

The Doctor Musicians Band

1948 - 1952

as told to Dr. John Birrell, by **Doctor John Mahon**, an original member

This band was obviously the precursor or the Musical Medics Doctors Band, and was active circa 1948? - 1952. Dr. Tom Melling* (drums) was the originator.

"He had a set of drums, musical scores and a grand rumpus room. He arranged for a "musical evening" about 1948, and invited doctors John Mahon* (trombone), John Porter* (trombone), Forsythe (cornet), Frank Lundy* (banjo) and a bank inspector (violin) whose name is not recalled. (We all had bank loans!).

We played old time pieces such as Skater's Waltz, Memories of Stephen Foster, a collection of hymns (In the Sweet Bye and Bye), The World is Waiting For The Sunrise, Asleep In The Deep, etc.

We would meet occasionally, in our homes, once or twice in our house on Sifton Boulevard. This kept my wife Florence, and three small children, awake until 1:30 a.m., plus, and the neighbours as well. One neighbour, quite deaf (otosclerosis), wondered if we had left the radio on all night.

Our claim to fame! We were invited to perform (which we did) before the Calgary and district Medical Society. The performance produced tremendous applause and requests for encores.

In those days the Calgary and District Medical Society was very popular. Almost all the doctors belonged. The meetings had an entertainment section; hilarious skits by Dr. Tom Nixon and company; Dr. Sid Gelfand, a stand-up comedian with endless stories.

Dr. Noel Smith*, from Ireland, while a medical student, supported himself playing saxophone in professional dance bands. He was quite character and had endless Irish stories and became leader in our band. Under his leadership, between 1950 and 1952, a band resulted that was able to produce dance music for the annual balls of the Calgary District Medical Society. This was accomplished by the addition of a significant number of competent musicians."

John Mahon played trombone in the Taber Miners Band, 1937 - 1938.

* played in the subsequent band, The Musical Medics Doctors Band.