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THE INDIANA JUNIOR HISTORIAN

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Focus—Strike Up the Band!

In 1881, the 15-member Kendallville Juvenile Band played the popular music of the day for social events including city picnics and town parades.

From: Indiana Division, Indiana State Library.



Focus



The Ladies' Military Band of Waterloo, Indiana was founded before 1900. This band played at the 1904 Exposition in St. Louis and marched with the Grand Army of the Republic in front of the White House. The young boy in the center was the drum major. From: Indiana Division, Indiana State Library.

"Let the drums roll out! Let the trumpet call! While the people shout! Strike up the Band!" These lyrics from a popular Gershwin song¹ provide a good title for the January issue of *The Indiana Junior Historian*. Band music became extremely popular during the latter half of the nineteenth century and could be heard everywhere in this country. There were military bands, town bands, bands from social, ethnic, and commercial organizations, bands representing various age groups, and later, school bands. There were professional bands, amateur bands, women's bands, children's bands, and family bands.

Band music was played for almost any occasion. During the mid to late 1800s, band music could be heard at weddings, anniversaries, and funerals. Great feats of technology and engineering such as the opening of a major suspension bridge, a railroad, or an electric plant used bands to commemorate the events. Merchants used band music to advertise their products. Concerts were presented regularly when weather permitted. Many towns built a performing stage, called a bandstand, which was located in the center of the town. Parades, with marching bands, were held whenever an occasion called for one. The circus always brought a band when it came to town. At the height of popularity, it is estimated that there were 20,000 organized bands in the United States.

Band music was everywhere, and band instruments soon became big business. Elkhart, Indiana became a major center for instrument manufacturing, marketing, and innovation. At one time, 90% of all school band instruments came from Elkhart. Today, many instruments are still produced in Elkhart, and the Midwest remains a leader in the manufacture of musical instruments.

¹The song, *Strike Up the Band*, comes from a Broadway show of the same name, written in 1926 by George and Ira Gershwin. Most adults will recognize the title of the tune and will probably be able to hum a few bars. You might survey several adults and ask if they can hum the tune.

Activities

- View the movie, *The Music Man*, to get a sense of the importance of a band in a town. The movie is fiction, of course, but it does provide some flavor of the time period.
- The book *The Music Men: An Illustrated History of Brass Bands in America, 1800-1920*, is an excellent source of information on bands. Cooperative learning groups could each take a chapter of this book and then try to find information about bands in your town. Check back issues of your local newspaper or interview members of your community who might have played in or listened to a community or school band in the early decades of the twentieth century.

Note: Additional information about Indiana music and music-makers is available in Volume II of the Nineteenth State radio series. Specifically, Episodes 6-13 and 6-14 deal with the Hoosier Hop; and Episodes 6-37 and 6-38 focus on Traditional Indiana Music.

The Band on the Battlefield

A soldier crouched behind a large boulder that gave him temporary shelter from the exploding world around him. Terrified and confused, he could hear nothing but the deafening blasts. Wide eyes searched for his commander, but the smoke from the gun powder hung heavy and low. Then above the terrible commotion he heard a trumpet, sharp and clear, calling for him and his comrades to unite and advance. Taking a deep breath, he stood and charged into history!

For centuries the military band played an important role on the battlefield. A voice could not be heard above the noise of battle, but a trumpet or drum most certainly could. In fact, those were the very first instruments used in warfare. Not only were bands used to give specific orders, but songs were played during battle to

help keep up the spirits of the soldier. Many times, men lay exhausted, sick, cold and hurt only to rise and fight with renewed determination at the sound of a stirring anthem.

The military band had its place in peace time as well. The rhythm helped the soldiers march in step while they drilled. In early times a band was used also to help recruit new men. As the bands played a cheerful tune, a crowd would gather to listen and was told then of the joy and rewards of being a soldier!

As battle communications became more sophisticated, the need for the military band in battle became obsolete. Today military bands are used for ceremonies, parades, celebrations, and funerals.

From: McLeish, Oxford First Companion to Music, p. B31.



