

News from Nan

DICK'S FAMILY HISTORY

LILLIAN MOSELEY COMPETES IN A 1936 MUSIC FESTIVAL

MARCH 14, 2022 | DICK

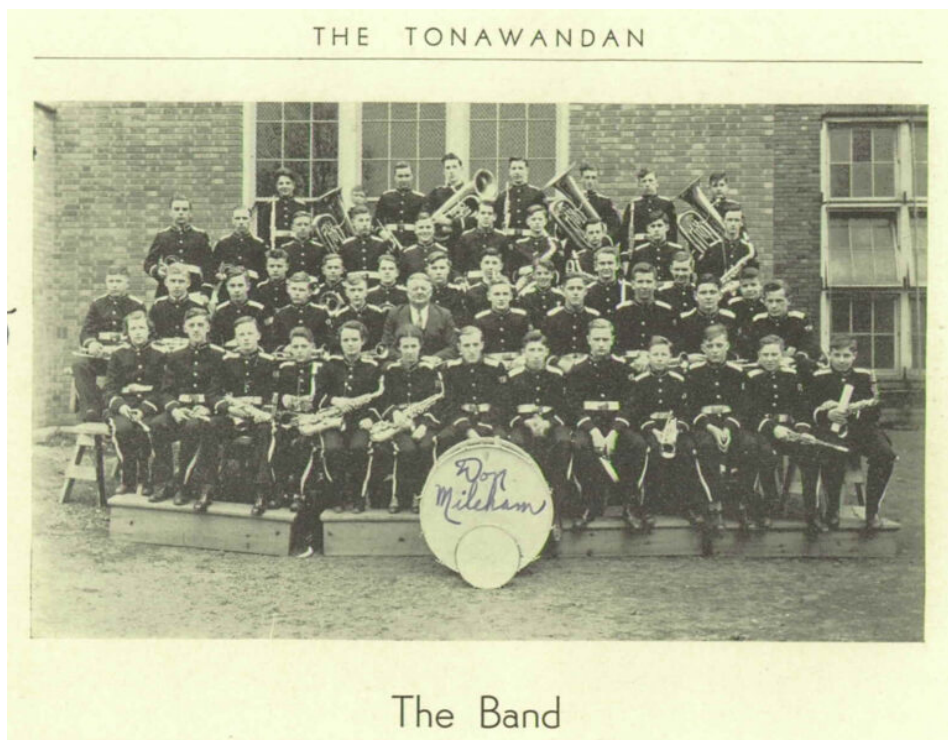
This post continues the conversation about music in the family.



Lillian Moseley (on left) and friend in their band uniforms

In my immediate family, my mother, Lillian Moseley Johnson, was the one with the most musical ability. At various times she played saxophone, clarinet, piano, and organ. I remember watching her play songs on the organ without sheet music. Mom's father, Edward Moseley, may also have had musical abilities. When he enlisted in the US Navy in 1903, he listed his trade as "musician." However, I never saw him play anything myself. (Another family mystery to be investigated!)

In 1936, my mom was a member of the Tonawanda, New York, high school marching band. She played saxophone at the time. Below is a picture of the band.



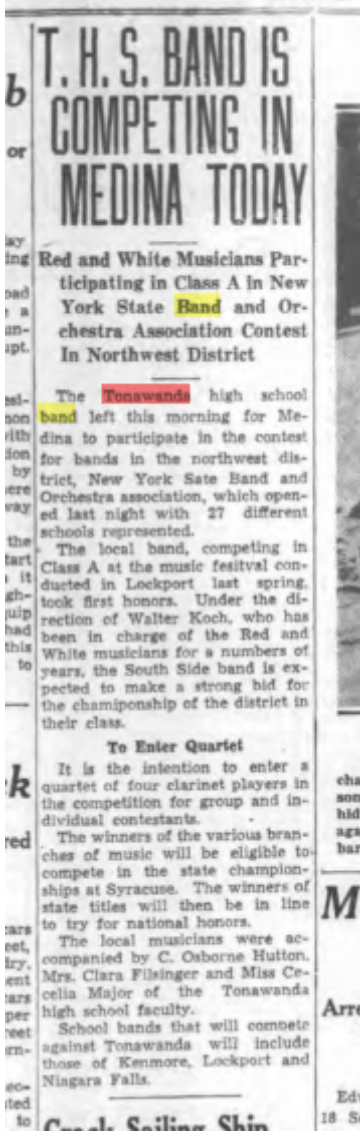
Tonawanda High School Band, 1936

Lillian is in the front row, 6th from the left, holding her saxophone. The band director (in the middle behind Lillian, wearing a suit), is Mr. Koch.

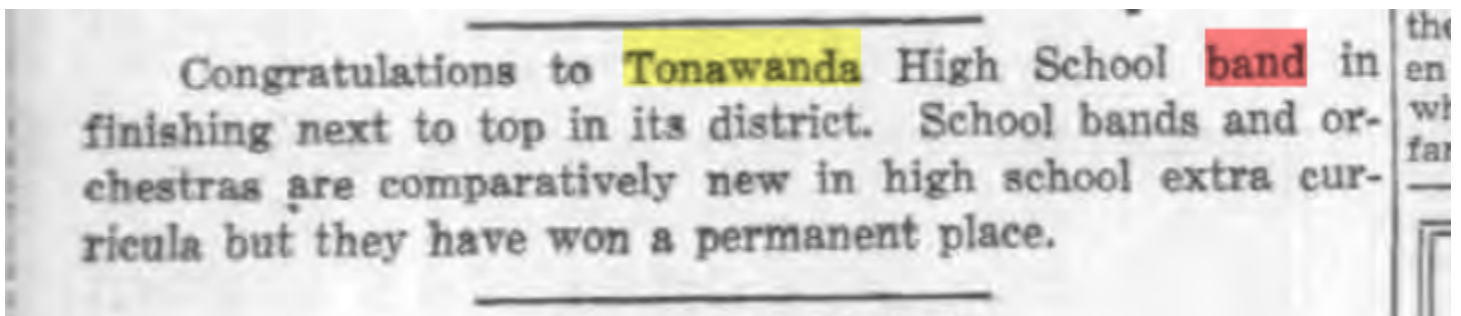
When it came time to organize the band for the school year, they had a serious problem. Since 1936 was in the middle of the Great Depression, many of the band members had been forced to leave school, apparently to get a job and help support their families. Not everyone had an instrument, and some instruments were in need of repair.

However, according to the school yearbook, the members of the band worked hard, practiced a lot, and as a result when they attended the band competition at the Medina Music Festival (Medina, New York, is northeast of Tonawanda, on the Erie Canal) on April 25, 1936, they came in 2nd against Lockport High School.

Lillian's musical talent and competitive spirit got passed on to some of the younger family members, including Ellen Johnson Livengood, Tim Johnson, Miranda Livengood, and Helena Blomquist.



THS band competing in Medina



THS band finishes 2nd

On Saturday the band will go to Medina, where they will enter the Western New York High School band contest. The High School band will enter in the class A competition. Their program consists of a march called "Excelsior," an overture "Universal Judgment," and another number of their own choosing. Mr. Koch, Tonawanda High School's band leader selected "Raymond Overture."

A clarinet quartet, consisting of Paul Bylenok, David Mackey, Robert Walters and Thomas Baker will enter the competition with other quartets. Last year the High School won and was eligible for state competition; but due to circumstances could not go. Mr. Koch has high hopes of securing some place in the Medina contest. The members have worked very hard even to the extent of coming to the High School during Easter vacation and practicing together in the auditorium.

THS band travels to Medina

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