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ΦΒΜ

PHI BETA MU REPORT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BANDMASTERS' FRATERNITY • VOL. 3 • ISSUE 1 • MAY 1995

JACK H. MAHAN—HONORARY LIFE MEMBER AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF PHI BETA MU 1912 - 1995

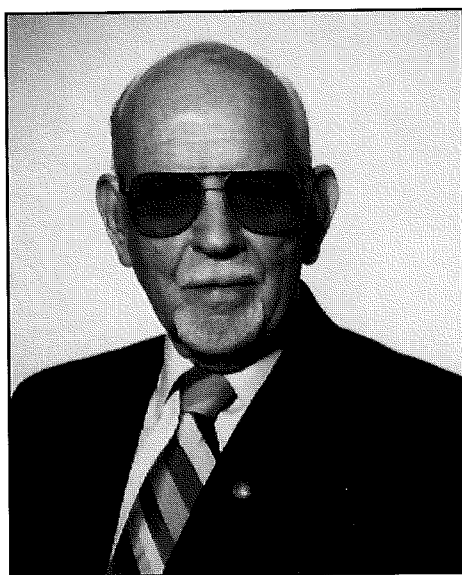
Our fraternity has lost a giant. Second only to our founder, Col. Earl D. Irons, Jack H. Mahan exemplified in each day of his life what a Phi Beta Mu brother should be.

I wish to quote from an article written by Marc Bernabo, Mid-Cities Bureau, which appeared in the *Dallas News*.

Jack Mahan wasn't sure he wanted to go to college that summer day in 1930. He had secured a scholarship to North Texas Agricultural College (now the University of Texas at Arlington) as a bass player, but he hadn't planned on going to college and he didn't know what to major in. He tossed the college catalogue on his bed and sat down to read it. The book landed upside down, open in the middle. When Mahan turned it over and began to read about the music department and a career as a bandmaster, he knew what to do. "It all came to me at once," he recalled more than 40 years later, "that's what I had wanted to do all my life."

Brother Mahan saw his first band as a youngster of 6 or 7 during World War I when an Army band played at Camp Bowie in Fort Worth. "At that age I became totally enthused over the situation but like anything at that age it passed." Ironically in 1954, on his way to an American Bandmasters Association convention in West Point, New York. Brother Mahan met a past president of the ABA, Col. H. C. Bronson, on the train from New York to West Point. As they visited, Mahan recalled his first band concert with the Camp Bowie Army Band. Col. Bronson's face lit up recalling that he was an Army bandmaster during World War I and it was he who conducted the first band concert Brother Mahan experienced.

Brother Mahan did play in his high school band and became band captain. He



Jack H. Mahan

then went to play at North Texas Agricultural College, where he stayed on two extra years after finishing the 2-year course to work as assistant bandmaster under Col. Earl D. Irons, the founder of Phi Beta Mu.

From Arlington, he went to Farmersville where he directed a municipal band. "We only had 13 persons when we started," Mahan recalls. "We practiced over the fire station. We all stood around a pool table. I laid the music at one end and directed there." But money ran out and two months after his \$80 a month salary quit, he gave up and moved to Dallas where he taught in an elementary school. In 1936, Brother Mahan went to Union Grove, in the East Texas oil fields, where he was to find national prominence. Year after year until 1941, the Union Grove High School Band won national awards after national awards and Brother Mahan became a prominent name in bandmaster circles. From Union Grove, he went to Borger, Texarkana, World War II, Carl Fisher Music Publishers and then back

"home" to the University of Texas at Arlington as Director of Bands in 1957.

I would like now to quote an obituary written by Joe Simmacher, Staff Writer of the *Dallas Morning News*..

Jack Mahan led bands from the elementary level to the military during his more than 40 years as Texas band director. "He was the finest of the traditional John Philip Sousa band era" said Lloyd Taliaferro, a retired professor of music composition from the University of Texas at Arlington.

Mr. Mahan was born in Fort Worth and attended Central High School where he played the sousaphone in the band. He attended North Texas Agricultural College, which later became Arlington State College and finally the University of Texas at Arlington. The agricultural college was a two-year school, but Mr. Mahan stayed two extra years to work as assistant to Col. Earl D. Irons, a legendary band director at the school. "On Col. Irons' recommendation, Mr. Mahan was hired to teach instrumental music in the Dallas elementary schools in the early 1930's" said Mr. Mahan's wife, Florence Mahan of Arlington. He was also staff musician for the WFAA radio band at about the same time.

In 1940, Mr. Mahan earned a bachelor of science degree in music from Texas Wesleyan College in Fort Worth. He did graduate work at the Chicago Conservatory before earning a master of education degree from Southern Methodist University in 1949.

The Mahans married in 1936 and the director began teaching and directing municipal, elementary and junior high school band in East Texas oil towns.

During World War II, Mr. Mahan was chief clerk of ground training for the Air Transport Command at Dallas' Love Field. He directed the band for the 5th Ferrying Group before serving in the Philippines and Japan, where he also entertained U.S. troops after the war.

Back in civilian life, Mr. Mahan became band director at Texarkana High School. Band programs were in disrepair at the time because of a lack of directors during the war, said William F. Postlethwaite, who trained under Mr. Mahan at Texarkana High. "When he came here, I didn't know anything," Mr. Postlethwaite said. "In one year, he developed me from a beginner to an All-State player. He was that kind of teacher." Mr. Postlethwaite went on to become a percussion instructor and assistant director of bands at UTA in 1963. The year after Mr. Postlethwaite graduated from Texarkana High, the school's entire percussion section which Mr. Postlethwaite helped teach, was selected for the 1950 Texas All-State Band. "He was the kind of guy who got students to help teach other students," Mr. Postlethwaite said, "When I was a junior in high school, I was teaching the beginning percussion students."

Mr. Mahan became a music publisher's national representative in the early 1950's. He was named director of bands at Arlington State College in 1956 after Col. Irons retired. The college was converting from a two-year school to a four-year university and "Mr. Mahan built the program to a par with its Southland Conference rivals," Mr. Postlethwaite said.

Mr. Mahan retired from UTA in 1975, but not from music. For the next 11 years, he worked as secretary-treasurer of the American Bandmasters Association. "He had a bunch of trophies," Mrs. Mahan said. "I wish you could see our walls. He's got them starting in the '30s and going up through now." Mrs. Mahan is Mr. Mahan's only survivor.

Brother Mahan was a devout Christian Scientist and a member of the First Church of Christ Science in Boston, his wife said. He was also a Mason, a member of the Scottish Rite and a Shriner.

Memorials may be made to the American Bandmasters Foundation, 18603 Aberdeen, Homewood, Illinois 60430-3527.

