



January 2000

Downbeat Times

Dean's Column

by Dean Streator

I hope your holidays were as wonderful as mine. Lynn and I flew to my son's in Las Vegas, well, Boulder City actually. The weather was mild and we had a great time watching grandson Jonathan (7) play with the boxes his presents came in.

Everyone should experience Las Vegas at least once. It is unbelievable, the lights, the shows, the talent, fantastic hotels and casinos. Son Devin concluded his gig at the Stardust and beginning January 18 will play piano in a big band (20) for a brand new show at the REO featuring David Cassidy and Sheena Easton.

It's the start of the new year and we're planning new programs. If you can invite new players, this would be a good time.

Hooray for Mieke

Our ex-CBS alto sax player, **Mieke Bruggeman**, marched in the Air Force Band that led off the Rose Bowl Parade January 1st. In April, her "Air Force Band of Flight" concert band will play for the PMEA Music conference in Pittsburgh.

Concert schedule

(downbeat time)

Thursday, January 20 we play for the Christian Mothers at St. Valentines Church in Bethel Park at 7:45.

Sunday, June 11 at Wallace Presbyterian church in Greentree at 6:30.

Sunday, June 25 outdoor festival at the Jewish Community Center on Kane Avenue, tentative time is 3:00.

Bill Tole:

from traveling big band to teacher to instrument sales to bus driver

Bill Tole (trombone) probably has difficulty filling out forms that ask for his occupation. Early on, he traveled around the country playing with local and national big bands. "Those were the days of the one-nighters or the 'hit and runs' as we called them. ... You might go out, go broke, and have to hitchhike home. I was musician, arranger, and bus driver. And it could be lonely — you'd have to sleep on the bus or in your car."

During the great depression, he conducted the W.P.A. Orchestra in Clarksburg, West Virginia, which later became the Clarksburg Symphony Orchestra. He also taught for the Wurlitzer Organ Company.

When economics forced the end to the big band era, he became a teacher. First in West View, then in Millvale. Bill made sure every student had exposure to good music and the opportunity to learn to play an instrument or twirl a baton. The magazine "The School Musician" described his Millvale program as "one of the most complete and balanced school music programs in the United States."

Eventually he left teaching to sell music instruments, representing some of the biggest names in the business: King, Grosman, and Selmer. He also drove buses, first for the traveling bands of his earlier years, then for bus companies.

Along the way he and his wife, Betty, raised four children — every one of them



Bill Tole — musician, teacher, salesman, bus driver, family man

becoming lifelong musicians. Three of them are professional. The fourth, a mentally disabled daughter, learned to play nursery rhymes and carols on the organ using a color code. Bill has conducted clinics for disabled children and believes "You don't have to become a performer to enjoy music."

Bill studied music at Pitt, Duquesne, and Salem College in West Virginia. Bill plays trombone, trumpet, clarinet, and piano with piano being his first love. He has an album of photos and clippings — ask to see them.

Band website

CBS will have a website soon. **Dave Molter** (trombone), **Jerry O'Connor** (tuba), **Barb Folb** (horn), and **Gene Palowitch** (tenor sax) have started developing it. If you have ideas or are interested in working on it, contact Dave at the following address: kingbone@earthlink.net.

CBS interviewed by Tribune Review

Bob Karlitz, music critic for the Tribune Review, interviewed Dean and at least one band member by phone for a story he is doing on amateur bands. Bob is the music critic featured on a recent concert by the River City Brass Band.

Parkway Center Mall Christmas Concert

Thanks to **Jim Strang** for taking these photos at our concert at Parkway Center. Here are five from the roll. We hope to put colored versions of these plus others up on the new band website.



European tour

Here's an opportunity to perform in European concert halls, stay with host families, and see the sites. Jim Bennett has organized an 18-day performance tour starting June 29. His "3 Rivers Showcase Band" needs players. For details, pick up the flyer at band practice.

Concert at the Jewish Community Center

We're booked to play at the Jewish Community Center program Sunday, June 25. The time is not finalized, but will probably be at 3:00. The center is on Kane Avenue off Bower Hill Road across the street from a large catholic church complex. This is near the old Kane Hospital site. They are planning an outside festival of sorts and the band will perform in front of the building entrance giving us a fairly good acoustic situation.

Community Band South

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