

# SCOTIA BAND

50th ANNIVERSARY



# DEDICATION

*Our Company helped establish the Scotia Band 50 years ago and has assisted it financially during the ensuing years.*

*Other community bands have faded away over the years, but the Scotia Band continues to renew itself and serve the people of the Eel River Valley.*

*The Pacific Lumber Company is proud of our connection with this fine organization and is pleased that its officers and members have held its standards high.*

The Pacific Lumber Company

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## Introduction

We've been enjoying the Scotia Band for many years, and we have seen a parade of musicians, including members of a new generation, join the veterans. The band is for the person who enjoys playing in a group, rather than hanging up his instrument once he's had music in school — or found no other use for it.

Members of the band are a dedicated crowd, too, for they turn out on their own, weekly, to practice. There are no paychecks waiting for the members — the "pay" is the camaraderie and the love for music. It is a community band with members from all parts of Humboldt County. Some of the members come from high schools, College of the Redwoods, Humboldt State, and other sources.

The band began its life back in 1935 under the sponsorship of The Pacific Lumber Co., and for a time membership was made up mainly of company employees, but time changed that, and others became eligible to join.

The uniforms have been passed around from member to new member, but somehow the band has been lucky enough to not have too slim nor too plump members. We would suggest The Pacific Lumber Co. dress the whole outfit in new uniforms someday, since it is carrying the TPL name in public rather proudly. I worry sometimes that a moth might carry one of the players away during a concert.

But clothes hardly make the man, true, as long as there is music in the heart and soul of the performer. And, at the most recent concert series at the Humboldt County Fair, hundreds of friends heard

Scotia Band perform. For everyone it was a delightful experience — over on the race track all they got was a "Post Call" — on the Pioneer Village stage there was a whole program directed by Michael McClimon, conductor. And, we heard such favorites as *The Thunderer* by John P. Sousa; Leroy Anderson's *A Trumpeter's Lullaby*, with Bob Armstrong conducting, and trumpeters Merle Adams, David Demant and Michael McClimon. *Big Band Dixie* was lively with Dick Baum, clarinet; Daniel Horton, tenor sax; Ed Violet, trumpet; Woody Thompson, trombone; Jim Baker, tuba and Pat Reid, who was all over the drums. *Trumpet Filigree* was nice, nice, with Bob Armstrong, Merle Adams, David Demant and Pat Reid.

Charter members of the band still playing are Henry Bender and Charles Langdon. Membership is not closed, for the Scotia Band is always recruiting talent and if you have an instrument and the desire, and you'd like to join a friendly, likable bunch of musicians, you should contact Michael McClimon at 725-3760 or Henry Bender at 725-2109.

The band appears at many public events including the Fortuna Rodeo, Ferndale Holy Ghost Festival parade, picnics and special gatherings, art festivals, and other events. The turnout will be 25 to 30 members depending — as one member says — "on the weather." But regardless of number, the Scotia Band never fails to delight its listeners.

Next time you hear the Scotia Band — remember, you are listening to a real "Humboldt fixture". . . a tradition, now.

**Andrew Genzoli**

**Times-Standard, August 4, 1978**





Scotia Band of 1936 — front row kneeling — Bradley Pond and Floyd Amen. Seated in first row — Norman Grunert, Kenneth Langlois, Henry Bender (current business manager of the band), Cliff Solenberger, Don McMillan, Charles Jaehnig, Jr., Ned Reed, Sewell Lufkin, C.O. Wessman and Nick Gregg. Standing are Fulton Bendorf, Joe Vettters, Charles Langdon, Jack Nelson, Lloyd Anderson, Guy Brown, Nello Barsanti, Al Pollard, Kenneth Gilson and Director Jack Sutherland.

**The home town band!** It's a part of Americana, along with 4th of July celebrations, town baseball teams and steam trains. The Midwest, with warm summer evenings, has remained the bastion of band concerts in the parks. Tourists are sometimes fortunate to find themselves in a small town on a Saturday night, with the band playing in the circular bandstand, an ice cream social in progress nearby under the elms, with the courthouse or city hall looming over the scene.

