



Friday night was our last meal at the Poseidon, our "regular" restaurant. We showed our appreciation with a bouquet of flowers and a standing ovation.



"Saturday we loaded our bus for the last time (?) at 6am to head for home. What a wonderful sound that word made to us at this time. We had heard that people back home were as excited as we were and we were anxious to be with them. There was one obstacle in our way: THE WEATHER! We spent 19 hours at the airport and ended up having our arrangements changed a number of times."  
- Robert Haggett



## Norwood's Pride And Joy Delayed; Welcome Home Party Planned

BY BETSY BAKER

NORWOOD — Hang on to your party hats and paper streamers for one more day — the "Welcome Home" for the Norwood Brass Firemen has been delayed.

The Olympic musicians were expected to return to Norwood by about 2 a.m. Sunday, and local residents planned to turn out to welcome them, but as of Saturday afternoon, the group was still in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia.

They expect to arrive in Norwood at about midnight Sunday, but that is only a tentative time as there may be further delays.

After waiting nine hours in the Sarajevo airport on Saturday, band members were told there would be no flights out of that city. Instead, band manager Bob Haggett told his wife, Judee, by telephone, the group was to go to Belgrade, Yugoslavia, and fly home from there on Sunday.

Up to two feet of snow has fallen in Yugoslavia, and Mrs. Haggett said she believes the weather is the reason for the flight delays.

But Haggett called back Saturday afternoon (around 9 p.m. Sarajevo time) to say the plans had changed again. "I'm going to have dinner in Frankfurt, Germany, tonight," he told his wife.

Haggett said that when the band learned they might have to stay in Belgrade three days they decided "to take it upon ourselves" to go to Frankfurt. They are expected to leave Germany at 11 a.m. (Frankfurt time) and reach New York City by about

1:25 p.m. Sunday, Mrs. Haggett said. Needed: Friendly Faces

That means the band may arrive in Norwood by midnight Sunday, Mrs. Haggett said, but their arrival time is still tentative. She suggested people listen to radio station WPDM-WSNN for news on the arrival time.

A welcome for band members is still planned. "After all those boys have been through they're going to need to see some friendly faces," Mrs. Haggett said.

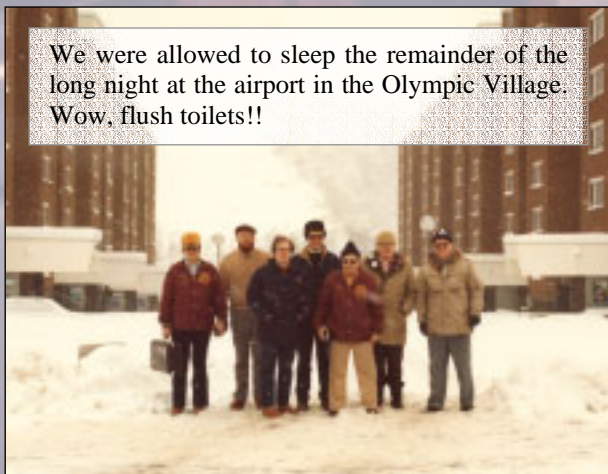
Band members were tired and anxious to get home, she said, after shopping all day Friday for gifts and souvenirs, and after the delays at the airport.

Mishaps have plagued the band since last Sunday, when their flight to the Olympics was delayed after a charter bus carrying part of the Lake Placid delegation went off the Thruway. Late arrival in Sarajevo meant a missed party, their first playing engagement in connection with the Olympics; they arrived to find that lodging had not been arranged for them; problems with credentials meant they missed the U.S.-Canada hockey game; their bass drum disappeared, but later was found; heavy snow forced cancellation of the men's downhill ski races, which band members had planned to watch on Thursday.

The band's performance at the opening ceremonies of the Olympics Wednesday was seen on television by an estimated two billion people worldwide, as well as some 55,000 in Kosevo stadium.



We were allowed to sleep the remainder of the long night at the airport in the Olympic Village. Wow, flush toilets!!



