



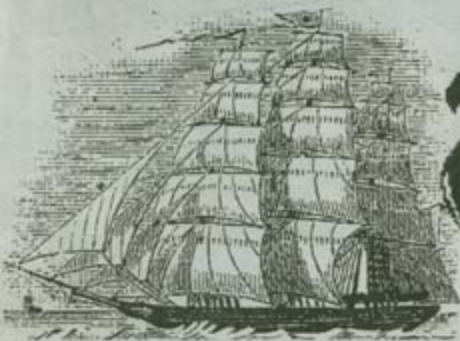
Bring on the band

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75 CENTS



MUSIC MAN: At the Northport Community Band's 50th anniversary concert in Northport Village Park Thursday, July 31 Northport Village Mayor George Doll (right) presents the key to the city to the band's founder and director Robert Krueger. For a half-century the band has performed a series of Thursday night concerts in July in the bandstand in Northport Village Park. The key to the city given to Mr. Krueger is the first of its kind ever awarded by Northport Village.

N'port's Music Man first with key to city

Community Band earns high praise on occasion of 50th anniversary

For the first time ever, according to Mayor George Doll, Northport Village has handed out a 'key to the city.'

To celebrate the Northport Community Band's 'Golden Anniversary Gala,' Mayor Doll presented band founder and conductor Bob Kreuger with the ceremonial award at the final concert of the season Thursday, July 31.

"Who better than someone who has given so many so much enjoyment?" Mayor Doll said.

The concert began with a pre-concert by the Northport Community Jazz Ensemble followed by the Color Guard presented by Cub Scout Pack 52, while the the The 2008 Band and Alumni Players performed the Star Spangled Banner and Stars and Stripes Forever.

John Eyre was the guest conductor for a New York Singalong and Weltz from 'Sleeping Beauty.'

Cousins featured trumpet soloist Paul Conefry and trombone soloist Mike Richardson.

The 1812 Overture featured both an analog and a digital cannon for its famous crescendo.

"It's a big draw," said Sue Epstein, a band alumnus and board member. "People love the 1812 Overture and they love the band and they always pack the final night of concerts each summer. And this was the final night



MUSICAL MILESTONE: For half a century the Northport Community Band has been entertaining audiences in the bandstand in Northport Village Park. **-Joe Miller photo**

of the 50th anniversary so it was jammed. It was enhanced by the lighted boat parade on the water. And it was supposed to rain but that disappeared and it was just beautiful and balmy."

Ms. Epstein was one of many who picked up their instruments for the first time in many years to participate in the anniversary concert, in her case the French Horn, which Mr. Kreuger himself had insisted she play as an

elementary school student.

"I played the trumpet and Bob was my private instructor," she said. "Until he switched me over to French Horn, which I had to learn in six weeks before band camp. I took piano from [his wife] Marge, so they're really like my second family. I'd do anything for Bob. He's a special man. I think a lot of people feel that way."

She said she gave up her seat in the band because so many people aspire to actively participate. "He used to recruit five to 10 people per year but now, because people love playing so much, it's very difficult to get in. I didn't have time to practice as much as I need to so I gave up my seat to someone else."

A Golden Anniversary banquet to honor Mr. Kreuger was held at the Harbor Club the night before the final concert attended by both alumni and current band members and elected officials. He was honored by Jim Mahoney of the Northport Fire Department. In addition to entertainment provided by John and Remy D'Esposito and the Jack Daniels Group, Bob's daughter Pam Dayton Kreuger and her son Christopher Dayton performed a special arrangement for Mr. Kreuger.

"All of his children and grandchildren were there. It was wonderful. It was a great night," Ms. Epstein said.