations were interviewed and sent home with a questionnaire to their parents. Students who achieved outstanding results in the Seashore test were contacted and encouraged to start on an instrument; in addition, their parents were contacted and encouraged as well.

Following is a table indicating the recruits obtained in Hamilton as a result of this campaign:

Recruiting Table 1

	<u>Owned Instrument</u>	<u>Possible Purchasers</u>	<u>Unable to Purchase</u>	<u>Total</u> <sup>5</sup>
Hamilton High School	5	5	4	14
Hamilton Grade School	2	11	9	22
				<u>36</u>

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<sup>4</sup>In grades five through twelve, Hamilton had 638 students and Darby had 210.

<sup>5</sup>From this group of 36, only 15 actually started and continued on for the remainder of the school year.

There was a noticeable lack of interest on the part of the Hamilton high school student. The Seashore test was not a success because the students were crowded into a large assembly room; they were noisy and inattentive. It was found later that some of the high school students who signed up for band at the very beginning did so only as a joke, with no intention of going through with it. The band instructor and the proposed music program may have seemed quite unreal and unofficial to the high school student. There was no designated room or office for the music department and there was no place in the curriculum for music--the student could not see what he would be getting in to. He had no reason to respect the band instructor nor the things for which he stood. In the Hamilton grade school, students were mildly interested during the demonstrations and the testing.

The parents of prospective recruits were invited to meet with the instructor regarding the matter of procuring instruments. In most cases, the parent made no effort to meet with the instructor. There was a great amount of hesitancy on the part of the parents when it came to actually investing in an instrument.

It seemed apparent that the interest on the part of the parents toward the instrumental program was a more serious problem than in the case of the student. The

student had seen the demonstrations; he had been tested and he had been encouraged by the instructor, thereby influenced directly. The next course of action, therefore, was an attempt to influence the parents by a more direct approach.

First, all outstanding civic clubs and organizations were contacted and arrangements were made for the instructor to present a few musical selections and to give a promotion talk. During the second and third months of school this was done at the Eagles Lodge, Elks Lodge, Lion's Club, Women's Club, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Parent-Teacher Association, and the Grange Club. The minister of every church in town was contacted; the proposed music program was explained to him, stressing the benefits his church would derive from it; he was requested to help his parish see the value of the music program and to encourage them to take advantage of it. Articles were written and published in the two local newspapers. A mimeographed explanation of the proposed music program was given to every student in the Hamilton school system to take home to his parents.

Recruiting Table 2 indicates the recruits obtained in Hamilton during the second and third months of school. (This does not include those indicated in Recruiting Table 1).

There was no conclusive evidence to show the extent to which the outside-school contacts influenced the influx

of recruits. There were, however, definite indications, here and there, of those influences. Recruits in this latter period were more often backed by their parents with the intent to purchase than in the case of earlier recruits. Here too, the grade school was affected to a much greater extent than the high school, probably because it was easier for the parent to justify starting his youngster on an instrument at an early age than at the older, high school age level. The most noticeable influences in this latter recruiting period were from the churches. Here, probably more than in any other civic organizations, the direct value of the music program to their organization was realized.

Recruiting Table 2

	<u>Owned Instrument</u>	<u>Possible Purchasers</u>	<u>Unable to Purchase</u>	<u>Total</u>
Hamilton High School	2	3	1	6
Hamilton Grade School	4	24	16	44
				<u>50</u>

In Darby, the demonstrations and musical tests were successful. Students, especially in the grades, became over-enthusiastic and registered for band in large numbers, without full sanction from their parents. Following



is a table indicating the recruits obtained during the first two weeks:

Recruiting Table 3

	<u>Owned Instrument</u>	<u>Possible Purchasers</u>	<u>Unable to Purchase</u>	<u>Total<sup>6</sup></u>
Darby High School	2	6	8	16
Darby Grade School	0	77	26	<u>103</u>
				<u>119</u>

In Darby, the interest was high, probably because of curiosity, rather than because of insight and understanding. A demonstration of band instruments was given at a Parent-Teacher Association meeting during the second week of school. Here the parents were as curiously interested as their children. Direct contact with the parents was made at the outset. As a result, the parents seldom hesitated to meet with the instructor in regard to starting his youngster on an instrument. However, there was a great amount of hesitancy on the part of the parents to invest in an instrument. As a result, very cheap instruments were the rule, and much difficulty was encountered in getting them to pay for them.

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<sup>6</sup>From this group of 119, only 39 actually started and continued on for the remainder of the school year.

Because of the great enthusiasm in Darby, there was no recruiting problem; therefore, only Hamilton was treated in the "Final Phase" of this study.

2. Scheduling. Scheduling in Hamilton was not a serious problem at the beginning because there were not enough band students to present a problem, especially in the high school. However, as the number of band students increased, a definite and serious problem presented itself.

It was the purpose to teach all band students in sections, i.e., clarinets together, saxophones together, etc.; and also to divide them into age groups as much as possible. Because of the limited curriculum, shortage of teachers and lack of additional space, the high school could not provide a place for music scheduling along with the regular school program. This necessitated taking band students from their classrooms. In order that the student would not miss the same class period every time he had rehearsal, a system of "rotating" periods was set up, whereby the rehearsals were moved up one period each time. This system of scheduling did not work. There was a lack of cooperation on the part of the teachers, the administration, and the students. The teachers did not approve of their students leaving the classrooms throughout the day. If the teacher gave a test, the band student would remain,

rather than attend his scheduled rehearsal. The administration made no attempt to set up and enforce rules and regulations regarding the scheduling. Because of this laxity on the part of the teachers and the administration in regard to the instrumental program, students, as a rule, came to rehearsals only when they felt like coming.

The "rotating" period schedule was abandoned during the second month. Instead, high school students were taken out of study hall for rehearsals whenever possible; arrangements were made with grade school teachers as to the best times for the students to leave their classrooms. As a result, attendance was better, but the sections became a mixture of instruments and age groups. This system of scheduling was used for the remainder of the first school year.

In Darby, the "rotating" period schedule was also used at the beginning. The superintendent assembled all the teachers at the outset and explained in detail the scheduling that was to be used. He told them there were to be no tests given on "band" days, and that all teachers and students were to abide by the schedule chart posted by the music instructor. There were no problems henceforth in scheduling music in the Darby schools.

3. Housing. The two Hamilton grade schools are located on opposite ends of town. The Washington School

(first through sixth grades) had no space whatsoever for music classes. The Jefferson School (first through eighth grades) had one small "spare" room which had a piano, but no blackboard and no chairs; benches were used instead. This room was used for instrumental classes whenever possible, but the grade school vocal teacher had use of the room most of the time. Therefore, most of the grade school instrumental rehearsing was done in a lunch room in the basement. The lunch room had a concrete floor, a low ceiling, poor lighting, no chairs and no blackboard; it was cluttered with tables, damp, usually cold, and poorly ventilated. It was necessary for the instructor to transport, in his automobile, the Washington band students to and from the rehearsals that were held at the Jefferson school.

Hamilton high school had no room for music classes. The auditorium stage, the gymnasium, and the hallways were the only available places for teaching music; the rehearsal place at the moment depended upon which of these locations was surrounded by the least amount of commotion.

