



**AIRMAN MICHAEL GIBSON**, son of the Rev. and Mrs. Paul Gibson of Markesan, is serving with the Air Force as a member of the NORAD Band. The 23-year-old airman plays the trombone.

# Markesan Man in NORAD Band

**COLORADO SPRINGS** — Airman Michael Gibson, son of the Rev. and Mrs. Paul Gibson, 180 W. Charles, Markesan, is helping bring military band music to thousands across the North American continent as a member of the NORAD Band.

Military music was first developed importantly in the late 15th century, and was largely used by mercenary armies. Some European rulers become notorious for the noise created by trumpets and kettledrums, used to give new spirit to flagging troops and to terrify the enemy.

Airman Gibson, who plays trombone with the NORAD Band, entered the Air Force in June 1971, after graduating with a music major from Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill. He is also a graduate of Brodhead High School at Brodhead, Wis.

## To Be Conductor

The 23-year-old musician hopes to continue his career

as a conductor of a symphony orchestra when he is discharged from the Air Force. He comes by this interest naturally, as his father plays violin with the Oshkosh Symphony Orchestra.

Airman Gibson visited his family in Markesan during the holidays.

Today's military music makers, such as the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) Band, are lauded by thousands of music lovers throughout this continent. But, they haven't even been minutely as successful as their historical counterparts in terrorizing anyone.

Trumpets and kettledrums are still used by the NORAD Band, in addition to some 30 other instruments to create their much-in-demand music. Some 200 requests for this band are approved annually for appearances throughout Canada, Alaska and the "lower 48."

The NORAD Band is com-

posed of some 85 servicemen from the U.S. Army, Navy and Air Force, plus the Canadian armed forces. Purpose of maintaining this musical group is to promote goodwill between the civilian and military communities, provide ceremonial music for official functions and to support morale-building activities.

## Represent 100,000

The world's only two-nation military band is the musical ambassador of more than 100,000 United States and Canadian servicemen and women of NORAD who are guarding this continent against an enemy air attack.

John Philip Sousa, whose bands probably represented the acme of the highly efficient brass band evolution, and whose marches became world famous, demonstrated that people at large enjoyed band music. And, according to the NORAD Band audiences, they still do.

Although many of the big civilian bands of the '30s and '40s have long been dissolved, large crowds of music lovers still turn out whenever the NORAD Band is appearing. It is estimated that some 600,000 will see them in action this year — at concerts, parades and other functions.

## Varied Program

The band plays a varied program, ranging from light classics and marches to "pops" numbers and jazz.

Some of the musical arrangements are written by the NORAD Band members, many who have been taught by the masters. Past and present members of the band have performed with such greats as Les and Larry Elgart, Stan Kenton, Dick Clark, Woody Herman, Glen Miller and Henry Mancini.

The NORAD Band is directed by Air Force Maj. Franklin J. Lockwood, a veteran of over 20 years of military band experience.

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