

Joe Leon Haddon was born in Blanket, Texas, July 17, 1908. His parents were Joe J. and Dillie Cline Haddon. His father was a baker and his mother taught piano. They moved to Ballinger when Joe was 3 and he started to school there. (Bob Maddox started to school in Ballinger the same year.)

Joe attended school in Ballinger until the fifth grade, when the family moved to San Angelo where they lived the remainder of the parents' lives.

Joe's father was a violinist and his parents frequently played for dances and on programs. His mother played every night in the local movie house and Joe, from the age of 2, went with her and whistled some of the melodies.

At the age of 4, Joe started violin lessons with Mrs. Miller in San Angelo and continued studying through high school, becoming concert master of the high school's orchestra. In the 8th grade, he wanted to join the DeMolay band, so his father got him a baritone. He played in the high school band in addition to being in the orchestra.

Joe graduated from San Angelo High School in 1927. He was active in scouting and was an Eagle Scout. He spent summers working as a life guard at scout camps, became a Red Cross Life-Saving Examiner and taught courses for about 20 years.

Joe was active in music circles in San Angelo. He became a member of the Lion's Club Band--a western type band made up of 2 violins, 2 banjos, a guitar, bass, and a vocalist. They became known nationally when an International President named Julian Heyer visited Texas. He made them the official Lions' Club Band and they traveled with him to Canada, Mexico, and all over the United States.

This band became John Nance Garner's bodyguard at the ceremony in Washington when he was inaugurated as Vice-President of the United States in 1933. Will Rogers heard them in Washington and invited them to come to Hollywood and record background music for his weekly radio show. While they were there, they were offered a contract to play in Western movies, but the men were San Angelo businessmen who didn't want to stay in California. The group that was signed

up in their place went on to become the "Sons of the Pioneers."

Joe enrolled as a freshman at Texas A & M in 1927. He was there--on and off--for 3 years. By that I mean his father enrolled him, but he would leave campus to travel with various dance bands that came through. More than once he had to call his mother for bus fare home from places like Chicago. He loved playing with the bands, and the bands wanted him because he played all the strings as well as trumped and trombone, but the Depression was hard on dance bands. He was in the A & M band and was concert- master of the orchestra while in school there for 3 years. He received only 2 years credit, however, for that time, and finished his bachelor's degree later at Texas Tech.

After 3 years at A & M, he returned to San Angelo and taught violin and brass classes. He also had a job with the telephone company. It was during this time that he traveled with the San Angelo Lion's Club Band.

In 1934 Joe went to Ozona to organize a band and orchestra. Both organizations won honors in contests. At one of these contests Joe met D. O. Wiley, who had recently moved from Hardin-Simmons to Texas Tech in Lubbock. He invited Joe to to come to Band Camp, and I believe 1936 was his first summer. He took college courses toward a B. A. and taught baritone and bass and played baritone in the band.

In 1937 Joe moved from Ozona to Slaton where he assisted Clyde Rowe with the Slaton band and taught Brass and violin. He also took classes at Tech and played in the Tech band. In 1938 he became band director at Lubbock Junior High--a part-time job and continued to attend Tech. He was assistant to Dr. Wiley and drilled the marching band.

At Lubbock Junior High, Joe developed one of the finest junior high bands in the country. It won regional and national honors consistently, aided perhaps by "Little Walton," a paddle known by members of all of his bands.

In 1940 Joe joined the National Guard and took on the directorship of the National Guard Band. In November of that year, the Guard was mobilized and sent to Camp Bowie in Brownwood. About 15 Tech band members joined the Guard Band and went to Camp Bowie along with Joe. From Bowie the band was sent to Camp

Walters in Mineral Wells, and then on to Ft. Bliss in El Paso. There Joe assisted in forming bands for overseas service. Joe entered the service as a Warrant Officer and while at Camp Walters in 1941 was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer. In 1945 he was sent with the band to the Philippines where he directed the band at the Rest & Recreation Center in Manila. While in Manila, he twice directed the Manila Symphony in concert. When Colonel Bronson and Edwin Franco Goldman visited on an inspection tour, he was in charge of their entertainment. He was separated from the service in 1946.

