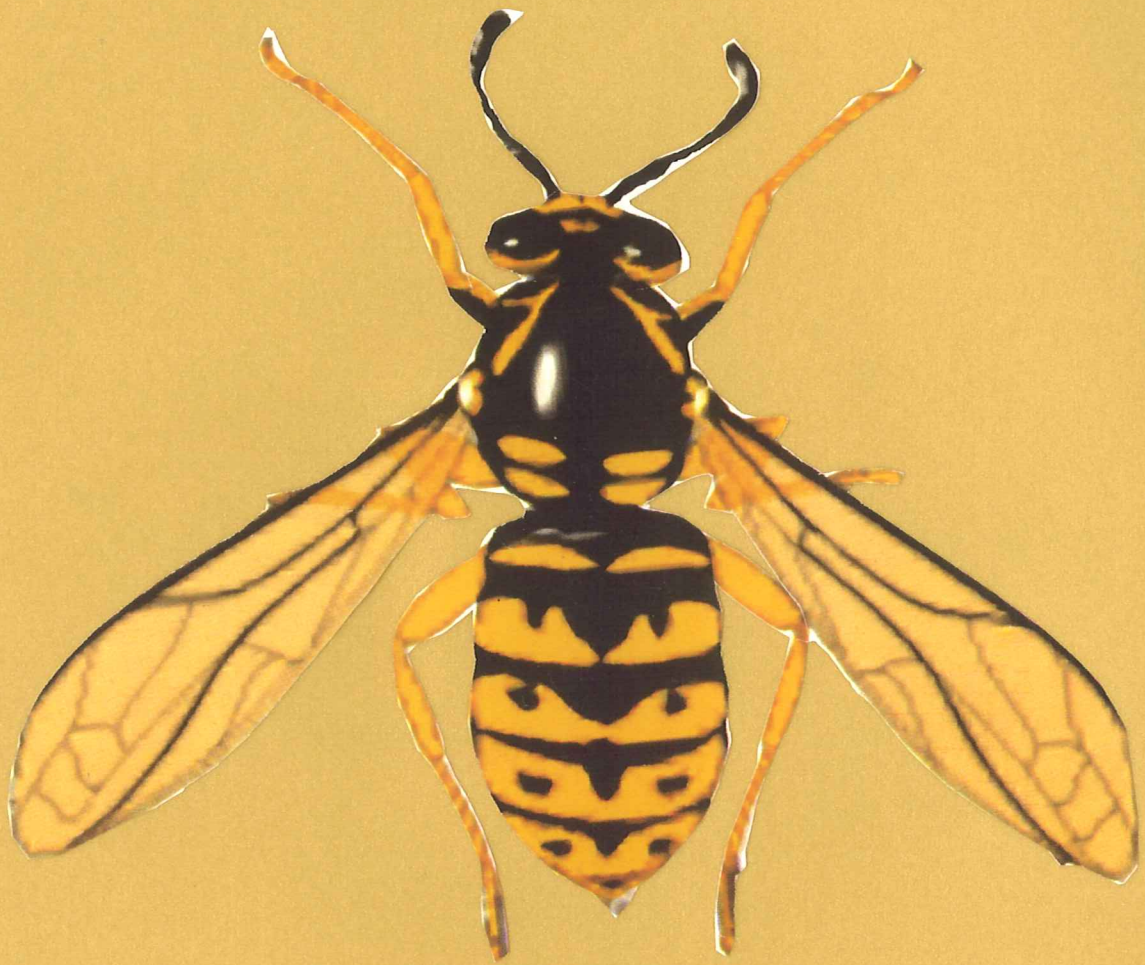
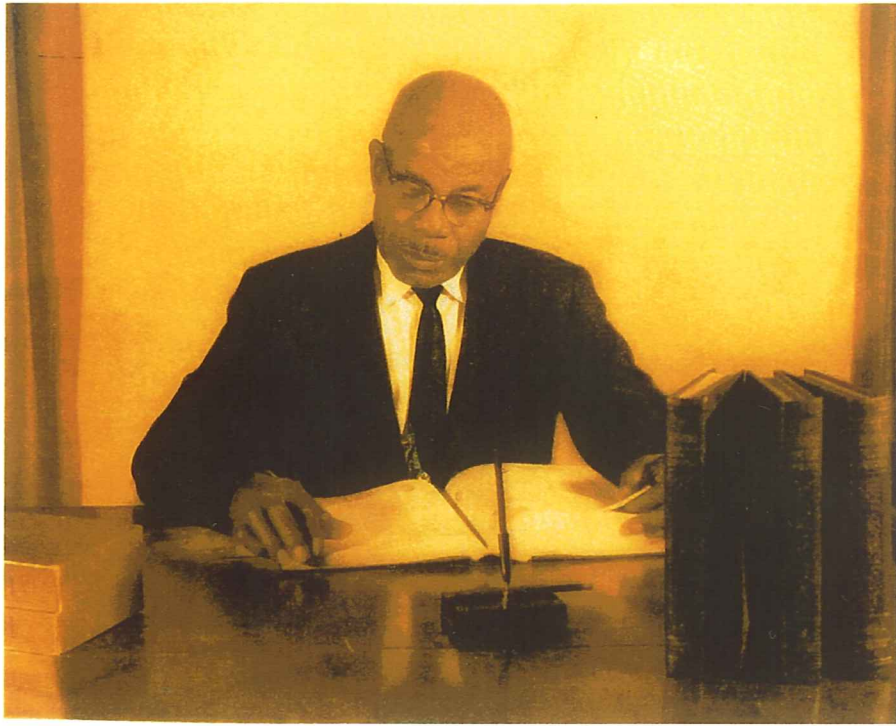


BENJAMIN LEO JOYCE
L. C. ANDERSON HIGH SCHOOL
YELLOW JACKET BAND
1933-1955







B.L. Joyce





In Loving Memory of My Family



Nobia Duncan Joyce
~ MOTHER ~



Benjamin Leo Joyce
~ FATHER ~



Thomas



Albert (Skeet)

~ BROTHERS ~



Leola



Gladys

~ SISTERS ~



Richard & Beatrice Joyce
May 9, 2006

I wish to extend my *Special Greetings* to all my old friends and classmates (Class of 1940).

Also, a *Special Congratulations* to Mr. Joseph Reid and his wonderful committee members.

GREAT JOB SINCE 1991!

I Love You All!



