

Riding a band wagon was not a new experience for bands of the 19th Century - it was usually pulled by a horse. To ride in a truck in a parade was a new experience one that was to be repeated many times in the future:

"Elks July 4th festival and fair - Parade - Claiborne Williams Band in one of Montero and Beonde's big trucks." (July 9, 1927)

The only mention in 1928 was of the procession for the celebration of the Feast of St. Amico that used a brass band for the occasion. While the paper calls the musical group an orchestra, in reality there probably were not orchestral instruments played but member of Claiborne Williams aggregation who played in all types of groups regardless of what a particular happened to be"

"Celebration of Feast of St. Amico tomorrow - Claiborne Williams Orchestra furnished music for procession and dance." (April 14, 1928

1929

In 1929 the colored people of Donaldsonville again give a Mardi Gras celebration with Claiborne Williams one of the driving forces behind this activity. The band is included in the parade:

"Colored people to stage Mardi Gras Festival - parade headed by Claiborne Williams Brass Band." (Jan. 26, 1929

1930

The band plays for the minstrel show as it has before. Whether the same instrumentation plays for the show and dance is not given but probably the size was lessened for the dance:

"Minstrel performance and dance - True Friends Society at True Friends Hall, Feb. 10, Claiborne Williams Brass Band." (Feb. 8 1930)

Mardi Gras is celebrated again by the colored citizens in 1930:

"Colored citizens to have Mardi Gras Parade, Claiborne Williams Brass Band in parade, Claiborne Williams is general manager." (Feb. 22, 1930)

The band didn't march, they rode in a big truck:

"Mardi Gras colored parade Then followed, in a big truck, Claiborne Williams Brass Band." (March 8, 1930)

The band plays in another parade later in March:

"Colored Knights and Ladies celebration and parade. The Pythians in street parade headed by Claiborne Williams Band, marched from their hall to the church and returned to Castle Hall." (March 29, 1930)

1931

The band plays for the carnival celebration in the town of Plaquemine:

"Plaquemine carnival season opened by Knights of Columbus - King Casey and royal subjects arrive - parade - Music for the occasion will be furnished by Claiborne Williams Brass Band and Orchestra of this city." (Jan. 10, 1931)

In the Feb. 16th issue, the following week, the paper reviews the Mardi Gras activities:

"King Zulu hailed by his subjects on visit here.

The annual visit of King Zulu to Donaldsonville, his favorite city, on Mardi Gras day, staged by the colored people of this and neighboring communities under the leadership of Claiborne Williams, was made the occasion of a great and joyous demonstration on the part of his loyal subjects from this place and all parts of the surrounding country. Shortly after the hour of 12 o'clock noon, and his majesty, in an automobile, was driven ashore amid the cheers of the assembled multitude and taken to his chariot that was in waiting nearby parade formed in the following order:

Mounted dukes and couriers

Claiborne Williams, director of the parade, in automobile, with Paul

Comes, W. E. Sullivan and Leon Charles

Claiborne Williams Brass Band in one of Elroy Kocke's big trucks"

(Feb. 16, 1929)

The band again plays for the St. Amico Feast Day celebrations:

"Feast of St. Amico to be observed April 7.

The Feast of St. Amico will be observed by local Italians, headed by Tony Musco of A Bend, on Sunday, April 7th. In pursuance of the annual custom that has been in vogue, the statue of the saint will be borne in solemn procession, headed by Claiborne Williams' Band from the chapel on the property of Tony Musco, in A Bend, to the Ascension Catholic Church in this city, where high mass will be celebrated at 11 o'clock a.m. At night there will be a dance in A Bend, beginning at 7 o'clock, music for which will be furnished by Claiborne Williams' Band." (March 30, 1929)

1930

The feast of St. Amico is celebrated on April 27th in 1930 and the procession is enlarged to contain two marching bands:

"Feast of St. Amico to be celebrated April 27

A procession will form at the chapel at 9:30 o'clock in the morning of April 27th and will march slowly to Donaldsonville, carrying the statue of the saint to the Ascension Catholic church of this city, where a solemn High Mass will be said at 11 o'clock. The procession will be followed by two bands, Claiborne Williams Orchestra and Heim's Orchestra of this city. A big dance will be given at the St. Amico Hall at A Bend Sunday night, commencing at 7 o'clock and lasting until midnight. Music will be furnished by Claiborne Williams' Orchestra of this city." (April 19, 1930)

The Williams Band plays for the South Louisiana State Fair beginning Sept. 28th:

"Opening day program of the South Louisiana State Fair, Sunday, Sept. 28th 10:00 A. M. Band concert by Claiborne Williams' Band." (Sept. 27, 1930)

The band again plays for the colored people's Mardi Gras celebration in Donaldsonville:

"Colored people again have Mardi Gras, Feb. 17, parade streets, martial music to be furnished by Claiborne Williams Band - Claiborne Williams as general manager." (Jan. 17, 1930)

1931

In 1931 the procession for St. Amico contains two bands:

"Feast of St. Amico to be observed April 12th Music will be furnished by two brass bands - Claiborne Williams' and Heim's - both of this city." (April 5, 1931)

The band again plays for their annual 'gig', the South La. State Fair:

"Two Bands to furnish music at South Louisiana State Fair

Two of the bands that will be seen at the South La. State Fair, Donaldsonville, Sept. 27 to Oct. 4, will be heard over the radio next week in concerts broadcast from New Orleans.