The administration and the school board were approached several times concerning the lack of adequate rehearsal space in the three buildings. Suggestions were made at these times as to possible solutions, but all were considered by them as not practical or too expensive. Many of the civic clubs and organizations were informed of

these conditions;<sup>7</sup> parents too were informed. The purpose was not so much a "plea" as to create a community awareness of the situation as groundwork for a possible need for community assistance in the future.

This lack of adequate instrumental classroom space in the Hamilton schools existed during the entire first school year.

The Darby school was housed in one building. It had one unused room which was equipped for teaching Home Economics. However, Home Economics was not being taught, so at the beginning this room was used as an instrumental classroom. This room was crowded with sewing machines, cupboards, tables, and stoves. It was poorly insulated, and the sounds during rehearsal could be heard over the entire building.

A good-sized wooden building stood behind the Darby school. It had been hauled in from an abandoned logging camp to be used for teaching shop. It was not being used for classes, however, but as a storehouse. It had no ceiling and no insulation--just the siding, roof, and rough floor. It was suggested to the superintendent and the school board that a portion of this building be renovated and made available for teaching music. The school board was too

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<sup>7</sup>See Appendix; Item 1, p. 41, and Item 2, p. 42.

short of funds to finance any extensive work on the building; however, the school board did pay for the placement of a partition and the building of a door and steps. Members of the community located and installed a large oil-drum wood heater. Other interested citizens provided wood for heating during the entire first year.<sup>8</sup>

4. Procuring School-Owned Instruments and Equipment. In 1940-1943, when an independent outside-school band program had existed in Hamilton, the school purchased three bass horns and three alto horns; all of which were very poor quality instruments. The school, at the beginning of this program, had no other band instruments and no band equipment. It was necessary, in order to have a band, to procure at least the bare essentials, such as drums, baritone horns, cymbals, alto horns, music, and other miscellaneous equipment. All this amounted to approximately \$1,200.00. The school board stated flatly, at the very start, that not much could be spent on the music program.

Practically every possible means of procuring money

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<sup>8</sup>It was necessary, during the first winter, for the band instructor to arrive at school about one and a half hours before school started in the morning to chop wood and to heat the building before classes started. Some of the coldest days, the building could not be heated sufficiently and rehearsals were not held in the building.

was considered. However, most of these usual means would have been impossible or very difficult as the enthusiasm and understanding on the part of the individuals and organizations in the community had not yet been developed. Nevertheless, many talks were given at meetings of civic clubs and organizations as to the need for this financial aid.<sup>9</sup> As a result, nothing happened--no money was donated. Upon investigation it was found that the common answer was "Why can't the school buy their own instruments?" The band instructor then, being in desperate straits, procured the needed instruments and equipment from music dealers in Missoula, Montana, with a promise that they would be paid for later, after playing groups were developed and able to make money, and when sufficient financial support was developed in Hamilton. It was considered that if it were not for the faith these music dealers had in the eventual success of this program, that the development could not have taken place or would have been retarded to a very great extent.

The Darby school had no instruments and no band equipment at the beginning of this program. The Darby school board stated that the budget for the year would include \$32.00 for the music program, but that probably no

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<sup>9</sup>See Appendix; Item 1, p. 41.

more would be available.<sup>10</sup> Practically the same approach was used here as in Hamilton; talks were given, money-raising schemes were considered, and eventually instruments were procured from Missoula music dealers with a deferred payment stipulation.

5. Performances for Publicity Before the Bands Were Ready. It was apparent from the start that the instrumental departments were in need of good, live publicity in order to gain recognition. As the program progressed, the need for community support, both financial and moral, became more and more evident. It was decided to develop some kind of performing groups to appear at the football games, even though the bands were not yet organized. To accomplish this, twirling classes for girls were started in both Hamilton and Darby during the third week of school. Physical Education had never been offered in either school, and the girls, especially, had no opportunity to engage in athletic sports. The girls were eager for this type of training; within three or four weeks Hamilton had a group of forty-five and Darby a group of thirty, well-drilled twirlers. The girls designed and made their own costumes. Two drummers and a few buglers were hurriedly trained to

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<sup>10</sup>This \$32.00 was mistakenly taken for granted and not used immediately. As a result, the music department never received the money as it was used by the school board for some other purpose.



accompany the marching of the twirlers as they went through colorful maneuvers on the football field. These twirling groups were also used throughout the first winter at basketball games.

Results from these performances were noticed. In Darby, especially, the enthusiasm on the part of the football fans was remarkable. The attendance at the Darby Football games showed a marked increase; in fact, it was necessary to build additional bleachers as the attendance at games had never been so great. In both towns there was evidence of a great deal of enthusiasm on the part of the parents of the twirlers.

The extent to which this support was useful in regard to the band program was difficult to ascertain. If nothing else, people at least became aware of something different happening in the schools, and certainly some of this awareness was associated with the music program.

In Hamilton, no other performing groups were developed during this beginning period. However, in Darby, some of the band students played their little pieces in public in the form of solos, duets, and trios after only three or four weeks. This was possible in Darby because the training routine was not delayed at the beginning.

6. First Public Band Performances. Any semblance of a school band, in appearance or in sound, was delayed in the case of Hamilton until the spring of 1947.<sup>11</sup> Until that time, there were few requests from the community for the service of a band, and the school made no demands whatsoever. It was the intent, however, to create this demand for a band on the part of the community and the school even though a band did not yet exist. The attempts to do this were quite feeble. On a few occasions the music instructor and his wife, along with some musician friends from the Music School at Montana State University, formed a "pep" band and played for two political rallies, a county-wide picnic, and a few other events. This brought money into the band fund, but any promotional benefits from this were not noticed.

In the early spring of 1947, when the students were formed into two groups, the beginners band and the advanced band, they played for the Lion's Club Charter Night Dinner.<sup>12</sup> This was the first indication of public enthusiasm toward a band. The first concert of the Hamilton school band was given May 13, 1947. This concert was widely advertised for a two week period in the local papers and the Missoula

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<sup>11</sup>This late appearance of the band in Hamilton was due largely to slow recruiting, the mixed-up scheduling, lack of equipment, and poor rehearsal space.

<sup>12</sup>See Appendix; Item 3, p. 42.

paper through the use of ads and articles.<sup>13</sup> The bands (beginners and advanced) put on a good performance and were enthusiastically received; however, there were only 112 people in the audience. Admission was only thirty-five cents, and after the advertising, tax, and tickets were paid for, the concert had lost money.

In Darby, a little twenty-five-piece band was formed at the very beginning. The band played its first concert in December, 1946, in the form of a "Christmas Musical". A chorus was trained and was included in the concert along with the twirlers. This concert filled the Darby gymnasium to capacity.<sup>14</sup> Over 400 people attended the concert. There was no admission charge, but \$282.00 was taken in from free-will offerings. A portion of this concert was performed for the Hamilton school youngsters. The purpose was to incite a little rivalry between the students of the two schools. This performance by the Darby band in the Hamilton school was considered to have done more to gain recruits and to promote enthusiasm in the Hamilton school than any other device used for that purpose.

7. Concluding Statements Relevant to the Termination of the Beginning Phase. It was evident during the

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<sup>13</sup>See Appendix; Items 4 and 5, p. 43, Items 6 and 7, p. 44, and Item 8, p. 45.