# The Brass is Back



*“What a surprise to see all those friendly faces, especially those of our loved ones. After a short speech on the steps of the municipal building and a parade around the village square, it was time for the band to go home and try to live our normal lives again. After living for a week in a foreign country and being recognized by the entire world, we would find it hard to return to our daily routines. This was a moment in our lives that had more meaning than anything that we have experienced before. We will never forget this trip.”*

**- Robert Haggett**

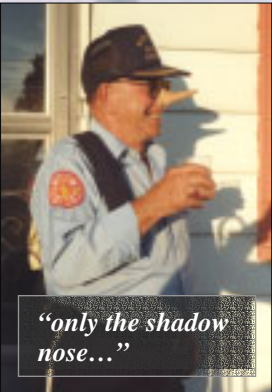


**ON PARADE** —True to their promise, the Norwood Brass Firemen performed for the home folks this morning, topping off their return from the 1984 Winter Olympics in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, with a parade around the village square. Followed by a sizable number of the more than 200 people who gathered to welcome them home, the band played the “Saints,” “Baby Face,” “America The Beautiful” and other tunes. (Baker photo)





The Brass Firemen were honored several times following the Olympic appearance. A sign on the Village Green was presented and also a sign was hung on the Municipal Building (right).



*"only the shadow nose..."*



**80's Candid.** *"The band resumed its usual summer schedule of field days and parades. In honor of the Olympic trip, band members received new hats, complete with "scrambled eggs" on the brim, and "Pivo Team" shirts. We played concerts that summer wearing these shirts and hats. The band also produced another recording made from an Alexandria Bay concert that summer. A nicely done slide show presentation of the Sarajevo trip was created by Andy VanDuyne and Jerry Gallagher and presented to over 240 organizations and events. The band seemed to be riding a wave of popularity that never seemed to slow down! By the end of the 80's, I would look forward to the annual rehearsal, anticipating a few more interesting gigs or another big trip somewhere."*

**- Darin LaGarry**





The Norwood Brass Firemen, who will march in President Reagan's inaugural parade, perform here at an ice cream social in Potsdam.

## Norwood Brass To Perform For Reagan at Inauguration

Times Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Norwood Volunteer Fire Department Brass Band will be New York State's official representative in the 1985 presidential inaugural parade.

The announcement will be made formally today by the Presidential Inaugural Committee, whose parade unit made the selections based on recommendations from individual state representatives, assessment of musical ability, and past history.

The Norwood band submitted tape cassettes and color photographs, including several of its appearance on the White House South Lawn in July 1982.

There will be one band from each of 48 states in the parade, with two each from California and Texas, the home states of President Reagan and Vice President Bush, plus several horse units to aid the District of Columbia police in keeping order. One of those reportedly will be a New York State police mounted unit.

Each state inaugural coordinator was authorized to submit up to five band applicants. The

Brass Firemen unit was on the list sent in by New York State Republican Chairman George L. Clark Jr., the Empire State coordinator.

According to present plans, 31 members of the Norwood organization — 27 musicians and a four-person color guard, ranging in age from 17 to 66 — will march along a parade route from Capitol Hill that will take them down Constitution Avenue, up 13th St. and across Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the presidential reviewing stand on Lafayette Square.

In addition to its White House performance, which drew the enthusiastic appreciation of Mrs. Nancy Reagan, the Norwood band was chosen as the United States unit at the opening ceremony of the 1984 Winter Olympics at Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, and was named the New York State Firemen's Association official band Oct. 4.

The band was formed in 1876, disbanded during World War II and reformed in 1946. It performed in 1979 in the New York State Assembly Chamber in Albany and on the Capitol steps here at the invitation of Rep. David O'B. Martin, R-Canton, in September 1981.

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**1985 Presidential Inauguration.** We were invited back to Washington in 1985 to participate in the Inaugural Parade for President Ronald Reagan.. It was so cold that our valves would freeze a few seconds after we stopped playing while practicing in our motel parking lot.. The parade was cancelled and the band was invited to attend the indoor ceremony.

## Norwood's Brass Stopped by Cold

By Alan Emery  
Times Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON — The Norwood Brass Firemen finally met their match today: the weather.

