

Maurine Lyon

Memories of Ipswich Vice-Regal Band

Date of interview: 1995

Interviewer: Robyn Buchanan

Interview available on CD



Track 01

My grandfather first of all was a member of the Gympie Oddfellows Band and then later he became conductor of the Gympie Model Band. That's where my father and his brother got their early tuition.

The Gympie Oddfellows Band came to the first contest in Queensland which was held in the Botanical gardens in Brisbane and my grandfather went. What is written about it is that they travelled on horses and vehicles and the first day, they arrived at Tewantin from Gympie. Then it said they came to Brisbane via Culgoa - it took me several days to work out it was probably some kind of a boat.

They stayed at a hotel in Brisbane and when the committee asked them to play for them, they played the Hallelujah Chorus before breakfast one morning and then they played at the opening of a bridge - I'm not sure what bridge - to raise funds for the children's hospital which was being built. By the time the actual contest came round, the Gympie Band was the only competitor because all the other bands, having heard them play, decided they weren't good enough and they all withdrew. The report said "they allowed us to win by default."

In 1912, my grandfather came to Blackstone as conductor of the Blackstone Band. I don't know that he stayed there very long but his purpose to come to Ipswich was to give Dad and my uncle the opportunity to join the Vice Regals

whom he thought was "the" band of the state. And so gradually, they both became members of the Vice Regal band, and that's why we live in Ipswich.

Interviewer: That is interesting that he was prepared to come to Ipswich for that reason.

Yes, the band was all-important. He was one of triplets and was born in England. At that time, Queen Victoria gave a free education to triplets, so he was educated at the Bluecoat College of Music in Birmingham and that is where he got his music. He must have wanted to do music.

I don't really know what he did when he came to Ipswich, maybe he worked in the mines because he became a goldminer in Gympie.

My father and his brother were young men when they came to Ipswich and Dad was fortunate to get a position in T.C. Beirnes [*a major retailer*]. At that stage, the manager of T. C. Beirnes was very interested in the band, he was patron or something like that, I think his name was Mr Brian or Bryant. So Dad was able to get a position in Beirnes and join this famous band. My Uncle worked in the Railway Workshops and also joined the band.

Dad mainly played the euphonium and my Uncle the trombone but they could play any instrument that was

necessary, where they were needed, but Dad was really best on the euphonium.

He had three practices a day when I was a small child, from what I remember. He had a practice before he went to work, he came home at lunchtime and Mother always had the lunch exactly right on time so that he would have time before he got the bus back into town to work. And then when we had had our evening meal, he would again have another practice and very often then walk into town to practise in the Band Hall. I guess that was several nights a week when it was close to a contest and at least once a week all through the year and every Sunday morning they practised.

That Band Hall was almost where the entrance to the Mall carpark is now, right on the riverbank. At that time, he lived here [*ie in Woodend Rd*] - I was born in this house.

Track 02

The band went away for competitions. Only once do I remember him going without us. Mum and I sat around, I'm not quite sure what the reason was, but perhaps my grandfather wasn't well - we sat around the radio most of the time listening to the band contest because every bit of it was broadcast. There was a lot of interest. So that is my recollection of being left home.

Apart from that, we always went to the band contest. I was an only child, I was part of it. It was a very big event to go to the band contest. You always had new dresses for the Sunday and got all dressed up. We went by train. The entire train would be made up of bands, each band having

its own carriage and you met in Brisbane and went to whatever city the contest was being held at. Sometimes we had sleepers when it was a long way, sometimes it wasn't that far.

It was always held at Easter and so one recollection I have is being wakened up in the middle of the night at a railway station - I don't know what station it was. The [*Cambrian*] Choir was on the opposite side of the platform in their train and the Band was on this side and they were calling out to one another - "What did you win? How did you get on?". I must have been quite young then but I remember I was wakened up, there was all this shouting going on.

When we got back, we were always met at the station, the Band would march to maybe the Town Hall where a reception was held to welcome them back and so it was really big.

There were lots of cups and shields won by the Band, and gold medals by the individual members and they were gold medals. My father won some of these, there are certificates here, and the medals and the cups.

