

# STONEYDALE PRESS PUBLISHING COMPANY

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## Press Release

### *New Book Capturing Rich History of Missoula City Band Published*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 8, 2018

The release of a new book featuring the history of the Missoula City Band – titled “*Missoula City Band: Stories In Time*” – written by current Band Director Gary Gillett was announced this week by its publisher, Stoneydale Press of Stevensville.

“For over a hundred and fifty years, we’ve been playing fine band music for the public in our open air concerts and now we share our history in this great new book,” Gillett said upon the release of his book. “Since Missoula’s virtual beginning – when Montana was still a territory and not yet a state – the Missoula City Band played. Through two world wars, the Great Depression, the surge of pioneers moving west and into contemporary times, our horns have bown, reeds vibrated, drummers drummed and cymbals crashed. Over the years, our community has enjoyed many great performances!”

The book, issued in 6x9-inch softcover format, will be formally released at the band’s second concert of the year, Wednesday, June 20, Gillett said. The concert, to be held at the bandshell in Bonner Park, will begin at 8:00 p.m. Bonner Park is located at the corner of Ronald and Hastings streets in the University area. The book retails for \$14.99.

Several other “signing events” have been scheduled to mark the book’s release in addition to the June 20 performance. The next day, June 21, author Gillett and other band members involved in the book’s production, will make a presentation at Fact and Fiction bookstore at 220 Higgins Avenue at 7 p.m. Gillett is also scheduled to talk about the book at a luncheon meeting of the Southside Lions Club at noon on June 18<sup>th</sup> at the Perkins Restaurant on North Reserve Street and Thursday, July 21, at 7:30 a.m. before the Sentinel Kiwanis club at the City Life Community Center on Fairview.

“*The Missoula City Band: Stories in Time*” reaches back to the band’s establishment in 1865 and brings its history up to the end of the Twentieth Century. Details culled from local historical records, including old newspaper articles, city archives, and oral interviews formed the basis for the band’s story. The book presents countless entertaining and illuminating stories of the band throughout its history.

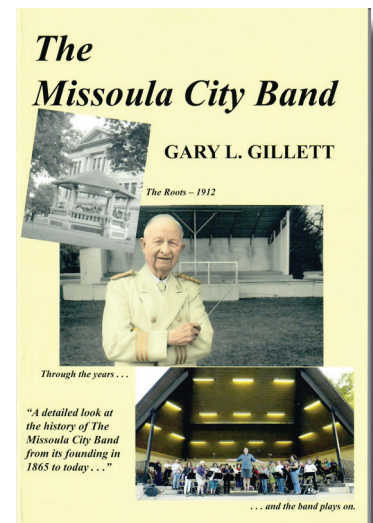
“You’ll learn about the band’s maestros, its musicians, its triumphant as well as trying moments but throughout you will see that the spirit of Missoula has been embodied by its band,” Gillett said.

The book’s 12 chapters cover such subjects as its basic history, the efforts to acquire a place for it to play, such illustrious members as Professor A.L. Steele, who played two cornets at the same time, tubist Joe Deschamps, the significance of two major Missoula music families, the Dickinsons and the Stolls, the sad tale of Maestro H.L. Allen, a look at the biggest event ever held in Missoula at which the band played, the April 11, 1911, appearance in the Garden City of ex-president Theodore Roosevelt, a chapter on women in the band, and a special chapter on its longtime director extraordinaire, the late Alex Stephanzoff, as well as an “afterword” by author Gillett. A Foreword to the book was written by Missoula Mayor John Engen.

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#### **Note to Editors:**

Electronic support available on this press release, plus a digital image of the book cover and the author. Please call or Email per the addresses listed above.



**Book Cover**