J.J. Traub, of Indianapolis, shown in this 1920 photograph, is blowing a military bugle. He served with the 15th Indiana Light Artillery Brigade during the Civil War (1861-1865) as a musician. J.J. blew his bugle in 51 military engagements and was known as the "Drummer Boy of Shiloh." From: Indianapolis Star Magazine, October 30, 1966, p. 23.

What Is A Band?

Everyone has heard band music. Maybe there is a band in your school. But what is a band, and how is it different from an orchestra?

Originally, a band was a group of musicians which played out-of-doors. The musicians, therefore, selected instruments that made sounds loud enough to be heard. They avoided the quiet sound of stringed instruments; and they chose instead brass (such as trumpets and horns), woodwinds (such as flutes and clarinets), and percussion instruments (such as cymbals and drums). They often marched as they played so they chose instruments that were not too heavy.

There are no special rules about which instruments must be in a band. Typically, there will be clarinets, cornets, trombones, trumpets, euphoniums, piccolos, flutes, bassoons, horns, marching tubas, drums, and cymbals in a marching band. There might be other instruments in a band, too.

Today, we use the word band to describe several different types of musical groups. There are jazz bands, dance bands, brass bands, steel

bands, and concert bands. Some bands still play outside and march in parades but many play inside for our enjoyment.

From: McLeish, The Oxford First Companion to Music, p. B30.

Activities

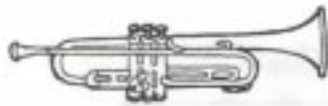
- Research the history of different band instruments. Some of these instruments are thousands of years old. Prepare a musical dictionary with your research.
- Draw a timeline showing the development of instruments played in bands.
- Develop a chart comparing a band to an orchestra. What are the obvious differences? What are the similarities?
- Ask band members from another school or the community to visit your class and talk about their instruments. Perhaps they would present a concert for your school.

Band Word Search

Can you find the following words in the puzzle at left?

Baritone Horn
Bugle
Cornet
Drum
Flute
French Horn
Sousaphone
Trombone
Trumpet
Tuba

P	N	R	O	H	E	N	O	T	I	R	A	B	C	C
X	Q	U	D	L	A	S	K	U	M	P	W	T	T	Q
Z	B	O	R	Y	B	M	A	I	T	H	U	R	E	X
B	Z	K	K	U	F	G	N	A	Y	C	F	O	N	C
L	R	V	G	O	U	O	L	G	E	N	V	M	R	A
Z	J	L	C	J	J	H	V	N	H	E	W	B	O	N
T	E	Q	O	I	I	Z	O	W	M	R	M	O	C	G
Z	T	U	V	J	I	H	V	R	V	F	K	N	N	E
M	V	Z	V	U	P	V	J	Y	N	W	G	E	X	B
Y	Z	W	W	A	J	A	B	H	M	I	S	L	N	K
H	W	A	S	D	M	B	K	G	G	W	I	J	T	A
O	V	U	H	W	D	J	H	C	H	O	F	N	E	O
B	O	S	O	D	O	T	R	U	M	P	E	T	S	L
S	E	F	C	C	P	X	Z	C	G	Z	I	E	O	L
L	V	Y	T	U	B	A	W	E	J	E	A	E	U	P
V	F	B	R	W	T	J	Z	A	T	X	X	B	Q	C
F	I	T	I	U	C	Z	D	Q	V	T	S	Z	B	J
F	F	O	B	P	W	M	K	K	F	V	M	U	R	D
H	M	M	J	F	E	W	C	Q	X	X	H	D	W	F



Let the Trumpet Call!

Long before there were brass bands there was **the trumpet**. It didn't look like the trumpet of today. It didn't have valves, and it wasn't made of brass.¹ The first trumpets were made thousands of years ago from animal horns, hollowed out bones, or wooden tubes like bamboo or eucalyptus.