Richard T. Joyce

Keeping the Promise...To Make Our Legacy Unforgettable

THE EXCEPTIONAL MAN

1706 E. 14th Street
Austin , Texas
September 10, 1933

Prof .A.N. McCallum
Supt. of Public Schools
Austin, Texas

Dear Sir,

For the helpful service one might render to humanity for high salaries has been too prominent. Some men risk their acquired knowledge and skill along certain lines, others gifted by nature, set the price so high for their service that the matter of money in many instances has retarded human progress, especially in the matter of instructing and teaching youth.

I am proud of the fact that I was a student at Tuskegee during the life of Dr. Booker T. Washington . One of the things he impressed upon our minds was "The Exceptional Man". Any man might fill a vacancy or take up a job that's already established with a high salary attached, but the exceptional man is th fellow that rolls up his sleeves, goes to work and makes a job without a penny in sight. With the exceptional man money is not first consideration . Service rather than money is foremost in mind.

Early in the Spring I made application to you for a job at the Colored High School of Austin as instructor of tailoring an Band Master. I had my last talk the morning of Sept. 5th . On this occasion you expressed a desire to have a Band Master at Anderson High but there were no funds available at this time to pay one. At this point I am anxious to be the exceptional man. In view of the fact there are no funds available to pay a Band Teacher at Anderson High this year I offer my service to you the Supt. and to the School Board of Austin Texas absolutely free to organize an teach high school band at Anderson High. Giving three rehearsals a week, one on each of the following days, Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday of each week. The rehearsals shall last for one hour each day and the Band shall be recognized as the Anderson High Band. This of course is absolutely free; just an exceptional man taking advantage of an opportunity to serve humanity.

Thanking you for all the pleasant visits I have enjoyed at your office, and for your kind consideration in the matter now before you.

Yours Very Truly,

Benjamin L. Joyce

THE EXCEPTIONAL MAN

*Note: This is a copy of the letter Mr. B.L. Joyce wrote to the superintendent. He was offering his services as Band Director, September 10, 1933.

Mr. B.L. Joyce

1706 E. 14th Street

Austin Texas

Sept. 10, 1933.

Prof. A. D. McCallum
 Dist. of Public Schools
 Austin Texas

Dear Sir,

For the helpful service one might render to humanity and its progress, the demand for high salaries has been too prominent. Some men risk their acquired knowledge and skill along certain lines, others gifted by nature, set the price so high for their services that the matter of money in many instances has retarded human progress, especially in the matter of instructing and teaching youth.

I am proud of the fact that I was a student of Juarez during the life of my Brother, T. Washington. One of the things he impressed upon our minds, "The exceptional man". Any

man might fill a vacancy or take up a job that's already established with a high salary attached, but the exceptional man is the fellow that rolls up his sleeves, goes to work and makes a job with out a penny in sight. With the exceptional man money is not first consideration, service, rather than money is foremost in his mind.

The Exceptional Man, continued

Early in the Spring I made application to you for a job in the Colored High School of Austin as instructor of tailoring and Band master. I had my last talk with the morning of Sept 5th. On this occasion you expressed to have a Band master at Anderson High, but there were no funds available at this time to pay one. At this point I am anxious to be the exceptional man. In view of the fact there are no funds available to pay a Band teacher

at Anderson High this year I offer my service to you. I will do to the School Board of Austin Texas absolutely, all to organize and teach high school band at Anderson High, giving three rehearsals a week. One on each of the following days, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays of each week. The rehearsals shall last for one hour each day, and the Band shall be recognized as the Anderson High Band. This of course is absolutely all; just an exceptional man taking advantage of an opportunity to serve humanity.

Thanking you for all the pleasant visits I have enjoyed at your office, and for your kind consideration in the matter now before you.

Yours Very Truly



To Be Read AT the Hall Of Fame Ceremony
Mr. Benjamin Leo Joyce

Mr. Benjamin L. Joyce was a legendary band director in Austin who founded both Kealing Jr. High School and the Old Anderson High School Bands. Mr. Joyce was born in the late 1800's in Plaquemine, Louisiana. He was born to Dennis Taylor Joyce and Clara Joyce. There were five children in the Joyce family, two boys and three girls. The Joyce family was musically gifted.

When B. L. Joyce came of age, he attended the Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama, where he became a master tailor.

In the early 1900's , Mr Joyce came to Samuel Huston College in Austin, Texas, to teach tailoring in the trades department. Joyce participated in the music department in various capacities especially with trumpet and violin. He served in the army during World War I and played the tuba in the army band.

B. L. Joyce married Zenobia Duncan and their long marriage produced two daughters and three sons. The principal of Anderson High School, an old army friend, hired Mr. Joyce to organize the band program at the black schools. At Old Anderson, B. L. Joyce led the Yellow Jacket Band

from 1934 to 1955. Under Joyce's leadership, the band won the state championships seven times from 1940 to 1953 at the Prairie View Interscholastic League competitions. In the years that Mr. Joyce took the band to the state competitions the Anderson Band received only two second divisions.

Old Anderson High School Band played for the National Baptist Sunday School Convention many times, including one out of state trip to Indiana. Mr. Joyce was a strict band leader and many of his students looked up to and respected him as a father figure. He was loved by the African American community. After Mr. Joyce's students graduated from high school many went on to win awards of distinction in the field of music as professional musicians and band directors. Former band member Kenny Dorham was the first African American to teach at the Julliard School of Music and Alvin Patterson is a graduate of the New England Conservatory in Boston.

In 1955, because of a new statewide regulation, Gilmer Akin's Act, teachers were required to have certification in the field in which they taught. Mr. Joyce was forced to resign as band director of the Anderson High School Yellow Jacket Band in 1955. Mr. Joyce died on January 26, 1980, in San Jose, California. Two former band members, Alvin and Roy Patterson, performed a trumpet duet at Mr. Joyce's funeral.

