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LAPD Concert Band

BY MICHAEL ELLINGTON

The LAPD Concert Band is not this month's featured band member has joined. Moreover, while gathering information for this article, it came to light that, along with evolving as a brass player, the band member had worked

on a super-secret government aviation project we can't even discuss here. That, along with other interesting information, pertains to intrepid trumpet player Russ Herrington, the subject of this month's Los Angeles Police Concert Band member profile.

Russ had some very supportive, patient and brave parents. When he was very young, they asked him what musical instrument he would like to play. (He could have said drums or Eb clarinet.) His father played piano, his older sister played piano, and his mother got him piano lessons. It was a pretty safe bet that Russ would end up on keyboards. But, it didn't turn out that way. In grammar school, playing ball with his friends was much more interesting than practicing piano. When the music bug bit, it was because he and a friend of his decided trumpet would be easier



Russ with Chief Michel Moore



In Washington D.C. for National Police Week.

because it only had three valves, instead of 88 keys. Besides, it looked cool in its carrying case.

The first band 12-year-old Russ joined was a hometown musical group, the Glendale Police Boys' Band. Russ said, "We rehearsed in the foyer of Glendale City Hall foyer, which had stone floors and high ceilings. That gave the music a tremendous sound." Membership in that group led to the honor of two appearances in nearby Pasadena's world-famous Tournament of Roses Parade. Two of the three marches the band performed on those New Year's Days were John Philip Sousa compositions, "Semper Fidelis" and "Washington Post." He still performs them today with the L.A. Police Concert Band.

After graduating from Glendale's Herbert Hoover High School, acceptance at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo led to him playing with their brass choir and a three-year stint in the college's big band, the Collegians. Russ's trumpet supported them at many dances and tours of California venues during spring break.

It was during college summers that Russ worked at Lockheed Aircraft in Burbank. Exactly what he did he is not at liberty to say, but he was involved in the effort to support the pre-stealth SR-71 Blackbird. It is the fastest, highest-flying, strategic reconnaissance aircraft ever developed. He ended up staying at Lockheed for another eight years, working on other programs. Later in his "day job" career, he worked as a program manager supporting fixed wing, helicopter and missile programs.

An attraction to the music of Glen Campbell led Russ to learn basic guitar. He was ready

when his daughter needed accompaniment as she played flute in her fifth- and sixth-grade talent shows. Russ remembers, "One of those years, she broke her wrist the morning of the show but insisted she play her flute. It was the slowest rendition of 'Star Wars' on record!"

This September, Russ and his wife, Linda, will celebrate 58 years of marriage. He enjoys listening to trumpet virtuosos like Wayne Bergeron, Harry James, Doc Severinsen and Wynton Marsalis. He includes among his influences LAPD's own Mike Rotman and David Stassel.

Russ used to divide his time among five different bands. As the pandemic begins to wane, he is looking forward to resuming his performance and rehearsal schedule.

For more information about the Band, see our website at www.lasown.com and contact Jim Starr, executive director, at sngcop@aol.com. For greatly appreciated donations, please go to www.lapolicefoundation.org, and in the Comments box, put "For The Band." ♦



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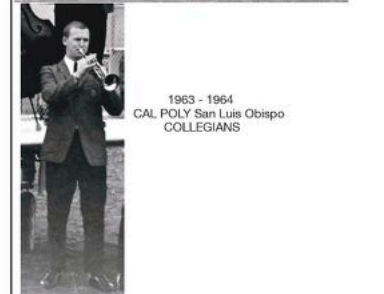
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