A Pacific Lumber Company mill manager named Fulton Bendorf, one of three brothers identified with the company, missed the band concerts of his youth. He tossed out an idea to Henry Bender, Charles Langdon and Richard Fleisher, "Why can't we get some fellows together and make up a German band to play for *Music Night* at the Winema Theatre?" A half dozen rehearsed and played. The list of prospects grew longer, with the opening of the Scotia



baseball season as the next public performance. Instruments came out of closets, simple band books were borrowed, and on a warm Sunday afternoon, the new band tackled *The Star Spangled Banner* to open the 1936 baseball season.

Fulton Bendorf and Richard Fleischer, an enthusiastic non-playing supporter and promoter, provided the contact with company officials. At that time Ed Yoder was resident manager. It was hoped that the modest stipend to the director, plus the eventual cost of uniforms, would be a good investment, as the band could play for the annual company picnic, a huge and well-organized affair held each Labor Day in the Scotia Park near the river. (See Andrew Genzoli's "RFD" column on the facing page.) Bendorf's notice to members for a practice at the Winema Theater included such information as the following:

Don't forget the rehearsal Tuesday evening. Lloyd Anderson will be there and ready to give you your first dose of medicine, right on the dot, so do not be late or we will send the sheriff after you. Don't be afraid to come a little early but, by all means leave your grouches at home and wear your best smile and be prepared to go places.

Bendorf was chairman of the Scotia Community Music Committee and Richard Fleischer was secretary.

Lloyd Anderson, the Fortuna Union High School band director, was part of the formative years' activities. With his departure for summer study in Los Angeles, the Pacific Lumber Company found a professional trombonist with vaudeville and circus experience to direct the growing band, teach in the school, and work in the company office. Jack Sutherland had traveled through Humboldt County previously, playing with the combo known as *The Six Brown*



Jack Sutherland, director, contributes to a hard-hitting circus style rendition of *Billboard March* on August 29, 1937.

*Brothers*, a widely known saxophone ensemble. He was delighted to return and under his direction the band developed a hard-hitting circus style and repertoire. *Billboard March* became a theme tune, plus the nostalgic old *Night In June* tone poem, composed by K.L. King, famed director of many Iowa town bands.

Sutherland gave real inspiration to the organization. Membership grew and we find a formal organization taking shape. An old dog-eared journal,





Scotia Band shown in front of the Scotia Inn in 1937. Front row kneeling — Geno Benetti (drum major), Henry Bender, Ray Marks, Clair Jaehnig, Floyd Lewis, Verner Haapala, Nick Gregg and Emil Sund. Second row kneeling — Charles Jaehnig, Joe Vettters, Carl Minor, Charles Langdon and Victor Soares. Third row standing in pairs — Cliff Solenberger, Donald McMillan, Donald Rodenburger, Kenneth Langlois, Ned Reed and Clifford Payton. Back row — Jack Nelson, George Jones, Kenneth Gilson, Fulton Bendorf, Alfred Pollard, Jack Sutherland and Jack Sutherland, Jr.

## RFD By Andrew Genzoli

**STATISTICAL FACTS AND GOURMETS** — When the subject is food, I guess I can hold my end of the conversation in fairly efficient manner . . . In fact if it is food itself, I can do very well from that standpoint too . . .

Yesterday noon, with a few thousand others, I sat down to a not too "light" a luncheon . . . But it was good . . . It was the fourteenth annual employee's picnic of The Pacific Lumber Company at Scotia, where fifteen steers are barbecued yearly . . .

As picnics go, and I guess I mentioned this one time before . . . (or if you want to go into detail, I mention it each year) . . . it is one of the most efficient and organized I've ever seen . . . Not a thing is missing, and not a person misses a thing . . .