Benjamin L. Joyce 1934-1955 (21 years)

Some of the many things B. L. Joyce accomplished during his twenty one years as the band director at L. C. Anderson High School in Austin, Texas

1. Organized and taught the Kealing Jr. High and Anderson High School Bands. He taught the first year without pay.
2. Used his tailoring skills to design and make Anderson's first uniform with the help of band mothers. (Cape)
3. Anderson was the only band invited to play a concert at Prairie View one year before the state band contest began.
4. Anderson won a first division at the first Prairie View Interscholastic League band contest.
5. Old Anderson won the Prairie League state championship seven times between the years 1940-1955.
6. Mr. Joyce founded the tradition of summer concerts on Friday nights at Rosewood Park in East Austin.
7. The band under Mr. Joyce played for the National Baptist Sunday School Convention numerous times. One of the convention performances was a trip to Indiana with all expenses paid.
8. Anderson High was the first African American Band to perform at the opening of the Austin City Market.
9. Mayor Tom Miller of Austin honored Mr. Joyce with a proclamation declaring B. L. Joyce Day.
10. 87 Banners were flown on Congress Avenue by the Austin Chamber of Commerce with the image of Mr. Joyce to commemorate his outstanding service to his bands and the community. (February 02)

PVIL CEREMONY SCRIPT

Tonight the University Interscholastic League pauses to honor a distinguished group of gentlemen who hold a valued place in the history of band competition in the state of Texas.

The Prairie View Interscholastic League played an important role in the education of African American Youth from the 1920's through 1968. Activities included the Fine Arts, Literature and Athletics.

Band Competition began in the spring of 1940 with three bands participating.

They were:

L.C. Anderson High School in Austin, Texas – B. L. Joyce Director

Charlton Pollard High School in Beaumont, Texas – R.M. Mack Director and

Central High School Band in Galveston, Texas – Fleming Huff Director.

From this small beginning, the band competition grew from a one-day activity with three participants to a program serving over 200 bands and thousands of young musicians. Soon it became necessary to divide the bands into regions for local competition with the state level events hosted at Prairie View University. The Prairie View Interscholastic League became nationally known as the only program of its kind exclusively serving African-American youth in the United States.

The gentlemen before you were participants in this proud tradition and served the youth of Texas with honor and distinction. They are:

Chalmer M. Adams

Alvin O. Patterson

Edwin Bigsby

Ira L. Poole

Bobby Bowie

Thomas Ross, Jr.

C.G. Bowie

Haskell Royal

Jimmie Bowie

Robert Samuels

William Goolsby

Melvin Scott

Dr. James O. Gray

Charles Smith

David E. Hegwood

Gerald Stewart

Dr. James L. Hill

Benjamin Timmons

Willie Johnson

Lonnie Van Zandt

Howard Jones

Charles Watts

James Jordon

Henry Wiliams

Thomas W. Kincheon, III

James R. Williams

Claudelle Madison

Let's say THANK YOU to these music educators who served our state so well.

CASKET BEARERS

Messers:

Charles Akins
Melvin Chambers
Robert Ellison
Patrick H. Murphy

Vivian Overton
Billy Washington
Louie White
Louis Wright

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The family gratefully acknowledges every expression of sympathy extended to them during these hours of bereavement.

Officiating.....Rev. Freddie B. Dixon

Interment.....Evergreen Cemetery

A King-Tears Service

IN LOVING MEMORY

OF

MR. B.L. JOYCE



WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1980

11:00 A.M.

OBITUARY

BENJAMIN LEO JOYCE was born, the son of Dennis Taylor and Clara Joyce in Plaquemine, Louisiana. Other children to this union were Bertha Louise, Dorothy Doretha, Della and Dennis Taylor Joyce, Jr.

The Joyce family were town people. Dennis Taylor Joyce, Sr., worked in a shingle factory in Plaquemine.

The Joyce family was a musical family.

B.L. Joyce attended Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama where he became a Master Tailor.

He came to Samuel Huston College in the early 1900's where he taught tailoring in the trades department of the college. He also participated in the music department in various capacities, especially with his trumpet and violin.

He was married to the late Zenobia Duncan. To them were born two daughters and three sons. His too was a musical family. Frequently, members of the Wesley Methodist Church and other organizations were thrilled by the music of the beautiful voice of Zenobia Joyce, often in duet with her husband and his violin.

Mr. Joyce founded the Kealing/Anderson High School Bands. He knocked on doors wherever he thought a child with interest in music lived, soliciting parent support for his project, the success of which is well known throughout the state where the bands won many awards. Many musicians of state and national stature began their study of music with B.L. Joyce as their bandmaster. He is well known as an award maker, for his bands have won many awards and many of his students have gone on to win awards of distinction in the field of music as musicians and band directors. Recently, a special tribute was paid Mr. Joyce honoring him for his services citing especially the dedication and loyalty of his students who reflect his training all over the country.

He departed this life, Saturday, January 26, 1980 in San Jose, California. He leaves to mourn his passing, two daughters, Mrs. Leola Buie, San Jose, California, Mrs. Gladys McKinney, Seaside, California, three sons, Thomas Joyce, Chicago, Illinois, Richard Joyce, Seaside, California, and Albert Joyce, San Francisco, California, one sister, Mrs. Della Stafford, Mobile, Alabama, seventeen grandchildren and a host of friends.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Processional.....

Scripture.....Rev. J.L. Wattley

Prayer.....Rev. Freddie B. Dixon, Sr.

Instrumental Duet.....

"Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart"
Mr. Roy Patterson
Mr. Alvin Patterson

Tributes.....

Wesley United Methodist Church
Ms. Myrtle Johnson

Former Anderson High Faculty and Ex-students
Mrs. Verna Arnold

Band Director - Former Kealing Jr.

High School - Mr. Alvin Patterson

Former Band Students - Kealing Jr. High

School - Mr. Charles Akins

Community at Large - Mr. Bertrand Adams

Huston-Tillotson College - Dr. John T. King

Medley of Comfort....."His Eye Is On The Sparrow"
"In The Garden"
"Still, Still With Thee"
Mr. N.G. Williams

Eulogy.....Rev. Freddie B. Dixon, Sr.

Recessional.....