After separation from the service, he attended Texas Tech from December, 1946, until the end of the spring semester, when he moved to Big Spring to take the position of band director at Big Spring High School. Under his direction in the 1946-47 term, the membership in the band rose from 20 to over 100.

In the fall of 1947, he returned to Texas Tech as an Assistant Professor and was an assistant to Dr. Wiley. Joe led the marching band and taught low brass. During this time he helped found Tau Beta Sigma. A group of girls in the Tech band met with him at his house and decided they wanted a sister group to Kappa Kappa Psi. Barbara Lovett was one of those girls. They formed the group and petitioned A. Frank Martin, founder of Kappa Kappa Psi in Stillwater, Oklahoma. They agreed to let Oklahoma A & M in Stillwater have the Alpha Chapter, with Tech having the Beta Chapter. Joe was made a member of that Beta Chapter, beginning a sponsorship of Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma chapters that continued throughout his life.

During his tenure at Tech, Joe was judge for band and orchestra contests in Lubbock, as well as throughout Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and New Mexico. He played first chair, second violin in the Lubbock symphony and did public relations for the band at Tech. In the summer of 1953, he was director for the National Kappa Kappa Psi/Tau Beta Sigma Convention in Lubbock.

In 1949, Joe started work on graduate degrees during the summer. He first attended the University of Colorado in Boulder. In 1950 he went to

New York City to study at Teacher's College, Columbia, a change which he enjoyed and continued his studies there, receiving a Master's in Music, and a Doctorate in Music Education as well as a Professional Diploma. In addition to his studies at Teacher's College, he taught conducting and strings classes and directed the Riverside Church symphony. He did his residence for his doctorate during the school year of 1953-54. After receiving his doctorate, he continued to return to Columbia in the summers to teach until 1961 when his duties at Midwestern University in Wichita Falls, Texas, kept him busy in the summers.

In 1954, Joe went to Midland, Texas, as Supervisor of Instrumental Music. Among his duties, he oversaw all of the band and strings programs along with being band and orchestra director of Midland High School. He continued judging across the state, played in the Midland Symphony and developed the Midland music program by adding strings classes to the junior high schools. He developed one of the outstanding bands in the state both in marching and in concert at Midland High, continuing his consistent record for first divisions and sweepstakes in the bands he directed. He took the Midland band to the Cotton Bowl and parade several times. In addition he brought nationally-known musicians to Midland to work with the band and perform with them. These included Bill Bell, Raphael Mendez, and A. Clyde Roller.

In 1961, Joe moved to Wichita Falls when Midwestern University became a state school. He was band director, starting as an associate professor and becoming a full professor in 1971. He retired in 1973 with status Professor Emeritus. In the years at Midwestern, he reactivated the summer band camp that soon became one of the better known camps in the state and is still continuing its student training. Among the guest conductors he brought to Midwestern for the summer camps were Dr. Norval Church, Clarence Sawhill and W. Francis McBeth. Besides directing the band, Joe taught conducting and brass classes at Midwestern.

While in Wichita Falls, Joe became active in the Maskat Temple, re-activating the Drum & Bugle Corps for the Shrine. The corps he started

won and is still winning state and international honors.

Although he retired from Midwestern in 1973, he continued as Contest Chairman for UIL Region II until illness forced him to retire in the late 1970's. When the UIL started the State Music Contests in 1961, he judged the state contests until illness forced his retirement from that, also.

Included in the many organizations he belonged to are Kappa Kappa Psi (as a charter member), Tau Beta Sigma, Phi Mu Alpha (charter member), TMEA, NEA (life member), TBA, Lion's Club, Maskat Temple (member of the Scottish Rite and York Rite Masons), Floral Heights Methodist Church. He was also the 1977 founder of the Oil Bowl Band, a volunteer band which plays at half-time in the Shrine Oil Bowl Charity football game.

Joe married Jane Douglas Haddon in 1940 in Brownfield, Texas. They had two children--Judy Haddon Hadcox, who now resides in Riverside, California, and Joe Douglas Haddon, now a resident of Maryland Heights, Missouri.