I had the pleasure of spending time with Brother Mahan on many occasions during the Mid-West Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago during the 1980's. Brother Mahan knew the history of our fraternity like no one whom I have ever spoken with. That is somewhat understandable since he was a member of the fraternity almost from the beginning and a student and later a colleague of our founder, Col. Earl D. Irons. It was most interesting to me to note that due to Brother Mahan's forward thinking Phi Beta Mu became a co-educational honorary fraternity on December 15, 1972. Brother Mahan as National Executive Secretary and Brother Milburn Carey, National President inducted Mrs. Gladys Wright as the first woman member of Phi Beta Mu at the Sherman House in Chicago. At that same time, the stage was set for the beginning of our international status with the induction into membership of Mr. Tashio Akiyama of Japan.

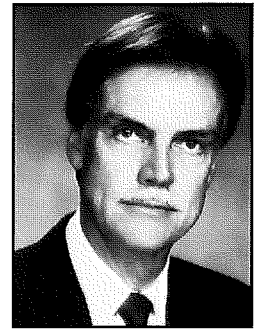
All of our lives have been enriched by the standards that Brother Jack Mahan set for us. We all are saddened by his passing but are thankful for his contribution to music and our fraternity. Brother Mahan was a person who made a positive difference for all of us.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

With spring, there comes many exciting happenings. Traditionally, we think of this time of year as being the start of beginning. The start of the growing season with singing birds and thought of April showers bringing May flowers is ingrained into all of us. It's a beautiful time of year.

In contrast to these ideas of spring being the beginning, it also is a season of harvest for our many instrumental ensembles. This is the time of year we reap the fruits of our labor and enjoy the results of the many weeks of contest and festival preparation. It appears contests and festi-

vals continue to be very important with their results serving as a barometer as to "how we are doing." I personally feel "we are doing very well." I have the opportunity to hear a goodly number of



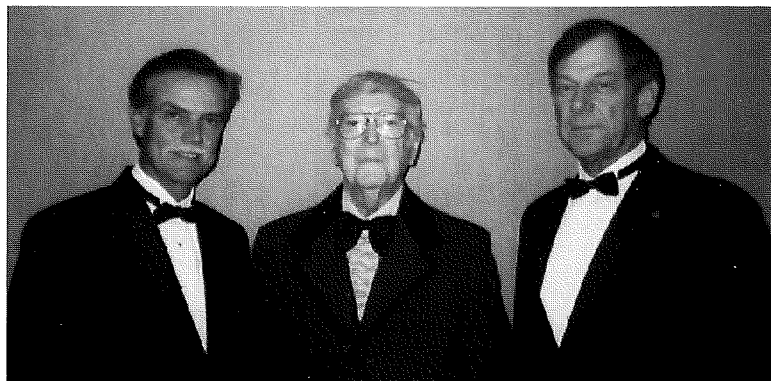
bands each year as a clinician and adjudicator and I am continually amazed at the fine quality of the groups I hear. This year especially has been very rewarding. The bands I have heard are better than ever. By the end of this contest season I will have had the pleasure of adjudicating approximately two hundred bands from Texas and several other states. Being able to hear and compare the quality of these groups gives me an insight as to the kind of excellent preparation that is being done. I believe the quality and the preparation of these groups is better than ever. Congratulations to all of you for your professionalism and commitment to making bands better! May I remind you of an award for that very special person in your band. If you have never presented the PBM Outstanding Band Student Award, this spring would be a great time to do so. If you are not familiar with this award, you may contact Richard Crain, our International Executive Secretary, for more information.

I hope all of you have had a wonderful year. I know you are looking forward to a little time off or at least a change of emphases. Have a nice summer.

Cordially,

Harris Brinson

Three Phi Beta Mu Presidents Attend ABA Convention



Mr. Harris Brinson, Current International President, San Angelo, Texas; Dr. Milburn Carey, Life International Honorary President, Arlington, Texas; Mr. Eldon Janzen, Immediate Past International President, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Photo taken in March, 1995, Lawrence, Kansas

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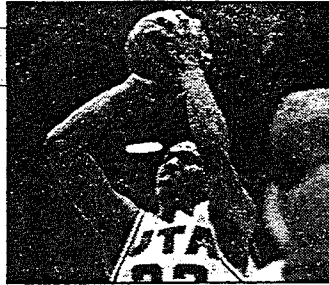
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No Road Warriors

Mavs resigned to 12th consecutive on-road loss in conference play.

SPORTS / PAGE 4



A Striking Resemblance

Amacher and Gingrich have similar approaches to leadership role.

OPINION / PAGE 8



THE SHORTHORN

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

Tuesday, January 2

Ex-music chairman dies at 83

Band director Mahan recalled as mentor

by Rebecca Kay Guzmán

THE SHORTHORN

Jack Mahan saw the university evolve from a two-year agricultural college to a four-year university, changes he witnessed as a student and as a full-time faculty member.

He served the university in many capacities through his 17-year tenure; his last position was chairman of the music department.

Mahan died Wednesday at Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas in Fort Worth from heart failure. He was 83. Services were held Friday at Greenwood Mausoleum.

A Fort Worth native, Mahan attended Central High School, now Paschal High School, where he played the sousaphone in the band.

"He grew up during the time when John Philip Sousa was the top band director in the country. That's where his like for military and marching music developed," said retired music professor Dan Burkholder of Arlington.

Mahan attended North Texas Agricultural College, which later became Arlington State College and finally UTA.

The agricultural college was a two-year school then and patterned after the Texas A&M University system, said Lloyd Taliáferro, a retired UTA music professor.

Mahan was attracted to the agricultural school because his mentor, Col. Earl D. Irons, was music chairman.

"He came to NTAC because of Col. Irons, who took Jack under his wing. They had almost like a father-son relationship," Taliáferro said. "When the colonel retired from band directing, he sort of set the wheels in motion for Jack to take the job."

Mahan graduated with a bachelor of science degree from Texas Wesleyan College in Fort Worth. Mahan did some graduate work at the Chicago Conservatory before earning a master of education degree from Southern Methodist University in 1949.

During World War II, Mahan served as chief clerk of ground training for the Air Transport Command at Dallas Love Field. He directed the band for the 5th Ferrying group before serving overseas in the Philippines and Japan.

After his military service, Mahan became band director at Texarkana High School, where he mentored several students who eventually followed him to the state college.

One of those loyal followers was William "Buddy" Postethwaite of Arlington.

"He was a mentor to me from the fall of 1946 through high school," he said. "A lot of students got involved with band directing because of him."

Postethwaite went on to become a percussion instructor and assistant bands director at UTA in 1963. He has since retired.

"He was the type of guy who got students to help teach other students. When I started Texarkana High School, I didn't know anything. In one year, he developed me from beginner to an All-State player. When I was a junior in high school, I was teaching the beginning percussion students. He was that kind of teacher."

Mahan became chairman of the department at Arlington State College in 1956.

"In his dealing with faculty and students, he certainly always tried to be fair and equitable and treated everyone, both students and faculty, alike in that manner," said Gary Ebensberger, current music department chairman.

"He was extremely interested in the band program, which was something he did all his life. He was a very strong administrator, in that he knew what he wanted and he would pursue it.

"In terms of the department, he always was very concerned about our visibility and the public view," Ebensberger said.

Mahan retired from the university in 1975 but continued to serve the American Bandmasters Association in many areas.

