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ThisWeek photo by Connie Rohr

The Pickaway Brass Ensemble includes (from left): Clifford Kerns, Jerry Voss, Carol Geron, Laura Kerns Bethel and Jeff Mathew. Not pictured is Mary Jane Dean.

The Pickaway Brass Ensemble is county's newest musical group

By **CONNIE ROHR**
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Contributor

The Pickaway Brass Ensemble, one of the county's newest musical groups, was founded in the spring of 1991.

"The Circleville Bible College wanted a brass ensemble to perform at their commencement, so I was contacted," Clifford Kerns said. Kerns, a veteran music teacher and conductor, is director of the Pumpkin Show Band.

As a result, the following performers got together for the commencement: Mary Jane Dean, synthesizer; Jerry Voss, trombone; Carol Geron, french horn; Eric Wilson and Joe Hosch, trumpets; and Kerns on euphonium.

"After our performance at the

Bible College, Mary Jane (Dean) thought we should stay together - so we did," Kerns said.

Dean, credited as the official "founder" of the ensemble, is owner/director of Studio One, a local business specializing in musical instruction.

The ensemble has performed several times during the past year at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church in Circleville, and most recently at the Bible College's "Picnic with the Pops" program. Two of the original players, Hosch and Wilson, have left the group, but were replaced by trumpeters Laura Kerns Bethel and Jeff Mathew.

Kerns and Dean are not the only members of this ensemble with an extensive musical background.

Geron has been an avid horn

player for most of her life, studied for many years at the Capital University Conservatory of Music, and is currently a member of the university's horn choir.

Bethel was a member of the Logan Elm Marching Concert and Pep bands, the Ohio State University Marching Band, and the Ohio University Symphonic and Pep Band. Mathew, a graduate of Zane Trace High School, has played trumpet with the Adelphi Community Band for 26 years.

Voss has played trombone for seven years, with the Fulton High School Band and the University of Illinois 2nd Regimental Band.

The Pickaway Brass Ensemble is available to play at events. For information contact Mary Jane Dean at 477-2100 or Clifford Kerns at 474-3711. ♦