<sup>14</sup>Ibid., Item 9, p. 45.

beginning phase of the establishment of these music programs, that the relationship with the community was important. It was during the beginning phase that definite needs for outside-school support became clear. In the matter of recruiting in Hamilton, community support was paramount; in the problem of scheduling in Hamilton, outside-school aid could possibly enter in; in the procurement of housing, community assistance seemed necessary in both Hamilton and Darby; in the financing of school-owned instruments and equipment, it became obvious that outside support was essential in both Darby and Hamilton.

Community support was utilized at the very beginning, in such cases as recruiting in both Darby and Hamilton, and the public response in Darby to their first band concert. Also, in some instances, there was an attempt to utilize community support without success. However, as a whole, the beginning phase emphasized the need for community support rather than the actual use of community support. By understanding this need for community support, a certain amount of information necessary to evaluate this community support was realized.

#### B. Final Phase

Although the final phase was a continuation of the beginning phase, it was different in that there was more

stress on the actual use of outside-school aid. During this latter period, the programs were gaining momentum, and were on their way to being securely established.

1. Organizing a Music Sponsor's Group in Hamilton.

During the month of January, 1947, it was decided that the best possible way to procure some kind of organized public support in Hamilton would be through a music sponsor's group. During that month, people who were strongly in favor of music were contacted individually and persuaded to assist in the formation of such a group. This picked group of musically interested citizens acted as a committee in organizing the first meeting. It was the purpose to have, as members, a representative from each major civic club and organization in the community, as well as band parents and any other musically interested people. The first meeting was a success, with representatives from forty-six clubs and organizations in attendance.<sup>15</sup> Officers were elected, a few aims and objectives were mentioned, the status of the school instrumental program was explained, needs were pointed out, and definite money-raising plans were formed. The group decided to meet once each month.

It had been decided that in order to maintain interest and get results, high ideals and worthwhile

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<sup>15</sup>See Appendix; Items 10 and 11, p. 46.

achievements must be the main purpose. To accomplish this, plans were made to obtain influential speakers for as many meetings as possible. As an anchoring force, the Sponsor's Group was fortunate in having as speakers at the second meeting, the Dean of the School of Music from Montana State University, and a Professor, also from the School of Music.<sup>16</sup> This had a decided influence upon the members as to the importance of the work they were doing in this field of music improvement within their community.

In Darby, the formation of a music sponsor's group was considered as not practicable. The majority of band parents and other musically interested people lived outside the town. And, since most of these people came into town once each month to attend their Parent-Teacher Association meeting, it was decided to use the P.T.A. as the means of contact and of developing some sort of organized support.<sup>17</sup>

2. Improvement of Scheduling in Hamilton. The problem of scheduling in the Hamilton school system was very serious, and it was decided that one of the very first projects which the Hamilton Music Sponsor's Group should consider was the scheduling problem. A Professor from the Music School of Montana State University was called in to

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<sup>16</sup>See Appendix; Items 13 and 14, p. 48.

<sup>17</sup>Ibid., Item 15, p. 48.

speak on "the importance of a good music schedule in a school system", and on "possible ways of setting up music scheduling in the Hamilton school". The Sponsor's Group was very much impressed; and as a result, set up a committee to investigate the Hamilton scheduling problem and to meet with the school superintendent and the school board.<sup>18</sup> This committee met with the superintendent and the school board on three occasions. The school board was decidedly influenced by the persistence of this committee as was the superintendent. As a result, the committee was assured of special consideration in regard to this problem. They were informed, however, that nothing could be done that (first) year, but special arrangements would be made for the next year toward the improvement of the music scheduling.

Before school started the next fall, the instrumental instructor and the school superintendent worked together in organizing a scheduling plan; then, during the first week of school, the superintendent along with the grade school principal cooperated with the instrumental instructor in setting up an overall schedule. High school students, during registration, were shifted from one period to another and from one subject to another in order to fit

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<sup>18</sup>See Appendix; Item 16, p.49, and Item 17, p. 50.

them into the proper section. The grade school principal revamped his program to include special recreation periods during which students were available for band. The principal and the superintendent explained the scheduling to the teachers and pointed out to both teachers and students the seriousness of this schedule and the necessity for its strict adherence.

The result of all this was not the best-type scheduling, but certainly the best that could be arranged in the Hamilton school system at this time. There were some students in high school who could not be placed in the proper section, and there were some who could not attend music classes as often as others. However, better teaching results and improvement in the morale of the students as a result of the new scheduling was observed.

The use of outside-school support in the treatment of the scheduling problem was decidedly a case of moral support. The strong convictions on the part of this committee, which in the eyes of the school board and the school superintendent represented the convictions of the entire community, was the deciding factor in bringing about this eventual improvement in the music scheduling.

3. Improvement of Housing Conditions. In Hamilton, a continuation of the lack of housing could cause disastrous results. This fact was given wide publicity by



means of talks at civic meetings and by personal contacts.<sup>19</sup> After the Hamilton Sponsor's Group was formed, a decided wave of concern throughout the community was noted as a result of the influences from this group. Without sufficient funds, the solution to this problem seemed quite hopeless. However, persistence and ingenuity finally brought about excellent results. Across the race track from the grandstand at the county fair grounds was situated a large bandstand. This structure was built high with very sturdy timbers; it was open except for a roof. The county commissioners were contacted and convinced that this structure was not practical because it was too far from the grandstand and was so high that it obstructed the view to the opposite side of the track. They were presented with a plan for the construction of a platform in front of the grandstand which would be economical and more practical. The county commissioners were convinced; they donated the bandstand to the high school. The mayor of the town arranged to have the structure moved. The manual training classes at the high school built the forms and poured concrete for the foundation. The structure was moved during the first summer. The school board was elated over their good fortune in receiving a free building, and provided funds to improve it for suitable use as an

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<sup>19</sup>See Appendix; Item 16, p. 49.

instrumental practice building.<sup>20</sup> By the time school started in the fall of the second year the building had been enclosed, stuccoed, and insulated; water, steam heat, and electricity had been installed. The band platform was high enough to allow a full floor below which was suitable for storage space and practice rooms.

Nothing was done during the two years of this project about the shortage of space in the Jefferson grade school in Hamilton.

In Darby, the situation was different. A space was already provided in the old wooden building in back of the school. The school board provided funds for further improvement during the first summer. By fall of the second year a ceiling had been built in the band room, and a good, automatic, oil heater had been provided. Plans were made to further improve the building for the third year.

4. Procurement of Funds for School Instruments and Equipment. During the beginning phase in Hamilton, all requests to civic clubs and organizations for financial aid were for the purpose of purchasing band instruments and equipment. Until the formation of the Music Sponsor's Group, these organizations made no donations.

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<sup>20</sup>See Appendix; Item 18, p. 51, Item 19, p. 52, and Item 29, p. 58.

At the very first meeting of the Sponsor's Group the need for money-raising schemes to finance the instrumental program was stressed. During the spring of the first year about \$400.00 was donated by various civic clubs and organizations, largely through the influence of the Sponsor's Group.<sup>21</sup> A Tag Day in May of that first year, sponsored by this group, netted \$186.00.<sup>22</sup> For playing at various events throughout the first summer, the band took in \$350.00 (this included \$250.00 for playing three days at the county fair).