"Mr. B.L. Joyce & the Anderson High School Band"

"In 1932, Mr. Timmons joined the Ringling Brothers Circus side show Band... It was in this same year, 1932, that Mr. B.L. Joyce called together the youngsters who were started on their instruments by Mr. Timmons, and volunteered his services to teach them... In December of 1932, approximately thirty youngsters received instruments for Christmas, and thus was born The Anderson High School Yellow Jacket Band... The charter members included Hermie Edwards, Raymond Edmonson, Ulysis Fowler and Roy Patterson... Other members who joined that first year, Warner Ross, Jesse Hart, Joe Hedspeth, Marion Woods, Larue Mays, Lee Lewis Randolph, J.W. Jones, Lee Lewis Jones, Tom Joyce, Lee Lewis Campbell, Richard Joyce, R.H. Van Zandt, Pleas Miller, Harry Lott, Paris Jones, Sam Wyatt, Tom Wyatt, Ulysis Randolph," ~~at school~~

copied from attached sheet of paper.

ca. 1930-1932

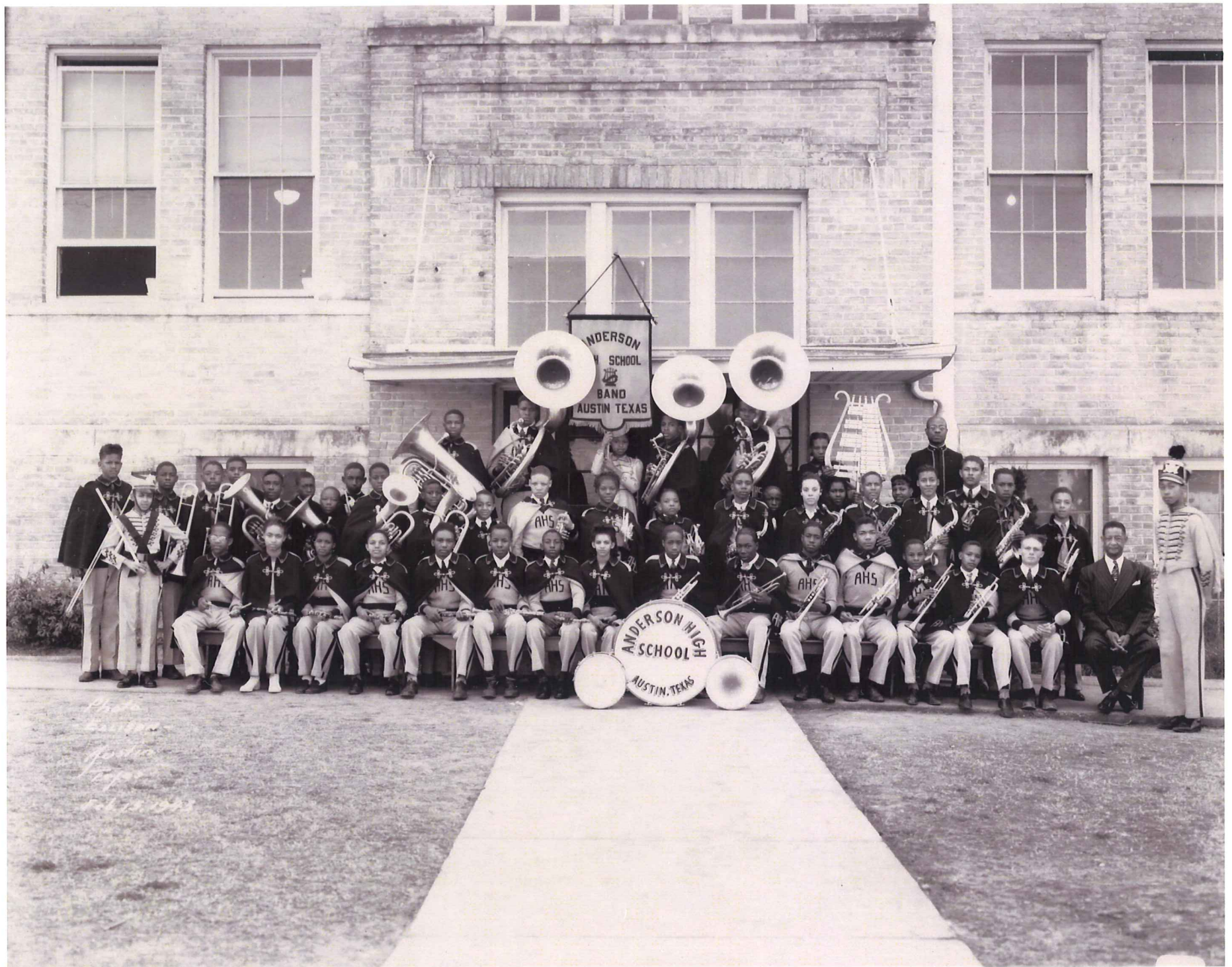
~~B.L. Anderson~~

B.L. Joyce - Director - seated Front
Patterson boys 3rd & 4th from right - Front row
summer uniforms

Dup in AFD
copy.



C03735 Austin History Center, Austin Public Library



C03737 Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

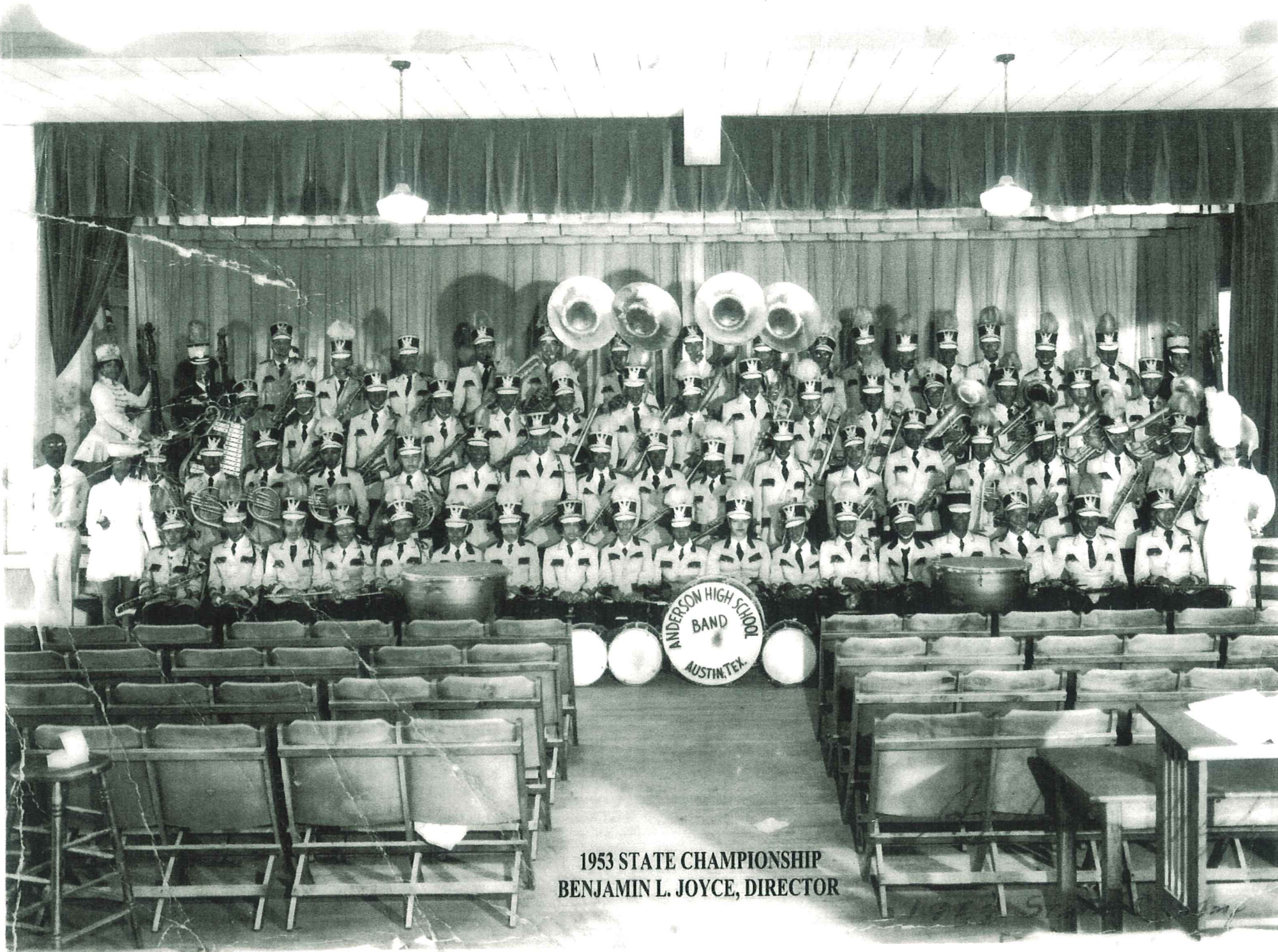
The Anderson High School Band of Austin, Texas, of which B. L. Joyce is Band Director, is just one of the many outstanding student organizations of the school. Music is one of the high lights in the curriculum. Incidentally, band music is a bright light among the high lights. Students are given credit for their work in band music.

