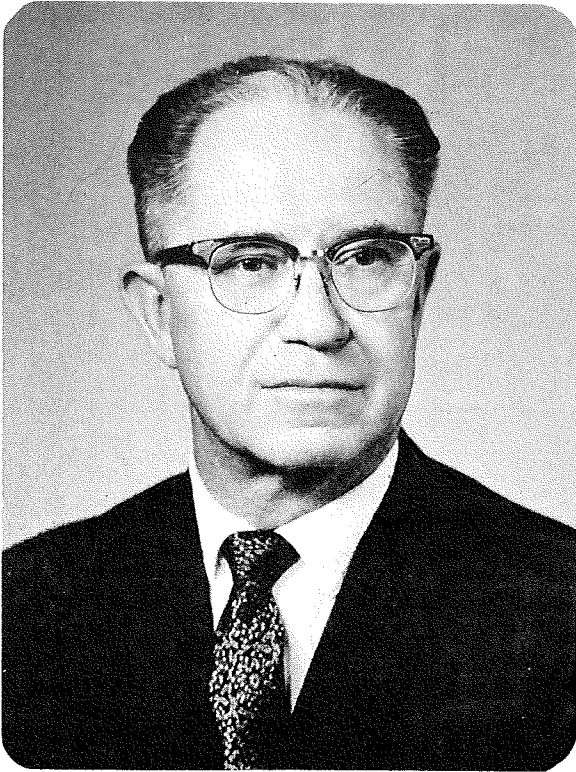


Souvenir Program



RAY L. ROBBINS

conducting

his

TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL SPRING CONCERT

for the

Phillips Independent School District

Band Department

1
9
4
7

1
9
6
8

Phillips Blackhawks

BAND RATINGS

HIGH SCHOOL BAND AT UIL — 1948 THROUGH 1967

21	1sts in Marching	<i>15 Sweepstakes</i>
17	1sts in Concert	
17	1sts in Sight Reading	

HIGH SCHOOL BAND AT ENID

15	1sts in Marching	<i>13 Sweepstakes</i>
14	1sts in Concert	
11	1sts in Sight Reading	
17	1sts in Million Dollar Parade	
9	1st Places in Million Dollar Parade	
5	Outstandings in Concert	
4	Outstandings in Marching	

HIGH SCHOOL BAND AT ALTUS — 1955-56-57

3	1sts in Marching	<i>2 Sweepstakes</i>
3	1sts in Concert	
3	1sts in Sight Reading	
2	1st Places in Marching	
2	1st Places in Concert	
2	1st Places in Sight Reading	

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL BAND RATINGS AT UIL

8	1st in Marching out of 9
17	1sts in Concert out of 18
16	1sts in Sight Reading out of 18

JUNIOR HIGH AT ALTUS — 1956

1	1st in Marching	1	1st Place in Marching
1	1st in Concert	1	1st Place in Concert
1	1st in Sight Reading	1	1st Place in Sight Reading

SIXTH GRADE BAND RATINGS 1952 Through 1967

16	1sts in Concert out of 16
12	1sts in Sight Reading out of 12

CODY FONDREN	Superintendent
J. IRVIN KIMMINS	High School Principal
JOE W. HAYES	Junior High School Principal
E. DOUGLAS ADKINS	Elementary Principal

BOARD OF EDUCATION

V. R. RATZLOW	President
G. A. GOHLKE	Vice-President
GUY CHIVERS	Secretary
BILL KILLION	Member
H. L. KUERT	Member
E. E. RANKIN	Member
P. E. RUNYON	Member
W. G. ROE, JR.	Tax Collector and Secretary

Program

High School Gymnasium
March 28, 1968 - 7:30 p. m.

FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADE BANDS

SWISS WALKING SONG	<i>Reynolds</i>
EMPEROR WALTZ	<i>Strauss</i>
AURA LEE	<i>arr. Kinyon</i>
BEGINNERS TANGO	<i>Piatio</i>
MARCH OF THE CADETS	<i>Kinyon</i>

JUNIOR HIGH BAND

MISS LIBERTY MARCH	<i>King</i>
ARIOSO	<i>Williams</i>

BLACKHAWK BAND

A SANTA CECILLA, MARCH	<i>Brittain</i>
CHORALE AND CAPRICCIO	<i>Giovonnini</i>

JUNIOR HIGH AND BLACKHAWK BANDS

STURDY MEN, MARCH	<i>Mesang</i>
SOUND OF MUSIC, OVERTURE	<i>Rodgers-Hammerstein</i>
THE MUSIC MAN	<i>Wilson</i>
HOSTS OF FREEDOM, MARCH	<i>King</i>

ALL BANDS

STAR SPANGLED BANNER	<i>arr. Sousa</i>
----------------------------	-------------------

NEWS into FOCUS

By J. C. PHILLIPS

21 YEARS OF SERVICE

The band concert we were privileged to hear last night at Phillips could easily have filled any auditorium anywhere with music lovers who in advance had any idea of the evening of music that would have been in store for them. RAY L. ROBBINS, conducting his 21st annual spring concert for the Phillips Independent School District, Band Department, was on this occasion in fact taking leave of that which for so long had been his life and that he loved and from those who love him for the inspirational personality we found him to be.

First on the program the Fifth and Sixth Grade Bands played SWISS WALKING SONG by Reynolds; EMPEROR WALTZ by Strauss; AURA LEE by Kinyon (arr.); BEGINNERS TANGO by Piato; and MARCH OF THE CADETS by Kinyon.

The Junior High Band contributed MISS LIBERTY MARCH by King and ARIOSO by Williams.

The Blackhawk Band thrilled the audience with A SANTA CECILLA, MARCH by Brittain and CHORALE AND CAPRICCIO by Giovannini.

Then the Junior High Band and the Blackhawk Band together filled the air with STURDY MEN, MARCH by Mesang; SOUND OF MUSIC, OVERTURE by Rodgers - Hammerstein; THE MUSIC MAN by Wilson and HOSTS OF FREEDOM, MARCH by King.

All stood and were thrilled with the playing of the STAR SPANGLED BANNER (arr. Sousa) played by all assembled bands. It was terrific.

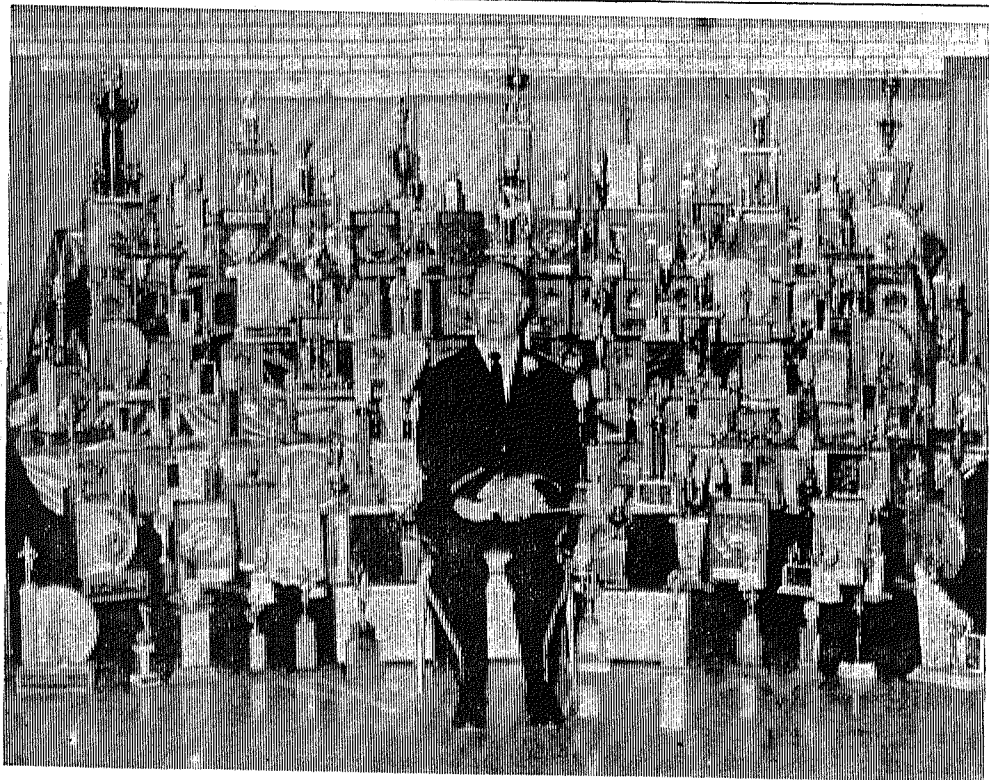
It would take more room than we have in this column to list all of the honors (band ratings) awarded the Phillips Blackhawk High School Band which was brought into existence and due recognition by that great band director, Ray L. Robbins, who is now leaving Phillips to make his home in Amarillo.