Faced with record-low temperatures for a presidential inaugural and bone-chilling winds that threatened to freeze the players' lips to their instruments, the St. Lawrence County marching musicians lost their chance to represent New York State in an inaugural parade and settled for a performance in the Cannon House Office Building.

The parade itself was called off early Sunday evening.

As it turned out in a practice session Sunday morning, not even the cold-weather valve oil the bandmen had used at the 1984 Winter Olympics in Yugoslavia would work beyond 10 to 15 minutes. Then the instruments froze.

So long as the bandmen were performing everything was fine. When they stopped playing, however, the instruments were rendered worthless.

The Norwood contingent had only long underwear for protection beneath their navy blue firemen's uniforms and liners under their uniform gloves.

They were prepared to purchase scarves to ward off some of the cold, but "we would have needed snowmobile suits or snow gear to survive," observed Robert C. Haggitt, the band manager.

The band would have had to assemble an hour before the parade started, and the parade had been scheduled to last nearly 90 minutes.

Instead, the band will attend an entertainment gala for parade units to be held at the Capital Center in nearby Largo, Md., with President and Mrs. Reagan attending.

Prior to that, from 11:30 this morning until nearly 1 this afternoon the firemen will perform in and around Rep. David O'B. Martin's office on Capitol Hill.

"We are discouraged," said





**Norwood Fire Dept. and Band, 1985.** Each year the band, with the Fire Department, participates in an Annual Review ceremony prior to departing for NNY Convention. This picture was taken during the Annual Review in 1985.



*"Then there was the time that Chris Greenwood got a brand new trombone as a graduation present.... took it to the Raquette River FD field day and... whoop! ... there goes his slide into a sand pile!"*  
**- Paul Haggett**

**1989 Presidential Inauguration.** Our third trip to Washington DC was for the Inaugural Parade of President George W. Bush. This time the weather cooperated.



## Tuning Up for Inauguration Band Bound for D.C.

By **Iain P. Wilson**  
Times Staff Writer

NORWOOD — There's nothing left for members of the Norwood Volunteer Fire Department band to do but pack their bags. Washington here they come.

According to band leader Robert C. Haggett, the band raised enough money late Wednesday night to

take them to President-elect George Bush's inauguration in Washington.

The Norwood band was selected by Mr. Bush's inauguration committee last month to represent all volunteer firefighters in the nation at the ceremonies. After they were

selected, band members began a fund-raising drive to pay for their trip to Washington and their accommodations once they get there. The band was trying to raise \$8,000.

With two major donations late Wednesday, Mr. Haggett said, the fund has been pushed over the top. The Adirondack North Country Association announced it will donate \$4,000 to the band, and the Steering Committee of the Northern New York Volunteer Firemen's Association also announced it would donate \$1,000.

"It's fantastic," said Mr. Haggett. "It's a load off my mind. Now we can pack our suitcases and start loading up the bus for the trip."

Mr. Haggett said he also wanted to officially announce to the public that the band had reached its goal. He said any money that still comes in will go into a special fund for the band to be used for future trips.

"We want to recognize these groups...but we also want to recognize the other people who contributed," he said.

The band had earlier received a donation of \$1,100 from the North Country Chevrolet Dealers Association to pay for the ride to and from Washington.

There parade was interrupted briefly when a hot dog stand exploded unexpectedly on the parade route. After the secret service had investigated the incident (which was a legitimate accident apparently) the parade resumed. We were hurried along to make up time and we were nearly running when we passed by the president (notice the length of our stride below!). Poor Lyle had to drop out because the pace was just too brisk.



