

Choctawatchee concert band at Donegal

Last Wednesday morning six Trailway buses pulled into the drive at Donegal High School and unloaded over 200 young musicians plus their chaperones.

The 200 musicians were members of the championship Choctawatchee (Florida) High School Band, which has played at half-times in the Superdome in New Orleans and at Dolphin games in Miami.

They put on a rousing concert in the Donegal auditorium.

The band was on its way from a concert in Canada to play at the Cherry Blossom

Festival in Washington, D.C.

The reason why they chose to stop at Donegal on this trip was the wish of their high school principal, Ben Brown, a native of Marietta and a graduate of Mount Joy High School. (Joanne Zink is Ben's sister.)

All of the band's playing was spirited and flawless under the direction of Jimmy Ray Jones. (The mere sight of ten brass tubas in the back row was awe-inspiring.)

A sub-set of the gigantic band, a jazz ensemble, was dexterous in sliding their

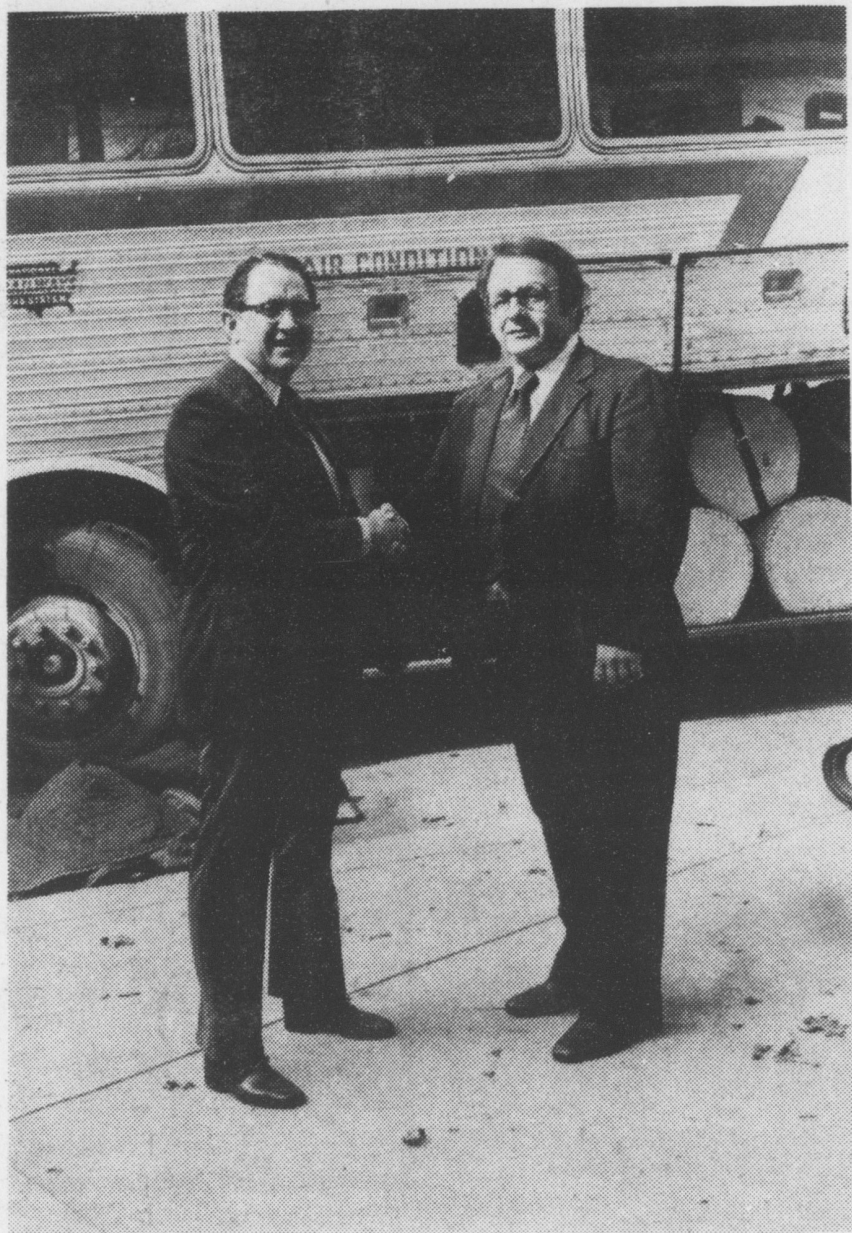
trombones with one bare foot. One star trombonist not only played with one bare foot but also blew more than one note simultaneously.

The accomplished young musicians are mostly children of U.S. Air Force personnel stationed at Eglin Base near Choctawatchee. Their patriotism was evident in a medley of Civil War melodies in which "Dixie" did not figure much and which ended with a crescendo "Battle Hymn of the Republic" replete with four kettle drums blasting away and an Uncle Sam charging onto the stage.

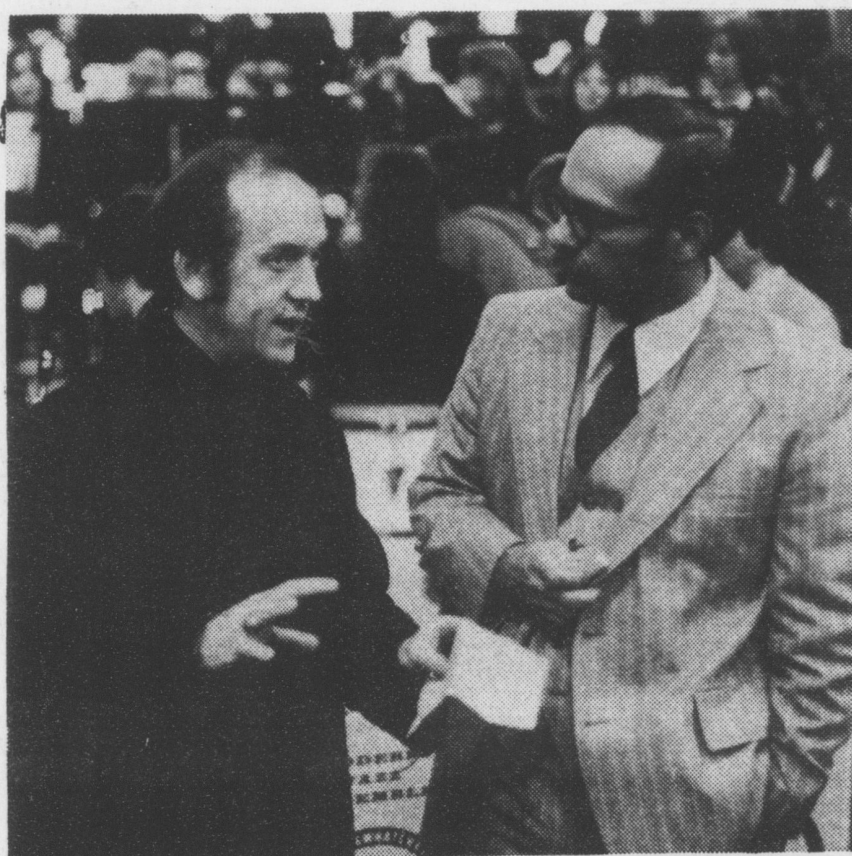
They brought down the house.



The Choctawatchee High School Band



DHS principal Don Drenner [left] welcomes principal Ben Brown back to East Donegal.



Bandmasters Jimmy Ray Jones [left] and Glen Leib exchange band wisdom.

We inadvertently made an error in last week's National Central Bank ad
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