

McFarland's German Band

McFarland now has its own German band, thanks to the musical talents of six elementary school students.

The German band made its first appearance during last winter's Home Economics Club talent show held at the high school, and its first appearance for the general public last Friday evening, when it "toured" McFarland promoting this weekend's annual Festival.

Members of the band are Tom Reiter, bass, seventh grade son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Reiter; Jim Munns, drums, seventh grade son of Mr. and Mrs. Clair Munns; David Jones, cornet, seventh grade son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jones; Jerry Hrovat, sax, seventh grade son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hrovat; Chris Crye, cornet, seventh grade, and Curt Crye, trombone, sixth grade, both sons of Mr. and Mrs. John Crye.

The boys first gathered as a group last fall and decided to form the band. They have practiced every Saturday since then at the Reiter home, with an appearance in this year's Festival parade as their goal. They have had no official band leader, but have practiced and learned their selections on their own initiative.

The German band uniforms the boys wear have a history all their own. According to Mrs. Reiter, these were the uniforms that the German band wore when she and her husband participated during their elementary school days. Reiter's father, William, had obtained the uniforms in Chicago.

The current McFarland German Band travels in a special trailer. Mrs. Reiter reported that the six boys all painted the first coat, "a real paint-in," and William Reiter applied the final coat and the special lettering.

