

100 YEARS:

By LARRY BOEHM



THE BAND PLAYS ON

STRIKE UP THE BAND. A rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday" and a surprise party after the Oct. 1 Marching Mizzou rehearsal marked a century of band at the University. The celebration will continue in musical performances all year long.

The 1985-86 Big M of the Midwest is the 100th edition of precision tradition. Feature twirler Heather Dawne Smith, Miss Columbia Majorette of America and 11-time Missouri State Twirling Champion, sums up the band's mood: "I'm honored to twirl with Marching Mizzou, especially in our centennial year." She and the other 220 musicians, flag corps, Golden Girls and drum majors continue the melodious momentum started by 12 ROTC cadets when the Columns were still supporting the roof of Academic Hall.

On Oct. 1, 1885, the executive committee of the Board of Curators ordered "a warrant for \$125 be issued to Lt. Enoch H. Crowder for the purpose of aiding and securing a brass band."

Crowder recently had arrived on Campus as cadet corps commandant and was making successful efforts to bolster morale. Musical cadence for military drills was a natural. With the support of the administration and some private donors, Crowder organized and outfitted the second cadet band in the nation. The first was at West Point, the lieutenant's alma mater.

At his own expense, Crowder hired Frederick Pannell as band instructor. Well-known locally as a choir director, organist and composer, Pannell had taught music at Christian College since 1858. Taking up the baton in front of a clarinet, cornets, bass drums and horns, however, challenged, frustrated and sometimes overwhelmed Pannell. Nevertheless, his premiere at harmonizing brass, woodwinds and percussion won immediate applause.

The *University Catalog* declared the band, decked out in Prince Albert coats and silk stovepipe hats, "made commendable progress during the present year."

Crowder then asked that the University put Pannell on the payroll. "I desire now," he wrote, "to be officially assured that this expense will be met in order that my personal guarantee may cease."

TRUMPETER Ray Klein, a junior from Kansas City, gives the Tiger Cheer, a fitting finish to the *Fight Song*.

The University accepted the responsibility, but the band leaned more to irresponsibility. Instruments disappeared and Pannell didn't always face the music. His 1890 contract demanded "whenever he furnishes music for a University occasion he remain until the close of entertainment."

According to a story about the band's early years in the Nov. 23, 1920, *Columbia Evening Missourian*, the band traveled with oratorical contest delegations until a football team was fielded. On Thanksgiving Day 1890, the band accompanied the Tigers to their first intercollegiate gridiron match-up in St. Louis. The band's motto, "the more noise, the more spirit," was not enough. Washington University scored 28 points to Mizzou's 0. "The band dispersed and did not reassemble for a week."

The article also noted players controlled membership. Once, when the military department assigned an unacceptable cadet to the band, "a general strike followed. They refused to play with him."

The image was flat by 1903 when Pannell retired.

"The band is looked upon by the cadets as a joke," wrote Lt. William D. Chitty, cadet commandant, in a letter to Richard H. Jesse, University president, on Dec. 27, 1902. "The management and instruction of the band is very unsatisfactory." Chitty thought it unfit to take part in military ceremonies.

Jesse agreed. His Jan. 24, 1903, memo to the Board of Curators stated, "Much could be done for the life of the University by employing a thoroughly good band master with instruction to train a military band and also a student band." Jesse even supported a salary increase for the position. "The student band should furnish music for the University indoors and the cadet band should furnish our music out of doors."

Ten months later, Burr H. Ozment was hired away from Baker University in Baldwin, Kan., and the 31-member band was on the upbeat. According to the 1904 *Savitar*, the band "is a credit to the institution," thanks to enrolling experienced men, training, a competent director and student support.

The next year's volume elaborated. Outside "athletic teams, no body of students devotes as much time to faithful and consistent training. For real enthusiasm and genuine college spirit the band far outranks

any organization in school."

By 1907, the band's popularity and respectability earned it a trip to Virginia for the Jamestown Exposition. Missouri's General Assembly picked up the tab.

