

(This is a tribute to Wesley May in November, 1941)

"Loved, admired and respected by all who know him! Sharing our joys and sorrows, "Prof" has always been just one of us. He not only has filled our trophy case but he has filled every students' heart with a love and respect for our Pecos High and all it stands for. His eager enthusiasm and "never say die" spirit have been a creative influence planted deep in the hearts of all who know him."

How glad I am to be the one to say this to you before you leave. For once I am the envy of P.H.S. There are about 70 band students who would like to have the chance to say "What Mr. May Means to Me." There are probably 100 other students in Junior & Senior High who could easily tell "Why I Like Mr. May.", Even half the children in Elementary School, when asked if they are anxious to get in High School will answer, "Sure thing! So I can be in the band under Mr. May." And after five years of being associated with "Prof" in band, I want to say for all his students, "Thank you, Mr. May, for all you've done for us." We have known all along that we could not keep you in person. The prize-winning roses always fade. Our Mother's chocolate cake never lasts long! It seems that the things we love best always leave us, and yet, none leaves without leaving an impression. Maybe it's nothing more than a pressed flower or a tested recipe, but with you it's the spirit that will always hover over the band house, the school and the town. WESLEY C. MAY - You know, just the very name stands for something fine. Every letter in those words stands for an ideal that we find it's owner stands for.

The "W" immediately signifies "Prof's" willingness to help everyone, not just in band matters, but in everything from Geometry to our love affairs. He is always willing to take time to help us.

The first "E" in Wesley" must stand for his earnestness. When he starts a job he puts his whole soul into it and is not contented until he has done the job and done it well.

Now the "s" stands for a quality that we have certainly learned from him -self-assurance. Why, half of us would never have been able to march before a grandstand full of people, or to play a solo, or duet if we had not been taught to believe that we could do that certain number better than anyone present. He knows and teaches "if you don't believe in yourself no one else will."

"L" - loyalty. We may be in the middle of "Wesley" but it stands first in connection with our band director. Can you think of any event in Pecos that he has not been loyal to? He has the band to cooperate in everything from a P.T.A. tree-planting to a football game. And also, every worthwhile movement that is started at school or in town, he is among the first to contribute to and support whole-heartedly.

Another "E"? Yes, of course, for enthusiasm. Not only does he work earnestly in all that he undertakes, but goes about it so enthusiastically that the excitement is contagious to all who come in contact with him.

The "Y" stands for what students like best in him. His youthfulness. He has stayed young with us and by being one of us he has won our admiration and respect. We see him as two people - when away from the classroom and away from work, he is a boy of 16 with high ideals. When parading, playing or studying, he has been our director, whom we have wanted to please with good results.

Since "C" starts his second name, I believe cooperation is his middle name! You won't find a teacher but who will say that "Prof" is cooperative at all times. He is always ready to put his band practice at times when it does not conflict with other teacher's plans. He always gives over to help the football coaches in any way he can be of service in the fall. And on many short notices, he has worked up good programs

just to cooperate with the school and town.

A man of this nature would surely have friends, you say? And he does! The "M" stands for many friends. He is forever making new and attempting to keep his old, which sum up the reason for his many friends.

The "A" might stand for his abilities which are many. Not only can he teach marching and band, he is capable of playing every horn and percussion in our band. He also has the ability to teach both sciences and math, which he has proved to all his students.

The last "Y" stands for the aim he practices and teaches - yeilding the best band each year that Pecos ever had. For each year, he sees the need of improvement and is broadminded and progressive enough to make the changes needed.

These qualities: Willingness, Earnestness, Self-assurance, Loyalty, Enthusiasm, Youthfulness, Cooperation, Many friends, Abilities and Yeilding the best band are the reasons that all Pecos want to say

Thank you, Mr. May, for these six years.

Mr. May, if you will come to the front I would like to present you with a gift to try to show how much we appreciate you.

I give you, with all our love, this director's baton, which reads, "Director Wesley C. May, 1935-1941.

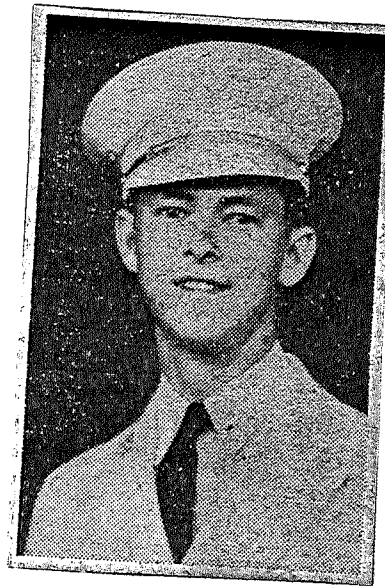
Also, here is a book of Band Notes with your 70 band notes and discord's autographs. We love you.

Pecos Bandsmen Strut Stuff For El Paso Visitors

Performing with precision and playing like veterans, the Pecos high school band Friday night staged one of their most colorful between-halves stunts at the Pecos El Paso football game.

Assisted by members of the girls' pep squad, the bandsmen marched on the field and into a bell formation, to play "The Bells of St. Mary's" while the field lights were turned off. Each student held a blue-covered flash light, outlining the bell.

The visiting El Paso band and girls' cheering unit attired in clever western costumes, featured letter formations for their game stunt.

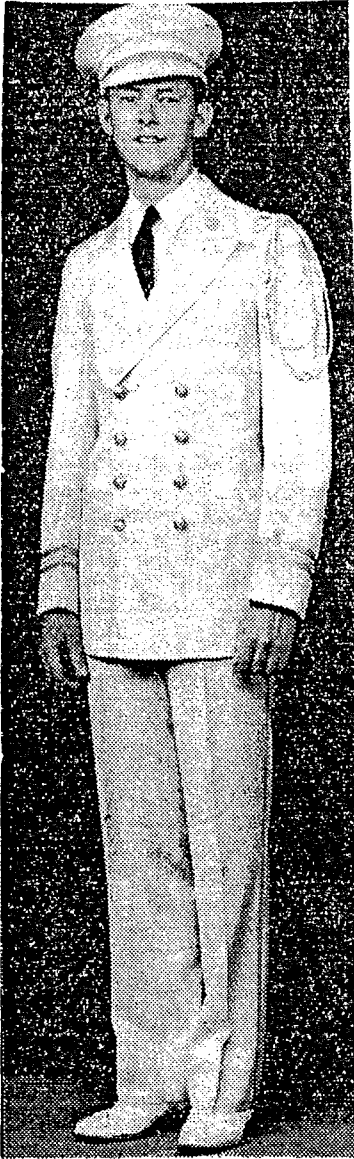


Tribute Is Paid To Wesley May

Wesley May, director of the Pecos High School Band, was honored at the Rotary Club luncheon Thursday.

High tribute was paid to the band by Mrs. Jack Parker, president of the Band Mothers Club; Mrs. J. C. Wilson, a member of the club; Miss Louise Allison, a member of the band, and Tommy Cowan, drum major of last year's band.

Mr. May replied with words of appreciation, stressing the importance of building character and teaching discipline along with musical instruction.



