



Quarterly Bulletin of the Calaveras County Historical Society
 VOLUME XXVIII April-July, 1980 Nos. 3 & 4

SOME CALAVERAS COUNTY BANDS

By L. Harold Getchell
 Assisted by Leslie Stewart

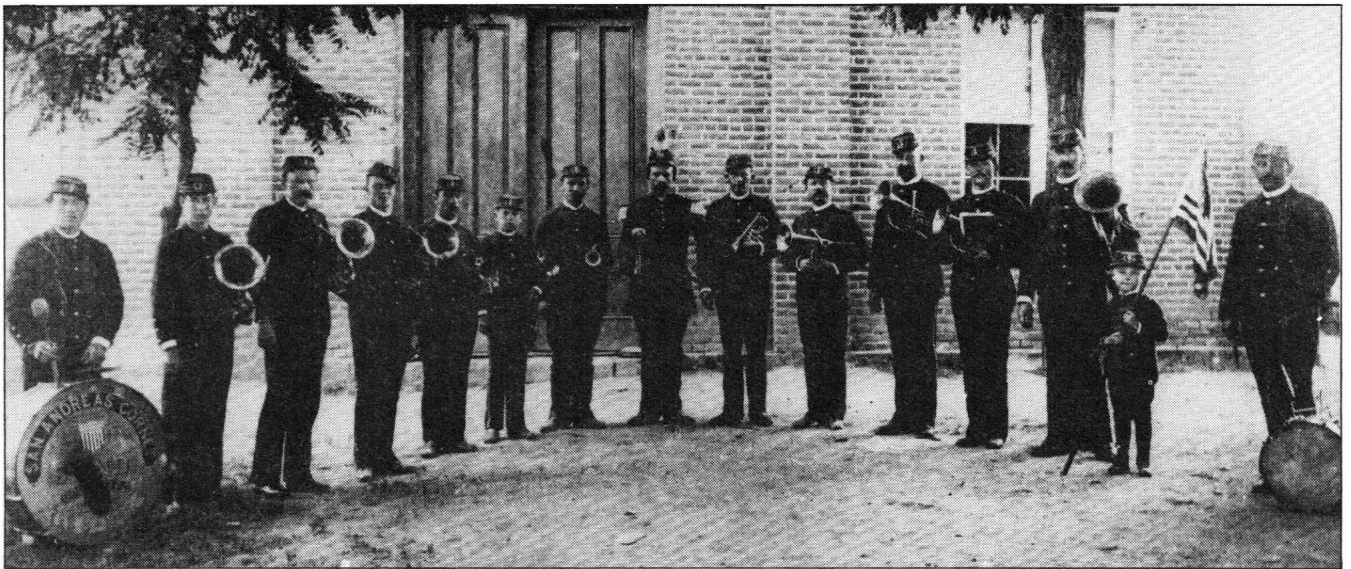
L. Harold Getchell, one of our members now living in San Francisco, has supplied us over the years with a number of his reminiscences about San Andreas and other parts of the county, which we have always been very happy to receive. Recently he sent us a most informative article about some of the original town bands of San Andreas. With the help of Les Stewart, our senior local band buff, Larry has put together a fascinating collection of photographs and background information on bands from 1885 to 1940. We hope that member Getchell will continue to provide us with such excellent material.

Because the subject proved so interesting, it led to additional research on our part. As a result, this issue includes the story of the Golden Jubilee Band, adapted from and enlarged by Dina Noonan from the initial write-up prepared by Larry Getchell. We accumulated considerable more material about other Calaveras County bands, but space considerations will require us to hold this for a later issue.

We would like to point out that our current local group, the Calaveras Miners' Band, performs regularly at Murphys and is enthusiastically received. This band is the outgrowth of the long-popular Angels Camp Miners' Band and the more recent San Andreas Marching Band. We would also like to mention that the reactivation of the Calaveras Fife and Drum Corps by Colonel Matson during the Bicentennial has resulted in a group that has achieved much popularity and has been in demand on many occasions, both locally and out of county. More recently, the Murphys Fanfare Four, under the leadership of Don Gault and Phil Stock has brought a new dimension to the County's musical activities.

Calaveras County in the early 1880's was where a "young man's fancy" turned to — you would never guess — being accepted as a member of his hometown band. As might be expected, the better bands were to be found in larger communities such as Angels, Murphys, Mokelumne Hill, and San Andreas. On one occasion, an all-star band was selected to represent the county in San Francisco during the 1898 Miners' Jubilee Celebration. (See elsewhere in this issue — Ed.)