**Indianapolis 500.** In 1994 the band was invited to march in the annual Indianapolis 500 parade. The day before the race, the band paraded 3½ miles through downtown Indianapolis in front of 400,000 people. On the day of the race, the band paraded a single lap around the 2½ mile track, most of it at a rather uncomfortable incline. Bob observes, *“It took the Brass Firemen 65 minutes to finish a lap and Al Unser Jr. 45 seconds!”*

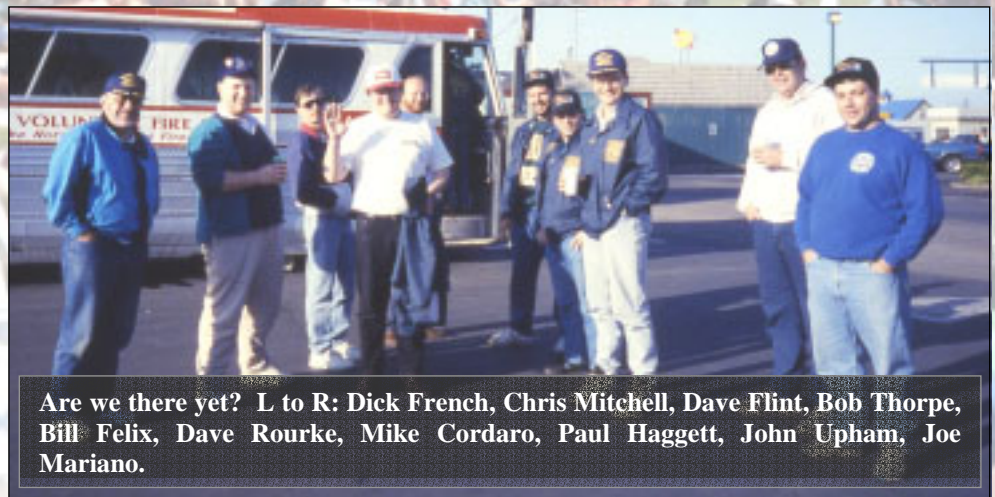


**Darren Haggett's first big trip!**

*“To get ready for this parade we practiced each weekend in May and marched 14 laps around the indoor track at NNCS.”* – **Robert Haggett**



**A new set of wheels... and no funnel!**



**Are we there yet? L to R: Dick French, Chris Mitchell, Dave Flint, Bob Thorpe, Bill Felix, Dave Rourke, Mike Cordaro, Paul Haggett, John Upham, Joe Mariano.**

*“After the parade, we stayed for part of the race then left Indy on Sunday afternoon... drove all night getting home at 6:30am. All members returned at 10am to parade in our local Memorial Day parade in Norwood. We kicked butt in that parade... played non-stop from the Legion to the park.”*  
– **Robert Haggett**



# A Slice of North Country Life

TAUNY Heaps Laurels on Music Makers, Bakers, Auctioneer



1996 TAUNY Article in Watertown Times. Taken at the Potsdam Rescue Concert. Front Row, L to R: Jerry Gallagher, Andy VanDuyne, Ken Beckstead, Lyle Camp, Charley Cotey, Joe Liotta. Back Row: Wayne Murray, Elmer James, Dick Boyle, Jason Burrows, Josh Zanger, Dave Flint, John Wolfe, Dan Frick, Dick Liscum, Bob Haggett, Paul Haggett, Ben Hopsicker, Dave Rourke.

CANTON — Marching Dixieland-music makers, churchgoing Italian-pastry bakers and a country-sockion bids taker are among the north country residents who will be honored here this month for their contributions to the region's folk arts and traditions.

Directors of Traditional Arts in Upstate New York (TAUNY), an organization that conserves and presents community-based folk arts and traditional activities in a 14-county region north of the Mohawk River, will present their North Country Heritage Awards next Sunday afternoon at Canton College of Technology. The fourth annual Salute to North Country Legends will start at 2 p.m. Sunday in Kingston Theater on the state campus.

This year's awards recipients include two contingents of community volunteers: from Watertown, women of the Altar and Rosary Society at St. Anthony's Church and, from St. Lawrence County, the Norwood Brass Firemen, the well-traveled, 50-year-old marching band of the Norwood Volunteer Fire Department.

At Sunday's special occasion, the Norwood Brass Firemen will toot their own horns in concert to begin the Salute to North Country Legends.

The band's improvisational renditions of our American musical heritage have earned them invitations to perform in far-flung and august places, including the 1984 Winter Olympics in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, presidential inaugurations of Ronald Reagan and George Bush in Washington, D.C. and the Indianapolis 500 auto race two years ago.