Their furthest contest I suppose would be Ballarat, the South Street Competition. That was a train trip. There would be all the interested wives, not a lot of children- I was one of the few - but the whole carriage would be taken up with supporters and bandsmen.

In Ipswich, they held lots and lots of concerts. One I remember distinctly was when 4QG used to come to Ipswich, I'm not sure if it was once a month, but there was a big what they called "Community Concert" in the Town Hall and artists would come from Brisbane, Ipswich



"Cups and shields won by the band, and gold medals won by the individual members...."



“On Sundays, you went to play in the park..... in Brown’s Park, supporters would go into houses and ask for donations to help the band.”

artists would perform and that was a big thing. Concerts were held in the Town Hall and in the Park. There was a subsidy provided by the Council at one stage and they had to play in Queen’s Park several times a year and then I think it was twice in the outlying parks, so most Sundays, you went to play in the park. and that was great fun really. People sitting around on the grass and some of the supporters, I remember in Brown’s Park particularly, that the supporters would go into the houses and ask for donations to help the band.

Then we did have fetes in our own grounds. Before the fete, there would be a banner tied around the front verandah with “Ipswich City Vice-Regal band here next Saturday” then what I remember is our kitchen table absolutely laden with sweets and cakes and all things that my Mother and the other ladies had made and they would be sold but also they provided afternoon tea underneath the trees and the band played a little bit further towards the front.

A man called Mr Robinson who lived on Woodend Rd used to sit at the gate and he would repeat “Help the Band! Help the Band!” with a collection box. Then there were races across the yard for small children and all kinds of things to raise money to get their new uniforms, to get them to band contests because one of the things that they did pride themselves in was that members did not have to supply their own accommodation money or anything. Everything was raised for the band, so they were all able to go and have a wonderful time.

Track 03

My father’s name was Alec Clarke. Harlin Road when I was very small was really quite musical. Mr Fred Bowers lived across the road, Mr Bill Tedford lived three or four houses down and someone my parents always talked about was Connie Buchan who was a soprano with the Cambrians, she lived at the top of the road so it was quite a musical atmosphere.

Everybody had to have their practice and band instruments can be heard so it all had to be fitted in. Mr and Mrs Will Jones lived in Ferrett St and he was an untiring secretary of the band for many many years and also Mr and Mrs Robinson on Woodend Road so even this little area, it was full of band enthusiasts. It’s a nice sort of background if you can understand, to grow up in that sort of thing.

I started the piano with Nancy White [later Mrs Nancy Jones] when I was seven and continued to go to her. Later I became interested in singing and it was Ray Jones who taught me to sing, although my very first lesson I should say was with Mrs Goleby, Alison Goleby’s mother, because I was a member of St Paul’s Junior Choir at that stage and she gave me my first lessons. And then Ray Jones and that friendship has never ceased.

My father didn’t think it was ladylike for me to play a brass instrument. I could teach theory and be very involved and play all their accompaniments but it wasn’t ladylike to actually play. I did at home but was never allowed out to play an instrument.



"This photo was taken at Boonah Showgrounds - it was a concert to raise money for the Will Jones Memorial Fund. I was actually singing the Lord's Prayer there with dad conducting and teh men in front were recording - it was be a very early recording and I do have the 78 records of that. We were on the back of flat-top trucks, making a stage. Just behind me are the tubular bells, I used to do "Bells Across the Meadow" and come around the front and sing."

I did sing with the band, lots of things really, "Land of Hope and Glory" I suppose, the "Lord's Prayer" was one of my pets, and things then also like "Bells across the Meadow", "Bells of St Marys", you had to sing things that were suitable for brass bands.

I sang mostly in concerts, at the Victory Celebrations in Queen's Park, also we did a number of concerts after Mr Jones passed away, the Will Jones Memorial Fund was established and we did a lot of work in the country towns of Boonah and Laidley and Lowood to raise money for this fund. It was a great experience because we all had to perform.

The first concerts were held in the School of Arts at Boonah, but that was not big enough - people lined up on the footpath outside and couldn't get in - so the next one was in the Showgrounds, they put trucks together for us to stand on and made a stage.

Interviewer: there is a photograph of that, isn't there, at Boonah Showgrounds?