We give you here this short introduction to all of these honors: High School Band at UIL—1948 through 1967 — 21 firsts in Marching; 17 firsts in Concert; 17 first in Sight Reading and 15 sweepstakes.

BAND DIRECTOR ROBBINS paid tribute to the helpful cooperation that he has received from school officials down through the years. The present officials are Cody Fondren, Superintendent; J. Irvin Kimmins, High School Principal; Joe W. Hayes, Junior High School Principal and E. Douglas Adkins, Elementary Principal.

BOARD OF EDUCATION: the late V. R. Ratzlow, President; G. A. Gohlke, Vice-President; Guy Chivers, Secretary; Bill Killion, Member; H. L. Kuhrt, Member; E. E. Rankin, Member; P. E. Runyon, member and W. G. Roe, Jr., Tax Collector and Secretary.

BORGER, TEXAS, NEWS-HERALD



OUTSTANDING DIRECTOR — Ray Robbins, band director at Phillips High School, sits proudly before all the awards the Blackhawk band has won under his leadership. Robbins, who has directed the band for the past 21 years, will retire at the conclusion of the current school term.

BAND DIRECTOR

Ray Robbins Retires After 21 Good Years

As Ray L. Robbins, all-school band director, raised his arms to start the "Star-Spangled Banner," three shrill blasts from a whistle froze everyone in the Blackhawk Gym into shocked silence.

Then, Mrs. Johnny Royall, formerly Miss Toni Truax, in the presence of the grade school, junior high, and high school bands, and all residents of the community who attended the all-school band concert, presented Robbins with a brightly-wrapped gift and a jar of change.

The presents were a token of appreciation from the parents and ex-students of Phillips to thank him for his 21 years of service to the school and town.

Since this was the director's

last concert, the gym was decorated in orange and black and, on one end all the trophies, plaques, and other awards won by Mr. Robbins' bands were arranged on tables draped with orange and black cloth.

Mr. Robbins' wife, Margaret, and his two sons, Ray and Charles, ex-students of PHS, were prominent among the many special guests.

Distinguished visitors who were seated in roped-off areas on the gym floor, included several band directors from other schools, leading Borger citizens, music personnel of Phillips schools, administrators, and school board members.

After the presentations, Mrs. Royall, a former Phillips drum-major, led the high school and junior high bands in the school song, in honor of Robbins, while the grade school bands and the audience stood, sang, and clapped.

After all the bands had combined to play the national anthem, everyone present was invited to attend a reception in the Junior High Gym.

An added gift was the guest book, made especially for Robbins by Mrs. Cecil George. Along with the list of guests, the book contained an honorable discharge certificate like the one Robbins always presents to graduating senior band members.

This one was made out to Ray L. Robbins.

