

# 1960-The Beginning Band Career of Donnie Owens

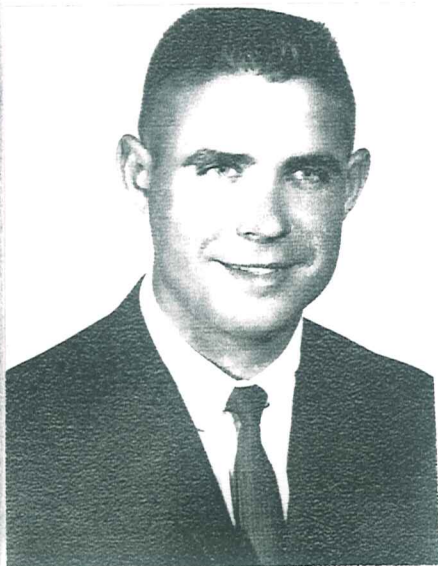
## Owens Named Band Director

Donnie Owens, Madill, has been named as band director for Antlers High School, announces Superintendent W. A. Obuch.

Owens is a 1960 graduate of Southeastern State College, Durant. His school recommended him as one of the most outstanding men they have had in the field of music in the last 10 or 15 years, Mr. Obuch said.

He is also a vocal instructor, Mr. Obuch added, and it is hoped he will be able to arrange a program of glee club, chorus and quartet for the Antlers school.

The new director succeeds Robert T. Stoddard who resigned from the Antlers faculty to accept a similar post with Tishomingo High School.



Mr. A.E. Findley was my high school band director. In 1966, he was the first director to be inducted into The Oklahoma Bandmasters Hall of Fame. Mr. Findley composed and arranged the official march for the Oklahoma Bandmasters Association.



A. E. FINDLEY, DIRECTOR

## KINGSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DEPARTMENT OF BAND AND ORCHESTRA

KINGSTON, OKLA.

Nov. 13 1960

Mr. Donnie Owens,  
Dir. Bands,  
Antlers, Oklahoma:  
Dear Donnie:

Congratulations on the very fine performance of your band Friday night in Madill. I was impressed with their fine work, the baton work and the marching and musical ability of your group, they seemed well poised, and that would naturally lead to the thought that you and the band evidently worked hard to have such a fine organization. I felt very proud due to the fact that something said or done in your home school here caused you to take up this profession, and was able to put a band on the field with such evident discipline and knowledge of marching and playing.

I did not get out of the car until the half, when I went around on the south side and watched your band from where your father was located. My wife had been sick with a cold, and we could not face that cold wind, so when your performance was over, I told your father to tell you that I thought it was a very fine show, and I was just as proud of it as if it had been my own band, as you know I have always thought of you as almost one of my own.

Give my regards to your very fine band, and to your wife and with best wishes for your continued success, I am

Your sincere friend,

*A.E. Findley*  
A.E. Findley



**DHS BAND DIRECTOR**, Don Owens, kneels beside a new \$900 bass recorder. Owens is a SSC Alumnus and did his student teaching in Durant

classrooms. He moved from Junction City, Kansas, where he instructed during the past school year.

(Democrat Photo)

## Southeastern Alumnus To Direct DHS Band

A former Southeastern State College graduate, Don Owens, will begin his role as new Durant High School band director when summer band meets on August 23.

Owens graduated from SSC in 1960 and did student teaching duties in Durant junior and senior high classrooms. He then taught at Antlers for four years.

Mr. and Mrs. Owens and their two children moved to Durant from Junction City, Kansas, where he instructed during the past school year.

The Southeastern Alumnus is doing music education graduate study at North Texas State University, Denton, Texas.

Owens replaces Kenneth Peters who was named to head

SSC's band department earlier this year.

### Band Leaders Named

During a series of tryouts held at the college and judged by former Hugo band director, Alvis Rogers, the fall band leaders have been named.

Dan Lasater was selected as drum major. Frances Doxsee, George Ann Gibson, and

Linda White will back up Dan performing as the new majorettes.

Inda Hughes was selected as majorette alternate.

### Summer Band

Summer band for the Durant Highschoolers begins at 7:15 a.m. on August 23. Owens urges all members that can be present to attend the two hour opening session.



Georgeous Gals - Frances Doxsee, Linda White and George Ann Gibson, selected as DHS Majorettes.

## High Steppers Lead Band

High steppers leading the DHS band during the 65-66 season are senior, Frances (Foxy) Doxsee and juniors, George Ann Gibson and Linda White.

Head majorette position has been captured by Frances Doxsee. Frances has participated in band for seven years and was a member of the Clarinet Trio during 64-65.

George Ann Gibson is beginning her second year of "band twirling" this season. Five years of playing the french horn backs her title.

Linda White, nicknamed "chigger" by the band because of her small size, starts her first 'big' year as a DHS majorette. Linda, a flutist, has played in band for three years.

Substituting for any absent majorette will be Inda Jo Hughes. Inda Jo plays the clarinet and has been in band for three years.

The majorettes were elected by band members according to their twirling talents after a try out. Band members selected Dan Lasater as drum major for the second consecutive year.

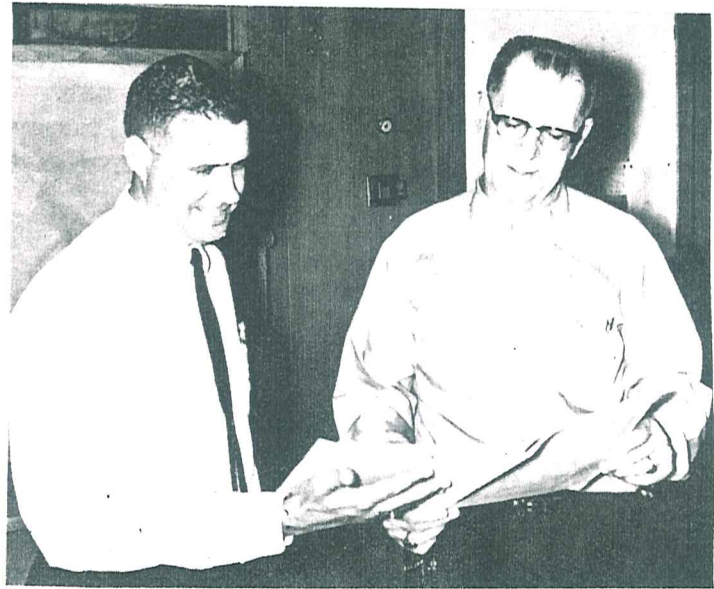
**Don Owens New DHS Band Director**

NORTH TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

DENTON, TEXAS

March 31, 1966

SCHOOL OF MUSIC



Mr. Don Owens  
Director of Bands  
Durant Public Schools  
Durant, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Owens and Durant Bands:

I should like to take this opportunity of congratulating you and your students on the wonderful showing made on the district contest. I was very much impressed with the fine attitude of the Durant High School Band students, and this together with your leadership has paid off. The clinic was a most enjoyable occasion for me.

Keep up the fine work with your solos and ensembles. This is tremendous experience and is also an important factor in developing a fine band program.

Sincerely yours,

Maurice McAdow  
Director of Bands

MM:csm

### Bands Going To State Contests

Durant's high school and junior high bands face their annual contest trips Friday and Saturday.

Director Don Owens' D H S band will leave here early Friday morning for Norman, where they'll take part in the state instrumental music contest at the University of Oklahoma.

Between 5,000 and 6,000 bandsmen will be on the OU campus for the event.

Medals, given by the Oklahoma Music Educators association, will go to first division winners in the solo and ensemble categories, and sweepstakes trophies will be awarded to top winners in the band and orchestra divisions.

Students and bands who have won in district contests are eligible to enter the state meet.

Owens will take the Durant JHS band to Chickasha on Saturday for the state junior high instrumental contest, also sponsored by the Oklahoma Music Educators association. This one will be held on the campus of Oklahoma College for Liberal Arts.

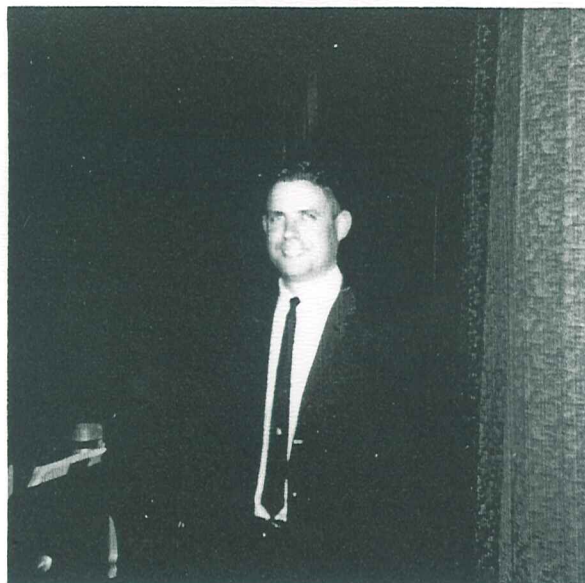
MAY . 66 .

### Band Students Start Magazine Drive Friday

Durant junior and senior high students will start their annual Friday, urging residents to either renew subscriptions or subscribe to magazines of their choice. They have nearly all popular magazines.

The students will be canvassing the downtown and residential areas in an effort to earn money for trips to out-of-town contests and athletic events.

Last year the band members earned \$4,200, the year before \$3,200. "We hope we can do as well this year," reports senior high band director Don Owens. Junior high band director is Bill Nettles.



1966-1967



**DRUM MAJOR** Bill Wakefield shows off the trophy he and fellow Durant High School band members brought home from Wewoka during a marching contest that drew several bands from this region including Ardmore which competed with the Durant group. (Democrat Photo)

## Durant Bands Win Top Contest Ratings

Both the Durant High and Durant Junior High bands pulled down top ratings in the district music contests which ended Saturday afternoon at South eastern State college.

Both Durant bands received superior ratings in the separate concert and sight reading portions of the contest. Don Owens is their director.

Durant High won the President's trophy this year in the combination music -athletic-curriculum contest.

As a matter of fact, director Don Owen's DHS band nearly won the trophy all by itself.

The way we figure it, Durant picked up a total of 441 points, McAlester 292½, and Ardmore 277½.

Musically speaking, the Durant band nailed down 272 points, just 20½ shy of McAlester's grand total.

At any rate, a tip of the Democrat hat to Durant High, and particularly the band. . .

## All-District Band Event Opens Friday

Some 160 young musicians from over Southeastern Oklahoma will be on the SSC campus Friday and Saturday for the annual All-District Band event. Included are 34 from the Durant High and Junior High bands.

Former DHS and Southeastern faculty member Mel Nixon, now of Emporia, Kansas, will be guest conductor this year. Nixon left here to become director of bands at Kansas State Teachers college.

The two-day event features a pair of concerts in Montgomery auditorium on the college campus. The junior high All-District band will perform at 7:30 p. m. Friday, with the senior high concert at 7:30 p. m. Saturday.

This is the third year for the junior high level activity. The All-District officials are Fred McCreight, Antlers C.E. Redwine, Broken Bow; and another former Durant teacher, Denver Spence, Ardmore.

In addition to Durant, other musicians will be here from Antlers, Ardmore, Atoka, Broken Bow, Hugo, Idabel, Madill, Marietta, Poteau and Savanna. Top musicians from bands in each community were chosen in auditions.

Durant students in the All-District senior high band are Carol Silver, Toni Kilpatrick, Linda White, Monica Weeger, Diana Robinson, Brenda DeVore, Joe Foote, Bob Peterson, Jane Hicks, Linda Davis, Larry McGraw, Joe McCoy, Stanley Prough, Charles McCutcheon, David Wakefield, Marilyn Weaver, Bill Wakefield, Charles Bowlby, Sam Hanna and Ralph Yeager.

Those in the All-District junior high band are Linda Robinson, Melba Vails, Lana White, Barbara Talbert, Robert Garrison, Billy Smith, Greg Clay, Deborah Carr, Glenda DeVore, Kim Hatfield, Randy Earles, Bonnie Montgomery, Phil Farmer and David Welborn.

Don Owens is the instrumental music director at Durant High.

## Band To Attend Festival At Enid

Durant High musicians will work under experts from Canada, the U. S. and England this spring when they join 12 other youths at the annual State Band festival in Enid.

Among the guest artists will be Lt. Col. J. C. Jaeger, conductor of the Band of the Grenadier Guards, London, who also is music officer to the queen.

Col. Jaeger will organize and conduct, using British instrumentation, a selected group of students in an English band ensemble.

A Durant native, retired Capt. Robert Landers of the Air Force "Singing Sergeants" group, also is among the guest conductors. He now lives in Washington, D. C.

Other guest conductors include Russell Wiley of the University of Kansas; Max Boundy of London, Ontario, Canada; Robert Barr of Glynn Academy, Ga.; Al Edgar, Iowa State University; Dr. Ferris Ohl, Heidelberg College; and Dr. Lucien Cluett, French composer and former member of the Philadelphia symphony.

Dr. Cailliet is writing a grand finale to be performed by 1,000 selected participants at the festival's honor organizations.

The Fourth Army band from San Antonio will lead the festival parade, and also on the program will be the "Falcanaires" of the U. S. Air Force academy and the Marine drum and bugle corps.

## Band contest results listed

The final overall results for the 31 bands that entered the annual southeast regional marching contest held Saturday at Tiger Field at Wewoka have been announced. The bands were given ratings, of I, superior; II excellent; III good, and IV, fair.

The bands are listed as follows, by the rating they received:

Superior — Wewoka, class B; Konawa, class DD; Wynnewood class C; Choctaw Dunjee, class C; Davis, class DD; Nathan Hale, Class AA; Pauls Valley, class BB; Checteah, class B; Lindsay, class B; Durant, class AA; Ardmore, class A; Maysville, class DD.

# 1967-1968 Band Working

## Overtime

Practice makes perfect is an old saying Durant High school band director Don Owens is taking to heart during the holiday season. He's keeping his 60 students "in after class" in preparation for a pair of conventions coming up next month.

The award-winning band will represent the state of Oklahoma at the Four States Bandmasters' Convention, to be held January 13 in Texarkana, Tex. Six days later the boys and girls will play for Oklahoma the Music Educators' Convention (OMEA) in Oklahoma City, — one of three bands selected for the honor.

Owens said he heard the usual "ohs" and "ahs" when he told the youngsters they'd have to put in a little overtime. But it was similar "overtime" that copped the band the class 'A' sweepstakes award at the Tri-State Band Festival held last May in Enid.

"I know all the kids won't be able to meet the sessions," Owens said today, "But I want to get as much practice in together as we possibly can."

One band apiece will be represented by Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas at the four-state convention. Owens said Durant was selected after recommendation from a pair of representatives who had heard the band play at district and state contests.

Durant was the first of three cities selected to play at the OMEA convention. Also chosen were Weatherford and Ardmore High schools.

Three Durant band students, Brenda DeVore, and Bill and David Wakefield, also will play in the All-State Band at the Oklahoma City convention. Some 80 boys and girls across the state were named to the All-State group.

Recent sales from magazine drives and fruit cakes help cut the individual student's expenses on the band trips, Owens reminded.

## Program

for the

Four States Bandmasters' Convention

The Little English Girl (Inglesina) .....	D. Delle Cese
Overture for Band .....	Frederick Beyer
<i>Variations</i> on a Korean Folk Song ....	John Barnes Chance
Fiesta Del Pacifico .....	Roger Nixon
Danza Final (from Estancia) .....	Arr. David John Alberto Ginastera

☆☆☆

## Program

for the

Oklahoma Music Educators' Convention

Fiesta Del Pacifico .....	Roger Nixon
<i>Variations</i> on a Korean Folk Song ....	John Barnes Chance
Introduction and Samba .....	Maurice Whitney Mr. Don Sinta, Alto Saxophone Soloist Accompanied by the Band
Danza Final (from Estancia) .....	Arr. David John Alberto Ginastera

MUSIC POURED from the Durant High School bandroom again today as band director Don Owens led most of his 60 students in another holiday practice session. It's all for a purpose, as the youngsters are readying for a

pair of important conventions coming up next month. Meanwhile it's practice, practice, practice while most city teenagers enjoy the school vacation.