You are served promptly, with the biggest portions I've seen anywhere . . . The big slices of barbecued beef fill your plate.

Besides fifteen steers, potato salad runs into the tonnage bracket, rolls into the hundreds of dozens, coffee into tank-

loads, and everything else on a Paul Bunyan basis. . .

The white-capped serving crews have the appearance of bunches of pop-corn as they bob among the crowd . . . Some crews work from serving carts equipped to serve the barbecue hot, in warm plates . . . Others are prepared with coffee serving units, while still others have ice cream and roll distribution tasks . . . One could dub the project "Operation Delicious" . . . It is tops . . .

Scotia Park is a beautiful place . . . well kept . . . clean and fresh. The trees are always beautiful, and the setting along the banks of Eel River ideal for a group of 6 or 6000. When the rest of Humboldt is short on sunshine, it is almost a sure thing that by noon the sun will be shining in Scotia . . . It did yesterday . . .

In the morning there are races for the children, in the afternoon

a baseball game between the Southern Pacific Stores of Oakland and Scotia Lumberjacks, dancing in the pavilion . . .

One must never neglect to mention the Scotia Band . . . one of the finest musical aggregations in this part of the world . . . Louis Weichselfelder conducted the group . . . and I know that Lloyd Anderson was wielding the baton for awhile too . . .

I always enjoy the "exit" trip from the picnic, for it takes you down through the "avenues" of the company's plant . . . and you get a first-hand idea of the bigness of the operation at Scotia . . . You can always see the "inside" of Scotia, by going on a directed tour of the plant . . . But yesterday I was impressed as the great plant sat quietly while all of its friends enjoyed "their" day.



covering over 30 years of membership rolls and minutes of meetings, starts with a businesslike page of minutes submitted by Charles Langdon. At the February 15, 1937 meeting, these officers were elected:

Clifford Solenberger .....	President
Kenneth L. Gilson .....	Vice President
Charles Langdon .....	Secretary

Board of Directors

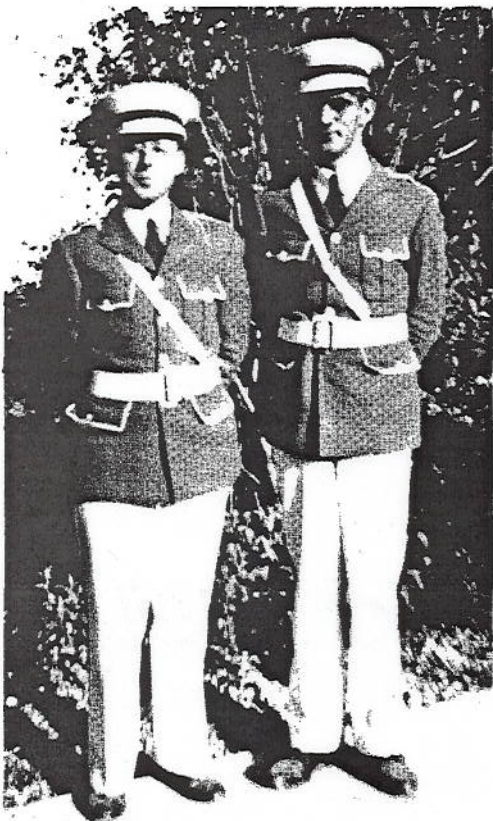
Ned Reed  
Guy Brown  
Joe Veters

Nick Gregg  
Charles Langdon  
Fulton Bendorf

Rehearsals were held in the old Scotia Fire Hall and in the kitchen of the spacious dance pavilion near the ball park. Band uniform caps and ties were purchased. The band became popular and their presence was demanded at parades throughout the country. In fact, this popularity led to one of the early anecdotes about the band. A Eureka group of businessmen staged one of the early fairs at Redwood Acres. The band played at a daytime parade and

dispersed. Late in the day, hurried calls went out by phone and by radio, asking all band members to reassemble for an evening performance at the fairgrounds. Most were contacted and the band made a good appearance. However, the agreement for compensation was hazy. Just who had promised. . . and how much? Thus the minutes of several 1938 band meetings show that the Eureka Fair was dunned repeatedly. While the band played at many of the colorful American Legion Field Nights in succeeding years, it remained cool to other Eureka performances.