RAY ROBBINS

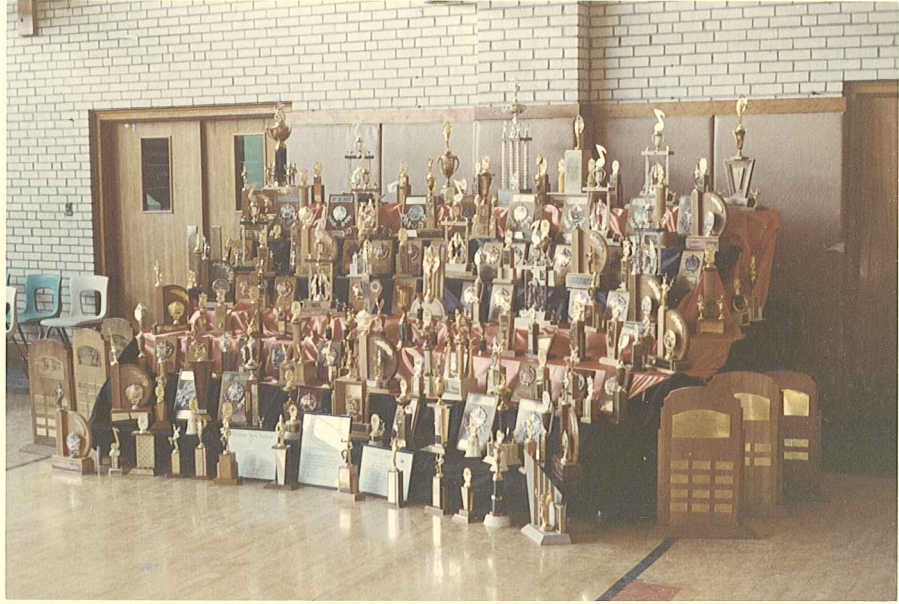
**Long time TBA, TMEA Member
passes away**

Ray L. Robbins, of Amarillo, died Tuesday, May 22, 1990, at Wichita Falls.

Mr. Robbins was born in Neodesha, Kansas. He married Margaret Tignor in 1943. He had been a band director more than 35 years in Clarendon, Pampa and Phillips. He spent 21 of those years in Phillips. Throughout his career, the bands he directed earned a total of 30 Sweepstakes Awards. He was Texas Band Master of the Year of 1969. He was a member of St. Paul United Methodist Church.

Survivors include his wife; two sons, Ray L. Robbins Jr. of St. Louis, Mo., and Charles Robbins of Pullman, Wash.; and two grandchildren.

The family requests memorials to be sent to the Cal Farley's Boys Ranch or to the American Heart Association.



PHILLIPS HIGH SCHOOL





—Staff Photos by RON MARLOW
Texas Bandmaster of the Year . . . Robbins re-calls achievements.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **Name Bandmaster Of Year in Texas**

By CARROLL WILSON
 Of Our Staff

A comparative newcomer to Amarillo, who ended a 35-year career as an instrumental music educator in May, is Bandmaster of the Year in Texas for 1969.

Announcement of the award to Ray L. Robbins of 3807 Carlton Drive was made by Ralph Smith of Dimmitt, president of the Texas Bandmasters Association.

Robbins' teaching career reached its peak during the immediate past 21 years—the period he was instrumental music director for the Phillips public school system.

During that time his student musical groups set records which, though unofficially, are regarded as the best in Texas.

• • •

In 1964, Robbins was named one of the 10 outstanding band directors in the United States. He is a member of the Order of the Silver Horn, awarded by the First Chair of America.

But it isn't the personal awards or honors or recognition that Ray Robbins wants to talk about.

For 21 years, he directed the musical education for 300 students in grades five through 12.

"I'll miss it," he said. "Of course, I was looking forward to retirement, but if I hear a band coming down the street, I'm still going to run to the curb."

• • •

During his tenure at Phillips, the high school band had a record of 14 straight University Interscholastic League sweepstakes awards, the highest to be earned.