OBITUARIES

Ex-UTA band director Jack Harold Mahan dies

By Joe Sinnacher
Staff Writer of The Dallas Morning News

Jack Harold Mahan led bands from the elementary school level to the military during more than 40 years as a Texas band director.

"He was the finest of the traditional John Philip Sousa band era," said Lloyd Taliaferro, a retired assistant band director for the University of Texas at Arlington.

A professor emeritus and longtime director of bands at UTA, Mr. Mahan died Wednesday morning of congestive heart failure at Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas in Fort Worth. He was 83.

Cryptside services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at the Greenwood Mausoleum in Fort Worth.

Mr. Mahan was born in Fort Worth and attended Central High School, where he played the sousaphone in the band. He attended North Texas Agricultural College, which later became Arlington State College and finally UTA.

The agricultural college was a two-year school, but Mr. Mahan stayed two extra years to work as assistant to Col. Earl D. Irons, a legendary band director at the school.

On Col. Irons' recommendation, Mr. Mahan was hired to teach instrumental music in all Dallas elementary schools in the early 1930s, said Mr. Mahan's wife, Florence Mahan of Arlington. He was also a staff musician for the WFAA radio band at about the same time, his wife said.

In 1940, Mr. Mahan earned a bachelor of science degree in music from Texas Wesleyan College in Fort Worth. He did graduate work at the Chicago Conservatory before earning a master of education degree from

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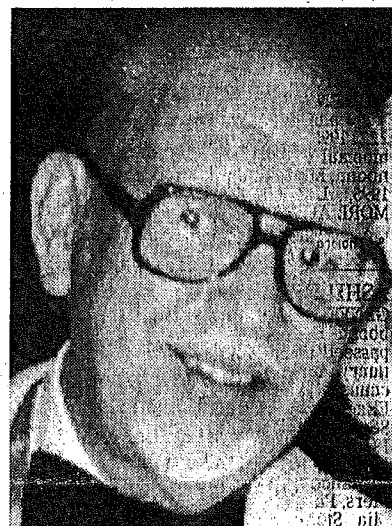
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JACK H. MAHAN

A man of integrity, a man to be respected. This is the legacy left to the world of music education by Jack Mahan.

He was born in Fort Worth, Texas, on August 10, 1911. In 1936 he married the lovely Florence Elizabeth Pender.

It was 1925 when he joined the band to study the bass horn. After graduating from Central High School in Fort Worth, Mahan entered NTAC and rose to the position of Band Commander under the guidance of Earl D. Irons. After post graduate work as a cadet major at NTAC, he began his teaching career as a municipal band director at Farmersville, Texas. While playing professionally in the Earl Brehrends Orchestra, he taught in the Dallas schools in 1934-36.

Mahan first rose to national prominence as director of the Union Grove High School band from 1936 to 1941. During this time he did special study at the Chicago Conservatory and received his B.S. degree in music from Texas Wesleyan College. After a period of teaching in Borger and Spring Hill, he enlisted in the Air Force and spent considerable time abroad, primarily in Japan, while director of the 361st AAF Band. He later commanded the 416th Army Reserve Band and retired as a Warrant Officer.

Mahan was the director of bands at Texarkana, Texas, High School from 1946 to 1952. During this time he received his M.E. in Music Education at SMU in 1950. His thesis was a historical study of the Texas Music Educators Association.

From 1952 until 1956 Mahan was the southern representative for the Carl Fischer music publishing firm. In 1956 he served as retail manager for Southern Music Company. Then in 1957, he returned to his alma mater, then Arlington State College, as Director of Bands.

In 1961 he rose to the chairmanship of the music department at what is now UT Arlington. Through his outstanding leadership this department has risen to great prominence and stands as a tribute to the man who influenced it most, Jack H. Mahan.

Mahan's service to professional organizations is widely known. He has served many capacities in the TMEA, from band organizer to its President in 1949. He was elected to membership in the American Bandmasters Association in 1952. Rising to President of ABA in 1974, he presided over the joint meeting with the Japanese Band Directors Association in Hawaii. Mahan was Chairman of the Board of ABA in 1975 and now serves as the national Executive Secretary of this organization.

Mahan is a Shriner and a Scottish Rite Mason, a Rotarian, and a member of the Mother Church, First Church of Christian Scientist in Boston. A widely published author and a clinician, he has also adjudicated throughout the United States.

Among his many honors are membership in the Japanese Band Directors Association, Admiral in the Texas Navy, honorary member of Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma, a Life Alumnus of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and a Distinguished Alumni of UT Arlington.

Mahan has been called "Mr. Phi Beta Mu". This title reflects what he has meant to this bandmasters' fraternity. One of the first candidates for membership in the Alpha Chapter in 1939, he has served as its President for several terms and as its Secretary for many years. He served as the national Executive Secretary from 1950 to 1975. In 1975 he was elected as Honorary Life Secretary of Alpha Chapter.

Elected to Hall of Fame in February, 1975.

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the band at the same time caused one irate cornetist-conductor to bow to the judges, spit in their direction and then proceed to conduct and play his cornet with the band. Another infraction was the use of professional musicians to fill vacancies in a student band.

By 1925, the duties of the bandmaster had become so involved that the organization changed its name to Texas Band Teachers Association. The agenda of each meeting included contest planning and professional ethics for the band teachers. As late as 1928, a fellow student and I witnessed a professional player performing with a high school band in the West Texas contest held in Abilene.

During 1925, there was a definite sense of professionalism felt in the meetings of the band directors. Their interests broadened to varied modes of program motivation and individual and group improvement along with standardizing salaries.

The state had been divided into sections (East, West, etc.) though there was generally one business meeting from 10 a.m. to noon with the rest of the day given over to socializing. The commercial hospitality rooms furnished drinks and poker games and there were also sight seeing tours and "Girlie Shows" available.

Thoughts were beginning to turn to the educational process. A resolution was sent to the State Board of Education to include band and band music in the daily schedule.

By 1936, there were enough band directors who also taught orchestra that the organization was changed to the Texas School Band and Orchestra Association and the Victor Method of Instruction was adopted as the official text. This same year the first Band Clinic was held and the use of an official magazine was begun.

In a state-wide study to coordinate the public school music with the college offerings, it was found that there was sufficient vocal interest to create another division in the organization. In 1938, the vocal teachers were invited to join the association and the name was changed to the Texas Music Educators Association.

*Mahan is a past president, life member,
and honorary secretary-treasurer of TMEA*

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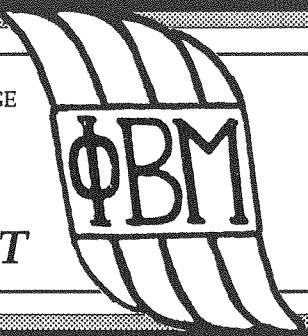
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PHI BETA MU AND ITS FOUNDER

Comments by Jack H. Mahan at the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration of Phi Bety Mu, Chicago, December 1988

I was asked to prepare something to tell about Phi Beta Mu this last February at the Texas Muxic Educators meeting. I presented this paper for the Alpha chapter, so unfortunately, several of you people here will have to hear the same thing again, with a few additions that I didn't include last time. When I was executive secretary-treasurer of this group, Phi Beta Mu, I often was asked this question: "Why Phi Beta My?" And so, when I was planning this commentary, I began to think about what Phi Beta Mu was and why it exists. The way to find out "Why Phi Beta Mu?" is to know something about its founder. So I began by providing information about Colonel Irons, the founder of Phi Beta Mu, and then ended with how or why it actually happened.