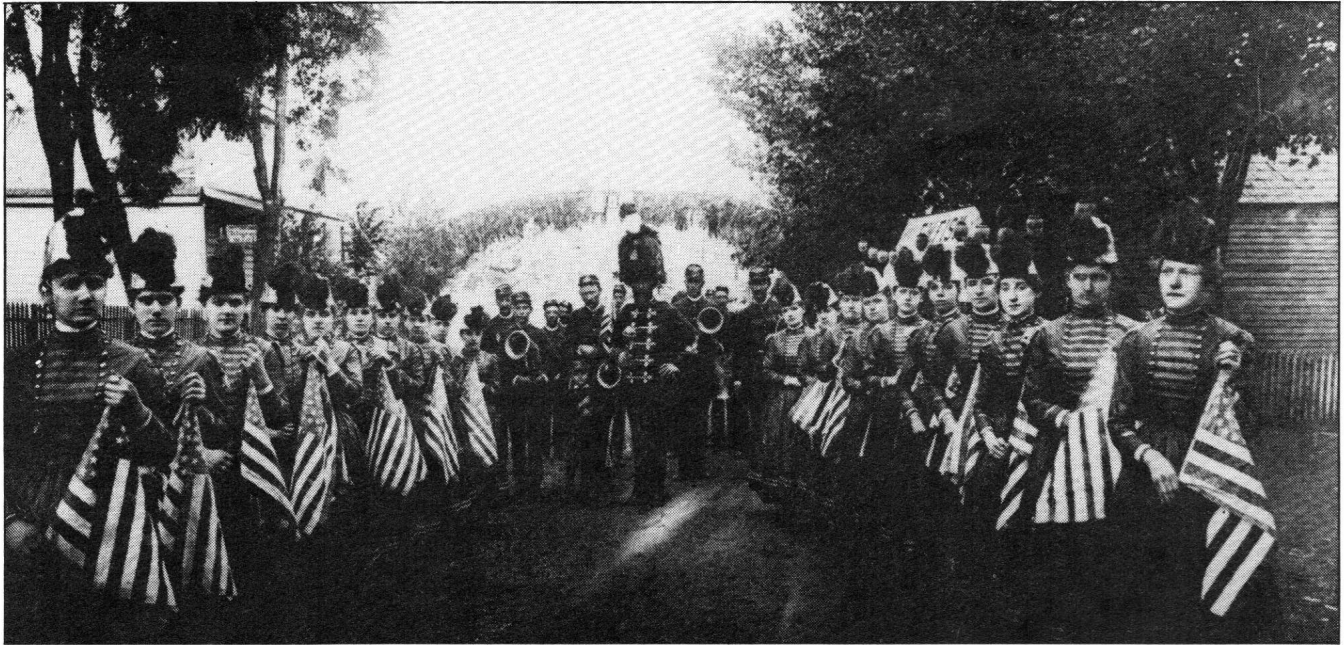
I speak mostly about San Andreas bands, because my information was furnished by my father, the late Grant Getchell, supplemented by his collection of band photographs. His elder brother, Clarence, founder and publisher of the Calaveras



SAN ANDREAS CORNET BAND — COURT HOUSE, 1885

Left to right: Grant Getchell; H. Gillen; F. Wyllie; J. Gillem; Bill Coulter; C. Murphy; Geo. Congdon; Hoseman(?); G. Pfortner; C. Walters; Austin Hall; L.

McAdam; Clarence Getchell; Jack Reddick; W. Swenson, Jr.



LADIES FLAG DRILL TEAM — ANGELS CAMP, 1880's



SAN ANDREAS CORNET BAND — HALL OF RECORDS, ABOUT 1893

Left to right: Austin Hall; Charlie Walters; unkn; unkn;
 unkn; Clarence Getchell; unkn; Bill Coulter, George

Stewart; Grant Getchell; unkn.

Prospect from 1881 until 1926, was a member of the earliest San Andreas band of which I have a record. Grant Getchell, at age sixteen, was a member of this same organization, having been urged by his older brother to practice the bass drum. The result was that Grant won the job and held it off and on from 1885, when the San Andreas Cornet Band was organized, down through the years well into the 1940's, a period of some sixty years.

Another sixteen year-old — Bill Coulter — was also a member of this 1885 band. Through perseverance and plain hard work, Bill built himself a reputation as a band cornetist second to none. For the next forty years, residents of San Andreas, upon approaching the Coulter residence on lower Main Street, would most likely hear the silvery tones of Bill's cornet piercing the evening air as he reached for a sometimes unattainable high note. Both Bill and Grant Getchell continued as San Andreas band members well into the twentieth century, being shortly joined by another old reliable, George Stewart.

It is most fortunate that in the accompanying photograph of the 1885 Cornet Band, we are able to name every member of this early San Andreas band. Perhaps some of our Society members will identify with a relative or a friend who performed in this group. The picture was taken right in front of the old courthouse, (of course prior to when the Hall of Records was built between it and Main Street!).

These local bands were in considerable demand down through the years, and this was especially true of the San

Andreas bands. Much credit for this must go to their music instructor and leader, Hughie Watt. Hughie was blessed with great talent and was the possessor of an excellent musical education. For many years he successfully put this talent to use in San Francisco. It has been stated that his inability to stay off the "sauce" prompted his leaving San Francisco to settle in San Andreas where he continued his musical profession on a more limited scale. Here he gave music lessons, principally to young men with designs on joining the San Andreas Band or another county band. Hughie could play and teach all the band instruments and was an excellent piano teacher as well. In later years he was my first piano teacher. I was told that his jousts with "Old Man Barleycorn" tormented him throughout his life, but in spite of this, he supplied San Andreas with a very able talent and one not usually found outside a metropolitan area.

At about this time, another stroke of good fortune smiled upon the youth of San Andreas. A lady flag-drill teacher landed in town and it wasn't long before a goodly number of the fair sex were twirling flags in perfect precision. Shortly thereafter, a Ladies' Flag Drill Team joined the band and the two groups performed together at various functions, particularly at Fourth of July celebrations. The accompanying picture of such a joint exercise is from my father's collection and was taken on Main Street in Angels Camp during the middle eighties. Member names of the Flag Drill Team have been lost. We do recognize the lead girl on the right as Tessie Wesson, later Tessie Goodell.

