

Thank you President McRobbie.

“Excuse me, where can I find Marching Hundred Hall? I don’t see it on the map.” That’s what I asked the front desk staffers at Read Hall as a 17 year old from Honolulu, HI on my first day on campus. They directed me to the IU Auditorium where I found 5 others also looking for Band Camp. We asked a few people along the way but no one really knew where Marching Hundred Hall was, including a campus police officer. After a long walk, we eventually found it at 10<sup>th</sup> & the Bypass, and we were very, **very** late to our first practice. Sorry Mr. Pratt and Mr. Kastens.

The Marching Hundred has rehearsed in numerous locations over the years, so it’s no surprise that no one knew where to send us.

We’ve practiced at the *Tenth Street Stadium* and the basement of the IU Auditorium. While this was convenient to classes and had THE coldest water fountain on campus, the Coke machine

was a bit temperamental and the basement rehearsal space was confined yet cozy.

We've practiced under the west stands of Memorial Stadium, better known as the Bat Cave due to the somewhat secretive location and the bats, both dead and alive, who also called it home. In this wall-less classroom, we sat on sloped, gravel that turned into a stream bed on rainy days and created a fine, white dust that cloaked our shoes and wooden chairs on sunny days.

We've practiced at the former University School at 10<sup>th</sup> & the Bypass. We still remember who was in our carpool, the sound of the Hundred echoing off the nearby hills, parking on the grass, and parking tickets if we didn't.

We've practiced at a former church at 17<sup>th</sup> & Fee Lane. Because it could not hold everyone at the same time, rehearsal was always outdoors. If it rained, class had to be cancelled. *Who can forget* the flooded basement that ruined uniforms, the hungry

rats that left no food safe, and the dead bird that may or may not still be there?

But now and in the future, the Marching Hundred will practice here.

We are *grateful* to **all** of the donors whose total gifts of \$10M covered **100%** of the construction costs of this forever home. We, the Marching Hundred alumni, cannot wait to hear the memories that will be made here.

So, if you're ever asked, especially on a Sunday afternoon in August, "Excuse me, where can I find Marching Hundred Hall?"

Be sure to say, "It's at the corner of 17<sup>th</sup> & Woodlawn. Look for the sign that says Ray E. Cramer Marching Hundred Hall. You can't miss it."

Thank you.