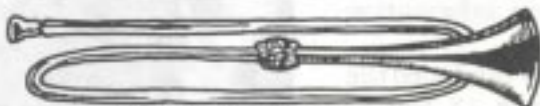
A trumpet is actually any instrument made from a tube that makes a sound when you blow through it. Technically, a trumpet is not a horn; a trumpet is a trumpet. Horns usually have a cone-shaped body and are curved, like the French Horn. The trumpet has a cylinder or tube-shaped body and is usually straight. People often call trumpets horns, however.

Long tubes make lower sounds; shorter tubes make higher sounds. The longest trumpet is called the alphorn, and it is 12 feet long or longer.² The alphorn makes a very low sound!

Long, straight trumpets were not very convenient if you wanted to move around. Instrument makers of long ago discovered that if you bent the long tube, you still could make a low sound, but the instrument could be handled more easily. They made their instruments out of wood or metal.

Wooden trumpets were made by carving a curved piece of wood, cutting it in half, hollowing out the inside, and putting the pieces back together—often with a covering of leather to make them airtight.

Metal instruments were shaped by filling a tube with sand or melted lead, heating the tube, and then shaping it. The sand or lead kept the tube from crimping when it was bent. After the curves were made, the sand was poured out, or, when lead was used, it was melted out.

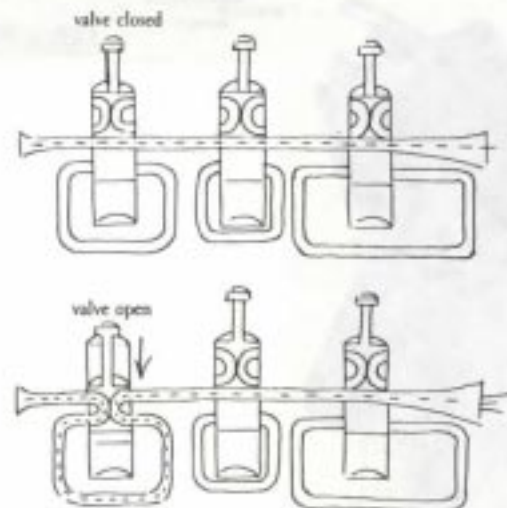


NATURAL TRUMPET

By the year 1500, the *natural trumpet* had evolved. It was 7 feet long and was folded over to

make one long loop. The trumpet kept that shape for over 300 years.

In 1818, the first trumpet valve was patented. Adding valves made it possible to shorten the length of tubing in a trumpet to 4 feet and still play all of the same notes. The valves allow you to send air through a combination of shorter tubes that have been joined together. Improvements were made to the original valve design, and by 1839, Francois Perinet produced a valve that is essentially the same as the one in trumpets used in bands and orchestras today.



¹Brass is a mixture or alloy of copper and zinc. Most brass instruments are made from a mixture of 70% copper, 15% zinc, and a small amount of other metals.

²The longest alphorn was 43 feet, made in 1976.
From: *Make Mine Music!*, pp. 107-111.

Activities

- Any tube that can be sounded with the lips can be called a *trumpet*. You can make a sliding trumpet. You will need two pieces of tubing; one piece should fit into the other. Blow on the end of the smaller tube, and slide the larger tube. When you change the length of the tubing, you change the sound that is made. Does this instrument remind you of a trombone? The word trombone means "large trumpet" in Italian.

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ELKHART, IND.



My Immensaphone

Activities

- C.G. Conn was a very interesting man. He was not only a businessman but an inventor, an active politician, and a newspaper publisher. Ask your librarian to help you locate more information about the life of C. G. Conn.
- In 1907, the C. G. Conn Company produced the largest horn in the world. It was 12 feet in diameter and 30 feet long. It was called the Immensaphone; it took eight people to play it. Draw a picture on this page of what you think this instrument might have looked like.



From: The illustration on this page is from a letter in the State Archives, Indiana Commission on Public Records. The photograph of C. G. Conn is from the Elkhart Truth, November 6, 1976.

Band Business

Indiana played a major role in the nation's manufacture of musical instruments, not only band instruments but pianos, organs, and violins. In Richmond, Elkhart, New Castle, and other Hoosier cities pianos and organs were manufactured as early as the 1870s.