Continuing in chronological order, our next photograph is



SAN ANDREAS CORNET BAND — 1900

Standing, left to right; Grant Getchell; unkn; unkn; unkn; unkn; unkn; Clarence Getchell. Front row; Unkn;

George Stewart; Bill Coulter, Hughie Watt (?), unkn; Charlie Walters; John Halley.



SAN ANDREAS BAND — OLD FIRE HOUSE — ABOUT 1912

Standing, left to right: Harry McElhany; Gene LaRiviere; Grant Getchell; Dave Culbertson; Bill Coulter; Todd Toone; Charles Keene; Frank Oneto. Seated:

Dave Cavagnaro; Pete O'Connell; Jarvis Lloyd; George Treat.

from the Leslie Stewart collection. The setting is the front of the Hall of Records, Main Street, San Andreas, and the date would seem to coincide with the near completion of this handsome new addition to the Court House, as it was considered at the time (1893). We say completion, as Les calls our attention to the fact that the sidewalk in front had not yet been finished. Uniforms consist principally of the "fedoras" donning each noggin, with a couple of exceptions. Of the eleven musicians, six are readily identifiable.

The next band picture in my father's collection, after that of the famous Miners' Jubilee Band of 1898, is of the Cornet Band taken on July Fourth, 1900. It includes several familiar faces from the Miners' Jubilee Band as well as a number of new ones. The date is well preserved in my memory as my mother attended the celebration with my father before their marriage later that year. You will notice that the band is sporting new uniforms, and rather snazzy ones, don't you think? In this group we have been able to identify six, possibly seven members.

There is one significant fact that can be noted in this and most preceding photographs — the inscription on the bass drum. It reads, "SAN ANDREAS CORNET BAND, organized Feb. 3, 1885." This very decorative inscription is missing from subsequent band photographs, indicating perhaps that the bass drummer busted the head during an excessively exuberant beating, or maybe a small boy put his foot through it. Be it as it may, future bass drums were either plain or were inscribed, "SAN ANDREAS BAND".

As we move along during the early years of the Twentieth

Century, the decline in mining activity parallels a decline in band activity, at least so it would seem from the lack of pictures. My father, Grant Getchell, was away from San Andreas for several years, not returning until the year 1907. There was, no doubt, some activity during these years, but we have been unable to unearth any photographs to substantiate it.

The next picture in his collection dates from around 1912, and was taken in front of the old Fire House at the head of Main Street. The economic pinch had its effect on the band, or so it would seem. They are smaller in numbers, and they lack yesterday's snappy uniforms. Even the gay fedoras are missing. There appears to be a considerable youth movement, judging from the picture, and it is unusual to see Grant Getchell tooting a cornet. Harry McElhany could handle the bass drum and they probably needed more brass, which would account for the change. But it would not be long before Grant would be back at his favorite instrument. Old reliable Bill Coulter is still a member, and while not shown in the photograph, we certainly suspect that George Stewart was somewhere in the wings, available for duty.

Our next photograph is an interesting one and also was made available by Les Stewart, a member of the band. According to Les, this small eight-piece band was organized during the first year or so of World War I, which would place the picture at about 1916. When the U.S. joined the hostilities in 1917, their band services were in considerable demand.

Boys from all over the county were drafted in groups. Each group of enlistees would report to San Andreas prior to induc-

tion, usually on a weekend when the town really put out the red carpet. Along with these soldiers-to-be, friends and relatives also arrived to help entertain them. Here the boys were plied with food and drink — plenty of the latter — for practically a whole day and night. The recently organized band did its part to liven up things. A spokesman, usually Judge Smith, paid the soldiers-to-be their just honors, stating among other things that they, as members of the United States Army, would keep the Kaiser away from our shores. Before and after these ceremonies, the band played the Star Spangled Banner along with other patriotic tunes.

Come night of course there would be a dance in the Town Hall. Those of the boys who danced never had it so good — we who were too young or too old to have been called up, couldn't find any partners that night. Some of the inductees were real country boys, and hadn't mastered the art of tripping the light fantastic. These occupied their time with trips to and from the nearby drink emporiums and when not so engaged, congregated on the stairs leading up to the dance hall.

One such — Alvin Frious — was paying court to a goodly crowd where I happened to be in attendance. Alvin was no stranger to a little moonshine. In fact, he probably made some himself out in his cabin on Murray Creek, and this day he overtrained a bit. During the time I mention he began to have grave doubts about the whole thing. In a voice choked with emotion, he was heard to say, 'It ain't those Huns that's got me

worried, its a 'crossin' that pond.'

The next day we all journeyed to Valley Springs to see the boys off on the Valley Springs-Lodi Local. Here again, the band came to the fore, playing their best patriotic tunes. Then with bunting flying and with cheers from those left behind, the old steam engine gave forth a couple of toots, blasted away with mountains of steam and slowly started down the track, finally fading out of sight around the turn. The waving ceased, the band stopped playing, and we all started home.

Not long thereafter, band-member George Dietz also joined up with Uncle Sam's army. Soon he was playing in an army band, spending a couple of years overseas, traveling and playing for the pleasure of the boys and for other functions in different countries in Europe.