Colonel Earl D. Irons was born on March 10, 1891, in Silver Springs, Texas; and he died May 19, 1967. His father was a country man like most people were in those days who lived in small towns, and he was a fiddler. He bought his son a little half fiddle when he was five years old, and the Colonel promptly put it in a tub of water because he wanted a big one like his dad's! He didn't want anything small. He felt big; he was that sort of man.

At a very early age, Colonel became a part of the town band playing snare drum. He changed to a cornet as soon as he became old enough to do so. He had the equivalent of a high school education from a private school; so, in reality, Colonel was a self-made man who loved life and really enjoyed living. Dr. Cothburn O'Neal, who incidentally was the first person to be elected into honorary membership in Phi Beta Mu, was a student of Colonel's at one time. He later became an English professor at the University of Texas at Arlington and often said that he was planning to write a book on the life of Colonel Irons, and he was going to entitle it At Home in the World. That really explains Colonel more than anything else. He was more at home in the world than any of us have ever been, and you'll see that as I proceed.

Colonel started out his career as a town tailor and band director. He married Lena Johnson and they moved to Greenville, Texas and later to Arlington in 1925 when he became the director of the N.T.A.C. -- that's North Texas Agricultural College -- Band. That is today, of course, the University of Texas at Arlington. Incidentally, I'd like to tell you that Mrs. Irons is still alive and going strong. She's in her nineties and is still working as a volunteer at the Arlington Memorial Hospital. She has to her credit 5,000 hours of volunteer work. That's the type people that the Irons' are. Mrs. Irons still drives a car. My wife and I take her to lunch every once in a while -- not nearly as often as we should or would like to -- never-theless, she's a wonderful person and is still going strong.

Now then, back to Colonel. He had two mistresses. One of them was music and the other was golf, and at times you couldn't tell which one was really his first love. He organized the Fort Worth Ladies' Band back before that sort of thing really took place. It was quite an organization. I played in it once or twice, and it's a lot of fun being the only bass player who was a man in this ladies' band! In September, 1930, I became one of Colonel's N.T.A.C. bandsmen and actually a disciple for life. When I married Florence in 1936, we patterned our 52 years of married life as a band director and wife after Colonel and Mrs. Irons.

Colonel was an analytical thinker and a student of human nature. He loved people and was always helping others. When someone would thank him for something, he's say, "Don't thank me. Just help someone else." That was his main philosophy. His china blue eyes and ruddy complexion, coupled with his laid-back command of every situation, made him outstanding in every crowd even though he was only five feet three and a half inches tall. Most everyone looked up to the "little colonel" and loved and respected him. The ladies especially thought he was something

and there are many tales we could tell on this subject. At a convention one day, he walked up and just grabbed some lady and kissed her; then he looked at her and asked, "Do I know you?" Of course, he didn't, but this lady was his friend for the rest of her life and his. He smoked imported Havana cigars, drove a Lincoln or a Cadillac, and wore tailor-made clothes. He told his students to always go first-class, regardless of how little money they had. "Don't let anybody look down on you as though you were not a first-class gentleman." That's the way he lived his life, and he encouraged the rest of us to do the same thing in every way possible.

Colonel was an accomplished cornet soloist and a tremendous golfer. He had fifteen holes-in-one to his credit and played regularly with such golf greats as Byron Nelson, Gus Moreland, and many others. Ben Hogan started his golf career as Colonel's caddie. His influence on the present day band world is inestimable. His 27 Groups of Exercises for Cornet and Trumpet, which have also been printed for baritone and trombone, have set the pace for the development of the brass sections of bands today. If you do not know this work, you ought to get it. It is published by Southern Music Company. As you know, one cannot make a pitch of anything or any company in Phi Beta Mu, but nevertheless, that is where the book is available. I was privileged to be Colonel's student during the time that he developed his lip-slur exercises and wrote "Emerald Isle". Much of his work along that line was encouraged by Herbert Clark. They were very good friends. Every time they wound up in a situation together judging somewhere or at a convention, they spent the night talking and playing the cornet for each other, things of that nature. It was quite something.

To give you a little more insight into the Colonel and his personality, in 1933 I had my first band which was a little community band in Farmersville, Texas.

SUMMER... POTPURRI OF ACTIVITIES

Members may choose to tour the Chalet of the Golden Fleece. "an authentic copy of a Swiss Bernese Mountain Chalet and contains many rare cultural and historical antiques and treasures"; shop at the New Glarus Antique and Gift Mall; visit the "Christmas House"; enjoy the New Glarus Bakery and Tea Room, famous for its Swiss pastries and European breads.

For bikers and hikers, there is the 21-mile Sugar River Biking & Hiking Trail which starts at the restored railroad depot. For golfers, the Edelweiss Chalet Country Club offers nine holes of challenging golf. For swimmers, the municipal pool is centrally located.

On Sunday, after savoring a bountiful breakfast, members are invited to attend the church of their choice and, throughout the day, enjoy the community attractions.

Pi Chapter, which was installed by Jack H. Mahan in Madison on March 11, 1960, during an A.B.A. convention, will observe its thirtieth anniversary in 1990.

OMEGA . . . The Omega Chapter began a music performance project with the 1988 Florida Music Educators Convention whereby a clarinet quartet made up of outstanding teacher performers from several universities went to the all-state instrumental groups and performed at various times during the rehearsals. This year, that tradition was continued with a trombone quartet. It has been recommended that next year, the Omega Chapter sponsor a woodwind quintet. Brother Joe Courson announced that the Florida Bandmasters Association Archives are being housed at Florida Southern College. He is currently developing a written history of the Omega Chapter.

Brother Bentley Shallahamer gave Omega Chapter's commission report together with a pledge form. Several years ago, Omega Chapter chose to start a commissioning project in the name of the dean of Florida Bandmasters, Mr. Oliver Hoggs. The goal of \$10,000 was set to underwrite the expense of commissioning new band works. To date, \$4,376.00 has been raised for the project. The membership was encouraged to continue their pledges and to seek matching pledges from businesses and other organizations. It is felt that Omega Chapter could possibly reach their goal of \$10,000 by 1990.

The 1990 February portion of the annual Omega Chapter meeting will be held in Tallahassee, Florida. The Florida State University Symphonic Band will prepare several Fillmore marches under the direction of Omega brothers who knew and played under the baton of Henry Fillmore. These brothers know the history and style of the marches as Mr. Fillmore presented them. These authentic renditions will be taped so that younger directors can have access to these interpretations.