That's right. That is the tubular bells, I used to do "Bells Across the Meadow" and come around the front and sing. The Band would be involved in that.



Maurine Lyon outside the Band Hall on the riverbank



Track 04

Photo: The Boys' Band practising in the band hall

This photo shows the Band Hall which was on the riverbank, I think that is Rosebery Parade now, we used to call it River Road. The front of it was weatherboard and part of the sides, back a certain distance, but then from there on was corrugated iron.

On the very back which opened right out onto the river - the stumps at the back were terribly high - was a huge window just made out of the corrugated iron which was simply pushed out with a stick and that gave us a bit of air and you got the breeze from the river.

It was quite nice really. I remember a Christmas party we had in there, that we got big pine leaves and covered it all over so that it looked pretty.

I taught theory to the Junior Band. In 1943 when all the instruments were lying idle and all the men were at the war, Mr Jones and Dad got the idea that they would teach boys with these instruments instead of just letting them sit there. And so they were all stored in the band room and the men at the war. In July 1943, they had a notice in the paper and I think on the first night, 45 boys arrived and it gradually grew, there were over 60 anyway.

None of them had touched an instrument, they were complete novices. and so I remember that night very clearly when everybody was trying instruments and saying "I like this one".

It all became a little bit complicated that some were a little bit further advanced than others. Dad wanted them to learn theory, so there was a room at the side and I used to take them in small groups with a blackboard. They had to do homework for me and some of them were older than me! There are very happy memories I have of those days.

There was a piano over in the corner and as they got to the stage of being able to compete - and they did compete at the first Junior Eisteddfod in 1945 - I played all their accompaniments.





Photo: Celebrating the end of World War II

I remember the end of the war very distinctly. We had no uniforms because we had only started, so at the first concert which was held in 1944, I think the boys only had white shirts and dark trousers.

When the end of the war came, “What shall we do? We can’t just arrive looking as official as that”, and someone came up with the idea of dressing as girls.

They’ve got their own shoes and socks on which looks very funny, and that was Mr Roberts in front with a stick of sugar cane as the drum major’s baton and we marched in the Victory Parade like that.

I can’t remember where we had to assemble but it was up towards the Park and we marched down to the Town Hall. I have a photo somewhere of playing on the Town

Hall steps with people everywhere. There were other celebrations - fireworks everywhere. We had to go and sing and play at what we called Sandy Gallop [*a mental hospital*] and the General Hospital when peace was declared, this was our duty, so I sang “Land of Hope and Glory” in all those places.

I remember the feeling of that time, it was wonderful, just fun the whole thing with fireworks and everyone just absolutely hilarious.

After the War, not many of the men came back into the Band at all, but a few did. They would always come and help, so we always had a few extras for the band contest and things like that.

But basically, from then on it was those boys.



CITY OF IPSWICH.

CIVIC THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Occasion of Declaration of Cessation of Hostilities in Europe.

His Worship the Mayor (Alderman J. C. Minnis) Presiding

ORDER.

1. National Anthem.

2. Band—"Advance, Australia."

3. HYMN.

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice,
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell;
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed;
Without our aid He did us make;
We are His folk, He doth us feed,
And for His sheep He doth us take.

O enter then His gates with praise,
Approach with joy His courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless His name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

For why the Lord our God is good;
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

4. Scripture Reading, Psalm 46, Major Packer.

5. The Mayor, Alderman J. C. Minnis.

6. Prayer of Thanksgiving, Rev. J. H. King.

7. HYMN.

O worship the King all-glorious above,
O gratefully sing His power and His love,
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days
Pavilioned in splendour, and girded with praise.

O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space,
His chariots of wrath the deep thunder-clouds form
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

Feeble children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

8. Scripture Reading, Luke, Chapter 1, verses 68 to 79, Pastor Seymour.

9. Address, "Thankfulness for the Past," Rev. Kestel Cornish.

10. Prayer for Guidance, Rev. Gray Parker.

11. HYMN.

God of our fathers known of old,
Lord of our far-flung battle-line,
Beneath whose awful hand we hold
Dominion over palm and pine—
Lord God of hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget — lest we forget.

