

Begian's Baton Magic Pays Visit From MSU

The baton which Dr. Harry Begian waved Friday night over the Michigan State University Concert Band, performing in Clarenceville High School, had magic in it for more than just his young musicians.

As far as Livonians in the audience were concerned, Harry Begian had come home.

A resident of Livonia for 13 years (1955 to 1967), Dr. Begian and his musically talented family moved last spring to Lansing, where he became director of bands and professor of music at M.S.U.

Previously, he was director of the Wayne State University bands for three years and the Cass Technical High band for 17 years.

FRIDAY MARKED Begian's first appearance in Livonia with his M.S.U. musicians.

"I feel very good about it; it's a heart-warming thing for me," Dr. Begian said. "Of my nature, I'm a sentimentalist. I lived in Livonia 13 years. Some of my very dearest friends were neighbors on Merriman Rd. It's nice—a real privilege

—to come back here with my school."

Begian arrived in Livonia early Friday night. Three special friends formed their own kind of welcoming committee.

One was Robert Clark, band director at Bentley High School, who recently was appointed an instructor for fall term on the M.S.U. staff.

Another, Roy Ernst, is band and orchestra director at Franklin High School. Ernst not only was a neighbor of the Begians on Merriman Road, but was a cadet teacher at Cass Tech while Begian was on its faculty.

The third, Richard Saunders, is band and orchestra director at Stevenson High School. Saunders was a former student of Begian at Cass Tech and played first clarinet in its orchestra under Begian's baton.

"Both Ernst and Saunders are two of the finest musicians teaching in the area," Dr. Begian said. "I'm a sentimentalist. I lived in Livonia 13 years. Some of my very dearest friends were neighbors on Merriman Rd. It's nice—a real privilege

THERE WERE OTHER Begian fans at Friday night's concert.

One of special note in the audience—Begian's flutist wife, Emily. Two were in the band, itself—the Begian daughters, Carol, 20, a saxophonist, and Mary, 16, a flutist like her mother.

Not to be outdone is the Begians' youngest child, Daniel, 15, not yet college age. Dan does, however, claim the distinction of being drummer for his Okemos High School band in Lansing.

Somewhat the Begian family's life has revolved around the musical scale—and their fortunes have gone up, like the scales usually do.

HARRY BEGIAN met his wife "back in those long-ago dark days" when he was a student at Wayne State University, where he earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees.

"We both were in the band," he explained. "I played the trumpet, essentially, and some flute. She's a flutist."



DR. HARRY BEGIAN

Veterans' Benefits Tax Exempt

Veterans benefits are generally exempt from taxation and need not be reported as income on income tax returns, said Robert M. Fitzgerald, manager of the Veterans Administration regional office in Michigan.

The only reportable item is the interest earned on G.I. insurance dividends left on deposit with the VA. This is not considered a veterans benefit and must be reported as earned income.

G.I. insurance dividends are not taxable, nor are proceeds from G.I. insurance policies.

Other major tax exempt benefits include compensation and pension payments, educational assistance allowances, subsistence payments to vocational rehabilitation trainees, and grants for wheelchair* homes and automobile equipment for the severely disabled.

Fitzgerald said that, likewise, all benefits to surviving dependents, or deceased veterans and compensation allowances authorized for dependents of certain disabled veterans are tax exempt.

Band and Orchestra Association of Michigan.

He maintains his connections with the Detroit metropolitan area by jumping in his car each Sunday morning and driving the 70-some miles from Lansing to St. John's Armen-

ian Church in Detroit, where he is choir director.

Somehow the most harmonious note of all was Dr. Begian's return to Friday night's concert.

"It's nice to come 'home' with my school," he said.

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