





1941 Music Recreation
Session
Canyon - Texas

Oscar I. Wise, organizer of the Golden Sandie Band of Amarillo High School, died Monday.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday in the chapel at Polk Street United Methodist Church with the Rev. Ira E. Williams, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Memorial Park Cemetery by Blackburn Shaw Memorial Chapel.

Mr. Wise, 93, of 2016 Teckla, born in Kirksville, Mo., came to Amarillo in 1920. He moved to Amarillo intending to teach manual arts for one semester and then go into the garage business. Wise didn't leave AISD for 36 years.

Wise taught math and shop at Amarillo High for two years before organizing the Sandie band and directing it for 20 years. After resigning in 1942 as AHS band director, he taught industrial arts in high schools and junior highs until his retirement in 1956.

Wise organized and participated in music in church and the community. He helped organize children's bands at the Maverick Club and the Presbyterian Children's Home. He conducted the Polk Street Methodist Church orchestra for 15 years and directed the music and choir of St. Matthews Methodist Church.

Wise helped found the Amarillo Symphony. He was a member of the symphony for 40 years, playing the trombone and later the cello.

At age 78, Wise was working six days a week tuning pianos. In a 1973 Globe-Times story, he estimated that he had tuned 6,000 pianos.

He received his master's degree in manual art at Oklahoma A&M and minored in music. He also studied at Vandercook School of Music



WISE
Served in AISD 36 years

in Chicago.

During World War II, Wise left Amarillo schools to teach bomber electrical systems at the Amarillo Army Air Corps base. After the war ended he returned to teaching.

He was married to Cora Crow in 1974 at Huntington, W. Va. His first wife, Esther, died in 1972.

He had been a member of Polk Street United Methodist Church since 1920 and was a life member of the Vaughan-Selby Sunday School class where he played the cello.

Survivors include his wife; two daughters, Winona Comfort of San Antonio and Ruth Stovall of Moneta, Va.; six grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be made to Polk Street United Methodist Church or the American Cancer Society.

Wise's first band master at AISD had, has almost as colorful a history as the band itself.

He came to Amarillo in 1920 from Denver.

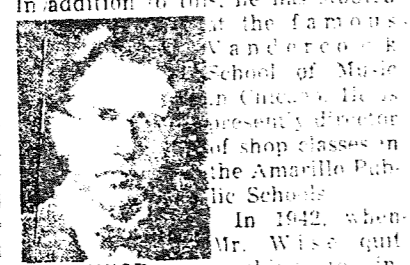
"I hit this town running, and I've been running ever since," he commented.

Mr. Wise is referring to the number of activities he is engaged in here. In 1922, when he took control of the band, it was necessary for him to learn to play every instrument that is played in the band. This means that he had to master at least 20 different musical instruments!

He was among the members of the first symphony orchestra when it was formed here. His major instrument is the trombone, al-

though he played the cello in the symphony.

Mr. Wise received his Master's Degree in Manual Arts at Oklahoma A&M, where he minored in music. In addition to this, he has studied at the famous Vandercook School of Music in Chicago. He is presently director of shop classes in the Amarillo Public Schools.



WISE
teaching to instruct at Amarillo Air Force Base.

Oscar I. Wise *in file*

Services for Oscar I. Wise, 73, of 2016 Teckla, organizer of the Golden Sandie Band of Amarillo High School, will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday in the chapel at Polk Street United Methodist Church with Dr. Ira E. Williams, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Memorial Park Cemetery by Blackburn Shaw Memorial Chapel.

Mr. Wise died Monday, June 21, 1988.

The family requests memorials be made to Polk Street United Methodist Church or the American Cancer Society.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT
Shepherd
Symphony Veteran
By Jean Ater

Oscar Wise celebrated his 40th year with the Amarillo Symphony at the beginning of the present season when he retired on doctor's orders. At the concert Tuesday evening, he was publicly recognized for his years of service with a lifetime membership in the organization.

Mr. Wise is a jolly, interesting man with a twinkle in his eye. He will never be old, not with all his interests and resources. He "thinks young" and this is reflected in his enthusiasm for life in general and music in particular.

From the inception of the orchestra in 1924 until 1942, Wise played trombone. He then switched to 'cello which he played until his retirement.

Membership in the growing symphony orchestra has been by no means Wise's only contribution to the musical life of Amarillo to which he came with his wife in 1920.

In 1922, he took over the directorship of the Sandie Band at Amarillo High School. He remained in that position until he retired, temporarily, from the public school system in 1942 to work at the airbase. He says he gained 20 pounds in the first six weeks after he left the band—working at the base was not nearly so nerve-wracking!