(Democrat Photo)

## Durant, Oklahoma

Durant, Oklahoma, a town of 12,000 inhabitants, has six schools in its educational system — 4 elementary, 1 junior high, and 1 high school plant. The total enrolment exceeds the 2,200 mark. Five hundred of these students are in the senior high school.

The high school band, one of the better bands of Oklahoma, has a high achievement record. It has the distinction of being the Outstanding Class A Band at the Tri-State Festival in 1950, 1951, 1952, and 1967. In 1960 the band was selected as the Outstanding Class AAAA Band and sweepstakes winner in the Buccaneer Music Festival in Corpus Christi, Texas.

# HONOR BAND—OKLAHOMA



## DURANT HIGH SCHOOL BAND—DURANT, OKLAHOMA

Texas High Auditorium—8:45 P.M. Saturday

<i>The Little English Girl (Inglesina)</i>	D. Delle Cese
<i>Overture for Band</i>	Frederick Beyer
<i>Variations on A Korean Folk Song</i>	John Barnes Chance
<i>Fiesta Del Pacifico</i>	Roger Nixon
<i>Danza Final from Estancia</i> by Alberto Ginastera	arr. David John

### DON OWENS, DIRECTOR

Don Owens received his B.A. degree from Southeastern State College, Durant, Oklahoma, in 1960, and his MME degree from North Texas State University in 1967. He has taught previously at Antlers, Oklahoma, and Junction City, Kansas. During Mr. Owens' last two years at Antlers the band won fifteen trophies, thirteen first place trophies and two second place trophies. While in Kansas the Junction City High School Band received a superior rating in concert playing for the first time in the history of the school and was selected to play for the KMEA Convention in Kansas City for the following year. He is a member of NEA, OEA, MENC, OMEA, and OBA.



## SWINGING EXPERIMENT

This year, for the first time in the history of D. H. S., Don Owens is perfecting his experiment in music with musicians of D.H.S. The experiment is formally known as "THE DURANT STAGE BAND", under the baton of Don Owens, "King of Swinging Music."

The band has performed at various activities such as the D.H.S. Christmas assembly, a local insurance convention, and D.H.S. Band's Chili Supper. These performances have set a number of invitations such as to play at the annual convention of the F. F. A. organization, the District Teacher's Association's evening of entertainment, and an invitation to play at the W.O.A. convention at Lake Texoma Lodge. The band is planning to go to Tri-State. Members are:

Don Owens- Prof. of the baton.

Floyd (Bubba) Mahaney,

2nd Alto Sax

Billy Smith- Lead Alto Sax.

Jon Borin (Stork) Lead Tenor Sax.

Greg Clay-2nd Tenor Sax

Glenn Shroyer- (Snork)-

(Acid) Baritone Sax

Bill Wakefield (Slick-

slide)- Lead T-Bone

Jim Barnette- 2nd T-Bone

Allen Kilpatrick- 3rd T-

Bone

Steve Weaver- 4th T-Bone

Stanley Prough (Piston

Pusher)- Lead Trumpet

Randy Earles- 2nd Trum-

pet

John Kilpatrick- 3rd

Trumpet.

John Lasater- 4th Trum-

pet

Stanley Maxey- 4th Trum-

pet

Danny O'Dea (Keyboard

fingers)- Piano.

Bob Qualls- Heavy Bass

(275 lbs.)

Sid Whatley (Straight from

the rhythm land of Dallas)-

Drums.

## SINTA SWINGS WITH BAND

In 1961, Donald Sinta became an internationally known saxophone virtuoso literally overnight.

Mr. Sinta is saxophonist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and is completing his studies for the degree of Musical Arts at the University of Michigan. Recently he was in a performance for the Oklahoma Music Educators Association with the Durant High School Band held at Oklahoma City.

Mr. Sinta complimented the Durant High School band as one of the best he had performed with.

NOTHING BUT GREAT is the only way to describe world-famous saxophonist Don Sinta, who plays today with the Durant High school band at the Oklahoma Music Educator's Association convention in Oklahoma City. Also selected for the trip was the Southeastern State

college chorale. Sinta's shown here in a music-blending practice session with the band Thursday afternoon, with director Don Owens in the background. President of the OMEA, incidentally, is Kenneth Peters, band director at SSC.

(Democrat Photo)

WHEN DURANT High's top-drawer band played in Oklahoma City recently for the Oklahoma Music Educators' convention, there were a couple of proud "poppas" on hand.

Kenneth Peters of the SSC faculty—president of the OMEA—was DHS band director at the time most of the juniors and seniors were beginners, tooting their first sour notes.

And it was an equally button-busting affair for Peters' successor at Durant High, Don Owens, who brought them along to the level they stand today, musically speaking. It's a pretty high level.

1968-1969

CARL ALBERT  
3D DIST., OKLAHOMA

CHARLES L. WARD  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

**Congress of the United States**  
House of Representatives  
**Office of the Majority Leader**  
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 17, 1968

Mr. Don Owens, Director  
Durant High School Band  
Durant, Oklahoma 74701

Dear Mr. Owens:

We were pleased to read in the Durant Daily Democrat that the fine Durant High School Band was the Honor Band at a recent meeting of the Oklahoma Music Educators Association in Oklahoma City. Please relay my congratulations to Bill Wakefield, drum major, and all the members of this great band.

You may be interested to know that a former drum major of the Durant High Band is now serving as my legislative assistant. He is Mike Reed of Durant, a very outstanding young man.

He and the other Durant members of my staff, Charles Ward, Imogene Holmes and Stephanie Williams, all join me in best wishes to you and the band.

Sincerely,



CARL ALBERT, M.C.  
Third District, Oklahoma

## District Band Contest Rating List Announced

The Durant High band pulled down a pair of top division ratings in the district music contest underway this weekend at Southeastern State college. The Junior High band took a superior in concert work and excellent in sightreading.

Other superior ratings in concert when to Velma, Hugo, Idabel, Broken Bow and Ardmore high schools. Excellent ratings were awarded Antlers, Coalgate, Madill and Healdton high schools and to two separate Ardmore junior high bands.

## Two Concerts Set Here For District Bands

Durant junior and senior high school students will be on the Southeastern State college campus Friday and Saturday as members of the 1968 all-district bands.

Two public concerts have been scheduled, both in Montgomery auditorium. The junior high group will play at 7:30 p.m. Friday; the senior high band at 7:30 on Saturday.

Visiting conductor will be Marion Busby, music supervisor in the Corpus Christi, Texas, Public Schools.

BROTHERS DAVID AND Bill Wakefield, as well as Brenda DeVore, have been named to the All-State Band following competition at John Marshall High school in Oklahoma City. Each a member of the Durant High band, Bill will have a first chair position when the all-staters perform a concert this January in the capital city. Brenda was chosen for third chair and David for sixth. Eight horn players were selected from 45 that auditioned; 9 trombonist from 36, and 4 bassoonist from 14. (Democrat Photo)

# Durant High Repeats As Tri-State Winner

For the second year in a row a hundred - plus bandsmen and singers from Durant High brought home the sweepstakes award for class A schools at Enid's Tri-State music festival.

The victory gave DHS two legs of three needed for permanent possession of the award. The last school to do it: Durant High, in 1951-52-53.

Director Don Owens' band also brought back, for the second year, the Festival's Outstanding Band trophy. None was given this year for the outstanding chorus, a tremendous disappointment to director Lewis Tilford and his singers.

The sweepstakes title came from combined efforts of the band, the chorus, along with soloists and small-group ensembles.

One of the latter, Danny O-Dea, won a trophy as the top performer before his particular judge, along with a superior rating. Other pianists in the superior category were Melinda Lucas and Ann Braly. Those gaining an excellent rating were Glenda McKinney, Marilyn Green, Lowelle Childers, Jamie Kidd, Barton Rustin, Jerry Kay Foote and Leslie Coleman.

Four ratings are given in each contest by judges: superior, excellent, on down.

Judges offered high praise for the band: "cool" performance, was the way one put it. Another: "a superior band, best in its class."

The band took superior ratings on both concert and sight reading contests.

We don't know of anything finer that could happen to a bunch of our teenagers to be judged the best band among 14,000 musicians - which is what happened this weekend to Durant High up at Enid.

Any parent with a youngster in the band can tell you that it's the result of some long, long hours of work - like from 7 in the morning until 10 at night - for director Don Owens.

Bringing home the sweepstakes once is good enough. . . this is the second year in a row for DHS. It's the payoff not only for the director and his students, but a lot of band parents as well. They worked their heads off in fruit cake sales and chill suppers to raise the needed travel money that isn't available from the school budget, for some reason.

## Durant Band Members Have Summer Business

The high school stage band albums have arrived, Don Owens, director of instrumental music, said yesterday. Those who have reserved albums must pick them up by July 27. After that date they will be sold to those on the waiting list on a first come first served basis, Owens said.

Measurements are being taken for the new high school band uniforms, and they must be ready for mailing tomorrow. Anyone who has not been measured should contact Mr. Owens at 924-4424 or 924-3617 immediately.

At 9:30 a.m. tomorrow students in grades 7, 8, and 9 will meet at the high school band room to learn about the auditions and requirements for the Durant junior High Honor Band, the director announced. Any student who cannot be present should get in touch with Mr. Owens at once.

May 3, 1968

TO - *Donnie Owens* :

It is my pleasure to extend to you an invitation to membership in Alpha Alpha Chapter of PI KAPPA LAMBDA.

You have been elected to membership by the chapter faculty members. The bases for your being honored were a) your outstanding academic record and b) your excellent general and musical qualifications.

I hope you will honor the chapter by your acceptance of membership. General membership concerning the organization and membership is explained on an attached page.

We will need to know immediately whether you will join us so will you please fill in the appropriate answers on the attached "response form" if your response is affirmative. Return the completed form not later than Tuesday afternoon, May 8th, to David C. McGuire, Chapter Secretary.

If you are joining PI KAPPA LAMBDA please plan to attend the Initiation Luncheon to be given in your honor in the Crystal Room at Marquis Hall on Friday, May 10th, 12:00 noon. The luncheon is free for all new members.

Very Sincerely,



Stephen Farish, President  
Alpha Alpha Chapter

Alpha Alpha Chapter  
PI KAPPA LAMBDA  
North Texas State University  
School of Music

## DHS Band Unit To Give Concert

Durant High's stage band (called a dance band, when you and I were young, Maggie) will present a concert at 8 p.m. Saturday in Montgomery auditorium on the SSC campus, director Don Owens said today.

Featured in the program will be Harry Drabkin of Boston on the tenor sax, and guitarist Lewis Tilford, DHS vocal music director.

There will be an admission charge, with proceeds earmarked for the high school instrumental music program.

In addition to contemporary numbers, the program will include the Tommy Dorsey theme "Gettin' Sentimental Over You" and Bill Wakefield on trombone; Count Basie's immortal "One O'Clock Jump"; the Woody Herman "Woodchopper's Ball" and a jazz trio of Sid Whitley, Drabkin and Bob Qualls.



IT'S GETTING TO BE a family affair for either a Lasater or a Wakefield to lead the Durant High band, and the string stretches into its 7th year next fall when John Lasater (left) takes over the tall drum major's hat from Bill Wakefield. John's brother Dan was

drum major for two years, Bill Wakefield moved into the spot for two years, and David Wakefield did the job this year and last. The drum major is selected by a judge and by vote of band members.

## Bumps 18-Year Winner. . .

# DHS Band Scores At Norman

The Durant high school band, which held the honor of competing in the Oklahoma University Band Day parade this weekend in Norman, came charging home with a first place trophy.

Trophies were awarded to the top two bands in each class, A through D, according to Durant band director Don Owens. Durant took its first place trophy in class B, based upon school enrollment, beating out 18-year band winner Henryetta.

The 73-member Durant band was the eighth largest and the ninth smallest in class B, "Which goes to prove that quality comes before quantity," said Owens.

The winning trophies were presented at Owens stadium, before 58,100 football fans plus a 1,000 member band participating on the playing field.

The trophy, almost a yard tall, will be placed among the many others won by Durant's band.

During the parade that morning, Owens selected two numbers, one arranged by

himself for judging. Owens' arrangement, "Sinfonins" was first on the agenda, then led into "Alhambra Grotto," — both spicy marches.

The band also made "history" at Norman. Owens said the Durant band was one of the first few to march on Norman's synthetic football playing surface called Tartan Turf, during the halftime entertainment between the OU-Wisconsin game.

"It was a patriotic show," said the band director. The 1,000 member band played march numbers and performed precision marching for the packed football audience. Owens added that no rehearsal was done when the bands finally met for the first time.

Each director was mailed a detailed look of the halftime show. Their particular band's maneuvers were lined in red on the sketch. The band director was responsible for getting his band there and performing his part of the precision drill and music.

"And you'd be surprised how well it all came out," said Owens.

He added all the music was especially arranged for the Band Day performance.

The bands lined up on the goal line on each side, then came marching down the field, weaving each line into another.

"What the World Needs Now" was played as the band spelled the word "Love" on the field.

The band then made a huge shield on the playing field with a U and an S on each side. Two marches were playing while the band was in this arrangement, "This Is My Country" and "Stairway to the Stars."

The word "America" was then spelled and the audience heard "America the Beautiful." One chorus of the song was sung by all the band members, joined by the 58,100 audience.

"If you don't believe in your country, boy you would have if you had heard that," said Owens.

The ending display was a huge state of Oklahoma displayed by the band members spreading from one end of the football field to the other. "Oklahoma" was

Half-time highlights will be a glowing baton show in the dark by the Durant high twirlers, along with the special program by the Durant high marching band.

played.

Owens said their part of the halftime performance was rehearsed only two hours last Thursday in the mud.

Schools entered in class B were: Durant, Claremore, Blackwell, Crooked Oak from Oklahoma City, Pauls Valley, Ada, Bixby, Chocotah, Henryetta, Midwest City, Carl Albert, Tahlequah, Spiro, Sallisaw, Stillwater, Pryor and Owasso. The Owasso band numbered 110.

Owens said, "I am extremely proud of the band, but I can't take all the credit. It is really unbelievable how the students accepted responsibility and carried it through. The drill sergeants and listening aids are really making the band program click this year."

Drill sergeants for the band this year are Greg Clay, Dale Goad, John Lasater, Stanley Maxey, David Prough, Billy Smith, and Gerald Witworth.

## Individuals Score, Too . . .

# DHS Band Draws Judges' Salute

The Durant High band, with a superior district contest rating under its belt, drew "rave" notices from judges at Southeastern State college, director Don Owens said today.

Owens seconded their opinions by calling the band's performance "The best ever."

The comments came from judges Jerry Howard and John Morgan of Norman, and Floyd Weger of Paris, Tex.

Howard called it "A remarkable job, a very musical, exciting performance. A truly great, great band and marvelous director."

Morgan: "I would write all day about the good things I heard from the Durant high school band today.

Congratulations on a very musical performance.

Weger: "Exciting, as usual. Fantastic performance — just great!"

Several dozen bandsmen, as soloists and in small ensemble groups, qualified for invitations to the state contest by coming up with superior ratings.

Seven soloists were handed Division I-plus ratings, including Billy Smith and Larry Edgmon, alto sax; Libby Foote, Angela Smith, Nancy Mooneyham and Twana Hull, flutes; and Greg Hull, clarinet.

The one-plus ratings also were given two saxophone ensembles, a Smith-Edgmon duet, and a Smith-Edgmon and Greg Clay trio.

Rated division I, eligible for the state contest, were: Terry Rider, Brenda Coker and Kaye Haddock, mallets; Dale Goad and Jerry Tate, snare drum; Clay, tenor sax; Lynn Stillwell and Rita Rains, alto sax; John Lasater, cornet; Lou Ann Mahanay, Dawn Gaither, Susan Mooneyham and Pam Hatfield, clarinet; Linda Robinson and Bekki Shields, flute; Judi Bennett, English horn; Max Mansur, oboe; Steve Weaver, trombone; Cleveland McCarty, Tuba; and Sarah Semple, Susan Pearson and Jill Peterson, French horn.