During the second school year the Sponsor's Group sponsored a concert by students from the School of Music, Montana State University, a musicale by faculty members of Montana State University School of Music, two concerts by the band, another Tag Day, a bingo game at a celebration, and a moving picture at a local theatre; the Eagles Lodge presented a "Minstrel", the proceeds of which went to the music fund;<sup>23</sup> other donations came in from various sources. The total income from all these outside-school sources during the first two years totaled \$3,996.00. In addition,

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<sup>21</sup>These donations included \$150.00 from the Lions Club, \$200.00 from the Veteran's Club, and \$25.00 from the Eagles Lodge. See Appendix; Item 20, p. 53.

<sup>22</sup>See Appendix; Item 21, p. 53, and Item 22, p. 54.

<sup>23</sup>See Appendix; Item 23, p. 54, and Items 24 and 25, p. 55.

the school board purchased a baritone horn which amounted to \$225.00, and assisted the Sponsor's Group in purchasing music, stands, and some of the other instruments.

By the end of this two-year project, outside-school funds had provided three Eb horns, one baritone horn, one oboe, one Eb clarinet, one flute, one bass clarinet, one set of cymbals, two snare drums and other drum equipment, \$335.00 worth of music, twelve heavy-duty music stands and other miscellaneous equipment.<sup>24</sup>

At the very beginning, the people in Darby became aware of the problem of financing school instruments and equipment. Except for the P.T.A., Women's Club, and the Garden Club, Darby had no organized civic groups in a position to render financial assistance. During the first few months the P.T.A. donated \$5.00, the Garden Club \$5.00, and the Women's Club \$25.00<sup>25</sup> The band concert given the first Christmas brought in \$282.00. The band members sponsored a "Nite Club" dance for which they provided entertainment between dances; this netted \$190.00<sup>26</sup> During the first summer and the second school year, practically the only

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<sup>24</sup>Some of this money was spent for other purposes such as band trips and the summer music program. See Appendix; Item 17, p. 50.

<sup>25</sup>See Appendix; Item 26, p. 56.

<sup>26</sup>Ibid., Item 27, p. 57.

money procured was that which the band made through concerts, programs, dances, and other enterprises initiated by the students. The people in Darby gave evidence of being generous "givers" at all music-sponsored programs. Darby was unique, however, in that the band was large enough to require almost as many school instruments and as much equipment as was needed in Hamilton, but yet had much less financial resources than Hamilton. This was the most serious problem that confronted the establishment of the instrumental program in the Darby school system. Much equipment that was needed was not purchased, and it wasn't until the end of the second year that the music department was out of debt to music dealers in Missoula, Montana.

5. The Summer Music Program. Toward the end of the first year it was decided that a great deal of benefit could be derived by combining the Darby and the Hamilton bands in a summer music program. The purpose was to (1) improve relations between Hamilton and Darby, (2) promote community interest in the instrumental programs, (3) provide worthwhile recreation for the students, (4) enable music instruction to continue throughout the summer, thereby hastening the development of the bands, and (5) provide entertainment for the people in the communities.

In order to unite the two communities for the joint summer program, the Hamilton Sponsor's Group organized a

"band" picnic which was held the last week of school. All band members and their parents from the two communities were invited. The bands were combined for the first time, and a rehearsal was held at the picnic. Also, during the picnic, plans for the summer program were discussed.<sup>27</sup>

Combined band rehearsals were held once each week at Hamilton. One outdoor concert was given each week; for every two concerts given in Hamilton, one was given in Darby. All costs of transporting band members from Darby to rehearsals, and transporting Hamilton band members to the concerts in Darby, were paid by the Hamilton Music Sponsor's Group.<sup>28</sup>

All five objectives of this program were accomplished to some degree or another. However, the most noticeable benefit was the favorable publicity. During the summer more people heard the band than ever before. The summer program did more to publicize the instrumental program than any other project had done so far.

As a conclusion to this first summer program, the combined Darby and Hamilton band played for the three-day county fair, for which they received \$400.00 (\$250.00 to Hamilton and \$150.00 to Darby). So successful was this

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<sup>27</sup>See Appendix; Item 18, p. 51, and Item 28, p. 58.

<sup>28</sup>There was no cost for the instructor as he donated his time for this cause. See Appendix; Item 18, p. 51, and Item 19, p. 52.

first program, that the Hamilton Sponsor's Group hired an instrumental instructor the second summer to carry on a similar program, but which included only the Hamilton band. No summer program was initiated in Darby for the second summer.

6. Programming--Its Influences. During the first year, the powerful influence of frequent performances was noted, especially in the case of Darby where playing groups were developed early due to the perfect, sectional-type scheduling. By the second year, the performers were more advanced, and also, the Hamilton scheduling was greatly improved. Therefore, a great amount of stress was placed on ensemble training to enable frequent performances of these groups. During the second year, thirteen separate ensemble units were developed in Hamilton, with nine developed in Darby. During that time, the ensembles in Hamilton presented forty-seven outside-school performances (these excluded football and basketball games, assemblies, or any other occasions where the entire band played). The Hamilton Sponsor's Group made arrangements for many of these performances, and were instrumental through their contacts, in procuring contributions from many of the clubs and organizations for which the ensembles performed. In the case of Darby, demands for musical entertainment were not as numerous as in the case of Hamilton; however,

in many instances, the music department created the demand by offering to appear at the slightest provocation.

It was found that by frequent performances of small ensembles, an appealing, personal contact was made as a contrast to the impersonal effect of the entire band. With small groups, many types of programs were available to satisfy varying demands.

For the spring concerts of the second year, it was decided to combine the Hamilton and Darby bands. Each school rehearsed separately on the same concert music until a month before the concert, then they were combined two evenings each week for joint rehearsals. By this time the enthusiasm was so great in Darby that the band parents transported their children sixteen miles into Hamilton for the rehearsals. The concerts were great successes in both towns. In Hamilton it was necessary to repeat the concert to satisfy the demands of the towns-people.<sup>29</sup>

7. Further Development of the Music Programs as an Outcome of the First Two Year's Work. Both Hamilton and Darby hired full-time instrumental instructors the third year of the instrumental programs. Both schools, as a result, started string programs. In Hamilton, the school board assisted the Sponsor's Group in purchasing two bass viols, two cellos, three violas, and a great amount of

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<sup>29</sup>See Appendix; Item 29, p. 58, and Item 30, p. 59.



string music literature. In Darby, too, the larger string instruments were procured, but the shortage of funds restricted the numbers and the quality of the instruments. In fact, the entire Darby instrumental program was continually hampered by the shortage of funds, both from the school and the community.

In Hamilton, the prestige of the instrumental department became so well developed that during the third year, recruiting was by no means a problem. Improvements on the instrumental building were continued throughout the third year, causing it to be an almost "perfect" building for teaching band, orchestra, and instrumental classes. In Darby, too, further improvements were made on the band and orchestra building; more insulation was built in, electricity was installed, and an additional room was provided as an office for the music teacher.