The band was organized in the Spring of 1934 by B. L. Joyce who is still director of this wonderful band which is the pride of

Austin, Texas, and a credit to its school. At the State Band Contest which was held at Prairie View A. & M. College March 19, 1949, the Anderson High School Band won first honors as a concert band and as a marching band. This is the fourth time the Anderson High School Band has achieved this honor.

Beginning June 8th, the band will fill a four days' engagement in Dallas, Texas, with the National Baptist Sunday School Congress.





1953 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP
BENJAMIN L. JOYCE, DIRECTOR

Band on Parade

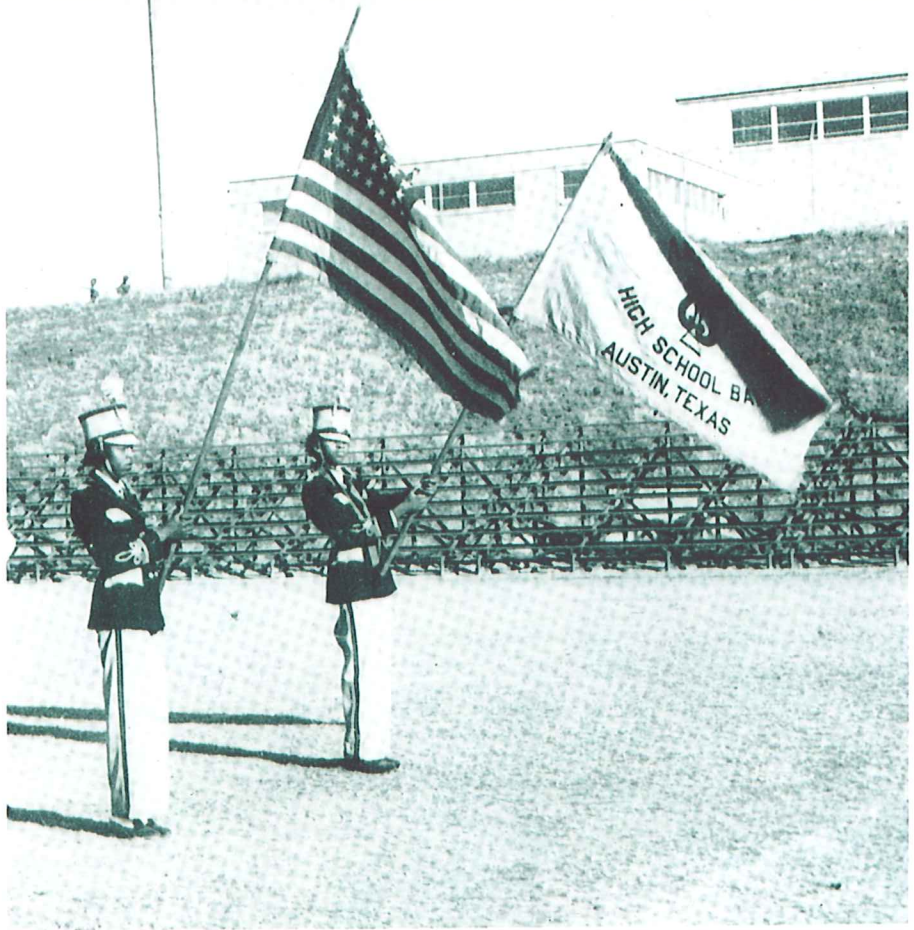
THE ANDERSON HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP BAND began November 1933, under the direction of its present director, Benjamin L. Joyce. Since this date, it has made immeasurable progress in technique, rating and personnel. It has been acclaimed one of the best high school bands in the United States. The band has done much to improve athletic contests and assemblies that are held from time to time at the school and in addition it serves many, many civic organizations for all races.

In the summer of 1953, it was a special guest band to the National Baptist Sunday School and B. T. S. Congress at Indianapolis, Indiana, with all expenses. Each year it makes its annual trip to the State Band Tournament, Prairie View A & M College, Prairie View Texas, the results of which are as follows:

1940--First Place	1948--Second Place
1941--First Place	1949--First Place
1942--First Place	1951--First Place
1943--Second Place	1952--Second Place
1947--First Place	1953--First Place
	1954--Is Your Guess.

