

# FRED JEWELL'S TIME IN OSKALOOSA

From a Display by C.L. Barnhouse in "The Alley", Oskaloosa, A Legacy of Excellence



Frederick Alton Jewell was born May 28, 1875 in Worthington, Indiana. Jewell became interested in music at a young age, learning a number of instruments, including cornet, violin, clarinet, trombone, piano, and calliope; but as a performer, he is best remembered as a virtuoso euphonium player. He ran away to the circus at age 16 to play euphonium with the Bloomington-based Gentry Brothers Dog and Pony Show.

Much of his career was spent playing in or conducting traveling circus bands, including the Gentry Bros. Circus, Ringling Bros. Circus, Sells-Floto Circus, Barnum and Bailey Circus, and the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus. In the off-season, he led various theatrical stock company bands, theater orchestras, and church ensembles.

From 1917 to 1923 he lived in Iowa and led various adult bands; first in Fairfield and then Oskaloosa, where he directed the Iowa Brigade Band (now the Oskaloosa Municipal Band).

In 1919 he organized the first high school band in Oskaloosa and continued as the director until the end of the 1923 school year. His first band at Oskaloosa High School had 28 members, and the 1924 Oskaloosa yearbook gave Mr. Jewell and the band glowing reviews: "Credit and honor is due Mr. Fred Jewell, who has done everything in his power to make our band a great success and an organization of which the whole student body would be

proud. Ever since the band was organized in 1919, it has been growing and achieving more fame."

Jewell's first musical composition was published in 1897. Most of his early marches were published by C.L. Barnhouse in Oskaloosa, but he eventually started Fred Jewell Music Company while in Oskaloosa as the director of the Iowa Brigade Band. Fred Jewell Music was located at 121 North Market Street, just off the City Square.



121 North Market Street, Oskaloosa, IA

In total, Jewell composed over 100 marches, along with several overtures, waltzes, novelties, and other works. He is best known for his popular marches including: *E Pluribus Unum*, *Quality Plus*, *The Screamer*, *High and Mighty*, *Battle Royal*, *Trombone Blues*, and *They're Off!* Many of his over 140 wonderful musical compositions are still performed by bands around the world.

He returned to Indiana in 1923 where he led the Murat Temple Shrine Band of Indianapolis. He later traveled to Tampa, Florida, to lead its municipal band for a brief period and spent the balance of his career leading bands in Indiana and composing music. Highly esteemed by his peers, Jewell was elected to membership in the American Bandmasters Association. He died in Worthington February 11, 1936.



Sponsored by C.L. Barnhouse Co., music publishers since 1886. Fred Jewell was inducted into the Windjammers Hall of Fame in 1975.