By the end of the third year, the progress made by the Hamilton band and orchestra was so great that both organizations participated in the district music festival held in Kalispell, Montana, April, 1949. The orchestra, although a first-year group, received an "excellent" rating, as did the band. The band earned the right to participate in the state band contest in Great Falls, Montana, in May, 1949. The band, although half grade school youngsters, received an "excellent" rating. As a

result of the ratings the band and orchestra received in district and on state-wide basis, the people of the community became overwhelmingly proud of their "championship" band and orchestra.

## OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

The most effective approach was not always used in dealing with the public, especially at the very beginning. For instance, it was intended to develop the bands as soon as possible for colorful show purposes. The use of twirlers with drums and bugles were substituted as the bands were not yet ready. As a result of this, for some time after, there were indications of people having been misled as to the true purpose of the music program. The original intent for the colorful marching bands, the twirlers, and the circus-style method of ballyhoo was abandoned for a more genuine and more secure approach through the use of good, sound training, and good musical program development. As a direct result of this approach, public opinion in regard to the music program was brought in accord with its true purpose, thus enabling civic agencies to render aid more effectively. It may be concluded that careful planning in public relations can bring the public's way of thinking in line with the true purpose of the program, while on the other hand, careless handling of public relations can bring about a distorted public opinion as to the true purpose of the program.

Before the instrumental programs were established, people in Hamilton and Darby, as a general rule, were apathetic in regard to the music-development possibilities

within their own communities. However, after the music programs had been established, these very same people did an "about face", and became proud and substantial supporters. It was observed that the music program caused an entirely "new" feeling on the part of these people in regard to their relationships with the school and their outlook on their community as a whole. Improved relations between individuals, between civic groups, and between the two communities was observed as a result of their active participation and contribution for a common cause. Being somewhat isolated communities, their need for a music program was great; this, too, was indicated by their display of appreciation and their response. In these communities, where so many live on the farm, the child had little opportunity to associate with other groups of youngsters outside school hours. The music programs offered these children the opportunity to belong to an active, worthwhile group, as well as a chance to excel and be recognized. In addition, with the music groups playing an important role in school activities, the entire school programs were strengthened. Due to the manner by which music programs satisfied the particular needs of the two communities, it may be concluded that overall benefits to the schools and the communities were outstanding.

It is doubtful that an instrumental program could

have been established in Hamilton without an appeal to the public. Community support was the primary factor in the solution of such vital problems as recruiting, housing, and financing. In these instances, the school was not in a position to render the necessary assistance. If the program could have been established without public support, it would have taken a longer period of time. It may be concluded that community support, in a situation such as Hamilton, is a "speeding-up" agent, as well as the vital force which insures the establishment of a good, sound music program.

Extensive solicitation of community support, in the case of Darby, was deemed not practicable because of the small, scattered population, and the few organized civic groups. In some respects, the need for outside-school support in Darby was as great as the need in Hamilton, but limitations within the community dictated an inability to render sufficient support. However, early and frequent performances in Darby brought about an overwhelming response from the start, and it was voluntary aid, not solicited aid, that determined the extent to which the Darby program was developed. It may be concluded that there is need for special technic in public relations in small towns as a contrast to the technic used in larger towns.

It may be generally concluded that the value of community support in the establishment of any music program

depends largely on conditions in the school and community, and that these conditions are the controlling factors in determining the particular kind of support needed, and the extent to which it should be utilized. In addition, if the people are to serve the music program, then the music program should serve the people; this relationship, between the music program and community, will also determine the value of outside aid.

## APPENDIX

### Item 1

Ravalli Republican  
October 22, 1946

#### Eagles Lodge

A music committee was appointed by the Eagles at its meeting Thursday night to investigate the needs of the high school band, following a request by Robert Langon, music instructor at the school, for a donation to aid in purchasing needed equipment.

The committee is made up of L. W. Hayhurst, Art Anderson, F. F. Weisbeck and Dick Kent. A donation of \$15 was approved for the Girl Scouts.

## Item 2

The Daily Missoulian  
October 24, 1946

Robert Langen, director of the Hamilton school band. Main need is a hall for practice and permanent place for the band instruments.

### Garden Club

The Mountain Laurel Garden club heard a talk on pruning of shrubs and shade trees, by E. J. Severns, member of the state horticultural staff, Monday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Earl Rodgers, Sr. Gardening information was

## Item 3

Ravalli Republican  
March 5, 1947

## Lionism is Theme of Charter Meeting

International aspect of Lionism was discussed by Phil Lewis, Missoula, district governor, on the occasion of his official visit at the charter night dinner of the Hamilton Lions club in the Eagles hall Wednesday night. More than returned at the next meeting.

Entertainment included several group and individual numbers by members of a junior band directed by Robert Langen and trumpet solos by Mr. Langen and piano solos by Mrs. Langen.

Members of the committee in charge were C. D. Haynes, chairman; Frank Popiel, Fred Roberts, Bruce Winston and A. K. Perry.

Following the meeting a zone meeting for officers of the three clubs was conducted by Mr. Tucker.



## Item 4

The Daily Missoulian  
May 13, 1947

# The Hamilton All-School Band

Directed By  
ROBERT LANGEN

Will Give Its

## *First Concert*

*Tuesday, May 13*

8 p. m.

★

**Hamilton High School Auditorium**

Admission 35 cents

## Item 5

Ravalli Republican  
May 12, 1947

### SCHOOL BAND TO PRESENT CONCERT AT H. S. TUESDAY

The newly organized Hamilton school band, of 32 pieces, and the grade school beginners band will make their first appearances in a concert at the high school auditorium Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock. The main concert is to be by the high school band, with the grade school band appearing as a secondary attraction. The public is cordially invited to attend.

## Item 6

Ravalli Republican  
May 9, 1947

**CONCERT TO BE PRESENTED  
BY HIGH SCHOOL BAND  
AND GRADE STUDENTS**

The Hamilton high school band will present its first concert at 8 p. m. Tuesday in the high school auditorium. Numbers also will be played by the grade school beginners' band. Both groups are newly organized this year.

Members of the high school band are: Cornets—Doug Kuster, Bud Long, Ward LaChambre, Ronald Oertli, Roger Strate, Don Sorenson, Janice Ward; clarinets—Irene Hess, Jan Langley, Jessie Lou Maddox, Joyce Oliva, Beverly Smaus, Harold Stanton; saxophones—Dave Foss, Fred Sanford, Diana Hollingsworth, Lollo Boyd, Audrie Hughes, Pat Lofftus, Emil LaChambre; horns—Warren Ash, Geraldine Healy, Gene Swallow; flute—Joy Hope; basses—Melvin Vial, Eugene Ertel, Howard Cornish; baritone—Richard Eichholz; trombones—Connie Jessen, Pat McMahon; drums—Joy Hayhurst, Jean Hollingsworth, Gladys Black.

Grade school beginners' band members are: Cornets—Janice Ward, Harry Rosen, Donald Vial, Philip Hangas, Vernon Heintz; clarinets—Bobby Neaves, Eleanor Buchholz, David Vial, Leonard Weisbeck, Dale Maki; horns—Arthur Morris, Margery Laws; drums—Janice Maddox, Marjorie Perry.