In 1900, Indiana led all states in the production of band instruments, producing more than half of the total national output in that year. By 1920, Elkhart, Indiana was the world capital of the band industry. Why would a small city like Elkhart become a world leader in the band business?

Charles Gerard Conn was not born in Indiana, but he considered Elkhart his home. He had lived there since he was a small boy. At the start of the Civil War, when he was only 17, Conn enlisted in the army. He rose to the rank of captain. When the war ended, he opened a grocery store in Elkhart.

C.G. Conn was like many men of his time; he played a musical instrument—the cornet. Conn had injured his lip in a fight and playing his instrument became difficult. He designed a mouthpiece made of rubber in 1873, and the rest (as they say) is history!

Conn began a small business to manufacture rubber mouthpieces in a store no bigger than a closet. When he sold his interest in the company in 1915, the C.G. Conn Company was the largest such factory in the country. It made not only mouthpieces but instruments, including brass and violins and accessories for the musicians, like a battery operated light to help musicians see their music for night concerts. The C. G. Conn Company was the first to develop an American built cornet in 1875, an American saxophone, an all-metal clarinet in 1889, a double-bell euphonium in 1890, and a sousaphone in 1898.

Conn was an innovator (a person who thinks up new ideas) in the band business. He brought talented craftsmen from Europe to Elkhart to work in his factory. Other music companies began to locate in Elkhart. New companies were started in Elkhart by men who had learned the business from Mr. Conn.

Today, many of the old companies have merged into larger firms or moved away. The C. G. Conn Company moved its headquarters to Illinois in the 1970s. Elkhart still produces 70% of all band instruments and considers itself **The Band Industry Capital of the World.**

From: "The Band Industry Capital of the World," *Indianapolis Star Magazine*, August 14, 1966, pp.7-12; "Conn influence felt by many music instrument firms," *The Elkhart Truth*, December 8, 1979, pp. 5-6.

Bandstands in Indiana

The 2-story bandstand pictured here, with the Princeton Silver Band, was one of the earliest bandstands constructed in Indiana. It is of the "polyhedral" style (multi-sided), and is octagonal in shape.

The first story would have been used for a refreshment stand or dance floor; the second floor was reserved for the band.

Another notable 2-story, octagonal bandstand is located in the town of Laurel in Franklin County. Other styles that became popular were the square, pagoda, and flat styles.

Fewer than sixty bandstands survive today of an estimated two hundred constructed—most of them of the polyhedral style which was most popular.

The growth of high school bands, radio, and the gramophone brought an end to community bands and their weekend concerts at the bandstands.

The earliest Indiana bandstands date from the early 1870s, with peak construction activity occurring from 1910 to the late 1920s.

From: David Dixon, Indiana Bandstands, Muncie, Ind.: by author, 1981, pp. iii-v, 1, 60, 61.



From: William Henry Smith Library, Indiana Historical Society, Negative C4923.

Bands on Campus

"The Indiana University Marching Hundred in Bloomington, Indiana, was originally just a 19-piece band, started in 1896 to provide recreation for interested students. By 1913, the group had 47 members. The name "Marching Hundred" was first used in the 1920s. The Marching Hundred has long been considered one of the nation's finest bands."

The University of Notre Dame Band was founded in 1846 making it the oldest band in continuous existence in the United States. It has played concerts since the 1870s and has played at every home football game since the first game with the University of Michigan in 1887.

