

Rose Band Instrument Co.

Fort Wayne, Indiana

- 1877 Louis Edward Rose is born in Bourbon, Indiana.
- 1894 Louis is a musician who started working for a large band instrument factory, learning all parts of the trade (1914 article).
- 1900 Louis is working as a baker in Kosciusko (census).
- 1910 Louis opens his band instrument factory in Fort Wayne on the third floor of #1008 Calhoun St on February 1st with one assistant and his wife. Their first trombone was done by March 1. His wife Mamie made some parts on a foot-powered lathe (1914 Ft. Wayne Gazette article). He also does instrument repairs (census). He makes cornets & trombones of his own design (*MTR*, Feb 26, 1910).
- 1912 Moves to a larger factory at #930 Clinton St. at the corner of Washington St in Fort Wayne (article & city directories). Map from 1919 at right shows the plating business in the basement level (#930 Clinton = #135 E. Washington).
- 1914 He now has five factory workers and makes about 15 to 20 instruments per month including the valves; selling mostly to professionals. Louis Rose makes the trombone slides due to the exact requirements needed (news article).
- 1915 Rose Band Inst. Co., supplies & repairs (school contract).
- 1917 Listed at #135 Washington Blvd. East (city directory).
- 1918 Manuf. of band instruments, #936 Clinton St (draft).
- 1919 #135 Washington Blvd. East (city directory).
- 1920 The business listing changes to manufacturing and located at #239 Pearl St., Rose Plating Works. He is still listed as a band instrument maker in the census in January.
- 1921 Rose Band Instrument Co; "Rose" model brass & nickel plating done (*Ft Wayne Journal*, Sept).
- 1921-1922 Ads found for Rose Plating Works, #239 Pearl St.
- 1930 Rose Plating Co. is on an industrial list for Fort Wayne. Census lists Lewis as president of plating company.
- 1940 Census lists Lewis as manager of plating company.
- 1956 Lewis dies this year and is buried in Fort Wayne.

Baritone #18626 and cornet #2704 at right. (from Horn-u-copia.net).

