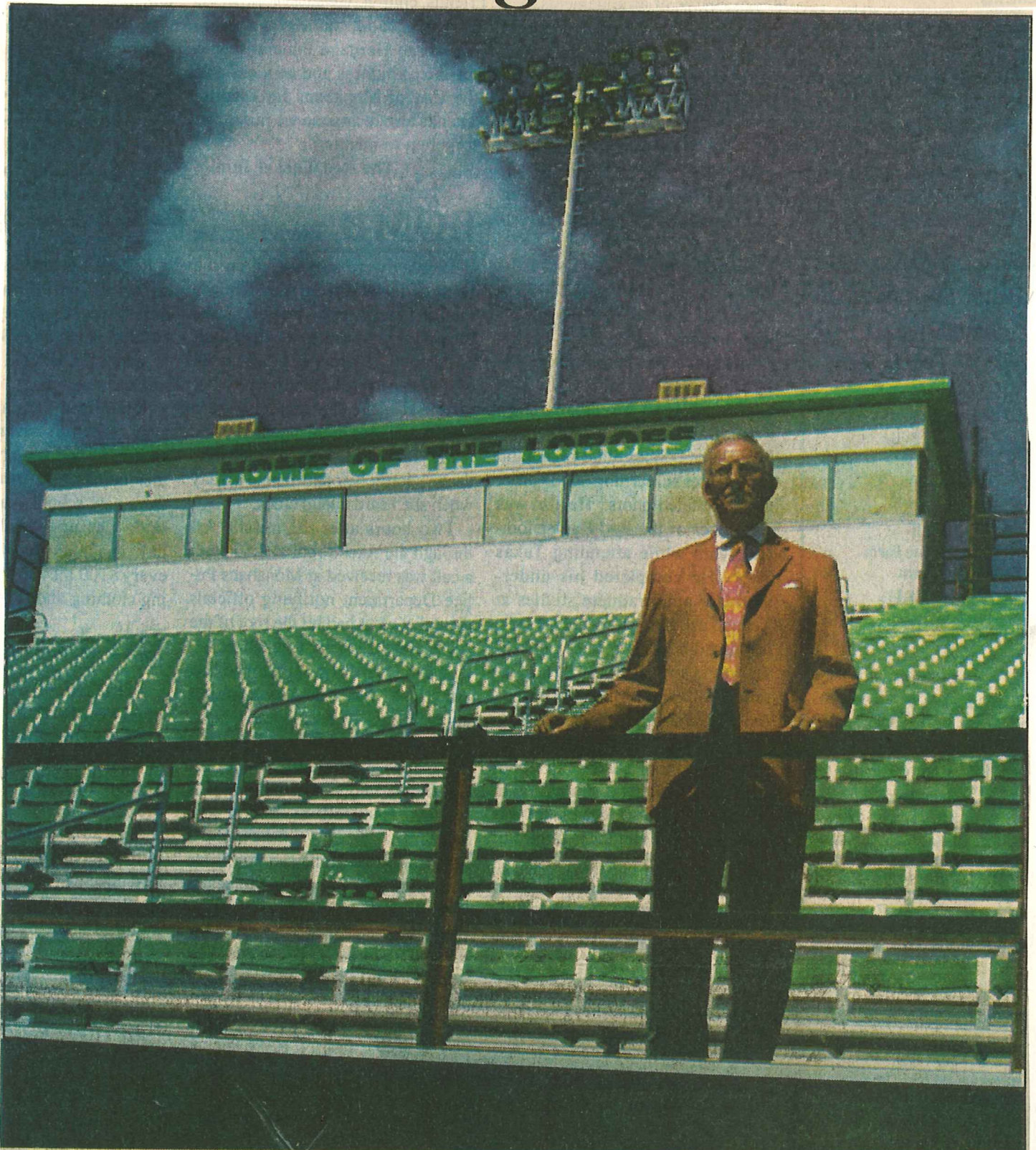


# DAN GIBBS:

*A song in his heart*



Dan Gibbs standing in the bleachers at Lobo Stadium where he led the Big Green Band in rallying the Monahans Lobo football team to victory over a span of 20 years. Gibbs, who retired as band director in 1982, has been voted into the Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame. (Photo by Bill Modisett)



# THE MONAHANS

Monahans, Texas 79756

Thursday, July 18, 2002

# NEWS

## Band director's honor makes Monahans proud

By Bill Modisett  
Editor

When Dan Gibbs is inducted into the Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame later this month in San Antonio, there may be a band playing appropriate music – but it won't be the same.

Only one band should play for that event – the Big Green Band from Monahans High School. That is the band Gibbs led for 20 years and found fame and glory under his direction. In fact, Gibbs noted with irrepressible pride, the Big Green Band was the first band to perform at Texas Stadium. The event occurred on Oct. 23, 1971 at the invitation of the Dallas Cowboys, on national television and before a crowd that included Lady Bird Johnson and Mamie Eisenhower.

The Hall of Honor presentation will be made at 3:30 p.m. Monday, July 29, during the Texas Bandmasters Convention at the Marriott Rivercenter, Salon B Ballroom. It was an exciting first, but it wasn't the last time the Big Green Band would perform at Texas Stadium. The band would go back nine more times.

Notably, Gibbs was voted into the Hall of Fame at the age of 65, his first year of eligibility. He should have been. His accomplishments are many. Among them under his direction, the Big Green Band was named Texas Music Educators Association Honor Band in Class AAA in 1972 and 1976. Gibbs also has two state championships to his credit.

The honor Gibbs concedes is his favorite, however, is the fact he and his son, Tony, who is the band director at Hays High School near Austin, are the only father-son combination to ever direct the Honor Band named by the Texas Music Educators Association in Class AAA from the same

See **GIBBS** Page 3A

school. Before taking the job at Hays High School, Tony Gibbs directed the Big Green Band as did his father before him.

Yet Gibbs doesn't think of the years he was directing the Big Green Band as the "good old days," quickly pointing out the good old days are whenever you are living. The good old days, he said, are still occurring in Monahans which has long been supportive of its school, its students and the Big Green Band.

Gibbs came to Monahans in 1958 as the junior high school band director. After receiving his bachelors degree from North Texas State College (now the University of North Texas) in three years, Gibbs had stayed on to earn his masters and to direct a second North Texas State band under the guidance of Maurice McA Dow.

"When I came here I was the junior high band director," Gibbs recalled. "The band was small. Before I came there were only 44 in the high school band and we had to really struggle to be successful in those early years. It was my 10th year before we got our first sweepstakes. We never missed after that.

"So I guess the highlight has been the whole thing. The people of Monahans have been totally supportive of the band. Those kids in the years we didn't win everything, it really meant a lot to them. In fact, the Class of '64, they were seventh graders when I moved here ... I had them seventh, eighth and ninth, and then I became the high school director and they moved up so I had them six straight years.

"Well, every year they have a class reunion and we go to that. Those kids never won a sweepstakes, but they are really special. We had great kids and still do," he said.

## Gibbs

## induction is

## about

## teaching,

## quality,

## caring



A lot of Gibbs's students went on to become medical doctors, Ph.D's. "There's one particular band class where there are four doctors in that class - in one graduating class. Not necessarily in music, but I think I'm proud of the kids that were in the band because of their accomplishments in whatever they did. That's just the kind of kids we had," said Gibbs.

There was lots of hard work, but there were those unavoidable times that always seem to happen in a program like band. Gibbs noted that after having directed the North Texas State band, directing the Monahans High School band at first was quite a change. In 1961, when he became the Monahans High School band director Gibbs took his first band to Odessa. Never having witnessed a marching contest, his band marched between J.R. McEntyre's Bonham Junior High School band and Bill Dean's Bowie Band. Gibbs's band chose to end their marching show with a minstrel turn to the pressbox playing the trio to "Rifle Rangers March," not knowing Rifle Rangers was the Bowie band's fight song.

After hearing the Monahans band play their fight song, the Bowie band came down the field playing "King Size March." Gibbs noted "they were marching about 180 beats a minute, and they were blowing the grass out of the ground."

Gibbs chuckled as he remembered that Dean thanked him many times over the years for inspiring this Bowie band! Not to be bested, however, the Monahans band did earn a first division rating at Odessa.

When Gibbs and his wife, Shirley, came to Monahans, the band director thought he would be in the West Texas community for two years. It didn't quite work out that way, though. "The people here have just been wonderful," he noted. "That's why we stayed."

After Gibbs retired from the Monahans school district in 1982, he devoted his attention to an in-

surance business, Dan Gibbs Insurance Agency, to his duties as music director of First Baptist Church, and to supporting the Monahans community and its young people. He has led an active life in the Monahans community which he loves.

It's obvious that Gibbs touched the lives of his students in a very special way. One of those students was a twirler named Kathy Reynolds, who later became Kathy Fausett and today is a Ward County Commissioner. She said, "Dan Gibbs to a lot of us was a father figure. He's just a wonderful man. He gave me a sense of direction, a sense of responsibility."

Through the way he taught, said Ms. Fausett, Wilson gave the band students "a family - and he was the father figure."

Another of Gibbs's students was Jeppie Wilson who became a teacher in the Monahans-Wickett-Pyote Independent School District and a Monahans City Councilman. Wilson said he has "no doubt" that Gibbs should be in the Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame. "He should have been the first one they put in there," said Wilson.

He also noted Gibbs was the kind of instructor who was not only a teacher, but was like a big older brother or an uncle. "If he saw a need in his organization, he would treat kids like they were his," noted Wilson. "There were times he dug in his own pockets and helped out kids to go on tour or to other band functions. And it was years later before they would find out about it.

"He's a good man," Wilson added. "I can't say more than that about him. He's a good man."

A fan of John Philip Sousa, Gibbs loved to lead his band in playing Sousa marches every spring. But he also tried to include enough popular music that people knew or similar to what they knew in his concerts and performances.

A favorite piece to close performances was "Russian Christmas Music" and the theme from "Hawaii Five-O." On the "Hawaii Five-O" theme, the Big Green Band literally brought the house down with band members playing everything including the kitchen sink!

And there were those "memorable" moments like the spring concert of 1965. The Big Green Band was to close with "The Stars & Stripes Forever," but members of the band had other ideas.

"I stepped up on the podium," recalled Gibbs, "and the kids were all up to the front of their chairs. I raised my arms, they raised their horns and I gave a big downbeat to start that march, and they all took a big breath and nobody played a note. I felt my arms were going to fall off."

The suspense didn't last for long. "The band captain came out and the officers gave me a pair of alligator shoes," he laughed.

Gibbs drove a Volkswagen Beetle from 1964 to 1972. One spring, the band was going on a trip to Corpus Christi, Gibbs recalled, and his wife let his band kids have the keys to his car and the band hall where they would be performing.

His band students drove the Volkswagen into the band hall, lifted it up onto the podium "and they stuffed it full of 9,000 years of The Monahans News, Odessa American, Grit. Whatever. You couldn't get a golfball in there. Then they came and got us at 4:00 that morning for breakfast, and we went by the band hall and there was that car."

Laughing at the memory Gibbs recalled making the students take enough paper out where they could drive it out and lock it up. He left it filled with paper until after the concert.

Gibbs noted marches today are not as pleasing for people who like





**Big Green Band Director Dan Gibbs** in typical pose at the front of the Monahans band. (Photo courtesy Ward County Archives)

marching bands, but as a result the bands play better. There are many more good bands today as a result, Gibbs says. Concert bands are much better today. Also, he said, there are more opportunities for young people to do really well today.

His largest band, he said, never had more than 280 kids in it, but he noted the Monahans band has about 30 percent of the total number of students in high school in the band, which is much better than a lot of schools today that may have only have 8 or 9 percent of the student body.

Yet band was not an end within itself for Gibbs or his students. "I always told my students if you never play your horn after high school or college, that's OK. But that's not what it's all about. If you do it's great, but what you have learned can be used in other fields."

He noted Neil Armstrong even

said essentially the same thing after his walk on the moon. "They interviewed him and asked him, 'How did you discipline yourself to do that?'"

"He said, 'I think more than anything else probably playing the baritone in junior high, high school and the university band, just the coordination it takes to march and play, stand straight and look good, and do all the right stuff at the right time. That probably helped me more than anything else.'"

One of Gibbs's former students, Jerry Lewis, who now lives in McKinney, wrote in part:

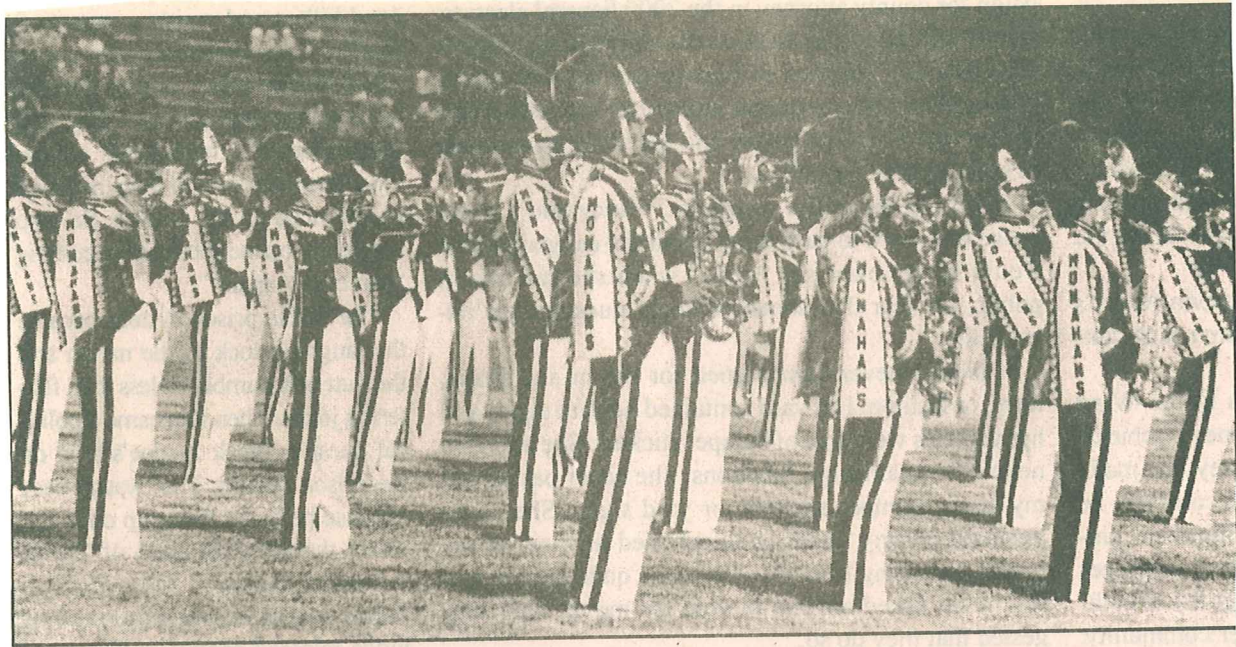
"Mr. Gibbs was not just a great teacher — he was a mentor. In 22 years of formal schooling, I've never had a teacher more dedicated to his mission. The mythical Mr. Holland would be in awe of Dan Gibbs. No student who came in

contact with him could resist his magic. When Mr. Gibbs picked up his wand, the world stood still. The only thing on your mind was pleasing him. You knew, somehow, that by doing so, you would please yourself. Understand, however, and understand we did, that this would never be easy. It required us to go beyond anything we had ever done. Mr. Gibbs pushed us to the edge of the envelope long before that phrase became popular by the astronauts."

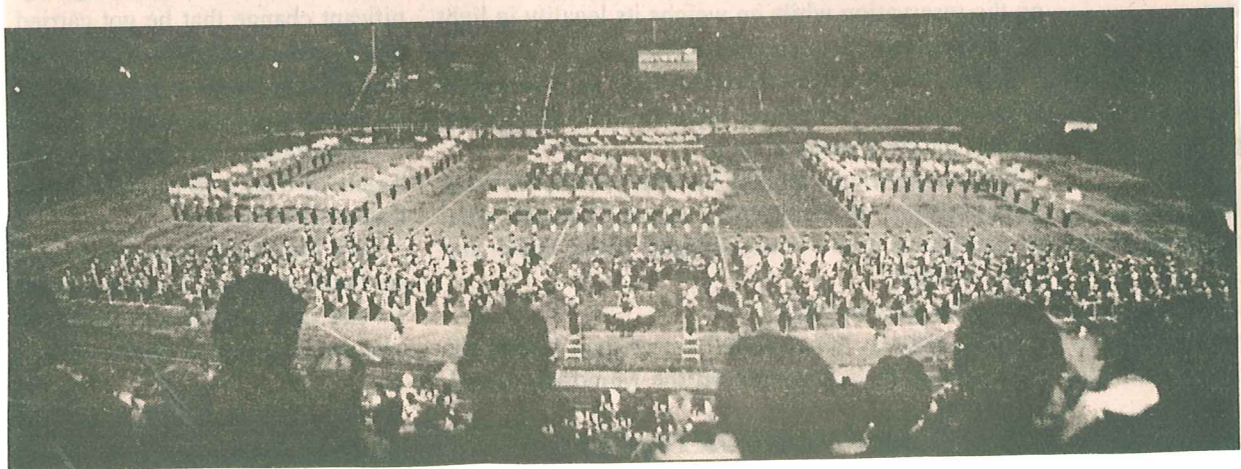
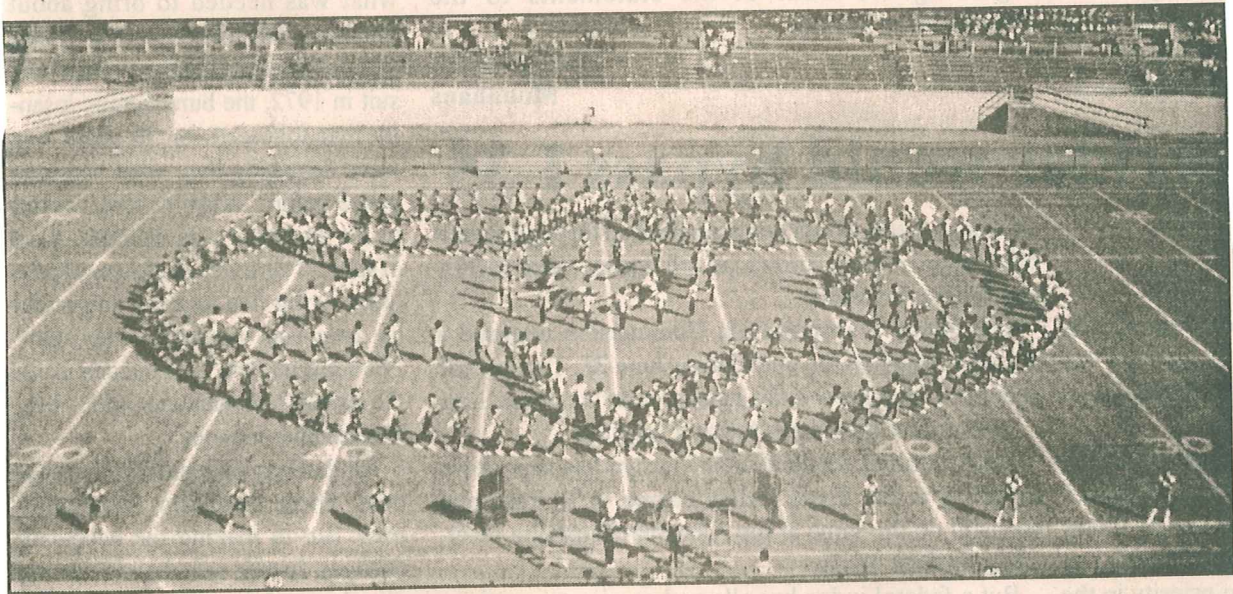
Lewis added, "I have achieved much in my life since graduating high school. Most of it has been because of grit, determination, never quitting, setting goals beyond my known abilities, and refusing to take 'no' for an acceptable answer. Other teachers played large roles in refining these character traits, but no teacher did more to instill them than Dan Gibbs. He kept and continues to keep me in a straight line — in far more ways than one.