After the war, Wise became supervisor of Industrial Arts in the junior and senior high schools. He remained in that position until 1959. This position went back to his early interest. He received his Master's Degree in Manual Arts at Oklahoma A & M where he minored in music. In addition, he studied at the famous Vandercook School of Music in Chicago.

Finding it difficult to get

his piano tuned and repaired, in 1946 Wise took a correspondence course in piano tuning. He practiced on pianos at Tolzien's Music Store until he became proficient. Since that time, he has been in demand in the tuning business.

For 15 years Wise was director of the Polk Street Methodist Church orchestra. He still plays 'cello every Sunday morning for the Selby class. Immediately following the class, he and Mrs. Wise, a pianist, go to the new St. Matthew's Methodist Church where they are in charge of the music and choir.

With his tuning, church activities, his workshop at home in which he makes furniture and repairs piano actions, time does not hang heavy around the Wise household.

The Wises' have two married daughters and six grandchildren. Music is a part of the entire family life. When they visit the eldest daughter, a violinist, in New Jersey, they have a family trio of violin, 'cello and piano. One of the grandsons was graduated cum laude from Harvard where he played flute and piccolo in the band. Another grandson is now student conductor of the band at Amherst.

Recently Mr. and Mrs. Wise and Miss Helen Strite decided to spend one evening a month playing violin, 'cello and piano together "for their own amazement".

Wouldn't it be a joy to be invited to share one of these musical evenings with these three who have given and continue to give so much to the musical life of Amarillo?

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Wise
MAY - 8 1965
To Note 50th Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Wise

1601 Hayden, will be honored today with a reception in Social Hall, Polk Street Methodist Church, on the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary. Hostesses for the event will be their daughters, Mrs. Richard Comfort, of Haworth, N.J., and Mrs. T. J. Stovall of Annandale, Va.

Associated with Amarillo Public Schools for many years, Mr. Wise organized the Sandie Band and was its director for 20 years. He also served as supervisor of shop classes in Amarillo Junior and senior high schools.

Mrs. Wise taught private instrumental music.

The couple were married May 10, 1916, in Meno, Okla. They moved to Amarillo in 1920. Both are members of Vaughan-Selby Class, Polk Street Methodist Church.

Assisting with serving and other arrangements at the 2:30-4:30 p.m. event will be Mesdames J. W. Dutton of Ponca City, Okla., J. W. Cloud of Tulsa, Okla., M. P. Fields, W. R. Frazee, Dessa Wright, J. M. Webb, Joe Weddington, Ray L. Smith, S. L. Edwards and E. J. Sowder.

Concert Planned
NEWS JUN 17 1965
By Sandie Band

A homecoming concert will be presented by the Sandie Band and Orchestra at 8 p.m. today in Ellwood Park. This year's band members will be joined by those of next year, plus ex-Sandies.

Guest conductor for the concert will be Oscar Wise who started the band in 1922.

The Sandie Band is under the direction of Wayne Muller.

Meet Your Neighbor: LF

Oscar Wise

By Mike Caldwell
Globe-News Staff Writer
OCT 1 1976

In 1920 Oscar Wise came to Amarillo, then a city of about 15,000, intending to teach manual arts for one semester and then go into the garage business.

In 1956, when Wise retired from teaching in the Amarillo schools, the enrollment was 20,000 students.

He didn't retire completely though. He had begun tuning pianos in 1947 and when he retired he continued to tune pianos.

"There's no piano made that I can tune perfectly," Wise admits, but he has done well enough over the years that he has always had more customers than he can handle.

Pianos are not the only musical instrument Wise is familiar with, though. In 1922 he was selected to start the Amarillo High School Band. The first year he had 11 members and they practiced in a classroom before school, but a few years later they were large enough to be promoted to the unfinished basement of a new building.

He also helped start the Amarillo Symphony, in which he played a trombone. In 1931 his band presented him with a trombone which he played for nearly 20 years.

During World War II, Wise left the Amarillo schools to teach bomber electrical systems at Amarillo Air Force Army Air Field, but after the war he returned to the schools.

One of his students in years past successfully treated Wise for cancer, but his first wife, Ester, died of lung cancer about five years ago.

Two years later Oscar and Cora Crow were married. Her daughters had studied saxophone under Oscar, and they had played together in the symphony.

They live at 2016 Teckla now, and they both work. Oscar has his piano tuning and Cora owns and operates a laundry and cleaning service which employs more than 20 people.