For the next several years band interest was on the wane. Then, in the Twenties and Thirties, there was a revival of interest, perhaps due to better times with more talent available, and also to another incentive — the Angels Camp Jumping Frog Jubilee. Led by the old reliables, George Stewart, Grant Getchell, and Bill Coulter, along with a whole new generation of enthusiastic tooters, the San Andreas Band made a real comeback. Lacking were those fine uniforms of the past, but their replacement, originality, came to the fore. Lacking too, are the professional photographs, but the spirit is there, and there's no mistaking the originality, especially the July 4th excursion to Jackson in 1930.



WORLD WAR I BAND — ABOUT 1917

Top row, left to right: Les Stewart; Hughie Watt; George Dietz; John Granados; George Stewart; George Treat.

Sitting: Clarence Getchell (bass drum); Johnny Halley (snare).



SAN ANDREAS BAND — JACKSON, JULY 4th, 1930

Top row, left to right: Les Stewart, George Treat; George Dietz; Norman Moeller; — Schwartz. Bottom row:

George Stewart; Lincoln Granados; Ollie Wyllie; Arthur Adams; George Burrows; Grant Getchell.

Because of those false whiskers, hard hats and heavy make-up, it would be easy to mistake a few identifications, but there is good old George Stewart, looking a bit bored it would appear, and there is Grant Getchell, the "Whiskerino Kid", back at his old drum habit. Again Les Stewart has been able to furnish us with names and dates regarding this July Fourth, 1930, excursion to Jackson. The band represented the San

Andreas Progressive Club and the unusual costuming was its own idea.

The following snapshot I believe, was taken in Angels Park following a performance at a Jumping Frog Celebration in the late Thirties or early Forties. The players look a bit somber in their black and white attire. That is, all but the tall fellow on the left who apparently just barged in to get his picture taken.

SAN ANDREAS BAND — ANGELS CAMP, ABOUT 1940

Standing; left to right: Clown(?); Bill Coulter; George Stewart; unkn; unkn; unkn; Grant Getchell; Ollie Wyllie; John Granados; George Treat. Sitting: Les Stewart, Harry Evans; unkn; unkn.





SAN ANDREAS DANCE BAND — THIRTIES

Left to right: Harry Evans; George Buckman; Bert Neal; Les Stewart; Ethel Dragomanovich; Ollie Wyllie.

This is the last of my father's pictures and may represent one of his last appearances as a member of the San Andreas Band.

Perhaps we are straying afield just a bit when we mention another very active group of musicians who left their marks on the citizenry of Calaveras County during the Twenties and Thirties. That would be the San Andreas Dance Band, comprised of some very talented musicians who furnished music for Saturday night dancing. Les Stewart, a member of the orchestra, has this to say about the Saturday night dances.

"In recalling those early days, it seems that every town in the county, large or small, had a town hall for dancing. In addition, there were some individuals who built 'dance pavilions' or converted a large barn into a dance hall for a good time, or possibly a little additional revenue. The normal hours we played for dances were 9 P.M. to 3 A.M. A midnight feed was served for everyone for a nominal fee. Quite frequently, however, some fellow or several of them would come up on the platform at 3 A.M. and ask if we would play another one or two hours if they took up a collection. This was most always done and sometimes the dancing would continue until sunrise.

"Some dances were held right out in the open air pavilion during the summer time with dancing all night to a 'packed house', despite the cool, crisp air. Just to name a few of the better known open-air pavilions, there was 'Mountain Gate', seven miles below San Andreas near Valley Springs, 'Les Howard's Hall' at Railroad Flat, and 'Open Air' at Columbia, in Tuolumne County."

Les failed to mention that these were the years of that noble

experiment, Prohibition. It has been rumored that in many of these roadside places, a convenient bar, just off or adjoining the Dance Hall, during the week served beverages a bit stronger than soda pop. And at the Saturday night dance you could always wet your whistle, in the back room, if you mentioned "Joe sent you".

People would come long distances to attend these various dances, providing of course the music was to their liking. The San Andreas Dance Band more than filled the requirement.

In conclusion, it is only fitting that we congratulate all those band members who for shorter or longer periods contributed their musical talents, starting with the San Andreas Cornet Band of 1885, well into the 30's and early 40's. But a special tribute, it seems to me, should be made to those three who pretty much supplied the "glue" that held the various bands together through most of those fifty years. We refer, of course, to Bill Coulter, Grant Getchell, and George Stewart, who began their musical careers as 'teen-agers and continued well into their seventies. All three were permanent residents of San Andreas for most of their lives and made worthwhile contributions to the town and county. Bill Coulter was, for many years, County Surveyor. George Stewart ran a grocery store in San Andreas which he later sold to Fannin Winkler, and which is at present operated by Fannin's descendants as Winklers' Village Mart. George Stewart then became one of the real early Ford agents and opened Stewart's Ford Garage, still a landmark in San Andreas.

Grant Getchell started with his brother Clarence in the print-

ing office, but after three years learned the carpenter's trade in San Francisco. After returning to San Andreas, he suffered a serious injury while working as a carpenter at the Sheep Ranch mine. He was unable to follow his trade for some fifteen years, but resumed carpentry work at age 47, and then followed it for another forty years.

