

American Band Instrument Co.

Grand Rapids & Chicago

- 1913 The American Band Instrument Co. is established in Grand Rapids, MI (state factory inspection, 1914).
- 1914 ABIC has 9 employees in their factory (state inspection).
- 1916 Ad introduces the "New Professional Model Cornet" (*Music Trade Review*). Harry W. Belknap, manager, #207-1/2 Monroe Ave. (directory)



FINEST CORNET YOU EVER TRIED!

New Professional MODEL Bb CORNET

EXQUISITE TONE — PERFECT TUNE — EASY PLAYING — MARVELOUS VALVE ACTION

Don't Miss This— WE are so enthusiastic over the wonderful achievement in the construction of this 1916 marvel in Cornet making that we want to spread the news quick, and with this in view we will send you a splendid proposition showing how you can easily own one. *Write to-day.*

Cut this out
American Band Inst. Co.
Grand Rapids, Mich.
Gentlemen:—Send me Special Proposition on your Professional Cornet. No expense or obligation assumed by me.

American Band Instrument Co.
 Grand Rapids, Mich. Name
 Town and State

- 1918 ABIC is on union list for band instruments, Grand Rapids.
- 1919 ABIC, #207-1/2 Monroe, Walter W. Wilkins, mgr. (dir)
- 1922 Same location and manager (directory).
- 1923 Amer. Band Inst. Co., #710 W. Jackson, Chicago (dir).

Most brass instruments found are from Chicago.

Bottom euphonium has a Pan American serial number from about 1922 and is the "American Educator" model.

I am not certain if the two locations are the same company without finding more city directories. The top cornet is labeled "Chicago" yet does not match the 1916 ad above.

[photos are from Horn-u-copia.net website except photo 4 from horncollector.com, Eric Totman]

Here is a rare example of a cornet made in Grand Rapids and matching the above ad; serial #2871 (auction photos).

