

## Captains Named For Sports Nite

Frances Pedrick and Lucy  
Naples Elected—Other  
THS Activities

Voting by secret ballot, approximately 1,100 girls at Central High recently chose Frances Pedrick and Lucy Naples as captains of the Black and Red Teams, respectively, for Sport Nite next March. The dates have not yet been selected.

Assisting Miss Pedrick with preparations for the theme song will be Lorraine Kennedy; marching, Jerry Kelfer; tap, Gladys Parker; victory exercises, Molly Whyte; rhythmic, Betty White; songs and cheers, Thelma Farrell; music, Caroline Floyd; publicity, Ruth Ballard; costumes, Elizabeth Hill; decorations, Evelyn Scott; games, Margie Krush, and properties, Betty Snook.

Assisting Miss Naples in devising a theme song will be Audrey Mullen; marching, Jean Phares; tap, Fannie Napoleon; victory exercises, Katherine Malone; rhythmic, Ruth Salup; songs and cheers, Doris Coutler; music, Alice Fox; publicity, Joan Taylor; costumes, Caroline Mancini; decorations, Doris Rockhill; games, Marion Scaccetti, and properties, Elaine Byer.

*Trenton Times,*  
December 12, 1944

## Sports Nite Band Selections Made

Leaders and Members  
Listed by Red And  
Black Teams

The members of the Trenton High School band have chosen the leaders and members of the Red Team and Black Team Bands for Sports Nite.

Leader of the Red Band is Lou D'Angelo, who is being assisted by Aigle McDonald. Other officers of the band are: Secretary, John Bradley; assistant secretary, Richard Braytenbah; instrument sergeant, Jack Wigley; assistant instrument sergeant, Robert Kuhn; librarian, Milton Leber; assistant librarian, Raymond Wasko; uniform sergeant, Ralph DelMargio; assistant uniform sergeant, Joe W. Scannella; head of set-up committee, Robert Escott; assistant head of set-up committee, Robert Skurla; set-up committee: George Roumanis, Thomas Stephan and Daniel Alexander; publicity, Raymond Greco; decoration committee, Marvin Habas and Frank Adams.

Personnel of the band includes: Trumpets, William Butcher, Joseph Iavarone, Harry Goslin and Joe M. Scannella; saxophones, Richard Fuohor, Marvin Habas, Aigle McDonald, Joseph W. Scannella and John Bradley; clarinets, Frank Adams, George Miksak, John Mocerl, Robert Skurla and John Sokol; trombones, Robert Escott, Raymond Greco and Jerry Rednor; baritone, Milton Leber; drums, Daniel Alexander, Herbie Harding, Jack Wigley and Raymond Wasko; French horns, Thomas Stephan and Robert Kuhn; oboe, Ralph Del Margio; piano, Richard Braytenbah; string bass, George Roumanis; guitar, Lou D'Angelo.

The leader of the Black Band is Wilfred Andrews, who is being assisted by Warren Vaughn. Other officers of the band are: Librarians, John Gosling and Robert Vanisko; set-up committee, Paul Rhoads and James Spair; decorations, Edward Horner and Lloyd Klatzkin; instrument sergeant, Albert Bazzel; uniform sergeant, Jack Malkin.

Personnel of the band includes: Trumpets, James Giordano, John Gosling, Alexander Molnar and Paul Rhoads; saxophones, Wilfred Andrews, Lloyd Klatzkin, Peter Cerenzio, James Spair, Frank Mattaliano, Charles Dent and Robert Vanisko; clarinets, Theodore Hattrak, James Jiles, Walter Renter and Charles Tuesday; trombones, Jack Malkin, Daniel Pulone and Ernest Radvany; baritone, Walter Anthony and Stephen Kaluposa; drums, Carl Bromlock, Robert Goebel, Charles Krawczun and Samuel Paelone; basses, Albert Bazzel and Eugene Wilson; French horn, Richard Escott; flute, Edward Horner; piano, Warren Vaughn; bells, Alton Sutnick.

Richard A. Harrison, Alex Labas and Alex Boltes are members of the band who have left for the service.