Phi Beta Mu Founder continued

We started out with about eight or nine students in the group, and by Christmas we had thirty. We wanted to have a Christmas concert, but you can imagine what sort of band we had. So, Colonel brought five of his first chair players from his band to Farmersville, about thirty miles away. His students played first chair in the various section; but Colonel played, of all things, third cornet as we performed numbers from the Bennett Book #1. No task was too menial for him as long as it was helpful to someone.

Since I gave my talk in San Antonio this past February, I heard of another situation that I'd like to relate to you. Jim Jacobson told me that Prof. Wiley told him that back during the Chamber of Commerce Band Contest days -- this would be back in Texas in the development program -- a band, when they went to that type contest, could have what they call several "ringers." They could have professional musicians they'd pick up who would be part of the band. On this particular occasion, the T.C.U. band and the N.T.A.C. band were in competition with each other. Just before the T.C.U. band was to go on the stage, the solo cornet player in the band had an attack of appendicitis and could not go on. So, Claude Sammis was planning not to let his band appear. But the Colonel said, "Hell, I'll play the part for you". So, he sat down in the band and played the solo cornet for T.C.U. When they finished, he got up, the N.T.A.C. band came on stage, and he conducted them! Even in contest with each other, he still had this feeling of friendship and fellowship. He was not one to try to keep anyone down in any way.

In going through the early years' minutes of the T.M.E.A., when it was the T.B.A., T.B.T.A., and T.B.&O.A., it was

obvious that Colonel Irons was a leader in the field throughout the time. For instance, he was the one who advocated setting aside time at meetings for instruction in teaching bands and roundtable discussions. At that time, we had no real teacher programs in our end of the country. He also strongly influenced standardization of band directors' salaries; talking for the good of the order; setting contest standards; establishing an examining committee for admitting qualified band directors into the group; setting a code of ethics; and other things of that nature. These are the type of things that the person did who developed Phi Beta Mu.

In order for you to really understand why Colonel decided to form Phi Beta Mu, I'd like to lay some foundation. First, I need to define what the American Bandmasters Association is. The American Bandmasters Association is an honorary organization for concert band people of distinction, and is recognized as such throughout the world, wherever the music of the concert band is heard. Since the beginning of A.B.A. in 1929 until today, there have only been 475 persons invited to membership. There were nine charter members, making a total of 484 members to date. When Colonel Irons and Prof. Wiley became members of A.B.A. in 1936, the total membership including their class of seventeen was 106. Members in their class whose names you may know were Harry L. Alford, Mark Hindlsley, Gerald Prescott, and J.J. Richards. Incidentally, when Milburn Carey became an A.B.A. member in 1939, the membership total was 116. When Colonel Irons and Prof. Wiley attended their first A.B.A. meeting, they became closely associated with such persons as Edwin Franko Goldman, A.A. Harding, Arthur Pryor, Frank Simon, Henry Fillmore, Karl King, Glenn Cliffe Bainum,

Herbert Clark, Del Staigers, A.R. McAllister, Ernest Williams, Harold Bachman, Raymond Dvorak, Fred Jewell, Bill Revelli, H.A. Vandercook, George Howard and others.

The thing that is important is that Colonel Irons conceived of Phi Beta Mu because he knew that many of his friends and colleagues would never have the opportunity of experiencing the professionalism and brotherhood of the A.B.A. which he and Prof. Wiley had enjoyed. The establishment of Phi Beta Mu was his way of sharing his new found joy with others. Phi Beta Mu was established because of Colonel's love for his fellow man. Both then and now, Phi Beta Mu is:

1. *The only national or international bandmasters' fraternity in the world.*
2. *The only bandmaster organization to be organized because of one's love and respect for his fellow man.*
3. *The only bandmaster organization that provides a forum, by oath, for a close contact between leading members of the profession.*
4. *The one organization that acts as liaison between all bandmaster organizations.*
5. *The one organization which, through the American Bandmasters Association, has as its heritage the greatest bandmasters of all time.*

So, that's the organization that you people belong to, and that's the organization that I'm proud of, and I know you are too. The thing that you are challenged to do from now on in the next fifty years or more is to help your fellow man and to invite them to membership in Phi Beta Mu when they become eligible and capable of such a thing. I thank you very much for listening.

Jack H. Mahan
Honorary Life Executive Secretary

THE TWENTY-THIRD PSALM

In Memory Of

Jack H. Mahan

Who Departed This Life

January 18, 1995

Cryptside Services

11:00 a.m., Friday

January 20, 1995

Greenwood Mausoleum

Fort Worth, Texas

Officiating

Reverend D. Warren Neal

*The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.*

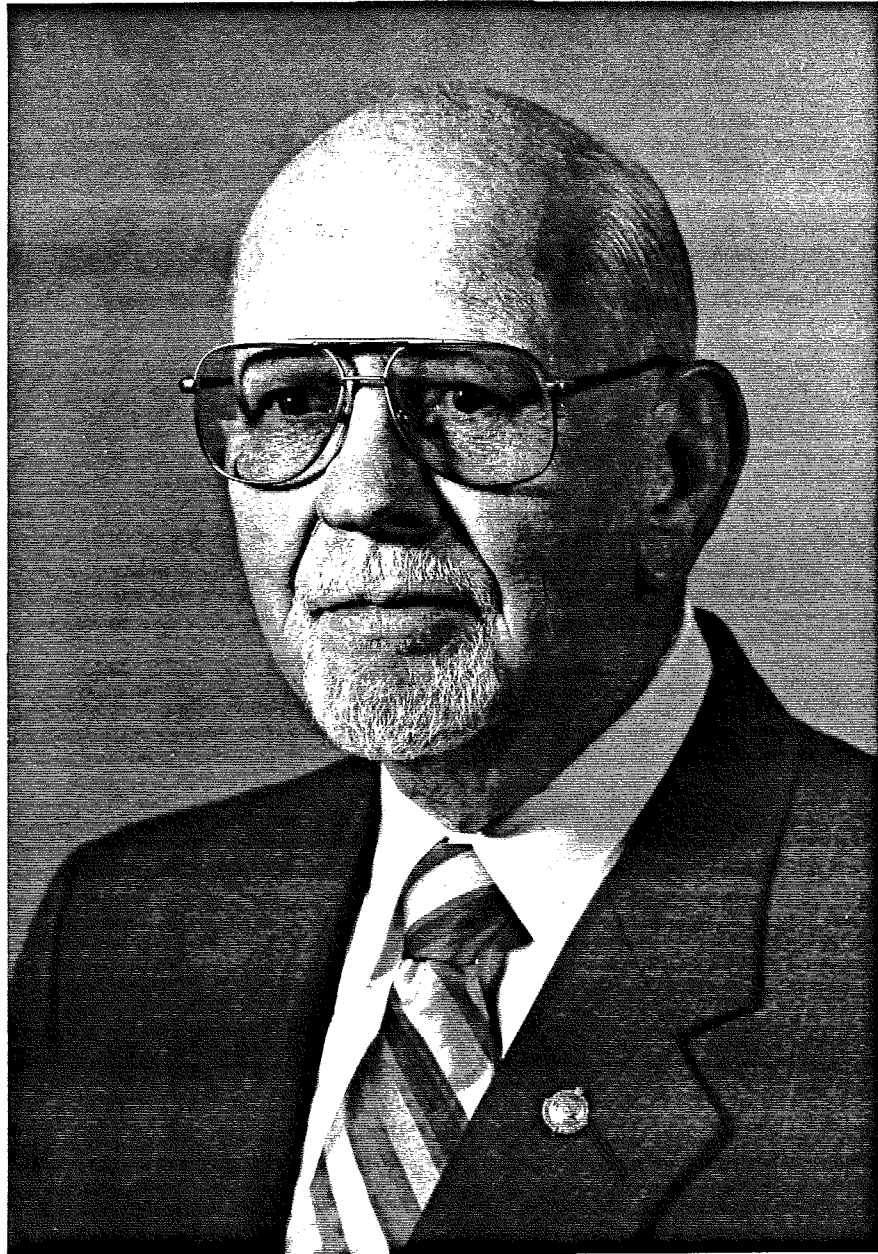
*He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.*