BAND DIRECTOR— Wesley C. May, Pecos, has accepted the position as director of Odessa High School Band, succeeding G. Ward Moody, resigned. May, a graduate of Sul Ross College, Alpine, has been director at Pecos since 1935. His successor has not been named.

at least twenty-one.

I. May 6. (AP) — Miss Kennedy became the daughter of Hartington and Duchess of Devonshire in a simple civil marriage ceremony inking the ancient British family with the Kennedys of Boston.

W. GO. May 6. (AP) — A challenge to the validity of a Nabob Relations Board election conducted in a plant being operated by the government, as are Montgomery Ward and Company's large properties, was raised today by the firm's attorneys at a conference before Federal Judge William H. Holly.

W. WASHINGTON, May 6. (AP) — Walter W. Burns, Washington patent attorney and former colonel in the National Guard, filed suit in federal district court today against Brig. Gen. Oliver W. Spieler, U.S. Army, and six others, charging they conspired in an attempt to have him declared insane. He asked \$150,000 damages.

L. LONDON, May 7. (AP) — Field Marshal Erwin Rommel told Germans in their bombed homeland yesterday that an Allied invasion of Europe "must be reckoned as imminent," and one Nazi commentator said the Americans and British would hurl 2,000,000 men into the sea this month, using 100,000 flying craft.

War Bonds and Stamps.

The United States tonight black-listed 38 Irish firms and businessmen accused of aiding the enemy.

The action was the first taken by this government to express through economic measures its disapproval of Eire's decision in February not to eject Axis officials accused of espionage by the Allies.



WESLEY MAY — Expert director of the Odessa high school band, saw his organization take First Division honors when they competed against standards in the Region VIII Contests Saturday.

WEST TEXAS DIRECTORS BAND

CONDUCTED BY

MR. DAN GIBBS, MR. J.R. MCENTYRE, AND MR. WESLEY MAY

PROGRAM TO BE SELECTED FROM THE FOLLOWING SELECTIONS

MR. GIBBS

PRIDE OF THE WOLVERINES. SOUSA
SHEPHERD'S HEY GRAINGER
RUSSIAN CHRISTMAS MUSIC. REED

MR. MCENTYRE

PINEAPPLE POLL. SULLIVAN/MACKERRAS
FANTASIA ON A THEME BY HAYDN. DELLO JOIO

MR. MAY

SEMPER FIDELIS MARCH. SOUSA
WESTERNER MARCH RICHARDS
ELSA'S PROCESSION TO THE CATHEDRAL. WAGNER
VARIATIONS ON A KOREAN FOLK SONG. CHANCE

December 5, 1990

Dear Mr. May,

Please let me thank you again for your assistance in judging the Odessa All City Band. Because of your patience and fine work this event was a great success! Your time and interest in Odessa's instrumental music program is very much appreciated.

I am very impressed with the professionalism and comraderie between the Odessa and Midland directors. I look forward to continuing the achievement of our mutual goals.

Thanks again and I hope the Holidays to come will be relaxing and fun for you.

Sincerely,

Cindy Bulloch
All City
Audition Chairperson

I really enjoyed having you
conduct at our O.C. Concert!

Cindy

Midland Independent School District

615 W. Missouri Avenue
Midland, Texas 79701

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

May 30, 1991

Mr. Wesley May
1613 Humble
Midland, TX 79701

Dear Mr. May:

It would be difficult to count the number of times that you are called upon to visit one of our bands or orchestras. You are always so willing and helpful and we appreciate your interest in our students.

We are enclosing a small check in appreciation of the clinics you conducted for band and orchestra just prior to Spring contests. We realize that this check is not as large as we wish it could be but it is at least a token of our thanks for your efforts in behalf of the students of MISD.

We feel that we have a really exciting program of music instruction in our school district. We can always see ways that we can improve on what we are doing but we are very proud of the efforts of our directors and students and of the excellent record of accomplishments these groups accumulate each year. These accomplishments are enhanced through the efforts of people like you who are always willing to give of your time and talent to help our students grow. We do appreciate you.