The Phillips band won permanent possession of the marching and concert playing trophies in its class at the Tri-State Music Festival at Enid, Okla., with three first places in 1960, 1961, and 1962. The band at Phillips won the Enid festival's million-dollar parade 11 times and was featured in Cotton Bowl games in Dallas twice, in 1960 and 1967.

the way of a job.

Following graduation from West Texas State University, Robbins was hired at Olton. The school band movement was just catching on in Texas and the Olton school had no band. It was Robbins' job to build one.

"I kind of get in on the ground floor," he said. "I had 20 in the band and none of them played an instrument."

Instruments were scarce, but Robbins built a band.

He moved on the next year to Clarendon, where a few of the town's high school students played instruments. He stayed in Clarendon six years.

• • •

Then for six years, he directed the junior high and high school bands in Pampa before finally settling in Phillips.

When he arrived in Phillips, the band, at best, was in poor condition. It had scored a five, the lowest possible, the previous year at contest. In Robbins' first year, the band scored a one.

It scored a one for 21 years. His bands posted first division ratings 231 times.

As an educator, principally, Robbins has seen many changes in his field since he began with the small Olton band.

"There's been a tremendous change in music," he said. "When I started there was hardly any music for a band. Most of what we did was transposed from orchestra music."

Now, he says, there are many contemporary artists writing strictly for bands. "You used to scrounge for music in those days," Robbins said. "Things are getting easier."

• • •

But the kids never change, basically, and Robbins understands kids.

"I've had a lot of sociology and human behavior courses," he said. "You've got to understand kids and what makes 'em tick—the reason why they behave and react the way they do."



APPRECIATION AWARD — Ray Robbins, band director at Phillips High School for the past 21 years, receives a jar of nickels, dimes and quarters from Mrs. Toni Truax Royall, PHS majorette during the 1957-1958 school year. The money was collected by ex-band students and their parents in appreciation of the outstanding leadership Robbins has shown during his tenure in Phillips.

Phillips Fetes Band Director Ray Robbins

Area residents packed the Phillips High School gymnasium Thursday night as Ray L. Robbins, well-known Blackhawk band director, conducted his 21st annual spring concert. Robbins will resign at the conclusion of the current school term.

In University Interscholastic League band competition Robbins has directed PHS to 21 firsts in marching, 17 firsts in concert, 17 firsts in sight reading and 15 sweepstakes awards.

The Blackhawk band has also garnered 15 first-place awards in marching at the high school band festival in Enid, 14 firsts in concert, 11 firsts in sight reading, 17 firsts in the Million Dollar Parade and 13 sweepstakes presentations.

In addition, the band has won three firsts in marching, three firsts in concert, three firsts in sight reading and two sweepstakes at the high school band festival in Altus.

The Thursday night concert was presented by the PHS band, the Phillips fifth and sixth grade bands and the Phillips Junior High School band.

BORGER HEARTBEAT

Phillips Couple Influence Area

By AD MIHM
Women's Editor

A man who has brought music to local life for nearly 20 years is Ray L. Robbins, director of bands at Phillips Schools.

On Feb. 1, to open American Music Month, Borger Federated Music Club will present this man, and his music, in appreciation of his enlargement and enrichment of area living as an outstanding musician, a dedicated teacher, and an individual whose influence has been extended deep into the world of music.

The public is invited to attend the concert to be presented by the Phillips High School Band at 1:30 p.m. on the first day of next month, at Phillips High Auditorium, to witness for themselves the magnetism, the joviality, the genuine love of music of Ray L. Robbins, truly to be called "Mr. Music" of this area.

Throughout the years, since Robbins came here from Pampa in 1947, local audiences have thrilled at the Robbins-trained marching bands, playing the familiar "Orange and Black," Phillips High song, at games; and they have appreciated listening to concerts held twice a year at the school.