*He restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.*

*Yea, though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*

*Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
for ever.*



JACK H. MAHAN



—Dallas News Staff Photo.

..Jack Mahan . . . "I'd rather be a band director."

UTA Band Director

Jack Mahan Went by the Book

By MARC BERNABO
Mid-Cities Bureau

ARLINGTON, Texas—Jack Mahan wasn't sure he wanted to go to college that summer day in 1930.

He had gotten a scholarship to North Texas Agricultural College (now the University of Texas at Arlington) as a bass player, but he hadn't planned on going to college and he didn't know what to major in.

So he tossed the college catalogue on his bed and sat down to read it. The book landed upside down, open in the middle. When Mahan turned it over and began to read about the music department and a career as a bandmaster, he knew what to do.

"It all came to me at once," he recalled Sunday, more than 40 years later, "that that's what I had wanted to do all my life."

Today, Mahan is still a bandmaster, and he thoroughly enjoys it.

Director of bands and acting chairman of the music department at UTA, Mahan was recently elected president of the American Bandmasters Association.

Still, promotions have their disadvantages.

"I don't direct the band at football games any more," he said, his smile a little regretful.

"I miss it. I'd rather be a band director, but I feel I'm contributing quite a lot by doing this," pointing to stacked up paperwork.

"I get a great deal of satisfaction out of directing a band," he continued. "It's creativity. When you're directing it's

like playing an organ. You have the horns, woodwinds and drums, and they play when you tell them to.

"Although they may be very fine musicians, it's what you do that creates the combination of sounds that makes people happy."

Mahan saw his first band as a youngster of 6 or 7 during World War I when an Army band played at Camp Bowie in Fort Worth.

"At that age I became totally enthused over the situation but like anything at that age it passed," he declared. Nevertheless, he did play in his high school band and became band captain in the Reserve Officer Training Corps program. And he went on to play at North Texas Agricultural College, where he stayed an extra year after finishing the 2-year course to work as assistant bandmaster under Col. Earl D. Irons.

From Arlington he went to Farmersville where he directed a municipal band.

"We only had 13 persons when we started," he recalled. "We practiced over the fire station. We all just stood around a pool table. I laid the music at one end and directed there."

But money ran out, and two months after his \$80 monthly salary quit he gave up and moved to Dallas where he taught in an elementary school.

In 1936 Mahan went to Union Grove, in the East Texas oil fields, where he was to find national prominence.

Year after year until 1941, the Union Grove High School Band won national award after national award and Jack

Mahan became a prominent name in bandmaster circles.

From Union Grove he went to Borger, Texarkana, World War II, UTA briefly, Carl Fisher Music Publishers and then back "home" to UTA as director of bands in 1957.

In 1961 he added the title "acting chairman of the music department," which he has held ever since. Only acting chairmen were named when UTA became a 4-year school, and the administration has never gotten around to formally changing the title, Mahan explained.

In 1954, on his way to an American Bandmasters Association convention in West Point, N.Y., he met a past president of the ABA, Col. H. C. Bronson, on the train from New York north to West Point.

They talked along, the long-time member getting acquainted with the new member. Mahan recalled the first time he saw a band, and Col. Bronson's face lit up.

Recalling that he was an Army bandmaster during World War I and had been stationed in Fort Worth, he informed Mahan that "That was me up there!"

THE ARLINGTON



Citizen

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"WHERE EAST AND WEST TEXAS

ARLINGTON, TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1957

'At Home' in Arlington . . .

Former Student Returns as Rebel Band Leader

It was a homecoming for Jack H. Mahan when he returned to ASC last week to assume duties as director of the Rebel Band and band classes.

It also fulfilled a life-long ambition for Mahan as he took over the baton of his former teacher and "musical father," Colonel Earl D. Irons.

The new director, a native of Fort Worth where he attended public schools, attended ASC (then NTAC) in the early 1930's, and came to know and greatly admire Colonel Irons, who is now retired.

Mahan came to Arlington after having served as southern representative for Carl Fisher Music Publishing Company for three years, traveling over a nine-state area as liaison man between the company and colleges and universities.

"We feel that it will be nice to settle down, particularly in Arlington, and get back into teaching again," he told a Citizen reporter. "Then, too, it's nice to have your own musical organization like the Rebel band," he added.

He and Mrs. Mahan (Florence) live at 2019 Radford Drive, in Southeast Arlington. His wife is also an ex-student of ASC. Mahan finished work on his bachelor's degree at TWC in 1940 and received his master's degree at SMU in 1949. He also counts a number of semesters of work in Chicago Conservatory.

Interspersed between his formal education, however, are a host of years of teaching experience including instruction at Farmersville

and Dallas Schools, several small schools in the East Texas oil fields, and at Borger and Texarkana, Texas. He began teaching in 1933.

He also spent three and a half years in the Army, part of the time as director of the 361st Army

Band. He eventually ended up in the South Pacific in special services and later received his discharge as a warrant officer.

During his days at ASC, Mahan served as student major band commander as well as corps executive officer. After completing two

years of work here, he remained for an additional 12 months as student director under Colonel Irons.

In addition to his years of teaching experience, the new director brings with him a host of honors achieved in the field of band work and music.

He is a member of the American Band Master's Association and a past member of the board of directors of that group. He is also past president of the Texas Music Educators Association and Phi Beta Mu, national bandmaster's fraternity, and is presently executive secretary of that group. He is also a member of Kappa Kappa Psi, honorary bandmaster's organization.

Mahan authored a book, "Quick Steps to Marching" and served for a time as executive editor of Texas Music Educators magazine. He is much in demand for band clinic work and as an adjudicator.

Proficient in a number of instruments, Mahan prefers the string bass, an instrument he played for some time in a dance orchestra.

He has been pleased with his first work with the ASC band, he stated, and figures it will number 83 pieces. Some freshmen students were still being enrolled Friday.

"Yes, I'm pleased to be in Arlington, and with the college band," he said. "But most of all, I'm happy to again be associated with Colonel Irons. You might say I've patterned my musical career after him and am proud to be able to follow thus far in his footsteps," he stated.