The Division I ensemble ratings: tuba duet, Joe Paul Johnson and David Taylor. Trombone duet, Alan Kilpatrick

and Weaver. Percussion duet, Kit Hatfield and Goad. Percussion trio, Hatfield, Goad and Terry Rider. Percussion quintet, Hatfield, Goad, Rider, Brenda Coker and Mike Walker. Percussion sextet, Hatfield, Goad, Jerry Tate, Coker, Walker and Rider.

Percussion, miscellaneous, Hatfield, Goad, Tate. Saxophone quartet, Smith, Edgmon, Clay, Stillwell. Tenor sax duet, Billy Smith and Clay. Trumpet trio, Lasater, Stanley Maxey, Ray Hill. Trumpet quartet, Lasater, Maxey, Hill and Gerald Witworth. Trumpet duet, Lasater and Maxey.

Flute quartet, Smith, Foote, Mooneyham, Robinson. Brass



It takes teamwork toward one goal to make a winning band like that of the Durant high school.

No One Key To Winning. . .

# Durant Stage Band Selected As One Of Top Fifteen In The Nation

By SCOTT HANCOCK

The Durant High school stage band buzzed through last year winning top honors and was graced last month with the highest compliment of all — being named one of the top 15 bands in the nation.

Band director Don Owens received a letter from the secretary of National Association of Jazz educators in mid-December telling him of the achievement. The bands are selected by Matt Betton a former band leader, composer and instructor who travels to all jazz festivals. The program is sponsored by the Air Force.

Owens said recordings and tapes of the stage band will be sent to the association and distributed to 500 radio stations over the nation, with Durant band members receiving recognition for the performance.

Their selection as one of the top in the nation, said Owens, was contributed mostly by the win at the Drury College Jazz festival in Springfield, Mo., last April.

The director said Betton watched them receive the band's lowest rating which was a one-plus. Their highest rating was a number one with three pluses attached to it, said the proud director. While there, senior Kit Harfield was selected as the outstanding performer of the entire festival. He's the stage band's percussionist.

"I can't think of one key to having a winning stage band," said Owens. While talking, he agreed there must be a combination of several features that bring a band into the spotlight. "I've got a bunch of 'gung-ho' kids — they really love band," said Owens.

He referred to 19 students dedicated to playing musical instruments, a combination of fine musical charts and also the responsibilities of being an outstanding band director.

Owens said the youngsters have other things to do both inside and outside the school. He said he has activities getting the concert band on its feet, besides the stage band responsibilities. But when the stage band gets together for a session once a week, Owens says everything else ceases except musical concentration.

"The band kids come in and listen to recordings and they study them. They don't listen to trash; they put on those ear-phones, study the best musicians and try to copy their style," said Owens. "Every member has the responsibility of carrying his load, else everyone in the band suffers. It's something that's not punched into the kids, they must have the dedication."

Owens said sometimes when a bandster doesn't carry his share, a lot of the students will tell him about it. That makes him work harder for fear he will

not be befriended by fellow musicians, according to the director.

Owens, in his seventh year here, spends every spare minute at the band room, and then some. "It's not uncommon for me to come home at 10 p.m. anymore, especially before a performance." He added that his stage band may rehearse 7-11 p.m., maybe two nights a week.

"See those kids in the band room — it's after school hours on a Friday and they're sitting there studying music. They'd be there 24 hours every day if I'd let them."

When Owens has problems, who does he turn to? He said he doesn't waste time writing letters. He calls someone he trusts with a host of questions to ask. He said he won't call just anyone, it must be someone who knows the business, then he may not let that conductor hear his band until it's time.

"It's a political thing," Owens says.

He's recently added a French horn and an electric organ to the stage band and has begun a middle school stage band.

Proud that the middle school band has come so far in only a few months, Owens said that program is preparing the youngsters for high school band. "I lose so many good players each year during graduation, I've started the middle school

program, and those kids love it."

Senior Larry Edgmon is Owen's co-worker and middle school stage band conductor. He really likes the responsibility and has asked to come back during college to conduct, said the director.

"Edgmon is my drum major and probably one of the best saxophone players in the state," said Owens.

"I've got about 30 bandsters in the middle school program. But when they're performing, I pick the best ones and that makes them study like tigers." The band has performed publicly twice since being formed last November.

"Five years ago, the Durant stage band began playing charts like the middle school plays now. At present, we're playing charts like Channel One Suite, probably one of the hardest numbers a band can perform. Professional bands have hands full with that chart."

Music is Owen's life and he's making the best of it. Ask his students.

Monday, May 10, 1971.



DURANT HIGH BAND carved another notch in its competition pistol over the weekend by bringing down the first-place trophy in the Six Flags contest at Arlington. Proud of their newest possession are bandsmen Dale Goat

(left) and John Lasater. The band this year chose the closer-to-home and fun-filled Six Flags contest after retiring Enid's Tri-State Festival sweepstakes with three straight wins. (Democrat Photo)

At Six Flags. . .

## DHS Band Takes Honors

With a brand new trophy on the shelf, the Durant High band will join its elementary and junior high counterparts in a spring concert Tuesday evening.

The joint concert is set for 7:30 p.m., in the high school auditorium. There will be an admission charge.

The senior high band Saturday evening was proclaimed winner of the two-day Six Flags contest at the Arlington, Tex., park.

Director Don Owens entered the band in the big-school triple-A class competition. Durant was the only non-Texas winner in any of the classes.

Among the judges were composer and conductor Paul Yoder, and tomorrow night's concert will include one of his compositions.

Another judge was George C. Wilson, president of the famed National Music Camp and Interlochen Arts academy in Michigan, who recalled fond memories of a years-ago visit to Durant.

On his criticism sheet he scribbled: "Many years ago I had the privilege of serving as guest conductor, working with an hearing the Durant band (probably about 1947-52).

"This band is a fine continuation of Durant's long history as a fine band."

Yoder called the band's contest effort "A remarkable performance; amazing technique in trumpets, flutes, horns, clarinets. . . a fine conductor.

The criticism sheet of the third judge, band director Wayman Walker of Colorado State university in Greeley: "very fine interpretation. . . What a really great band! This is the first time I have just sat back and really enjoyed myself. Congratulations to all."

On November 7, the band traveled to Norman where they competed in the regional marching contest. They were awarded Superior ratings in both the precision marching and inspection. In the inspection the band was lined up in block band and each individual student was inspected for such things as wrinkled uniforms, chipped reeds, dirty or bent mouthpieces, etc., and 1/10 of a point was deducted for each flaw. The Superior rating that the band received represented 99.4 which is the highest score that the band has ever made. The band received only one criticism out of the three judges on the precision drilling show.



Donnie Owens  
Durant High School

Durant High School Band selected as the "Outstanding Class A Concert Band" for three years at Tri-State — Durant Band has performed for the Four States Bandmasters' Convention and the Oklahoma Music Educators' Convention.

1972-1973

# Presenting "Mr. Band!"...

ELK CITY DAILY NEWS 12/17/71

## Band Asked To Chicago Clinic

Drum Major Alan Kilpatrick is quite a guy! Not only does he handle his band job well but also just about any job he undertakes. Alan has been

an All-State trombonist for the past 2 years, maintains a 3.76 grade average, participates in track, and Student Council. "Good Show," Alan!

## Band Selects Music Judges

Elk City's 1972 band festival, to be held March 7 and 8, will have both new and familiar faces in its ranks of judges.

Local director Tom Hutchinson announced today that Dr. Harry Haines, an ECHS alumnus and Dr. Colbert Hackler, former ECHS band director, have accepted invitations to judge this year's event.

Other Oklahoma music educators selected are Donnie Owens from the Durant schools; Roger Robinson from Oklahoma City's John Marshall high school; Pat Malloy, Burns Flat music mentor, and Ben Williams, El Reno high school band director.

"Western Oklahoma is definitely band country, and Elk City's festival will draw the best. All events are open to the public and all local residents are urged to attend and enjoy the high levels of achievement in music by today's youth," Hutchinson reported.



ALAN KILPATRICK

DURANT  
HIGH BAND  
in  
CONCERT  
Sunday, Dec. 3  
2:30 p. m.  
Hear our Chicago Program

### ALL DISTRICT BAND REPORT

On Saturday, November 20, members of the band competed in the selection of the All-District Band at SSC. These tryouts are the first level of All-State, also. There were 74 from Durant selected from both the Middle School and the High School.

**WITH A WHOLE** lot of luck, and if you happen to be watching the New York Thanksgiving day parade tomorrow on the tube, you may be able to pick Kit Hatfield out of the crowd.

He — and 100 others — will be in the McDonald's band. Kit would be one of the drummers, unless maybe they let him carry the sign.

## Kit Hatfield Nails Top Band Honor

Durant High senior Kit Hatfield today was named a member of the McDonald's All-American band. He gets a pair of expense-paid holiday trips along with the honor and, presumably, all the hamburgers he can eat.

Hatfield will fly to New York for the Macy's parade on Thanksgiving Day, then to Pasadena, Cal., for the Tournament of Roses parade on New Year's day, before the Rose bowl game.

Known as the "little man with the big noise," Hatfield has been a drummer in school music groups since his junior high days.

The notification this morning came as a complete

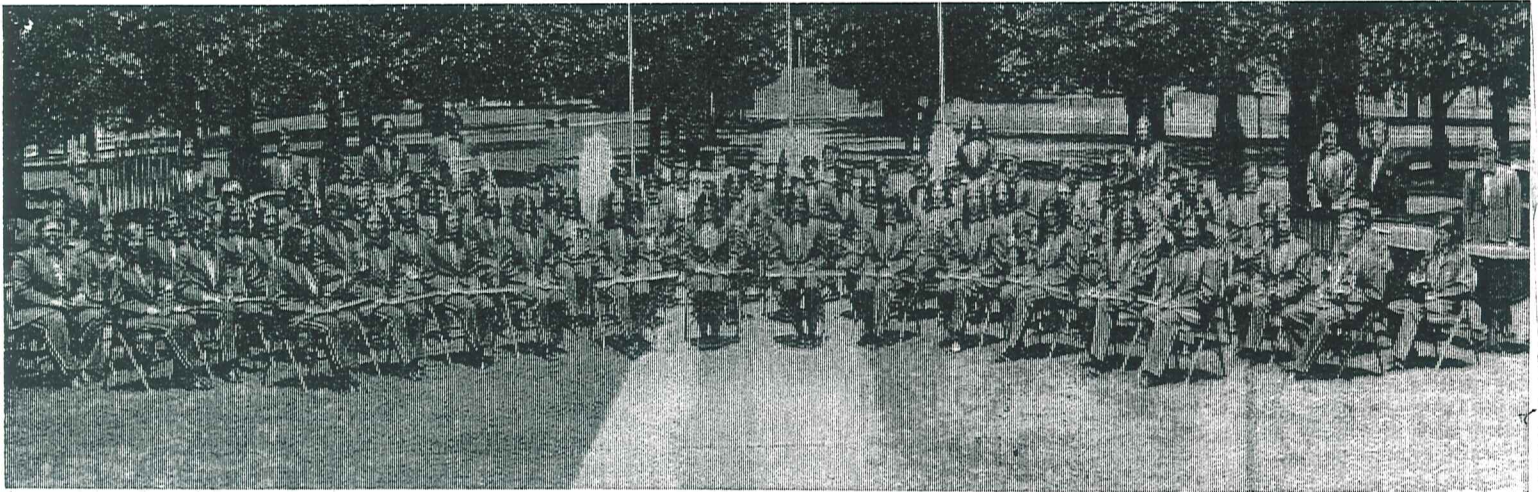
surprise: DHS band director Don Owens hadn't told any of his last year's All-Staters he was turning in their names. Two young musicians from each state are tapped for the McDonald band each year.

"I got a brochure asking for your top musicians some time ago," Owens said, "so I just sent in the names of all our All-Staters who I knew would be back this year."

Hatfield was a percussionist in the All-State orchestra as a sophomore, played tympani in last year's All-State band, and was chosen as one of the top three musicians this past spring during the Drury College Jazz festival at Springfield, Mo., as a member of the Durant High stage band.



OKLAHOMA FLAG GOES WITH Kim Hatfield, Durant, with smiling best wishes of Lt. Gov. George Nigh. Hatfield will be marching in Monday's Tournament of Roses parade at Pasadena, Cal., as a member of the All American band. Flags from each state will be massed following the band.



**DURANT BAND CHICAGO-BOUND**—This is the 77 piece Durant high school band that will perform in Chicago in December as one of five in the U.S. selected to participate in the Mid-West National Band and Orchestra clinic.

# Durant Band Named In Nation's Top Five

By JOHN CLIFT

**DURANT** — The Durant High School band has finally won an award they can accept.

After the Durant High Stage Band was selected as one of the top seven high school stage bands in the nation and invited to participate in an international band festival in Europe, it was turned down by a stage group. The European festival hadn't been checked out to see if it met the standards required by the Oklahoma Activities Council.

Undaunted, the Durant band played on. This time, the 77-

piece concert band was chosen as one of five in the U.S. to participate in the Midwest National Band and Orchestra clinic in Chicago this Decemeber. This got local and state approval.

So between now and December when Director Don Owens and his band members aren't tootling away on their instruments, they'll be busy peddling everything from fireworks to fruit cakes to raise the \$7,200 necessary for the trip.

## BIG CHANCE

"There will be some 12,000 of the top composers, arrangers, publishing company officials and band directors from all over the U.S. on hand for the concert," he said. "It will be equivalent to having the stands full of pro scouts at a football game.

"It will mean that every one of my 77 band members will have a chance to be seen and heard by the top people in the music world. It can mean everything from college scholarships to professional careers for the kids," enthused Owens.

The Durant band was one of several hundred high school bands in the nation that prepared a tape and sent to the Mid-West National Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago. There a panel of judges heard the tapes and selected the five bands to participate in this year's clinic.

"To give you an idea of the importance," said Owens. "Durant has been chosen to lead off on Dec. 13 in the Sheman House. This year, the lead-off spot was held by U. S. Navy Band!"

## TOUGH JOB

The band will present a 90 minute program. But selecting



**DON OWENS . . .** Kingston native wins more laurels for Durant band as it's director.

the program isn't the easiest thing in the world to do. The program can't include more than two numbers from the same music publishing house or more than two from any composer or arranger. No number can run longer than eight minutes.

"I'll meet on June 17 with the other four band directors in Chicago," said Owens. "At that time we'll present our program. Where there are duplications, we'll flip a coin or draw straws to see who gets to play that number. You see, the music selected must have been published within the last three years and must not have been played before at this clinic."

Winning awards has been a way of life for the Durant high

band. In the past 25 years, 225 all-state band and orchestra members have been selected. This year alone there were 11 all-staters, two first alternates and one second alternate — more than any other high school in the state.

Owens is a native of Kingston, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Owens. He was introduced to music by the legendary A. E. Finley of Kingston, who was band director there until his death. Finley wrote his first published music at the age of 11.

Owens took his BA in music at Southeastern State college in Durant and then his masters at North Texas State, where he played in the band, orchestra and was a member of the gamed 1 o'clock Lab Band.

## BANDS DO WELL

He went to Antlers for his first band directing job and in his four years there his high school band won 13 first place and division trophies. He spent the next year at Junction City, Kan., where for the first time in that school's history they took a top rating in concert performance and were invited to perform for the Kansas Music educators.

Then came Durant, where he was director of the junior high band for two years, and the last seven at the senior high band. This year's stage band played the backup music for Gail Farrell in the appearances of the Lawrence Welk solist in Durant and Ada.

Owens has been frequently in demand both as judge and as a clinic director for bands in the southwest.

Owens said the Durant band must present its program in 1 through 5 categories, with No. 1 being the easier music and five the most difficult. One bright spot is that the music companies do supply the music that the band will play.

# THE GAIL FARRELL

## SPECIAL

Music by

Durant's Award-Winning  
STAGE BAND

Rotary Benefit For Durant's Parks

April 21, 1972 8 P.M.

Montgomery Auditorium SSC

Admission \$3.00

## Gail Farrell Will Perform In City

Durant's Gail Farrell will "do her thing" onstage here in a concert program next month as a benefit for the city park system, with the blessing of her boss, Lawrence Welk.