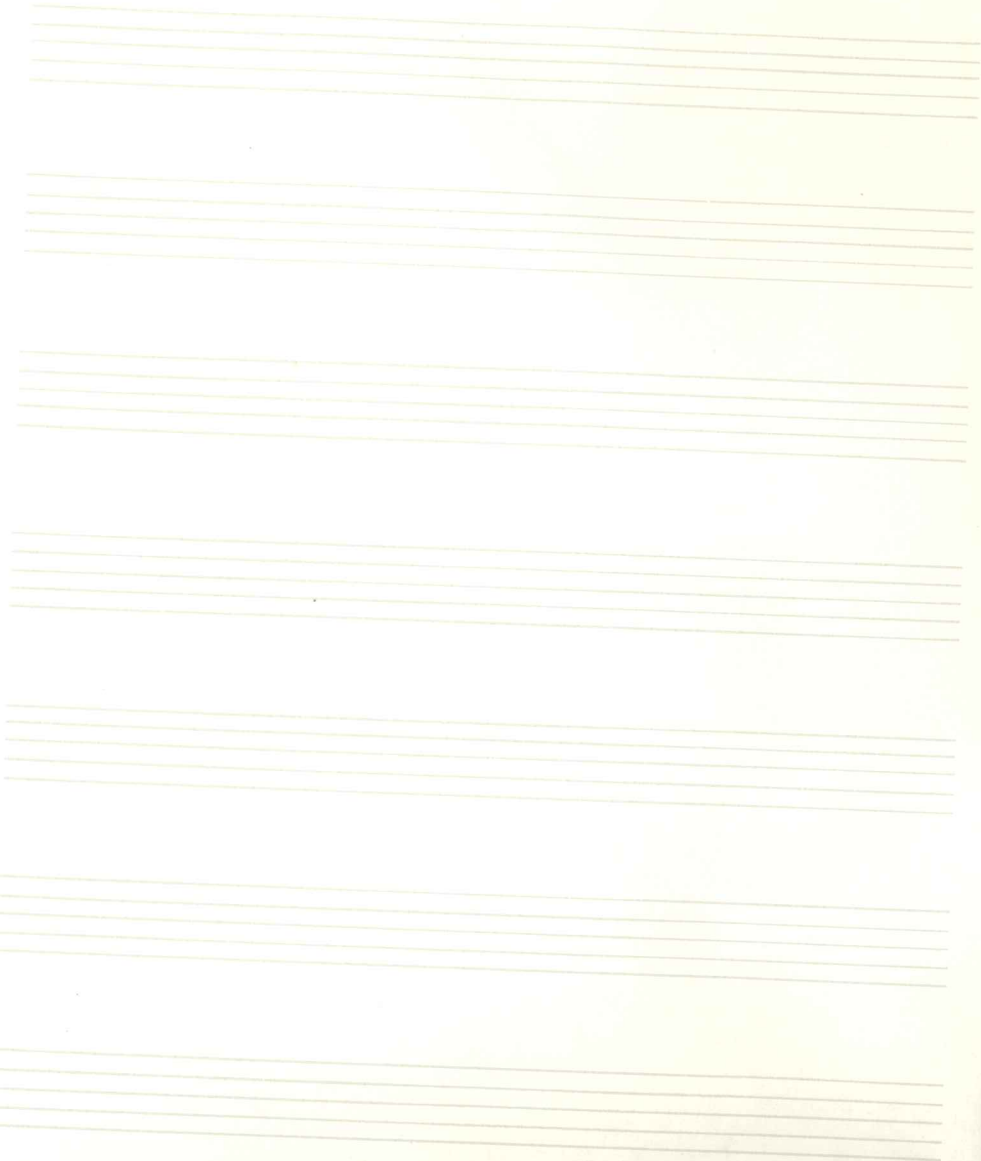
Sincerely,



E. Grace Osadchuk, Ph.D.
Coordinator of Fine Arts

cc: Maridell Fryar, Executive Director of Instruction

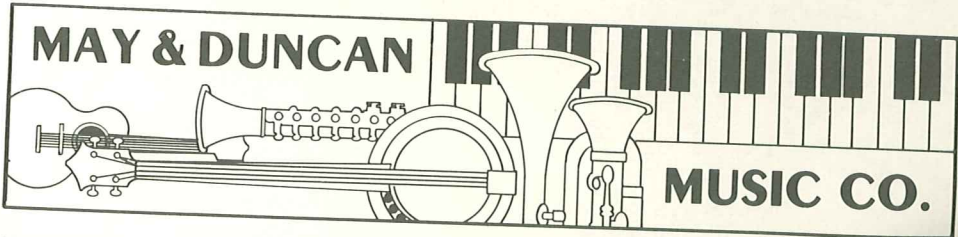
...for every child...



LeBlanc - Noblet - Normandy - King - Cleveland - DeFord - Conn - Artley
Yamaha - Selmer - Bundy - Bach - Buescher - Lewis - Roth
Olds - Ludwig - Slingerland - Gemeinhardt

MAY & DUNCAN MUSIC CO.

4519 Western 353-3591 Amarillo 79109	424 N. Texas 332-9447 Odessa 79761	5001 Montana 566-9643 El Paso 79903	408 Andrews Hwy. 682-9451 Midland 79701
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King-Conn-Olds-Leblanc Reynolds-Ludwig-Gretsch

The Wesley

MAY MUSIC COMPANY

420 N. Texas

FE 2-1761

Odessa, Texas

219 N. Main

MU 2-9451

Midland, Texas

WEST TEXAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

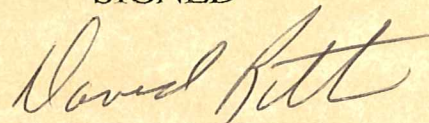
BAND CAMP

PROUDLY SALUTES

Wesley May

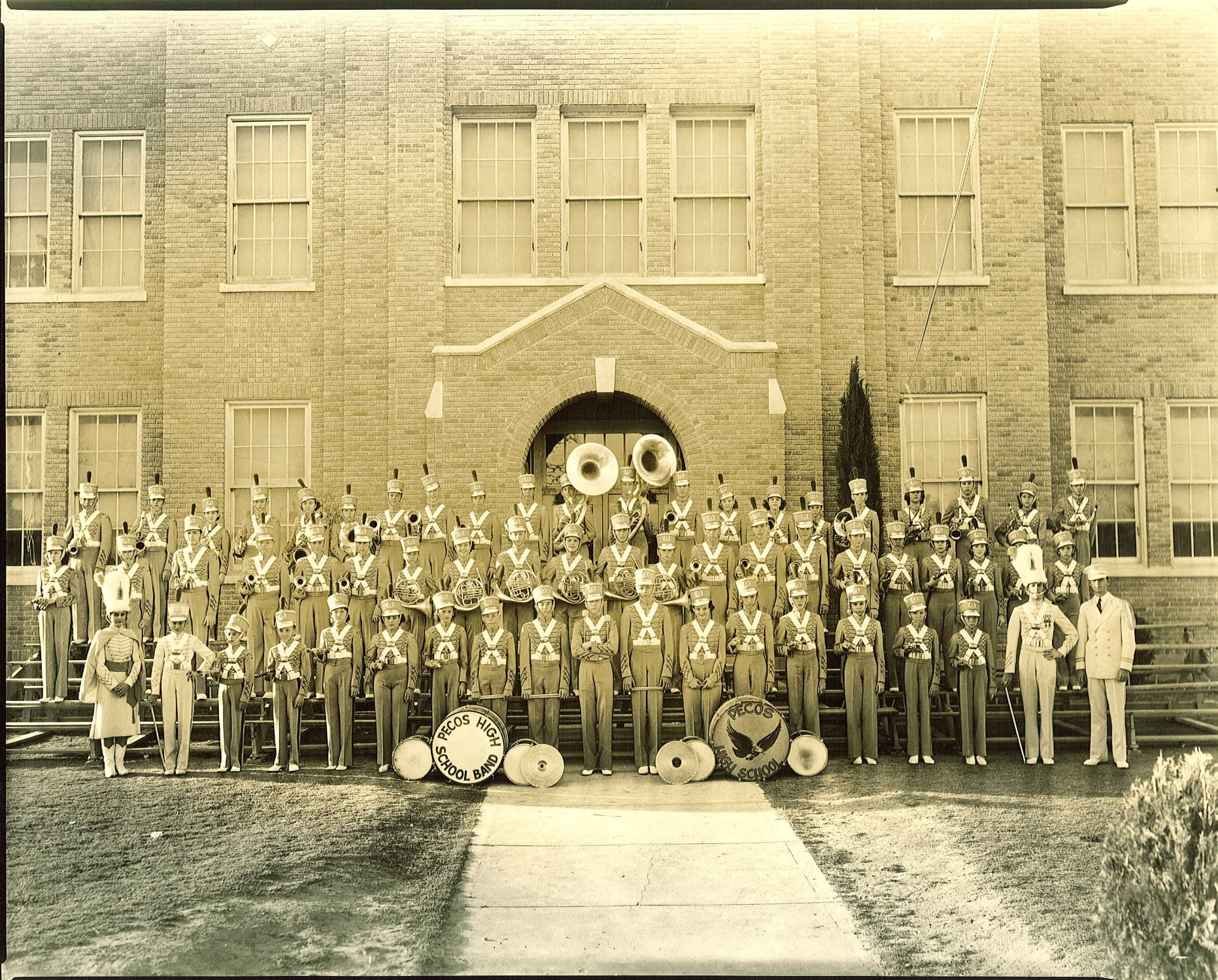
FOR SERVICE, GUIDANCE AND LEADERSHIP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF BAND
PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT WEST TEXAS

SIGNED



DAVID RITTER
CAMP DIRECTOR

THIS 22nd DAY OF JULY, 1987





Spring Concert

Pecos Bands

Commemorating 50 Years

honoring

Wesley C. May

Pecos' First Band Director



1937 MARCHING BAND

Tuesday, May 14, 1985

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7:00 P. M.