The tumult and the shouting dies;
The captains and the kings depart;
Still stands Thine ancient sacrifice,
An humble and a contrite heart.
Lord God of hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget — lest we forget.

For heathen heart that puts her trust
In reeking tube and iron shard,
All valiant dust that builds on dust,
And guarding, calls not Thee to guard,
For frantic boast and foolish word —
Thy mercy on Thy people, Lord!

12. Address, "Faithfulness for the Future," Rev.

W. Wilson Smith.

13. Prayer, Intercession, Rev. J. Tainton, B.A.

14. HYMN.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home!

Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our Guard while troubles last,
And our eternal Home.

15. Benediction.





Track 05

Photo: Street march in Ipswich, 1946

At the very first contest in 1946, the first Post-War contest, they competed and by that time they had blue shirt-waists and I had a blue dress. It was held in Ipswich. That is the massed bands street march. Each band had to march individually and be judged and then to finish off, we went back - we marched from the Metropole Hotel, went around Cribb's corner and down maybe somewhere near the Ritz and then you got back up to the Metropole and came back down as a massed band, so that is that photo.

The solo items were held in the Town Hall and that all went on before the main part of Easter. The Champion of Champions was always on the Sunday night but the main smaller sections were say the Wednesday and Thursday prior to Easter and that was in the Town Hall.

The hymn tune was [*judged on*] Good Friday, and inspection where every shoelace had to be tied in exactly the same way or you lost a mark and then there were all different grades of the band. We at that stage were only D grade because they had only commenced in 1943, whereas the old Vice-Regals were definitely A-grade. So there were all the grades to go through that is why it seems that, although you only had the hymn tune[contest], you had a lot of bands. Then inspection.

On Saturday morning was the street march and that was always very well attended with people everywhere. Sunday afternoon was the diagram march and the oval march on the Reserve North Ipswich and then Saturday

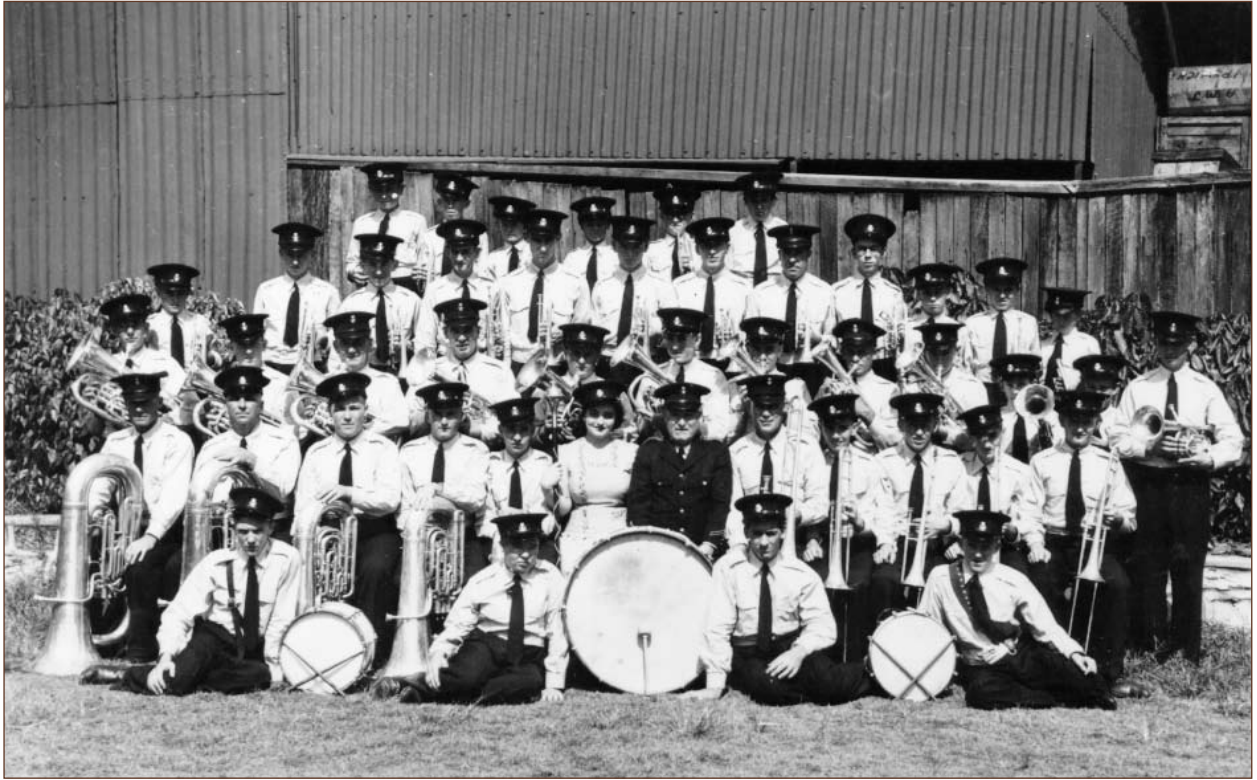
night and Monday night, there was always the competition for the two big A-grade selections; the main one was on the Monday night and Saturday night was important too.