"Monahans and all of West Texas should honor this man above all men. The young lives he molded, corrected, strengthened, and sent forth now form the bedrock of leadership in the communities where they now live," Lewis stated. "God bless the day he entered our lives."





The Big Green Band from Monahans High School was noted as a marching band under Gibbs. Above is a closeup photograph of the band on a field. Below are two photos of the band in marching formations. Gibbs was particularly noted for his star formation. The other is a patriotic USA formation at Texas Stadium. (Photos courtesy Dan Gibbs, Ward County Archives)





# Big Green Band At Cotton Bowl Sunday

## Performance To Be On National Television

The Big Green Band of Monahans High School will give a 10-minute show on television in half-time activities Sunday of the nationally - televised professional football game between the Dallas Cowboys and the Cleveland Browns.

Game time is 1 p.m. and Channel 7, KOSA-TV, Odessa, will carry the show for local viewing.

One hundred and eighty MHS bandmen will wear the green and white Lobo

colors on the field. The new uniforms, which arrived this past April, feature white fur shakos with green drape cords and present a different look when viewed from the back side due to two colors of green used in the design.

This is the third time a MHS band has performed in the Cotton Bowl on national television and the director, Dan Gibbs, said "We are the only West Texas high school band invited to perform." In the nine years of Cowboys pro play, he said it was a real compliment to have been invited to perform three times.

Gibbs is assisted in directing by Jerry Finnel. Twelve faculty sponsors will accompany the band students to the Dallas performance. They are to arrive in Dallas in five chartered Greyhound buses having driven directly there after Friday's half-time performance at the Monahans-Artesia, N. Mexico football game. Reservations for them have been made at the Marriott Motor Hotel. They will arrive home Monday night about 7 p.m.

"We want to thank all who made this trip possible," the faculty director said, referring to the school administration, school board, and the Band Boosters Club, plus individuals and parents. Each student making the trip earned additional money for his own personal spending.

Band students started preparation for the show in August with Gibbs scheduling practices twice-a-day prior to the start of school.

A special feature of the program will be a closing number "Ride Dallas Cowboys", with the band paying tribute to the home team. Other numbers will be a variety of marching tunes to accompany a series of diagonal precision routines. The Cotton Bowl hosts have promised a full 10-minute air time for the MHS show except for one station break.

Then there was the half-time show at Dallas. The excellent precision marching and big sound of the BGB brought fans to their feet. The special tribute to the Cowboys got a big round of applause also. In spite of the 110 degree heat on the playing field the band did a fine job. Letters have been pouring in from all over congratulating the band, school system and parents who support the band.

There was a special treat for Dan Gibbs. His High School Band Director was there to see the show. Mr. Roger Winslow of Hurst Bell High School seemed to be quite proud of his student. Few know it, but Dan Gibbs could have been an English teacher, but for the attention and inspiration provided by Mr. Winslow. I'm sure glad we got an excellent band director.

The band also got special attention everywhere they went because of their manners. They conducted themselves as young men and women and Monahans should be proud to have such fine representatives. The manager of the Marriott Hotel in Dallas, where the BGB stayed, complimented the group on their conduct.

In the band hall there is a cute poster with the reminder "Honor won one week, can be lost the next." Well, we're proud to say that the band lost no honor Friday night. The special tribute to Coach Hodges brought fans to their feet. I'm sure Coach Hodges appreciated the honor. Dan Gibbs said that the tribute was not only to Hodges but to the whole coaching staff for their hard work and accomplishments.

Fans may have noticed the incorporation of the Dallas fight song in the program. It's such a snappy song and added that extra bit of zip to such a performance. New drills and formations were also included in the half-time show. Execution was very good and the steps were done well. All in all it was a thrilling show with many good points.

Honor derived from hard work is richly deserved. Dan Gibbs, Jerry Finnel, the Drum Majors, Twirlers, and band all deserve the honors accorded them for all their hard work and its results.

THE MONAHANS (Tex.) NEWS, September 30, 1968

### LOBO MUSICAL NOTES by Jim Paddock

Two weeks of frantic activity have put the Big Green Band in the lime-light of success. The fine half-time show at Artesia brought raves and a standing ovation from the New Mexico fans. The show done there was the same one seen over television at the Dallas-Cleveland Game the following Sunday. The half-time at Artesia was extended an extra 3 minutes so the Lobo Band could do their entire show. Several people in Artesia wrote letters to the band director, Dan Gibbs, expressing their appreciation for excellent show.



## Special First Hand Account Given By MHS Band Member

(Editor's Note: The following account of the MHS band trip to the HemisFair and the Buccaneer Festival at Corpus Christi was written by special request for the News by MHS senior and Sandstorm staff editor, Margaret Booth)

"Great" is the best word to describe the Big Green Band's recent trip to the Buccaneer Band Festival in Corpus Christi and to HemisFair '68 in San Antonio.

Seniors celebrated the trip on May 1 with an all night party. The big event of the party, besides excited anticipation, was stuffing Mr. Gibbs' Volkswagen a g o n tightly with crumpled newspaper and putting it inside the band hall. To top it off they wrapped the outside with newspaper and toilet tissue. Mr. Gibbs looked a little shocked when he opened the doors the next morning.

The busses rolled out of Monahans at 4 a.m. Thursday piled high with pillows, paraphernalia, and kids. There were a bunch of sleepy-headed seniors aboard. Stopping only once, the band arrived in Corpus late Thursday afternoon and spent the evening unpacking and relaxing.

Friday morning saw the band up bright and early at 7 a.m. catching breakfast at the motel and getting ready for a shopping spree into downtown Corpus. Everyone enjoyed spending a "little" money.

Disappointment was in store for the Big Green Band as they played their concert for the Buccaneer Band Festival at Memorial Coliseum at 2:55 that afternoon. For the first time this year, the band failed to reach a goal, and long faces were in order as the II rating was announced,

After a pep talk from Mr. Gibbs, things began to pick up again and everyone gathered around the pool that night for a good old-fashioned sing-song. The highlight of the evening was a little pie tasting contest. Every year during magazine sales, a private contest is held between the band members and Mr. Gibbs. The member who sells the most magazines gets to throw a pie in Mr. Gibbs' face providing he outsells the director. John Burba earned the honor this year, and Mr. Gibbs got a large cream pie in the eye following the sing-song.

On Saturday the group trekked off to Padre Island for some fun in the sun--and sunny it was. Everyone seemed to sit lightly and move gently as they returned to the motel nursing nasty sunburns.

They didn't spend long at the motel, but dressed up and headed out for a seafood dinner at a swanky restaurant.

At 10 p.m. the Big Green rode out to sea in a huge three-decked "Showboat" for a two-hour chartered moonlight ride. A live band played and many danced.

On Sunday, a trip to the Hemisfair proved to be a rewarding experience. It seemed the best things to see at the fair were free,

and it was a general consensus among band members that the Texas and United States pavilions were the ones not to miss. Of course, the Tower of Americas was a breathtaking sight, and the view from its observation level was beautiful.

There were many good exhibits at the fair including the Bell Telephone, Coca-Cola, and Spanish pavilions. Belgium had a most impressive display of diamonds. All the Oriental countries had very nice displays. Boutiques and eating places of all kinds offered native souvenirs andishes from other lands.

After an exhausting day at the Hemisfair, the group drove to Kerrville to spend the night at the beautiful Inn of the Hills. Everyone swam and relaxed and generally enjoyed themselves.

As the busses pulled out Monday morning for home, there were mixed emotions. Nobody wanted to leave all the fun, but everyone wanted to see home. As they reached the Crane cutoff, Monahans cars lined the highway to welcome the band home from a really unforgettable trip.



# THE MONAHANS NEWS

ociated Press

Monahans, Texas, November 27, 1968

## MHS Band Wins First

Monahans High School Varsity Band won a first division for marching performance last Saturday in Odessa in District 3-A University Interscholastic League competition.

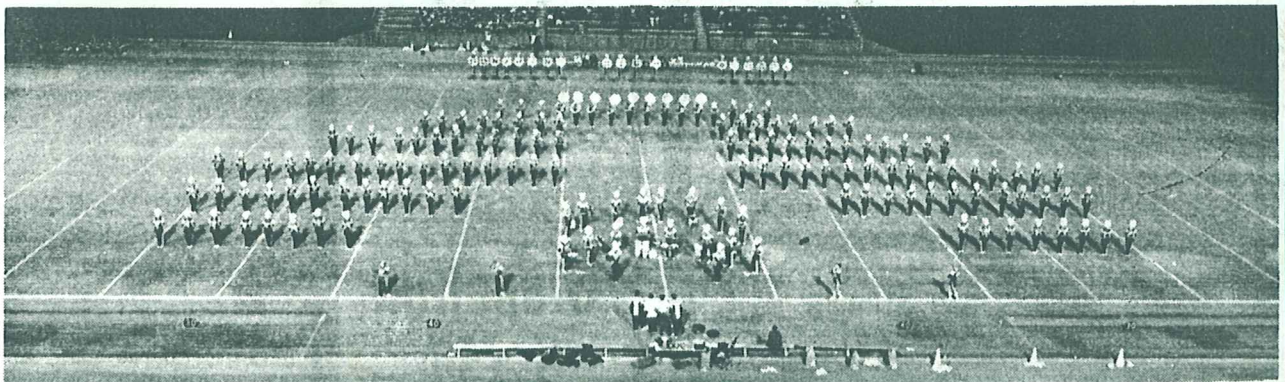
Other area schools winning a first included Kermit, Andrews, Snyder, Pecos and Fort Stockton. Seminole received a second and Colorado City received third.

Dan Gibbs, director, said the first division award in marching is the first step towards winning Sweepstakes again this year. Competition in sight reading and concert music is slated later this school year.

There were no entries in this year from Monahans the twirling competition High.

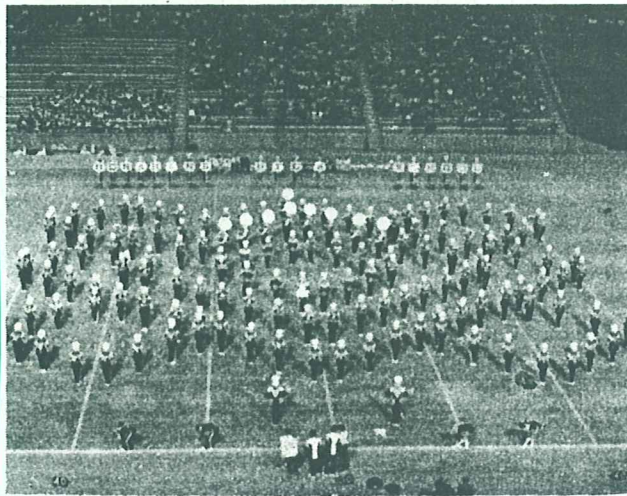
Gibbs said word on the band's entry in the national Disneyland contest is expected about the end of this month. If MHS should be judged tops in the nation for its taped and filmed entry in this contest, the band would be awarded a free trip by air to Disneyland. The exciting first prize in the contest was won in 1966, when Monahans last entered, by a Florida highschool.

Band members are practicing now for the music to be played at a Christmas concert slated December 16 and for district tryouts on December 7. Approximately 35 members qualified for all-district honors last year.



Big Green Band In Marching Formation





## Monahans Marching Band Enters National Contest

Monahans Big Green Band has entered a Walt Disney - sponsored contest to advertise the show "The One and Only, Genuine, Original Family Band."

The contest offers an all-expense paid trip to California by airplane to participate in the New Year's Day festivities and march at the Rose Bowl football game.

The band entered the contest in 1966 and received a rating among the top ten bands in the nation.

This year's show includes the title theme for the movie, a fanfare of the "Wonderful World of Color", and the Disney-famous "Mickey Mouse March." Other songs will be "When You Wish Upon A Star" from the movie "Pinocchio," "Bare Necessities" from "Jungle

Book" and the "Battle Hymn of The Republic", which will be a tribute to Walt Disney along with his famous characters, Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, and Mary Poppins.

The band filmed the show in Andrews' stadium on November 1. The results will be known on December 1.

## Big Green To March In UIL Contest

Next Saturday the Big Green Band, under the direction of Mr. Dan Gibbs, will travel to Odessa to compete in the University Interscholastic League Marching Contest. This is the first step in the band's quest for a second sweepstakes.

Last year's band captured the first sweepstakes ever won for MHS. To be eligible for this honor the band must have a Division I rating in Marching, Concert, and Sightreading. To achieve this challenge, the band will show a superior effort for these three areas. For the past six years the band has copied a Division I rating in Marching.

The band will be competing with Kermit, Seminole, Pecos, Fort Stockton, and Andrews. Other Class AAA bands will be Colorado City, Brownfield, and Snyder.

The Monahans band has won several honors over the years. They were the 1966 Honor Band at the Buccaneer Festival in Corpus Cristi and in the same year played for the Texas State Teachers Association Convention in El Paso.

From 1964 - 66 the band has been the Region VIII Honor Band and the last four years the Outstanding Band in Concert and Sight-reading at the Lamesa Band Festival. Another great honor has been the invitation for the band to march in the Cotton Bowl on nationwide television in 1964, 1966, and 1968.

For this year's contest the band will march to, among other songs, "Americans We" and "Bravura". Some precision formations will include the "diminishing diamonds", along with the colorful drill with half the band in slow steps and the other half in double time. The band will come on the field to the fast - stepping "Big Green" and close with the traditional "MHS".

### Starts This Wednesday

Band practice for all freshmen and new members of the Big Green Band will begin Wednesday, August 8 at 9 a.m. in the Band Hall, according to Band Director Dan Gibbs.

Gibbs added that rehearsals for the full band will get underway Monday, August 13 at 10 a.m.

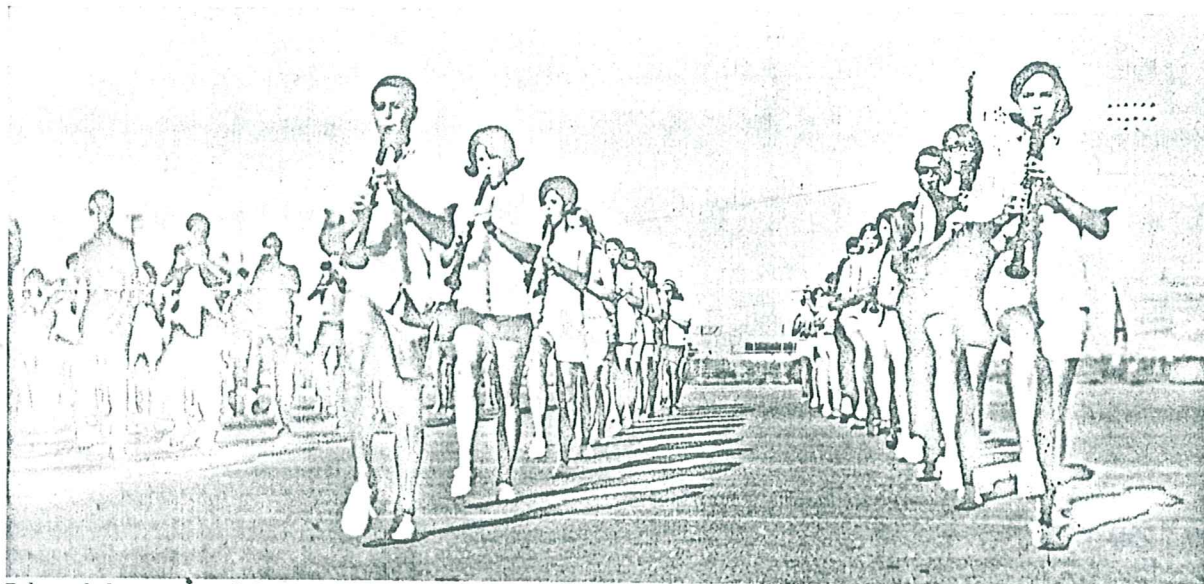
He said that the Big Green will begin working on some new and different marching routines, which should produce some exciting half-time shows at Lobo football games this year.

Gibbs said last week that about 216 will be marching in the band, including the flag section.