By 1938 new uniforms were ordered with company support. Green single breasted jackets with white piping on pockets, white Sam Browne belts, white flannel trousers with green stripes, green ties and the original caps made an attractive outfit. Pictures of the band show an excellent marching formation, complete with drum major and majorettes. To its yearly calendar, the band added the Scout-O-Rama, the Humboldt County Fair, the Del Norte County Fair, the Lily Festival in



Two charter members of the band still playing are Henry Bender, left, and Charles Langdon. They are shown in September 1938 with the band's first full uniforms.





Lloyd Anderson conducting the Scotia Band in 1952 at the annual Pacific Lumber Company Labor Day Picnic.

Brookings, the Gladiola Festival at Grants Pass, the Fortuna Christmas Music Festival, the Fortuna Rodeo, the Fortuna Arts Festival, the Logging Congress at Ukiah and Eureka, and the Holy Ghost and Lady Fatima Festivals in Ferndale, Eureka and Arcata. Until the huge flood of 1955, the annual Pacific Lumber Company Labor Day Picnic was a highlight of each year. A large bandstand was provided for the band which played while the efficient committees served hundreds. Clara Bender was heard each year singing *The Star Spangled Banner*. The baseball game and the afternoon dance in the pavilion, all added up to a major production, and there were no absent members at the concert or at the dining tables.

Late in 1938, Jack Sutherland moved to Eureka, and Lloyd Anderson began his second stint as director. With the exception of the war years, Lloyd Anderson continued as director until he passed the baton to Louis Weichsfelder in 1955.

With new uniforms, a growing list of engagements and an expanding membership, the business meetings of 1938 to 1942 show an exceptional period. Charles (Bevo) Langdon's organized minutes are preserved in a well-worn



book. The October 10, 1938 minutes include under new business, "The request was made that we do not invite any more to sit in the band, as we now have more members than we have uniforms." The December 5 minutes of that year continue, "A communication was received from the Eureka Fair stating they were unable to pay us at this time." A motion was made by Emil Sund that the band pay for the members' dinners at the Christmas feed to be held at the Virginia Hotel (an inn near Metropolitan which burned in the '40's). The motion was passed unanimously and the practice still continues.

Over the years, as the cost of feeding the band at a restaurant became prohibitive, the band feeds were moved to the Scotia Scout Hall. Steaks are now provided by the band with salads and desserts contributed by band members in potluck fashion.

Lloyd Anderson announced, "We are to play at Holmes Grange on December 14 and we play on the veranda of the Scotia Inn for the annual Christmas Caravan on December 20." On January 9, 1939, under new business, "It was requested by Henry Bender that we have some letterheads printed." It was agreed that the continued duns to the Eureka Fair would have had more authority if they had been made upon formal stationery. On March 13, the minutes state, "Reports were made on the *Music Night* held in the Winema Theater which seemed to be a big success." Money received for some of the "pay jobs" had accumulated, and after appointing a committee to find a formula, the following division was made: one quarter of the funds were paid to The Pacific Lumber Company to apply toward the new uniforms, and one quarter was retained for sheet music and incidental expenses. The remaining half of the treasury was dispersed to the members. Here's an incidental expense which indicates the pre-inflation prices. A band feed after a rehearsal at the old dance pavilion incurred these expenses for the 18 men present: "Cold cuts and bread, \$2.63; beer, \$2.15."

