

# Gala Ball Launches Musikfest



(Globe-Times Photo by Eric Hegedus)

Silver and Brass Trombone Quartet Entertains Outside Hotel Bethlehem.

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Accent on Living Editor

So many people flocked to "A Night in Old Vienna" at the Hotel Bethlehem Friday evening that the receiving line lasted an hour instead of the 30 minutes for which it had been scheduled.

Jack Trotter Jr., whose wife Bobbie was ball chairman, estimated there were 400 people to celebrate the arrival, after months of planning, of Bethlehem's nine-day Musikfest.

At 9:30 p.m., those still in line were waved into the ballroom so the pageantry that distinguished this ball could begin.

After the kilted MacKay Scottish Pipe and Drum Band had marched in and performed with their bagpipes, the dignitaries from the receiving line were escorted by marines to the front of the ballroom to strains of waltzes played softly by the Lehigh Valley Chamber Orchestra — the Trotters, Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Parks, the Rev. and Mrs. Douglas Caldwell, Mayor and Mrs. Paul Marcincin, state Rep. and Mrs. Paul McHale, U.S. Rep. and Mrs. Don Ritter, and the people in whose honor the pageantry was planned: Consul and Mrs. Helmut Feil of Austria and Honorary Consul F. Otto Haas of the Federal Republic of Germany — diplomats

who handle visa and passport problems for their citizens who are traveling abroad, as well as helping businesses with commercial arrangements.

At the sponsors reception earlier, Haas explained he's called "honorary consul" because he's an American. That explains an earlier impression received by Mrs. Trotter, who after a phone conversation reported, "He speaks English better than I do."

Retired now from his work with the Rohm-Haas Chemical Co., he's been consul in his native Philadelphia for 10 years. This was not his first visit to Bethlehem. Vice chairman of the Pennsylvania Council for the Arts, he said he was here about eight months ago for one of the council's quarterly meetings that was held in HBI's Industrial Area, and he called Bethlehem "one of the most beautiful cities in the state."

Feil, a real Austrian, came with his wife from New York, where they've been stationed for three years — his third assignment in North America. He started out, he said, in Washington in 1960, but has also worked in Oslo, Algiers and Ottawa, always in the consular service.

While the formal opening cere-

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(Globe-Times Photos by Eric Hegedus)

CONSUL of the Republic of Austria, Helmut Feil, left, looks on as U.S. Rep. Don

Ritter and wife Edie greet Harold and Grace Milosits of Fountain Hill.



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monies were continuing with the playing of the Austrian National Anthem in the ballroom, downstairs in the Continental Room, decorated as a Bierstube, the crowd was already dancing to Steve Huber and his Happy Austrians. And in the Candlelight Room a beautiful formal table of Viennese pastries, its tiered pastry tray topped with an arrangement of tiny tea roses, awaited guests.

For Jeff Parks, president of the Bethlehem Musikfest Association, it must have been an exciting evening. People were reporting to him that they'd heard about Musikfest on Philadelphia's all-news KYW Radio while driving home from work and he said the Musikfest office had had at least a dozen calls from Manhattan Friday. Next week, he says, reporters will arrive from the Pittsburgh Post Gazette and the Wall Street Journal.

Outside the hotel early in the evening members of the Silver and Brass Trombone Quartet played near the bust of Count Zinzendorf just south of the hotel, while on the benches across the street, on the steps of buildings, on the porch of the Moravian Cook Shop, people sat listening to the mellow notes in the soft night air. One couple opened up folding chairs and settled themselves right across from the hotel entrance. When the quartet finished a piece, from up and down

and across the street, would come the sound of clapping. Some formally dressed couples, obviously headed for the ball, paused before entering the hotel, seduced away from the party by the informal music outside.

Others took time out for a spin around town in Donald Hofner's buggy, drawn by two horses, which made their way up Main Street undismayed by passing cars.

Among the women guests there were about as many short gowns as floor length. Mrs. Feil wore an Austrian type dirndl skirt, Edie Ritter a black caftan with silver bands outlining its borders, Betty Marcincin an aquamarine chiffon. Mrs. Trotter wore her promised pink Thai silk, Barbara Caldwell a deep green silk, and Kathy McHale a long cotton print with a red background and a ruffle on the bottom.

Phyllis Bradley had on a dress that looked like a Liberty print, that she said she had made from an Indian sari in India "about 12 years ago." Joan Ward, executive director of HBI wore an old-fashioned looking long white cotton dress with a high neck and blue sash and Honey Boyer chose a short off-the-shoulder white eyelet with blue sash. Kaija Siftar was in a long brilliant red silk and Doty Howell wore a short dusty rose dress.

Carol Henn, vice president of Musikfest, dressed in black with gold sequins, had just arrived from a trip to Nevada, routed by way of Atlanta and Philadelphia. "I was in the air for 12 hours," she said. "I haven't had any sleep for two days." But, like Mrs. Trotter and Jeff Parks, and many of the other people in the crowd, she said she was excited.