Between them they have six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren who are scattered across the nation. The Wises visit them on their vacations, which allows Oscar opportunities to pursue his favorite hobby—visiting piano factories.

Organizer of Sandie Band Recalls First Performance of School Song, 'Oh, AHS'

By DIANNE WHISENAND
Staff Writer

He is Oscar Wise, for whom music became a major chord in his life. Besides a 20-year association with the Sandie band as director, Wise also helped organize children's bands at the Maverick Club and Presbyterian Children's Home, and was a

member of the Amarillo Symphony for 40 years. Now, at 78, he tunes pianos six days a week and plays the cello for the Vaughn-Selby Sunday School class at Polk Street United Methodist Church, where he is a member. Wise, who lives at 1601 S. Hayden, started his music career playing trombone while he was a student at Oklahoma A&M University, now Oklahoma State.

the high schools and junior highs until his retirement in 1959. With his work in the schools he was also busy with city and church music. He joined the Amarillo Symphony in 1924, as a trombonist and switched to cello in 1942. He holds a lifetime pass to the symphony concerts. Wise directed the Polk Street Methodist Church orchestra for 15 years. He and his wife, Esther, who died in 1972, also were in charge of music and choir at St. Matthew Methodist Church for several years, he said.

The Golden Sandie Band of Amarillo High School was organized in 1922 by a young Oklahoma manual arts teacher with a knack for music.

Mrs. Oscar Wise
Funeral rites for Mrs. Oscar Wise, 79, of 1601 Hayden, will be at 2:30 p.m. today in Polk Street United Methodist Church, with the Rev. W. J. Brower, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Memorial Park Cemetery by Blackburn-Shaw Funeral Directors.

A resident of Amarillo since 1920, Mrs. Wise died Saturday morning in St. Anthony's Hospital.

For many years active in Amarillo music concerns, she was a past president of the McDowell Music Club and a private teacher for 25 years, instructing in band instruments. She had studios in three Amarillo schools. Surviving her are her husband; two daughters, Mrs. Winona Comfort of Huntington, W. Va., and Mrs. Ruth Stovall of Avondale, Va.; a brother, James Cloud of Tulsa; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Amarillo

Mrs. Oscar Wise

Funeral services for Mrs. Oscar Wise, 79, of 1601 Hayden, were to be at 2:30 p.m. today in Polk Street United Methodist Church.

Rev. J. Walter Brower, pastor, was to officiate. Burial was to be in Memorial Park Cemetery by Blackburn-Shaw Funeral Directors.

A resident of Amarillo since 1920, Mrs. Wise died Saturday morning in St. Anthony's Hospital.

For many years, she was active in Amarillo music circles. She was past president of the McDowell Music Club and had taught private lessons on band instruments for 25 years. She had studios in three Amarillo schools.

Surviving are her husband, two daughters, a brother, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

"I got a chance to buy an old battered up brass trombone for \$10," he said. The band director gave him free lessons until he joined the band.

He played in the band for three years and upon graduation received a degree in manual industrial arts with a minor in music.

He worked for an oil company for several years and was going to put in a garage in Colorado, but the recession of 1920 caused him to cancel the plan.

Wise instead joined the Rocky Mountain Teachers Agency, designed to help find jobs for teachers or for those who wanted to go into the teaching profession.

He soon heard of an opening in the new Amarillo High School. Wise arrived here at 5:30 one morning and went to a teachers meeting that night, he remembers.

He taught shop and math for two years before organizing the band.

The original band had 11 members, no uniforms, and practiced in a classroom.

They played their first football game in a field in the Bivins addition only a week after being organized.

As he recalled the early days, Wise thumbed through a worn black book containing the names of all his students from over the years and the instruments they played.

"I had more than 1,000 different people in 20 years," he mused. The band soon outgrew its classroom-practice room and moved to the boiler room.

There was only one boiler at the time so the band was able to fit, he said.

Wise recalled some of the band's many firsts:

It's first performance in the school auditorium, in the 1926-27 season;

It's first uniforms, chosen by Wise: blue capes with caps and black trousers;

It's first girl member, who joined in 1930.

He dismissed the rumor that he had written the words to the AHS song. The author, he said, was a youngster named Gerald Cooper, now deceased.

"The song, 'Oh AHS,' is adapted from the Oklahoma State University song. Gerald Cooper had come here from Norman, Okla., where he had heard it at football games," Wise said.

"The tune was by Victor Herbert . . . a waltz tune called 'The Belle of New York.'"