The results were announced, you did know who had won the solos but you didn't know any of the band results until the last thing on Monday night and you were just waiting for the results of everything. Then if we were in a different town, it was catch the train and come home.

After the war, there was a contest in Ipswich in 1946, 1949, and again in '52. There have been a couple since then, it was in 1954 that my Father died so I haven't been as closely associated with bands since then, but yes, I'm still interested.

In this photo of the 1946 competition, I am marching in front. That was because Dad had more than the required number and rather than tell some boys they couldn't be in it, I marched with the second lot.

[This photo was taken in Brisbane St - the people in the top left-hand corner are standing on in the grounds of St Paul's church



Track 06

After the war, not a lot of men came back so it was what we called Ipswich Vice-Regal Junior Band. They competed in Maryborough in 1947, Toowoomba in 1948, Ipswich again in 1949, Bundaberg in 1950.

In 1951 the contest was held in Townsville and by this time, Dad wasn't as well as he might have been and some of the members thought the distance was too far and so we didn't compete but about six boys did go and played with the Models to represent Ipswich and so illness forced Dad's retirement in August 1951 and he passed away three years later.

The band was taken over by Mr Fred Bowers (who lived opposite to us) in 1951 and he had them until 1961 when it went into recess for a little while and then Mr J. J. Kelly came back to Ipswich and I think that was 1962 and the band kept rising in grades from that D-grade in 1946 and

we were B-grade by then and he did have some success with them - I'd have to check up those details because I wasn't as closely associated then as when Dad was here - then he died in 1966 and the band virtually doesn't exist since then.

Some years later, they decided to amalgamate with the Model Band and it was called Ipswich Vice-Regal Model for some time, I think that title is now dropped and so that's been the end of it.

I think the War played a big part [*in its demise*]. Up until then, they were winning Queensland Championships, Australian Championships year after year. It didn't come back to that standard. Dad started in '43 and he had to give up in '51 so there wasn't such a long time. The interest waned and I guess television came.





Photo: Stranded during 1919 Influenza Outbreak

I remember this quite well, I've heard this story so often. They went to Sydney for the Championships of some description, it may have been the Australian I'm not sure, and as they came off the stage there was an announcement made that the border had been closed and they could not return to Queensland. But some of the members decided they were going to try. When they had finished playing, they ran to the station, got on the first train but only got as far as Tenterfield and they were stopped there.

My parents were there. Mr and Mrs Will Jones were there, they stayed in Sydney but eventually had to come back to Tenterfield where they had to camp in the Showgrounds - there was also a Ladies tent.

In the meantime, Ipswich was rallying round to raise money because not only were the bandsmen running out of money themselves, but they weren't at work and

they were in the camp for three weeks. I've got one advertisement for Bossie Martoo advertising "The whole proceeds of tonight's pictures will go towards the band" and I think that other people gave concerts and tried to help them get back to Ipswich.

When they did come back, the Model band met them at the station plus the Mayor and all the important dignitaries of the town and they were all given a big welcome because they had been the "quarantined band".

I think they thoroughly enjoyed themselves while they were there but it is something they never forgot and in the Band Hall, there was a poster that someone brought off the fence and it said "No one must approach within so many yards of this boundary" and it used to be on the wall of the Band Hall.