Claiborne Williams' Band will go on the air from the WWL (Loyola) Broadcasting Station at 10 P.M., Thursday, Sept. 17, with a program that will last an hour." (Sept. 12, 1931)

1932

We must remember that while the brass band jobs are scarce and are of a specific nature, the Claiborne Williams Orchestra is getting a lot of work. About this time in the early thirties, the college and high school bands are beginning to organize and the town band is on the way out of popularity. So these future years of the Peerless Brass Band are less busy. In 1932 the band still participates in the local celebration of Mardi Gras:

"Mardi Gras - Claiborne Williams rides on float - Claiborne Williams Brass Band under the direction of Lawrence Hall and George A. Williams in a truck." (Feb. 13, 1932)

A strange celebration happens during the middle of May. It is called a "Beer Parade" with the coming of beer legally again to Donaldsonville and marks the end of prohibition.

"Big Beer Parade - Bands: Harmony Kings, J. M. H. Shot Band (Sic. Joseph Mistrettas' Band), the Claiborne Williams Band, the Black Devils, all of Donaldsonville and the Victory Band of Baton Rouge" (May 14, 1932)

The band again plays for the South Louisiana State Fair:

"Fair entertainment program completed - South La. Fair - Claiborne Williams Brass Band will furnish music." (August 20, 1932)

1933

The only item in 1933 about the band concerns its playing for the South La. Fair again:

"Fair parade - South Louisiana State Fair. Claiborne Williams Band occupied one of the trucks and also dispensed music along the route." (Oct. 14, 1933)

1934

A Mardi Gras celebration is again held in 1934 with the colored people still participating in this activity along with the band:

"Colored people to stage Mardi Gras celebration. Carnival parade, headed by Claiborne William Brass Band. Claiborne Williams will be general manager of the celebration." (Feb. 10, 1934)

In the next week's write-up in the paper, the band is called an orchestra and rides in a decorated truck. It gets hard to define the instrumentation of the group:

"Colored parade Mardi Gras - Claiborne Williams, local orchestra leader under whose management the celebration was staged (in a decorated car), another decorated truck with Claiborne Williams orchestra furnishing music." (Feb. 17, 1934)

1935

With Lent approaching the band plays for the arrival of Rex to Donaldsonville for Mardi Gras:

"Lent next Wednesday. King Rex visit Tuesday 1:30 - parade - Claiborne Williams Brass Band. Claiborne Williams in car, his band in truck next in line." (March 9, 1935)

The South La. State Fair begins on Oct. 23rd and the band plays a number of days for it. The paper gives a complete list of bands playing and times of performance. Claiborne Williams Band plays at 11:00 with the brass band and 9:00 p.m. for dancing, and throughout the week there is much music at the fair:

"Grand opening set for 23rd - South La. St. Fair - Claiborne Williams will furnish music. Dancing every night.

11:00 am - Claiborne Brass Band -

1:00 dancing in Pavilion - Joe Mistretta's Orchestra.

9:00 pm - dancing in Pavilion- Claiborne Williams Orchestra.

Monday - Oct. 7

11:00 am - Claiborne Williams Brass Band

Oct. 8

11:30 Claiborne Brass Band

8:30 - Dancing Pavilion - Claiborne Williams

Oct. 9

11:00 am - music in front of grandstand by Claiborne Williams

Oct. 10 - 11:30 - Claiborne Williams

Oct. 11 - 12:00 Claiborne Williams Brass Band

9:00 - dance, Claiborne Williams

Oct. 12 - 11:30 - Claiborne Brass Band

Oct. 13 - 11:30 - Claiborne Brass Band

7:00 pm - dance - Claiborne Williams Orchestra." (Oct. 5, 1937)

1936

In 1936 the band has only two items in the paper:

"Annual ball of King Jolly Good Fellow. Claiborne Williams' Band will furnish music for the procession and play later for the dance." (Feb. 8 1936)

"Knights of Columbus stage big initiation - marched to Claiborne Williams Brass Band to Ascension Catholic Church." (May 2, 1936)

1937

The band continues to play for many religious services, this time for the St. Joseph Italian society:

"Mass for Christ the King. members of the St. Joseph Italian Society march from hall to church, headed by Claiborne Williams Brass Band. After mass, march back to hall." (May 8, 1937)

"King Jolly due Feb. 6. Claiborne Williams' Band will furnish music for the procession and his orchestra will dispense music for the dance." (Jan. 30, 1937)

The State Fair again hires the Williams Band in 1937:

"South La State Fair - Claiborne Williams Band will furnish music from the grandstand." (May 29, 1937)

"New Orleans Police Band, Fortier High School Band of New Orleans, Drum & Bugle Corps, Sons of American Legion of Baton Rouge and Claiborne Williams Band of Donaldsonville." (Oct. 9 1937)

1938

The band again plays for the South Louisiana State Fair along with "Joseph Mistretta's Hot Shot Orchestra, Anthony Sotile Band and LSU Band and of course the Claiborne Williams Band." (Oct. 8, 1938)

The band next plays for the Donaldsonville High School Alumni Association affair. There is a "Thanksgiving Day Parade with the Claiborne Williams Brass Band and the C (Nov. 19, 1938) Claiborne Williams Orchestra plays for the dance after the football game."

1939

The band continues playing for the Mardi Gras celebration in Donaldsonville.

"King Jolly Feb. 3rd. Parade with Claiborne Williams Band." (Jan. 27, 1939)

A new movie theater opens for the colored people and the band is on hand for the dedicatory ceremonies:

"New Theatre for Colored people opens. Harlem Theatre. Claiborne Williams Brass band furnishes music for dedicatory ceremonies." (July 13, 1939)

The above item is the last mention of a brass band with Claiborne Williams as its leader; from the St. Joseph, to the Peerless, to the Claiborne Williams Brass Band - a long lineage of brass band music for the people of Donaldsonville.