

THE JOURNAL'S BIG BAND OF LITTLE MEN



Minneapolis Journal
NEWS BOYS BAND
1902
PHOTOGRAPHED BY Miller

PROBABLY no musical organization in the northwest is better known or has a larger circle of admirers than the Minneapolis Journal Newsboys' band, numbering fifty-five pieces. It is the largest band of boys in the world. Not only do the little musicians play like finished artists, but their showy uniforms of vivid scarlet coats and white trousers are sure to please the eye as much as their music charms the ear.

It is unmistakably a boys' band, and the wonder is how such little fellows as the members can gain such a remarkably clear musical conception of the various compositions they play. This band is composed of genuine newsboys, every one of whom was taken from the streets when the band was organized. It is a full military band of fifty-five pieces, and the fact that membership in the band is esteemed an honor by the Minneapolis newsboys is attested by a waiting list of boys, each one of whom is in constant practice on some one of the band instruments, so as to be ready to step into the first vacancy that occurs.

How It Was Started.

It was in 1897 that the band idea was first broached. At the annual Journal newsboys' picnic of that year there was a whistling contest, ostensibly for nothing more than a small prize. In reality, however, the names of the boys who showed themselves best able to carry a tune were preserved and from this list tiny youngsters were selected who were known to have some musical qualifications.

Some months later Professor C. C. Heintzeman was engaged by The Minneapolis Journal, instruments were also furnished by that paper and the boys were invited to their first practice. Each furnished a band, signed by some responsible citizen, insuring good care of his instrument and its return in case he should leave the band at any time.

At first the boys were a most unruly lot, but they soon caught the spirit of the thing and after two or three meetings, when they thoroughly understood that membership in the band was contingent upon good behavior, they became as easy to handle as a group of grown-up professionals.

The band's first public appearance was in Minneapolis on Memorial Day, 1898, when they headed the procession of the day in their brand new uniforms, laced with gold. The fact that such a band was in existence was a complete surprise to the citizens of Minneapolis, who were completely captivated. Since then the band has been in great demand for all sorts of public engagements.

At every place the boys have been received with enthusiasm, and Professor Heintzeman says he has yet to hear the first complaint on account of ungentlemanly behavior on the part of any of his proteges. The band has a large repertoire, and after its long practice together can play the stiffest music with the confidence of old-time musicians.

The Merit Medal.

Everybody likes the Journal's band and encourages the little fellows in every way. A case in point: One night H. Rosenberg, representing the Globe Paper company of Chicago, attended a band rehearsal—the band rehearses regularly Monday and Thursday nights—and was so pleased with their work, he gave the band a handsome medal, to be worn for three months by the boy who showed the most progress in his work and deportment. At the end of every three months Professor Heintzeman makes the award. The members who have won the medal so far are: Samuel Roshko, Edward Culetis, John Spersel, Charles Marzulis, Collie Nathanson. The medal is engraved on the back as follows: Presented by H. Rosenberg, of Chicago, to The Minneapolis Journal Newsboys' Band, Oct. 1, 1899.

What President McKinley Said.

On Oct. 12, 1899, the Thirtieth Minnesota volunteers arrived home from a year in the Philippines and were given a rousing welcome in Minneapolis. President McKinley and members of national fame reviewed a splendid military parade in which the famous fighting Thirtieth figured conspicuously.

Among the many bands in line was the Minneapolis Journal Newsboys' band, which occupied one of the places of honor, and as they passed President McKinley's reviewing stand the tiny drum major gravely saluted the nation's chief executive. The president smiled and returned the salute with several bows and was delighted over the stirring march the fifty-five youngsters played so well.

President McKinley said:

It is the most unique band in the great parade. It is hard for me to realize that such young boys can play such high-class music so delightfully.

The Instructor Appreciated.

The fifty-five youngsters in the Journal Newsboys' band think Professor Heintzeman is just about right and are most loyal to him. On election night, Nov. 6, 1900, The Journal gave an election return in the Exposition building, Minneapolis, for the benefit of the band,

which was attended by nearly 5,000 people. On that occasion the members of the band presented Professor Heintzeman a beautiful medal as evidence of their esteem for him. Professor Heintzeman treasures the medal most highly, as it means much, coming from the boys whose purses are never the heavier. Even more he prizes the sentiment that prompted his little friends to remember him.

Professor Heintzeman is a musician of large experience, having received his education from the best instructors in Germany. Since coming to America, several years ago, he has been connected with the best musical organizations, but has devoted most of his time to brass band instruction and has acquired a wide experience in this particular study of music. He has the reputation of being one of the best band instructors in the United States, and certainly, the Journal Newsboys' band does him credit. To train a lot of newsboys into gentlemen as well as first-class musicians, requires tact, good nature and endless patience, and Professor Heintzeman possesses all three qualities in large measure.

Great Times at Buffalo.

The most notable achievement of the band in 1900 was the trip to the Pan-American exposition at Buffalo. It is safe to say that during its brief engagement at the "Rainbow City" no musical organization at the great fair attracted more attention than the red-coated boys from Minneapolis.