The 1½-hour show, dubbed "The Gail Farrell Special" by the sponsoring Durant Rotary club, also will feature the prizewinning DHS stage band under direction of Don Owens.

Early ticket sales have the Rotarians worried, chairman Harold Haddock said during a committee meeting this morning. "I think we'd better check seating capacity again," he said.

The show, the evening of June 12, will be in Montgomery auditorium on the Southeastern State college campus. Capacity is rated at around 1,100.

Haddock said proceeds from

the event will be held in an account until plans for the city's park improvement program are finalized. A tentative five-year plan, designed to draw federal matching grants, will be presented to the city council at its June 7 meeting.

General chairman C. W. Rudd said Miss Farrell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Farrell, is having special costumes made for the Durant show, and will bring her own accompanist.

He said she had been given permission from Welk and from the Welk television show production manager to make the Durant visit — to the point of early taping of her segment of the show that week.

In addition to performing, Miss Farrell also is doing some of the musical arrangements for the Welk group.

Durant (Okla.) Daily Democrat, Sunday, Apr. 23, 1972. Page 12



FROM THE HEART, Lawrence Welk star Gail Farrell sings for the hometown folks in a performance in Montgomery auditorium, backed by the prizewinning Durant High stage band. It was the second such city park fund benefit put on by the Rotary club in as many years. (Democrat Photo)

## Band Boosters Set Ice Cream Social

Durant High School Band Boosters club will host a ice cream social at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the high school cafeteria.

All past and present band booster members are invited to attend. For information concerning the social, persons may call Mrs. Ronald Menzel at 924-2398.

# 10<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL

## SIX FLAGS OVER TEXAS

## CONCERT BAND FESTIVAL

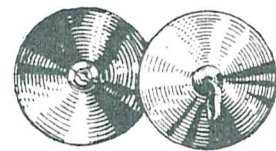
MAY 10,  
11, 12

1973  
PROGRAM



5:30 Durant High School (AAA)  
Durant, Oklahoma . . . . . Don Owens  
Lola Flores – Sadel/Tucci  
Aegean Festival Overture – Makris

6:00 Lake Highlands High School (AAAA)  
Richardson, Texas . . . . . Eddie Green  
Conqueror – Tieke  
Flying Dutchman – Wagner/Hindsley



**SIX FLAGS**  
OVER TEXAS

*Band Festival*  
*1973 Program*

# DICKINSON

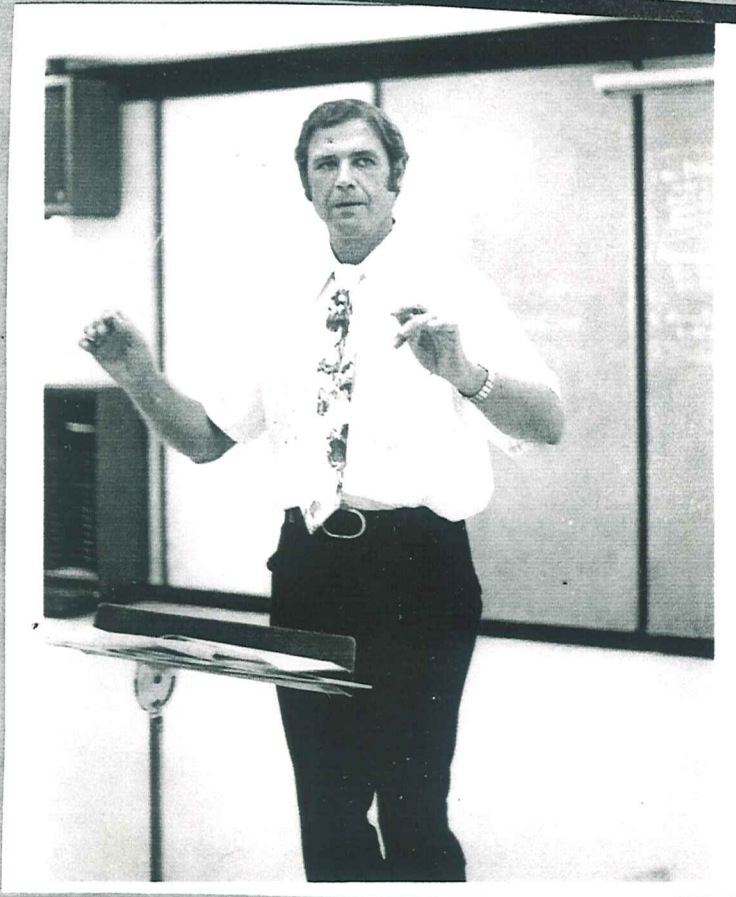
NUMBER 33 THURSDAY AUGUST 14, 1975

BAND

# SONIAN

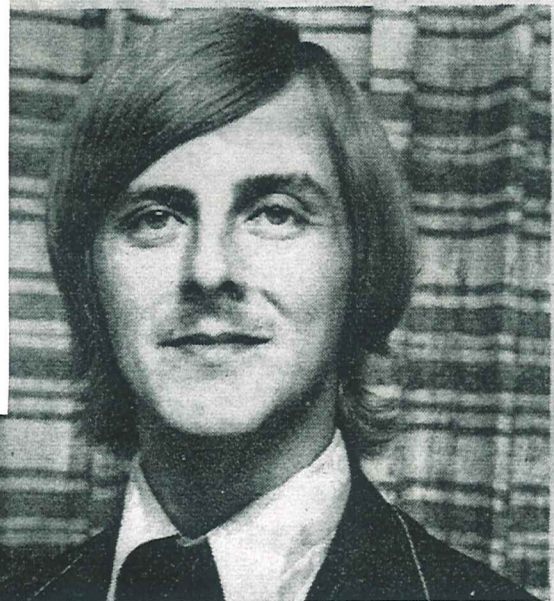
15 CENTS

P.O. BOX 907 DICKINSON, TEXAS 77539 337-3232 3824 HWY 3



Don Owens  
D.H.S. Band Director

The DHS Band, in its last year of 4A marching competition, received three 1 ratings at Lamar Consolidated on November 8. Under the field direction of Mary Jo Piske, the Band earned such comments from judges as: "Band shows great pride and attention to detail." "A lot of hard work and fine teaching--a well executed show! Congratulations!"



Allen Miller

ASSISTANT

BAND DIRECTOR

Region XVII: AAAA—Alvin, Charles Salyer; Angleton, Don Hood; Dickinson, Don Owens; Dulles (Stafford), James Larson; Lamar Cons. (Rosenberg), S. L. Albritton; Pearland, Jack Fariss; AAA—Friendswood, James Murrile; Santa Fe (Alta Loma), Steve Richardson; C—Santa Fe (Alta Loma), Jim Shaver.  
Region XVIII: AAAA—Anderson (Austin), Verda Herrington; Bryan, Pete





Don Owens, band director of Dickinson High School, talks to Drum Major Mary Jo Piske (left) and Band President Tami Pittman, about the trophy brought home by the Gator Band for taking 1st Division with a unanimous decision from all three judges at the recent University Interscholastic League Marching Contest in Rosenberg.

Following a Gator Band tradition, these twirlers received "Superior" ratings; Patty Carroll, Barsa Cook, Dana Devitt, Natalie Hunter, Marlene King, Kari Moore, Janet Newman, Katy Park, Pat Shook, Glenna Walker and Robyn Yarbrough.

## DICKINSON HIGH SCHOOL BAND TAKES TOP RATING

The Gator Band of Dickinson High School came through with flying colors recently at the University Interscholastic League Marching Contest held in Rosenberg.

The top rating of Division I was awarded to the Gator Band by all three judges at the contest who also included some highly commendatory comments in their evaluation.

"Well drilled and rehearsed. Good visual effect. Band shows great pride and attention to detail," said Judge Bob Blanton of Cline High School.

"Very nice sound. Nice variety in the show. Good looking band. Excellent discipline. This is a fine band! A lot of hard work and fine teaching. Congratulations!"

said Judge Harris Brinson of San Angelo College. "Good marches well played. Good on general effect. Good on general appearance and discipline. A well executed show! Congratulations!" said Judge Gary Wylie of Seguin High School.

The Gator twirlers at the contest also made a good showing with Patty Carroll, Barsa Cook, Dana Devitt, Natalie Hunter, Marlene King, Kari Moore, Janet Newman, Katy Park, Pat Shook, Glenna Walker, and Robyn Yarbrough receiving a superior rating and Rhody Castillo, Michelle Fannin, Leah Hill, Lynn Hufstetler, Sharon McBride, Jackie Mares, Dianne Mechelay, Rita Rains, and Cindy Taylor receiving an excellent rating.



### Stage Band At Festival

The above photo shows the Dickinson High School Stage Band at the Dulles Jazz Festival where the band won the award as the outstanding stage band of AAA schools.

# DHS Stage Band Invited To Hawaii

The Dickinson High School Stage Band has received an invitation from the International Jazz Tours of Kingsville, Texas to participate in the 1977 third annual Hawaiian Christmas Tour, Dec. 26-31.

Joseph L. Bellamah, president of the International Jazz Tours, extended the invitation to Don Owens, band director. The tour is an honor for the band

since only five bands are accepted to make the trip. Twenty band members will make the trip to represent Dickinson High School, Dickinson, District 18-AAA, and the Houston and Gulf Coast areas.

Parents and interested individuals are meeting to plan fund raising activities to finance the tour. The goal for the fund is \$15,000.

The fund-raising com-

mittee plans a movie in June. Other projects suggested by committee members are auction of a donated automobile, breakfast dance, chili supper,

garage sale, automobile raffle, car wash, collection of aluminum cans, and Hallowe'en carnival.

Jack Stoker is chairman of the fund-raising committee.



**STAGE BAND SHINES**—Mark Gracey, (left), and David Begeron of Dickinson High School Stage Band display Division I trophy awarded to the band recently at Dulles Jazz Festival. In winning the trophy the band played "Norwegian Wood," "Signifyin'," "Rainy Day" and "The Yard Went on Forever."

# Hawaii-Bound Stage Band to Stage Saturday Night Movies

To help finance a trip to Hawaii for the Christmas Music Festival the Dickinson High School Stage Band will hold five Saturday night

movies in the McAdams Junior High School Auditorium. Don Owens, Dickinson High School band director,

announced that ticket sales will continue through Sept. 24. Five movies will be shown on consecutive Saturday

nights, with "Earthquake" on Sept. 24 followed by "The Andromedia Strain," "The Island at the Top of the World," "Nickelodeon," and

ending on Oct. 22 with "Gus." Season tickets are being offered at \$5 for all five movies. Owens stated that good facilities are available for movies at the McAdams

Junior High School Auditorium which in fact was utilized as a community movie theatre during World War II when a large number of military service g were stationed in this

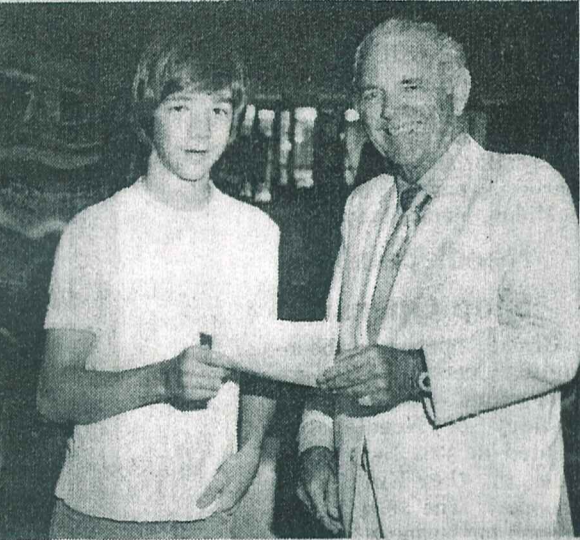


## Donation Given

Virgil Wilhelm, vice president of the Dickinson State Bank, and Donna Kuehl, new account secretary, congratulate Max Duncan on the success of the Dickinson High School Stage Band, and present him with a donation from the bank to help finance the Hawaiian Christmas Concert tour which the State Band will make.

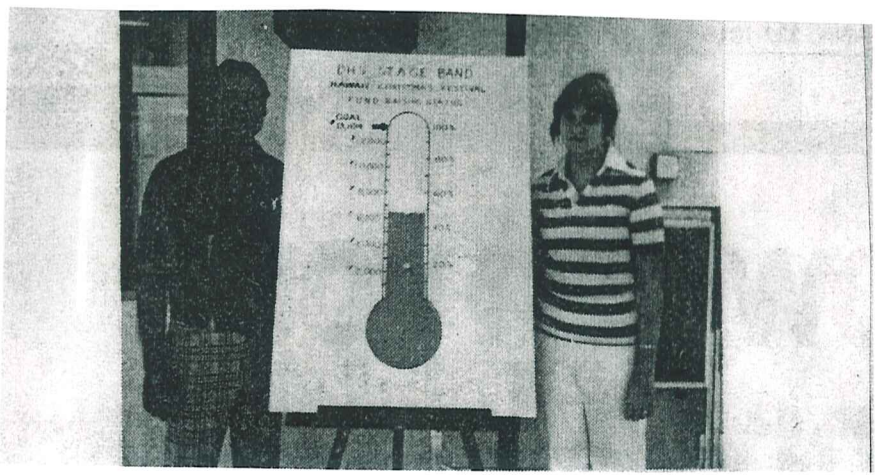


**DONATION**—Wayne E. Gotsch, president of the Dickinson Lions Club, presents a \$50 donation from the club to Lisa Magliolo, member of Dickinson High School Stage Band, to be used by the band for expenses on up coming trip to Hawaii.



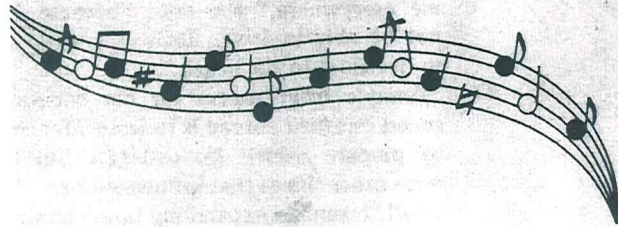
## Car Washes Help Band

Jamie Simpson reports to Walter Hall, president of Citizens State Bank in Dickinson, on the success of the series of Saturday car washes for which the bank is providing facilities and water. The proceeds from this activity will be used to finance the Hawaiian Christmas concert tour of the Dickinson High School Stage Band. The car wash service will be available on the bank parking lot every Saturday in July during the hours of 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. -- so come out, get the old family buggy cleaned up, and help the Stage Band to go Hawaii!



Don Owens, Dickinson High School band director, and Jackie Stoker, member of the Dickinson High School Stage Band, display a financial thermometer indicating that the fund raising activities of the Stage Band to provide \$13,000 for a trip to Hawaii have reached the half-way mark. The Stage Band has been invited to attend the Hawaii Christmas Festival, and during recent months has been busy in many different activities to raise the needed funds for the trip.

Band members Rene Schuett, Linda Broman, Randy Hufstetler, Lisa Magliolo and Jackie Mares display the numerous band awards received during the year.