*Trenton Times,*  
January 25, 1945

## Leads Selected For Sports Nite

Joan Taylor Mistress Of  
Ceremonies—Other Fea-  
ture Places Filled

The 11th annual Sports Nite will be presented at Central High School on March 21, 22 and 23. The following girls have been chosen for starring roles in the entertainment: Joan Taylor, mistress of ceremonies; Sylvia Solan, Miss America; Jacqueline Toth and Louise Palmer, aides to Miss America; Elma Walton, Miss Trenton High; Grace Kemble and Malvina Blackwell, aides to Miss Trenton High; Jane Cross, Red Team flag bearer; Doris Bohnert and June Hammill, Red Team color guards; Patricia Ivins, Black Team flag bearer; Helen Kentnor and Dorothy Nightengale, Black Team color guards.

At a recent meeting of the Costume Club, under the sponsorship of Miss Hanna L. Foster, the girls planned the costumes for the ballet for Sports Nite. The committees chosen to entertain the club at its next three meetings are as follows: Florence Ivins and Gloria Nevins, first week; Virginia Lupo and Catherine White, second week, and Alva Yates and Jean Schmidt.

On March 1, El Siglo Futuro, the Spanish Club, will show sound and color films pertaining to the Spanish-speaking peoples of the Latin-American countries and Cuba. In addition, on the evening of March 9, El Siglo Futuro in conjunction with other language clubs will hold a social evening at which there will be music, dancing, entertainment and refreshments.

During the last two meetings of the Boys' Science Club, Kenneth Bowers and Thomas Douglas gave demonstrations.

*Trenton Times,*  
February 26, 1945

## *Among Principals in THS Sport Nite*



Frances Pedrick, Black team captain; Joan Taylor, mistress of ceremonies, and Lucy Naples, Red team captain.

## **Girls' Sport Nite Is Opened at THS**

### **Red Team Wins Opening Night of Student Competition**

Trenton High School's 11th annual Girls' Sport Nite opened last night before a howling crowd in the school gym, the Red team taking the measure of the Blacks by a score of 8 to 6.

This year's spectacle has as its theme Famous Paintings and maintains the high standards set by its predecessors.

For two hours the competition presented marching demonstrations, novelty cheers and songs, tap and ballet dances, syncopation, rhythmic specialties, exercises, roller skating and the always entertaining scooter and obstacle races.

Last night was sophomore night. The juniors will take their turn tonight with the seniors competing tomorrow night. Friday night's performance will feature the winning numbers.

*Trenton Times, March 21, 1945*

## Reds Still Holding Sports Nite Lead

### Final Round of THS Competition to Be Staged Tonight

Going into the final round, which will be staged tonight, the Red team held a two-point lead over the Black in the Trenton High School Girls' Sports Nite competition.

The Red team gained a point in total score last night by winning, 7-6, boosting the count for the three rounds to 20-18. It was Senior Nite and another capacity audience was on hand with ringing applause for their favorites.

The two teams tied on songs and cheers. The marching, scooter race, rhythmic dance, victory exercise and decoration awards went to the Red team. The Black team scored on theme song, tap dancing and obstacle race and won the judges' nod for their band.

*Trenton Times,*

March 23, 1945

## Black Team Wins Girl Sports Night

### Reds Who Ran Up Early Lead, Falter in Contest Climax

The Black team won the annual Girls' Sports Night conducted by students of Central High School and climaxed last night with a program of final events.

The team, under leadership of Miss Frances Pedrick, scored heavily against members of the Red team and thus was able to run up an impressive score.

The Red team had won on Tuesday and Wednesday nights and the Black team had emerged victorious Thursday night. The competition last night was between two teams selected from the victorious groups earlier in the week. Miss Lucy Naples was captain of the Red team.

The event was staged under the direction of the health and physical education department of the school. Miss Eleanore Keating was in charge of tap dancing, ballet and prelude; Mrs. Isabelle Quick planned the theme songs and marching; Mrs. Anne Griffiths was in charge of games and victory exercises, and Miss Margaret Smock was in charge of the skating, flag bearers and finale exercises.

*Trenton Times,*

March 25, 1945

## Sports Nite Idea

Sir—Since there is so much resentment of one team toward the other in the THS Sports Nite, we have a suggestion to make.

Each year the losing team claims it was a put up job. We also believe that the results each year are not realized through the efforts of the pupils alone but through the management and decision of the faculty.

Why not discard the type which has been put on for the past 11 years and have another type of Sports Nite?

Have about six or more different indoor races and games, such as obstacle and scooter races and basketball. We are quite capable of doing this. In this way the audience and the participants can actually see and know how the points were scored.

