



A rainy day doesn't dampen the spirits of these Harrison bandmen. (Photo by Ralph Evert)

Marching bands looking at a full season

By DIANE HUBEL

FARMINGTON—Bandmen from Farmington's Harrison High school will be among the 900 students who will be participating in the Southeastern Michigan Invitational Marching Band Clinic. Saturday, Oct. 5 at the Royal Oak, Dondero High school stadium.

The bands will be performing individually, and will be judged by Dr. William D. Revelli, conductor Emeritus of the University of Michigan Bands.

Later all of the high school bands will perform together. Saturday evening the clinic will be open for spectators to watch the individual performances.

Again, at the Saturday night show, all the high school bands will be giving a mass performance at the end of their individual performances.

Ten high schools have been invited to participate in the clinic.

HARRISON IS not the only marching band which has big plans for the fall.

The other two high schools bands at North Farmington and Farmington High school are already in the midst of their practice and performance schedules, as well.

All three schools are currently preparing for their unified fund raising day, Tag Day, Oct. 11 and 12.

The three schools have held separate tag days in the past but decided to coordinate their efforts this year.

On Oct. 11 and 12 band members will be selling tags which may be used as admission for the tag day concert which is given at the schools.

The tag day concert signals the end of the season for the marching bands, and the beginning for the rest of the instrumental groups in the schools.

Funds, which are raised from the tag day sales will be distributed equally throughout the three schools.

The money will be used for scholarships and marching band awards, as well as band necessities which the school district can not provide.

Band members are also currently preparing for the homecoming day performances, and making homecoming floats. Harrison will be having its first alumni band performance this year.

ACCORDING TO band director Paul Barber, the band has asked the graduates from Harrison only three graduating classes to return for the day, to lead the homecoming day parade.

Band membership in all three schools is voluntary. Band members practice three, and sometimes four times a week, after school.

Aside from practices they also perform during football games, and in parades and festivals.

The bandmen are asked to begin preparing for the school year sooner than most of the students.

Each of the three schools attends special band camp in the summer.

During the camp the band members practice playing, marching and drilling.

DURING THE YEAR the bands are often asked to give special performances, such as marching in parades, or attending the clinics, such as the Harrison Dondero clinic.

The North Farmington band, for example, recently attended a band day at the University of Michigan.

According to the North Farmington band director Doug McQueen there were approximately 13,000 performers from different bands playing in the stadium at the same time.

All the groups which were performing had only one chance to practice together, the morning of the performance.

According to band director, the greatest problem when playing in a stadium the size of Michigan's is keeping together.

"Sound travels slowly," he said, "and it is difficult for all the members to stay together, especially when there are that many people playing."

Farmington High school's band director, Harold Kacanek, and the marching band were also called upon to give a special performance this year.

The Farmington high school had the opportunity to perform recently at a Detroit Wheels football game.



Sunglasses help the vision. (Photo by Craig Newmān)



Douglas McQueen conducts North Farmington