# SIX FLAGS

OVER GEORGIA

## Invitational Band Festival 1978 Program

### JUDGES

Dr. William F. Swor, *University of Texas*  
 Dr. William J. Moody, *University of South Carolina*  
 Dr. Harry Begian, *University of Illinois*

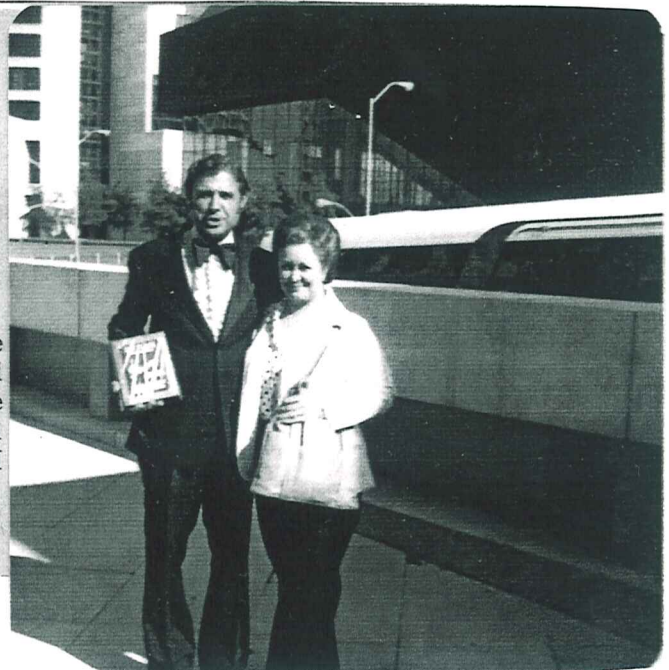
✓ 100 Dickinson High School—RC  
 ✓ AAA Dickinson, Texas ..... Don Owens  
 \* Commando March ..... Barber  
 \* Till Eulenspiegel ..... Strauss/Hindsley  
 \* 3A Sweepstakes Winner



### HONORS

Freshman Region: 9 Alternates 6  
 H.S. District: 29  
 H.S. Region 17  
 Area: 7

All-State: 2 1 Alternate  
 Concert Band, Sea Arma ..... Division I, Selected as the  
 Outstanding 3 A Second Band  
 Symphonic Band, Sea Arma ..... Division I, Selected as the  
 Outstanding 3 A Band  
 Marching Band, U.I.L. .... Division I



# DHS Band begins a new year

1979-1980

by John Crawford

The Dickinson High School Marching Band started off the 1979-80 season for the first time with two drum majors, Danny McLemore and Debbie Spillane. Both are juniors and are directing on the field. The Blue Knights are marching again this year under the direction of Thornton Jones, the rifle captain.

The Flares have 20 members this year and are under the direction of Captain Valerie McCain and assistant co-captains Donna Crowson and Julie Wolff. They practice each morning with the band and rifle team learning new routines.

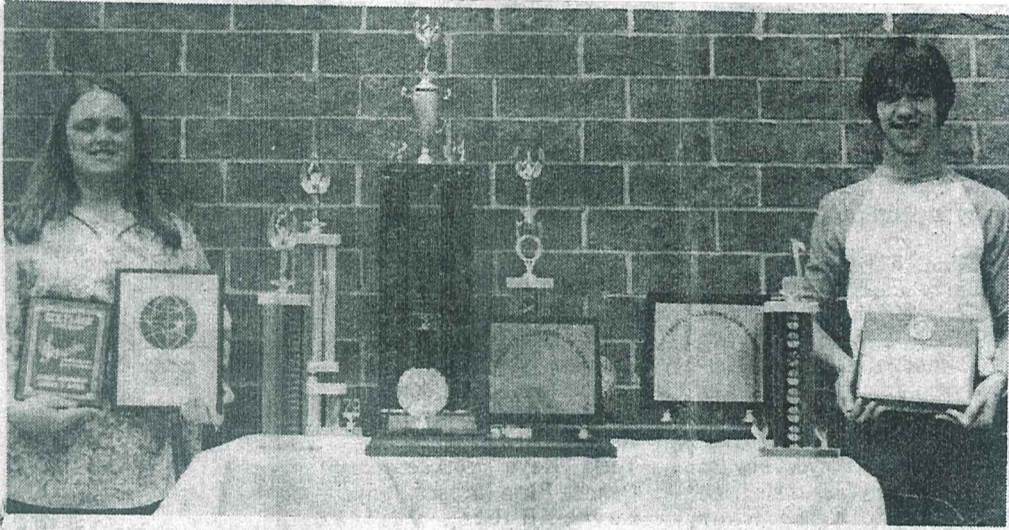
Head Twirler this year is Laura Shook. The twirling squad includes Linda Broman, Carmen Castillo, Melanie Fannin, Catherine Cooper, Karen Marony and Carolyn Newman. The band will feature soloists David Dalke and Carlos Pina on trumpet.

The band officers for this year are Mary Santarelli, president; Derek Teiken, vice-president; Carolyn Newman, treasurer; Linda Broman, secretary; David Higbee photography historian; and John Crawford, reporting historian.

Mr. Greg Dick is a new faculty member of the DHS band program. He was an all-state snare drummer and attended Sam Houston State University where he was head drummer in the jazz band. Mr. Dick is teaching at McAdams Junior High School. Mr. Owens and Mr. Gossett feel this should be an exceptional year for the band.



The DHS band continues to win its share of honors. Pictured above are: Head Drum Major Debbie Spillane displays the Division I trophy won at the LaMarque Rotary Marching Band Festival Saturday, October 27; Sara Garland holds the trophy for "Outstanding Drum Corps"; Thornton Jones' rifle squad won the "Outstanding Rifle Line"; Assistant Drum Major Danny McLemore holds the trophy won at the U.I.L. Marching Contest at Dulles on November 10; Grace Hodges has been selected first chair oboist in the Texas All-State Youth Orchestra.



**VERY GOOD YEAR**—The Dickinson High School Band has had another very successful year. Displaying 10 different trophies won at various contests are Mary Santarelli, band president, and Derek Tieken, vice-president. The trophies won are from left: Division I plaque for winning first division at the Six Flags Over Texas Invitational Band Contest, Division One Plaque won by the symphonic band at the Southwest Band Festival at Galveston, Outstanding Drum Corps at the LaMarque Rotary Marching Festival, Division One trophy at the LaMarque Rotary Marching Festival, Grand Sweepstakes Award for the outstanding band of the entire festival at the Southwest Band Festival in Galveston, Grand Sweepstakes Award for the most points earned at the University of Houston Solo and Ensemble Contest, first division trophy for the UIL Marching Contest, Sweepstakes for first division ratings in UIL Marching Contest and first division ratings in both UIL Concert and Sightreading, Outstanding rifle corps at the LaMarque Rotary Marching Festival, and first division plaque won by the concert band at the UIL Concert Contest. Band directors are Don Owens and John Gossett.

November 21, 1980, THE DICKIN-SUN

1980-1981

# Gator band advances to state U.I.L.

By JILL BRIGGS  
DICKIN-SUN Special Correspondent

State! The dream of all athletes, debaters, speech team members — and marching bandmen.

This year, for the first time ever, the Dickinson High School marching band is going to the state University Interscholastic League (U.I.L.) competition at the University of Texas, in Austin, Nov. 24. Although the band qualified to go to the contest last year, they did not go because it was the first year of competition.

"Last year, it (the state competition) was a new thing, and we had too many other things to work on," said John Gossett, assistant band director. "Also, last year all you had to do to qualify was make a first division rating (top rating), so lots of bands qualified. This year, only the two top bands at the U.I.L. marching contest can go."

The band came in second place behind Pearland at the

U.I.L. contest in Alvin recently, with two I's and a I+, possibly the highest rating the band has ever made at a marching contest, according to Band Director Don Owens. The band was competing against eight other bands at the 14-band contest.

Earlier in the year, the band won Outstanding Band at the La Marque marching contest. At that contest, on Oct. 25, the drum corps also won top honors.

The judges praised the band's show extensively, remarking on the "great percussion section," the "good rhythmic pulse," the "great solos" and the "effective dynamics (volumes)." They said the show was exciting and well-thought-out.

The show begins with "Russian Easter," continuing with "Calypso," "La Suerta," "March of the Dwarfs," and ends with "Even Now." Soloists are Steve Owens, trombone; Carlos Pina, trumpet; Chris Howard, trumpet; and Danny McLemore, tuba. One judge commented on the "nice contrast in the selection of music," and praised the soloists.

Gossett said that the judges generally judge the bands on their marching competency, musical competency, general

effect, general discipline and general appearance. He said that, while the band is fairly strong in each of these areas, the band's main weakness is a lack of brass players to give the band a stronger, fuller sound.

Who deserves credit for the band's great achievements this year? "Everybody," said Gossett. "Everybody. Wade McDonald (band director, McAdams Junior High) takes care of the brass and the microphones, Greg Dick (assistant band director, McAdams) does the drums, Mrs. Barbara Keiffer does the flags, rifles and twirlers .... It takes everybody to put this show together. One person couldn't do everything — no way.

"The kids have been good, too. The percussion section has had many, many extra rehearsals. The flags and twirlers practice everyday after school for two hours. In fact, the kids even called early rehearsals at 6:30, instead of 6:45, every morning the week before the La Marque contest.

"I think that's why we've done better this year — everybody has helped," Gossett said.

## marching contest

# All state orchestra 1981-1982

## 3 DHS students qualify

By JANET WILCOX  
Staff Writer

Beverly Thompson, Andy Bougeois and Janet Jackson were three students out of 16 area schools who qualified for all state orchestra.

Senior Janet Jackson, senior Andy Bougeois and sophomore Beverly Thompson have qualified for the All State Orchestra.

These were the only three students out of 16 schools in the region to qualify.

"To make the All State Orchestra it takes a lot of skill and even a little luck," Mr. Don Owens said.

Jackson plays flute Bougeois plays B flat clarinet and Thompson plays percussion.

The students will have a second try out in San Antonio at the Texas Music Educators Association Covention Feb. 11 through 13.

### DICKINSON BAND MEMBERS SHINE IN REGIONAL TRYOUTS

Texas Interscholastic League regional orchestra tryouts held at Angleton saw 13 Dickinson High School band students accepted for regional competition.

They were:

Ivan Yanasak, French horn; Nathaniel Smith, trumpet; Eric Taylor, trombone; Robert Goldman,

French horn; Amanda Hodges, bassoon; Georgeanne Santarelli, English horn; Mark Lear, oboe; Beverly Thompson, percussion; Janet Koester,

French horn; Janet Jackson, flute; Richelle Easley, oboe; Joyce Smith, French horn.

Band director is Don Owens.

Four Dickinson High School students were named to All-State Band in a competition held January 16 at the University of Houston.

Joyce Smith, Mark Lear, Debbie Spears and Amanda Hodges, the honored instrumentalists.

## DISD band program earns recognition

Band Director Don Owens is very proud of the DISD band program.

"I've watched it grow to one of the best marching bands in the area - up to fifth best in the state," he said. "I've watched our concert band grow to be one of the three best in the state. And our band program has been chosen 'outstanding band' at contests such as Six Flags Over Texas, Three Worlds of Fun in Orlando, Florida, and the Greater Southwest Music Festival in Galveston," Owens said.

"For the past two years we have won Grand Sweepstakes in the UIL solo and ensemble contest in Houston at the University of Houston. For the past two years we have produced the largest number of Regional Orchestra members. We have produced the highest number of district, region, area, and all-state orchestra members. Statewide, we have been fourth or fifth in the highest number of all-state band members. Our Junior High Band was chosen top in the state last year. I'm proud of our program and proud of our kids," Owens said.



John Gorsett

Don Owens

"What does band do for kids? It's a lot more than learning music. Students learn self-discipline, and how to be dependable, cooperative and to cope in situations not to one's liking. They learn team effort. This is the way families operate. This is the way life is. Band students are the most dependable folks in school. It's a good feeling. They pool individual efforts for the group. We celebrate together or mourn together," Owens said.

"These kids have something money won't buy. That's attitude. And that takes years and years to accomplish," he said.

"Music is something a poor man can own. You buy it by the sweat of the brow," Owens said.



Left to right: Mark Lear, Amanda Hodges and Renee Dudley.

## DHS Band wins grand sweepstakes

Three Dickinson High School band students won "Outstanding Soloist" awards in the May 22 University of Houston Solo and Ensemble Contest, and the band won the Grand Sweepstakes award for the most points scored in the contest.

Mark Lear, freshman, was named outstanding oboe soloist; Amanda Hodges, junior, was awarded the honor of outstanding

bassoon soloist; and Renee Dudley, sophomore, was named outstanding piano soloist.

Approximately 55 Dickinson High School band members participated in the contest. This was the third consecutive year in which the DHS band took top honors. Fifty-five schools participated in the contest May 22.

And if anyone would gather that Don Owens loves his music and DISD, he would be right.

Assistant Band Director John Gossett is responsible for charting the football game half-time show and teaching marching to the marching band.

"I also teach the concert band at the high school and begining woodwind players at McAdams Junior High School," Gossett said.

"In the six years I've been here, the quality of the Dickinson band program has improved greatly each year. The students work very hard, with dedication and discipline, and they exhibit a great deal of pride in their music organization and performances - both individually and as a group. It's a pleasure to work with such students," Gossett said.

with Band Director Don Owens," he added.

1982-1983

# Don Owens inducted into Bandmasters Hall of Fame

Don Owens, Dickinson High School Band Director, is the recent recipient of an extraordinary honor.

Owens was inducted into the Oklahoma Bandmasters Hall of Fame at a banquet during the Oklahoma Bandmasters Convention in Oklahoma City July 21. The recognition was given for outstanding achievements Owens garnered as a band instructor during his four years in Antlers and eight years in Durant school

districts in Oklahoma.

"I was stunned," Owens said. "After all, I've been teaching in Dickinson for the past nine years - since the Fall of 1973 - and who would ever dream he would be remembered for some things he did between 10 and 20 years ago?-I guess 'out of sight, out of mind' isn't always necessarily true," he said. "I really treasure this award. I just hope I deserve it," said a still overwhelmed Don Owens.



## New recording

Dickinson High School Band students, Maria Seaholm and Katherine Rees examine the newly arrived record albums made by the band. The recording are of the Symphonic Band playing "The Firebird Suite" on side one and the Concert Band contest performance on side two. Recordings were made by the American Record Corporation and will be sold on a first come first serve basis. The albums are to be \$10.30 each and are available by calling 337-2231 or 337-1784.

by Jill Murrie

For the past months, band students across the state of Texas have been competing for All-State music honors.

For the 6th consecutive year Dickinson has produced more All Staters than all other schools in Region 17 and has had a consistent ranking of 4th to 5th in the state.

This year's All-Staters are sophomore Mark Lear on oboe, junior Beverly Thompson on tympani, senior Maria Seaholm on flute, and junior David Owens on saxophone.

These students traveled to San Antonio on Feb. 9 to participate in the Texas All-State festivities. Their final concert was held Feb. 12.

Mark Lear, Beverly Thompson, Maria Seaholm and David Owens.



by Jill Murrie

Dickinson's stage band received Division I ratings from all three judges and were ranked the Number One Stage Band at the Angleton Jazz Festival.

Twenty "Outstanding Musician" plaques were awarded to the most outstanding individuals of the Festival.

Dickinson students receiving these honors were senior Chris Howard on lead trumpet, John Harvey on the drum set, and senior Matthew Benjamin on guitar.

Only one award was given to the outstanding performer of the entire contest. This honor went to junior David Owens on alto saxophone.

David Owens, John Harvey, Chris Howard and Matthew Benjamin.





# Blue Horizons take top honors

The Dickinson High School "Blue Horizons" Color Guard recently attended USL Color Guard Camp in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Of the 27 color guards from Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas attending, Dickinson's "Blue Horizons" received the "Ragin Cajun" award for the most outstanding.

This award is presented to the group displaying outstanding dedication, attitude and improvement.

In addition, several in-

dividual awards were presented to the members of the Dickinson group.

Tami Nowlin was named the Most Outstanding Rifle and Gerrie Elmore the Most Improved.

Shawndra Aven received the Most Outstanding Flag award.

Julie Shinn, Melanie Engbrock and Yvonne Sosa received Most Improved Flag awards.

Melanie Engbrock received a plaque for Most Improved Flag overall.

# Local musicians break a record

By BEVERLY MILLER  
News Staff Writer

Honors to the Dickinson High School Band came in record numbers Dec. 10 as the greatest number of bandsmen in the history of Region 17 to qualify from one school for District and Region Bands, qualified from D.H.S. Dickinson had six more District Bandsmen than any other school and 11 more Region Bandsmen than its next closest competitor.

Each school could enter 40 students in the competition, and 39 DHS students qualified for District while 34 qualified for Region. Of these, ten qualified for Area Band, which is the third level of all-State Band tryouts.

Region Bandsmen will participate in the Region Clinic/Concert at Texas City High School Jan. 13-14. Area Bandsmen will compete for All-State honors at the University of Houston Jan. 7.

