

'Marching Mizzou' also scores victory

"Marching Mizzou" did well at the Orange Bowl, too. While the Tigers were making friends of everyone there (except Navy) the 168 members of the University Marching Band were winning the hearts of Floridians and visitors in Miami and Hollywood.

University officials have been overwhelmed with praise for both the football squad and the musicians, and favorable comment is still coming in. A letter received by President Elmer Ellis from the city of Hollywood, Florida headquarters for "Marching Mizzou," compliments not only the musicianship of the group, which gave a standing-room-only concert for Hollywood citizens on Dec. 30, but also the "fine manners and behavior" during the five-day stay.

According to the Hollywood Sun-Tattler, "A crowd of more than 4,500 gave the 'Marching Mizzou' several standing ovations during the concert in Young Circle Amphitheater. . . . Prof. Charles L. Emmons, the band's director, also received a tremendous ovation at the end of the concert."

The Band's precision music and footwork in the New Year's Eve Parade in Miami and in its Orange Bowl performance also won praise. The Miami News described it as "marching elegantly across the green."

In the group of Missouri students in Hollywood, a few miles north of Miami, were the 22 members of the Naval ROTC Drill Team, who took part in the Parade and Orange Bowl ceremonies.

From the time the students arrived by special train

on the evening of Dec. 29, Hollywood was theirs. Front page stories in several newspapers heralded their arrival and the scheduled program that opened Hollywood's concert season. For Band rehearsals, Patrick Heneghan, recreation superintendent, and his staff had marked football yard lines across the grass of Dowdy Field, winter home of the Chicago White Sox farm teams.

When Miss June Straeton, secretary of the motel group where the students were staying, learned they wanted coconuts, she appealed to the city manager, and a crew unloaded 200 at the Band headquarters.

The three-day practice schedule began with 7 a. m. breakfast at a cafeteria, which adjusted its hours to accommodate the group. Morning and afternoon rehearsals at Dowdy Field were observed by young and old spectators.

Bermuda shorts and assorted straw headgear from Hollywood shops made up the practice uniform in the 76-degree temperature. Seven bottles of sun tan oil were used, and more than 1,500 salt tablets. Some blisters, swollen ankles, and few spells of faintness were the only casualties.

The Band and ROTC Team left by bus early Saturday afternoon for the staging area for the New Year's Eve Parade. Sunday morning found them back on the practice field again.

During the afternoon rehearsal, the last in Hollywood before the Orange Bowl game, it rained. The



players retreated under the roof of the grandstand. Then, determined to perfect the intricate dance steps for their half-time feature, "St. Louis Blues March," the students headed back on the field, and continued practicing through the shower and afterward.

The Orange Bowl show climaxed the week, from the time the Band left for Miami with a motorcycle escort to the moment of Tiger victory. While the Drill Team stood at attention, the members of "Marching Mizou," hats reversed in traditional victory gesture, played an impromptu concert for a crowd which gathered on the field and in the stands nearby.

The next morning, the 200 students, some sun-burned, with coconuts, oranges, and straw hats were aboard the Tiger special to Missouri. With them were more than 500 bags and instruments, handled by the unsung heroes, the loading crew.

All had worked hard, and still had found some time for Florida beaches and points of interest. Scores of citizens stopped Band members on the palm-bordered streets or in stores to compliment them on their performances.

As Director Emmons settled his account with the motel and cafeteria managers, they passed on to him compliments of their staff members, and of guests, regarding the talent and courtesy of his students.

Awaiting him at the University were numerous letters of congratulations from former students and band directors in other states. He and his staff, Rich-



Director Charles Emmons with President and Mrs. Ellis shortly before kickoff of Orange Bowl game.



Assistant Frank Cipolla and Director Emmons supervising band rehearsal.



Drum Major James Gardner, Jefferson City, and "Tiger" Susan Cohen, Kansas City, visit Linda Gail Breeze, National Foundation poster girl.

ard L. Hills and Frank Cipolla, also had a round dozen letters from students inquiring about admission to the University and to "Marching Mizou." Requests for records of the Band playing University songs were on the desk of Prof. Rogers Whitmore, chairman of the music department, who had accompanied the Band.

Also on Emmons' desk is a letter from Patrick Heneghan, recreation superintendent of Hollywood, describing the members of "Marching Mizou" as "truly ambassadors of good will for the University of Missouri."

The following is the text of the letter received by President Ellis:

"On behalf of the City of Hollywood, I wish to extend our appreciation to you for the outstanding concert presented by the Missouri Band in Hollywood, Friday evening, December 30th, under the direction of Mr. Charles Emmons. Over 5,000 people enthusiastically applauded their fine performance.

"You will also be pleased to know, that the young men and women of your band were highly complimented on their fine manners and behavior by the hotels and various restaurants and public places they visited in our City.

"Please extend my sincere thanks to your Band Director, Mr. Emmons, for a most magnificent job.

We hope we may have the honor and pleasure of having the University of Missouri Band return to our City sometime in the very near future."

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the Governor's inauguration in Tallahassee the next day, proved to be a time and energy-consuming chore.

The high speed herding of these twenty busses through pre-game traffic by those four intrepid motorcycle policemen was a thing of wonder and beauty, not to mention a little anxiety. One of the ladies on the lead bus who was a trifle dismayed at the driver's obvious nervousness and timidity asked him if he drove a bus regularly. "Yes, I do drive a bus regularly, lady," he answered a little scornfully, "but I don't usually drive one south on this northbound highway!"

After the game the group reassembled with only one known absentee and with a replacement for the tired bus that broke down on the way to the game. An equally exciting trip home ensued, capped by an impromptu victory party at the hotel.

The consensus of the crowd, as judged by personal comments, letters and calls, was that this was a thoroughly enjoyable occasion, one that should be repeated as soon as possible—with more alumni on hand.