

# Pelton directs radio concert

It may sound like a dichotomy that a premiere (first performance) can also signal the end, but that is more or less the case on Sunday, Jan. 27, when the newly-formed Wyoming Valley Concert Band under the direction of Reese Pelton makes their radio debut in Northeastern Pennsylvania via a one hour "Concert Under the Stars" program broadcast on WYZZ Radio, Wilkes-Barre. (The Wyoming Valley Concert Band is a community band comprised of musicians from the Greater Wyoming Valley area.)

For the past 25 years, Radio Station WYZZ has been one of the cultural leaders for our area often devoting airtime for the presentation of locally produced concerts. These special programs, aired over the years on Sundays on WYZZ, featured seasoned professional musicians from our area and quite often young aspiring high school and college performers.

So it is that with the imminent sale of WYZZ to new owners that this 25th year tradition gradually draws to a close with Sunday's premiere broadcast of Wyoming Valley Concert Band "Concert Under the Stars" program.

According to Bobby "Z" Zampetti, program producer for Sunday's broadcast, "For many years, long before I became associated with WYZZ, Dick Evans Sr.

and his family, owners of the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre Fine Music Broadcasting Company, Inc. (WYZZ) have taken pride in providing our area with a broadcast facility that would call attention to the many talented artists who provide us with such a rich cultural setting here in Northeastern Pennsylvania."

The Wyoming Valley Concert Band Program, recorded live at the Irem Temple Country Club in Dallas, features a variety of music ranging from Broadway musical highlights to a rousing Sousa March.

Highlighting the premiere will be the performance of "Carnival Variations" featuring a trumpet trio composed of young musicians, Joseph Satkowski, Daniel Klaproth and Mark Steinkirchner.

Reese Pelton, conductor, stated,

"One of the main objectives of our band program is to periodically spotlight young student musicians with the band. Our area's high schools are filled with exceptionally talented musicians who as youngsters are more than capable of performing with our seasoned musicians. By spotlighting these boys as soloists with the band, we are not only giving them a great performance opportunity, but, we are giving the audience an added treat too. At our Irem concert, the audience just loved those three boys!"

The Wyoming Valley Concert Band Premiere will be at 5 p.m. this Sunday on WYZZ at 93 on the FM Dial. It is being presented through a public service grant from Leo's Ziebart Rustproofing shops in Swyersville and Scranton celebrating 20 years in the rustproofing business.



## New band members

Featured solosit with the Wyoming Valley Concert Band Premiere are, from left, Daniel Klaproth, Mark Steinkirchner and Joseph Stkowski. Daniel and Joseph are 10th grade students at Wyoming Area High School and Mark is an 11th grade student at Dallas High School. All three have been selected to perform in the District IX Band Festival in addition to their performance in "Concert Under the Stars".

## Students

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Wyoming Seminary had to turn back and wait at the shopping center until the highway was plowed.

"The plows did not get out early enough on that highway," said Dr. Preston. "That caused a major traffic jam until the plows could get through to plow and cinder."

He explained that sometimes municipal authorities, the bus contractor and the custodial staff coming in on the early shift reports on the condition of the roads. Fortunately, said Preston, all of the students arrived safely.

As far as dismissal is concerned, the only time the Lake-Lehman District dismisses early is to beat a predicted storm.

If the bus contractor's drivers coming in to work say road conditions are bad, Preston said he usually goes by their judgment. If they can't come to a conclusive decision they then delay one to two hours to buy more time, but too many school closings bring problems at the end of the school term.

The most frightening, according to Preston, are the ice storms rather than the snow.

All the parents are alerted at the beginning of the school year that announcements regarding delayed starts or closings will be on the air.