I can think of no better way to indicate what the loss of these men meant to the band movement than to quote a conversation between Grant Getchell and Judge Smith at a time when Grant was 88 and the Judge was also an octogenarian, though a few years younger. Being old friends when they met on the street, it was, "Hi, Judge," and "Hi, Grant," and at least once during the year the Judge would say, "By the way, Grant, I have a little job for you when you have the time." This went on for years until Grant's retirement at 88, which he did without formal announcement. When the Judge and Grant next met, after the usual courteous exchange, the Judge remarked, "Grant, I have a little job for you when you have the time." With great reluctance, Grant replied, "Judge, I hate to say this, but I can't handle it. I've retired." At that, the Judge glanced heavenward, and a tear came into his eye as he spoke in a low tone, mostly to himself, "An era has passed."

The Miners' Golden Jubilee

By L. Harold Getchell
with Dina Noonan

The year 1898 was an historic one in California. Just fifty years earlier, John Marshall had discovered gold at Sutter's Creek. His discovery had caused thousands to leave their homes and rush to California in search of gold. In celebration of the Gold Rush, which had been responsible for so much of San Francisco's subsequent development, the city planned an elaborate and spectacular week of festivities, which lasted from the 24th of January to the 29th. Numerous counties and organizations were invited to participate, one of which was Calaveras County.

A month before the Miners' Golden Jubilee in San Francisco was to take place, the Calaveras County Miners' Band was specially formed. Organized by the well-known and wealthy miner, Charles D. Lane of Utica Mine fame near Angels Camp, the band consisted of musicians from San Andreas, Mokelumne Hill and Angels Camp. The band was thus truly representative of Calaveras County, though the majority of the members came from San Andreas. Of the twenty-three band members, twelve came from San Andreas, five from Mokelumne Hill, five from Angels Camp, and one lone member came from Murphy's. The members of the 1848 Calaveras County Miners' Band were listed in a newspaper report as follows:*

San Andreas

H. C. "Hughie" Watt - director, B-flat cornet
W. S. "Bill" Coulter - leader, E-flat cornet
A. L. "Link" Steel - B-flat cornet
Ed Carey - B-flat cornet

George Stewart - B-flat cornet
C. W. "Clarence" Getchell - E-flat basso
U. G. "Grant" Getchell - drum

B. Oneto - trombone
J. Calhoun - baritone
F. Carey - baritone

Dan Gallagher - alto
Jack Colton - drum

Mokelumne Hill

T. Peters, B-flat cornet
Charles Bruce - clarinet
Louis Lagomarsino -
trombone
T. Lynon - alto
Lee Vandel - alto

Angels Camp

M. Bidwell - clarinet
Ed Doyle - clarinet
J. Curtis - piccolo
R. Morgan - trombone
V. Watson, E-flat basso

Murphy's

Charles Parsons - alto

Unfortunately, the accompanying photograph cannot give a true understanding and appreciation of the distinctive uniforms worn by the members of the small band. Said to be borrowed from a Stockton fire company by the Colton twins, the uniforms gave the band a striking and unique appearance by which they were frequently recognized in San Francisco. The bright red flannel shirts, boldly emblazoned with the white letter "E," the blue denim pants tucked into high-top cowhide boots, and the oiled canvas "miner's hats" equipped with candle holders and candles were frequently mentioned in newspaper reports of the tiny band's performances. Though the musical talents of the hastily organized miners' band may have been of dubious quality, its striking appearance definitely was not.

To many of the band members, this trip to San Francisco in January of 1898 remained vividly as one of the most wonderful events of their lives. Coming from the tiny foothill communities of Calaveras County, they saw San Francisco as a veritable wonderland. For many members, it was their first trip to the metropolis, and their excitement began long before the first moments of their departure from San Andreas. Louis Lagomarsino of Mokelumne Hill, now 103 years old and the last living member of the Miners' Jubilee Band, remembers yet many of the events of the week. In a letter dated December 12, 1972, he described the band's departure as follows:

We left San Andreas by stage coaches, dressed in our miner's uniforms. Stopped at Stockton Depot and played one piece before embarking by train for San Francisco.

The group arrived in San Francisco at 6:00 Sunday night, the 24th of January, on a late train crowded with visitors to the Jubilee celebration. Their arrival in the city was momentous enough to be reported upon by a representative of the San Francisco "Chronicle," and he described the subsequent events in the following manner:

. . . (the train) was met at the foot of Market Street by Tom Lane of Angels, marshal of the miners' division, and by W. Honnold, president of the Miners' Association of Calaveras County. Two large buses were in waiting and conveyed the musicians to the Palace Hotel. There in the

* Grant Getchell remembered the band members differently in the photograph. The newspaper list did not include "Pieface," the mascot.



THE MINERS' JUBILEE BAND — GOLDEN GATE PARK, 1898

Standing, back row, left to right: Bill Colton; Clarence Getchell; Calhoun; Bosca; "Pieface" (mascot); Hughie Watt (Dir.); B. Carey; J. Carey; Louis Lagomarsino; Grant Getchell. Second Row, sitting: Toon; Link Steele;

Bill Coulter; Lee Vandel; Tom Tynon; unkn., S.A. Front row: Unkn; unkn; J. Peters; Geo. Stewart; Charles Bruce; unkn, S.A.; unkn, S.A.; Austin Hall.