The special program prepared for the trained musicians of Borger Music Club, however, will be a challenge to musicians and director. Mr. Robbins will conduct a well-rounded program, to delight all tastes in music, including a Bach Chorale and fugue, Caesar Franck's "Panis Angelicus," several contemporary marches, the familiar "Washington Post March," by Sousa, and tunes from "South Pacific" and "My Fair Lady."

"Our band is a musical organization," declared Mr. Robbins. "During the football season, we accent the marching band, but the rest of the school year, we emphasize the production of listening pleasure. Music comes first with our band. Most boys and girls have adequate ability to learn an instrument



MR. AND MRS. Ray L. Robbins, 1299 Phillips-Johnson Camp, are contributing in no small measure to area culture. As Phillips Schools' band director, Mr. Robbins has exerted strong influence. Mrs. Robbins has guided youth as a Phillips Junior High teacher, and shared her talent at gardening and flower arranging with others, through active membership in the Phillips Garden Club and as a nationally accredited flower judge.

a top student in wild life management at Colorado State University.

"Mr. Music's" wife and sons can attest to his statement: "A band director doesn't live by the clock. He never sets aside his work."

For good bands are not permitted small audiences; they are invited to perform elsewhere. Throughout the years, Ray Robbins has had miles to go, with over 100 young people in his charge, to give enjoyment to others. For Phillips Band played in the Cotton Bowl in 1960, at state band day in Austin in 1959, at Texas Tech several years, and at Canyon

to prepare to be a printer. He worked on the Canyon News for a time, but the technical work was not satisfying. So, he discovered that music meant more to him than just a leisure time activity. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at WTSU, and has done graduate study at Michigan U. and Hardin-Simmons.

Having found himself, Robbins then found a locale for his efforts. He attributes much of his success to the community he works in a place where parents want more for their children than just the three R's, a school system in which the administration emphasizes ex-

gives them compassionate understanding along with his motivation for achievement, with some of his students patterning their lives after his and becoming band directors, and with all appreciative of his training and guidance.

Ray Robbins' version of the secret of his successful bands, year after year, accents the contribution of Mrs. Ada Creel, who assists with the program, giving special training to soloists and ensembles in the group of 300 students she and Mr. Robbins work with each day, in 5th, 6th, junior and senior high bands. Mrs. Creel also directs "The Music Makers," a

Ray L. Robbins

Ray L. Robbins, of Amarillo, died Tuesday, May 22, 1990, at Wichita Falls.



ROBBINS

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. today in St. Paul United Methodist Church with Dr. Keith Wiseman, pastor, officiating. Arrangements are by Blackburn-Shaw Memorial Chapel.

Mr. Robbins was born in Neodesha, Kan.

He married Margaret Tignor in 1943. He had been a band director more than 35 years in Clarendon, Pampa and Phillips. He spent 21 of those years in Phillips. Throughout his career, the bands he directed earned a total of 30 Sweepstakes Awards. He was Texas Band Master of the Year in 1969. He was a member of St. Paul United Methodist Church.

Survivors include his wife; two sons, Ray L. Robbins Jr. of St. Louis, Mo., and Charles Robbins of Pullman, Wash.; and two grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to the Cal Farley's Boys Ranch or to the American Heart Association.



SMILING broadly and practicing what he preaches, "Uncle Ray" Robbins, all school band director, escorted by drum major Kara Lee Selman, "hits the yard-line with the right foot" while strutting off the field with the Blackhawk Band. The band paid special tribute to Mr. Robbins at the Phillips-Stinnett game last Saturday night.

PHS Band Salutes Ray Robbins' Service

"And the Blackhawk Band marches off the field in traditional form playing 'Victors.' No, Wait! Something's gone wrong! Mr. Robbins, would you please report to your drum major on the field."

These were the excited words of Jerry Arrington, announcer for Phillips home game last Saturday night as the half-time activities reached a spectacular climax.

Instead of moving in two company fronts to the south end of the field as usual, the Blackhawk band began to move into a strange formation. When the drum cadences halted the audience was surprised to behold the orange and black uniforms standing proudly in a double - R formation.