New Rebel Band Director Jack Mahan . . . homecoming for former student



JACK H. MAHAN

Jack H. Mahan Heads New ASC Music Department

A former director of the Texas High School band has been named head of the newly created music department at Arlington State College. Dr. Jack R. Woolf, ASC president, has announced.

He is Jack H. Mahan, who from 1946 to 1952 was in the Texarkana, Texas, public schools system. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Mahan, 306 Lumpkin, Texarkana. He has been band director at Arlington State since September, 1957.

Mahan, born in Fort Worth and educated in its public schools, earned his bachelor's degree at Texas Wesleyan College and the master's degree at Southern Methodist University. For 19 years he has been an active band master. He is a nationally recognized adjudicator and marching clinician.

His memberships include the Texas Music Educators Association (past president); American Band Masters' Association (past director); Phi Beta Mu national band masters' fraternity (past president and national executive secretary); Kappa Kappa Psi music fraternity; and Phi Kappa Theta scholastic honorary.

Mahan's appointment was one of two brought about when the Fine Arts department was subdivided at ASC. The art department, a new division for this September, will be headed by Howard W. Joyner, professor of art and a member of the ASC faculty since 1937.

Jack Mahan Succeeds Col. Earl Irons As Arlington State Band Director

Jack H. Mahan has been named as bandmaster of Arlington State College, succeeding Colonel Earl D. Irons, Dr. E. H. Hereford, ASC president, announced Friday. Colonel Irons is retiring to part-time teaching duties after 32 years in the band director's post.

Mahan will assume his new duties Monday. Joining the ASC faculty will be a return home for Mahan. He attended college there his first two years, during which time he was Colonel Irons' student assistant. He graduated as a major of the ASC Cadet Corps.

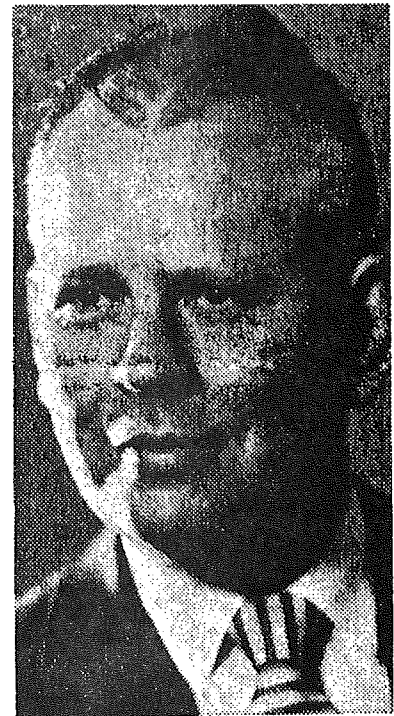
Mahan holds the bachelor's degree from Texas Wesleyan College and the master's degree from Southern Methodist University. He also attended the Chicago Conservatory of Music.

Varied Career

The new bandmaster has had a varied and successful career in music since his school days. He has taught bands for 19 years, in 17 of which his organizations have rated first division in state and national contests. He is a member of the American Bandmasters Association, having served on the board of directors and the public relations committee of that body.

Mahan is a past president of the Texas Music Educators Association and was editor and business manager of the TMEA magazine for three years. At present he is national executive secretary of Phi Beta Mu, honorary music fraternity.

The new director has been active in music festivals and contests for many years. He is a nation-



Jack H. Mahan

ally recognized contest judge and band clinician. He was director of the 361st Army Air Force band in World War II, with service in Japan and the Philippine Islands, and is now a reserve warrant officer and commander of the 416th Army Reserve band.

For a time Mahan was southern representative for Carl Fischer Music Company. Most recently he was manager of the Dallas branch of Southern Music Company.

He is the author of "Quick Steps to Marching," a widely used manual for drum majors and marching band directors.

Why Phi Beta Mu?

Al Wyand, Editor
1458 Monroe Street
York, Pennsylvania 17404

(Editor's note: At the second annual national meeting of Phi Beta Mu held in Chicago during the 1967 Mid-West Clinic, testimonials concerning the Fraternity were presented by key members of the National Organization. Your editor was greatly impressed with the words of our National Executive Secretary, Mr. Jack H. Mahan. The following article, "Why Phi Beta Mu?", was written by Brother Mahan at your editor's request following this meeting. Careful reading by all Phi Beta Mu members should bring renewed significance to our Fraternity. It is further urged that chapter presidents take time in their annual state meetings to present the article orally.)

* * * *

Phi Beta Mu was established as a result of the respect and appreciation which our founder, Colonel Earl D. Irons of Arlington, Texas, had for his professional associates. He envisioned an organization that would honor outstanding band directors whose dedication and devotion to their profession was paramount, but whose admirable traits and services may not become necessarily known. He sought to honor deserving individuals on a state level similarly to the manner in which he had been honored nationally.

In 1937 his dream was presented to a small group of colleagues in Lubbock, Texas, during a summer band camp at which our life president, Dr. D. O. Wiley, was host. In 1938 this group bound themselves



JACK H. MAHAN

The accompanying article "Why Phi Beta Mu?" was written by National Executive Secretary Jack H. Mahan. Brother Mahan is Director of Bands and Chairman of the Music Section of the Fine Arts Department at the University of Texas at Arlington. He has been affiliated with Phi Beta Mu since its inception in 1939.

together to form the brotherhood and to charter the fraternity. They made provisions for the organization to extend to each state in the nation — with one chapter permitted in each state. Your Executive Secretary was privileged to have been one of the three who were first installed in Houston, Texas, in January, 1939.

The establishment of the Fraternity paralleled the change of the Texas Band and Orchestra Association to the Texas Music Educators' Association. The change of the T.B.O.A. to T.M.E.A. became such

a political involvement that it caused Phi Beta Mu to be clearly defined as a non-political fraternity, providing its members with leadership consultation without fear of betrayal of confidence. The closeness experienced during these initial years of growth and progress in educational band music became a prime reason for Phi Beta Mu's existence — second only to the honoring of deserving colleagues. The significance of Phi Beta Mu has been defined as Life/Love/Music. These interpretative qualities have continued to predominate the aesthetic atmosphere of the fraternity.

The personal feeling of belonging becomes more pronounced when one realizes how he became a member. He is immediately enveloped by Phi Beta Mu when he is reminded: "You would not be here if you did not belong. We chose you; you did not choose us; and now we have accepted you as we have accepted ourselves."

The meaningfulness of the ceremonial hand clasp defies definition. The actual experience of holding the hand of a great conductor/composer/teacher in a wholesome, gentlemanly bond of friendship and brotherhood, with the full realization that this privilege and honor is afforded only a select few, has a warmth and assuredness that can be felt only by a member. This intangible asset is more enriching with each similar experience. The greatest reward of membership in Phi Beta Mu emanates from its prime function: to honor deserving colleagues, an exemplification of the Golden Rule.