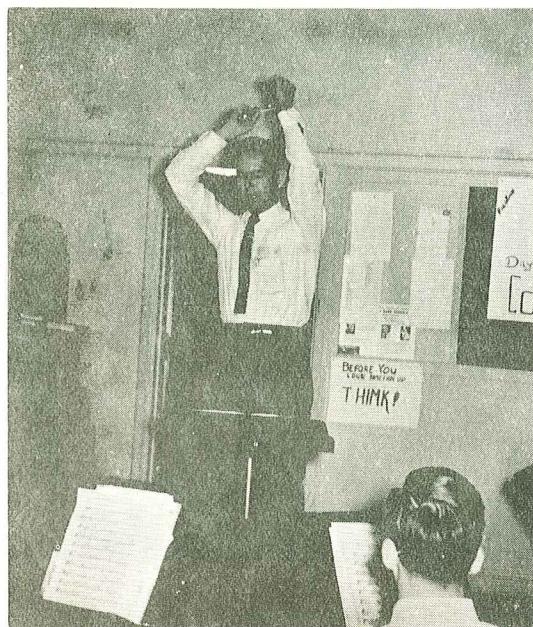
Pecos High School Gymnasium



1936 PECOS HIGH SCHOOL BAND



1937 PECOS HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT BAND



WESLEY MAY

BAND DIRECTORS OF PECOS HIGH SCHOOL

- 1935-1941 Wesley May
- 1941-1942 Lewis Stoelzing
- 1942-1943 Beverly (Vaughn) Fabrygel
- 1943-1949 Elton Bear
- 1949-1980 Bill Carrico
- 1980 - Walter Reneau

SWEETSTAKES '85

- Walter Reneau — Pecos High School
- Esther Luna — Pecos High School Assistant
- Pam McAnally — Zavala Junior High
- Terry Maxwell — Crockett Junior High

GUEST CONDUCTORS

- Bill Carrico
- Wesley May
- Dalton Moseley — Superintendent
- Joe Shoemaker — Principal

BEGINNING BAND

- March Triumphant* Ployhar
- The Skater's Waltz* Waldteufel-Stuart
- Presentation of Awards*
- Fidgets* Brusiloff

ZAVALA JUNIOR HIGH BAND

Pam McAnally

- One Voice* Manilow
- Presentation of Awards*
- Go For It* Taylor

CROCKETT JUNIOR HIGH BAND

Terry Maxwell

- Harlem Nocturne* Balent
- Presentation of Awards*
- On Broadway* Jennings

PECOS HIGH CONCERT BAND

Esther Luna

- Let It Be* Cofield
- Momentations* Spears

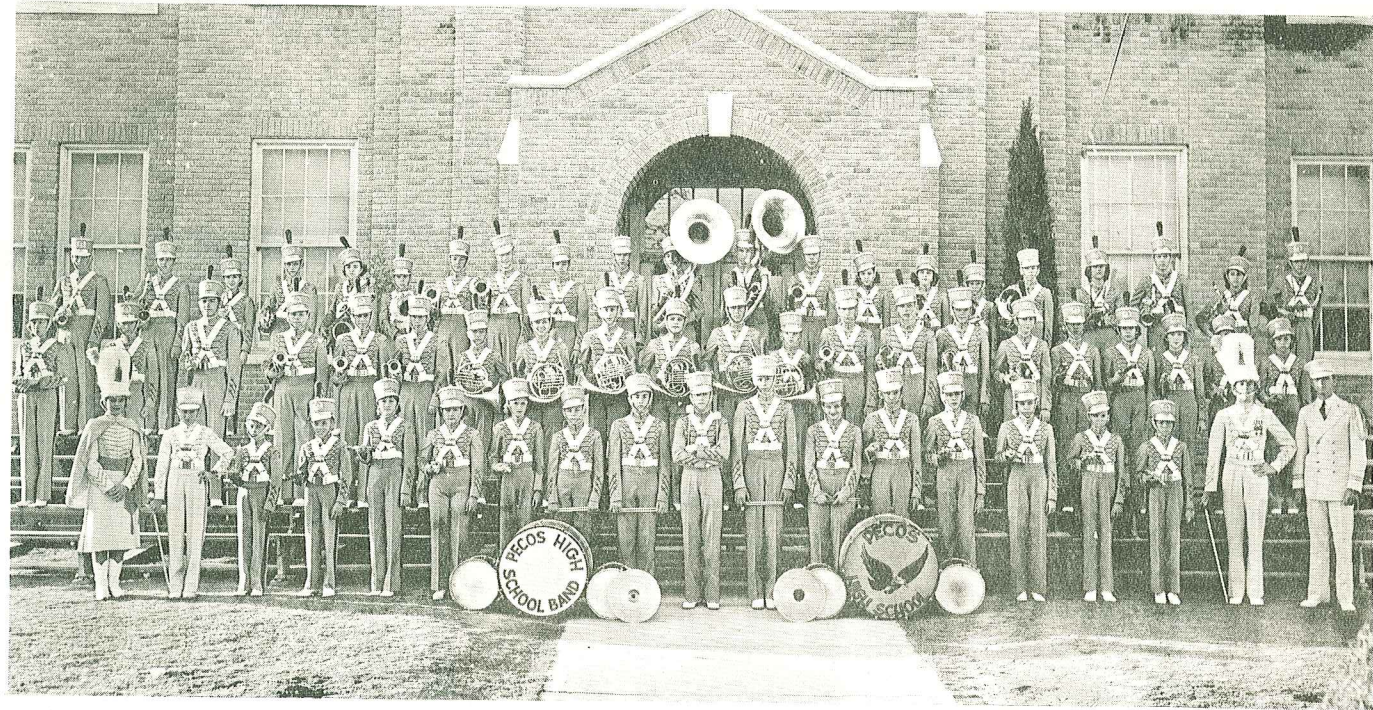
PECOS HIGH SYMPHONIC BAND

Walter Reneau

- The Symphonic Marches* John Williams
- Presentation of Awards*
- Ye Banks & Braes O'Bonnie Doon* Grainger
- Incantation and Dance* Chance