Benjamin L. Joyce, Director





Nationally Known Old Anderson Musicians

1. Kenny Dorham / Replaced Miles Davis in the original Charlie Parker Band. Dorham replaced Clifford Brown in the Jazz Messengers after Brown's accidental death. Kenny can be heard on over forty recordings as a side man and leader of his own groups.
2. Gil Askey / Gil is known internationally as a song writer and music arranger. Gil was music director for the Supremes, Temptations, Marvin Gaye etc. at Motown. Mr. Askey composed original music for movies and television.
3. Martin Banks / Martin performed with many famous bands such as Duke Ellington and Ray Charles. Banks performed in the house bands for Broadway Musicals.

An Ode to B.L. Joyce

by

Gil Askey

Words and Music by
ERVIN DRISKE, IRVING
JIMMY SHIRL and AL STINE

Moderately Slow

I AM AN EXTENSION OF HIM

I could have been: Am Dm G7 Dm7

Gil Askey the carpenter, or
Gil Askey the house painter, or
Gil Askey the mechanic, or
Gil Askey the shoeshine man.

I could have been: ev'ry drop of rain that falls, a flower
I be-ieve have the storm the small-est pray'r will still

I am Gil Askey the MUSICIAN:

composer,
arranger of film scores
of tv shows
of records and tapes

for superstars like:

- Dianna Ross
- The Supremes
- The Four Tops
- Stevie Wonder
- Smoky Robinson
- The Temptations
- Gladys Knight and the Pips
- Mitzi Gaynor
- Ann Margaret
- Liza Minelli
- Lena Horne
- Billy Eckstein
- Linda Clifford
- Curtis Mayfield and others.

These successes are extensions of me.

If these things are extensions of me, then they are an extension of him.

B.L. Joyce lives in the things which I do, for without him there would not be me. Therefore,

I am an extension of him.

grows.

heard.

Am7

Em

A LEGACY marches on

Jazz and Motown
greats can thank two
directors who steered
the L.C. Anderson
High School band for
nearly 40 years

By Michael Corcoran
AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

Trumpets blew so hard to produce the slightest spit of sound that they almost passed out. Drummers snapped their sticks with all the rhythmic sense of a pair of tennis shoes in the dryer. The honks of confusion rang out in the music room on the first day of band practice.

It was 1950 and Austin native Alvin Patterson, a 27-year-old recent graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music, sat in his office at Douglass High School in El Paso and wondered what he'd gotten himself into. The school had never had a band before. His thoughts turned to his mentor, B.L. Joyce, the larger-than-life band director at L.C. Anderson High School in East Austin.

Patterson wondered how the man he called "Prof" would handle the situation. He took a deep breath, thrust the door of his office open and stood firmly before his musical beginners, but the dissonance barely dispersed



The Anderson band's first director, B.L. Joyce, center, was a beloved disciplinarian and a hard act to follow, as Alvin Patterson, left, learned upon taking the baton. In 1966 the annual Band Capades performance was dedicated to Joyce and he received a plaque from principal W.E. Pigford, right.

THWACK! Patterson brought his baton down hard on a table top. The room froze. "Rule number one," Patterson intoned, sternly. "When I step up to the podium I want to be able to hear a pin drop."

Patterson sits in his home office/Anderson High museum in East Austin and smiles at the memory. "I always thought Mr. Joyce was maybe a little too strict until I had to control a room full of kids with noisemakers in their hands," says the 81-year-old recent retiree. "You've gotta demand discipline and respect or there's gonna be chaos."

The Anderson High School Yellow Jacket Band, whose lofty alumni include bop trumpet great Kenny Dorham and former Motown arranger Gil Askey, had only two directors in its 38-year history. Joyce founded the band in 1933 and ruled it with an iron baton until Patterson took over in 1955, when the old man was forced to resign because of a new statewide regulation that required high school band directors to have music degrees. That Joyce, who got his college degree in tailoring from Tuskegee Institute

Long before Janis Joplin sang at Threadgill's and Willie Nelson got the heads and 'necks together at the Armadillo, Austin's reputation as a music town was forged by the Anderson High School band. Resplendent in uniforms as bright as a September sunrise, the Yellow Jacket Band would trek to the annual Prairie View Interscholastic League competitions and invariably come back with a trophy. Under Joyce's directorship, the Jacket band won the state championship seven times from 1940-1953.

"If we got second place it was a big disappointment," says Ernie Mae Miller, a tenor sax player with the band from 1940-43, who went on to a lengthy career as a singer/pianist. "We just sounded better than the other bands. When they called our name as the winner, we were like, 'Of course!'"

For most of the '40s, '50s and '60s, the East Side was invisible to most of Austin's West Siders. The predominantly black neighborhood on the other side of the freeway might as well have been a town far away. But when the Yellow Jacket Band marched down Congress Avenue, its presence was full and pronounced.

They would span the full width of the street, causing rubberneckers to jump back on the curb or else be swallowed up in their swagger of brass. "We felt like we were representing not only our school, but our entire community," says Reid, who heads the Original L.C. Anderson Alumni Association. "When we sang our school song ('When the days are dark and dreary/We are never blue or weary/ It's ever onward, upward, forward, marching AHS'), we really meant it."

The Yellow Jackets were the first black band to march at a Texas inauguration, for Gov. John Connally in 1959. They were the first all-black band to play in the Austin Aqua Festival parade a few years later.

Besides Dorham, Miller and Askey, more than two dozen future band directors, including Ray Murphy (Hobbs, N.M.), T.W. Kincheon. (Caldwell High), Richard Elder (Taylor High) and John Whitehurst (Boulder, Colo.), passed through the ranks, but then so did such notables as Travis County tax collector Nelda Wells Spears, Dr. James Hill (chief of the University of Texas community relations department), John Q. Taylor King (former Huston-Tillotson College president and head of King Tears Mortuary), longtime H.T.

music department head Beulah Curry Jones and educator Charles Akins, who became the first black principal of a predominantly white high school in Austin in 1973.

"Teach the whole person. That's what I learned from Mr. Joyce," says Patterson, who spent 32 more years in education after the original L.C. Anderson High closed. (The current Anderson High, at 8403 Mesa Drive on the West Side, was built in 1973.) "Being in the band was more than just playing the right notes. It was about building character and leadership skills. If you didn't toe the line, we'd put you out of the band in a second."

Jazz turns the tide

A tailor who made custom suits out of his house at 1706 E. 14th St. and taught the trade at Samuel Huston College, Benjamin Leo Joyce was also a musician who played tuba in the Army band during World War I. With a desire to give black students the same kind of musical training given in the white schools, Joyce started canvassing East Austin in late 1932 looking for kids who wanted to play. He also solicited neglected instruments. An Austin trumpeter, William Timmons, had been teaching a community band over at the youth center on Angelina Street but he was soon off to join the Ringling Bros. circus band. Joyce recruited four Timmons students — Alvin Patterson's older brother Roy, Hermie Edwards, Ulysses Fowler and Raymond Edmondson — as the core of his first AHS band.

