

1855



2005

A day in Flint History



1930: John Philip Sousa conducts at a national high school band concert

One of the big local events of 1930 was a national high school band concert. An estimated 25,000 spectators watched 42 bands parade down Saginaw Street and then into the new Atwood Stadium where John Philip Sousa conducted some of his marches, including "The Stars and Stripes Forever." Said The Flint Journal, "The affair was all so unexpectedly gigantic, colorful and exciting that the on-lookers literally held their breath.

No parade in the history of Flint's oldest citizens ever drew such a crowd. If there is one picture or one strain of music which will survive in the memories of the thousands—it will be that of Sousa conducting the multitude of young musicians in America's favorite march tune."

THE FLINT JOURNAL

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Source: Centennial Picture History of Flint