

February 20th, 1930

H. S. Jenkins, City Electrician,  
c/o Fire Department Headquarters,  
Bellingham, Washington

Dear Sir:

Replying to yours of February 18th, 1930, you are informed that we have no Department Band. We do, however, maintain an eleven-piece Orchestra, who are authorized to play what are called "non-competitive" jobs - this in order to protect the Musicians' Union.

Under the present system men are granted time off sufficient to compensate them for such time as is consumed in playing dates. Expenses of the organization for such items as music, repairs to instruments, etc. are paid from the Sports Association. Instruments are largely owned by members - this for the reason that there are no funds available in our Budget for such purposes and what few that are not owned by the members are the property of the Sports Association. When the Orchestra plays outside city limits, as for instance the Veterans' Hospital, Camp Lewis, etc., expenses are paid from Sports Association funds.

For further information relative to bands, it is suggested that you communicate with Chief Forbes, Seattle Police Department, as his organization has maintained a band of twenty-four or twenty-eight pieces.

Trusting that this is the desired information, I am

Yours truly,

Geo. M. Mantor,  
Chief of Fire Department

GMM/s