Joe died from a stroke in 1982.

Joe will best be remembered for the college programs he initiated for students who wanted to become band directors. At Texas Tech, he started a program for band majors to work part-time in the public schools. They were paid to teach classes after school in the elementary schools (usually 4th or 5th graders) in beginning band. They taught pre-band instruments (such as Tonettes) and gave private instruction on band instruments for which they were paid by the student. Initiated in 1938, this program gave many students the financial assistance they needed to remain in school as well as experience in actual teaching. It also enhanced the quality of the junior high school band.

He also conducted a "B" band made up of students who could not schedule the regular band and band members who wanted to learn another instrument or practice conducting. Many future band directors honed their skills through this class that read a variety of material.

Of his many accomplishments, Joe was most proud of the band directors he trained. He was a born teacher and most enjoyed teaching, several times giving up promotions and advancement in order to continue working with students. He took many to New York with him to study and worked many evenings on his own with developing conductors. Our dining table bore the markings of a football field, made as he helped junior high band directors work out the next week's shows. Directors across Texas came from his bands and from the bands of those directors he introduced to the music world.

# Dr. Joe Haddon

*A Pioneer In The Band Movement In Texas*

It is with regret that we announce the death of Dr. Joe Haddon of Wichita Falls.

Joe was a pioneer in the band movement in Texas. He helped many a young person interested in music to graduate and find a job.

We print here the article from the Wichita Falls newspaper.

Dr. Joe L. Haddon, 73, of 4810 Danberry, musician, band director and educator, died Sunday in a Wichita Falls hospital.

Services are under direction of Hampton-Vaughan Funeral Home.

Haddon was director of bands emeritus at Midwestern State University where he was a professor and director of bands from 1961-1973. During his tenure at MSU, Haddon established the summer band camp program at MSU, sponsored clinics for area schools, was executive secretary for Region II UIL music contests and was an adjudicator for contests throughout the Southwest.

Since his retirement, Haddon had been clinician and guest conductor for many area band concerts. He established a scholarship fund at MSU in 1974 for band students who excelled.

A native of Blanket, Texas, Haddon was born July 17, 1908. He attended Texas A&M University, received his bachelor and master of science degrees from Texas Tech University and received his master of arts and doctor of education degrees from Columbia University. He served as chief warrant officer of bands in the South Pacific during World War II for five years.

Before coming to Wichita Falls, Haddon was supervisor of music for Midland, Texas, public schools. He also served on staffs of Texas Tech and Columbia universities.

Haddon played in bands and conducted orchestras since 1933. Originally a violinist, Haddon switched to trumpet and trombone and played with jazz bands in Chicago, on the West Coast and in Texas during the Depression.

He was a member of Floral Heights United Methodist Church, Wichita Falls Maskat Temple, Lions Club, Faith Masonic Lodge 1158, Fort Worth Scottish Rite. He also was a member of American Bandmasters, College Band Directors, Kappa Kappa Psi, Phi Beta Mu, Phi Delta Kappa, Tau Beta Sigma, Texas State Teachers Association, Texas Bandmasters Association, National Education Association and Texas Music Educators.

He married Jane Douglas Wilson May 28, 1940, in Lubbock, Texas.

Survivors include his wife; a son, Joe Douglas of St. Louis; a daughter, Mrs. Wayne Hadcox of Riverside, Calif.; and a sister, Mrs. John H. Robby of Albany, N.Y.

The family requests memorials be to the Joe L. Haddon Music Scholarship Fund at MSU.

## SUMMERMUSIC '82

### **Baylor Wind Ensemble/Orchestra Camp**

*For High School Instrumentalists*

June 13-20

Contact: Michael L. Haithcock,  
Camp Coordinator  
(817) 755-3571

### **Baylor Summer Choral/Keyboard Institute**

*Camp For High School Pianists and Vocalists*

*Workshops For Piano Teachers and Choral Directors*

June 20-26

Contact: Roger Keyes, Keyboard Coordinator or Dr. Robert H. Young, Vocal Coordinator  
(817) 755-1417 (817) 755-3661