Loaned by L. H. Getchell.

great court they played Rosey's "Handicap March" and J. O. Casey's "Dominant March" before an admiring audience, in which was the executive committee of the Golden Jubilee, in honor of which the serenade was given. Marching from the Palace court the miners visited the Chronicle building, and, surrounded by hundreds of curious wayfarers, struck up with rousing spirit St. Clair's "Iron King March." The Chronicle and Examiner business offices were afterward visited in turn and each given a sample of mining camp lung power combined with no little musical ability.

The trip to the offices of the city's largest newspapers was undoubtedly prompted by band-member Clarence Getchell, who was the well-known editor of the Calaveras Prospect. As a veteran newspaper man, he understood the value of such publicity, which produced throughout the entire week, frequent and favorable newspaper accounts of the little band from the Mother Lode. When the welcome news of the band's reception and popularity finally got back to Calaveras County, it resulted in tremendous excitement and pride. Never before had the "home-town" boys caused such a stir, and received such flattering attention.

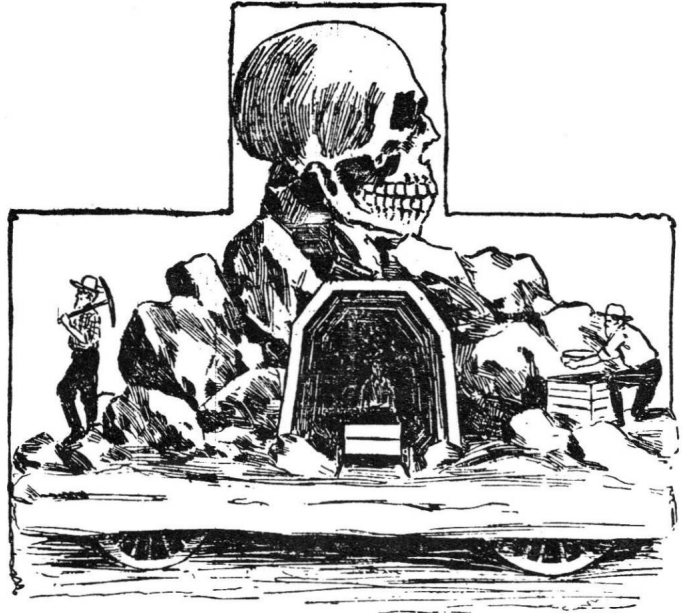
The Miners' Band brought with it a unique quality that endeared it to those who saw the band perform. Few of its members possessed formal musical training, but all had a natural "joie de vivre" that quickly conveyed itself to the appreciative onlookers. One newspaper reporter described his impressions of the band in the following way:

While its members do not boast of particular musical ability, there are among them players of considerable merit, but what is better, for what they represent on this occasion, they have enthusiasm and lend to the Jubilee a distinctive feature that city bands cannot give.

After their initial arrival in San Francisco, the members of the band took up residence at the Russ House, which was to be their headquarters for the week. They then faced an exciting but arduous schedule of events.

The start of the week's celebrations was officially marked by a huge and impressive parade which began Monday morning, the 24th of January. The appointed day arrived and seemed destined to be marked with rain showers, but fortunately the drizzle did not begin until after the parade was over. Parade participants and observers began filling or lining the city's streets long before the parade was scheduled to begin. The parade itself was enormous, and was composed of fourteen divisions. It was estimated that there were between 13,000 and 14,000 participants. These included thirty bands, made up of 576 musicians. The Calaveras County Miners' Band faced considerable competition. It held a place of honor in its division, however, for it led the many representatives of the miners' groups.

In the same division — that devoted to the California Pioneers — Calaveras County was well-represented. Following shortly behind the picturesque Miners' Band was the county's impressive and eye-catching float. Described as "gruesomely effective" in its appearance, its chief feature was a gigantic gilded skull. So unique was the Calaveras float, that it



THE GOLDEN SKULL FROM CALAVERAS.

received considerable publicity from parade reporters. The newspaper article printed below was devoted solely to a description of "The Golden Skull from Calaveras County:"

Calaveras county will not lose the opportunity to exploit its riches and enterprise in the Jubilee parade. It will have the only float in the procession from an individual county, and will have one of the most novel of all. It will be an immense golden skull, six feet high, imbedded in a mass of rock and under it a tunnel entrance to a mine, with an ore car and a miner guarding the portal. The float will be twenty-four feet long and twelve feet wide, around its sides will be a group of miners in characteristic garb and in picturesque attitudes. A band of twenty-five miners, becomingly dressed, will herald the way of the float.

The idea of a skull to represent Calaveras comes from a legend which relates the gruesome sight that greeted the first white settlers. In a lonely gulch where gold has since been found in abundance, they discovered a huge heap of skulls, while strewn about were the evidences of an Indian massacre of years ago. Thus originated the name of the county, Calaveras being the Spanish word for skulls.

The great yellow skull will also typify the production of gold in the county since 1880. Its six feet of height and proportionate width will indicate the \$20,000,000 of yellow metal that has come from Calaveras in the past eighteen years.

The float, which is now being constructed at Lombard street pier, will be drawn by four horses and has been offered by the parade committee the leading position in the mining section of the procession. The musicians, twenty-five in number, are all practical miners and will be sent here by the Calaveras Miners' Association, which will expend \$1000 in giving a fitting representation of the county's mineral wealth.