## MARCHING BANDS Al Wright

### COMPETITION CREATES COMMUNITY SPIRIT Dan Gibbs



Rehearsals began a month before school started, with marching practice daily from 7:00-8:30 a.m. and sectionals each afternoon.

There never was any doubt in Monahans, Texas that the Big Green Band would be a winner in the Disneyland Holiday Marching Band Contest. The contest, sponsored by Disneyland, Wurlitzer, United Air Lines, and Hansen Publications, required a film presentation of a 6-to-12 minute show plus a sound tape of the same show. From the time we decided to enter until we mailed the film and tape on November 1, we planned and worked to win.

Planning the program came first. The Monahans High School librarian, Elizabeth Heath, started researching Walt Disney and Disney Productions and found 26 books for me to review. After determining what we wanted our show to be, our Spanish teacher, Artis Hinds, wrote the script, and the choral director, Kenneth Mills, agreed to do the narration. The girls' physical education teacher, Jackie Zweiger, offered her art talents and pro-

duced a large poster of Disney characters used in the show. Virginia Sleeper, our French teacher, agreed to do the choreography for the dancing Disney characters. We were off to a good start, but we had a lot of work ahead of us, work that involved the students, the faculty, and the band Boosters Club, an organization made up of parents and members of the community (almost every business in Monahans is a member), who were already proud of the band and ready to work for it.

It was the Boosters Club that solved the problems of costumes, filming, and taping. They located costumes to rent for Mickey and Minnie Mouse, Donald Duck and Daisy, and Mary Poppins—and agreed to pay the rental for them. Since there was no one with the equipment required for good filming and taping, the Boosters also agreed to pay for professional filming and taping by Lubbock firms.

To fulfill these commitments, the Boosters organized a fund-raising "Concert in the Park." Admission was charged and ice cream and cake were donated by the mem-

bers. They planned to serve 1,200—and 3,500 turned out. (The population of Monahans is 10,000.) It wasn't easy to find enough food for everyone, but the Booster Club came through by making frequent trips to buy more as people continued to arrive. Now the whole town was involved and cheering for us, *and that's important!*

The need for money grew. In addition to funds for the Disneyland Holiday Marching Band Contest we needed money for transportation to the Cotton Bowl. We were invited to play the halftime show during the Dallas Cowboys-Cleveland Browns game. The Boosters had a membership drive and sold magazine subscriptions.

*The Monahans News*, our bi-weekly paper, and the Monahans radio station gave us excellent backing and publicized each fund-raising event. Our support came from everywhere. A woman who works at our local museum made parts of costumes that couldn't be rented. A 70-year old man, with no children or grandchildren involved with the band, volunteered to help the Band Boosters by selling tickets

*Dan Gibbs is director of the Monahans (Texas) High School Big Green Band and has been director there for eight years. He received his bachelor's degree from North Texas State University and also has an M.M.E. from the university.*



during the "Concert in the Park."

One evidence of support which was vital to our success came from the school administration. Mr. George Cullender, our superintendent of schools, backs our band program all the way and feels strongly about our extra curricular programs as well. To make the entry film, we had to travel to a nearby town where bleachers higher than ours could be used for the camera. The administration dismissed band members and others involved a half day for the filming.

The most important part of all the planning and working, of course, involved the 180 members of the band. Rehearsals for the contest began August 5 (classes didn't start until September 9). Marching rehearsals were held each morning from 7:00-8:30 a.m. This early hour permitted the 33 members who were out for football to make their practice sessions. (Monahans' school system doesn't make the student choose between music and sports; it helps him do both.)

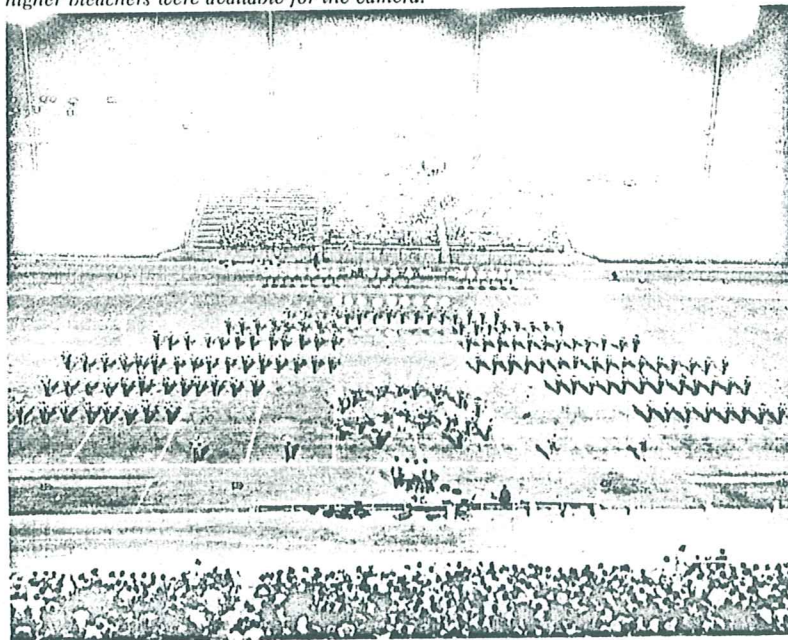
Sectional rehearsals were held each afternoon. Jerry Finnell, director of the Monahans Junior High School Band, helped with these rehearsals. He helped in another way, too: today's high school band members were trained by him when they were in junior high. Incidentally, the Monahans school system starts band in the sixth grade, and

has over 500 students involved in the program, from grades 6 through 12.

No last-minute preparation can replace a well established band program. Our program has benefitted from having participated in the Disneyland Holiday Marching Band Contest. Working toward winning has heightened the wonderful spirit that already existed in our school and community. Winning is good for everyone and perpetuates this spirit. Even if we had not been a winner, though, we would have benefitted from participating. Each band that entered was evaluated by nationally famous judges and were sent criticisms, which would help them do better next time.

Organizing a contest such as this is a genuine service to music education by the sponsoring companies, and by Harold Bachman, who originated the idea for this fine competition. Although more contestants next year would make it more difficult for us to take first prize, I hope nevertheless that more band directors and administrators will let their bands benefit from this participation in the future. (*Editor's note: The Big Green Band was the second place winner in the Disneyland Holiday Marching Band contest and received \$5,000 worth of Martin and/or Wurlitzer music instruments.*)

Filming and taping the program for the contest took place in Andrews, Texas where higher bleachers were available for the camera.





# MHS Big Green Band In Spotlight Tonight

## Concert To Be Filmed, Recorded By Disneyland

### THE ODESSA AMERICAN Amusements

Monday, Feb. 17, 1969 Page 11-A

### Monahans Band Concert Tonight

James Christensen, director of the Disneyland Band, will be guest conductor at the winter concert presented by the Monahans High School Symphonic and Concert Bands at 8 p.m. today.

He will direct the West Texas youngsters on the movie theme "The One and Only Genuine Original Family Band," a tune the 180-piece band built a prize-winning show around.

In early December the Monahans Marching Band and its director, Dan Gibbs, were informed their group had won second place in the nation-wide contest of shows paying tribute to the late Walt Disney. Several bands throughout the nation entered the fall competition by sending a film and tape of a Walt Disney marching show.

A Montgomery, Ala., band won first place. G. T. Gilligan, director of the Kermit High School Band, which placed fifth in the contest, will be present at the Monahans concert tonight.

Formal presentation of plaques will be made to the two West Texas band directors by representatives of the Wurlitzer Co. The Monahans prize carried with it \$5,000 worth of musical instruments from the Wurlitzer Co.

Three pianos and five cornets have already been purchased for the school, according to the Principal Stanley Smith.

"The whole town is proud of this band," Smith said. "The director and students have the cooperation and support of everybody here."

Part of tonight's concert will be filmed by a photographer from Disneyland.

Also performing on the winter program are the school's stage band and percussion ensemble.

### Concert To Honor 'Walt'

The director of the Disneyland Band, Mr. Jim Christiansen, will be the guest conductor of a special concert by the Big Green Band next Monday night at 8:00 in the auditorium.

He will direct "The One and Only Genuine Original Family Band" and an original number of his own. There will also be representatives from the Wurlitzer Company to present an engraved plaque for winning the Disneyland contest.

Some of the other numbers will be Mary Poppins, the Walt Disney Overture, the George Washington Bicentennial, and Masque. Tommy King, all-state band member, will perform a number called Timpat.

The concert will be a combination of the stage band, the concert band, and the symphonic band according to director Mr. Dan Gibbs.

A camera crew from Disneyland will film the entire proceedings tonight when Monahans High School's Lobo Band and the town itself are presented a plaque in recognition of the second place win in the National Disneyland Marching Band Contest of 1968.

Townpeople are asked to demonstrate community spirit and pride with a "standing room only" crowd in the high school auditorium at 8 o'clock. The Chamber of Commerce has declared Monday as "Big Green Band" day and officials there urge everyone to wear green to the concert to demonstrate loyalty.

A Wurlitzer Musical Instrument Company official from Illinois and two top Disneyland officials with a crew of movie cameramen are flying here today for the presentation. The Wurlitzer people will present the plaque signifying the award of \$5000 worth of musical instruments to MHS and the Disneyland officials, who include Larry Graburn, co-chairman of the Disneyland marching contest, and James Christensen, director of the famed Disneyland band, will take part in the proceedings. Christensen plans to take the baton from Dan Gibbs, director, and conduct the Big Green in two special numbers.

Graburn is expected to direct the filming of the concert and of the audience at the presentation. The film is to be shown all over the country later, according to plans told Gibbs.

In addition to the Monahans award, Kermit will receive recognition at the



James Christensen  
Disneyland Director

ceremonies for a fifth place achievement.

Admission will be \$1 for adults and fifty cents for students. Two adult tickets will admit the entire family.

Performances will be by the Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Stage Band and the Percussion Ensemble.



# Presentation Of Band's National Award Slated

To express pride in the nationally-recognized accomplishments of Monahans High School Band, citizens are urged to fill the school auditorium Monday night at 8 o'clock when Wurlitzer officials will present a plaque in recognition of the band's second place win in the Disneyland Marching Contest last November.

In addition, and of par-

ticular interest to youngsters and students will be another guest flying here for this occasion from Hoolywood, James Christensen, director of the famed Disneyland Band. He will be guest conductor for the Big Green Band's concert for the evening.

Tickets are on sale by band members now or may be purchased at the door for

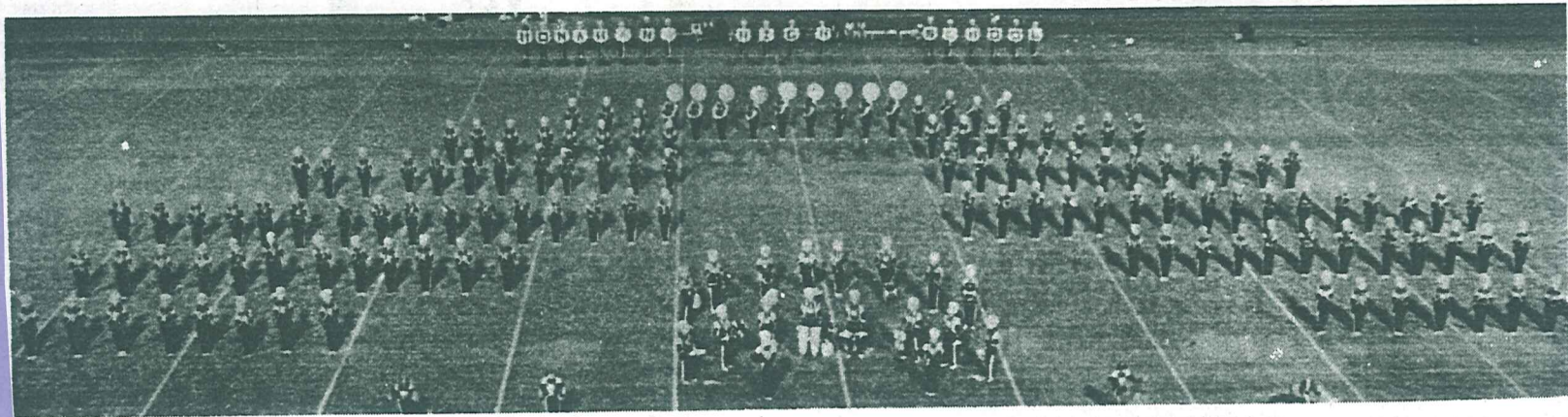
\$1 for adults and 50 cents for students. Two adult tickets will admit the entire family, Dan Gibbs, MHS director, said. Gibbs expressed the hope that community spirit and pride will be demonstrated Monday night with a "standing room only" crowd.

For winning second place in the nation in the Disneyland marching band con-

test, the local school received \$5000 worth of musical instruments of their choice from Wurlitzer Musical Instrument Company. A plaque, to be presented Monday night by top company officials, is awarded to the citizens of the town as well as to the band itself.

Music will be provided for the evening by the Sym-

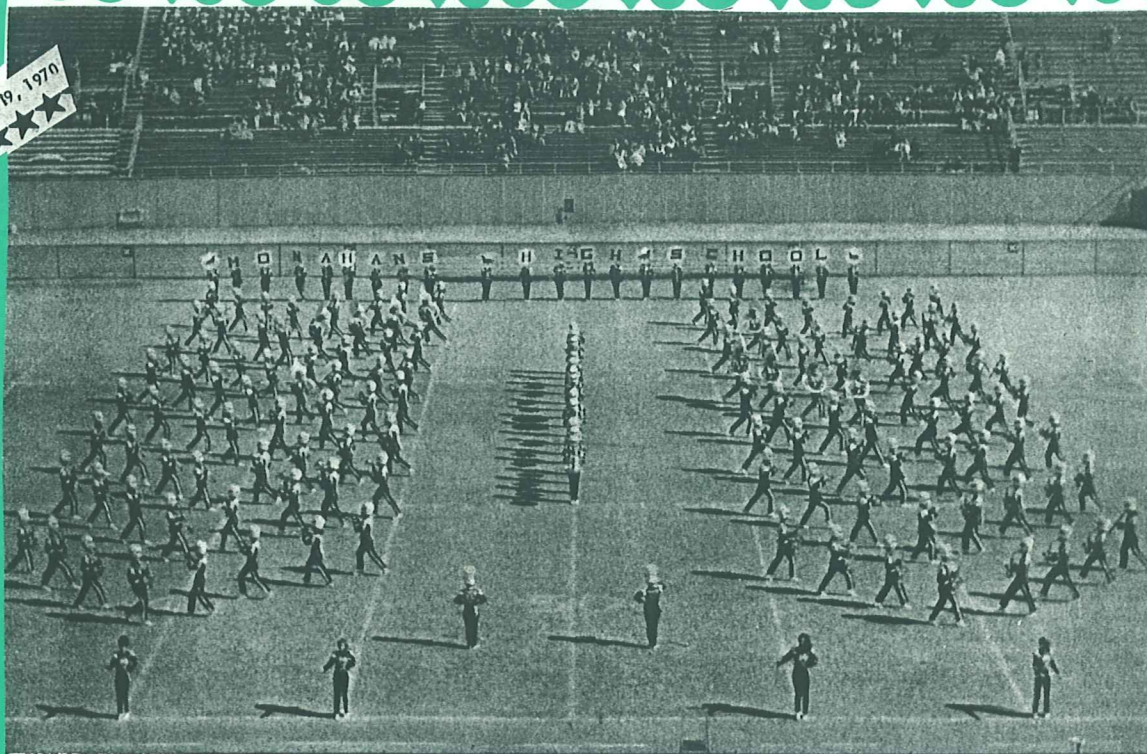
phonic Band, Concert Band, Stage Band and the Percussion Ensemble. Christensen will direct the band in one of his original compositions. He is a former director of the University of Wisconsin band and probably will be a judge this year for the annual Disneyland band competition which MHS plans to enter once again.



1968 Second-place Winners in the National Disneyland Marching Band Contest, The Big Green Band



The Monahans (Tex.) News, November 19, 1970



THE BIG GREEN BAND OF MONAHANS HIGH SCHOOL is pictured marching in the University Interscholastic League testing program at Odessa Saturday. The band won a First Division, the highest grade awarded. Winning the Concert and Sight Reading First Division ratings later this year will give the band a coveted Sweepstakes award for the seventh consecutive year under the leadership of Dan Gibbs. In addition, the MHS Band won the Outstanding Band Award at the Buccaneer Festival in Corpus Christi in 1967; won Second Place in the nation-wide Disneyland Contest in 1968; was chosen Outstanding Band at the Blossom Festival at Canyon City, Colorado in 1969, and also won the Best Overall Band Award in competition with 39 other bands in the Southwest; and have appeared twice on national television in the Cotton Bowl. The MHS Marching Band is the only high school

marching band from the state of Texas to be invited to the Music Educators' National Conference to be held in Albuquerque on January 27. Only two other music organizations from Texas will participate: the Amarillo High School Orchestra and the Lamar Tech College Band. The Big Green Band has also been invited to march in the State Inaugural Parade in January in Austin. Gibbs came to Monahans in 1958 as Junior High Band Director and in 1961 was made High School Band Director. Due to the success of the MHS Band, Gibbs is invited to sit as a judge in other band contests about five times a year. The band's precision, excellence and variety at halftime activities always draws applause from friends and foes alike, and is supported by a large local group of Band Boosters.

Tomorrow

## Band To March At UIL Contest

Albuquerque, New Mexico to play for the Music Educators' National Convention.

A great deal of thanks go to Mr. Gibbs, Mr. Don Curtis, and Mr. Ronald Vaughn for their untiring efforts put forth to make this one of the outstanding bands in the country. Mr. Gibbs came to Monahans as Junior High director, and in 1961 became High School director. Mr. Curtis came to Monahans as assistant director to the High School, and Mr. Vaughn came as Junior High director in 1969.

Mr. Dan Gibbs, band director, says "This is potentially the best band Monahans has ever had." The songs the band will march to, among others are Barnum and Baileys Favorite and Loyal Americans. The band will fast-step on the field from the sidelines and close with a special drill and farfare.