The Blackstone-Ipswich Cambrian Choir, whose singing was heard by means of the wireless in four Australian capitals and many country districts, on May 29.

Track 07

Photos: Performing on radio 1933

That was when 4QG used to come regularly to Ipswich to record the band.

It had to be timed exactly, so it must have been broadcast live I guess. If you went over time, they just cut you off, you couldn't even finish so there was much work to make sure you did it in exactly the right amount of time.

That photo shows the hall with curtains all around, it must have been broadcast from the Blackstone-Ipswich Cambrian Choir Hall because the curtains are marked "BICC" at the back.

Most of my associations were with the Vice Regal Band because Dad was so involved but he had friends in the Model Band then later on there was the Ipswich Excelsior Band I don't know a great deal of their details because we were so much Vice-Regal.

After Dad died, Mrs Jones took over the Cambrian Choir and I became a member of the Cambrian Choir for many years. so this was where my singing came into its bit. and I've been teaching on and off since I used to do that theory but I always had a few students but when I had small children, I didn't have as many as I have today and so my life is still music from half past seven most mornings. It's now piano and singing that I'm teaching so it's just me I guess.



Billed as "a programme from Sunny Queensland," a choral and band concert by Ipswich performers was broadcast through 4QG on May 29. Above members of the 4QG staff are seen with some of the radio equipment taken to Ipswich for the occasion.

Interviewer: *Did anyone else in the family get involved in music?*

Both of the boys did piano and singing and are still interested, very busy and so not doing that much but David has a school choir and yes, they still like music.

I travelled with the Cambrian Choir and had lots of fun with them too. So most Easters in my life were involved with music.

To me, Ipswich was famous for music. Just the fact that the whole band contest was broadcast probably through 4QG - you'd never get that today, I mean you are struggling to find out who won Tuesday or Wednesday after Easter when you don't go.

Dad and Uncle Albert as I called him had a lot of fun, they were always entered in the band contest as A. Clarke as they were both A. Clarke. Then nobody knew just who was playing what and it was quite a big joke. This particular contest, dad was doing the eupho [euphonium] solo I think Uncle Albert was doing the baritone. He decided just prior to the competition that he wasn't going to play, so Dad said "If you are not going to play, I am" and so he played and won both the baritone and the euphonium championship, so when it came to the Champion of Champions competition, he had to play twice and I think he won it on the eupho, but it was always a sense of great hilarity amongst the family that "oh it didn't really matter what they entered as, because one of them would play"

I think it was particularly Dad's whole life really, the way he practised and perfected everything. We used to go for a holiday before a Ballarat Band Contest and I was an only child and Mum and I would go for a walk - we'd go to Redcliffe or somewhere just like that - and Mum and I would go for a walk to allow him to practise and we stayed at a boarding house because the owners were quite happy for him to practise in the back yard so he sat out the back under a tree for hours, just perfecting his solo, then we'd come home and pack up and go to Ballarat.

Something that wasn't as serious, Dad and Uncle Albert could play a duet, Dad playing the eupho and Uncle Albert actually leaning over and fingering the eupho and playing his own trombone while dad did the slide on the trombone and so that was just a fun thing they could do at the drop of a hat, just a lot of fun.

Interviewer: *Why didn't they become professional musicians?*

I don't really know, both my uncle and Dad had just normal jobs, went to work every day and nobody ever thought of anything more. Dad did do a number of broadcasts for 4QG, he used to go to Brisbane on a Tuesday night. It seemed to me, I must have been quite young, I wasn't disturbed at all by hearing Dad coming out of our radio at home, but one year, we were in Noosa Heads and I heard Dad broadcasting and I was just amazed. "Why? How on earth can we hear him up here?" I must have been very young to think like that.



Alex Clark

That would be the closest he came to anything semi-professional, although he taught, he had students all the time after work.

Extra notes provided by Maurine Lyon

I grew up in an atmosphere where music was of great importance. My father set an example by having three practices every day. One in the morning before he left for work, a second at lunch time (he came home for this) and a third after our evening meal.

He very often then walked to band practice, which was held in the band hall on the bank of the river, just about where the entrance to the Mall car park is today.

