

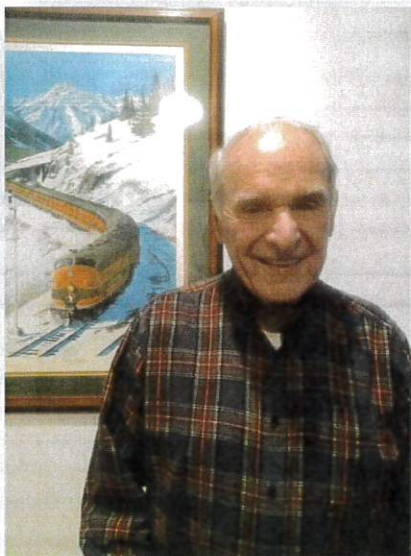
## **Ron Sherry**

**Former band director of the Liberty High School Grenadier Band**

**By Hanna LeMaster**

RON SHERRY, a long-term resident of Bethlehem, moved to MV last April at age 90, after enjoying many years of retirement. He was born and raised in Bethlehem and graduated from Liberty High School in 1950. After completing his education, he returned to Liberty to teach instrumental music and conduct the High School Band. He plays the clarinet and the bassoon and for many years was a member of the Allentown Band. He also played with bands in Scranton and Easton, to mention just a few.

Ron has many other hobbies, some of which he likes to share with his son, a geologist who lives in Denver. Both father and son love the outdoors and have often hiked together. Aside from hiking, Ron is an avid birder and loves anything associated with "trains". In the summer he would often act as a tour director on one of the "America By Rail" tours by Amtrak.



Returning to his illustrious career, Ron has directed the **Liberty High School Grenadier Band** for over 30 years. What you may not know is that he performed for Queen Elizabeth II of England. It was during the Bicentennial Celebration in 1976 when the Monarch visited Philadelphia for the occasion and the organizers were looking for a "British Band."

As it so happened, the Liberty High School Grenadier Band was noted for the British motifs, including playing British marching music, wearing bearskin caps and adorning their uniforms with British buttons. It turned out that there weren't any British military bands available to play at the celebration, "a lucky break for the Grenadier Band."

Despite the performance being on July 4, after graduation, Ron was able to get most of the band's more than 60 former seniors to return. The band members were all very excited to play "ONE MORE TIME", which became their motto. So it was easy to get the students and the graduates to come back to Liberty High School.

After reissuing uniforms and conducting rehearsals, the roughly 220-member band played a 90-minute concert before Queen Elizabeth II across from Independence Hall, performing songs such as "God Save the Queen."

It was a huge honor not only for the band members, but also the highlight of Ron's long and successful career.