Also, there can be the usual non-competitive numbers, including rhythmic, tap dancing and even marching. No points should be given for these nor for the songs and cheers—just for the games and races.

If this change or a similar one were made, we believe that there would no longer be any hard feelings between the girls after Sports Nite.

We are two girls of opposite teams so this letter is not one of resentment.

**RED AND BLACK.**

*Trenton Times,*

March 29, 1945

## Area Favorite

# Dix Band Features Al McDonald On Sax

By SP5 Jack Helsel

FORT DIX — "Al McDonald has a horn; Ee-yi, Ee-yi Oh!" Kid's nursery rhymes?

No. Rather rhythms, since the biography of a musician is best written in sharps and flats than words and sentences, and Master Sergeant Al McDonald of Trenton is a musician.

### Trenton High Grad

An alumnus of Trenton Central High School, Class of '45, Sergeant McDonald returns next week to his alma mater as featured sax-soloist with the Fort Dix Concert Band.

A member of the 19th and 173d Army Bands here, the musician-soldier has travelled to the ends of the world during his musical-military career. He was in Korea during the war

and earned three campaign stars.

Duty in Japan was less hectic. Sergeant McDonald had a weekly radio program originating from Japan. "Salute to the States" featured 30 minutes of live dance music "a la Al McDonald." He also had a concert band on the Armed Forces Network television network.

"Mac," as he is called by the boys in the band, has been studying music and playing for 22 years, but he got his early band experience with both the Central High dance band and the school's marching band.

"That dance band was pretty good," recalls Mac, "we were on the radio for WTM Trenton."

The then teen-aged musician was also assistant leader for the Red Team's band at "Sports Night," the annual entertainment competition.

### Plays With Area Groups

Today, Mac is active with combos and jazz groups of the area in his off-duty hours, as well as being chief instructor at the band training unit, and leading the Dix Dance band in the absence of Chief Warrant Officer Samuel F. Brown, conductor and commanding officer of the band units here.

The Dix band has played at high schools throughout New Jersey, charming teenage audiences with Basie, blues, bossa nova and twist rhythms.

However, at Trenton High, a more serious repertoire will be offered at the request of school officials for the two programs of February 25-26. The program for the 25th will be supplied by a brass ensemble. The entire concert orchestra, featuring Sergeant McDonald, will hold forth on February 26.

Sergeant McDonald's father, Fred, lives at 215 Claffin Avenue, Trenton, and the saxophonist's wife, Dolores, and their four children live at 41 Kirkbride Avenue.



M/Sgt. Al McDonald

Trenton Times, February 20, 1963



# Recollections Of 1945

On Friday night, April 17, members of Trenton Central High School's Class of 1945 will come together at Trenton's Holiday Inn to celebrate the 25th anniversary of their graduation. Among those present will be one of our favorite contributors, Joseph F. Kelley of Nedsland Avenue, Titusville, N. J., and the New Jersey State Department of Education (where he is Director of Vocational Curriculum and Media Research).

As a member of that class and a man having a good memory and a way with words, Mr. Kelley has set down some of the more interesting bits and pieces of that war-torn year, 1945. Here is how he remembers it:

School year 1944-45 was played to the muted trumpets of history and war. Somewhere always present was World War II. Soon it would end but who could know as news reports described the Battle of the Bulge and American death in the snow and fog of Bastogne? Soon the United States would enter the era of atomic energy, not with bowed head and "mea culpa" but with a sigh of relief that the great war was over.

The Class of 1945 was an empty chair on Wednesday as another senior left for boot camp or basic training . . .

In September, Fred Bradley, Bill Holford, Ike Harvey and Cal Steepy joined the trek back to school. Before graduation day, however, they, along with 65 others, would join Eisenhower and Bill Halsey in a great crusade. The debate continues as to whether the General or the Admiral knew they were there. We did.

IN 1945, TRENTON was a bustling, bustling wartime town.

October was West Front Street ablaze with light as soldiers and airmen from Dix and McGuire sought rest from the serious game they played. Long lines waited outside the Capitol and Mayfair and Lincoln — even for the morning shows. Movies were

big in those pre-television days. Trentonians went for years without ever experiencing the shock of a cold theater seat.

Soccer as usual was ho-humsville for Dave Weisberg's Tornadoes — another undefeated season for Joe Derrico, Bill Linder and Company.