Area Bandsmen are Patti Spillane, piccolo; Renee Dudley, flute; Jan Bryant, flute; Lisa Kelly, bassoon; Tom Wilson, clarinet; David Owens, alto saxophone; Jeff Wilson, trumpet; Eric Seaholm,

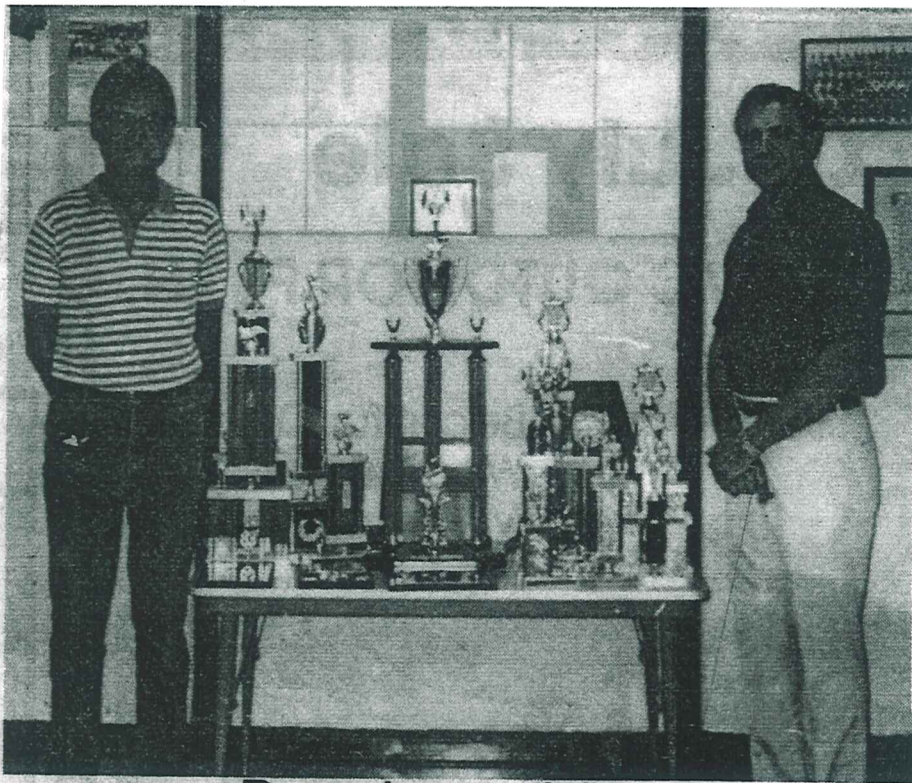
tuba; Pam Broman, percussion; and Claire Borne, percussion; and Leroy Bell, baritone.

Already members of All-State Orchestra are oboist Mark Lear and tympanist Beverly Thompson.

Region Bandsmen are: Rhonda Scott, flute; Kelly Brown, flute; Michele Burnop, flute; Laura McCroskey, flute; Audra Camp, bassoon; Stephanie Reed, clarinet; Deaina Berry, clarinet; Denise Janik, clarinet; Marion Keith, clarinet; Jennifer Mallet, clarinet; Casey Coleman, bass clarinet; Larry Gregory, alto saxophone; Russell Pulliam, baritone saxophone; Richard Pina, trumpet; Donna Bailey, trumpet; Suzanne Rees, trumpet; Ivan Yanasak, French horn; Charles Smith, trombone; David Modlin, trombone; Juan Trevino, trombone; and Tommy Janik, baritone.

Qualifying for District Band were Tracy Rotter, clarinet; Buddy Quin, tenor saxophone; Eric Slocumb, French horn; Stephanie Tackett, French horn; and Tommy Fontaine, tuba.

The competition was held at Willowridge High School.



## Band trophies

Band directors Don Owens and John Gossex display the DHS band's many trophies won throughout the year. See related story.



## Music maker

Proud father and equally proud District High School Band Director Don Owens shown with his son DHS senior David one of two Texas students named last year to be a member of McDonald's "All-Ar Band."

Sixty-six DHS Band members received Division One solo medals and nine Division One ensemble medals at the UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest and the band received Grand Sweepstakes Trophy at the University of Houston Solo and Ensemble Contest. Two students were chosen at this contest as Most Outstanding on their instrument. Mark Lear, oboe, and Ivan Yanasak, piano.

The McAdams Junior High School Band program, directed by Wade McDonald and Gregory Dick, received many honors this year also.

The Symphonic band received a first division rating at UIL contest for the fifth consecutive year, and also won a first division rating at the Galena Park Band Festival.

The Concert Band received a first division rating at the UIL concert and sightreading contest, and the cadet band received a second division rating at the contest.

Members of the McAdams Junior High School Band received fifty-seven first Division Ratings in the UIL solo and Ensemble contest.

## Band continues to perform

by Richard Scott

The Dickinson High School band has finished its marching season. The band is now performing concerts and attending competitions.

November 19 the freshmen band members attended the Freshman Region Tryouts at Lamar Rosenberg. On December 2 they attended the ninth grade Region Band Clinic

# Owens takes a bite of "Big Apple"



Vanessa Williams, Miss America 1984, directs two Texas All-American musicians, Hamp Brockman of Bèeville and David Owens of DHS.

by Dick Lobit

David Owens is back from the "Big Apple".

He left on November 17 to join all the other members of the McDonald All American Band in New York. The band rehearsed 6-10 hours a day to get ready for the Macy Day Parade to be held on Thanksgiving Day.

While in New York, David got to visit Macy's, have his picture taken with Miss America, and tour the famous "Skid-row".

David even ate at famous restaurants like Mama Leone's and stayed at the New York Sheraton Hotel on 56th Street.

Besides eating and staying at fancy hotels, David did much more sightseeing and the band played at many places. They appeared on the "Today Show" in Rockefeller Center, they visited the World Trade Center, and practiced marching in the armory in New York. They also saw a musical in Herbert Theater.

While in New York, four auditions were held for the McDonald All American Stage Band. David was one of the 20 selected. "I was really surprised to be one of the twenty to make the band because everyone wanted to be in it. It is really an honor," David said.

The McDonald All American Stage Band will make appearances on the

"Merv Griffin Show," "Johnny Carson," the "Jerry Lewis Telethon" in Las Vegas and they will also play at the Summer Olympics.

They spent Thanksgiving night in Providence, Rhode Island, and they played a concert in Devon Square.

On November 25-27, they stayed in Boston at the Sheraton. They toured Boston and saw many historical sights like the Boston Tea Party ship and the U. S. Constitution.

They also played a concert at Jordan Hall which is the oldest and finest hall in America at the New England Conservatory of Music.

The last leg of David's all-expense-paid trip ended in Quincy, Massachusetts,

where they marched in the Quincy Parade. He left on November 28 to come home.

The McDonald All American Band consists of 105 people, two from each state, two from District of Columbia, one from the Virgin Islands, and one from Puerto Rico.

"It was fun and exciting and the band is fantastic, but there was too much rehearsing. I was really excited about making the Jazz Band. I even got on the New York news," David said.

However, there was one thing David didn't like about New York. "The people made fun of my Texas accent," he said.

## Band honors noted

In the third annual Angleton Jazz Festival Jan. 21, the Dickinson High School Stage Band took

second place in Class 5A. The band received all Division One ratings from all three judges and Mike Trent received an All-Star solo award for drums.

Jeff Wilson received an All-Star award for trumpet and flugelhorn, and David Owens was named most

outstanding soloist of the contest. All three were awarded trophies.

Beaten out by McCullough High School near Conroe, the Stage Band has vowed to make a comeback at the San Antonio Jazz Festival in March.

**COLORGUARD**

Sponsor: Barbara Keiffer

The Colorguard attended summer camp. Shawndra Aven was chosen the winner of the Most Improved Advanced Rifle award from among 400 students.

**1986-1987**



# DHS band brings home trophies

This Spring the Dickinson High School Bands participated in several major musical competitions.

On Friday and Saturday, April 18 and 19, the Dickinson High School Concert and Symphonic Bands participated in the UIL Concert and Sightreading Contest at Angleton High School.

The Concert Band, under the direction of John Gossett, received straight first division ratings in concert playing and an excellent rating in sightreading. The Symphonic Band, under the direction of Don Owens, received straight first division ratings in concert playing and a first division rating in sightreading.

For the sixth straight year the Dickinson High School Band has won the UIL Sweepstakes Award for first division ratings in Marching, Concert Playing, and Sightreading.

The Dickinson High School Symphonic Band, under the direction of Don

Owens, participated in the Six Flags Over Texas Invitational Band Festival at Richardson High School in Dallas on Saturday, May 3. The Band received a rating of one, one, and one plus from three judges. This is the highest rating the Dickinson High School Symphonic Band has ever received at this contest. Out of 13 Class 5A bands that participated in this contest, Dickinson received the second runner-up trophy.

The band was accompanied on this trip by the following 16 chaperones: Margie Owens, Carol McCroskey, Janice Lemmond, Carol Deslattes, Dianna Mancuso, Jo Brunner, Maria Hull, Olene Helms, Carolyn Janik, Don Owens, John Gossett, Charles Greer, Kenneth Deslattes, Larry Helms, Tom Mancuso, and Norbert Janik.

On Saturday, May 10, 18 Dickinson H.S. Band students participated in the University of Houston Solo and Ensemble Contest. The following students

receive first division on solos: flute - Dawn Burns, oboe - Sarah Jones, bassoon - Nancy Genz, Bb clarinet - Stephanie Kirkland, Liana Seaholm, bass clarinet - Dana Weigel, and trumpet - Robert Bragg. Students who received second division ratings on solos were: Piccolo - Kim delaHoussaye and Lisa McCroskey, Bb clarinet - Misty Martin, alto saxophone - Ken Barber, trumpet - Jack Stutts, Baritone horn - Tommy Janik and Gus Stoot, and piano - Misty Martin.

On Friday, May 23, Drum Major try-outs were held on the DHS campus. Selected, by a panel of judges, for Drum Major of the 1986-87 Gator Marching Band will be Senior Susan Spillane. Susan plays Bb clarinet and is a consistent first division winner in the solo and ensemble contest. Susan is the third Spillane sister to be drum major of the DHS Band. Debbie Spillane, 1980 and 1981, and Patti Spillane in 1984 also served the band.

## DHS band receives invitation

Due to outstanding recommendations by nationally known adjudicators, the Dickinson High School Symphonic Band has been invited to participate in the "Adjudicator's National Invitational Festival," to be held at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington D.C. The band earned this honor by winning out above the Texas 5A Honor Band at the Six Flags Over Texas Invitational Band Festival for the last two consecutive years.

The Dickinson High School Symphonic Band was also one of two bands from the State of Texas that was invited by the International Honor Musicians Society to participate in the Tenth Annual World Invitational High School

Music Awards in Florida. Band director Don Owens says that this invitation came about from nationally known adjudicators as well as having twice won the festival sponsored by Educational Tour Consultants in Orlando, Florida.

Dickinson High School Band Officers this year are: Tammie Nolen, president; Jay Neal, vice president; Kelly Maxey, secretary; Rae Greer, treasurer; Eric Slocumb and John Maroul, equipment managers; and Susan Spillane, drum major.

Dickinson High School Band Booster Officers this year are: Frank and Anita Bryant, president; Richard and Jan Alexander, first vice president; Jack and Nena Neal, second vice president; Marilyn Spillane, third vice president;

Betty Gupton, secretary; Robert and LeJean Griffith, treasurer; and Margie Owens, uniform captain.

### BAND

Sponsor: Don Owens

Due to outstanding recommendations by many nationally-known adjudicators, the Symphonic Band has been invited to participate in the "Adjudicator's National Invitational Festival", to be held at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. The band earned this honor by winning out above the Texas 5-A Honor Band at the Six Flags over Texas Invitational band festival for the last two years. The Symphonic Band was also one of two bands from the state of Texas that was invited by the International Honor Musicians Society to participate in the Tenth Annual World Invitational High School Music Awards in

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Band officers this year are President Tammie Nolen, Vice President Jay Neal, Secretary Kelli Maxey, Treasurer Rae Greer, Equipment Managers Eric Slocumb and John Maroul, and Drum Major Susan Spillane.

### BAND

Sponsor: Don Owens

On October 25, the DHS band participated in the district marching contest at Rhoads Stadium in Katy. If the band ranks as one of the top two bands in class 4-A, they will advance on to the region marching contest at Alamo Stadium on November 1 in San Antonio. If the judges select the band as one of the top two in class 4-A at this contest, the band will advance on to the state marching contest at the

University of Texas Memorial Stadium in Austin on November 10. On November 8, several symphonic band members will participate in the region orchestra tryout held at Brazoswood High School. This is the first level of competition for participation in the all-state orchestra. Individuals who qualify will record for the all-state orchestra at this contest.

# Dickinson High School Band is the best in Texas

## Cheers for the DHS band



Citizen photo by Beverly Miller

*Giving the high-sign after coming home the Number One Marching Band in Texas 4-A, a result of winning the marching band competition in Austin Monday night,*

*Dickinson High School band members were still on a high despite a 21-hour turnaround trip and winning the state's highest honor in their class.*

## DHS band scores top honors

By BEVERLY MILLER  
Citizen Staff

DICKINSON — Heavy-lidded and operating on adrenaline fumes, the Dickinson High School Marching Band returned to school Monday morning bringing home the "Numero Uno" designation from Monday's state competition in Austin.

"We're the number one 4-A band in the state!" said a delighted Don Owens, DHS band director. "I'm proud. Definitely. And not one of the 155 band members was absent this morning!" he said early Tuesday

after a 3:30 a.m. return to Dickinson.

A three-plus hour practice on Sunday afternoon was the band's preparation for a 6:30 a.m. Monday departure for the Austin competition. The band marched in the semi-finals that afternoon, where the Gators were named to the top five out of 14 bands that had reached the rarefied air of the preliminary competition.

"And out of the top five, we came out number one." The band, Owens says, raised its score by about 2.5 points between the prelims and the finals because it studied its videotapes. He does not know how it did in

the prelims because the band was not told, and names of the winning bands in prelims were announced in random order of the five going into the finals. The scores, from a different set of judges, will be mailed to the school.

"We were able to raise our scores by watching the videotapes which I hooked up to a car so they could see themselves and listen to the criticisms. It's like halftime for a football team, when the coach gives the team a chalktalk," the exultant band director says.

See HONORS, page 4A



**CHAMPS**—The Dickinson High School Marching Band is wearing the Class 4A state champion crown. The 1986 champs survived four rounds of competition at Austin. Under the direction of Don Owens, the band is comprised of 155 students. Assistant director is John Gossett.

Dickinson  
Gator  
Band

# Viewpoints CONGRATULATIONS

A The Galveston Daily News Thursday Morning, November 13, 1986

To the Dickinson High School Band and all the Directors on winning the State Title in Austin, Nov. 11, 1986. You're Number 1.

From the Parents & Family of  
Kim Davis

## Our Opinion

### Congratulations to the Gator band

The Dickinson High School band is the number one 4A marching band in the state.

The band took the honor Monday night at the state competition in Austin.

Sponsored by the University Interscholastic League, the contest brings together bands from across the state to compete on the marching field.

Judges look at each band's precision, music and artistic quality — how entertaining the production is.

Band members practice daily, usually several times a day, to prepare for the contest. In fact, drills usually begin in mid-summer, with freshmen getting instructions on the basics.

Band directors must devise new routines each week, combining music and design into an entertainment — not an easy job.

Each person on the marching field has to know just what step to take while playing what note.

A single misstep can throw an entire line off, leading to a real mess on the marching field.

It took hard work and dedication for these students and their band director to reach this honor.

We're very proud of them all. — Richard Fogaley, managing editor

### Dickinson band judged best in 4A

By ARLENE BATTISTA  
News Staff Writer

DICKINSON — Gator football spectators didn't know it through the season, but during halftime ceremonies they were entertained by the best 4A marching band in the state.

The band endured four elimination processes before winning the title as State Champion 4A Marching Band on Monday night, said John Gossett, Dickinson High School (DHS) assistant band director.