The Monahans band has won several honors over the years. They will be shooting for their fourth straight sweepstakes and the ninth consecutive division I in marching. The band has marched at the Cotton Bowl three times on national television. Last May the Big Green Band represented Texas very well at the Blossom Festival in Canon City, Colorado. The festival consists of street marching and playing plus a half-time show. Out of a possible 860 points Monahans collected 857 to become the outstanding band of the festival.

In order to raise money this year, the band held a magazine sale, and will have the annual Pancake Supper plus a concert in the park latter in the year. The goal of the magazine sale was \$6000 and this goal has never been passed by any other band in this part of the country. This year the band passed this goal by \$535. The money earned will be spent on the annual spring trip and a trip which will be taken by the Symphonic Band in January to Albu-

Monahans Big Green Band will march in the annual University Interscholastic League marching contest tomorrow at the W.T. Barrett Stadium in Odessa.

This is the first of three contests the band will compete in toward winning their fourth straight sweepstakes. A sweepstakes consists of Division I rating in marching, concert, and sight-reading, with the concert and sight-reading contest coming later in the school year at Permian High School.

In class AAA, Monahans will compete with Kermit, Andrews, Pecos, Ft. Stockton, and Odessa Ector. Other class AAA bands will be Snyder, Lamesa, and Colorado City



# Big Green Band Gets 1st. Division

Monahans' Big Green Band paced off a first division rating in marching Saturday at Mustang Stadium in Andrews.

Judges termed it "One of the truly outstanding bands in this state." The band was praised for its "great mature sound," and one judge commented, "You, your school, and your community should be proud of this outstanding band and its band director."

"Our main concern now is getting shows ready for Friday nights," said Don Gibbs, director of the band.

"We're hoping for about five more."

Gibbs said that the Big Green Band has been selected as Honor Band to perform in concert at the

Texas Music Educators' Association (TEMA) meeting in Fort Worth, February 11, 1972.

The band will go to Solo and Ensemble competition in March and Concert and Sight Reading in April. A first division rating is required in each competition in order to rate a Sweepstakes rating.

The Big Green Band has won 5 Sweepstakes ratings in the past and 10 first division ratings in marching.

Other area bands receiving first division ratings in marching were Permian High, Odessa High, Midland Lee, Midland and Big Spring in class 4A and

Pecos and Fort Stockton in class 3A.

This weekend additional competition and musical clinics are on the calendar for Monahans school organizations.

The Hudler Junior High band will be in Odessa Saturday for marching contests under direction of Ronnie Vaughan. And the Monahans High School choir under direction of Kenneth Mills will participate in a choir clinic at Odessa College Saturday.

Aug 9-1971

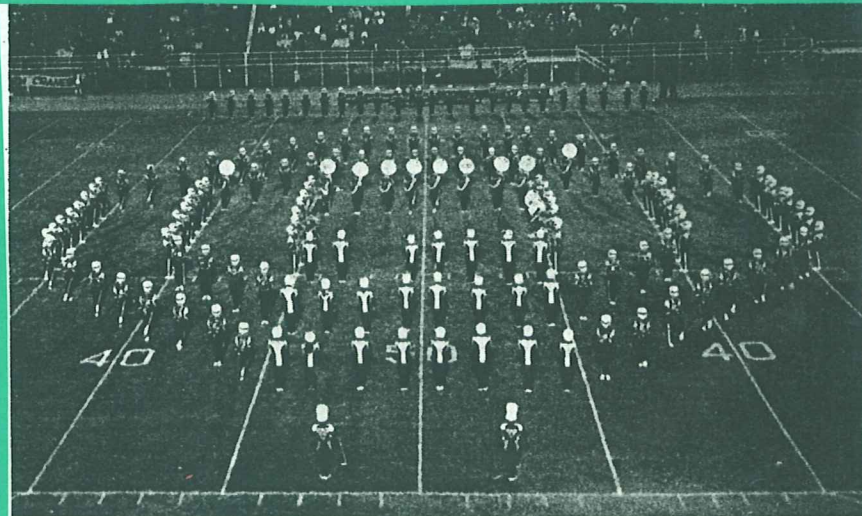
## Band Practice Starts Today

Marching practice for the full band of Monahans High School gets underway this morning continuing throughout this week. Hours are from 8 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. Section drills are from 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., Director Dan Gibbs announced.

The full band this year is expected to number 225 students. Freshmen and new band members rehearsed last week.

Beginning band (for sixth graders) also starts this week with students urged to contact one of the band directors for full details regarding time and place for practice.

Junior High A-Band members practice at 4:30 each afternoon starting August 16.



BIG GREEN BAND IN ACTION



DAN GIBBS

# Party For Dan Gibbs Today

A welcome home party is planned this afternoon from 4 to 5 p.m. at the high school cafeteria for Monahans High School's Big Green Band director, Dan Gibbs and Mrs. Gibbs.

Further, Friday has been designated as "Dan Gibbs Day" and the whole community is urged to unite in these two observances to pay tribute to the man who has brought so many honors to Monahans through his direction of student musicians in the past 12 years here.

Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs are returning from the Texas Bandmasters Association convention in San Antonio where Monahans was declared "Honor Band" in AAA schools of Texas. This is considered by Gibbs "the highest honor a Texas school band can receive and represents something I have been striving for throughout my bandmaster's career." Two years ago Monahans was runner-up for this honor. A 4-A school was selected last year.

As a result of this selection, Monahans High's Big Green Band of 1971 will play for the Texas Music Educator's convention in February at the new convention center in Fort Worth. This past spring, MHS was invited to play in concert for the New Mexico State Teachers Association con-

vention in Albuquerque. Also this year the band has been invited to play in the Cotton Bowl by the Dallas Cowboys and will perform there in October.

This latest award climaxes a succession of top finishes by the MHS bands this past year as they won UIL Sweepstakes and the Blossom Festival in Colorado Springs for the second year in a row.

Band Booster President Ross Rucker and a citizens-students committee are planning the surprise

welcome party today for Gibbs. Refreshments of cake and cold drinks will be served free.

Sixteen AAA schools submitted tapes for the Bandmaster's judging and Monahans was first by unanimous choice of the judges, Gibbs reported. The

music on tape included numbers before live audiences at the Albuquerque convention and at UIL contests.

The Monahans (Tex) News, July 29, 1971-3

## PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The City of Monahans is devoted to recognizing leaders of youth activities, and

WHEREAS, The "Big Green Band" of Monahans High School has recently won the title of "State Honor Band", and

WHEREAS, Dan Gibbs has consistently led this band to achieve many state awards.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Richard J. Hoyer, Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Monahans acting on behalf of all the citizens, do hereby proclaim Friday, July 30th, 1971 as DAN GIBBS day in Monahans, Texas.

Richard J. Hoyer, Mayor Pro Tem

Dear Dan -  
Congratulations! I knew it;  
the band kids knew it; all  
Monahans knew it. Now all  
of Texas knows it. However,  
I don't think all of Texas knows  
your secret - the great love  
you have for your students,  
and the love and devotion  
they have for you.

God Bless you -

Margie Reagan



# MONAHANS HIGH SCHOOL SYMPHONIC BAND

## DIRECTORS

DAN GIBBS

RONNIE SMITH

RONNIE VAUGHN

Class AAA Honor Band Concert

Texas Music Educators Association

February 11, 1972

FT. WORTH, TEXAS

## Program

**RIDERS FOR THE FLAG, March** ..... John Philip Sousa

Sousa was a devoted horseman, a dedicated rider, hence his musical interest in the colorful cavalry of the U.S. Army. The galloping figure, the rhythm of massed hooves resulting from the motions of horses on the move presented him with those six-eight patterns that are so compellingly set forth in this wonderful march.

**SALVATION IS CREATED** ..... Tschernokoff  
arr. by Bruce Houseknecht

This beautiful chorale is a fine example of the choral literature of the Russian Orthodox Church.

**STONEHENGE SYMPHONY** ..... Paul W. Wear

I. Evocation

II. Sacrifice

Stonehenge (literally means "hanging stones") is a circle of gigantic stones built by sun worshipers on England's Salisbury Plain some 3,500 years ago. When Stonehenge is entered, the massiveness of the stones seem to render the countryside a mere stage upon which a great drama may unfold. This symphony attempts to convey in music what this drama might be.

**EVOCATION** depicts the summoning of ancient deities and spirits, a procession of celebrants, and the introduction of the maiden chosen for sacrifice.

The last movement, **SACRIFICE**, is the celebration which leads to the ritual killing of the maiden. This is followed by a closing dirge as eventually the timelessness of Stonehenge is reasserted in the return to the enigmatic emptiness of the wind-swept plain.

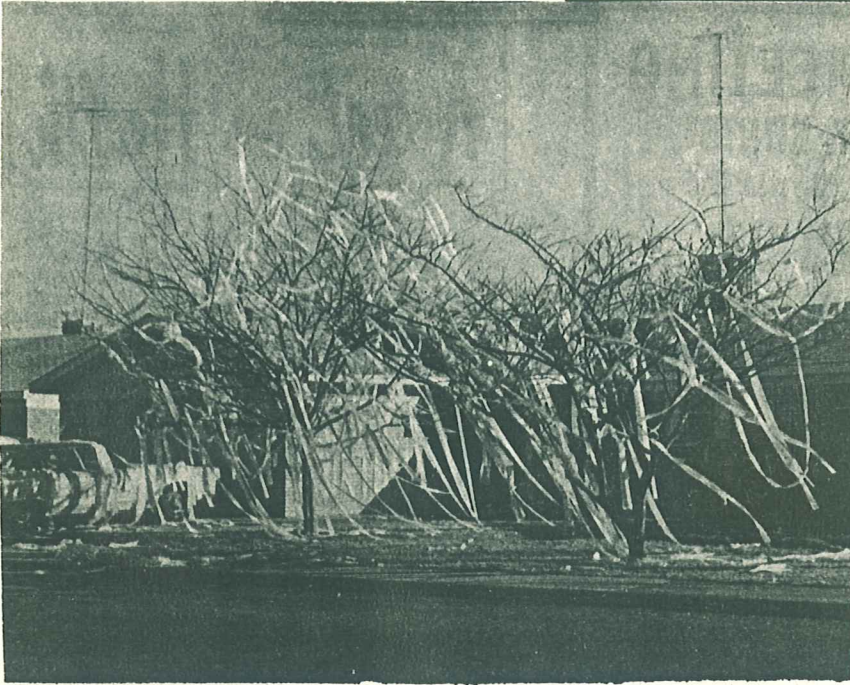
**COLE PORTER,**  
**A Symphonic Portrait for Concert Band** ..... Cole Porter  
arr. by Wayne Robinson

An exciting medley of several of Cole Porter's best loved compositions.

**INTRODUCTION AND FANTASIA** ..... Rex Mitchell

A work in one movement with frequent tempo changes reflecting the varying moods of the piece. The **INTRODUCTION** states briefly the two basic ideas from which all musical events emanate. This **FANTASIA** is marked "spiritoso" and exploits in a brisk fashion both subjects announced in the introduction.





**HAPPY BIRTHDAY MAESTRO**--The home of Big Green Band Director Dan Gibbs was decorated a la above motif Monday night to "honor" him on his Birthday Tuesday. Apparently band members did the job. Gibbs and the Big Green Band left Tuesday morning for their big day at Albuquerque.

## Ice Cream, Cake Supper Saturday Eve

An end-of-the-summer ice cream and cake supper in the park is planned for this Saturday evening when the Monahans Band Boosters Club sponsors the event.

The public is invited to purchase homemade ice cream and a slice of cake for fifty cents and enjoy eating it at the park where bands will provide continuous music for entertainment.

Purpose of the event is to raise money for the MHS Band's trip to the Cotton Bowl on October 24. The high school band has been invited to play between halves of a Dallas Cowboy game there. It will be televised nationally.

Parents of band members and members of the Band Boosters Club will furnish the cake and homemade ice cream for sale to the public.

## Pancake Supper Friday To Benefit Lobo Band

It will not be necessary to wait in long lines outside the building prior to being served at the annual Pancake Supper tomorrow night at the County Coliseum, according to officers of the Band Boosters Club.

Past years have seen such long lines but a new arrangement is promised this year so that all can be accommodated quickly and at least patrons will wait inside the building where entertainment is planned. Music will be continuous during serving hours of 5:30 to 8 p.m. and will be live by various band elements from the high school and junior high.

Co-chairmen of the event this year are Bill Beair and M. D. King, officers of the Band Boosters. They will be assisted by other parents and volunteer workers.

Hearty serving of pancakes and bacon will cost only 75 cents for adults and fifty cents for students. The annual money raising event attracts thousands of townspeople each year and raises several hundred dollars for benefit of band activities.

In addition to pancakes, homemade pie, cake, coffee and cold drinks, will be offered for sale.

## Band Boosters Set Concert, Meeting

The Monahans Band Booster Club has scheduled an ice cream supper and concert at Hill Park for Saturday, August 28th.

This is one of three major fund raising events held annually by the Band Boosters to help defray the expenses of the entire band program for all band students.

The Monahans Band Boosters will hold a meeting at 8 p.m. Monday, August 23, to make final plans for the concert and to discuss other band business. All parents of band students are urged to attend the meeting to be held at the band hall.

The Big Green Band will

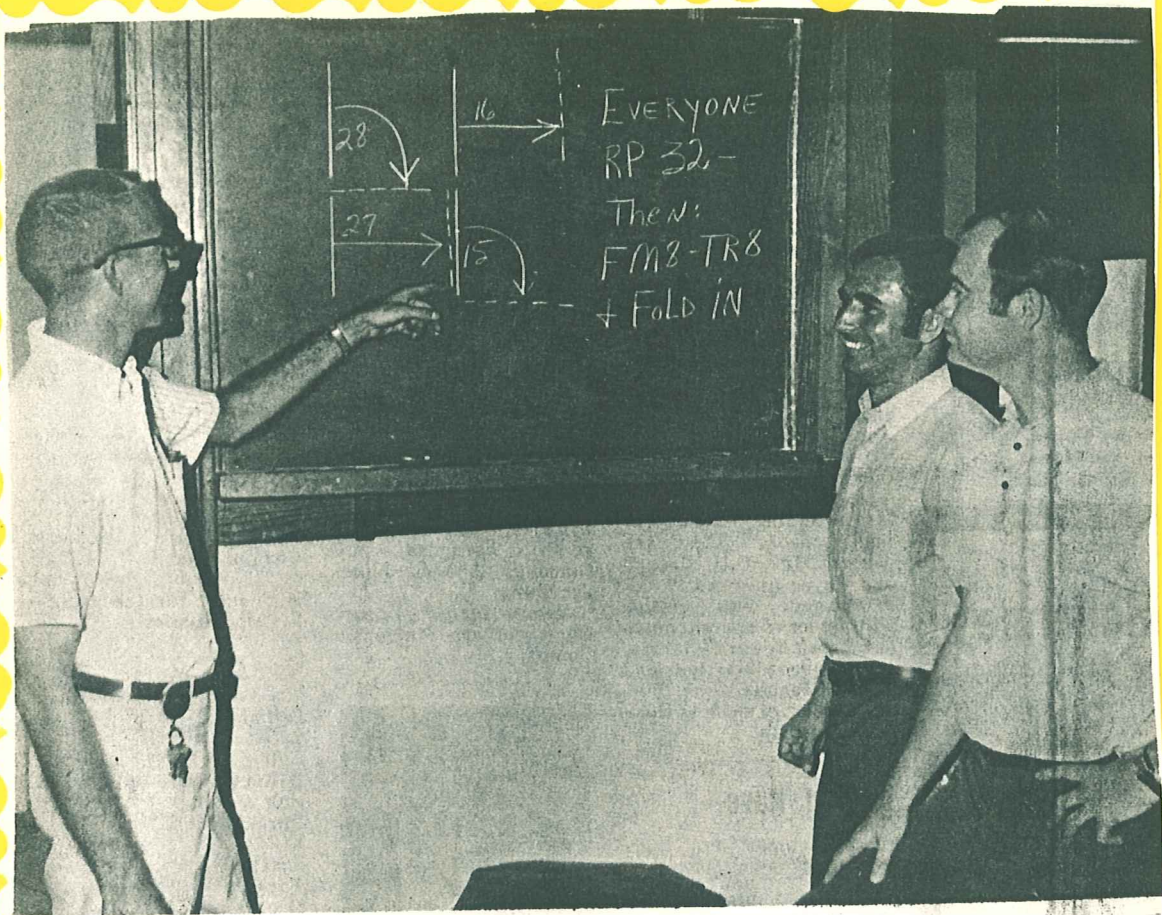
appear at half-time of the Dallas Cowboy Game on October 24th which is being televised nationally.

The Big Green is the only West Texas band invited to any of the Cowboy games this season.

As Class AAA State Honor Band this year, the band will also be appearing in mid-February at the State Music Educators Conference in Ft. Worth, where some 8,000 are expected to be in attendance.

Band Director Dan Gibbs, assistant Ronnie Smith, and Junior High Director Ronnie Vaughn have already opened the band season with rehearsals beginning two weeks ago.





FOOTBALL AND BAND SHOWS each require a great deal of time by the adult leaders working at the blackboard. Just as football plays are designed and explained to players, so are the intricate band formations for half time. For each minute of a halftime show, band directors spend at least

one hour of time working out the routines. High School Director Dan Gibbs, Hudler Director Ron Vaughn and High School Assistant Director Don C. left to right, get ready for a new series of starting Friday night in Estes Memorial Stadium the halftime of the Lobo-Ector Eagle game.



# Marching Bands Are Given Grades

Odessa High School, Permian High School and Midland Lee High School won superior ratings Saturday during University Interscholastic League marching band competition here in Class AAAA.

More than 4,000 high school and junior high school students took part in the event at W. T. Barrett Stadium which started at 9 a. m. and lasted most of the day.

Odessa High School's superior rating marks the 26th consecutive time the marching band has earned a I division. Permian High School has earned 14 consecutive superior rankings.