The band left Minneapolis on a Tuesday evening and was in Buffalo Thursday morning. It was away from home just one week. The band had been previously engaged to play daily concerts in the band stand on the east plaza. The plaza around the band stand was crowded with thousands of people whenever the band struck up its first number at the afternoon or evening concert. When the fifty-five boys, typical of the spirit of Minneapolis and the west, invaded the midway "just to stir the animals up," back seats were in demand by all the folks, and every "booster" for every show along the line of march took off his hat to the little men from Minnesota.

In front of the Temple of Music in which President McKinley was assassinated, the Journal band serenaded the Carlyle Indian band, which was then the attraction at that popular resort. The leader of the band said some very nice things about the musical ability of the youngsters, and the great Phinney, whose superb band was located near at hand, declared that it was the best boys' band he had ever heard. He marveled at the precision and wonderful execution of the boys and predicted that if they remained together until they approached matured years they would form one of the very finest grown-up bands in the entire country.

One of the features of the stay in Buffalo was the parade of the downtown streets, under an escort of twenty-five of the biggest patrolmen whom Chief Bull could muster in the city of Buffalo. The "coppers" met the boys at the head of busy Main street, and marched at their head through the crowded thoroughfares of the city. The band serenaded the newspaper offices, the big hotels and the city hall. The Buffalo papers fully appreciated the compliment and columns of printed encomiums followed.

The band also put in an extra day at Niagara Falls and in a Sunday concert at the sleepy old city of Niagara Falls, with the roar of the mighty cataract.

The band took advantage of an entire day in Chicago on the return trip to parade the downtown streets of the "windy city" and serenaded the papers.

"I'll give you the finest coppers from the Central station," said Chief of Police O'Neil, after the band had made a preliminary blip with him. And he made good his word, for thirty stalwart blue-coats were soon awaiting instructions of the band management. In front of the Chicago American office on West Madison street, the band blocked street car and all other traffic for twenty minutes, while the staff photographer got busy with his camera and took their picture, which was published in a subsequent issue of the paper. Then they gave the other newspaper offices a touch of high life, invaded State street for two blocks and finally wound up at the board of trade, where many Minneapolis grain men proudly applauded their small fellow-citizens.

WHAT THE BUFFALO PAPERS SAID.

Here are some of the "bouquets" received by the band on its Buffalo trip:

Buffalo Enquirer—The Minneapolis Journal's Newsboys' Band is a unique organization, and it commands the interest of all exposition visitors. The playing of these red-coated little chaps is fine, and on all occasions evokes earnest applause. The Journal's band has borne the expense of organization, instruction, uniforms and instruments, and is proud of the results. There is special gratification at the effect which membership in the band has had on the boys themselves. The discipline has been greatly to their advantage. Their bearing and conduct are excellent.

Buffalo News—The Minneapolis Journal Newsboys' Band is composed entirely of Minneapolis newsboys and the band serenaded the News this morning to show what they could do. They play as well as any professional band and look very attractive in their handsome scarlet coats with white trousers. The band includes fifty-five musicians, who can play either classical or popular pieces.

Buffalo Review—The Minneapolis Journal Newsboys' Band, one of the best known musical organizations in the northwest, is composed of fifty-five boys, ranging in age from 20 years down to one small boy who, in bright red knickerbockers, carries his 10 years with grace and dignity, to say nothing of a giant trombone. The band is recruited among the newsboys on the Minneapolis Journal, who, when at home, are engaged daily in handling that paper on the streets of Minneapolis. The boys wear red uniforms and make a very neat and attractive appearance.

Buffalo Commercial—The Minneapolis Journal Newsboys' Band is one of the wonders of the country. It is made up exclusively of boys who sell The Minneapolis Journal on the streets of Minneapolis, and it is seldom that one hears a musical organization which plays with more spirit, more swing and more nerve. The youngsters have learned their parts well and they all blend in a fine symphony of band music. The band has made scores of friends in Buffalo.

Buffalo Express—The excellent Minneapolis Journal Newsboys' Band gave a parade and a series of serenades in the business section of the city yesterday. It appeared at all the newspaper buildings and delighted big crowds with its fine music. It is a merry, melodious re-echo of red, and no band heard in the city's streets this summer has received heartier applause.

Buffalo Times—The Times was treated to a lively serenade to-day by one of the unique musical organizations of the country—the big band of little men. The Minneapolis Journal Newsboys' Band. The musicians wear bright red caps and coats and white duck trousers. From their apparel one would imagine that the band was a crowd of British at Yorktown. It is funny to see how large some of the boys are and then to contrast them with the awfully little fellows who whack the drum.

