

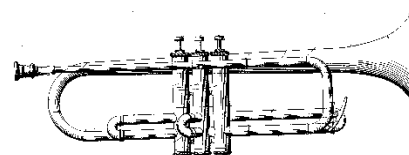
Hickernell Solo Trumpet

Warren, Ohio

- 1877 Ross Hickernell is born on October 9th in PA (census)
- 1900 Ross is a merchant in Middletown, PA and marries Carrie (census)
- 1902 Ross enters Northwestern Univ. studying music
- 1905 Ross is recruited as solo cornetist by the Innes Band
- 1906 Ross returns to school then is hired by the Mozart Symphony Club of NYC
- 1908 Ross spends two summers playing for Kryl's Band; he is said to have a five octave range
- 1910 Ross is now in Warren, Ohio working as director of music at the Michigan Military Academy and professor of music at the Dana Musical Institute (census)
- 1915 Ross went to Eugene, Oregon in August to start a band school but local politics made him leave after a week (*Ledger Lines*, 2001, p.6)
- 1919 Ross was hired by the Univ. of Oregon to replace Mr. Perfect but only lasted there one year (Wikipedia)
- 1922 the *Musical Messenger* mentions the new Solo trumpet in February, p.30
- 1922 Ross files for a patent on May 24th for his Solo trumpet design which is shaped like a trumpet but with some conical tubing. (patent drawing photo 2) In it he says, "I have conducted a large number of experiments extending over a long period of time." His lead pipe had a smaller bore at the beginning followed by an exact length of expansion to the tuning slide. The slide curve is conical as well as the bell just where it starts to turn after leaving the valves. The valve slides were all cylindrical.
- 1922 "The sale of the Hickernell Solo Trumpet has increased wonderfully. During his vacation, which he spent in this city, Mr. Hickernell demonstrated his instrument." (*The Evening News*, Harrisburg, August 19th) [In light of the next announcement, you have to wonder who was making them.]
- 1922 "The Nuss Manufacturing Co. (Harrisburg, PA) will manufacture the new trumpet invented by Ohio teacher of music Ross Hickernell. The local company was selected after the workmanship of numerous other concerns had



Ross Hickernell, F. C. M., A. C. M.
Professor of Band Instruments



been inspected.” (*Musical Merchandise*, Sept. 16th)
[Perhaps this quote was from earlier in the year.]

1922 “The Hickernell Solo trumpet has been developed with the fundamental idea of producing a trumpet with a quality of tone which would compare with other classic solo instruments and the human voice.” (*The Musical Messenger*, Nov. 1922)

1924 Ross received patent #1,509,104 for the Solo trumpet on September 23rd

1933 Ross Hickernell, of the Dana School, is mentioned as the designer of the Solo trumpet (*The Sun*, N. Canton, Ohio)

1935 “We invite you to hear and play a new trumpet (at the Winter Music Store, Altoona, PA) designed by professor Ross Hickernell, head of the band department of the Dana Musical Institute, Warren, Ohio.” (*Altoona Tribute*, Aug. 6th)

1944 Ross dies on September 28th

Instruments: photos from Horn-u-copia.net unless noted

Trumpet with single digit serial number (photo 3, page 1)

Trumpet #3288 (photo 5, page 1 & photos 1 & 2 this page from auction sale) is marked “The Hickernell Solo Trumpet Warren Ohio”; no patent # so perhaps before 1924

Trumpet #3310 (photo 3), bell inscription same as #3317

Trumpet #3317 marked “The Hickernell Solo Trumpet Warren Ohio Made By York Band Inst. Co.”

Trumpets made by York are said to have serial numbers in the 3300 to 3800 range.

Trombone marked “Hickernell Solo Trombone Warren Ohio” is described at *The Trombone Forum* on the internet on May 31, 2017; 0.509” bore and 7.5” bell; it’s described as having a “mellow & dark tone”