COMBINED BANDS

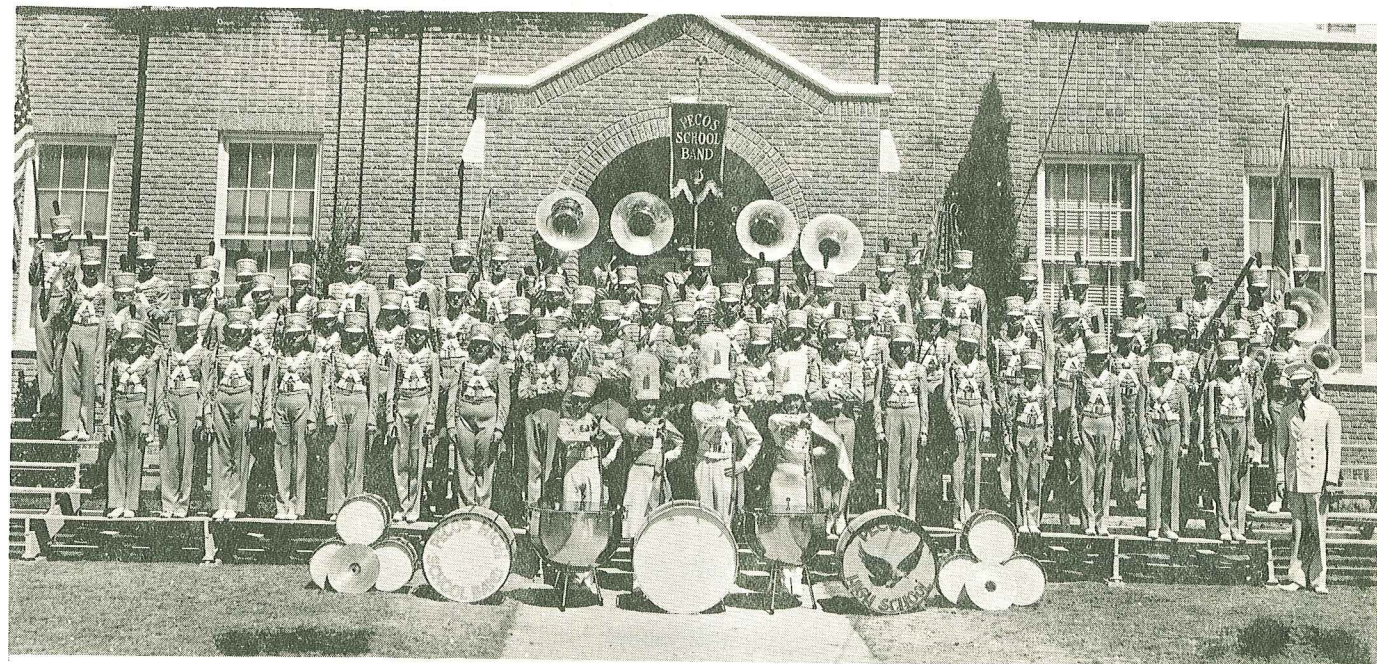
- Battle Hymn of the Republic* Ployhar



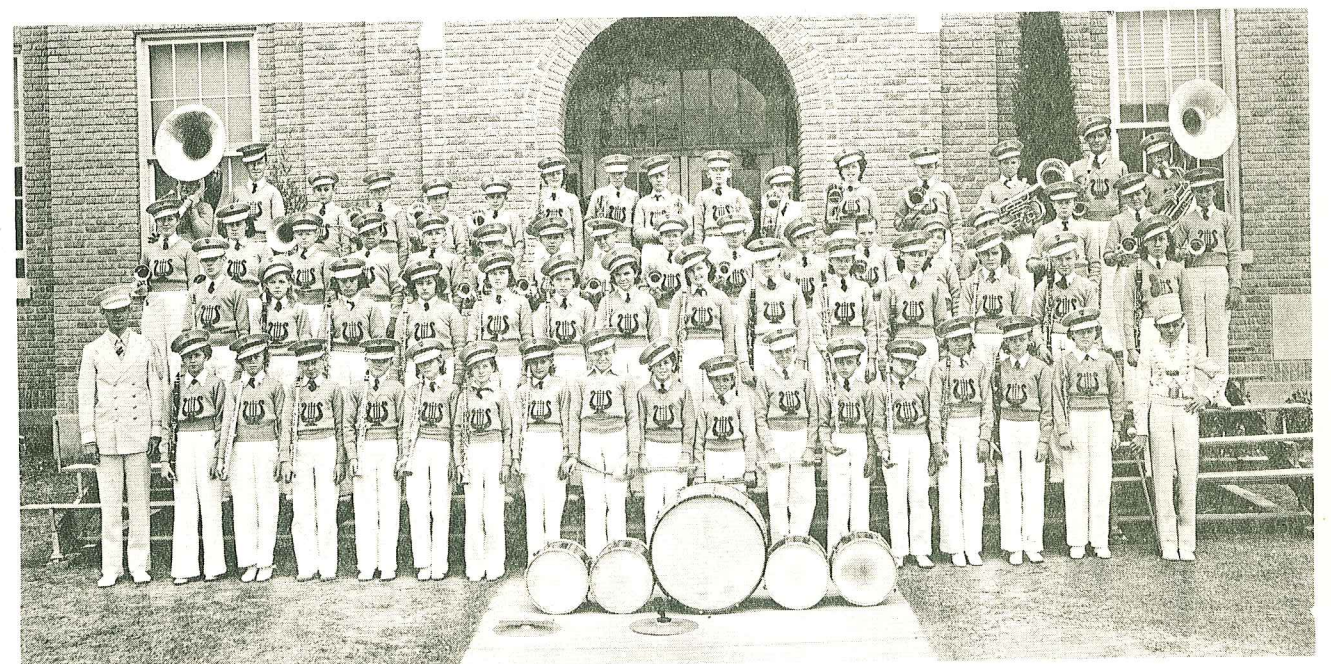
1938 PECOS HIGH SCHOOL BAND



1937 PECOS JUNIOR BAND



1939 PECOS HIGH SCHOOL BAND



1938 PECOS JUNIOR BAND



PROGRAM

Lee Jazz Ensemble

DUANE YOUNG, Director

Unchained Melody North/Norred

Presentation of Outstanding Jazz Member

In The Mood Garland

Lee Freshman Band

CLYDE WILSON, Director

The Golden Age of Rock and Roll Higgins

Beauty and the Beast Menken/Bocook

The Eighties Higgins

Presentation of Outstanding Freshman Band Members

Selections from Robin Hood Bocook

Lee Symphonic Band

DUANE YOUNG, Director

Under the Double Eagle Wagner/Winter

Beauty and the Beast Menken/Bocook

Presentation of the Outstanding Symphonic Band Member

America, the Beautiful Ward/Ployhar

Lee Honor Band

RANDY STORIE, Director

March from "Symphonic Metamorphosis" Hindemith/Wilson

Finale from "Symphony No. 4" Tschaikowsky/Safranek

Presentation of the Wesley C. May Award

La Bamba De Vera Cruz (Mexican Dance) Tucci/Hunsberger

Hey, Mr. Banjo Morgan & Malkin/Ployhar

Presentation of the Semper Fidelis Award

Nimrod from "Enigma Variations" Elgar/Slocum

Presentation of the John Philip Sousa Award

The Glory of the Yankee Navy Sousa/Fennell

Senior Presentation

School Song - Fight Song - Dixie

Robert E. Lee High School

Presents



The Rebel Bands

in Their First

Annual Midwinter Concert

Honoring Mr. Wesley May

Tuesday, February 9, 1988

Stan Cobb Memorial Auditorium

7:00 p.m.