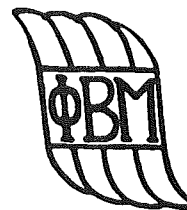
The current membership list of the brotherhood includes persons from within the ranks of all the national band director organizations, many of whom have been directly responsible for the growth and development of the band movement in America. At present, the earnest concern of each Phi Beta Mu member

is the fact that, administratively, only a limited number of persons can be honored when there is an increasing number who are worthy of being honored.

The SCHOOL MUSICIAN DIRECTOR and TEACHER

NOVEMBER, 1968

What the National Office is to Phi Beta Mu



Al Wyand, Editor
1458 Monroe Street
York, Pennsylvania 17404

(Editor's note: "What is Phi Beta Mu" and "Why Phi Beta Mu" are two questions which are often asked of your editor by interested non-member band directors. An excellent answer to these questions can be found in the November, 1968, issue of *The SCHOOL MUSICIAN DIRECTOR* and *TEACHER* magazine and should be re-read by all members. A copy can be obtained by writing this office. More recently, however, an established state chapter of Phi Beta Mu, indulging in

some constructive "soul-searching," asked the following question: "We know of the responsibilities of the chapters to the National, but what does the National Office do for us?" The following reply was prepared by National Executive Secretary Jack H. Mahan, a member of Phi Beta Mu since its inception in 1939. Careful reading by all Phi Beta Mu members should bring renewed significance to our Fraternity. It is further urged that chapter presidents take time in their annual state meeting to present the article orally.)

When a question such as "We know of the responsibilities of the chapter to the National, but what

does the National Office do for us? Should we disaffiliate?" is posed, one begins to reflect on how inadequate the participative background and knowledge of the purposes of Phi Beta Mu may be for an individual or group to have mused along these lines.

It seems that an understanding of the type organization being considered is of utmost importance. Phi Beta Mu is a national (not a state) fraternity, a brotherhood and a bond of select bandmasters. It is not an association to which anyone can belong or a "get-it-done" type organization. It can be related in essence to a home or a nation in which its very existence requires the individual's sense of belonging and willingful participation. The relationship must be reciprocal and highly flavored with the giving of oneself to fully nurture and perpetuate the fraternity's value. It seems appropriate to paraphrase the statement by the late President Kennedy: "Ask not what your country (fraternity) can do for you, but what you can do for your country (fraternity)."

The National Office provides the Fraternity's name and its national reputation, the fraternal concept, the right to membership, the right to chapter installation and existence as Phi Beta Mu, the oath of membership, the fraternal procedures, the leadership, the liaison and coordination of members and chapter relationships. The National provides the future national status and representation for the Fraternity.

The mechanics of maintaining the coordinated and related thoughts and the standards of procedures throughout the Fraternity are not evaluated as accomplishments any more than are the acts of being a mother or father in a home. The true value of a parent is not realized until one becomes a parent or has lost a parent.

The dis-affiliation by a chapter would be in essence the equivalent of the discontinuance of the ties of a home and would be a partial dissolution of the purposes for which the Fraternity was established and does exist.

Jack Mahan of the Fine Arts Department, bandmaster at ASC, is an "old grad." After two years at Arlington State College, he attended the famous Chicago Conservatory of Music. He received his B. S. from Texas Christian University, his M. A. in Education from Southern Methodist University.

Mr. Mahan was bandmaster at Farmersville, Borger and Texarkana. He taught elementary music in the Dallas public schools, before entering the U. S. Air Force in World War II. After 42 months service in the Philippines and Japan, he became a civilian again, working as Southern representative of Carl Fischer Inc. of New York City, one of the big music publishing companies.

A retired Reserve Warrant Officer, Mr. Mahan has received signal honors in the field of music. He is a member and past president of Phi Beta Mu, a national honorary fraternity of bandmasters. He is also a member of the American Bandmasters Assn. and past president of the Texas Music Educators Assn.



JACK H. MAHAN

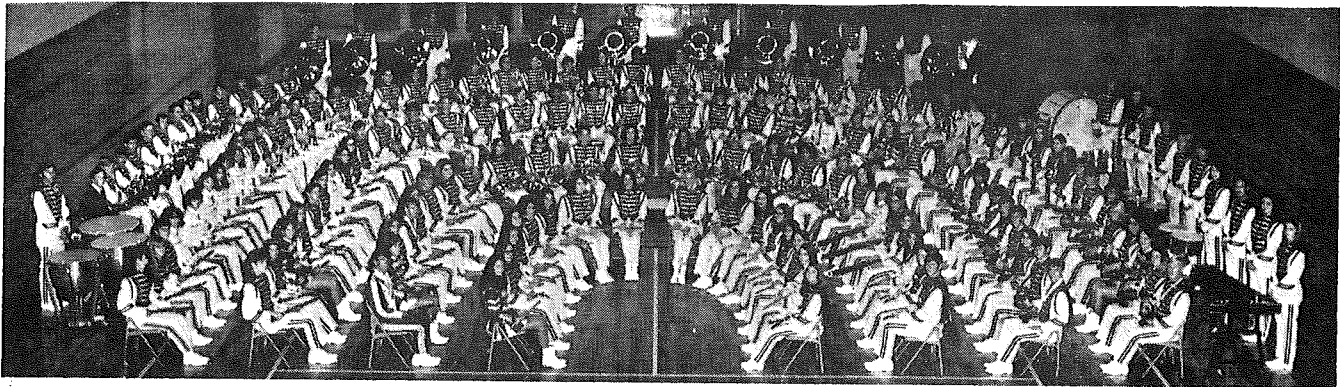
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The *SCHOOL MUSICIAN DIRECTOR* and *TEACHER*

THE END



Two outstanding music educators were inducted into honorary membership of Phi Beta Mu during ceremonies held at the Sherman House, Chicago, on December 15, 1972. Pictured above is National Executive Secretary Jack H. Mahan (left) presenting a membership certificate to Mr. Toshio Akiyama of Japan. Mrs. Gladys Wright, Lafayette, Indiana, receives the same certificate from National President Dr. Milburn Carey. Mrs. Wright becomes the first woman member of Phi Beta Mu. See the accompanying article for details.



PHI BETA MU BAND OF THE MONTH . . . The Odessa (Texas) High School Band has been selected as the Phi Beta Mu "Band of the Month." Under the direction of Brother Bill J. Dean, this outstanding band has been a consistent winner of superior ratings in both concert and marching competition including twenty-seven consecutive "First Division" ratings in marching. The band has also performed at seven professional football games over the past thirteen years. In 1972, they were named "Outstanding Band" in Class 4A at the Six Flags Over Georgia concert contest, and the following year earned the same honor at the Six Flags Over Mid-America contest in St. Louis. The band has made numerous concert tours including performances in Mexico and throughout the state of Texas. Brother Dean is an active member of Alpha Chapter, Phi Beta Mu having served as chapter president. He is also a past president of the Texas Bandmasters Association and has served on various state committees. Brother Dean has been teaching music for twenty-three years; the last fifteen as director of bands at Odessa. Congratulations to Director Dean and the outstanding Odessa High School Band.