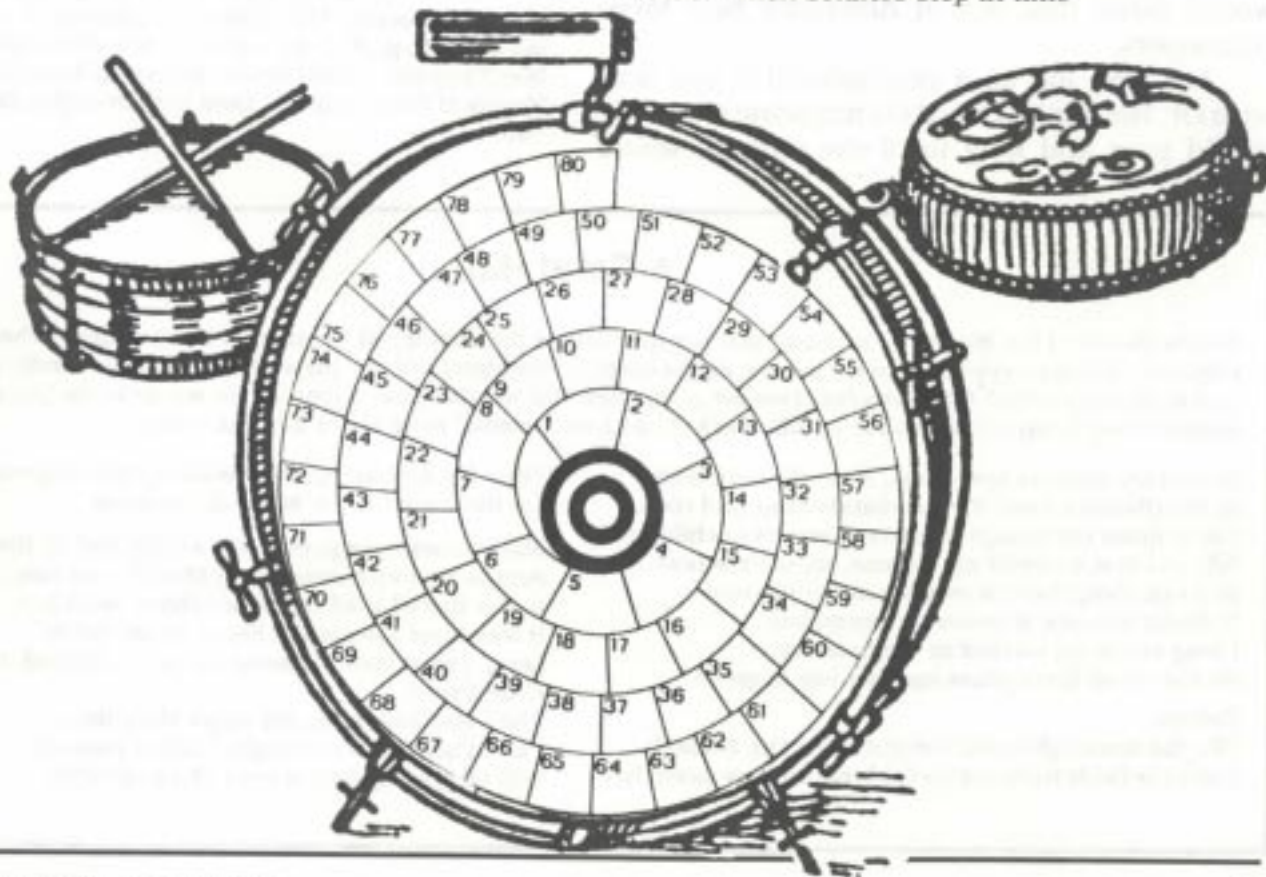
Purdue University has the largest college marching band in the state—three hundred eighty members strong.

From: *Singing Indiana History*, n.p.; *Cavinder*, *The Indiana Book of Records, Firsts, and Fascinating Facts*, p. 128.

Beat The Drum!

Guess the word that fits boxes 1- 5 in the spiral puzzle below (the number of boxes corresponds to the number of letters in the answer). Then go on to clue 6-14 and so on.

- 1-5. Wrote *Stars and Stripes Forever*
- 6-14. Structure where bands play
- 15-18. Group of people playing instruments outside
- 19-27. Group of people playing instruments including woodwinds, strings, brass and percussion
- 28-35. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines etc.
- 36-42. Northern Indiana city famous for making musical instruments
- 43-46. Rhymes with Don
- 47-52. Demonstration with bands, floats, etc.
- 53-62. Group of instruments played by striking them
- 63-70. Instruments played by blowing air through a reed
- 63-70. Group of metal instruments played by mouth
- 76-80. When soldiers step in time



Hit Songwriter of the 90s—the 1890s!