One of the favorite "jobs" continues to the present time, The Holy Ghost Festival and parade held each spring. The Sunday procession to the church with one or two bands has been described in magazines such as *Sunset*, and is as genuine as any old country festival in Portugal or the Azores, from which it came. Following the procession to and from the church, the hospitable committee would invite the band to the elaborate noon meal. Director Lloyd Anderson recalls a day in May of 1936, before the Scotia Band had assumed the musical duties at the annual event:

Our Fortuna Union High School band was invited to play. We learned the proper music and appeared in full uniform with colorful majorettes. After the return parade, on a hot day, the band trooped into the dining hall. Only wine was on the tables, though the custom of serving Koolaid was added in later years. In spite of some stern admonitions by the director, the return trip to Fortuna included some of the happiest musicians to be found anywhere. Sewell Lufkin, one of the trumpet players, became director of Scotia Band 24 years later.





**Dorothy St. John, drum majorette, leads the Scotia Band down Main Street, Ferndale for one of the annual Holy Ghost parades.**



**C.O. Wessman, bass drum; Diane Langdon, clarinet; Lloyd Anderson, snare drum and Merle Adams, trumpet, march in another Ferndale Holy Ghost Parade.**



The matter of a few convivial drinks before or during a band performance has always been a problem and not limited to town bands. Dixieland bands have been known to become horrendously out of tune on the latter part of a performance, when the bourbon dimmed the ears but increased the enthusiasm. Scotia Band's most relaxed performance came in 1938 when playing the ball game during the latter part of the big picnic. A generous supply of beer at the picnic tables, along with a few bottles carried to the ball park, led to the inspired idea that some should trade instruments. Strange sounds crept into the staid old marches, and impromptu drum solos by brass players trying new skills led to stern admonition by the non-imbibing members, who feared that they would be blamed for the sour notes. There is no account of the day in the minutes of the next meeting, but the relaxed ideas have not carried over into performances of future years. Amateur musicians seem to have trouble with note reading after a few "snorts," and most bands confine the refreshments to the relaxed times after the performances.



With several low notes, Jack Nelson, James Frasier and Verne Huntus bring up the rear.





Louis Weichselfelder leads the Scotia Band down Main Street for the 1956 Fortuna Rodeo Parade.



## Scotia Band members during the 1940-41 period:

### Director

Lloyd Anderson

### Drum Major

Geno Benetti

### Clarinets

Henry Bender

Douglas Edgmon

Charles Jaehnig

Ray Marks

J.C. Simmons

Ronald Becker

Ernest Hansen

Alfred Kaehler

Don McMillan

Clifford Solenberger

Harold Neville

### Saxophones

Walter McCall

Jack Flook

James Karry

Stanley Eisner

Stanley Moore

Clinton Haywood

### Trumpets

Nick Gregg

Clifford Payton

Ned Reed

Emil Sund

Eldon Wright

R.A. Wright

Merle Adams

John Sellens

William Crane

K. Verner Haapala

Victor Soares

Ed Early

### Horns

Charles Langdon

Robert Oliveira

Joe Veters

Carl Renner

James Batchelor

### Trombones

Kenneth L. Gilson

Verne Nicholson

Kenneth Garcelon

Leroy Scott

George Jones

Woodrow Thompson

Robert Farrar

Alfred Pollard

Royal Rose

Gerald Becker

### Baritones

Guy Brown

Charles Bryant

Conrad Neville

### Basses

Jack Nelson

Ralph Escola

Stanley Snider

Chester Bosch

Dee Wooden

### Percussion

Fulton Bendorf

Les Wilbur

Clair Jaehnig

James "Bunny" O'Brien

Alvie Andreucci

Willard Iverson

Orval Overholt

This roll is double the number of uniforms, but this list covers a two-year period. Many students departed for college to return for summer performances. Illness was claiming some older members. For some interest would lag due to a new girlfriend, conflicting work schedules, or the feeling that their particular talent was better suited for other things. Nick Gregg, the Russian-born trumpet player, started a band at the Van Duzen River Grange in Carlotta. Several of the Scotia Band members played with this band at their spring concert each year. The high school bands were providing more members and by 1942 children of the Bendorf clan were appearing in the band.