Buffalo Courier—The Minneapolis Journal's newsboys band has attracted a great deal of attention and made many friends during its stay in the rainbow city. This is partly owing to the brilliant playing of the band, and partly because its members have not allowed their hair to grow long or their heads to swell. On their part they have developed into the most enthusiastic boomers that the exposition has known, outshining even residents of Buffalo in their outspoken encomiums. "Jew know what I think!" remarked one boy to a News reporter at the Lincoln parkway gate this morning; he acted as spokesman for a party of the red-coated musicians, by virtue of being a tenor. "I think they ain't nuthin' else but the Pan-Am. It's the biggest extra 'dishun ever got on the street. It's a beat over Chicago. It scoops the World. W'y, you Buffalo papers ain't in it, or you'd have come out early this mornin'."

The Band Engagements for 1901.

The season of 1901 opened with a concert at the Metropolitan opera-house, Feb. 6. Then followed a concert at Century hall, two evening concerts for the Roosevelt Marching club at the Lyceum theater, a militia parade, a German Catholic church parade, and a concert at Gentry's show. The band next appeared at Dr. M. D. Shutter's mission, and then went to Dickinson, N. D., for four days to discourse music at the Firemen's tournament. They subsequently appeared at the Minnehaha Park races.

Other appearances during the season were: Osage, Iowa, July 4; Journal excursion to Lake City; concert for Ladies' society, New Store excursion, two evenings at Donaldson's Glee club; Journal excursion to Stillwater; Union Mission excursion to Red Wing; Journal Newsboys' band excursion to Lake City; six evening engagements at the Bijou opera-house; three evenings and one afternoon at the Minnesota state fair; concert at Minnetonka yacht club; Jewish church and Labor Day parades; Journal excursion to Winona, one week at the Pan-American exposition at Buffalo, N. Y., one day in Chicago, three days with the Elks at Milwaukee and Journal excursion to Shakopee, Minn.

Christmas morning the boys took part in the New Store's distribution of presents to the poor children of Minneapolis, at the armory. That ended the season. In all the band has played more than a hundred engagements during the three

The Travels of the Band.

Since its first excursion in 1898 the Journal Newsboys' Band has covered a total of 10,500 miles. The following tables show the towns and cities visited on the different trips and the distance traveled on each jaunt:

Season	Towns and Cities	Miles
Season of 1898	Red Wing, Stillwater, Lake City	300
Season of 1899	St. Cloud, Northfield, Osseo, Glenwood, Anoka, Le Sueur, Duluth, West Superior, Wis.	1,300
Season of 1900	Jordan, Northfield, Owatonna, Waseca, Windom, Madelia, Lake Crystal, Mapleton, Mankato, New Ulm, Albert Lea, Fargo, N. D., St. Paul, Stillwater, Lake Minnetonka, Lake City, White Bear, Brainerd, Milbank, S. D.	4,000
Season of 1901	St. Paul, Dickinson, N. D., Osage, Iowa, Lake Minnetonka, Stillwater, Red Wing, Lake City, Winona, Buffalo, N. Y., Chicago, Ill., Milwaukee, Wis.	5,000
Total		10,500

How Friends Were Won.

The band's first out-of-town engagement was in the fall of 1898, at the street fair at Red Wing, Minn., where the boys spent two days.

During the season of 1899 the Minneapolis engagements included concerts in

lyceum theater and Century hall, art exhibit in new court house, escort for Order of Mechanics in parade, hospital benefit concert, music for the big baseball and football games of the season, place of honor in Memorial Day and Labor Day parades, and the home-coming parade of the Thirtieth Minnesota volunteers, besides concerts at Loring, Riverside, Farview and Minnehaha parks.

The out-of-town engagements included Journal popular excursions to Stillwater, Lake City and Red Wing, besides accompanying the Minneapolis Elks to St. Cloud, when a new chapter of the order was organized there, as well as the Minneapolis Old Fellows to Northfield for the corner-stone ceremonies when the latter started their home.

The band also accompanied the Market Gardeners' excursion to Osseo, played a Fourth of July date at Glenwood, and supplied the music for the fairs at Anoka and Le Sueur, besides giving concerts in Duluth and West Superior.

Early in 1900 the band played a concert tour through southern Minnesota, visiting Jordan, Northfield, Owatonna, Waseca, Windom, Madelia, Lake Crystal, Mapleton, Mankato, New Ulm and Albert Lea. It attended the Fire festival at Fargo in June, acted as escort for Knights of Pythias in Minneapolis, and Elks' Carnival in St. Paul, as well as Journal Excursions to Stillwater, Lake Minnetonka, and Lake City.

Concert engagements were given at White Bear Lake and St. Paul, a Fourth of July date at Blue Earth City, and concerts at Logan Park and Van Cleve Park. The band accompanied the Minneapolis Elks to Brainerd, and occupied the place of honor in the Memorial Day and Labor Day parades.

Engagements at the Minneapolis State Fair, Albert Lea, and three days at Milbank were also filled, and the band attended the Bohemian celebration in St. Paul in September. It also gave a benefit concert for the Riverside Boys' club.

The season of 1900 ended on election night, Nov. 6, when The Journal gave a big election return show in the Exposition building, Minneapolis.

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