Results of the twirling competition had not been tabulated late Saturday. They will be released Monday morning.

Other Class AAAA bands in the marching competition were Midland High School and Big Spring High School both of which received II ratings.

Three superior ratings were given in Class AAA. They went to Monahans High School, Pecos High School and Fort Stockton High School.

Four schools received II ratings. They were Andrews High School, Kermit High School, Ector High School and Colorado City High School.

Van Horn High School was the only Class AA to get a superior rating.

Crane High School and Alpine High School received II ratings while III ratings were given to Coahoma High School, McCamey High School and Reagan County High School.

Rankin High School received a superior rating in Class A. while Wink High School and Marfa High School got II ratings. Iraan High School and Sanderson High School received III ratings.

Class B superior ratings went to Borden County High School and Forsan High School. Receiving II ratings were Grandfalls-Royalty High School and Buena Vista High School. Loraine High School got a III rating.

Pecos Junior High School and Monahans Junior High School for superior ratings in Class C. Earning II ratings were Crane Junior High School, East Pecos Junior High School, Andrews Junior High School and Fort Stockton Junior High School.

Ector Junior High School and Edison Junior High School tallied II ratings in Class CC while Blackshear Junior High School for a III ranking.

Four Odessa junior high schools received superior ratings in Class CCC. They were Crockett, Bonham, Nimitz and Hood Junior High Schools. Receiving II ratings were Bowie Junior High School and Austin Junior High School.

Judges for the competition were Charles Traylor of Abilene, Jim Harvey of Muleshoe, Bryce Taylor of Alice and Bruce Cook of Austin.

# Four Bands Make Perfect UIL Scores

MIDLAND (Staff) — Four Class AAA area high school bands made perfect scores Wednesday in the second and final day of the University Interscholastic League Region VI-A band and orchestra contest at Robert E. Lee High School.

Making highest scores were Snyder High School's band, directed by Don Eiring; Fort Stockton band, directed by Don Hanna; Monahans band, directed by Dan Gibbs, and Pecos High School band, directed by Bill Carrico.

Andrews, Ector, Colorado City, Lamesa and Kermit high school bands also participated.

Three bands scored perfect in Class AAAA competition. They were the Odessa High School band, directed by Bill Dean and Carl Meyers; the Permian High School band, directed by J. R. McEntyre, and the Lee High School band directed by James I. Nail.

Also competing in Class AAAA competition Wednesday were the Midland and Big Spring high school bands.

# MHS Director Cited By Nat'l. Bandsmen

Monahans High School Symphonic Band and Directors Dan Gibbs, Donald Curtis and Ronnie Vaughn returned Thursday from Albuquerque, N.M. where they played in concert for the Music Educators National Conference, Southwestern Division.

The band also acted as clinic band for one session and were reviewed by Dr. Paul W. Whear, author of Stonehenge Sympathy, one of the numbers on the MHS concert program.

The National Band-

masters Association honored Gibbs by presentation of a "Citation of Excellence". Gibbs is the first Texan ever presented this award, given only four times before in the history of the association.

Approximately 300 educators attended and according to Superintendent G.L. Cullender, many of these were "very complimentary of our band's performance and of their conduct." Cullender termed their performance "outstanding".

April 20, 1972-3

# Band Fete Set For Saturday

Saturday, April 22, is scheduled for the annual Big Green Band Banquet sponsored by the Monahans Band Boosters.

Dean Killion, director of bands at Texas Tech in Lubbock, will be guest speaker and vocalist Deandra Davis, accompanied by Chuck Hubbs, of Pecos, will present the entertainment.

Ross Rucker, president of the Boosters, will emcee the evening and Superintendent of Schools George Cullender will offer the invocation.

"Flight To The Moon" will be the theme for the banquet, to be held in the Tatom Cafeteria.

6-The Monahans (Tex) News, April 13, 1972

# Bands Set Sunday Concerts

The Monahans Big Green Band members, along with the Hudler Junior High "A" Band, will present their annual Spring concert this Sunday, 3 p.m. in the High School auditorium.

Tickets are \$1 for adults and 50¢ for students, according to Dan Gibbs, band director.

First on the program will be Ronny Vaughn's Hudler group. They will perform The Golden Ear, a Spanish march.

The high school concert band will offer Triptych, a piece written last year especially for the Big Green Band.

The symphonic band will perform Trittico, an artistic work by Hungarian composer Vaclav Nehlybel, pronounced Nelly-bel.

Gibbs said the bands will close with The Battle Hymn of the Republic. The public is invited to hear these fine groups display their well known talents.

Thursday, April 20, 1972

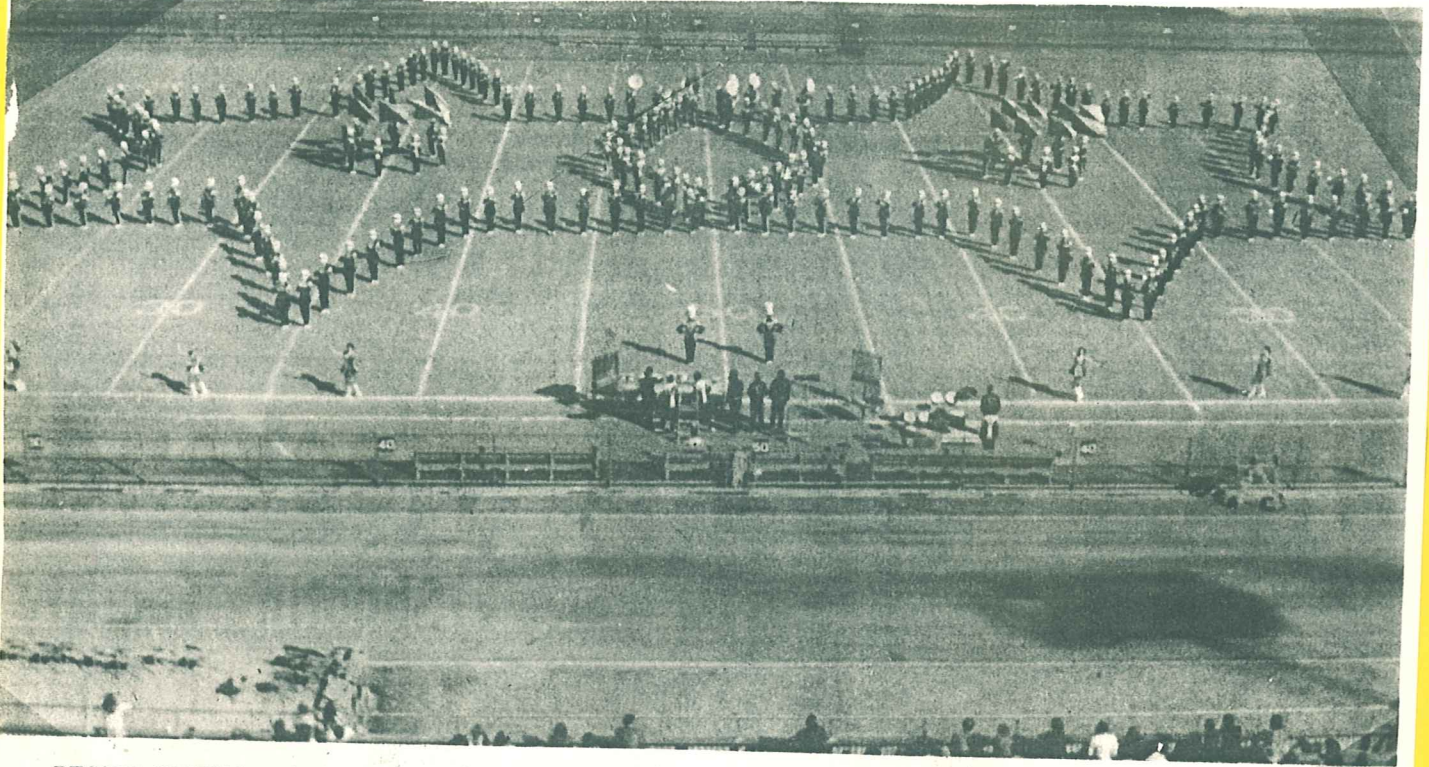
# Big Green Gets First Division

The Monahans Symphonic Band was awarded a 1st division rating in concert and sight reading Wednesday afternoon in the UIL competition at Midland.

All six judges concurred on their ratings of the Big Green. Their comments were "There's a lot of good AAA bands in the state, but the Big Green must be the best," and "the Big Green is truly the finest band in Texas."

The concert band was awarded a 1st division in concert and a 3rd in sightreading.





**RECORD SETTING BAND** — The Big Green Band will send a number of its members to All State Band tryouts in Lubbock Saturday. The band seated a record 68 players on the all - Region

Band in judging earlier this semester. The band will also present a public concert later in the month, featuring Saxophone Virtuoso Harvey Pittell.

Thursday, March 22, 1973

## Band Takes Sweepstakes At UIL Meet

The Monahans High School Symphonic Band took a Sweepstakes win Wednesday afternoon at University Interscholastic League competition at Odessa Permian High.

A first division rating was earned by the band in both concert and sight reading. This award is the tenth time the band has earned a Sweepstakes rating in competition.

Fort Stockton's band was the only other 3-A entry from six competitors to take a Sweepstakes award.

The A Capella performed in Midland, but no word was available on their performance by press time Wednesday afternoon.

The Concert band, performing Tuesday, earned a first division rating in concert competition and a second division in sight reading.



# 15,000 View Sunday Parade, Monahans Band Wins Top Award

By BOB WOOD

Despite the 1.34 inches of rain which fell in Canon City during the weekend, the 34th annual Music and Blossom festival was a great success under the sponsoring Canon City aycees.

A near-record breaking crowd estimated at 12,000 to 15,000 spectators viewed Sunday's parade. Jaycees publicity chairman Harry Schumer attributed the large turnout Sunday to the warmer and considerably dryer weather.

The Sunday parade was also larger than Saturday's with the addition of several groups including several Shriners units, the U. S. Air Force Academy drum and Bugle Corps, state officers of the Jaycees, State Sen. Harry Locke of Salida, and several floats.

The Majestic Savings and Loan association float, built by the Canon Kanine 4-H Klub, won the Music and Blossom Festival Grand Prize. The float, entitled "Time," depicted a young couple dressed in costumes reminiscent of 1872 and another young couple dressed in futuristic costumes representing the future. The float as also been entered in the Colorado Springs Centennial Parade July 7, the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo Parade in Colorado Springs August 10, and the State Fair Parade in Pueblo, also in August. Majestic Savings will keep the trophy awarded to the float, and the Canon Kanine 4-H Klub will receive the \$150 prize accompanying the trophy.

The Centennial Sweepstakes award went to four Canon City High School students for their entry with the theme "Make Every Yesterday a Dream of Happiness and Every Tomorrow a Vision of Hope." The students are Larry Weaver, Roy Minks, Carol Nash and Susie Santilli.

The St. Scholastica Academy's junior class took the Jaycee sweepstakes prize with their float entitled "Look to the Rainbow."

Winner of the Queen's Award was GASP—the "Get Active, Stop Pollution" organization of Canon City, and the Royal Gorge Award went to the Royal Gorge Chapter of the Sweet Adelines.

The Big Green Band from Monahans, Tex., took the Grand Sweepstakes Trophy for the third year in a row. This year's victory entitles the band to keep the traveling trophy. Monahans beat out Fairview High School from Boulder and the Miami, Okla.,

band for top honors in the Class A finals held Sunday afternoon at Citizens Stadium.

Blackwell, Okla., won awards for best marching band, best playing band, and best overall band in Class B at Sunday's field show. The Blackwell band beat out finalists Jal, N. M., and Gunnison for the Honors.

In Class C finals, the Sanford Fritch High School band from Fritch, Tex., took all honors to beat out Sublette, Kans., and Stratford, Tex.

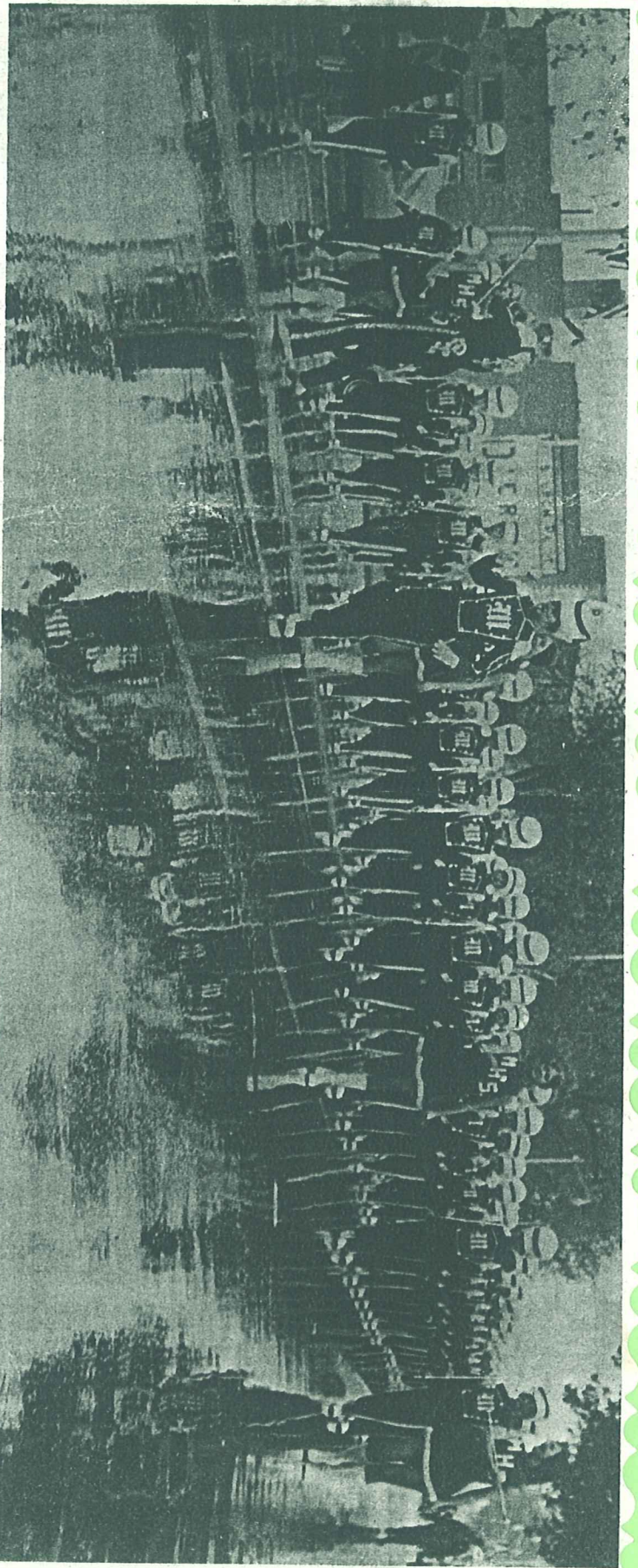
Other school bands competing in the preliminary field shows Saturday included Canon City High School, Canon City Junior High, Canon City Mustangs, Ft. Morgan High School, Florence High School, Florence Junior High School, Rocky Ford High School, Swink High School, Westminster High School, Arvada High School, Eads High School, Sunray High School, Northeast High School, Kit Carson High School, Farmington High School, Pawnee High School, Lewisville High School, Mancos High School, Tahlequah High School, Erie High School, Okmalgee High School, Sheridan High School, Middle Park High School and Clear Creek High School.

The only activity canceled because of the rain was Saturday's barbecue sponsored by the Jaycees which was to be held in Centennial Park. The barbecue Sunday came off as planned however, and Schumer said that approximately 500 people were fed between 11 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

THE BIG GREEN BAND from Monahans, Texas, exhibits the precision drill and musical ability that permanently won them the Grand Sweepstakes Trophy to bear triumphantly home to Texas. The traveling trophy was awarded to the Big Green

Band for consecutively winning the award three Music and Blossom Festivals in a row. The Monahans Band drew repeated applause along Saturday's parade route during the heaviest part of the rain showers, performing in true cham-

\*\*\*\*\*  
 pionship style. Other photos of the annual two-day festival in Canon City appear on pages 10 and 11 in tonight's Daily Record. (Daily Record photo by Dave Stinnett) \*\*\*\*\*





# Texas School Wins Canon City's Top Parade Honor

For the third year in a row, the Big Green Band from Monahans, Texas High School won the Canon City Blossom and Music Festival's Grand sweepstakes Award to claim permanent possession of the \$300 traveling trophy.

Monahans' High School Band thrilled thousands of parade watchers with their "big band" sound and precision marching during the two weekend parades. Monahans won a clean sweep in Class A competition; the best playing, best marching and

most outstanding class A band. They also won the Centennial Award, presented by the Canon City Centennial Commission for being the top band in the festival.

Runnersup in Class A were Boulder's Fairview High School and Miami, Okla. High school Band.

Wet, rainy weather dampened spectator enthusiasm Saturday as rain, in the form of a steady drizzle, fell all day. The weather did not deter the nearly 30 bands that had spent

months preparing for their trip to the annual Blossom and Music Festival.

The shortage of spectators along the parade route Saturday was more than made up for Sunday when the weatherman held off with a thunderstorm until the last parade unit left Main Street.

Field shows, held at Citizen's Stadium Saturday and Sunday afternoons, following the hour and one-half long parades, were both drenched with rain showers, but the bands played on.

Only item canceled by the Jaycees was their Saturday beef barbeque. The Sunday barbeque was held as scheduled when the Jaycees, and several thousand spectators were blessed with clear skies.

Winner, also a clean sweep, in Class B bands was the Blackwell, Okla. High School. They carried off best marching, best playing and most outstanding class B designations.

Runnersup in Class B were the Gunnison, Colo. and Jal, New Mexico High Schools.

Class C winner, also a clean sweep, was the Sanford-Fritch High School of Fritch, Texas. Runnersup was Stratford, Texas. The Sublette, Kansas, High School Band, not eligible to compete due to Kansas school laws, performed for the small crowd due to their outstanding capability.