Joyce made the uniforms that first year; no beginning band ever looked so snappy.

The players were expected to carry themselves in a manner consistent with their sartorial splendor. "Mr. Joyce didn't put up with an ounce of foolishness," says Ernie Mae Miller, whose grandfather Laurine Cecil Anderson was the school's namesake. "You couldn't play no jazz either."

Joyce bent his strict "no jazz" rule only one time that

Patterson could remember. "We were playing football against Wheatley (the arch-rival from San Antonio) and they were beatin' us," he recalls. "But even worse, their band was showing us up, playing all these hot big band swing numbers. So Mr. Joyce called me over and said, 'What was that swing thing you were playing the other day when you thought I was out of listening range?' I said that was 'Tuxedo Junction' and he said, 'OK, let's hear it.'" The band also did Cab Calloway's "Fat Foot Flewzy."

Miller, who was also in the band at the time, recalls that the crowd went nuts when the precise, militaristic Yellow Jackets of marches and grand overtures turned to swing and jazz. "It lit a fire under the football team, too. We ended up winning the game," she says, with a hearty laugh.

When Patterson was in the band with Dorham and Askey, the trio and such friends as trombonist Buford Banks (father of noted local jazzman Martin Banks) and trumpeters Paris Jones and Warner "Rip" Ross would meet in the backyard of Patterson's house at 1709 Washington Ave. to play improvisational jazz. Though Dorham went on to iconic status, replacing Miles Davis in the Charlie Parker Quintet in 1948 and co-founding the influential Jazz Messengers in 1954, he often deferred to the older players in the backyard jam sessions, especially Hermie Edwards, recognized as the baddest horn player in East Austin at the time. "Kenny was quiet, deep," Patterson recalls. "Very thoughtful and perceptive."

After being drafted into the Navy in 1942 and stationed in Boston, where his job was playing "Taps" as the body bags from World War II were unloaded, Patterson met up with Dorham when the trumpet player was in Billy Eckstine's band. "He used to copy Erskine Hawkins when we'd jam in Austin," Patterson says, "but he started getting into his own

Continued on next page

thing.”

Dorham, known for his dark trumpet tone and graceful melodic flights, died in 1972. But Patterson was able to hang with him one more time, when Dorham returned home, with fellow native Austinite Teddy Wilson and an all-star cast, including John Coltrane, Elvin Jones, Lightnin’ Hopkins and Dave Brubeck, to play the 1966 Longhorn Jazz Fest at the old Disch Field (next to City Coliseum).

When Askey made his triumphant return to Austin in the mid-’60s, he brought a trio of singers from Detroit to a party at the Hamilton Avenue home of his mother, Ada Simonds. “Everybody was pretty much focused on the Supremes,” Patterson recalls of the special guests. Askey’s credits include arranging and producing the likes of Curtis Mayfield, the Four Tops and the soundtrack to “Lady Sings the Blues.”

Whatever success Askey achieved, he was quick to credit Joyce. When the old man passed away in 1980, Askey, who currently lives in Australia, wrote a poem called “I Am an Extension of Him” for the funeral program. “Mr. Joyce lives on in the things I do, for without him there’d be no me,” it ends.

The impeccably-dressed, well-spoken Joyce came from an era, Reid says, when educators were bigger heroes in East Austin than footballers or singers. “The legends you heard about growing up were Miss (Lucille) Frazier, the English teacher and Mr. (Lawrence) Britton, the track coach,” says Reid. “Even going back to when I was in elementary school, the older kids would say, ‘Just wait until you’ve gotta take Mr. Pickard’s science class.’ Anderson High was the thread that kept the community together.”

The school was all black until the late ’50s when a handful of Hispanics attended. The first white student to graduate from Anderson was in 1970. The next year, following a U.S. Supreme Court decision that favored busing as a preferred method of integration, the federal government sued the Austin school district and ordered district schools to desegregate. As the first federal suit following the

Supreme Court decision, the Austin case was a national news story for several months.

AISD’s decision in July 1971 to comply by closing Anderson High, which had fewer than 20 nonblack students (out of a student body of about 800), “just devastated us all,” says Patterson.

The one-way busing — with black students sent to white schools, but white students not sent to black schools — especially rankled East Austinites. On the first day of the new school year, 121 former Anderson High students did not report to their new schools.

“It’s like they ripped the heart out of East Austin,” says Reid. “You wanna know when the neighborhood started going downhill? It’s when they closed Anderson.”

Patterson moved to McCallum High School, where many of the black students were bused, and remained a counselor in the community relations department until 1984, when he took a position as assistant to the dean at St. Edward’s University. He retired last June at age 80. Fittingly, a Juneteenth parade of marching bands ended at Patterson’s doorstep in East Austin, a show of appreciation for the 16 years he led the best high school marching band in Texas.

The building at 1607 Pennsylvania Ave. that housed Anderson High School from 1913-1953 burned down 20 years ago. Kealing Junior High now

sits on the site. The original Olive Street location of Anderson (1907-1913) — which was originally named E.H. Anderson High for L.C.’s older brother — burned down in 1947.

But the brick building on Thompson Street, which housed L.C. Anderson High (renamed after the 1938 passing of its first principal) from 1953-1971, still stands. Anderson alum Thomas “Hollywood” Henderson has restored the running track and the football field on the west side of the school, but the building, which now holds the Boys & Girls Club and an alternative learning center, does not resemble a place that once anchored an entire community.

Sometimes when Patterson drives on that street, his mind brakes for memories. Other times he drives by and looks away, not wanting to revisit what used to be.

But it’s a special place, this building where Joyce passed him the baton, where he became a father figure to a family of students, just like the old man had been.

“Mr. Joyce was as strict as they come — you sure didn’t want to feel his wrath,” Patterson says. “But I think you’ll find that, deep down, kids want someone riding them, demanding the best out of them.”

The fumbling disorder of a band practice can, with the right guidance, evolve into the sweetest sound.



