

St.Charles Parish

We begin with an entry of Sept. 25, 1875 stating that there is a concert hall in Hanville with an excellent dance floor.

It is not until Sept. 8, 1883 that we could find any mentioning:

"We were favored with a serenade by Charles Yeager, a son of the famous old time leader of Yeager's Brass Band of New Orleans, accompanied by several friends on Tuesday night last. A number of popular and well known airs were played quite skillfully by our musical friend." (Sept. 8, 1883)

1884

There is a brass band in the parish, the St. Charles Brass Band. The local paper mentions the ball in an small item that appeared on Feb. 2nd:

"We return our thanks to the St. Charles Brass Band for an invitation to their grand ball to be given this evening at A. Hymel's residence." (Feb. 2)

The paper writes another story on the band:

"The St. Charles Brass Band turned out in full force on Saturday morning last. Having capured a large plantation wagon, they proceeded down the coast as far as Jefferson Parish, serenading their friends on the way, returning on time to have at the residence of Mr. A. Hymel, just above Hanville, one of the finest balls that has been given in this parish for sometime. The weather was good and the attendance large, and we were pleased to state they realized quite a handsome sum. Music and dancing was kept up all night and, one and all, left with the hope that they would soon have another privilege to enjoy the tripping of the light fantastic in the giddy mazes of the dance." (Feb. 9)

WE read of another dance sponsored by the young men of the parish:

"There will be given by the young men of St. Charles a Soiree Dansante at the residence of Mr. A. Hymel, just above Hanville this evening. From all appearances it will be a pleasant one." (Feb. 16)

The Band plays a serenade for a local citizen:

"Our friend, Lewis Ory Esq. received quite a pleasant serenade on Saturday evening last, from his friends of the "St. Charles Brass Band." Upn his succes in being elected sheriff of our parish." (May 3)

There is no source for material until 1917 when we read that here is a grand ball that is to be held in Paradis for the benefit of the Red Cross. (May 26, 1917)

We read of another benefit for the Red Cross on Jan. 19, 1918: "Grand Ball at Fashion School House." (Jan 19, 1918)

Being a small town Hanville having only one brass band, we find the band mentioned numerous times in the paper. The band is mentioned again as they plan for a ball:

"There will be a ball given by the St. Charles Brass Band at the Hahnville Concert Hall, on Saturday, June 14, " (June 7)

The ball is publicized again in the June 14th paper:

"A grand ball will be given tonight at the Hahnville Hall by the St. Charles Brass Band. If the good weather continues, it will no doubt be a successful affair. (June 14)

The ball must have been a success as we read that the band is shchduling another ball for July 12th:

"The St. Charles Brass Band will give another ball, at Hahnville Concert Hall on Saturday, July 12th." (June 28)

We read of a soiree at an private home:

"A soiree dance was given Friday evening last, by Mr. Lewis Ory of our village, dancing was kept up until a late hour." (June 28)

The paper again mentions the coming ball of the band:

"There will be another grand ball given at the Hahnville Concert Hall by the St. Charles Brass Band accompanied by the string band of St. John on Saturday, July 12th." (July 5)

The day of the dance the paper achknowledges an invitation to the dance:

"We acknowledge receipt of invitation to the grand ball to be given tonight by the St. Charles Brass Band, assisted by the string band of St. John. It will doubtless be a grand affair as quite a number from a distance expect to be present." (July 12)

We read that the ball was a success with a small item in the paper:

"The ball given last Saturday night at the Hahnville Hall by the St. Charles Brass Band attracted, as usual, quite a number of the belles of our parish as well as from New Orleans and elsewhere to enjoy the tripping of the light fantastic." (July 19)

We read of a dance given that was not as successful as the ones above:

"The attendance of gentlemen was not as large as on previous occasions nor was the music of the string band of the best. However, we are pleased to stte, our friends realized notwithstanding the hot weather and consequently smaller attendance, an amount over and above all expenses."

We read of a ball given in St. John's Parish:

"Ball given at St. Peter's in St. John Louisiana on last Saturday night by Mr. Conrad wa a grand success." (August 30)

We know that dancing was one of the most popular of social affairs and the band gives another ball:

"The St. Charles Brass Band will give another ball this evening at D. Rouselle's below Hahnville." (Sept. 27)

1885

The first entry is not until April when the band gives a ball at a private residence:

"The St. Charles Brass Band will give a ball tonight at Mr. O. Shexnayden's residence about one mile above Hahnville." (April 25)

The ball was declared a success as we read of this in the paper of June 13th:

"The ball given last Saturday nightat Mr. O. Shexonayden's residence by the St. Charles Brass Band was a success. Several visiting ladies were present and participated in the dancing." (June 13)

On of the highlights of the 1885 musical season in New Orleans was the appearance of the Mexican Band. We read:

"The Mexican Band whihc has been discoursing such sweet music at New Orleans for several months past, left for Mexico on Tuesday afternoon."