If the spectators were surprised, Ray Robbins, band director, was shocked! This tribute to his 21 years of service to Phillips High School came as a complete surprise.

The band, with the help of

Mrs. Ada Creel, assistant band director and Kara Lee Selman, drum major, had rehearsed for three days to show their appreciation to Robbins at this, his last home game. Robbins has announced his resignation from the Phillips faculty after this school year.

As Robbins joined the band on the field, the audience responded with a standing ovation while Kara Lee presented the veteran director to the crowd. Arrington then acknowledged the many honors Robbins has brought to himself, the band, and the school during his 21 year career at Phillips.

The female members of band and audience unashamedly wiped tears from their eyes while the men tried to keep a stiff upper lip.

Then, smiling broadly and stepping high like a true Blackhawk "Uncle Ray", escorted by the drum major, joined his band as they marched off to "Victors."



TEACHERS RETIRING — After 137 years of combined service in the Phillips school system, these teachers retire at the end of this year. They are from left to right, front row: Mrs. Vera B. Haren, fourth grade teacher; Mrs. Catherine M. Wheeler, first grade teacher; and, from left to right, back row: Mrs. Violet M. Sparks, Junior High English teacher; Mr. Ray L. Robbins, band director; Miss Gertie Mills, fourth grade teacher; Mrs. Jesse R. Willis, fourth grade teacher.

Retiring Instructors Look Back

Phillips will be losing six of its finest instructors at the end of this school year. They are retiring for various reasons.

Miss Gertie Mills is leaving after teaching the fourth grade for 25 years at Phillips Elementary.

When asked how she felt about her years of teaching she replied with a smile,

"It's the most pleasant 40 years a person has ever spent."

For the past 23 years as a health and science instructor for the fourth and fifth grades, Mrs. Jesse R. Willis says she is deeply grateful for being able to contribute to the future generation. Mrs. Willis is most interested in children and she has reared 27 foster children along with a daughter, Mrs. Ann Miller.

Mrs. Violet M. Sparks was elementary librarian her first five years and has taught English for the past 18 years in the Junior High. She plans to travel when her husband retires next year and wants to have time for her hobbies — sewing, yard work, and bridge.

Mrs. Vera B. Haren, fourth grade teacher, who began her

teaching career in Wink, is retiring after 22 years at Phillips. Mrs. Haren says she plans to do just as she pleases after she retires.

She plans to vacation this summer on her sister's ranch. She also plans to help mentally retarded children and take a more active part in her church.

Mrs. Haren's favorite hobby is collecting — flowers, hats, china plates, shoes, bottles and many antiques.

One of her favorite antiques is a glass rolling pin over 100 years old. She told of a clock belonging to the doctor who brought her into this world, which is now in her possession.

Mrs. Katherine Wheeler, first grade teacher is retiring after 30 years of teaching, twenty-eight of these she has taught first grade at Phillips.

When asked what she'd miss most, she answered,

"The children and watching them grow up. I've enjoyed each and every day."

She's made no definite plans, but would like to visit her son in Paris, France, at Christmas. Arts and crafts are Mrs. Wheeler's hobbies and she plans to take some art courses.

"There is no one outstanding event in teaching first grade; each day brings a new and different experience."

Ray L. Robbins, school band director, is leaving Phillips after 21 years.

Robbins has something to boast about. He is leaving Phillips with a record of 212 first divisions, 18 second divisions, two third divisions, 21 straight first divisions in marching at Canyon, outstanding concert and marching bands at Enid in their class three consecutive times, two Cotton Bowl appearances, and a special half-time appearance at a Texas Tech football game.

In 1965, Mr. Robbins was elected as one of the 10 outstanding band directors in the United States by the "School Musician Magazine." He is a frequent guest at band clinics and has judged many band contests. When he first started teaching, he taught four general science courses and band.

Robbins plans to take his retirement leisurely. He said he wouldn't mind substitute teaching, but he wants to just take it easy and play golf.