## Item 7

Ravalli Republican  
May 14, 1947

**ELEVEN BAND MEMBERS  
PRESENTED WITH LETTERS  
AT SCHOOL CONCERT**

High school band letters were awarded to 11 students at the Hamilton school band concert May 13 in the high school auditorium. Presented with letters were Bud Long, Ward LaChambre, Roger Strate, Irene Hess, Patricia Lofftus, Fred Sanford, Melvin Vial, Eugene Ertel, Warren Ash and Richard Eichholz.

The concert was well-received and listeners expressed pleasure at the progress made by the students in the short period they have been organized. The concert was under the direction of Robert Langen with Mrs. Langen as accompanist. A bass solo was presented by Melvin Vial, Eugene Ertel and Howard Cornish. Joy Hope played a flute solo and Joy Hayhurst marimba solos. Clarinet solos were presented by David Vial and Richard Eichholz. The grade school beginners' band played special numbers.

Band booster tag day awards also were given. Jan Langley received a special award for selling the most tags and small pins in the shape of instruments were awarded to Gene Swallow, Howard Cornish, Pat Lofftus, Irene Hess, Richard Eichholz, Audrie Hughes, Joy Hayhurst, Lola Boyd, Beverly Smaus, Connie Jessen, Dave Foss, Joy Hope, Geraldine Healy and Roger Strate.

## Item 8

The Western News  
May 15, 1947

**FINE BAND CONCERT HEARD  
BY APPRECIATIVE AUDIENCE**

The Hamilton all-school band, under direction of Robert Langen, presented its first concert to an appreciative audience Tuesday evening in the high school auditorium. The concert was splendid and Mr. Langen exhibited excellent control over his youthful musicians. The band is composed of members of all the Hamilton schools. Mrs. Robert Langen presented several piano selections.

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## Item 9

The Daily Missoulian  
December 21, 1946

**Darby School  
Band  
In Concert**

Darby, Dec. 21.—The Darby school band, high school chorus and school twirlers presented their first musical program Saturday evening at the high school auditorium. Robert Langen directed the band and Virginia Langen played piano accompaniments and directed the chorus.

Band members are cornets and trumpets, Archie Lorentzen, Harold Knapp, Bobby Nicholson, James Loveland, Bill West and Paul Wetzsteon; clarinets, Josephine Campbell, Joe Champine, Lourise Higgs, Marrie Shook, Marilyn Miller and Stanley Lorentzen; saxophones, Billy Loveland, Douglas Bibler, Gayle Motley and Jim Algie; eb alto horn, Pauline Siria; basses, Keith Henault and LeRoy McCrossin; trombones, Betty Chapinan, Harold Roberts, Lawrence Evers and David Halder; baritone, Gerry Flightner; drums, Gwen Flightner, Bonnie Chapman and Shirley Brandley.

Chorus members — Josephine Campbell, Louise Campbell, Shirley Evanoff, Ann Hannon, Beth Hansen, Alberta Henderson, Jean Jacqueline, Barbara Langley, Carol Lindquist, DeLis Oswald, Dorothy Shook, Lillian Shivel, Carol Shockley, Hazel Siria, Belva Skaw, Edith Weeks, Peggy Wetzsteon, Carol Flightner, Gwen Flightner, Joe Bush, Jim Flightner, Keith Henault, Stevan Henault, Billy Loveland, Marvin Matteson, LeRoy McCrossin, Dennis West, Paul Wetzsteon, Ted Finsley and Vern Bersonett.

## Item 10

Ravalli Republican  
January 21, 1947

**MUSIC TO BE TALKED  
AT MEETING TONIGHT**

An organization meeting to set up a music sponsorship plan for the promotion of community music in Ravalli county will be held at 8 o'clock tonight in the high school. Details of the program, which is operating very successfully in communities throughout the nation, will be explained by Robert Langen, Darby and Hamilton band music instructor. Under this plan great strides in community music have been made, promoters of the project claim. Representatives of civic, church, social, fraternal and patriotic organizations are invited to send representatives.

## Item 11

Ravalli Republican  
January 22, 1947

**ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING  
OF MUSIC SPONSORSHIP  
GROUP HELD ON TUESDAY**

A great deal of enthusiasm was expressed for the community music sponsorship program outlined by Bob Langdon, instructor of band music for Hamilton and Darby, at a meeting Tuesday evening at the high school. Particular interest was evidenced by those present in the progress of the band music program in the schools.

Temporary officers were elected with Mrs. Ted LaChambre, president; Mrs. Ina Gordon, vice president; Mrs. Tom Koch, secretary-treasurer; Cap Kramis and Harry Boozer, directors. A meeting of the officers and directors will be held in the near future to study plans for the activities of the organization.

The next general meeting of the delegates from the social and civic organizations and other interested persons of the community will be held February 10.

Organizations represented were: Chamber of commerce, Lions club, Eagles lodge, Elks lodge, Masons, American Legion, American Legion auxiliary, Sportsmen's club, P.-T. A., Woman's club, A. A. U. W., Hikers' club, Federal Employees' union, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, Woman's Benefit association, Christian church, Presbyterian church, Catholic church and Junior Matrons.

## Item 12

Ravalli Republican  
February 13, 1947

## Outline Aims Of Music Group

Aims and objectives of the Hamilton music sponsor group were formulated by committee members Robert Langen, L. W. Hayhurst, Mrs. T. B. Koch and Mrs. Walter Fortman at a meeting at the latter's home Tuesday evening.

Membership in the sponsor group consists of one representative from every recognized organization in the community, parents of music students in school and members of the various community musical organizations.

Aims and objectives are:

"To further enrich the lives of the people in Hamilton and vicinity by making music more available, and by working progressively for higher standards of music, thereby developing more appeal and a greater appreciation for music.

"This may be accomplished as follows:

### In the Schools—

"To help in every way possible toward the development of more and better musical training in the schools.

"To promote the desire of the youngsters to enter music groups in school.

"To co-operate with the music teachers in the schools in helping them solve special problems and overcome difficulties.

"To keep informed constantly on the music conditions in the schools; such as adequate rehearsal room, equipment, teachers, etc.

"To do everything possible toward making it pleasing and attractive to be a member of school music groups, such as sponsoring trips, programs, concerts, giving special attention to the members to show gratitude, awarding scholarships, etc.

### In the Community—

"To help any worthy musical group in Hamilton.

"To encourage the further development and maintenance of the community band and orchestra.

"To aid when necessary in presenting local musical groups in programs.

"To co-operate with the various groups and their leaders in advertising and making programs successful.

"To sponsor out-of-town talent in programs in order to bring more and better music to the community, and in order to raise money.

"To co-operate when necessary with any local organization when it is presenting a musical program.

"To assist in raising money for instruments, music, equipment, uniforms, etc. Such money to be donated to any of the school or community music projects, or spent where the Hamilton music sponsor group decides it is most urgently needed, and worthy of being received."

## Item 13

Ravalli Republican  
February 10, 1947

**Music Group Meeting—**

The public is invited to the meeting of the music sponsorship group in the high school auditorium at 8 o'clock tonight. Dean Crowder and Professor Teal of the university music faculty will be speakers. The group is made up of representatives from the various local organizations.