Impressive though it may have been, however, the float from Calaveras County did not impress the judges as much as that built to Tuolumne County, which was awarded a first-place prize of \$200. Calaveras County came in as the third-place winner, recipient of a \$75 prize.

The parade route began at the corner of Sansome and Market, but long before the parade started, the formation of the various divisions had backed up into most of the streets running into Market, clear back to the Ferry Building. Word was given to begin the parade at exactly 10:43 A.M., at which time the colorful procession passed from Market Street onto Montgomery, and then onto Van Ness Avenue. On its return from Jackson Street, the procession became doubly spectacular as it turned back towards itself. A Chronicle reporter described the scene of this impressive counter-march in the following terms:

Then for over two hours the thousands of spectators witnessed two brilliant lines of moving color going in opposite directions. Bands as they passed one another did their best to drown the music of the opposition organizations, and the paraders swelled the volume of sound by applauding their fellow marchers as they passed.

In the midst of the parade, however, the little twenty-five piece Miners' Band from Calaveras County failed to understand and appreciate the competitive nature of the occasion, especially when it found itself facing an approaching huge brass Army band. The obvious intent of the larger all-brass band was to drown out the playing of the smaller band, an action that would normally have been considered a terrible breach of band ethics. The un-intimidated Miners' Band, small though it may have been, considered itself completely capable of meeting the challenge, and made up in determination what it lacked in size. This event remained vivid in the band members' memories long after the celebration was over, and was often described by Grant Getchell as he reminisced about the parade.

After their return trip down Van Ness Avenue, the parade participants passed the reviewing stand at the corner of Golden Gate Avenue. It was estimated that it took the entire parade two hours and twenty-two minutes to pass any given point, such was the length of the procession. Delays ranging from two to eight minutes occurred frequently, during which times Grant Getchell recalled stacking band instruments in the middle of the street, and sitting cross-legged around them. He also recalled friends and supporters who came forward during such frequent halts to offer liquid refreshment. Such libations certainly played a large part in keeping up flagging spirits as well as energy during the long and strenuous march.

At all times during the Jubilee celebration, alcoholic refreshments remained in abundant supply. Grant Getchell recalled that there seemed to be a good many saloons in the vicinity of the Russ House, where the band's headquarters for the week were located. On their visits to the saloons, uniformed band members frequently found that drinks were "on the house." When asked if perhaps this might have led to a certain amount of over-indulgence, Grant would only concede, "Waal, some of them got a little full."

Both Grant and Louis Lagomarsino retained vivid memories of one banquet to which the band members were invited.

Grant's memories were not centered so much on the excellent food for which the host establishment was famous, but rather on its outstanding service. According to him, a beverage waiter stood behind the diners with but one responsibility: he never allowed a champagne glass to get empty. Such excellent service was undoubtedly well taken advantage of by most band members, though Grant refused to admit that any of them became completely inebriated. Louis' story, however, was somewhat different. Only sixteen at the time, he claimed that he "thought it was soda pop, never dreaming it was alcohol," and admitted that he drank a little more than he should have. He inadvertently mentioned that probable side-effects of his mistaken judgment when he said, "Frankly, I've not had much taste for champagne since."

Band members had frequent occasion to partake of refreshments, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic, during their week-long stay in San Francisco. Their heavy schedule of musical performances was matched by an equal number of banquets, receptions, and dances. The quality of their performances, however, did not seem to suffer in proportion to their degree of alcoholic consumption, and news items about the picturesque band appeared in the papers virtually every day of the week. The band played a conspicuous part in the reception held by the Native Daughters on Tuesday, and was described in complimentary fashion in a San Francisco paper on the following day:

The main hall, the galleries, the smaller reception-rooms and the banquet hall, where for some time the picturesquely attired Calaveras County Miners' Band played rollicking music, were crowded to their capacity during the earlier hours of the evening, while the musical and literary exercises held the attention of the older guests.

On Tuesday, the band made its presence known at the flower market festivities in Union Square, and was again described as having played "in that spirited style which made its presence notable both in the parade and at other affairs, in all of which it has freely given its services for the good of the Jubilee." So successful was the performance of the Miners' Band that it was asked to perform again at the flower market on Friday evening.

On Saturday, the California's Jubilee Mining Fair opened, preceded by a short procession which began at 7:00 P.M. Starting at the Russ House on Montgomery Street, the procession "was headed by the picturesque band of brawny miner musicians from Calaveras County, traversed the principal business thoroughfares and aroused enthusiasm along its route." The parade ended opposite the pavilion where the Mining Fair was being held.