Ozment and band members gave park concerts that and the next three summers in St. Louis. In the May 6, 1910, *University Missourian* he was quoted, "The boys who play there this summer will earn enough money to pay their expenses at school next year. Suburban Park has been an 'open shop' for some time, we anticipate no trouble in the way of union labor." Famous last words. Four seasons were too much for the local musicians. Confrontations and notoriety tipped the scales against Ozment. He was dismissed by the curators on June 30, 1910 for conflict of interest.

George Venable, a charter member of Mizzou's first band, set the tempo for the next 35 years. Under his guidance the band earned highest honors in the Big Six and consistently won the highest rankings at annual military inspections. In 1910 he organized the University orchestra, and 12 years later, a drum and bugle corps. Venable expanded the band's repertoire and took it

With \$125 budgeted from the curators, Lt. Enoch Crowder secures a brass band in 1885.

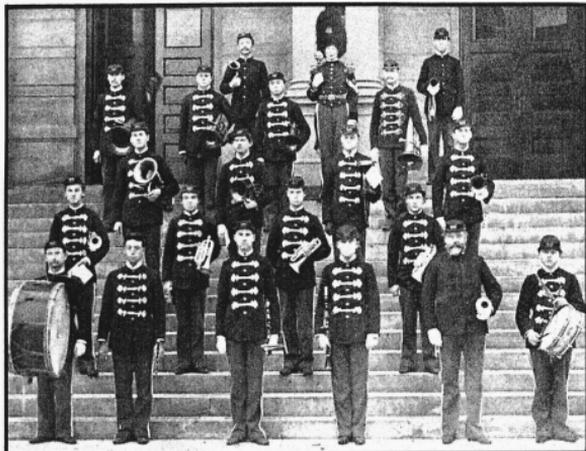
on the road to recruit better musicians.

In the fall of 1934, the band went to practice an extra afternoon each week and a show band, featuring a baton twirler, superseeded block drills and precision military marching at Memorial Stadium. "For the first time," reported the 1935 *Savitar*, the band formed not only "the traditional 'M,' but also the letters of opposing schools, words and various figures," like a cannon, bugle and airplane.

The University's 100th anniversary in 1939 was a banner year for the band and its 62 members. They appeared on the National Farm and Home Hour, which was broadcast on 102 NBC radio stations to 7.5 million listeners, played a concert for the Missouri

1895:

The 21-member cadet band poses for its portrait in the second volume of the *Savitar*. Its military derivation and manner is reflected in the uniforms and stance. Drum major J.C. Fast was also assistant editor of the yearbook.



1954:

By the mid-fifties the band was marching to the beat of 10 drummers. That's just two members less than the entire 1885 ensemble.

The band plays and provides spirit for Mizzou's first away football game in 1890.

General Assembly and were designated by the state's commission to represent Missouri at the World's Fairs in New York and San Francisco.

In 1946, Venable passed the baton to Dr. George Wilson and the band passed from an ROTC program to a music department fixture.

For the next decade the band maintained a conservative style. Then Charles L. Emmons took over as director in 1957. The modern Marching Mizzou was catalyzed by his Texas flair. In his second season, the number of marchers almost tripled as Emmons opened auditions to women. There were only minor objections. "It was the coming thing, and it gave us more bodies to march." Emmons commanded his 140-member coed band "to march with pride."

The band complied. "The spirit of the band was really dynamic after Emmons came," remembers drum major John Patterson, BS Ed '59, M Ed '64. "We felt a great deal of pride in what we accomplished." Patterson, director of bands and chairman of fine arts at Columbia's Hickman High School, is



erving his second year as president of Missouri Music Educators Association. "The band took time and commitment, but was worth it."

Emmons introduced new drill techniques and maneuvers. Quick steps were his trademark. "It was a calculated risk. Faster marching can cause mistakes, but I never wanted a visiting band to march faster than we," says Emmons, who describes himself as benevolent dictator.