## Item 14

Ravalli Republican  
February 11, 1947

**COMMITTEE NAMED TO  
CONFER WITH ROBERT  
LANGEN, MUSIC SUPERVISOR**

Following talks by Dean John Crowder and Professor Stanley Teal of the University of Montana music faculty and a general discussion, a committee of five to confer with Robert Langen, music supervisor, concerning the music program was authorized at a meeting of the music sponsorship

## Item 15

Ravalli Republican  
February 17, 1947

**PARENT-TEACHER GROUP  
WILL MEET WEDNESDAY**

Darby.—Music by the school band and chorus and a one-act play will be presented at the March Parent-Teacher association meeting Wednesday night in the school auditorium.

Music will be under the direction of Robert Langen and the play will be given by the freshman class. This meeting will be Sula night and a large attendance from that community is expected.

## Item 16

Ravalli Republican  
March 11, 1947

## Music Group Elects C. A. Rose President

The music sponsor group elected the following officers at a meeting Tuesday night at the high school: C. A. Rose, president; Frank Weisbeck, vice president; Mrs. T. B. Koch, secretary and treasurer; Ed Oertli, Ransom Slack, directors. The officers were nominated at a meeting March 7 at the home of Mrs. B. K. Monroe by a committee composed of Mrs. Monroe, R. J. Barrett, Mr. Slack, Mr. Oertli and L. W. Hayhurst.

A committee was appointed to meet with Robert Langen to formulate the aims and objectives of the group. Members are L. W. Hayhurst, Mrs. Walter Fortman and Mrs. T. B. Koch. Committee members investigating possible places for the band to practice are David Hope, Mrs. J. W. Kilpatrick, Mrs. V. C. Hollingsworth, C. A. Rose and C. A. Kramis. There is no room in the high school for band practice.

The group hopes to sponsor a concert by a group of musicians from the University of Montana. Mr. Langen is working on the plans.

Discussion took place on many other activities but further action is necessary before announcement can be made. Mrs. G. A. Gordon, temporary vice president, presided. Mrs. Ted LaChambre was the temporary president.

All parents of band members are especially invited to attend meetings of the music sponsor group.

## Item 17

Ravalli Republican  
March 9, 1948

## Ransom Slack Heads Music Sponsor Group

Ransom Slack was elected president of the Music Sponsor group at a meeting Monday night in the high school. Other new officers are Frank Weisbeck, vice president; Mrs. Fred Ward, secretary-treasurer. Mrs. John Howe Jr. was named publicity chairman.

The slate of officers was presented by the nominating committee which was composed of Clem Rose, retiring president; Mrs. V. C. Hollingsworth and Mrs. Howe.

The past year's accomplishments were reviewed and it was reported that almost \$1000 had been spent for music for the band students, band letters and pins, six heavy duty music stands, one bass clarinet, three alto horns, complete set of jazz drumming equipment, half the cost of a flute, an oboe and an E-flat clarinet.

The group also was instrumental in securing the new band building for rehearsals and storage room and in urging and securing the regular scheduling of rehearsals on the school program. During the year the group sponsored a musicale by faculty members of the University of Montana school of music, a concert by students of the university school of music, a concert by the Hamilton band, the summer concerts of the community band and a tag day for the band students.

The group also has financed both Darby and Hamilton school bands on three trips to Missoula to hear the Grizzly band concert, to take part in the band festival and to hear the U. S. Marine band concert.

The members discussed the possibility of raising money for band uniforms and Robert Langen explained that the students plan to buy sweaters and that letters will be provided by the school for the high school students. Stripes will be given the grade school students.

Mr. Langen announced that the combined Hamilton-Darby band will present a concert April 8 in Darby and April 9 in Hamilton. He also noted the participation of the band at the basketball tournament in Deer Lodge and the favorable reception it received.

Plans were discussed to hold another tag day in April and to invite Steve Niblack of the Missoula county high school to the next meeting.



## Item 18

Ravalli Republican  
May 6, 1947

**MOVING OF BAND STAND  
TO SCHOOL, DISCUSSED  
BY MUSIC SPONSOR GROUP**

Transfer of the band stand at the fair grounds to the school district was discussed at the meeting of the Music Sponsor group Monday evening at the high school. The stand has been transferred to the Bitter Root valley band under the care of L. W. Hayhurst. Present plans are that it will be transferred to the school district to be used as a band room. The school board will allow the needed funds to fix the stand for an adequate rehearsal room. Manual training classes at the high school already are building forms for a concrete foundation at the northwest side of the high school and the stand will be moved as soon as the foundation is completed. It will be ready for fall use.

Announcement was made that the Music Sponsor group will sponsor a picnic at 1 p. m. May 18 on the Hayhurst lawn. All former community band members and families and all band students from the school and their parents are urged to come and bring their instruments. Plans will be worked out for a summer band at that time.

Robert Langen reported on the band festival at the Missoula high school April 26, stating that the Hamilton and Darby bands received helpful criticism and suggestions from judges. They played in the afternoon but were not judged.

Discussion was held on the fact that Mr. Langen came up from Missoula last summer at his own expense to direct the community band. The board of directors are working out a plan to pay him this year to come up twice a week, once for rehearsal and once for a concert. Some of the concerts will be held in Darby.

## Item 19

Ravalli Republican  
May 19, 1947

### RECREATION GROUP HOLDS MEET THIS WEEK

A group from the Woman's club met with Hamilton Recreation, Inc., Monday night to offer the co-operation of their club in working out a recreation program. Representing the club were Mrs. Homer Benson, Miss Aagot Hoyendahl and Mrs. Raymond Thrailkill.

Clem Rose presented Hamilton Recreation, Inc., with \$25 from the Music Sponsor group. It was announced that the American Legion is cleaning up its lots on the corner of South Second and Bedford streets for recreational use. A group of Legionnaires donated time Sunday and it is planned that the work will be completed this week. The baseball diamond has been plowed up and is being prepared for use, according to Ed Nobles, post commander and president of Hamilton Recreation, Inc.

Although all organizations have not been reached, Hamilton Recreation, Inc., appreciates and asks for the assistance of any groups or individuals. The next meeting will be June 2.

### COMMUNITY BAND MAKES PLANS TO GIVE CONCERTS IN HAMILTON AND DARBY

The Bitter Root Community band planned its program for the summer at a picnic Sunday at the L. W. Hayhurst home. Practices will be held Wednesday evenings and concerts will be given Thursday evenings, some of them to be here and some in Darby. Location for local concerts has been set tentatively for the park being prepared by the American Legion on South Second.

Over 250 persons from Darby, Sula and Hamilton attended the picnic which was arranged by the Music Sponsor group. All band members present practiced during the afternoon. The band will play Memorial day.

At a meeting of the Music Sponsor group Monday evening it was announced that the Community band will be included in the program being planned by Hamilton Recreation, Inc. The Music Sponsor group plans to purchase portable risers which will be used for the summer concerts and then moved to the school in the fall. A report was made that the band stand from the fair grounds will be moved to the school grounds as soon as the concrete is poured in the forms which already are constructed.

## Item 20

Ravalli Republican  
March 26, 1947

**NEED FOR YOUTH CENTER  
VOICED BY WOMAN AT  
LIONS CLUB MEETING**

Need for a youth center of teen-age club was voiced by Olive Ambrose, a visitor from Honolulu, Hawaii, at the Tuesday noon meeting of the Lions club. In this

ors' meeting was given by Jack E. Coulter. This showed that motions to buy an instrument for the Community band and to give a highway sign to the Missoula club had been approved.