Program

The Symphonic Band

Anthony Sanchez, Director

Noble Men.....Henry Fillmore

Heatherwood Portrait.....James Barnes

Festa.....Elliot A. Del Borgo

The Lone Star Brass

The King's FanfareJosquin De Pres

La Carnaval De Venise.....J. B. Arban

Selections from Porgy and Bess George Gershwin

David Scott, Trumpet; Michael Santorelli, Trumpet;

Barbara Adamcik, French Horn; Robb Belcher, Trombone; Alan Harvey, Tuba

The Honor Band

Randy Storie, Director

In Storm and Sunshine.....J. C. Heed

Salvation Is Created.....Tchesnokoff

American Overture for Band.....Joseph Wilcox Jenkins

The Lord's Prayer.....Arr. John Stuart

Donnie Artley, Cornet Soloist

Slavonic Rhapsody.....Carl Friedmann

Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral.....Richard Wagner

Wesley May, Conductor

1988 HONOR BAND PERSONNEL

RANDY STORIE, DIRECTOR

Flute

Sheila Butler.....6
Amy Davidson
Julie Fang.....2
Sonia Finch.....6
Erin Kelly
Johanna Leps
Melissa Perkins
Charlotte Reed*2,4,6
Christie Rigtrup.....6
Melissa Robertson
Shelley Stringer
Patty Tomlinson.....1

Oboe

Holly Beshears*2,3
Susannah Cleveland.....2,3

Bassoon

Dani Dunn*1,2,3,4

B₃ Clarinet

Lynette Carroll.....6
Lori Clements.....1,2
Mindy Coleman.....6
Leslie Finkbeiner.....6
Carla Haskell
Sabra King
Jeanann Kirwin
Kristy Mires2,4,6
Tina O'Guinn.....2
Liz Reisinger
Dodie Stewart4
Jennifer Wagner*2,4
Simone Waibel1,2,4

Bass Clarinet

Elizabeth Cleveland*
Leslie Evans
Michelle Pitcher.....2
Tina Pruitt.....1,6

Contra Bass Clarinet

Stephanie Reed*2

Saxophone

Todd Adams
Kevin Carmody
David Clark
Phillip Cooley*2,6
Sean McGaughey2,6
Les Pullig
Daniel Tague.....6

Cornet

Donnie Artley*2,3,4,5,6
Pat Brown*2,3,4,5
Mike Burnett.....2
David Chmielewski.....1,6
Peter Harrington
Michael Monclova
Charissa Painter
David Sites
Todd Smith
Brian Strickland
Timmy Weaver6

String Bass

Robie Burns*6

Horn

Amber Burfiend.....2
Andy Nance2,4
Denise O'Guinn
Will Reinert6
Tony Smith*1,2,3,4,5,6
Jeff Weaver
Trey Williams

Euphoniums

David Baker
Jorge Chavez.....1,6
Kevin Reynolds.....6

Euphoniums - Cont'd

Steve Wade.....6
Dennis Vasquez*1,2

Trombone

Richard Chen*2,3,4,6
John Ellis.....2
Anthony Fang2,4
Paul Fierro
Jimmy Healer.....2,4,5
Lorie Sedden
Shane Shukis
Jennifer Snell

Tuba

James Busby6
Hershell Cavin*1,2,4,6
Chris Elmore6
Bryan Kemper.....6
Greg Perry2,6

Percussion

Keely Adams.....2,3,4,6
David Alcala.....1,2,6
Susie Dunn*1,2,3,4,5,6
Christie Isom
Robert McGuire2,3
Scott Monroe.....1,2,3,6
Chad Roberts.....2
Rick Wooten

LEANNA JAMES, Student Aide

LEGEND

- 1 - OFFICER
- 2 - ALL REGION BAND
- 3 - ALL REGION ORCHESTRA
- 4 - AREA BAND/ORCHESTRA
- 5 - ALL STATE
- 6 - SENIOR
- * - FIRST CHAIR PLAYER

Guest Conductor
Mr. Wesley May

Wesley May was born in Bandera, Texas and lived in the San Antonio area until he was eight years old. He moved with his family to Alpine, Texas and attended school there; graduating from Alpine High School at the age of 15. He graduated from Sul Ross College with a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in math and chemistry at the age of 18. He played in the college orchestra during those years.

In 1933 Mr. May worked for the Civil Works Administration and then taught one year in Valentine, Texas.

In 1935 Mr. May was asked to come to Pecos, Texas to teach math and start a high school band program. His bands received many honors at State and National Contests. In 1985 he was honored with a concert and reception celebrating 50 years of band in Pecos.

In 1941 Mr. May moved to Odessa, Texas to direct the Odessa High School Bands. He worked for H.N. White Music Company in Abilene, Texas and later came to Midland and established The May Music Company; later the May and Duncan Music Company.

Mr. May sold his business to Mr. Duncan in 1982 and retired in 1985. He continues his first love serving as a clinician and consultant to high schools in this area.

Mr. May is married to Evanelle and has one son and three granddaughters.

Ex-bandsmen return Sunday

The Snyder High School Bands will give their annual Reunion Concert Sunday with all band exes to be recognized; three still active ex-bandsmen to be featured; and the baton offered to a guest conductor associated with the local schools for more than 30 years.

The event will begin at 2 p.m. in Worsham Auditorium at Snyder High School. A reception will follow in the high school student center with the public and all exes invited.

A \$1 admission price will be asked for the concert.

Guest conductor Sunday will be Wesley May, who will lead the symphonic band through three numbers.

He is the owner of May and Duncan Music Company of Midland, a music store associated with the school system here since

1949. In addition, May's wife Evanelle Arnold is a 1933 graduate of Snyder High School.

Three Snyder ex-bandsmen will be featured Sunday also. These include Amadeo Garza, a 1982 graduate currently playing in the Angelo State Band; Dayton Robertson, a 1980 graduate now a member of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band; and Tommy Collum, a 1982 graduate currently active in the music department at Western Texas College.

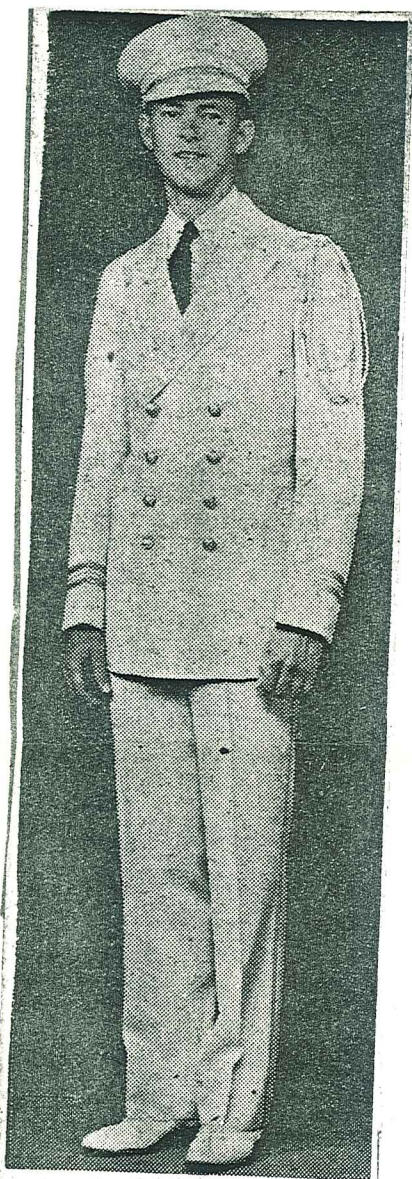
They will join junior high director Scott Mason to comprise the antiphonal brass ensemble.

The concert band, directed by Clifford Franklin, will open Sunday's program. The second half will be offered by the symphonic band under the leadership of high school director Sam Robertson.

To Leave Pecos



Wesley C. May, above, is leaving Pecos after six years as band director here, to go to Odessa in a similar capacity.