The volunteer band, whose performance season this year includes 21 parades and benefit concerts in Northern New York and Ontario from Memorial Day to Labor Day, has been affiliated with the Norwood fire department since 1946, when it was revived by an influx of local men returning from World War II. The officially adopted postwar band had been organized as an "oompah band" late in the war years by Fred B. Morgan, a television repairman, amateur tuba player and acclaimed folk artist from Norwood who died in 1994. Mr. Morgan's employers at Aluminum Company of America in Massena asked him to form the band to help boost morale on the home front.

But the Brass Firemen can trace their community ancestry as far back as the 1870s, said Robert C. Haggett, the band's 46-year-old manager. In 1872, he said, local fire department members voted to donate money for the purchase of drums for the community band.

Of the band's 28 current members, the youngest is a high school student and the oldest a retired teacher, "and there's probably 60 years difference in their ages," said Mr. Haggett. The band manager, a nephew of Fred Morgan, joined in 1969, when he was 18. Mr. Haggett and 10 other current band members made the long trip to the Winter Olympic Games 12 years ago, when north country benefactors donated \$18,000 to cover band expenses.

"We call it a northern style of Dixieland music," Mr. Haggett said of the marching band's repertoire. "We don't read sheet music. It's all improvisation," blending musical notes from skilled musicians and raw instrumentalists "who just like blowing out something," he said. The band practices only once a year at the start of its summer season.

Mr. Haggett, a hydro generation foreman for Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. in his remunerated hours, suggested that ghostly generations from Norwood will be in attendance at the awards ceremony. "We're quite honored to be part of the band being recognized for a tradition that's been in our community for 125 years," he said. "It certainly took a lot of people who came before us to get this award."

Honorees will receive an engraved and specially designed glass plate at the Sunday ceremony. Their portraits will be added to the North Country Wall of Fame in the TAUNY gallery at 13 West St.



Several recent State Convention trips have included an excursion on Don's Dad's boat.



Brass Firemen in 2000. Taken at the Norwood Museum following our annual rehearsal. Front Row, L to R: Dick Liscum, Charley Cotey, Dave Flint, Dick Boyle, Jerry Gallagher. Second Row: Paul Jadlos, John Wolfe, Josh Zinger, Dan Zinger. Third Row: Tim Donahue, Robert Hagggett, Tom Stickney, Ben Hopsicker, Josh Lefave. Back Row: Dave Rourke, Ken Beckstead, Jon Hunkins, Dan Frick, Brian Durant.

# Autographs



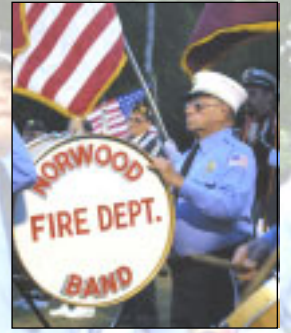


*“2002 Season continued with another great season of concerts, parades, cold drinks and card games. Having been away from the band for 12 years it was a treat to be asked to join again. My wife Jodi often accompanied me with camera in hand. The bus was new to me but the card games were quite familiar. I was saddened to learn that all the North Country firemen’s field days had ceased, but pleased that we now have a good relationship with our Canadian friends that has led to some parade opportunities there. Scenes of 9-11 were present at a number of events. FDNY members carried the WTC Flag in the Lake George parade. Also we participated in a 9-11 remembrance ceremony in Potsdam.”*

**–Darin LaGarry**



4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, on Morgan St.



**Massena Concert, 2002. Back Row L to R: Dave Rourke, Jerry Gallagher, Bryan Haggett, Ken Beckstead, Jon Hunkins, Jim Corbett, Lyle Camp, Jim Whittet, Charlie Cotey, Dick Boyle, Paul Jadlo, Bob Haggett. From Row, left to right: Don Cannamela, Paul Haggett, John Wolfe, Darin LaGarry, Wayne Murray, Tom Stickney, Dan Frick (director), Dave Flint. A few Brass Firemen alumni were at this concert: Paul and Matt Vaska showed up with their families to say hello.**



*Photography by Jodi LaGarry*