Young Cooper had asked Wise to write off the music of the song for him . . . "and he came up with the words to fit the music to 'Oh, AHS,' Wise said.

"Lots of people think I wrote the song, but I didn't. I arranged it for the band. We played it at a pep rally. The students liked it and adopted it as the school song," he said.

The band played at the 1936 Centennial Celebration of the founding of Texas and in the Cotton Bowl at Dallas in 1940, for the state high school football championship.

Wise resigned as band director in 1942.

After the war, he served as supervisor of industrial arts for

Wise directed the Polk Street Methodist Church orchestra for 15 years. He and his wife, Esther, who died in 1972, also were in charge of music and choir at St. Matthew Methodist Church for several years, he said.

He turned to piano tuning in 1946 on a part-time basis and six years ago began working at it full-time. He estimates he's tuned 6,000 pianos.

He and Mrs. Wise helped organize children's bands at the Presbyterian's Children's Home and Maverick Club. Mrs. Wise played the piano for the bands, her proud husband said.

She also was active in church work and in the Band Parents Association at Amarillo High School, which was organized in 1931.

Wise bought his wife an organ for their 50th wedding anniversary in 1966.

His wife bought him a cello.

Wise picked up the brightly-varnished cello, drew the bow across the strings, evoked a gentle melody.

He practices a little every afternoon, after he's finished tuning pianos, he said.

He takes an afternoon nap after that, and usually eats out, often at his favorite hamburger place.

Wise used to keep busy making things out of wood. He made a gate-legged extension table, a magazine rack, six dining chairs with a tiny rosette carved on each and a statuette of a horse.

He also built a fireplace for the living room.

Although age and ill health are slowing him down a bit, he said, he keeps busy. He recently traveled to West Virginia, Illinois, Colorado, Alabama and Oklahoma to visit relatives, including his daughters, Mrs. Winona Comfort of Huntington, W. Va., and Mrs. Ruth Stovall of Avondale, Va., and four grandchildren.

City Musician Dead at Age 79

Resident of Amarillo for half a century and for many years a leader in Amarillo music circles, Mrs. Oscar Wise, of 1601 Hayden died Saturday morning at St. Anthony's Hospital. She was 79 years old.

Mrs. Wise came to Amarillo in 1920 and had been a member of Polk Street United Methodist Church since the day after her arrival.

She was a past president of the McDowell Music Club and for more than 25 years was a private teacher of band instruments. She had studios in three Amarillo schools.

She was active in the Women's Society for Christian Service at Polk Street United Methodist Church and until she became ill, some 18 months ago was organist for the Vaughn-Selby Sunday School Class and led the music program at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church.

Mrs. Wise is survived by her husband and by two daughters, Mrs. Winona Comfort of Huntington, W. Va., and Mrs. Ruth Stovall of Avondale, Va. Also surviving are a brother, James Cloud of Tulsa, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements will be announced by Blackburn-Shaw.

The family requests that memorials be in the form of contributions to the Cancer Society.



Oscar I. Wise
Sandie Band Organizer Dies

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Services are pending with Blackburn Shaw Memorial Chapel.

Mr. Wise, 93, of 2016 Teckla, was born in Kirksville, Mo., and came to Amarillo in 1920. He moved to Amarillo to teach manual arts for one semester and then went into the garage business. In 1956 Wise retired from teaching in the Amarillo schools.

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During World War II, Wise taught bomber electrical systems at the Amarillo Army Air Corps base.

He was married to Cora Crow in 1974 at Huntington, West. Va. His first wife, Esther, died in 1972.

He had been a member of Polk Street United Methodist Church since 1920 and was a life member of the Vaughn-Selby Sunday school class. He directed the orchestra at the church for 15 years.

Mr. Wise turned to piano tuning in 1946 on a part-time basis and later worked full time.

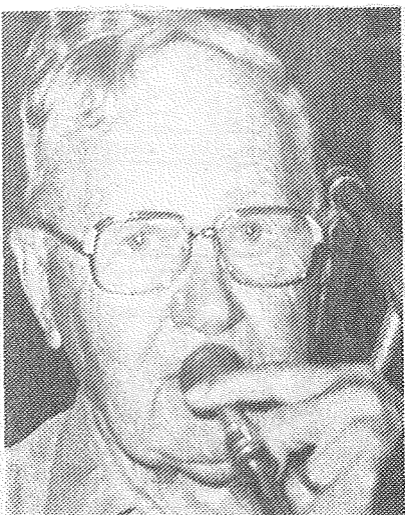
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GLOBE JUN 21 1968

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