BAND DIRECTOR— Wesley C. May, Pecos, has accepted the position as director of Odessa High School Band, succeeding G. Ward Moody, resigned. May, a graduate of Sul Ross College, Alpine, has been director at Pecos since 1935. His successor has not been named.

MAY TO GO TO ODESSA

First Band Director
Of School System
To Leave Soon

WESLEY C. MAY, the man who lifted Pecos high school from the "no-band" class and in a period of six years organized and directed a band that has won more honors than any similar aggregation in West Texas, is leaving Pecos.

Director May, who declined an offer from El Paso High at the beginning of the school year, has accepted a contract offered by Odessa High School. The salary is the same as that being paid him here, \$2100 a year.

The school board has released him from his contract subject to their locating a suitable successor within two weeks' time. In Odessa Mr. May will replace G. Ward Moody, who resigned to accept an American Legion position in Austin.

Band Wins Honors

With 16 first division ratings in state band meets and six first divisions in national meets won by his junior and senior bands, Pecos is a challenger for the glory of having piled up more honors in a shorter period of time than any high school in the state. In addition to the superior ratings won by its bands, each year Pecos has had innumerable students win solo and ensemble first divisions.

PEP SQUAD



PEP SQUAD

THE PEP SQUAD HAS BEEN ORGANIZED FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. THIS YEAR IT CONSISTED OF 36 MEMBERS INCLUDING THE CHEER LEADERS. THE LEADERS WERE MARTHA ELLIS, LOUISE HAMILTON AND JERRY DURNAL WITH MISS DAISY JOHNSON, SPONSOR.

THE OBJECT OF THIS ORGANIZATION IS TO CREATE SPIRIT AND LOYALTY TO THE FOOTBALL TEAM, THE HIGH SCHOOL, AND THE FANS.

BAND

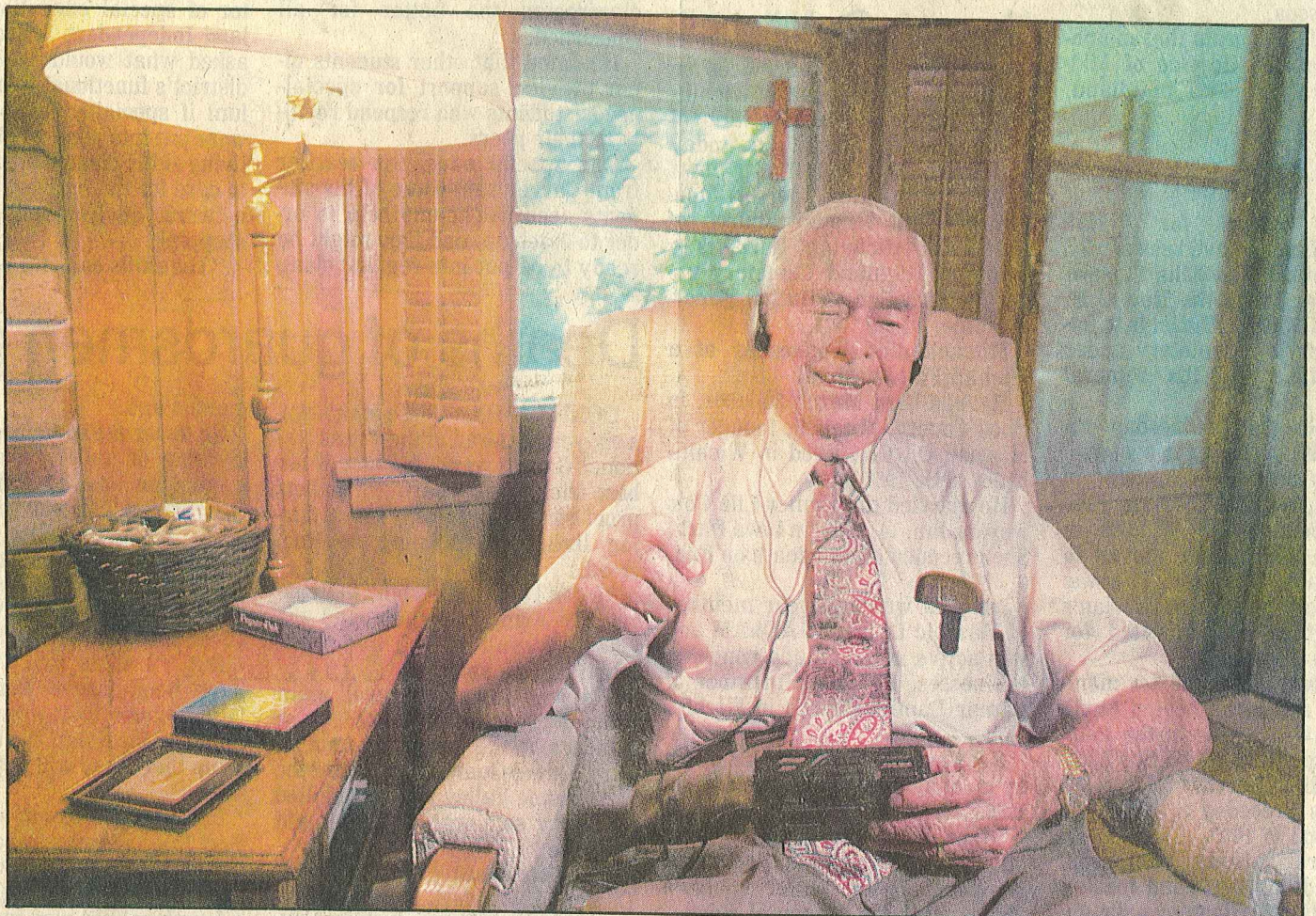
WESLEY C. MAY ORGANIZED THE FIRST HIGH SCHOOL BAND IN 1935 WITH 30 BEGINNERS WHICH GREW TO 42 THE FIRST YEAR. THIS FIRST YEAR THEY ENTERED CLASS D AT BIG SPRING AND MADE 2ND DIVISION.

THE FOLLOWING YEAR THE BAND GREW TO 80 MEMBERS AND ENTERED CLASS C AT LUBBOCK MAKING 1ST DIVISION IN MARCHING AND 2ND DIVISION IN CONCERT; THE JUNIOR BAND MAKING 1ST DIVISION IN CONCERT.

SINCE THEN THE ENROLLMENT OF BAND MEMBERS IS 120 WITH 70 IN THE SENIOR BAND. IN 1938 THEY MADE 1ST DIVISION CONCERT AND MARCHING AT STATE AND NATIONAL. ENTERING CLASS B IN 1939 THEY WON IN BOTH MARCHING AND PLAYING AT STATE AND WON 1ST IN MARCHING AND SECOND IN CONCERT AT NATIONAL.

ENTERED SUN CARNIVAL FOUR TIMES AND HAS PLACED 3RD, 2ND, AND 1ST.

UNIFORMS PURCHASED IN FALL OF 1937 AND HAS GOOD, ALTHOUGH NOT PERFECT, INSTRUMENTATION.



Joe D. Williams/Reporter-Telegram

Former band director Wesley May "conducts" as he listens to tapes of area high school bands.

Former director to receive honors

■ Wesley May, retired music store owner, is to be inducted into the Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame.