In the float division, the Grand Prize Award, a check for \$150 went to the Majestic Savings and Loan Association float built by the Kanon Kanine 4-H Club. The terraced float depicted time in its flight through the centuries, fitting in with the parade's Centennial Celebration theme.

Winning the Centennial Sweepstakes Award for \$125 was Stan's Construction Co. and their float entitled, "Every Tomorrow a Dream of Hope, Every Yesterday, a Memory of Happiness."

The Queen's Award, a \$100 check went to Get Active—Stop Pollution (GASP) for their entry depicting a better tomorrow with life flowers, trees and shrubs flanking park benches.

Jaycee's Sweepstakes Award, a \$75 check was won by St. Scholastica Academy's Junior Class entry titled, "Look to the Rainbow."

Royal Gorge Award, a \$50 award went to the Canon City Sweet Adelines, an entry constructed in the Centennial theme.

May 11, 1972-3

## Big Green Makes Clean Sweep Of Blossom Festival

The Big Green Band arrived home in triumph Tuesday night about 7 p.m. to a waiting crowd and a drizzling rain. They brought home six trophies, a sign of complete victory at the Blossom Festival at Canyon City, Colo.

Along with the traveling trophy that will no longer travel, the Big Green was awarded a Centennial trophy, marking 100 years of the festival.

Director Dan Gibbs said the Canyon City Jaycees, sponsors of the festival, told him the trophy must be returned in another 100 years.

Judges raved over the Monahans Band. Comments such as, "probably the finest

high school band in the United States," and, "No suggestions for improvement," were passed on to Gibbs.

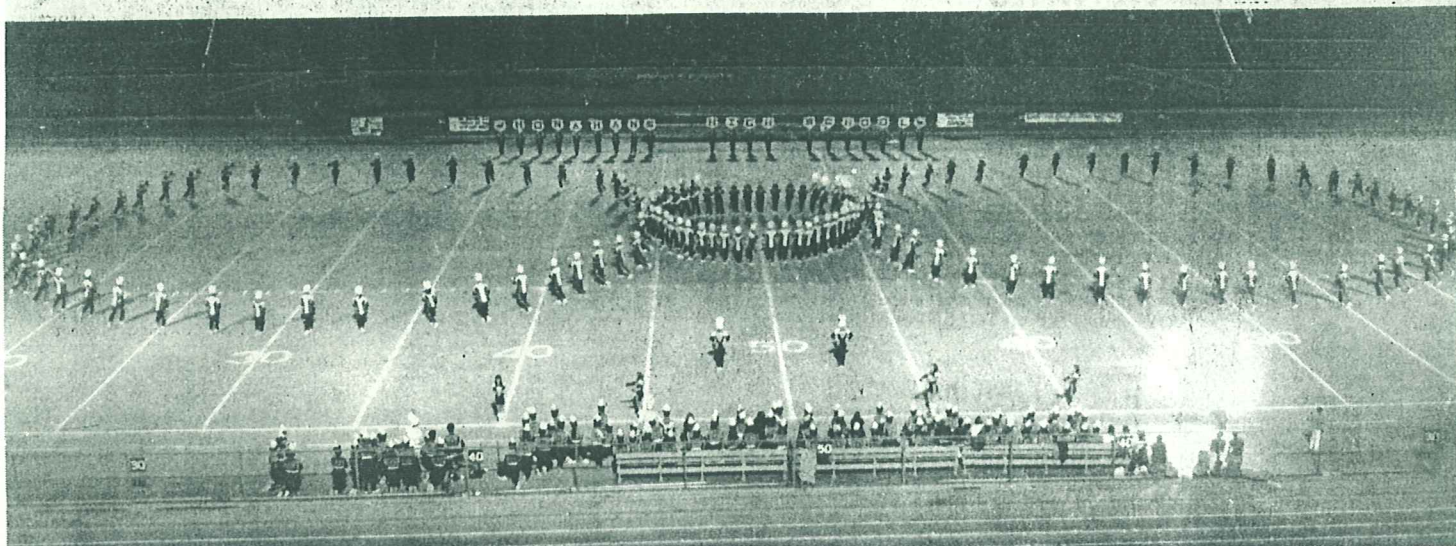
The Big Green competed against 33 other bands in the Class A events. Beside the two trophies mentioned, the group also won the Most Outstanding Band, Best Playing, Best Marching and a participation trophy.

Gibbs said this will be the last trip to Canyon City. He didn't say where the band may go next year. He also complimented the 227 members on the trip. According to Gibbs, not once was the band late or out of line during the entire five-day tour.





# ★ Highlights Of Band's Colorado Trip ★



## 'The Big Green Band From Lobo Land'

Winners For the Second Time of Grand Sweepstakes Trophy at the Canon City, Colorado Blossom Festival

(Pictured in marching formation during half-time performance of 1970 Bi-District Football game against Dumas at Odessa, Photo courtesy Pinkerton Studio).

Monahans High School marching band won for the second time in a row the Grand Sweepstakes trophy at the Canon City, Colorado Blossom Festival this past weekend.

In addition to being named the top band of 38 participants from a four-state area at the Festival, Monahans brought home four other trophies: Outstanding Marching Band, Outstanding Playing Band, Best Band in Class, and a Festival Participation trophy.

Three University judges at the event had high praise for the band and its directors, Dan Gibbs and Don Curtis. Each gave the band a 1-plus rating, scored them 100 -- the highest possible, and according to Gibbs, wrote criticism which he considers the finest tribute ever received: "The finest high school band I have heard and seen on a field in 25 years of judging. . . a joy to see. . . wouldn't it be great if all

college and university bands were this good!"

Another judge wrote "The uniformity of carriage and stride were remarkable. . . very fine fanfare."

One hundred and ninety band students made the Colorado trip which began Friday morning and ended about 8 p.m. Tuesday. There were 10 sponsors accompanying the students and five chartered buses, two trucks and one station wagon carried them.

Sidelights of the trip as related by Director Dan Gibbs included the following comments and remarks:

"We continually received complimentary remarks on the behaviour and appearance of our young people. . . these came from the motel manager, older people who witnessed their performance at a devotional in the Garden of the Gods on Sunday, and from the spectators

(20,000 of them watched the parade) themselves."

The boys' haircuts even came in for complimentary remarks. "People said it was refreshing to see such clean, short hair."

One highly dramatic real-life incident occurred in which the students were almost on the scene. This was the shooting to death of two convicts trying to escape from Colorado State Prison just as the parade was about to start in downtown Canon City at 1 p.m. Saturday. MHS band was lined up ready to march when they heard gun shots and sirens at the prison one block away.

The students had toured the state prison just that morning. They did not connect the shooting with the 'break' until later and supposed it to be a signal for the starting of the parade.

The sterling silver huge trophy presented the band

will remain one more year in the MHS trophy case and if the local school should repeat as Sweepstakes winner for the third

time in 1972, the school will retain permanent possession of the beautiful trophy.



# AMERICAN SCHOOL BAND DIRECTORS' ASSOCIATION

Pueblo, Colorado  
May 2, 1971

President

ARDEEN J. FOSS  
4101 S. Omaha Ave.  
Sioux Falls, S. Dak. 57103  
Phone: Res. 338-1987 (605)  
Ofc. 336-1610 (605)

Mr. Dan Gibbs  
Director of Bands  
Monahans High School  
Monahans, Texas 79756

Vice President

SIDNEY R. ROSEN  
327 Alma  
Pueblo, Colo. 81005  
Phone: Res. 542-2959 (303)  
Ofc. 542-8946 (303)

Dear Mr. Gibbs,

I would like to extend my personal congratulations to you and your fine band on their outstanding performances during the Annual Blossom Festival in Canon City, Colorado this week end.

Secretary

JOSEPH L. SLAVIK  
8215 Seward  
Omaha, Neb. 68114  
Phone: Res. 393-2081 (402)  
Ofc. 393-1313 (402)

I was pleased to note the exceptional quality of many of the bands participating in the Festival, but was quite impressed with the performance of your band during the parade and with their presentation in the field show competition.

Treasurer

R. DONALD STUMP  
1011 Auburn Place, N. W.  
Canton, Ohio 44703  
Phone: Res. 452-6467 (216)  
Ofc. 455-8992 (216)

To achieve the high level of performance that you have acquired requires much time and preparation by the director, and extreme effort and discipline on the part of the members of the band. Your presentation at Canon City is proof of the attainment of this performance level and the excellence of your Instrumental Music Program.

Honorary Life President

DALE C. HARRIS

Board of Directors

J. Raymond Brandon  
James M. Tibbs  
Mac E. Carr  
Warren A. Felts  
Richard McCluggage

Your school and community should be quite proud of you, as I am sure they are, for you have represented them well.

Past Presidents

53-55 Dale C. Harris  
1956 Earl Pat Arsers  
1957 Arthur Brandenberg  
1958 Robert W. Dean  
1959 Emil Puffenberger  
1960 Everett L. Roberts  
1961 Mac E. Carr  
1962 Edward A. Kehn  
1963 Philip J. Fuller  
1964 H. L. Lidstrom  
1965 Donald W. McCabe  
1966 Seymour Okun  
1967 James E. Clark  
1968 Dale Harper  
1969 James M. Tibbs  
1970 J. Raymond Brandon

Again, my congratulations on a job well done.

Sincerely,



Sidney R. Rosen, Vice President  
American School Band Directors' Association  
327 Alma  
Pueblo, Colorado 81004



# Big Green Off To California Contest

May 10, 1973-5

8:40 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and again from 7 p.m. to 9:30 at the Grossmont High School.

Saturday, May 12, at 9:30 a.m., the Parade of Bands will take place at the Grossmont Shopping Center.

The final event will be a band extravaganza Half - Time Field Show at Aztec Stadium, California State University.

During the final test at the Half-Time Show judging, the Big Green will perform the Gibb's Fanfare, "California Here I Come"; then "Neidiermier's Triumphant March"; "Eagle Squadron March"; "This Is My Country"; "We're On Our Way"; "They Call The Wind Maria"; the Theme from Hawaii Five-O and close with "Russian Christmas."

Judges for the show will include Robert Vagner, director of bands at University of Oregon in Eugene; John P. Paynter, director of bands at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois and William P. Foster, director of bands at Florida A&M University, Tallahassee.

A former POW of the Viet Nam war, Major Carl Lasiter, will be the reviewing officer for the parade on Saturday.

The Big Green will present a program much the same as the one that won a First Division in Marching at UIL contest in Odessa late last year.

The Big Green will be facing a challenge from Loara High School Band of Anaheim, California, three time winner in the five year old tournament.

Other California bands will include Monache High School from Porterville, Colton High in Colton and Grossmont High in La Mesa.

Out-of-state bands will include Western Heights from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Manpa High, of Manpa, Idaho; Burges High of El Paso and Maryvale High of Phoenix, Arizona.

The first event is a free public concert, lasting from

Two hundred and twenty - five high stepping members of the Big Green Band from Monahans left Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. on their trip to the La Mesa Western State Music Tournament, in La Mesa, California.

Band Director Dan Gibbs said the Big Green has a good chance of coming home with first place if "they do the best they can." Gibbs said he saw the performance of the winning band last year and competition from them will be tough.

# Big Green Scores First At La Mesa Music Tourney

The Monahnas Big Green Band captured a first place award Saturday night in their first try at the La Mesa Western States Music Tournament in La Mesa, California.

The Grand Prize award

was won by El Paso's Burgess High Band, keeping the top two awards in the hands of Texas bands.

A standing ovation was accorded the Big Green on their concert performance and another during their marching show at Aztec Stadium during Half Time judging.

The band left La Mesa early Sunday morning for a visit to Disneyland and then began the first leg of their journey back to Monahans, with a stop for the night in Tucson, Arizona.

# Big Green To Send 225 To California Show

Two hundred and twenty-five members of the Big Green Band from Monahans will perform May 11 and 12 in the La Mesa, California La Mesa Western States Music Tournament, according to MHS Director Dan Gibbs.

Gibbs said last week that the band will present essentially the same program performed in Marching Contest in Odessa but with some variations.

The program will include the theme from Hawaii 5-0 and Russian Christmas Music.

"If we do our very best, we'll have a chance to win," Gibbs said. "I've been there (to the contest) and it looks tough."

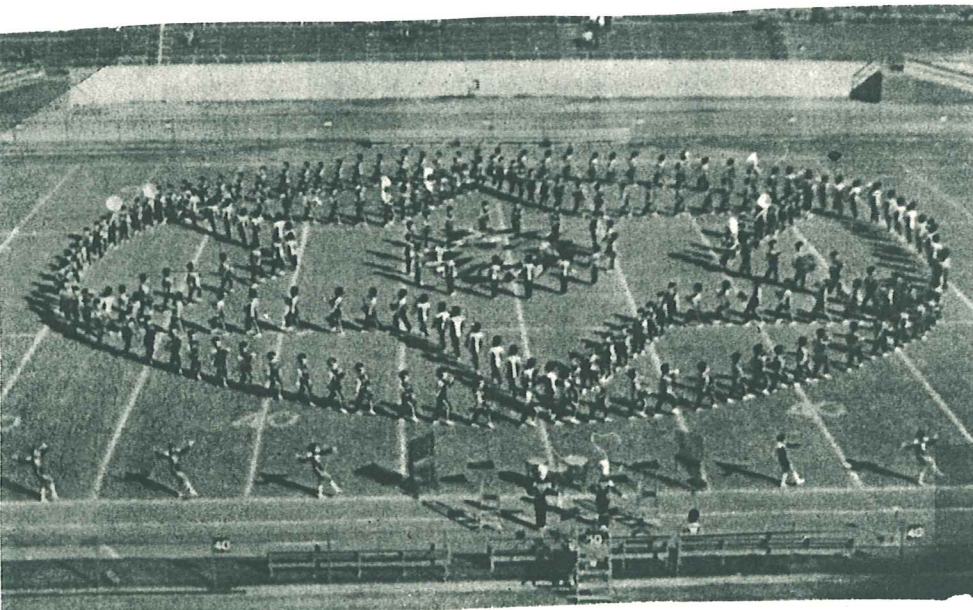
Along with Gibbs, directors Ronnie Vaughn and Ronnie Smith will make the trip. Gibbs said about 100 Monahans residents will also accompany the band, some in a tour bus and others will fly out to join the band.

Three of the country's top university band directors will be at the festival. Dr. William P. Foster, Director of the Florida A&M University Marching 100; John P. Paynter, Director of Bands at Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois and Robert Vagner, Director of Bands at the University of Oregon at Eugene will attend.

According to a release

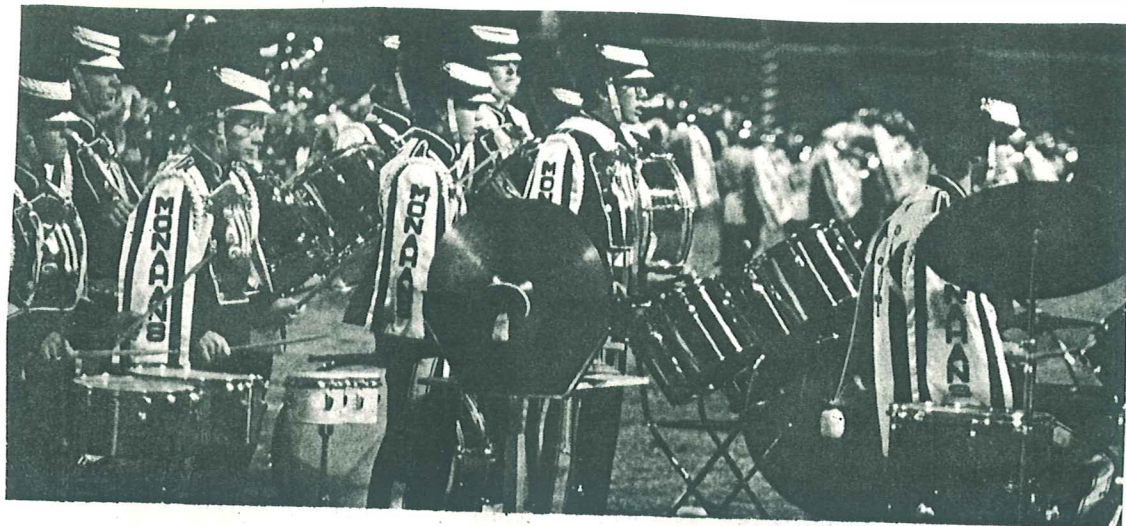
about the tournament, high school bands from Texas, Oklahoma, Arizona, Idaho and California will be competing for cash prizes and trophies in the two-day event.

Competition starts Friday with an all-day concert at a La Mesa high school and ends Saturday night with a half-time show at Aztec Bowl in La Mesa.



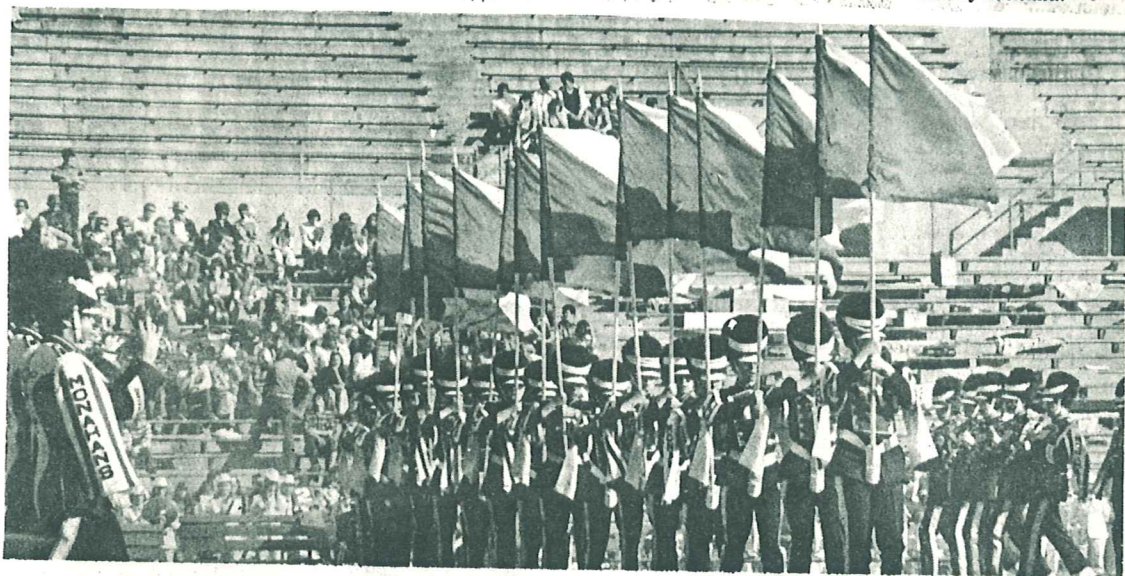
1973-74





**PRE-DALLAS PERFORMANCE** — The percussion section of the Big Green Band gave Lobo fans a taste at the Lobo-Ector game of what was in store for Dallas

Cowboy fans at the game Sunday in Texas Stadium. The section, along with the brass section, was featured in "Evil Ways", a rock tune made famous by Santana.



