

Spartan band is first at Winnipeg

A proud group of teenagers greeted their parents and friends in front of McFarland High School Monday noon. The sixty youngsters, members of the high school band, returned victorious from a four day trip to the International Concert Band Competition held in Winnipeg, Canada. The band left McFarland June 25, at 3:00 a.m.

Three judges, all from the United States, rated the bands on a one hundred point basis. McFarland scored the highest, with ninety-two points, in Class A competition with schools of four hundred or less enrollment.

When the trophy was presented to the band, Judge Gordon Peterson addressed the students: "Congratulations to a great band and a fine director. So much esprit de corps evident. Everything (is) planned out and performed with great excellence. Keep up the high standard in life that you have learned in band and you will live to be a hundred with real happiness. This is the value of

a music department and perhaps the most valued department of a school system. I hope the board of education, your community and parents support this fine outfit to the en't degree. You can't afford not to. Good luck in the future."

The band competition was held in conjunction with the centennial celebrations of the Manitoba province of which Winnipeg is the capital. There were many centennial festivities in Winnipeg and the band was able to participate in some of these.

It marched in a five mile long parade and performed a concert at the Winnipeg Civic Center. The center will be dedicated by Queen Elizabeth in July.

Saturday night, when the band received the trophy, they joined some of the other twenty-seven bands in the competition and played to an audience of about 15,000 people in the football stadium.

Students sandwiched in a little sight seeing between their music

activities. They were guided around Winnipeg by a student from the University of Manitoba.

The young musicians went swimming, took a thirty mile river boat ride, toured the Richardson Building and did a little shopping.

To make the trip, the band had to raise several thousand dollars. Their two biggest "money makers" were a candy sale, held early in January, and spring work days. They also held a pops concert in October and car washes. The Music Boosters helped the students by sponsoring a spaghetti dinner and a brat supper.

The spring work days seemed to be a unique way to help finance a band's trip - so much so, in fact, that this was written about in the Winnipeg newspaper.

Sixty students and six chaperones made the trip. The chaperones were Mr. and Mrs. Roger Jenson, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Pingle and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Dvorak.



PARENTS AND WELL-WISHERS gathered at the high school on Monday noon to welcome home McFarland's championship band.