We find a list of some of the musicians in the parish in our next entry and also find out that there are brass bands in St. John and St. James Parishes:

"Do not fail to attend the grand concert for the benefit of the St. Charles Parochial School to be given on Sunday (tomorrow) evening at the church of Our Lady and the Rosary, above Hahnville. Distinguished musical talent from the city viz: G. Delfarge (tenor), A. Toledano (baritone), A. Lazero (baritone), A. Duifhoc (bass), L. O'Connell (Director), E. Gresaniger (flutist), Mr. G. David, Mrs. D. Touatre, beside if the weather will permit, the brass bands of St. James and St. John Parishes will be on hand. Divine Service at 10 A. M.

1920

We read that there is a commercial dance pavilion in town"

"Don't forget the grand opening dance at Mollere Mire's platform tonight. Good music; the best dancing floor on the coast." (June 19)

Another 'platform' is available for dancing, the 'Buck' platform, in a nearby town:

"Grand dance tonight at the Buck Platform, Taft, La." (July 3)

We read of a band called the Hahnville Brass Band giving a dance:

"The dance given Saturday by the Hahnville Brass Band proved a success realizing a neat sum." (Oct. 23)

The local school gives a fair with dancing included:

"Fair and dance given by Hahnville Consolidated School, Oct. 30, 7 P. M. Dancing extra." (Oct. 23)

This was a Halloween dance and we read of its success:

"The Halloween dance given by the Hahnville Consolidated School was a grand success. The amount netted was quite a surprise having nearly reached the \$200 mark."

(Nov. 6)

There was a dance in Edgard, Louisiana and a list of those attending is given in the paper." (Dec. 4)

In 1921 there is only one entry: "Last Saturday a dance was given at the Nore Club. A very enjoyable time was the verdict." (Oct. 22)

1922

WE read of a band from Kenn, La. playing for a dance:

"Big dance Hahville Consolidated School, Saturday, Feb. 11 - Kenner Jazz Band - refreshments." (Feb. 9)

The dance given Saturday by the Hahnville Consolidated School proved to be a success. Everybody reported a good time. Many from Good Hope attended the dance." (Feb. 18)

We read of a ball given for the benefit of a church in Luling:

"On Saturday, June 17th, Mrs. Bussalchi of Luling will give as usual a ball for the benefit of the church." (May 22)

The need for live dance bands when one is not available locally is to hire a band from New Orleans:

"Attention: On Dec. 9th, a grand dance will be given in Lueling for the benefit of the new church. Music furnished by a New Orleans Band." (Nov. 25)

1923

There is a dance that is held for the school's benefit that was not as successful as others. We read:

"The Hahnville faculty wish to thank the community for their hearty cooperation at the school dance. Due to so few dancers the net proceeds were only \$35.95." (March 31)

Local citizens, as in other parishes, do give private dances in their homes:

"Miss Beatrice Triche was hostess Wednesday night at a dance party at home." (Sept. 1)

The school gives another dance for the basketball team:

"Grand dance at Hahnville Consolidated School on Oct. 21st. Given by boys basketball team." (Oct. 20)

When a dance is held you can expect some visitors to attend. Some visitors are mentioned in the paper as attending a local dance:

"Mr. & Mrs. Bentin and Mr. Clancy Hewman of Algiers motored to Hahnville on Saturday night to attend the dance." (Dec. 1)

1924

The town of Luling is the site for another dance:

"Dance - Evening Star Pavilion, Luling, La. Given by the Ladies altar society of Holy Rosary - April 26st." (Feb. 2)

The high school gives a Halloween Dance:

"Halloween dance - October 31st., Auditorium of Hahnville High School. The auditorium will be decorated in true Halloween style and music will be furnished by a real jazz band from Tulane the renown Midnight Revelers." (Oct. 24)

There is a band concert by the "Pam Am Band of the Mexican Petroleum Corp., under the direction of Mr. St. Pierre." (May 9)

We next read of a benefit dance at Luling "for the benefit of Holy Rosary Church, May 24th." (May 16)

We find no articles about music in 1925, and only one in 1926:

On Saturday and Sunday a grand open air festival will be given at Gassen park. Luling, la. For the benefit of the chapel fund. Dancing-music by the Silver Leaf Orchestra and the Victory Band." (June 19)

1927

The local high school has a school orchestra and we read that they play for the graduation under the direction of Prof. St. Pierre. (May 28)

The local American Legion give a dance "Sunday, August 7th at Gassen Park." (August 6)

A new band plays for a local dance:

"Jitney dance, Hahnville High School Auditorium, Sunday, Oct. 30. Music by Moonlight Serenaders-at 7:30" (Oct. 22)

A fair is held for the church:

"Church fair, August 4 & 5th. Dancing-Susquehanna Band and the Silver Leaf Orchestra." (August 4)