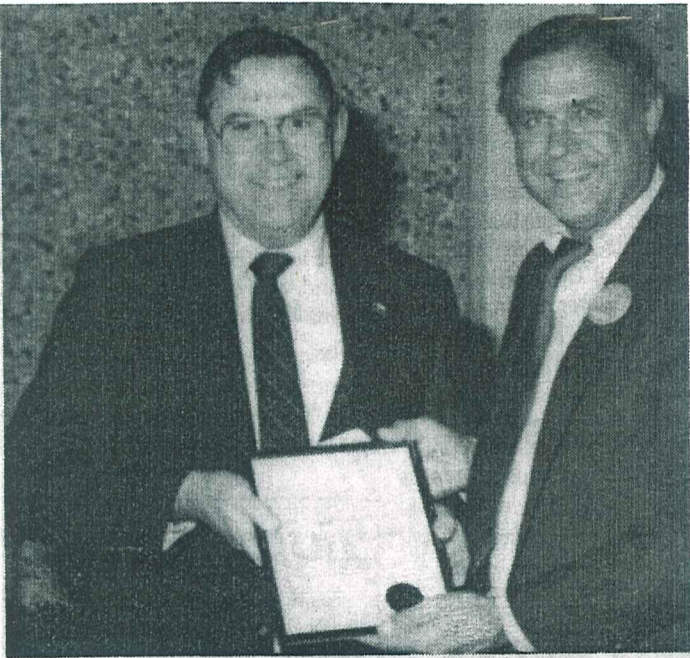
The DHS marching band was one of two teams to win the district contest; one of four districts to win in the regional contest; and one of two regional winners to advance to state competition, Gossett said.

The state finals were held Monday night in Austin, he said. The band was one of five semifinalists, along with schools from Corpus Christi, Orange, Fort Worth and Dallas. The state champion was announced at about 10 p.m., at the conclusion of Class 5A competition.

"We kind of knew we were this good," Gossett said after some thought. "We were really expecting to make it in the top three ... but here we are, state champs."

The band is comprised of 155 students, including flags, rifles and percussion, Gossett said. Tuesday's school day included several "tired but very proud" students, as the band members didn't arrive home until 3:30 a.m., he said.

In 1980 the DHS Marching Band placed fifth in class 5A competition, and in 1981 it won a competition placement, he said. This year the University Interscholastic League changed the school from 5A to 4A.



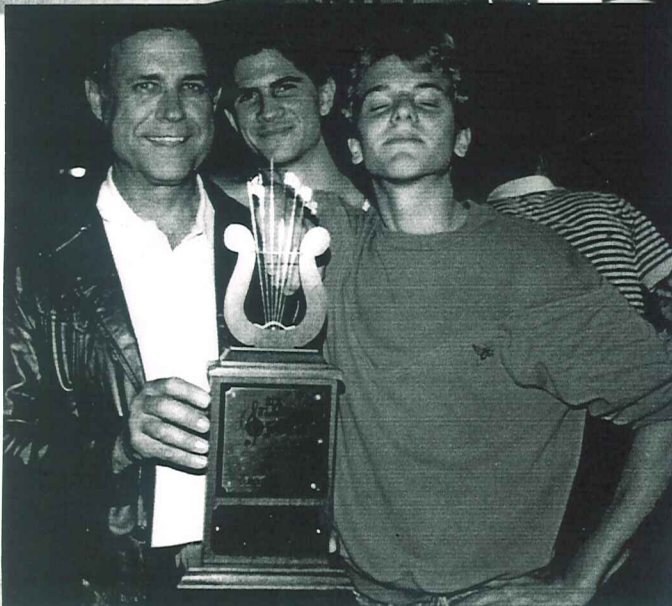
## Proclamation

Mayor Joe Molloy proclaimed December 5 as Band Day in celebration of the Dickinson High School Marching Band being named the Number One Marching Band in the state. Pictured is Mayor Molloy presenting the proclamation to Dickinson High School Band Director Don Owens.



## Award Winners

Kelly Maxcy, left, and Rae Green, right are showing off a recent award the Dickinson High School Band won April 3 and 4 at the Southwest Band Festival. The band also won honors the University Interscholastic League competition April 10. See related story.



# A Championship Season



By Patrick Phipps

It must be something in the water. DHS has had quite a few winners this year. On December 13 of last year, 40 DHS band students competed in district and region band tryouts at Willowridge HS. Thirty-one of those Dickinson students made the district band.

Eighteen woodwinds made the district band. They are Lisa McCroskey on piccolo, Kelly Maxey, Jennifer Smith, Dawn Burns and Ben Martinez on flute; Sarah Jones on oboe, Nancy Genz on bassoon, Stephanie Kirkland, Kyle Gupton, Alayne Kulvicki and Genevieve Galvan on clarinet; Lyn Holley and Rae Greer on alto clarinet; Tammie Nolen and Dana Wiegel on bass clarinet, Kathy Clock on alto saxophone; Jay Neal on tenor saxophone, and John Maroul on Baritone saxophone.

Eight brass players passed on to district band. They are Deron Fuller, Cindy Tucker and Eric Slocumb on French horn; Paul Carmona and Mike Cummings on trombone; Tommy Mancuso on baritone; and Barney Funk and Mike Finn on tuba.

Four percussionists made the district band. They are Nathan Yamasak and Joe Reynolds on percussion I; Eric Curtis on percussion II; and Mike Hull on timpani.

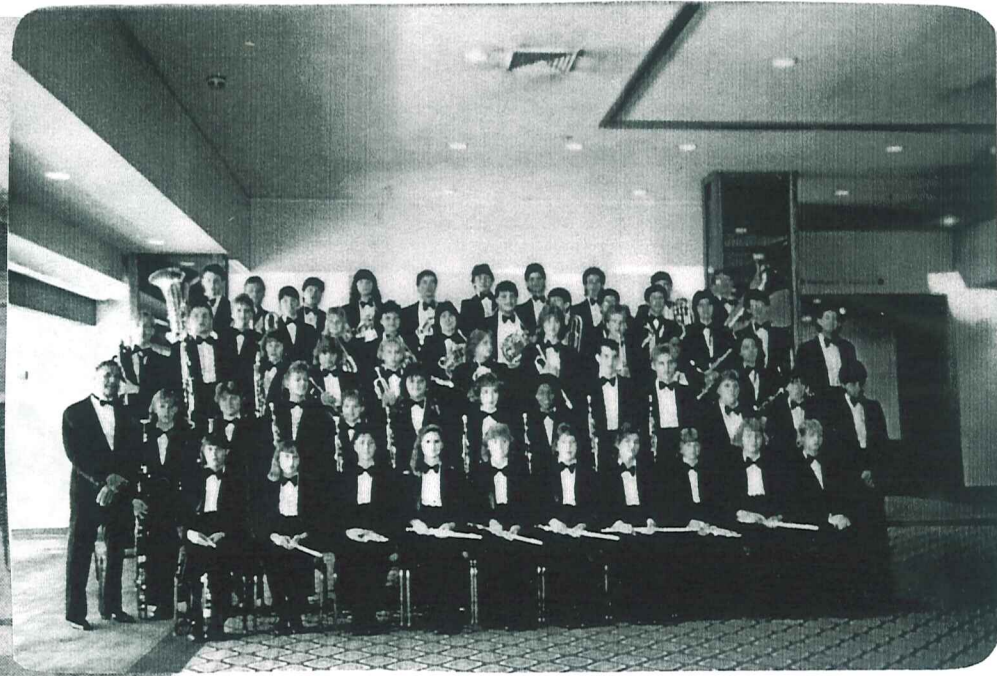
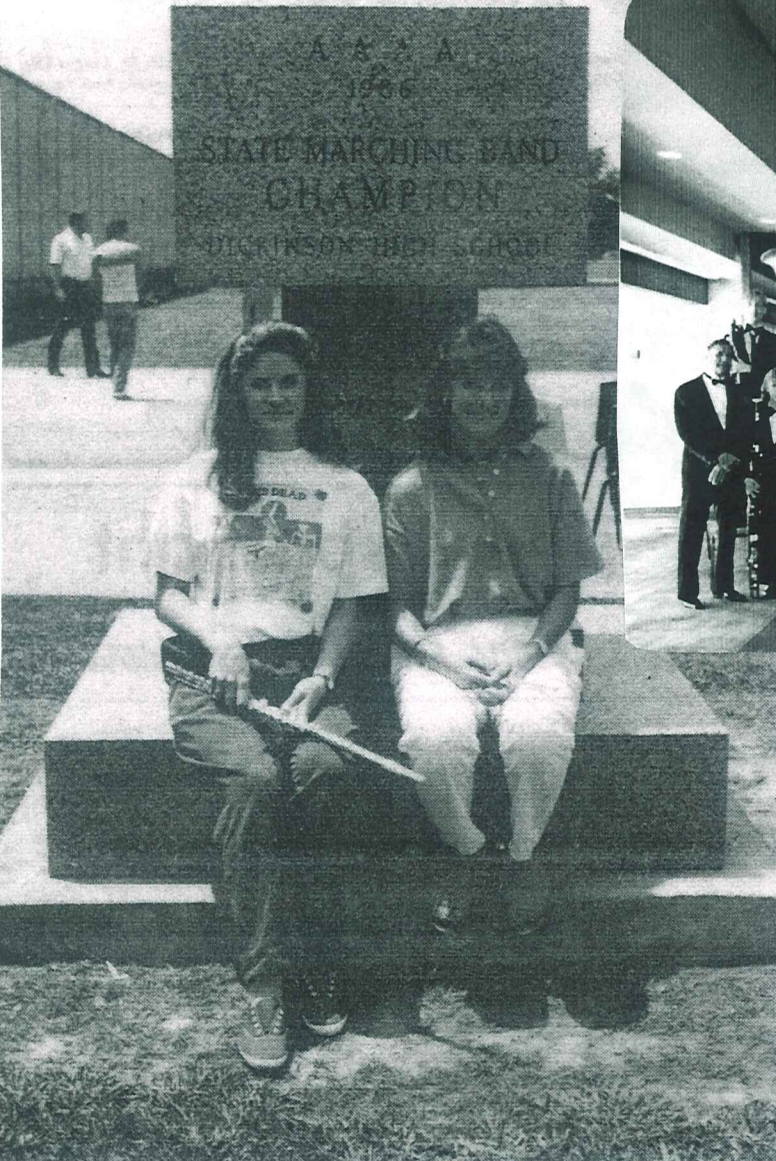
Twenty-four DHS students met the standards to play in the region band clinic. They are Lisa McCroskey, Kathleen Peuton, Kelly Maxey, Jennifer Smith, Dawn Burns, Sarah Jones, Nancy Genz, Stephanie Kirkland, Kyle Gupton, Alayne Kulvicki, Lyn Holley, Rae Greer, Tammie Nolen, Dana Weigel, Kathy Clock, Eric Slocumb, Paul Carmona, Tommy Mancuso, Barney Funk, Mike Finn, Nathan Yamasak, Joe Reynolds, Erin Curtis, and Mike Hull. Those students attended a clinic and performed for an audience following the clinic. The clinic was held at Angleton H.S. on January 17.

Ten of these students advanced to area band competition at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches on January 10. They are Lisa McCroskey, Kathleen Penton, Stephanie Kirland, Alayne Kulvicki, Tammie Nolen, Eric Slocumb, Tommy Mancuso, Barney Funkn, Joe Reynolds and Mike Hull.

From area try-outs, these students competed for all-state band. Four of these ten were eligible for the band. Three of the four won first chair positions. The four students are Alayne Kulvicki-tenth chair, Tammie Nolen, Eric Slocumb and Barney Funk-first chair. These students will perform at the Texas Music Educators Association in San Antonio on February 12, 13, 14, and 15.

Each of these students receives three selections of music early in the school year. They practice until they feel they are as good as they can be. At the contest, they play for judges who are hidden behind a sheet or curtain to provide for total anonymity. They advance at the judges' discretion. Every student knows that determination, skill and hard work are the keys to success in these competitions. Those students who advance to higher levels of competition are considered the top one percent statewide of musicians.

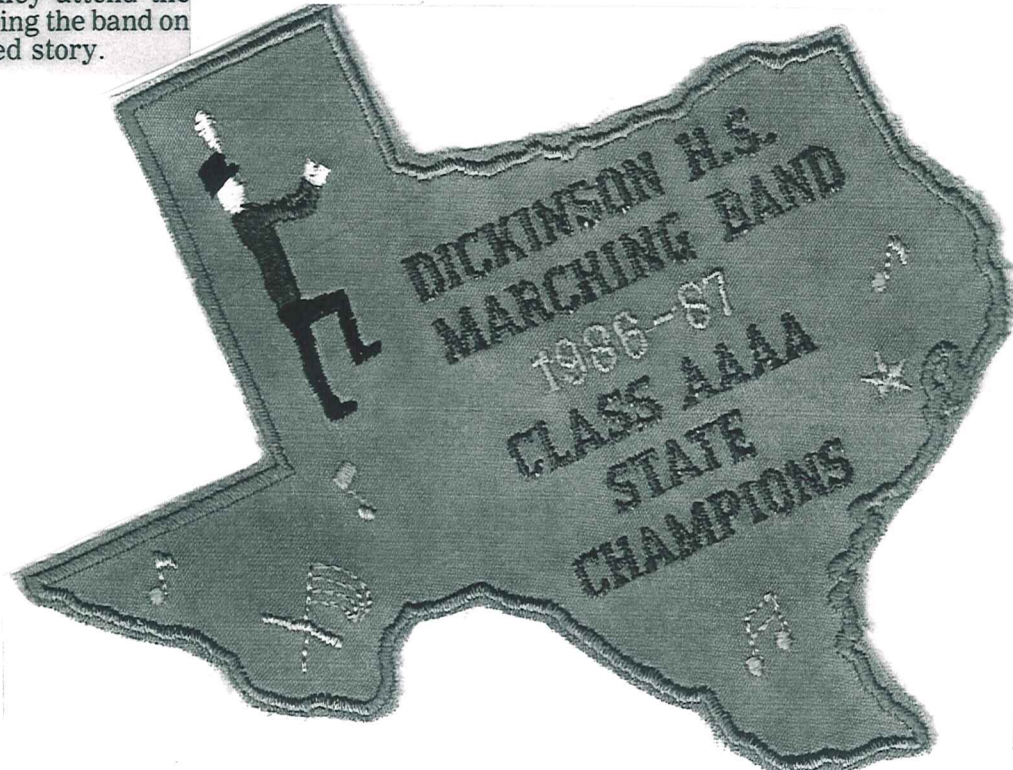




CLASS 4A	
1	DICKINSON H.S. - Don Owens, dir.
2	BRENHAM H.S. - Wayne Maxwell, dir.
3	LEANDER H.S. - Dennis Hopkins, dir.
4	The COLONY H.S. - Dick Clardy, dir.
5	CANYON H.S. - Ken Carriere, dir.

### High School monument

Band officers Kelly Maxcy and Lisa McCroskey attend the ceremony celebrating the new inscription honoring the band on Dickinson High's school monument. See related story.





1988-1989



# A Note-Worthy Year

## Dickinson, Santa Fe state bound

By CHRISTI DAUGHERTY  
*The Daily News*

DICKINSON — Two area high school bands, longtime adversaries, Saturday advanced together to the preliminary level of the state band University Interscholastic League competition.

Dickinson High School and

Santa Fe High School triumphed at Saturday afternoon's marching band competition in Katy, winning the right to represent this region in state competition in Austin Nov. 7.

Don Owens, Dickinson band director, said just advancing to preliminaries meant Santa Fe and Dickinson are among the top 14 bands in the state.

"That's not too shabby," Owens said. "For us this (going to state) is a normal thing, but all our kids are excited. Any group of kids advancing to state competition has worked hard and come a long way to get this far."

Of Saturday's competition he enthused, "We did great." Santa Fe band leader Boyd

Rowden said, "I thought it went pretty well. I was pleased with how well we played."

Rowden said Santa Fe also makes it a habit to go to state competition, and said his band has advanced to preliminary state competition two years in a row.

The Dickinson and Santa Fe bands have won district and regional competitions.

During the next week, Owens said, his band will concentrate on improving the show that has gotten them this far.

"We're working for greater perfection," he said. "The name of the game is perfection."

Rowden said the Santa Fe band will be "practicing and hoping to improve on the mistakes we made today."

The Dickinson High School marching band is made up of 141 students, while the Santa Fe band has nearly 100 members.