During the Emmons era, football fans witnessed the band's first arrangement of the Missouri Waltz and the debut of the Golden Girls.

With assistant John Christie, Emmons created the Flip Tiger for the Jan. 1, 1960,

Forming letters, words and shapes becomes an integral part of the show in 1934.

Orange Bowl. On the sidelines the band formed MIZZOU, then marched to midfield and flipped to TIGERS. "That sort of thing hadn't been done before," Emmons says. The next season Emmons improved the drill by having letters move up individually at every eight counts, just as it's performed today. Audiences loved it. "In my career I left it out

of a show just once, but got so many letters I put it back," says the music professor emeritus, who admits he "never could come up

After 73 years of an all-man band, women were allowed to join Marching Mizzou in 1958.

with a better version."

Emmons brought national recognition to Marching Mizzou, but shares the credit. "Having good players comes first. And then I had a team of assistants I wouldn't have traded for anyone else. They'd do anything to make the program go."

When Emmons became chairman of the music department in 1966, one of those assistants, Dr. Alexander Pickard, succeeded him as band director. Pickard transformed the Golden Girls from a line of twirlers into a sequined, high-kicking dance troupe and added a flag corps to accentuate the music. He took the band on the road to Hawaii and England and into Jesse Hall to record three albums: *Music at Mizzou* in 1968, *The Bicentennial Album* in 1976 and *The Music of Ol' Mizzou* in 1981.

Pickard, who started Mini Mizzou, the Alumni Band and honorary music fraternities, says "Student enthusiasm was a great

motivator."

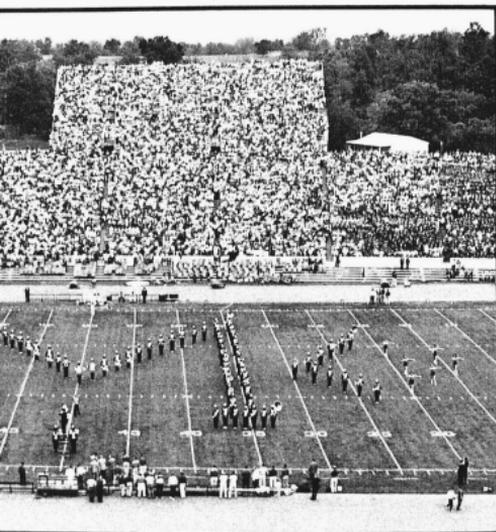
In 1982 Pickard was appointed assistant department chairman, and Dr. Dale Kennedy, former director of bands at Wichita (Kan.) State University, became Mizzou's music man.

A more complex rhythm from keyboard percussion, triple toms and tuned bass drums separate the band Kennedy leads onto the Orniturf of Faurot Field from the earliest halftime entertainers. The musicians play pop, jazz classics and marches with equal ease. They abstractly interpret music with contemporary formations.

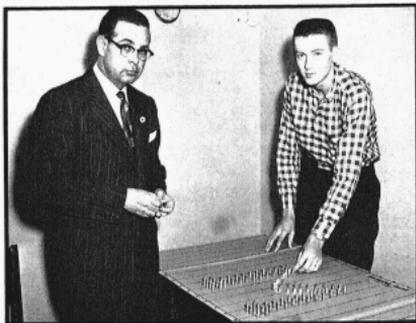
Despite obvious differences, Marching Mizzou, the Symphony Band, Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, Varsity Band, Studio Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Lab Band, Tiger Band, Mini Mizzou and Fem-Mini Mizzou share an affinity reaching back through 10 decades to those original 12 cadets. They were the forerunners of what today is, says Music

The big 'M' of the Midwest cuts the first of its three albums, *Music at Mizzou*, in 1968.

Department Chairman Don McGlothlin, "the most comprehensive band program in the state." □



Photos from the University of Missouri Archives.



1958: Band director Charles Emmons, above left, and drum major John Patterson fine tune a variation of the traditional 'M' formation like the one being performed at Memorial Stadium, left.