The Class of '45 at THS was waiting for Trenton Transit buses at State and Broad and there were long walks home when the last bus was more punctual than the teenage swain. It was tomato pies (not pizzas) — at the Venice on Warren Street.

November and Thanksgiving Day were tragedy for the THS senior class. The traditional march was made on Dunn Field and the traditional results were expected. Thelma Farrell, Millie Rigelon and Kay Tilton pranced, pleaded, cavorted and yelled till their vocal chords rebelled but Captain Franny Lore, Ed Sandford and Bobby Lee and the Red and Black fell before Trenton Catholic for the first time in history, 19-13. How strange to see inexperienced hands tear down a goal post. If only I didn't have to go home — my sister goes to Cathedral.

IN 1945, TRENTONIANS needed ration stamps for butter (and only a quarter pound at a time), gasoline and just about everything else. New tires were as plentiful as moonrocks.

In December, Trentonians dreamed of Irving Berlin's "White Christmas" for the third year and the Andrews Sisters and Bing Crosby had a big hit in "Don't Fence Me In." Basketball season began at THS with Leroy ("Red") Smith at the helm and Captain Willie Cohen and the versatile Joe Derrico as the only returning lettermen. A big man in those days was six-foot-one.

MacAniff baffled the Germans with his reply of "Nuts" to the Nazi demand for the

surrender of Bastogne, and Trentonians applauded.

January brought a new year to the Class of '45 and the new year brought Danny Ray and his flashing feet a national hurdling championship. It brought the loping strides of distance runner Leon Hodges. It brought Bob Gill a national diving championship and a successful season to backstroker Ray Greco.

In 1945 we learned that "loose lips sink ships," and the "Star Spangled Banner" was sung between shows at Trenton's theaters.

The Class of '45 was the senior play "Berkeley Square" starring Steve Pluta, Mario Kneeshaw, Bob Yaeger and Charlotte Hughes. As was the custom, the drama coach, Miss Elizabeth Dillon wove dramatic magic.

March brought the shouts and groans, cheers and jeers, ecstasy and despair of Sports Nite as Lucy Naples' Red Team challenged Franny Pedrick's Black Team in the annual extravaganza and lost, 27-22, in four nights of competition. Some of the judges' decisions are still being contested by the Reds and Blacks.

The radio was big with Trentonians in 1945 — the radio that fits in your living room instead of your pocket. Tuesday night had Fibber McGee and Molly, Bob Hope and Red Skelton, one after another on the same station.

In April Hitler committed suicide outside flaming Berlin and Mussolini was killed. There were no tears. The Class of '45 was stunned when Franklin Delano Roosevelt died at Warm Springs, Georgia. FDR was the only president we had really ever known. He began with us in kindergarten and missed our high school graduation by only two months.

The Class of '45 was the Mutt and Jeff friendship of Joe Jammal and Dick Mes-

erschmitt, who was to die a Princeton graduate and Navy flier, in a plane crash six years later. It was Wednesday study days and physics teacher Constantine Diamond who injected Archimedes with his own special brand of wit.

April brought the return of baseball to THS for the first time since the War began. Tom Murphy's crew was three deep at every position with seniors Ang Infant and Donald ("Red") Henry leading the way and a full squad of seniors on Uncle Sam's team.

DISCIPLINE AT THS was the stentorian tones and the German and Irish affability of vice-principals Edward J. Leefeldt and William J. O'Brien. The assistant principal, Miss Sarah C. Christie, gave firm but gentle guidance.

May was the thanksgiving service in the gymnasium when we learned that victory in Europe had finally been accomplished. The day was designed by a poet. It was sunny and green with the touch of gold that only early May can concoct. School for the rest of the day was optional. I wonder if anyone stayed.

June brought final exams and the long awaited graduation. Jim Moore prepared and memorized a speech for that June 12 night. More than 800 graduates crowded the War Memorial stage on that warm summer evening. Everyone was there — the graduates, the proud parents, the faculty. Everyone, that is, except Jim Moore. He'd left for the Navy on June 7.

And so comes Friday, April 17, 1970 — another month, another year, another generation, and, perhaps as some say, another world. Surely on that night much thought will be given to those 25 years of sparkling, golden tomorrows that soared from the War Memorial stage to become just yesterdays at the Holiday Inn.

Trenton Times, April 12, 1970