**FLAG SECTION PERFORMS** — in Lubbock Friday during half-time of the Lobo-Ranger Bi-District title

standing abilities and gave the visiting Perryton fans, as well as a large Lobo roster crowd, a good

## Special Band Booster Meet Set Monday

A special "Howdy-Do" for all band parents and friends of the bands is planned for Monday, October 29 at 7:30 in the High School Band Hall.

A special invitation to the meeting was extended to parents of students in the 6th grade band, the Little Green (junior high) and Freshmen Big Green members to attend the get acquainted party.

Planned is an evening of fun and entertainment, along with explanations of various band programs at different grade levels, and orientation on University Interscholastic League competition, contests, club projects and purposes.

Band directors will also offer explanations on how field shows are planned and charted.

Anyone interested in the band program is invited to attend the meeting.



### At Halftime In Dallas Cowboys Game

# Monahans Band Opening Texas Stadium

By JOHN LAIRD  
American Staff Writer

**MONAHANS** — The Monahans High School marching band will perform at the Dallas Cowboys' request Sunday, but the show won't be as "routine" as the Lobo bandmen's three previous trips to Big D.

Sunday's Dallas versus New England-Patriots contest opens the heralded Texas Stadium in Irving for the professional gridder.

Monahans band director Dan Gibbs deems the MHS band's appearance appropriate. "We've been thrilled to perform at the three other games, but his trip holds special meaning to us since it will all take place in a brand new stadium," Gibbs said Wednesday. "The Dallas Cowboys approached us last May in regards to this show and we've spent the last nine days putting the performance together."

IN ALL, over 500 Monahans citizens will be in Irving for the "Those Were The Days" special.

The band will take 224 members, 200 of whom will take part in the show. They will leave Friday aboard six charter buses. Another 300 citizens are planning to attend the game in a block section, including 26 that have planned a special plane trip.

How does a high school band prepare for the Dallas Cowboys and its regular high school games at the same time?

"Our biggest help was last Friday's open date," Gibbs said, "because we weren't obligated to perform Friday night since the team was idle. We used that week to get started on our Dallas show and have been putting the polish on it this week."

venture to the Blossom Festival in Colorado Springs, Colo. There Monahans will seek permanent possession of a traveling trophy. The award will be Monahans' to keep if the band can post its third consecutive Grand Sweepstakes Trophy distinction.

**SWEEPSTAKES**, the aim of all high school bandmen and directors, has been a part of the Monahans vocabulary for the past five years, winning the title in University Interscholastic League Competition.

Among the performers in

the "Those Were The Days" program will be Charleston dancers from Monahans that will perform to "Five Foot Two" midway through the show. They will be escorted onto the field by antique cars provided by a Dallas-based auto club.

The Lobo band has not been discouraged from spelling out its name just because it contains eight letters.

**M-O-N-A-H-A-N-S** will be witnessed on the field, stretching from the ten yard line to the ten yard line. Following

will be the closing formation, **D-A-L-L-A-S**.

Both the opening fanfare and the closing number were written by Tommy Fry, manager of an Odessa music store.

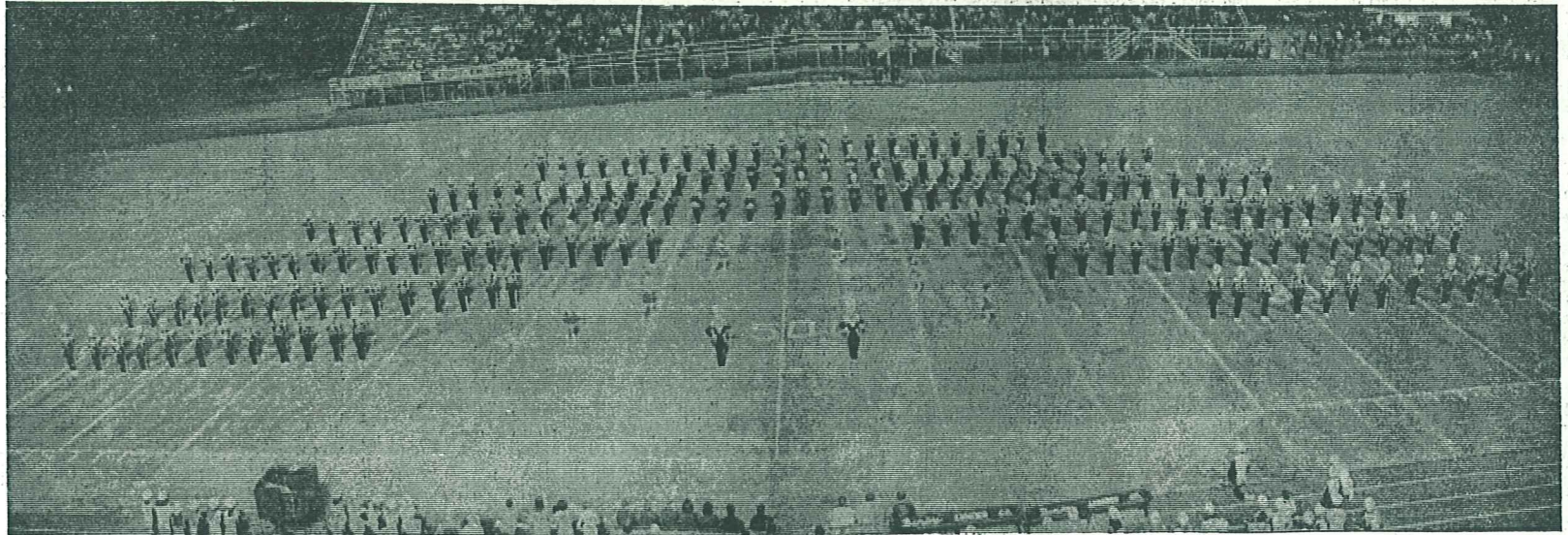
"This type of show is relatively new to us," Gibbs admitted, "since we're not accus-

tomed to formation marching. But that's what the Cowboys wanted so that's what they're going to get."

The Loboos are going overboard in an effort to please "the Cowboys." Formations to be presented include a river boat with moving paddle

wheel, a barber shop pole with moving stripes and a film projector with moving reels.

Sunday's performance in Texas Stadium will be the high water mark, both for Monahans' musicians and for Gibbs, who has directed Monahans youngsters for 14 years.



**MONAHANS HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND**

**... First To Appear At Texas Stadium**



At Dallas, Oct. 24

# When Band Plays, Fans To Be There

A block of tickets in a good location has been reserved for Monahans citizens wishing to sit together in Texas Stadium Oct. 24 when Monahans High School's Big Green Band entertains at halftime of the game between the Dallas Cowboys and the New England Patriots.

Tickets are now being sold at the Chamber of Commerce office for \$7 apiece and late Friday afternoon, 104 had been reserved already. Chamber of Commerce Manager Joe Cozby said more than 200 can be accommodated, according to word from Cowboy officials in Dallas. This will be the first home game for the

Cowboys in their new stadium.

Monahans High School Band Director Dan Gibbs said the band would put on a 11-minute half-time show which will be nationally televised. The 200-member marching band, voted the outstanding AAA band in Texas this year, is practicing now for the Dallas performance.

Those fans wishing to go on

a special airline round-trip flight should see the Chamber personnel to make reservations. The special round-trip price will be \$44 and those wishing to go should call in by October 8 to the Chamber office. Departure times Sunday, October 24, at Terminal will be 7:05 and 10:05 a.m. arriving in Dallas at 7:58 and 10:58 respectively. Return trips may be made at any time desired, even the next day. But scheduled times for departure from Dallas to Midland are: 6 and 10:10 p.m.

Monahans citizens will probably wear Lobo colors and carry some distinguishing emblems, Chamber Manager indicated. He is working on possible arrangements for a bus that will transport the local group from the airport to the Stadium.

After Televised Show

Oct. 25, 71

## *Big Green Band To Return Today*

Members of the Monahans High School Band and faculty are expected back today following their successful, nationally televised appearance yesterday in Texas Stadium. The band played at half-time of the Cowboy-Patriots game presenting a 11-minute exhibition of precision marching, drills and special formations that included twirling and Charleston dancing.

The MHS band made history as the first band to appear in the new semi-domed stadium, new home of the Dallas Cowboys. Previously, MHS bands led by Director Dan Gibbs have marched twice before for Cowboy games but these appearances have been in the Cotton Bowl.

Watching the band and the

game from the stands were some 300-plus Monahans parents and townspeople who sat in a special section of the stadium in a group. Additionally, the band's show was viewed by some 65,000 other Texas Stadium spectators and by untold thousands across the nation who watched on television.



Monday, November 5, 1973

## Big Green Dazzles

### Cowboy-Bengal Fans

The Big Green Band from Monahans received a standing ovation Sunday afternoon in Texas Stadium for their half-time show at the Dallas Cowboy-Cincinnati Bengal game, shown on NBC.

Following their running entry, the Big Green moved into their traditional fanfare formation for their opening number. As they performed a move to six company fronts, the announcer related a brief history of the band, especially that it was making its fifth appearance for the Cowboys.

The band moved into their famous Circle Drills while performing March Grandioso and then to their dazzling Star inside Circle routine.

Before closing, the Big Green featured the brass and percussion in "Evil Ways," and then performed the stirring "Russian Christmas Music" for a closing.

## Big Green Cowboy Show

### "Best One Ever"

"The best job we've ever done," were the words used by Big Green Director Dan Gibbs to describe the performance of the band at Texas Stadium last Saturday.

Gibbs said Jack Skinner, director of half-times for the Cowboys football team, said the show was the best half-time and best crowd response ever at a Cowboy football game.

"We've already been asked to come back," Gibbs reported this week.

Messages congratulating the Big Green and Gibbs have already been coming in, some from as far away as Illinois, California and Iowa.

A quick survey of the town Saturday during half-time revealed that a great many persons were home watching, as empty stores could attest.

## Big Green To Keep Good Company

The Big Green Band from Monahans will be keeping some pretty good company this year, when they travel to Dallas for a half-time performance at the Dallas Cowboy-Cincinnati Bengal game on November 4.

The 250 member band will be a number of nationally famous groups such as the Grambling College Tiger Band, Dallas' Bryan Adams High School Band, the Tyler Junior College Apache Band and Apache Belles, a group with 300 musicians and girls.

Half-time extravaganzas are produced by Jim Skinner, the man who began his special brand of intermission entertainment in 1960, the year the Cowboys formed.

A special program is being put together by Director Dan Gibbs and the Big Green for their appearance.



Monahans Band On The Move

BIG GREEN READY — to march. Three members of the band stand ready to step onto the artificial turf in Texas Stadium last Saturday as half-time neared during the Cowboy-Cleveland Brown game. Note illuminated scoreboard with Big Green in background. The band performed the best show ever, according to Cowboy half-time director Jack Skinner. He has already invited the band back to Dallas. (San Angelo Standard Photo)



# Revered bandleader makes hall of fame

By Aaron Bensonhaver  
Odessa American

Teaching character, pride and perseverance was his aim. If those qualities helped win band competitions, that was icing on the cake.

Dan Gibbs was director of the Monahans "Mean Green Band from Lobo Land" marching and concert band from 1958 to 1982. While he was director, the band was named the Texas Music Educators Association Honor Band for Class AAA in 1972 and 1976.

Because of these and other accomplishments with the band, Gibbs will be inducted into the Texas Bandmasters

*"From him, I learned not only to march and play the trumpet, but the value of hard work, the necessity of doing one's best, the value of aiming high and the satisfaction of doing a job well done."*

Lisa Watson Barr  
1976 MONAHANS GRADUATE

Hall of Fame on July 29 in San Antonio.

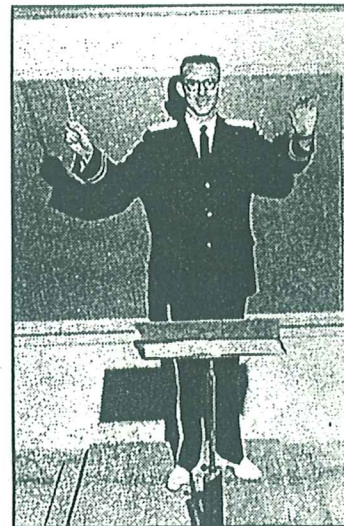
What makes the 65-year-old Gibbs as memorable to people as their senior prom?

It's not his awards (which he has more of than he can count) or state championships (he has two). It is his technique and attitude

toward his students.

"He taught us character, perseverance, to strive for excellence," said Lisa Watson Barr, a 1976 graduate.

"I didn't have all that much musical talent, but he did bring out the best in what I



COURTESY PHOTO

**Dan Gibbs** directed the Monahans 'Mean Green Band from Lobo Land' from 1958 to 1982. Gibbs will be inducted into the Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame on July 29.

See GIBBS on Page 2A

## GIBBS

From 1A

had," said Lou Johnston Hanna, class of 1964.

"He allowed us to be the immature people we were and laughed with us," Hanna said.

Former students agree that Gibbs touched their lives in ways they will never forget.

"From him, I learned not only to march and play the trumpet, but the value of hard work, the necessity of doing one's best, the value of aiming high and the satisfaction of doing a job well done," Barr said.

"He taught us all about life," said Jim Lambert, Monahans class of 1969. Lambert holds a Ph.D. of Musical Arts in Percussion and is a professor of Percussive Arts at Cameron University in Lawton, Okla.

Even Monahans students who were not in the band credit Gibbs with their strengths and outlook on life.

"Not only is Dan a marvelous educator, he is one fine individual that many MHS grads consider to be a true friend," said Al Hill, a 1964 Monahans graduate who played on the Lobo football team.

"He gave me something bigger than myself to hold on to at a time in my life when I really needed it," said Hanna, referring to the turbulent years of being a teen-ager.

Barr recalled wanting to try out for the Texas Tech marching band when she was a freshman there. She said when she told the band director she had been one of Gibbs' students, he simply told her to get a uniform because he knew she would be good and dedicated enough to play for him.

"It was his love of music that inspired me to continue my life in music to the doctoral level," said Lambert.

"Mr. Gibbs is the best of the best as a human being, and was one of the greatest influences in our lives," said Barr.

"I feel I am truly blessed for having known Dan Gibbs," said Hill.

"Dan Gibbs has my utmost respect," said Billy D. Hammitt, chief of police in Haltom City. "Dan Gibbs, the man, personified integrity, honesty, duty and responsibility. He taught those traits, and served as a living, daily example for his students."

Hammitt graduated from Monahans High School in 1969.

Gibbs and his bands were so revered within the state that they were invited in 1971 to play at halftime at the new Texas Stadium in Dallas for the first Dallas Cowboys home game.

"That was really great. It was the first Cowboys home game at Texas Stadium. President Lyndon Johnson was there. He even sent us an autographed picture when he got back to Washington, D.C.," Gibbs said.

Gibbs apparently passed on some of his musical magic to his son, Tony Gibbs.

The younger Gibbs has been named director of the Austin area Hays High School and has been director at Monahans — just like dad.

He, too, led the band to be named TMEA Honor Band for Class AAA. Dan and Tony Gibbs are the only father/son pair to earn this distinction in the state.

Above all else, Gibbs said he hoped that his students learned, "to do their very best. Even if your best is mediocre, do it. Don't settle for less than your absolute very best."

The ceremony is scheduled at 3:30 p.m. July 29 at the San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter, Salon B.



# MONAHANS HIGH SCHOOL SYMPHONIC BAND

- DIRECTORS -  
DAN GIBBS  
RONNIE SMITH  
RONNIE VAUGHN  
JEPIE WILSON

Class AAA Honor Band Concert

Texas Music Educators Association

February 13, 1976

Convention Center Theatre

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS



In planning a comprehensive educational program to meet the needs of our community and the needs of all of the students of our school system, the Board of Education and the Administration of the Monahans-Wickett-Pyote Independent School District believe that music activities are an important facet of our total school program; and are essential to the development of a sound educational institution. We are pleased with the results of this philosophy in that Monahans High School Band has grown in size and quality over the past fourteen years, and has brought many awards and much recognition to both our school and community. In addition, the Band has developed a spirit of intense community and student pride in the "Big Green Band." This generates a carryover into all school activities, and into student attitudes. We find that many problems so prevalent in education today are non-existent in an organization dedicated to the pursuit of quality and organizational pride.

The Monahans Public Schools and our entire school community are proud of the Monahans High School Band, our Director, Mr. Dan Gibbs, and his assistants. We present them to the Texas Music Educators Association, as not only a competent musical organization, but as representatives of our school and community; knowing that they will respond capably to the trust we place in them. We enthusiastically endorse the work of the TMEA, and wish you continued success in your endeavors, as you continue your efforts towards developing programs of excellence for the schools of our state.

Monahans High School and the citizens of Monahans are justly proud of the "Big Green Band" and the vital role of music in the school's curriculum. Under the outstanding leadership and untiring efforts of the band's director, Dan Gibbs, a winning tradition has developed within the band which has influenced all areas of the school's activities. Assistant directors Ronnie Smith, Ronnie Vaughn and Jeppie Wilson have been invaluable in their respective roles.