Because of other activities next

## Item 21

Ravalli Republican  
May 1, 1947

**"BE A BAND BOOSTER"  
TAG DAY WILL PROVIDE  
FUNDS FOR BAND TRIPS**

"Be a Band Booster" is the slogan on tags to be sold in the downtown district by band members Saturday. Proceeds of the tag day sales will be used to pay transportation expenses for the band's trip to Missoula Sunday to hear the university band concert and to defray the expenses of taking the best band students from Hamilton and Darby to Missoula April 26 to take part in the band festival at Missoula county high school. It has been pointed out that Sunday's concert will provide an excellent opportunity for band students to hear and see a first class band.

It is felt that the inspiration of such a concert will encourage them to practice and to work so that one day they may play in a similar band. Officials feel the band festival in Missoula will show the students what band students in other schools are doing and increase their desire to have a good school band in Hamilton.

"Be a Band Booster" will be the aim of all Hamilton residents Saturday. The tag day sale is being sponsored by the music sponsor group.

## Item 22

Ravalli Republican  
May 5, 1947

**BAND BOOSTER TAG-DAY  
PROCEEDS TOTAL \$174.60**

"Be A Band Booster" tag day sales on the street Saturday brought proceeds of \$174.60. The boxes have not been collected as yet. Part of the money was used to pay the expenses of the band's trip to Missoula Sunday when they heard the University of Montana's symphonic band in concert and part of the proceeds will be used to take the best band students from Hamilton and Darby to a band festival at Missoula county high school on April 26. "Be A Band-Booster" tag day also will be held in Darby, probably Saturday.

## Item 23

BY POPULAR DEMAND

**"DOWN SOUTH" -- A NEGRO  
MINSTREL**

WILL AGAIN BE PRESENTED

**Friday, May 23**

HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM



Percent of proceeds to school band

Sponsored by the Eagles Auxiliary drill team

Admission: Children and Adults 65c each (including tax)

## Item 24

The Daily Missoulian  
April 13, 1948

## Music Festival Planned For Hamilton .

Hamilton, April 14.—A music festival of unusual delight is promised to Hamilton folks and visitors from other communities Sunday as a result of work by the Hamilton Music Sponsors group. C. A. Rose, president, has announced. The Mendelssohn club, Missoula, directed by N. R. Gulbrandsen, professor of music at the Montana State University, will bring a concert program for 7:30 to the Hamilton high school auditorium. There will be woodwind and brass ensembles in the company which numbers 12 or 15 musicians. Rudy Wendt is featured as piano soloist.

There will also be a number of vocalists from the University school of music and these will sing at a 4 o'clock matinee at the auditorium Sunday afternoon, which is entirely for school children. Robert Langen, band leader for Bitter Root valley schools, secured the Missoula artists for the two concerts. The University singers will unite with the Mendelssohn club in the evening program.

Proceeds of the two musicales will be devoted to expenses for young Hamilton musicians who will be attending music events in other parts of the state. The ideal of the sponsors group is to help promote youth interest in music and encourage talent.

## Item 25

Ravalli Republican  
April 14, 1948

### CONCERT PROCEEDS TO BUY NEEDED MUSIC SUPPLIES

Proceeds raised from the concerts being sponsored by the music sponsor group Sunday will be used to buy music stands and other needed supplies for the music students in the schools, committee members report. The Mendelssohn club will present a concert at 7:30 p. m. and vocalists from the University of Montana will give a program open only to children at 4 p. m. Both concerts are in the Hamilton high school auditorium.

### BAND PROGRAM

The high school band presented the program at the assembly held Friday afternoon at the Hamilton high school.

## Item 26

The Daily Missoulian  
October 9, 1946

**Sula Woman's Club**

Mrs. George Ferguson was hostess to the Sula Woman's club at its regular meeting Wednesday afternoon. During the business meeting Mrs. Edgar Wetzsteon was appointed chairman of the country store which the Sula club will sponsor at the PTA carnival Saturday night, October 26, at the high school auditorium.

Robert Langen, music instructor at Darby high school, spoke to the group about the need for more musical instruments and the club made plans to contribute money to buy instruments.

A feature of the program was an exchange of correspondence from the Monterrey, Mex., club. They wrote of the work of their club in Mexico and sent their yearbook. The Sula club will send a similar report of their activities to the Monterrey club.

At the close Mrs. Ferguson served a lunch to Mrs. George Vogt, Jr., Mrs. H. W. Johnson, Mrs. Raymond Lord, Ruth Lord, Mrs. W. R. Wetzsteon, Mrs. Edgar Wetzsteon, Mrs. Barton Smith, Mrs. Joe Pomajevich, Mrs. D. Kenney, Mrs. M. A. Blake, Mrs. G. F. Moore and Mrs. Paul Wetzsteon.

Item 27

Ravalli Republican  
May 2, 1947

FIRST ANNUAL  
**Darby High School  
Music Club  
DANCE**  
★ ★  
**Saturday, May 3  
Darby Club House**  
8:30 p. m. to 1 a. m.  
★ ★  
Music by an orchestra from the  
University of Montana



Entertainment by the high school band, twirlers and chorus  
Admission \$1.50                      Soft Drinks and Lunch

## Item 28

Ravalli Republican  
May 16, 1947

**MUSIC SPONSOR GROUP  
WILL SPONSOR PICNIC  
FOR BAND MEMBERS**

Organization of the Bitter Root Community band for the summer season will be outlined at a picnic which is being arranged by the Music Sponsor group and will be held at 1 p. m. Sunday on the lawn of the L. W. Hayhurst home next to the V. F. W. hall. All former community band members are urged to attend and bring their instruments. All band students from the schools will be there and it is Robert Langen's plan to have the entire group play together following the lunch.

Plans for rehearsals and summer concerts will be arranged. Some of the concerts will be presented here and some in Darby. The band also will play during the Ravalli County fair in September.

The Music Sponsor group invites all families of community band members and of the school band students. The picnic will be served in pot-luck manner but the Music Sponsor group will furnish coffee, cream, ice cream and cake.

## Item 29

The Daily Missoulian  
April 26, 1947

**School Bands Give  
Concert**

Hamilton, April 25.—The Darby and Hamilton school bands, directed by Robert P. Langen, gave a repeat concert at the high school auditorium Sunday evening at 8:15 o'clock. A recent program by the two music groups was so much appreciated that the director was asked to present the program again. The Hamilton Music Sponsors were in charge.

The bandstand donated by the Ravalli county commissioners to the Hamilton band, and moved from the fairgrounds last year, has been remodeled and is located on the west side of the high school grounds.



Item 30

# What You've Been Waiting For ...

Our Own Bitter Root Students in a  
BAND of Their Own!

Combined Darby and Hamilton  
High School

## Band Concert



*'Looking and Sounding Like Professionals'*

**SUNDAY, APRIL 25**  
**H. H. S. AUDITORIUM**

Let's Be There By 8:15 P. M.

ADMISSION: ADULTS 50c, CHILDREN 25c

Tickets may be purchased at Regal Clothing Co.,  
St. John Drug or from band members.

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