Paul Dresser was born in 1857, the child of desperately poor immigrants who had settled in the small town of Terre Haute. Despite his bleak beginning Paul's early childhood was a happy one. Living only a block from the Wabash River he spent hours along its beautiful banks. As he played among the sycamores, he saw boats loaded with goods headed for the cities he longed to see. During the Civil War he got his first glimpse of warfare as he watched boats carrying soldiers southward toward unknown fates. The sights and the sounds of the river became music to the small boy.

Paul's childhood was brief. At age 12, play and daydreams were replaced by the hard work of the Ellis Woolen Mill where he became a millwright. During those grueling years his interest in music grew, and he began playing the guitar and singing songs. Wanting their son to be a priest, not a musician, his parents sent him to St. Meinrad in Spencer County. Paul, at age 15, ran away and began a musical odyssey that would make him one of America's best loved composers.

His first job as a professional singer was with Dr. Hamlin's Wizard Oil medicine show. He would play and sing until the curious would

gather around the wagon giving Dr. Hamlin the opportunity to sell his "Wizard Oil." He eventually began acting in Evansville and soon was writing songs for the plays he appeared in. As more and more people heard his songs, his fame began to grow. By the 1890s he was one of the most popular song writers of the time and had moved to New York, living just off Broadway. He wrote more than 160 songs during his career.

One song in particular endeared him to Hoosiers forever. Never forgetting his boyhood home, family, and his beloved Wabash River, Paul drew upon his memories and in 1897 published *On The Banks Of The Wabash, Far Away*. It became an immediate hit. In 1913, the Indiana General Assembly adopted it as the state song.

Despite his great fame and fortune, Paul died destitute at his sister's home in New York. He is buried in St. Boniface Cemetery in Chicago, Illinois.

From: "Leaves of Thyme," Vol. 39, No. 4, Vigo County Historical Society, Fall, 1985; Indianapolis News, December 9, 1922, p. 16; Indianapolis News, June 1963, pp. 6-8; Max Ehrmann, Paul Dresser Memorial Association, 1924; "Songs of Paul Dresser," Bond and Liveright, New York, 1927.

A Great Hit!

On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away was popular across the country at the turn of the century. When it was released, "it was everywhere—in the papers, on the stage, on the street-organs, played by orchestras, bands, whistled and sung every place" (*Songs by Paul Dresser*, p. ix). Read the words below. Compare the words to the lyrics of your favorite song today; what is alike or different? Write a sentimental song about Indiana today.

Round my Indiana homestead wave the cornfields,
In the distance loom the woodlands clear and cool.
Often times my thoughts revert to scenes of childhood,
Where I first received my lessons, nature's school.
But one thing there is missing in the picture,
Without her face it seems so incomplete.
I long to see my mother in the doorway,
As she stood there years ago, her boy to greet!

Refrain

Oh, the moonlight's fair tonight along the Wabash,
From the fields there comes the breath of new mown hay.

Thro' the sycamores the candle lights are gleaming,
On the banks of the Wabash, far away.

Many years have passed since I strolled by the river,
Arm in arm with sweetheart Mary by my side.
It was there I tried to tell her that I loved her,
It was there I begged of her to be my bride.
Long years have passed since I strolled thro' the churchyard,
She's sleeping there, my angel Mary dear.
I loved her but she thought I didn't mean it,
Still I'd give my future were she only here.

An Apple for Everyone



Selected Readings

- Ardley, Neil. *Eyewitness Books: Music*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1989.

This is an easy to read book with wonderful color pictures and lots of interesting facts about musical instruments. Highly recommended.

- Berger, Melvin. *The Science of Music*. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1989.

This is an interesting book that explains *why* music happens in easy to understand terms.

- _____. *The Trumpet Book*. New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Company, 1978.

This book includes the history and science of the trumpet and includes a good chapter describing how a trumpet is made.

- Hazen, Margaret Hindle and Robert M. *The Music Men: An Illustrated History of Brass Bands in America, 1800-1920*. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1987.