Calaveras County was well-represented at the Mining Fair. In addition to the musical talents of the county miners' band, visitors to the Jubilee celebration were treated to an elaborate display of Calaveras' mineral wealth. The county's exhibit had been painstakingly constructed in the Mechanics' Pavilion which, at the time, was supposedly the largest building in the state. It was fortunate that the Pavilion was as large as it was, for the Calaveras exhibit alone must have been enormous, as the following description showed:

Calaveras County Historical Society

30 Main Street
San Andreas, California 95249
P.O. Box 721

President Mrs. Carmenne Poore, San Andreas
First Vice-President Grant W. Metzger, San Andreas
Second Vice-President Mrs. Louise M. Greenlaw, Calveritas
Treasurer Drew Garland, Murphys
Secretary Mrs. Cheryl D. Smith, Angels Camp
Membership Secretary .. Mrs. Lillian Filippini, San Andreas
Directors Mrs. Grace Alford, Angels Camp
Charles E. Filippini, San Andreas
Mrs. Evelyn Gregory, Linden
Robert Rosenthal, Mokelumne Hill
Dr. Milton B. Smith, Murphys

“LAS CALAVERAS”

Editor W. P. Fuller, Jr., San Andreas
Associate Editor Mrs. Ida Long, Mokelumne Hill
Assistant Editor Miss Dina Noonan, Mokelumne Hill
Assistant Editor Mr. Richard E. Anderson, San Andreas
Production Editor Mrs. Zelma O. Altmeyer, San Andreas

Las Calaveras is published quarterly by the Calaveras County Historical Society. Individual memberships (\$5.00 a year), Family (\$7.00) and Junior memberships (\$1.00) include subscriptions to Las Calaveras. Non-members may obtain copies of Las Calaveras from the Secretary. The original historical material in this bulletin is not copyrighted and anyone is invited to use it. Mention of the source will be appreciated.

The Calaveras County Historical Society, a non-profit corporation, meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Grange Hall in San Andreas—except for dinner meetings which are held each quarter at different places in the county.

Editorial

The constantly increasing cost in all the Society's activities, particularly in the production of Las Calaveras, has necessitated serious cutback in this publication. Accordingly, this issue has become a combined April-July issue, and forthcoming issues will be somewhat smaller than in the past. We are hopeful that financial help in the future will permit us to either resume our former level of publication in Las Calaveras, or to supplement it with special publications. Meanwhile, we are grateful for the continued support of our many members and friends.

New Members

We welcome the following new members to the Society:

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Airola, San Andreas; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Anderson, San Andreas; Mr. and Mrs. Marc Barenfeld, Mokelumne Hill; Mr. and Mrs. John N. Barry, Altaville; Mrs. Gwenola Beebe, Mokelumne Hill; Mrs. Vernon E. Brant, San Andreas; Mr. and Mrs. William Cerruti, Sacramento; Pamela Connors, Sonora; Elizabeth Day, Altaville; Mr. and

Within a wall composed of thirty tons of milling rock will be seen some seventy tons more of that material, with much of the rich specimen rock, encountered in mines there, one bunch of which from the celebrated Gwin mine is worth \$5000. Figures will be on hand of the exact status of Calaveras as a gold-producing county.

It was also boasted that the Calaveras exhibit contained two rare and exceedingly valuable items. On display was a stuffed frog which, exhibitors claimed, was the same frog that had played such an important role in Mark Twain's famous story of "The Jumping Frog of Calaveras County."

To further test the credibility of Minig Fair visitors, a skull was also placed in prominent display. The skull, found in Tom Mattison's mine on Bald Hill in Altaville, was claimed to have been of prehistoric lineage. This same skull had been ridiculed in verse by Bret Harte, who claimed that it had actually belonged to one Bowers, whose "crust was busted falling down a shaft in Calaveras County." It was left up to the visitors to judge the validity of the various claims made at the exhibition.

On Saturday, the final day of the Jubilee celebration, a Children's Jubilee Day was held at Golden Gate Park. The Miners' Band made a last, but equally successful appearance. The end-of-the-week festivities found the band members performing as energetically as ever, for it was noted that at Golden Gate Park, they "took a position by the western slope, and played for all they were worth."

By the time Sunday had arrived, however, many of the Calaveras musicians were probably tired enough to look forward to the return trip home. They took with them a rich and satisfying store of memories, however, and the week-long stay in San Francisco remained one of the high points of their lives. Even when he was ninety-six years old, long after the Jubilee celebration had taken place, Grant Getchell's eyes lit up as he reminisced about that memorable week, and he was able to successfully convey much of his enthusiasm to his children. A superb story-teller, he was able to remember and describe much of the color, comedy and excitement of historic events which had taken place so many years before.

Mrs. Joe Del Papa, Mountain Ranch; Miss Amy M. Edwards, San Francisco; Mr. and Mrs. Leo J. Friedberger, Stockton; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gordon, Lockeford; Mr. and Mrs. Don W. Grantham, Angels Camp; Mrs. Eilene Berdel Grossman, Vista; Mrs. Joan Gunderson, Valley Springs; Willard T. Hancock, Stockton; Mrs. Walter V. Hill, West Point; Walter G. Jones, Mountain Ranch; Sannie L. Kenton, Sacramento; Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Kenyon, Mountain Ranch; Mrs. Elizabeth King, Altaville; Steven Koenig, Sacramento; Mr. and Mrs. Mel Lamson, Stockton; Joseph S. Land, Arnold; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Leitzell, Mokelumne Hill; Mr. Charles V. Luce, Mokelumne Hill; Mr. and Mrs. John Matson, San Andreas; Brenda Beers Mock, Bear Valley; Mr. and Mrs. H. Newson, San Andreas; Mrs. H. Jetty Quarton, Valley Springs; Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Rader, San Andreas; Ruth Robb, Mokelumne Hill; Mrs. Sharon Krieger Schenone, Stockton; Mr. and Mrs. M. Neal Sears, San Andreas; Martha Travers, Mokelumne Hill; Mr. and Mrs. Vern Tyrrell, Mokelumne Hill.