"It's a difficult decision to make because of the time element," said Dr. Preston. "If we have a delayed start or cancellation, we must notify West Side Tech and our other schools where we bus students. Marchakitus calls some and I call some of the stations to make certain it gets on the air throughout the area. These calls must be made by 6 a.m. or we can't get through. Mr. Marchakitus and I usually make the

final decision. Dallas Superintendent Gerald Wycallis gave a similar reason why Dallas did not delay the start of classes or cancel.

"We had to make a decision by 6 a.m. to get it on the air and we also have to notify our bus contractor Leon Emmanuel early because the first bus run starts at 7 a.m."

"I discuss the road conditions with Emmanuel and, between us, we usually come to a decision," Wycallis said. "We had no problems on Thursday with the exception of Route 309."

Wycallis said no plowing had been done on that highway and the only schools affected were West Side Tech and some of the elementary students. An hour and a half delay would have affected all of the schools and would not have been necessary. As the day went on, the road conditions improved, so by the time classes were dismissed traveling was good.

Like Lake-Lehman, buses traveling to West Side Tech, Bishop O'Reilly and Wyoming Seminary got caught on Route 309, but they turned and stayed at the shopping center until plowing and cinder was done. By 9:30 a.m., according to Wycallis, all of the students were

in class. Wycallis said that after hearing an early forecast, he makes a decision, then has to live with that decision. When the forecast is "iffy", an hour and a half delay gives additional time to decide whether or not cancellation is necessary, but Thursday's early forecast did not predict a heavy snow.

A number of concerned parents called Wycallis but he said after an explanation, they appeared to be satisfied.

Wycallis explained that school officials have to call radio stations from WARM to those in the Wyoming Valley area and all of the television stations. He contacts the principals of each school, who in turn contact those on their list.

"We don't just delay classes or cancel arbitrarily," said Wycallis. "It creates too many problems and, quite often, too many days to make up."

Both Wycallis and Dr. Preston noted that at various conferences and seminars they have learned that school bus transportation nationwide is the safest mode of transportation. Parents may be assured that school officials give first priority to the safety of the students.

## Kiwanis

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currently underway to institute such a club at that Wilkes-Barre Catholic school.

Pelton also explained that Kiwanis has an international foundation whereas members are given an opportunity to make an annual birthday contribution to an international fund. The monies raised through this fund are used to assist needy people in the Philippine Islands as well as to fund national research for the hearing-impaired and other such projects.

Kiwanis Clubs across the country are currently sponsoring a drive for funds to aid the famine-stricken African people. The local Kiwanis Clubs recently made a donation to the American Red Cross to aid these people while funds are still coming in.

The 70-year-old organization also

has a "major emphasis program" whereby it helps "uplift underprivileged children." Along this line, statewide Kiwanis Clubs are now official sponsors of the Special Olympics.

Looking forward to the International Kiwanis Convention set for June of this year in Toronto and the District Kiwanis Convention in August in Hershey, Pelton carries the "EMTD" slogan with him wherever he goes. And his enthusiasm for Kiwanis and its programs has a way of rubbing off on those around him also.

Happy anniversary to such a worthwhile organization. Here's hopes of having 70 more years of Kiwanis International.

## Gamble

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the gamblers?", "Why is Atlantic City the second poorest city in New Jersey?", he said.

All of the panelists agreed it would be difficult to give priority to certain programs for the revenue derived from casino gambling but all did agree that if it were legalized, casino gambling revenues should be used for senior citizens, education, drug and alcohol problems and law enforcement.

The panelists also agreed that the final decision whether or not there will be legalized casino gambling or any other gambling will rest with the legislators and not with local voters.

Legalized casino gambling — Yes or No? There are as many arguments pro and con as there are taxpayers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, that is certain.

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## Awaiting celebration

Shown here preparing for Catholic Schools Weeks which will be celebrated nationwide during the first week of February are some students from Gate of Heaven in Dallas. From left, first row, Martha Wallace, Lori Scott. Second row, Melanie Risch and Ted Sheon. Third row, Alicia White, Jonelle Fabian, John Berti and Bridgette Scott.

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