By Georgia Todd Temple
Staff writer

When 18-year-old Wesley C. May graduated from Sul Ross State Teachers College in 1933, the country was suffering through the Great Depression and he could not find a job.

Little did he know that in two years he would be starting up a band program for the Pecos school district. After all, his double major was in science and chemistry.

"I did not have an hour's credit in music, but I had played in the dance band and the Sul Ross Orchestra, directed by Erma Lee Beaty," said

May, who retired in the 1980s from his business, May and Duncan Music Co.

Now, 60 years later, May is being inducted into the Alpha Chapter, Phi Beta Mu, Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony will take place during the 1993 TBA Convention being held in San Antonio Wednesday through July 31.

"I was very surprised not having had my own band for 45 years now," said the Midland resident.

"But, I never had considered myself to be anything but a band director, even though I was in the business of serving bands."

After working for the WPA and teaching math and science at Valentine for a year, May was offered the newly created position in Pecos.

"In the summer of 1935, I was again working in (a) sandwich shop, when the superintendent of the Pecos school system, accompanied by the

teacher placement representative for Sul Ross College, Gary Ratliff, who had been my education professor, told me he wanted to organize a band.

"In those days, most schools did not have a band. They were beginning to get in the bigger school systems. Pecos decided it wanted to get one, and (the superintendent) needed someone who could teach math and organize a band.

"I told him I could teach math, but that I didn't know anything about a band. And my education professor there said I was smart enough to figure it out."

May began to figure it out immediately.

"I went up to the college and got some books and sat down and talked with every man I played in the dance band with and found out everything I

Please see **MAY/3B**

MAY: Former director to receive honors

(From 1B)

could about their instruments," said May, who played the trombone.

"I learned and tried to memorize all the fingerings for playing all the different notes on the different instruments."

May was no newcomer to hard work. His father died when he was 10 and his mother, who never remarried, raised five children by selling women's wear. All five children received degrees from Sul Ross.

"We all worked. I had my first job when I was 12 working in a nursery for 50 cents a day and board. I lived out there until the weekend and walked home."

During May's first year at Pecos, he taught two classes in algebra, one class in trigonometry and worked with the junior high school, high school and marching bands.

He still remembers his first trip with the Pecos band. He was 20 at the time.

"When I got off the bus, someone walked up and said, 'Do you know where the band director is?'"

Pecos' first high school band began with 30 beginners, grew to 42 at the end of first year and to 70 by 1939. In 1938, the senior band won Class C first division concert and marching at state and national competitions.

Entering Class B in 1939, the band won in both marching and playing at state and won first in marching and second in concert at

national.

"I think it took me three years to learn enough to do anything," said May. He recalled attending the first convention of the Texas Bandmasters Association in San Antonio in 1936. The clinician was William Revelli, whose high school band at Hobart, Ind., won the high school national competition.

"He had taken the Hobart band to a contest after having been there for three years and won it. If he could do it in three years, I could do it in three years. He was such an inspiration for me. I was on fire. I went back and worked like you wouldn't believe."

When May left in 1941 to succeed G. Ward Moody as director of the Odessa High School Band, his Pecos bands had received 16 first division ratings in state band meets and six first divisions in national meets. And he was still teaching algebra.

"Murry Fly — superintendent of schools in Odessa and the man who started Odessa College — when he got to looking for a band director in Odessa, he came to observe me teach algebra. He didn't know anything about band, but he did know about algebra, and he made up his mind on the basis of observing me teaching algebra."

He arrived in Odessa in November. On Dec. 7 the United States was at war with Japan.

"We spent my four years in Odessa fighting the war, and I worked summers for Gulf Oil

Corp. as a roustabout. They needed manpower pretty bad. The last year I taught electricity to the 18 year-old-boys who were in school and hadn't been drafted yet. We had good Odessa bands, too, but we didn't get to show them statewide because of the war."

Although May received his permanent instrumental music certificate, he felt that without a degree in music he was not going to "realize any additional promotions in the field.

"I would not be able to qualify for a university job, and there weren't any better high schools than Odessa. So I dedicated the rest of my life to serving school bands."

May left fulltime public school teaching in 1945 to work in Abilene for H.N. White Co. of Texas. (This company had been organized by Richard White, son of H.N. White, founder of King Music Co. in Cleveland).

May said before the Abilene music store, the closest place bands could buy musical instruments and accessories was Fort Worth.

"He was the first one that sent traveling salesmen to serve the bands. It's like an athletic supply house calling on a coach. Bands have to have many things for their performances to take place, and they can't wait for them to come from Fort Worth, Texas."

In 1949, May said Fred Wemple, a state highway commissioner and influential man in the growth of Midland, convinced him to become partners in Wemple's music store.

Then, in 1953, May started his own business, May Music Co., which was later known as May and Duncan Music Co.

May spent years bringing clinicians to West Texas and was teaching and working with high school band students this year when he had heart surgery.

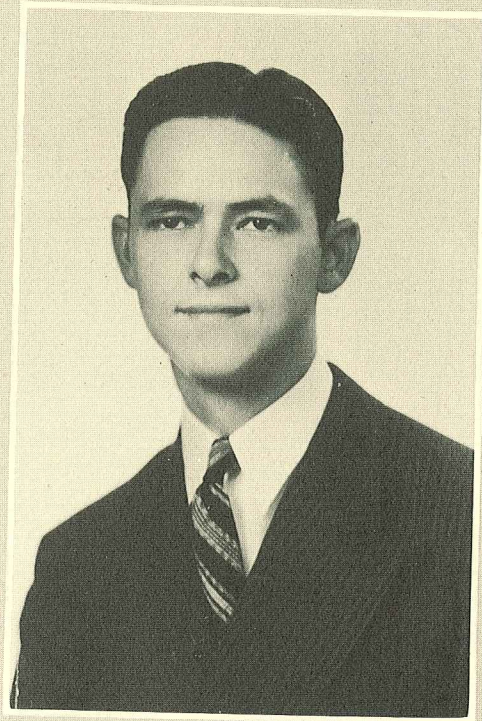
"Our whole purpose was to serve music education in any way that we could either with products or with services," said May, who has been married for 54 years. He and his wife Evanelle have a son, Houston resident David May, who played trumpet and was drum major at Midland High School.

"If I were an employer, I don't care what field it was in, I would be interested to know if the prospective employee had played in a high school band because of the type of training I know he or she would have had.

"I believe that the high school band movement, as well as the college band movement that succeeded it, is one of the greatest things America's got going for it. It's one of the few places where students are taught discipline.

"There are some courses that you teach something in. I did that in math. And, there are courses that you teach them to do something in, such as art or home economics. But in a band you teach them to do something and the most important thing is you teach them to be something."

DEDICATION



WESLEY C. MAY

—loved, admired, and respected by all who know him!

Sharing our joys and sorrows, "Prof" has always been just one of us. He not only has filled our trophy case but he has filled every student's heart with a love and a respect for our Pecos High and all it stands for. His eager enthusiasm and "never say die" spirit have been a creative influence planted deep in the hearts of all who know him.

Is there any wonder why the Staff takes pleasure in dedicating the second issue of "*The Eagle*" to our band director?