Our life was very much to this time table. All meals were exactly on time to allow Dad his practice time. From a very early age I knew he was a member of a very good brass band and regular practice was of the utmost importance.

At that time Harlin Road had a number of musical residents. Mr Fred Bowers, a cornet player, lived almost opposite us, and four houses down Mr Bill Tedford, a B(flat) bass player. All three were members of the Ipswich City Vice Regal Band.

There were also supporters of the band not far away. Mr & Mrs Will Jones lived in Ferret Street and Mr & Mrs Robinson on Woodend.

I grew up knowing that all of these people worked very hard for the good of the band.

I remember fetes being held at our home. The week prior to the event a banner was tied across our front veranda stating: "Ipswich City Vice Regal Band here Saturday."

I remember our kitchen table laden with trays of sweets and cakes which my mother and other ladies had made to be sold at the fete. They also provided afternoon tea under the trees while the band played appropriate music and Mr Robinson, who was English, sat on a stool at the gate with a collection box repeating "Help the band, help the band" as people entered.

I remember the weeks before Easter when practices became very serious indeed, and then we were off to the city holding the band contest. We always travelled by train - the bands occupied the entire train, each band being allotted its own carriage. Sometimes we had sleepers.

During the last few weeks I have been reading old press reports on the band.

I cannot say I remember the Maryborough band contest in 1932, although being an only child, I was probably there.

In the Saturday night Telegraph, March 12th, 1932, the headline read:

Queensland's Premier Band prepares for Maryborough Contest

The text went on to state:- "Ipswich is proud of this brilliant band. (Ipswich City Vice Regal Band) but equally indebted to it for the honours it has won in the musical world in the whole of the State.

"Capturing the richest prizes within the scope of bandsmen in Queensland, the Vice Regals have fared equally well when they have crossed the border to compete against the best combinations in the Commonwealth.

"In 1919 they won the interstate championship in Sydney and the following year at Ballarat they came second in the Australian championship and three years later captured the Australian title. Since that year, they have continued their successes, winning the Queensland championship every year they have competed.

"Look for the basis of this remarkable record and it will be found to rest on four factors:-

1. Sound organisation
2. Careful coaching under the best conductors procurable in the Commonwealth
3. First class individual performers
4. Pride in a tradition handed down from its founders over 40 years ago."

In the Queensland Times, March 30th, 1932, a further headline read: " Council Proud, Band and Choir High Appreciation".

Then followed two whole columns of praise for the Blackstone Ipswich Cambrian Choir and Ipswich City Vice Regal Band.

In that year, Mr Frank Johnston from Melbourne had been invited to conduct the band at the Maryborough contest.

Remarking on the band's performance at the contest, Mr Johnston said that their rendering of "Gounod" was one of the finest performances he had ever conducted and in his opinion was almost flawless. The adjudicator awarded then 149 out of 150.

A good deal of their success he attributed to Mr Will Jones, the popular manager of the band, who, Mr Johnston said, was the best organizer he had ever been in contact with.

Not a thing was neglected that would influence their success. The bandsmen too were a splendid lot of boys and their response to him was equal to anything to be had in Australia. The record of the band at that time was:-

Champion A Grade band of Queensland, 1914, 1916, 1918, 1920, 1922, 1923, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1932.

Australian A Grade Championship winners, 1923, 1929, 1932.

At Maryborough in 1932 they won £109 in prize money - The Besson Shield, The Boosey Cup, the Hawke Shield and a cup for the street march. Eleven gold medals went to individual members.

From 1932 until its last competition before the outbreak of war, the band continued its good work.

I would like to mention two other visiting conductors I remember during that period.

In 1935 Mr J.J. Kelly was engaged to lead the band at the Bundaberg contest. The results reported in the Bundaberg Daily News and Mail - Tuesday, April 23rd, 1935, read:-

"The Ipswich City Vice Regal Band and the Brisbane Excelsior Band established history when they dead-heated in a richly endowed A Grade test selection with 288 points each".

The band entered its last competition under the conductorship of Mr O. Sommerton at the Maryborough contest in 1938. They were aggregate winners of the Besson Shield and the Boosey and Hawkes Shield. The following year many of the men enlisted at the outbreak of war.

