

4 November 1959

The following article was prepared for the purpose of initiating a history file pertaining to the previous accomplishments of the ROTC Band. Future information relative to the Band will be Maintained in this file.

1956-1957

Military personnel of the Detachment, directly supervised the military aspects of the Band Company's drill, while Robert Stewart, noted composer, Concertmaster of the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra, and Director of Music at Washington & Lee handled the musical aspects. During this year, the University Concert Band of some 45 pieces was in its full prime, and campus interest in instrumental music was at an all time high. The ROTC Band members were almost all members of the University aggregation under the direction of Mr Stewart and gave an exceptionally good concert. Mr Stewart managed to mold the ROTC Band into a well playing concert type band, but the concept of a marching band was not stressed. The Band at this time followed the prescribed drill period which was on Monday afternoons during the normal drill Schedule. Merits were awarded for attendance at Thursday afternoon rehearsals, and all band members wore regulation gold citation cords with their uniforms.

1957-1958

Directed by Cadet Mal Clinger, the band stressed more military training under close supervision of military personnel but did not practice as a marching-playing unit until Corps

Day, during the second semester. By this time the University Concert Band had disbanded and Cadet Clinger had conducted the Thursday afternoon rehearsals. At this point Mr Stewart became somewhat inactive. Merits were awarded at these rehearsals.

1958-1959

The Band was directed by Cadet Larry Small, who did an excellent job improving the abilities of the band to perform as a marching-playing unit.

1959-1960

The Band is presently conducted by Cadet John Miles. Mr Stewart is assisting in the musical aspects of the program.

New innovations include:

1. Indoor rehearsals scheduled only so often is necessary to learn the music.
2. Rehearsals in the Band Room in periods when inclement weather interferes with the regularly scheduled drill.
3. A separate training (drill) schedule has been set up for the band with more extensive drill assignments on those days when military training is prescribed.
4. The Thursday afternoon practices are being utilized for both military and musical aspects of the Band, rather than just indoor rehearsals as has been the past policy.
5. Each Freshman entering W&L who noted on his application for admission, that he was a member of a high school band, is written a personal letter by the Cadet Director encouraging him to participate in the ROTC program in general and the Band in particular. (see attached letter).
6. Practice playing and marching started early in the semester in preparation for Corps Day.
7. An assistant Drum Major (Cpl) has been appointed.