We are extremely proud of the Monahans High School Band's being recognized as the AAA Honor Band for the State of Texas and for the opportunity to perform before the Texas Music Educators Association. Certainly this is the ultimate in recognition statewide for our directors, our school and our city.



**GEORGE CULLENDER**  
Superintendent of Schools



**B. STANLEY SMITH**  
High School Principal



## MONAHANS, TEXAS – ITS PEOPLE AND SCHOOLS

Monahans, the County Seat of Ward County, is located in far West Texas, deep in the heart of the oil producing Permian Basin. Local industry is primarily oil and gas production, as is attested by the fact that Ward County ranks fourteenth in the State of Texas in oil and gas delivery. Petroleum produced yearly amounts to over \$85,000,000.

The City of Monahans serves as central market area for more than 800 square miles, and provides services and maintenance for over 40,000 producing oil and gas wells. Over 50 oil wells are situated on the townsite itself.

Monahans is a progressive community of 9,000 persons. The City provides its residents with outstanding religious, cultural, and educational facilities.

The Sandhills State Park, with its shifting dunes of white sands lies only five miles east of the City, and attracts approximately 85,000 visitors per year.

Monahans-Wickett-Pyote School District provides excellent educational facilities, and a broad curriculum based on sound academic requirements. The school is staffed with trained, well-qualified personnel in all areas, and is dedicated to the education of all the children of the community, encouraging each child to achieve his maximum potential in both academic work and cultural activities. The School System consists of one High School, one Junior High School and six elementary schools.

Known throughout the area and the state for its academic achievements, its fine athletic teams and the "Big Green Band", Monahans Schools are proud to be a part of the TMEA program.



# Program

## AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

Samuel A. Ward  
arr: Carmen Dragon

In 1893 an English teacher at Wellesley College wrote a poem that was to become the lyrics for one of the most beautiful of American patriotic songs. Many modern-day Americans feel that the lyrical hymn written by Katharine Lee Bates and set to Ward's fine, singable tune should have been chosen as the national anthem of the United States.

## THE SINFONIANS (Symphonic March)

Clifton Williams

This stirring march was commissioned by Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity of America, and dedicated to Archie N. Jones.

Clifton Williams is a leading composer of serious music for concert band. Formerly a member of the music faculty at the University of Texas, he is presently chairman of the Department of Theory-Composition and Composer-in-Residence at the University of Miami, Florida.

## IRISH TUNE FROM COUNTY DERRY

Percy Grainger

Percy Grainger was born in Melbourne, Australia on July 8, 1882. Although Mr. Grainger spent more than half his life in the United States, he is, nevertheless, classified as an "English" composer. Mr. Grainger thought of music as the "art of the common man", and to him all music was one, whether it was a Bach fugue, a Gershwin song or a Schoenberg serial composition. The selection presented here tonight is one of Mr. Grainger's most loved and admired arrangements of a familiar folk melody. This melody, more commonly known as "Danny Boy", has been treated in many styles by various composers and arrangers, but none with the touch and fervor of Mr. Grainger. This music is truly a tribute to the genius of the composer.

## DREAMS OF A PSYCOPATH

Michael Francis

This is a piece that deals with the involved dreams of a psychopath or madman. Like all dreams, they start out peacefully. More complex thoughts start coming into his mind, and the dreams turn into "nightmares". His mind cannot stand the strain of this nightmare, and eventually a happy thought comes in again. This does not last long though, for those complex thoughts come back slowly. His unstable mind is eventually taken over by these thoughts, and his whole mind goes wild. This can only be stopped by waking up.

## BLOW THE MAN DOWN

Traditional Halyard Chantey  
arr: Carmen Dragon

Here is a sea chantey that was heard frequently on board sailing vessels when this nation was young. This is called a Halyard chantey because it was sung in the rhythm of sailors working to pull the halyards (ropes or tackles) which hoisted or lowered the yards, sails, or flags. The speed with which they sang depended upon whether the men were full of energy or felt tired. It also depended upon the weight that had to be pulled.

## RUSSIAN CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Alfred Reed

Originally written in November, 1944, the Russian Christmas Music was first performed at a special concert in Denver, Colorado by a select group of musicians from five of the leading Service Bands stationed in that area. This published edition represents a thorough revision of the entire work by the composer in keeping with the developing instrumentation of the serious band or wind ensemble. Over the years, Russian Christmas Music has become the "all-time favorite" of Monahans band members and citizens.



# MUSIC IN THE MONAHANS SCHOOLS

The music department of the Monahans-Wickett-Pyote Independent School District offers its students instruction in public school music, choir, band, and stage band under eleven qualified instructors.

Six public school music teachers offer elementary students a strong background in vocal music, rhythm band, and tonette. All students in grades one through six participate in the public school music program. An advantageous schedule allows a large percentage of the students to participate in some area of music when they reach the junior high level.

The outstanding choirs of Monahans High School are conducted by Ken Mills. The high school offers numerous areas of choral participation. Each year, the choirs present a major Broadway musical and have performed many major works with orchestral accompaniment. The Monahans High School choirs have been the winner of the coveted Sweepstakes award, and have been chosen the Outstanding Choir at the Buccaneer Festival in Corpus Christi.

Band instruction begins in the sixth grade under the direction of the four band directors, Dan Gibbs, Ronnie Smith, Ronnie Vaughn, and Jeppie Wilson. Team teaching affords the 135 beginning band students more individual attention. The 225 junior high band students are divided into three bands, and team teaching allows all four directors to assist each other with full rehearsals and special section drills. Since little private instruction is available in the city, team teaching has been invaluable to the Monahans band program.

Of the 850 students in Monahans High School, 260 participate in the band program. All of these students are in the marching band, and at the end of the first quarter they are divided into two bands, the "Symphonic Band", and the "Concert

Band". Both bands participate in all contests and competition. Team teaching makes it possible to get much more done during the school day, therefore allowing band students an opportunity to participate in many other activities.

During the past 15 years the high school band has grown from 85 members to 260, and has become a consistent winner in all U.I.L. competition. The "Big Green Band" from Monahans has performed on national television on six different occasions for the Dallas Cowboys football club. They presented the very first halftime show in Texas Stadium in October of 1971.

Some of the honors won by the band are: Outstanding Band at the Buccaneer Festival in Corpus Christi; three-time Outstanding Band and Sweepstakes Award winner at the Blossom Festival in Canon City, Colorado; named Outstanding Band at the Lamesa, Texas Band Festival five times; Second Prize winner in the Disneyland National Marching Band Contest; Region VI Honor Band numerous times; Outstanding band at the Greater Southwest Music Festival in Amarillo; 1st place winner at the Western States Music Tournament in La Mesa, California; performed for Music Educators National Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Runner-Up for Texas' Class AAA Honor Band in 1969. The most coveted honor was being named the AAA Honor Band of Texas for 1971-72, again in 1975-76, and the privilege of performing here tonight.

A very active Band Booster Club supplies the bands with money for trips, awards, social activities, and band camp scholarships.

Avid support from the school administration, board of education, and the many fine citizens truly makes Monahans a "Music-Minded" community.



Monday, July 15, 2002 America Online: DanMGibbs

Aaron,

My name is Billy D. Hammitt. I am Chief of Police for the City of Haltom City, Texas. I am a former Odessa P. D. Captain (17.5 years in Odessa) and a former Monahans High School Band member (Fall 1965 through Spring 1969). I was born and raised in Monahans. I was informed that you were preparing an article on Mr. Dan Gibbs concerning his upcoming honor in San Antonio. I wanted to pass along my thoughts on Dan Gibbs.

Let me begin by stating simply that, along with my parents, Dan Gibbs has been the most influential person in shaping my adult life. I am now 50 years old, but the lessons I learned from Dan Gibbs still guide me.

Dan Gibbs is an exceptional musician and educator, but he is vastly more. In addition to music, Dan Gibbs taught and reinforced the value of hard work, of always doing our best, of repeated practice and work towards an always illusive perfection, and of working together for a common goal.

As a member of the Monahans High School Band, you were part of something great. You were a member of a synergetic organization that rewarded us all, but never lost the value of individual talents and accomplishments. Dan Gibbs valued each of us. As an organization, we didn't always win, but we ALWAYS knew that we'd done our best. Dan Gibbs always ensured that we knew that. He also built into us a drive that would never satisfy for second best. "THE" best was our goal. If you didn't reach that goal the first time, we learned to never give up. We learned to always keep working and trying until you reached that goal.

Dan Gibbs also imparted "life values" to his students. The lessons have served so many of us, so well over the years. Dan Gibbs, the man, personified integrity, honesty, duty and responsibility. He taught those traits, and served as a living, daily example for his students. I was fortunate to have him as a teacher, and also as a Christian role model in our church. He served as music director in the church, too!

Dan Gibbs is vastly more than a band director and educator. Dan Gibbs is a builder of CHARACTER. He is one of the greatest leaders I have ever known. His teaching has impacted so many fields other than music. His students have become successful educators, professors, doctors, lawyers, and yes, even cops.

I have always been aware of the influence he has been in my life. Over the past several years, I have discovered that he had similar impacts on the lives of so many others. At our class reunions, Dan Gibbs is invariably the most discussed and revered educator. He is revered, not only for being a great music educator and band director, but for the lessons of CHARACTER that he taught. As students, we thought we were learning music. What we actually learned were lessons for a lifetime.

Dan Gibbs has my utmost respect!

Billy D. Hammitt  
Chief of Police



I was in Mr. Gibbs' 2nd band after he graduated college--the 6th grade noise-makers of Tatum Elementary School.

Later in high school, I had the honor of playing 1st chair cornet three years for him. We were the last high school band NOT to win a sweepstakes trophy for him. We got agonizingly close, even receiving a standing O from the judges in concert judging. Alas, our lack of theory and formal training in those days caused us not to sight-read worth a flip. Despite his gut wrenching efforts, we never got over that hurdle.

Mr. Gibbs was not a just a great teacher--he was a mentor. In twenty-two years of formal schooling, I've never had a teacher more dedicated to his mission. The mythical Mr. Holland would be in awe of Dan Gibbs. No student who came in contact with him could resist his magic. When Mr. Gibbs picked up his wand, the world stood still. The only thing on your mind was pleasing him. You knew, somehow, that by doing so, you would please yourself. Understand, however, and understand we did, that this would never be easy. It required us to go beyond anything we had ever done. Mr. Gibbs pushed us to the edge of the envelope long before that phrase became popular by the astronauts.

No one could stay up with him. He was envied and copied by band directors all over the area, many of whom were far senior in age and experience. Mr. Gibbs was a primary catalyst in the Golden Era that spawned many great high school bands in West Texas during that time.

He had more energy than all the teenagers in the entire band. On those rare times when he'd be obviously exhausted, he would rise with total command of all he surveyed and spur everyone to do more. Mr. Gibbs is a born showman and knows how to translate his ahead-of-their-time dreams through the minds of teenagers. We saw genius in the innovative marching formations he came up with. We didn't call it genius back then, though. We just assumed it was some new, impossible thing we had to do that, when it was done, we'd take pride in. Take pride we did, intricate formation after another, show after show, brilliant plan after plan. Taking enormous pride in what we do, being better than our best--ahh, THAT is the sum of Dan Gibbs.

I have achieved much in my life since graduating high school. Most of it has been because of grit, determination, never quitting, setting goals beyond my known abilities, and refusing to take "no" for an acceptable answer. Other teachers played large roles in refining these character traits; but no teacher did more to instill them than Dan Gibbs. He kept and continues to keep me in a straight line--in far more ways than one. Monahans and all of West Texas should honor this man above all men. The young lives he molded, corrected, strengthened, and sent forth now form the bedrock of leadership in the communities where they now live. God bless the day he entered our lives.

Jerry Lewis  
Monahans High School  
Class of 1965

Subj: **Congratulations!**  
Date: 7/13/2002 12:47:45 PM Central Standard Time  
From: JWL2549  
To: DanMGibbs

Mr. Gibbs,  
Congratulations again, and many thanks for the assistance which you gave me personally during my days as a student under your tutelage. It was great to see both you and Shirley at New Braunfels last month, to view the marching band tapes, and for you to reacquaint yourself with my wife (Doris) and daughter (Rachel). Rachel wants to become a pharmacist, so she will probably go to OU. She still dances (in fact she just returned from dancing with a Christian dance troupe from Fort Worth--Artistic Grace--at their national conference in Boston), she plays the flute, sings, and makes great grades. Her talents and love for Our LORD will carry her far. Sorry I won't be able to see your actual induction later this month, but I hope you feel my love, respect, and deep admiration for your skills as a band director. May you have many more years to enjoy this honor! God bless you and Shirley.  
Sincerely,  
Jim Lambert



Subj: **Hall of Fame:**  
Date: 7/14/2002 7:10:32 PM Central Standard Time  
From: rhcarpet@lci.net  
To: DanMGibbs@aol.com  
*Sent from the Internet (Details)*

Mr. Gibbs,

What took them so long to give you this very prestigious award? All I can say: It is about time!

My sincerest congratulations to you for this honor that has been bestowed upon you. I can't think of anyone who deserves it more. Today, when I go to football games, it is not the game I enjoy most, but the bands at halftime. You instilled in me a deep appreciation for music and doing things the right way. Whether you remember me or not, I am proud to say that I was one of your band students.

Charlotte Jones Hall

Percussion

Class of '62  
Monahans High School

Subj: **CONGRATULATIONS**  
Date: 7/14/2002 11:37:33 PM Central Standard Time  
From: ljajpctk@msn.com  
To: DanMGibbs@aol.com  
*Sent from the Internet (Details)*

I would like to say this is a well deserved honor. I remember the pride I felt, sitting in the pep squad, when the band took the field. Think I yelled louder for them than for the football team. You have been an inspiration to many. My congratulations again, you surely deserve this honor. Sincerely,  
Jane McVicker Allen

Subj: **Congratulations**  
Date: 7/17/2002 12:26:19 PM Central Standard Time  
From: Jim.Cutbirth@oc.edu  
To: DanMGibbs@aol.com  
*Sent from the Internet (Details)*

Congratulations on this well deserved honor. The four years I spent in the band were some of the most enjoyable and beneficial times of my life. Thanks for the time and energy you gave to help us learn and grow.

James Cutbirth (class of 1964)



Subj: **Congratulations**  
Date: 7/15/2002 9:41:43 AM Central Standard Time  
From: FRANK@championspipe.com  
To: DanMGibbs@aol.com  
*Sent from the Internet (Details)*

Dear Mr. Gibbs, Congratulations on your upcoming induction into the Texas Band Masters Hall of Fame. You as well as your past students which made up the "Big Green" deserve such recognition. I never played a note but the band was a big part of my high school experience, from pep rallies and the school song to football games and the fight song. There were several times I felt like I had nothing left physically during a critical part of the game and then the "Big Green" would strike up and light up that last bit of fire that I needed to get through it. Thank You for Your leadership and example.

Sincerely,  
Frank Peters  
Class of '67

Subj: **WONDERFUL HONOR**  
Date: 7/17/2002 5:33:41 PM Central Standard Time  
From: smbhart@ptsi.net  
To: DanMGibbs@aol.com  
*Sent from the Internet (Details)*

Congratulations! What a wonderful honor!! My family has always given you total credit for making our school years so special and for being the perfect role model for every student who knew you. In our hearts, you will always be NUMBER ONE!!!

James, Mary & Jess Arnold





# The Monahans News

*Serving the Oasis of the West Texas Desert*

Monahans, Texas 79756

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Mr. Dan Gibbs  
PO Box 1967  
Monahans, Tx. 79756

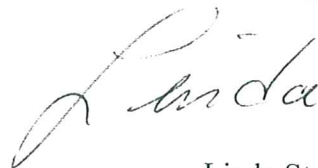
Dear Dan,

I just wanted to add my personal congratulations to those of the community for the honor you have been accorded. You have certainly earned it.

I wanted you to know that when we were putting together the congratulatory pages, the response was overwhelming. Dolores made some calls to the business community and it just snowballed. Believe me, the people who are not on those pages are people we simply didn't have time to reach or who didn't hear about it soon enough. We had calls right up until we went to press Wednesday from people wanting to be included. I have never seen that kind of response to congratulatory pages.

Thank you again for your commitment to our schools, our community and most of all, our young people.

Sincerely,



Linda Stephens



**We're proud  
to be  
your  
family!**



*Shirley, Tony, Janice, Stuart,  
Sarah, Gary, Angie, Kacie, Jamie,  
Alex & Keeper.*

Rx Monahans Pharmacy, Inc. Rx

**Congratulates**  
*Dan Gibbs*  
**We Think You're  
The Best**

**CONGRATULATIONS**

*To Dan Gibbs  
On Your Special Honor*



MONAHANS • NICKETT • PYOTE  
independent school district

*Congratulations to a very  
deserving and wonderful man.*

*Your family at First Baptist*

**Congratulations**

To the world's greatest  
boss & friend

We're so proud of you, Larry & Polly Hunt



# *A Bi-Centennial Salute*

Presented by the

*Music Department of Monahans High School*

MARCH 29, 1976

## *A Cappella Choir*

Ken Mills, Director

Sing to the Lord Jehovah's Name .....	William Billings
Dixie .....	Arr. Norman Luboff
Oh! Susanna .....	Arr. Roger Wagner
Ezekiel Saw The Wheel .....	Arr. Harry Simeone
Marilyn Orr, Accompanist	
Hymn For Our Time .....	John Ness Beck

## *Symphonic Band*

Dan Gibbs, Director

Black Horse Troop .....	John Phillip Sousa
Duty, Honor, Country .....	Harold Walters
Text, Douglas Mac Arthur	
The Blue And The Gray .....	Clare Grundman
Civil War Suite	
The Stars And Stripes Forever .....	John Phillip Sousa
Adopted by Congress as the official March of The United States of America	

## *Combined Band & Choirs of MHS*

Star Spangled Banner .....	Francis Scott Key
The audience is invited to join in the singing of the National Anthem	
America The Beautiful .....	Samuel Augustine Ward
The Pledge of Allegiance .....	Alfred Reed