Another event I remember was the loss of the launch "Nerita" in 1939. Five members of the party were associated with the band. A service was conducted in the Wintergarden Theatre and the band played Handel's "Largo". Gates at the Ipswich showground were later dedicated to their memory.

In July 1943 Mr Jones and my father decided to use the instruments lying idle, because the players were still at war, and teach young boys to play.

An advertisement placed in the Queensland Times brought a good response and very soon the boys, who were complete beginners on arrival were able to play small compositions together.

A concert and public reception to the Ipswich Vice Regal Junior Band (as they were known) was held in the Ipswich Town Hall on Wednesday, 28th June, 1944, and was a very successful and happy event.

Unfortunately Mr Jones passed away in September, 1944. This was a great loss to the band and on the 28th September that year a public meeting was held and the Will ones Memorial Fund was established to honour one who had done so much for this city.

Our next door neighbour Mr Alan McDermott who had been the band's treasurer became the new secretary.

By this time I was helping my father on the musical side by teaching the boys theory of music and playing their accompaniments.

A concert in aid of the Will Jones Memorial Fund was given by the band in the Town Hall on 14th November 1944 and we were to participate in many such events not only in Ipswich but at Boonah, Laidley, Lowood, etc.

When the first Ipswich Juvenile Eisteddfod was held in 1945, soloists from the band competed in the brass section with much success.

We all had a lot of fun joining in the victory celebrations in 1945. This was quite an historic event as there is a photo of the original Vice Regals in the Victory Celebrations of World War 1.

Ipswich was given the honour of staging the first post war contest in 1946. Those of us who participated in this Victory Band Context remember what a joy that event was. Mr Alan McDermott and Mr Norm Stone acted as joint secretaries and we were all involved in the solo competitions as well as band items.

At this stage we were classed as a D Grade band but gradually worked our way to a higher grading at the following contests at:

Maryborough 1947

Toowoomba 1948

Ipswich 1949

Bundaberg 1950

In 1951 we did not attend the Townsville contest as this seemed too great a distance for some members and Dad was not as well as usual. However about 6 boys did go to Townsville and played with the Model Band, thus still representing Ipswich.

Illness forced Dad's retirement from the band in August 1951 he passed away in August 1954 aged 65 years.

The band was taken over by Mr Fred Bowers, another member of the original Vice Regals, from 1951 to 1961 when it went into recess for a short time.

On 8th November 1962 Mr J.J. Kelly, a noted musician conductor and adjudicator and a former conductor of the original I.C.V.R.B., agreed to make a determined effort to

reorganise the band. He was at that time conductor of the Maryborough Federal Band - the leading A Grade Band in Queensland.

Under his conductorship the band gained the B Grade championship at Rockhampton in 1965 and tied with the Eta Concert Band at Toowoomba for first place in the A Grade championships at Easter 1966.

As Mr Kelly passed away in November of that year, the band again went into recess. The band hall was demolished in April 1963 thus causing another problem. A report in the Queensland Times stated:

"The hall was taken over for band practice about 1906 by what was then the Ipswich Town Band. It has seen music played under the batons of such famous conductors as F.W.G. McLeod, A. Wade, F. Johnston, C. Trussell, W. Partington, O. Sommerton, W. Ryder and J.J. Kelly."

Local men who also took over the job of bandmaster include Messrs A. Clark, J.W. Burgemeister, J. Henry, C. Hegarty and F. Bowers.

The report went on to say: "The band still retains what is considered to be one of the finest libraries of music (valued at about £1000) as well as about £2000 worth of musical instruments. In about 1971 another attempt to revive the band was made. A report in the Queensland Times stated: "At the 66th Annual Meeting of the Ipswich Model Band, it was decided to amalgamate with the Ipswich Vice Regal Band.

"The amalgamation means that the bands will now go under the name of the Ipswich Vice Regal Model Band Association. Assets of both bands being brought under the one authority."

The band competed for several years under this title, until as there was little interest being shown by the Vice Regal Members, it was decided to change the name back to Ipswich Model Band.

A few years ago younger players were encouraged to join and the band is now known as City of Ipswich Model Concert Band. - **Maurine Lyon**