This is *the* source on American brass bands. It includes some wonderful old photographs and reproductions of other primary source materials on the subject. Adult reading. Highly recommended.

- McLeish, Kenneth and Valerie. *The Oxford First Companion to Music*. London: Oxford University Press, 1982.

This book contains brief bits of information about all types of music, instruments, and equipment. Interesting and easy reading.

- Riley, Martha Chrisman. *Singing Indiana History: A Musical Re-*

source Guide for Teachers. Delphi, Indiana: Riverside Productions, 1991.

This new guide includes brief histories, printed music and lyrics, and cassette tapes. It is designed for history teachers and classroom teachers as well as music teachers. Student booklets are also available. Write to: Riverside Productions, P.O. Box 26, Delphi, Indiana 46923-0026.

- Walther, Tom. *Make Mine Music!* Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1981.

This book is full of interesting facts, music projects, and experiments designed for middle grades. Highly recommended.

Of Special Interest

- Elkhart County Historical Museum, 304 W. Vistula, Bristol, Indiana 46507, 219/848-4322. The museum has a display of instruments made in Elkhart. Admission is free. The museum is open Tuesday evenings, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

Next month's issue will focus on Madame C. J. Walker, a black businesswoman in Indianapolis at the turn of the last century.

New Indiana Historical Marker Program!

Do you know of a significant site, event, or person related to the history of Indiana? If so, you should consider applying for an Indiana Historical Marker. The Indiana format markers are the familiar blue and gold cast aluminum markers with an outline of the state at the top. There is state money now available to purchase a limited number of these markers.

Historical markers are a valuable commodity for a state for tourism and education. The roadside markers are a reminder for Hoosiers, as well as visitors, of the state's heritage and an effective way to promote local and state history.

For more information about the new Indiana Historical Marker Program, contact Judy A. Rippel, State Marker Coordinator, Indiana Historical Bureau, 140 North Senate Avenue, Room 408, Indianapolis, IN 46204; (317) 232-2537.



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The Indiana Historical Bureau was created in 1915 to celebrate the centennial of statehood. It is the duty of the Historical Bureau to edit and publish documentary and other material relating to the history of the state of Indiana, to promote the study of Indiana history, and to work with others engaged in such pursuits. The Historical Bureau provides books, educational resources, and programs for students and teachers. Several are listed below. The Bureau also directs the Historical Marker Program and the care of the Governors' Portraits Collection.

• **BROADSIDES** produces supplemental educational materials based on primary sources for teaching Indiana history. Student packets encourage active participation and skills development with possible integration in various grades and subjects. An extensive teacher guide provides ready information and teaching resources.

• **Indiana Close Up** is a high school local government program affiliated with the national Close Up Foundation. This participatory annual event encourages study and discussion through the Jefferson Meeting on the Indiana Constitution.

• **Indiana History Day** encourages students grades 4 - 12 to research and prepare papers, exhibits, performances and media presentations on an annual historical theme. An emphasis on original research and interpretation allows students to experience the excitement of discovering or developing skills and interests that enrich their education and their lives. It is part of the National History Day network.

• **REACH—Resources Educating in the Arts, Culture, and History**—is a dynamic program that utilizes art and objects to stimulate dialogue and provide hands-on experiences, exploring not only the arts but also the culture and history of Indiana. Its arts-in-education basis encourages on-going planning for involving community resources in the school.

• **The Indiana Junior Historical Society** is a network of history clubs for students in grades 4 - 12. Locally sponsored clubs initiate and participate in activities which encourage the study of Indiana history, often outside the classroom. The Indiana Junior Historical Society program is administered by the Indiana Historical Society, 315 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202; 317-232-1882.

The Indiana Junior Historian is published nine times each school year by the Indiana Historical Bureau, State of Indiana. It is distributed to members and sponsors of the affiliated clubs of the Indiana Junior Historical Society of which the Indiana Historical Bureau is a co-sponsor. The publication is provided free to school media centers and public libraries throughout the state. Subscriptions are available for \$7.50, mailed bulk rate.

Virginia L. Terpening
Newsletter Editor