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Vice President for Community and School Relations

P.O. Box T • Austin, Texas 78713-8920 • (512) 471-9882 • FAX (512) 471-8102

February 23, 2005

Mr. Melvin Scott
2717 Butler National Drive
Pflugerville, Texas 78660

Dear Mr. Scott:

It was a real pleasure to learn that my former high school band director, Mr. B. L. Joyce, has been nominated for the Texas Bandmaster's Hall of Fame. He is very deserving of this memorable honor.

I am presently serving as a Vice President of one of the largest universities in the USA. There is no way that I could have accomplished the success leading to my present position without the background of experience I received in the Anderson High School band under the directions of Mr. Joyce.

He was an excellent band director which is exemplified by the superior rating that his band always received at the Prairie View A&M Band Contest. Not only did Mr. Joyce emphasize excellent musicianship, but he gave us life-long qualities as leadership, honor, perseverance, and determination.

I consider it an honor to support Mr. B. L. Joyce as a member of the Texas Bandmaster's Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James L. Hill".

James L. Hill, Ph.D.
Vice President for Community
and School Relations

JLH:Imm



OLCAAAA

ORIGINAL L.C. ANDERSON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Phi Beta Mu
International School
Bandmaster Fraternity
Alpha Chapter - Texas
Hall of Fame Selection Committee**

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1st Vice Chairperson

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Betty H. King
Assistant Financial
Secretary

Dear Committee Members:

I am the current chairman of the Original L. C. Anderson Alumni Association (OLCAAAA). Our organization consists of the ex-students and ex-faculty of the old African American L. C. Anderson High School in Austin, Texas. Though the school was closed in 1971 by court order to desegregate, the rich tradition of the institution and the legacy passed on by its teachers and mentors nevertheless remain in the memories of us Alumni Association members. One of the most renowned faculty members in the history of the school was Mr. Benjamin Leo Joyce, band director at Anderson until his retirement in 1955. The late Mr. Joyce's tenure as band leader has reached legionary proportions in the minds of his ex-band members, fellow faculty members, and the East Austin community overall. On behalf of the OLCAAAA membership, I submit to you this writing in support of Mr. Joyce's consideration for induction into the Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame.

On a personal note, I had the privilege of being a member of the last band Mr. Joyce conducted before his retirement. In my youthful years as a band student, I think there was no other teacher whose stature and presence had more impact on my life at that time. Being the consummate disciplinarian that he was, his influence on the development of my musicianship allowed me to acquire the confidence necessary to succeed in further musical endeavors after his departure. I am certain my fellow bandmates will concur.

Gone, but not forgotten, are memories of the days when the Anderson High School Yellowjacket Band performed at football games, at band competitions, and in concerts. The sight of the familiar black and gold uniforms we wore in downtown and East Austin parades with Mr. Joyce marching beside us left a lasting impression on parade watchers, as they had to stand back to make room for us to pass. The sound of the Anderson Band rehearsing on the football field at dawn could be heard in all East Austin neighborhoods, serving as a built-in alarm to rise and get the day started.

I believe no candidate's induction into the Hall of Fame is more deserving than that of Mr. B. L. Joyce. The imprint he left on his band students and the others around him is forever lasting.

Sincerely,

**Joseph A. Reid, Chairman
OLCAAAA Executive Committee**

March 1, 2005

Phi Beta Mu
Hall Of Fame Committee

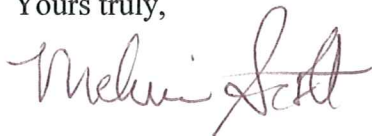
To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write this letter recommending my former band director Mr. B. L. Joyce to the hall of fame committee. Mr. Joyce was one of the most honored leaders from Austin's black community. He was a person of character, integrity and a role model for young people.

After organizing the Anderson High School Band in 1932 the program became one of the state's best. Mr. Joyce lead his band to help organize the Prairie View UIL and was a mentor for band students twenty three years. During Mr. Joyce's tenure as director more than twenty of his students became band directors and professional musicians. Mr. Joyce's bands received superior ratings and were the best disciplined groups at contests. The Anderson High Band was a source of community pride, downtown parades, football games, and Friday night park concerts always brought out large crowds to support our performances.

Mr. Joyce was legendary as a music teacher and disciplinarian. I used him as a reference my whole career to solve teaching problems. I feel that Mr. B. L. Joyce is worthy of membership to the Phi Beta Mu Hall of Fame and recommend him to you without reservation.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melvin Scott". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Melvin Scott
Phi Beta Mu Member

Old L.C. Anderson Alumni Association (OLCAAA) of North Texas

1421 Milmo Drive
Ft. Worth, Texas 76134
Phone (817) 293-5531

I am a retired classroom teacher, administrator, elected member of the Texas State Board of Education (SBOE). I am a member of the Old L.C. Anderson Alumni Association (OLCAAA) of North Texas and I was also privileged to be a member of the Anderson High School Band from 1949-1952.

The thing that stands out in my mind is how Mr. Joyce would find a way for every student who wanted to play an instrument to have access to an instrument. For example; In some cases, two students would take turns and use the same instrument for learning to play. I was one of the students who did not have access to an instrument, but wanted to be in the band. Mr. Joyce noticed that I was left-handed. His adult son was also left-handed and had played a base fiddle in high school. Mr. Joyce had the fiddle restrung for a left-handed player. He borrowed his son's fiddle so that I could learn to play an instrument and play in the AHS Concert Band.

From my vantage point, as a member of an award winning band and as a high school student, I was able to learn not only music, but values such as pride, respect, self discipline, hard work and life in general. I am thankful for the tremendous influence Mr. Joyce has had on my career and life.

Rosie M. Collins Sorrells, AHS Band Member - 1949-52

"57 years has passed since I first met Mr. B.L. Joyce. Mr. Joyce was the founder and Band Director of the then famous L.C. Anderson High School Yellow Jacket concert and marching band. No other person outside of my immediate family has had such a lasting impact on my life. In addition to the music that he taught and drilled into the band members, he taught us many life lessons. For example, he taught us to respect ourselves and to respect others. He was a proponent of exercise and walking for better health long before there were the numerous gyms that exist today. The major component that Mr. Joyce gave us, that is so lacking in today's teenagers is pride. Ask any former band member if he or she was proud to be associated with the Yellow Jacket band and I am positive that you will get a resounding yes!!! I often ask myself, how did he know? What made him so smart, so ahead of his time? He taught us to do our best and we did. Under his guidance band members past, present and future fostered a strong sense of family. Yes the band members were an extended family that cared about and looked after one another. Mr. B.L Joyce produced one of the finest concert and marching bands of his time, black or white."

Charles W. Pankey