Owens said both bands will compete Monday, Nov. 7, at Westlake Stadium in Austin.

## Dickinson High band earns 2nd place trophy at state

By SCOTT REEDER  
*The Daily News*

DICKINSON — The Dickinson High School Band marched away from state competition in Austin Monday night ranked second in Texas.

"They were really excellent; they played better than they ever have before — they were great," said DHS band director Don

Owens.

A marching band from Allen, Texas, placed first in the state 4A marching band competition.

"The kids were great, they worked harder for this than any other group of kids I have taught in my 16 years of teaching," Owens said. "The kids cried and the parents cried when we didn't win state."

"We tried to console the kids by telling them that there are at least 150 other 4A bands in the state that wished they were where in their shoes ... but they were still upset — they were upset because they have pride," Owens said.

"It is one of the finest groups of kids I have ever had taught," he said. "The community support was excellent also — we had 300 to 400 people in the stands."

"We had more people there than many 5A schools that were competing," Owens said. He added that this was the third consecutive year Dickinson placed among the

top five bands.

"We have a national reputation and people expect a lot out of us," Owens said. He added that he was quite proud of his students' performance. "They have never performed this well before," he said.

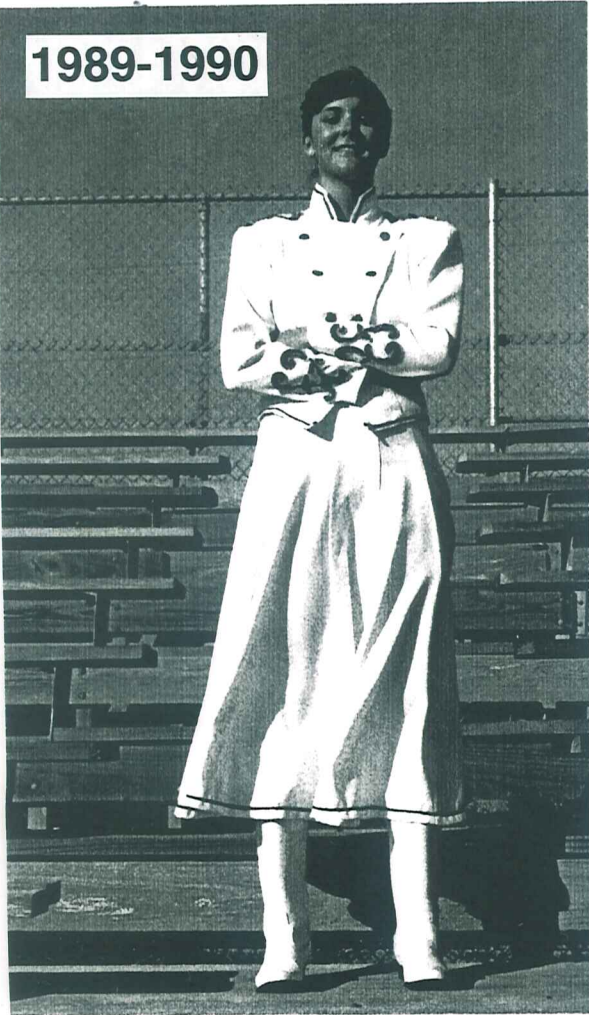
Santa Fe High School also competed in the state competition but was not among the final five. Santa Fe Band Director Boyd Rowden commended the Dickinson group.

"Dickinson did a super job," he said, and praised his band as well. "Being one of the top 14 bands in the state isn't all that bad."

Rowden noted that Santa Fe was the smallest band in the competition with about 50 fewer students than the other schools.

## Dickinson High School Band Banquet 1988 - 1989

1989-1990



# Dickinson HS band wins contest honors

DICKINSON — The Dickinson High School Marching Band received a first division rating from all three judges at the District 17 University Interscholastic League Marching Contest Oct. 28 in Katy.

As a result, the band was selected as one of two bands to advance to the regional marching contest.

The Gator Band also was one of seven bands in a field of 18 to receive a first division rating in the Marching Bands of America Southwest Regional Contest Oct. 28 at the University of Houston. At that competition, the band received the Class AA Highest Achievement Award in Best Visual Performance — one 10 bands out of 18 advancing to finals competition — and was chosen the Contest Outstanding Class AA Band.

The Gator Band will compete at 11:45 a.m. today at the UIL Regional Marching Contest at the Cypress-Fairbanks Stadium in northwest Houston. At the regional contest, two bands will be chosen to advance to the Class 4A UIL State Marching Contest to be held in Austin Nov. 13.

Each year since 1986, the Gator Band has advanced to the UIL State Marching Contest. At this contest they have placed fourth, second and first. In 1988, the band entered the Marching Bands of America Southwest Regionals for the first time and placed fourth in the finals competition.

The Gator Band was also named the 1986-87 Texas Class 4A Honor Band. Over the years the band has won "Best in Class" at Six Flags Over Magic Mountain in Los Angeles, Six Flags Over Texas in Arlington, Six Flags Over Greater America in Chicago, Six Flags Over Georgia in Atlanta, Three Worlds of Fun in Orlando, and Grand Sweepstakes winner at the Southwest Music Festival in Galveston.

On Oct. 21 the Gator Band, under the direction of Don Owens, participated in the La Marque Rotary Marching Festival, receiving first division honors in marching. The percussion section was also named the contest's "Outstanding Drum Line."



*Bands of America*

For the fourth consecutive year, the Dickinson High School Gator Marching Band will march in the state University Interscholastic League Marching Contest. Dickinson received the honor by placing first in Class AAAA in the Regional Contest Nov. 4 in Houston.

The Gator Band is one of 16 Class AAAA bands from across Texas to compete in the state contest on Monday, Nov. 13 in Austin. The band will perform in the preliminaries at approximately 2:30 p.m. Monday at Burger Stadium. If the group is one of five selected to compete in the finals, the band will march for the championship between 7 and 8:15 p.m. Monday at Memorial Stadium on the University of Texas campus. The contest's 15 judges expect to name the top AAAA band in the state at about 9:45 p.m. Monday.

"With good rehearsals this week, we should be competitive on the state level," Band Director Don Owens said. "We are very excited about the opportunity to play in the state contest. It's a tribute to the hard work of our students, parents and staff members."

A large contingent of DISD parents and siblings of band members will make the trip to Austin for the competition. The band will travel by bus departing at 8 a.m. Monday. If the Gator Band advances to the finals, students will be excused from school on Tuesday.

Other AAAA bands in the state contest are: Corpus Christi Calallen, Santa Fe, New Braunfels, Cleburne, Mount Pleasant, Monahans, Little Cypress-Mauriceville, Leander, Allen, Gregory Portland, Crowley, Port Neches-Groves and Andrews.

## Marching Band

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# Dickinson band sacks state 4A marching toga

Forgive 'em for popping their buttons at Dickinson High School. They earned the right to strut with chest out, chin high by capturing the coveted Class 4A State Marching Band Championship at Austin eliminations. It was the second state championship for the fighting Dickinson Gator Marching Band, the other brass ring coming in 1986.

"I expected this group to do great things, because this group has some of the most wonderful attitudes I've ever worked with," said Dickinson Band Director Don Owens.

Owens also had high praise for assistant band directors Wade McDonald, Cheryl Eby, John Gossett, Drum Major Linda Spillane, color guard coordinator Barbara Keiffer and percussion line assistants

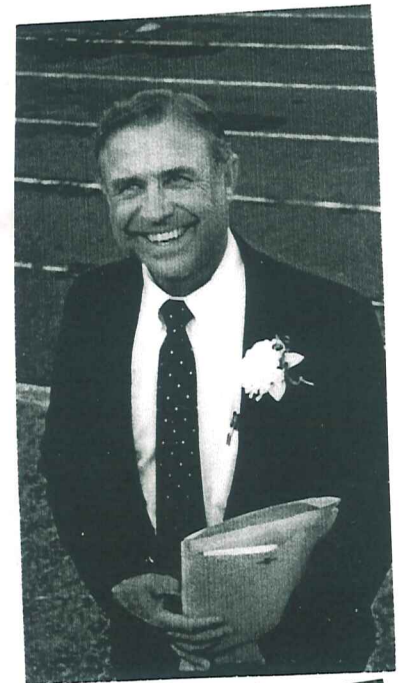
Dean Beltram from La Marque and Greg Dick from League City.

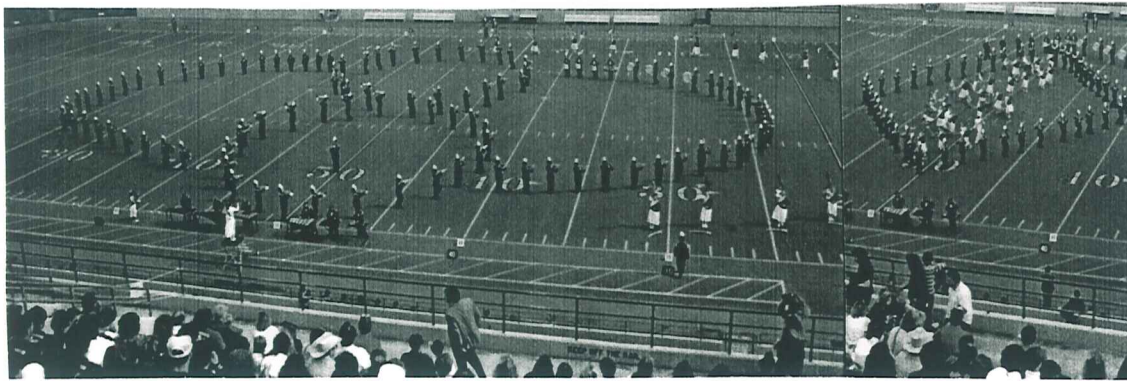
Dickinson has competed in the Class 4A state championship every year since 1986.

Last Monday in Austin, the band performed a show that was developed throughout the football season. The performance was corps style, incorporating pageantry with military styles including a color guard with flags, rifles, accent designs, marching patterns and music.

Last year, Dickinson was edged by Allen High

This year, the Gator Band dropped the two-time Allen defending champs from Collin County into the runnerup spot.



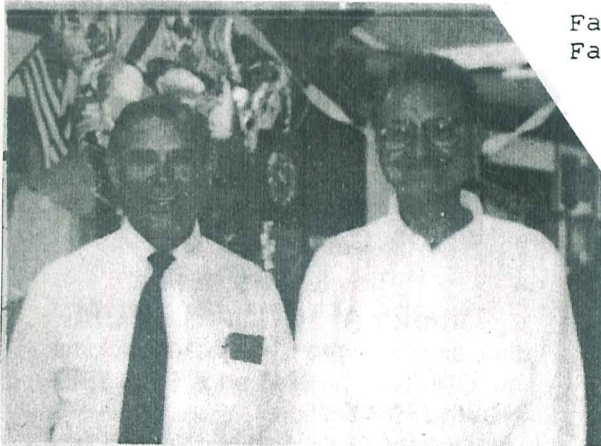


CONGRATULATIONS TO DICKINSON HIGH SCHOOL BAND  
STATE CHAMPIONS

What a wonderful surprise to learn that our Local High-school Band just won the State Championship. I would like to extend to everyone on the band, and especially to Holy Trinity's bandmembers our congratulations on behalf of the whole Church. Good Work everyone!



Faithfully, in Christ  
Father Jim



**SATISFACTION**--Director Don Owens, left, and assistant director John Gossett sport grins of satisfaction after their 1989 Dickinson High School Marching Band captured the Class 4-A state championship at Austin.



# Gator band state champs



# Long Gator Band

*Good News from the Dickinson Independent School District*

## **Band students add to impressive list of achievements**

What do you do for an encore when you've just won the state championship of marching? In the case of Dickinson High School band students, you follow up by winning 30 chairs in All-District band, 26 in All-Region Band, eight in All-Area Band, three in All-State Orchestra and five in All-State Band.

That's what the DHS band program had accomplished by the end of the first semester in January, according to Director **Don Owens**. Dickinson High and Brazoswood High tied for the highest number of students in All-State Band and All-State Orchestra of the 23 schools in the region. What is more amazing is that Brazoswood High School has almost twice as many students as Dickinson High School.

"Our kids create their own success," said Owens. "They are a highly motivated and talented group of students."

Band students who won individual honors this year include Freshman Region members Nancy Blasberg, Jill Farris, Karen Feagins, Adrian Jakubus, Jennifer Lairscey, Robert Pendergast, Marcus Trevino and Chris Tyson. Region Orchestra members are: Emily Clock, Kerri Davis, Bryce Denney, Jeff McCollum, Kim Nolen, Susan Palmer, Marcail Rennie, Ginny Reynolds, Joe Reynolds and Marva Woods. All-Region Band members are: Nancy Blasberg, Emily Clock, Kerri Davis, Kim Davis, Bryce Denney, Amy Ellis, Kim Gonzalez, Jennifer Groves, John Halstead, April Henderson, Jeff McCollum, Lisa Mosqueda, Kim Nolen, Erick Oka, Susan Palmer, Cassandra Peoples, Susan Reed, Marcail Rennie, Ginny Reynolds, Joe Reynolds, Vanessa Robertson, Louisa Rogers, Linda Spillane, Melissa Williams, Spencer Williams and Marva Woods.

All-Area members are: Kerri Davis, Jennifer Groves, John Halstead, Lisa Mosqueda, Kim Nolen, Susan Reed, Marcail Rennie and Ginny Reynolds. All-State Orchestra members are: Bryce Denney, Joe Reynolds and Linda Spillane. All-State Band members are: Kerri Davis, John Halstead, Lisa Mosqueda, Kim Nolen and Ginny Reynolds.

The Dickinson High School Marching Band successfully defended its state Class 4A marching championship on Monday at University of Texas Memorial Stadium in Austin.

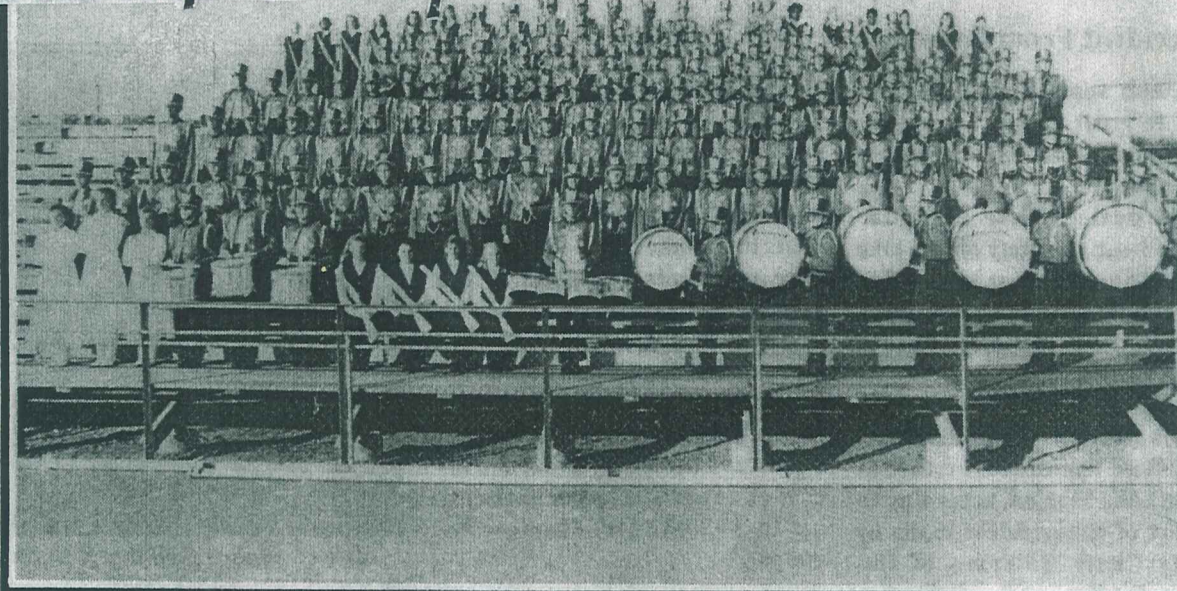
The Gator Band marched at 2:45 p.m. Monday along with 13 other state qualifiers. Dickinson was among five bands chosen to march in the finals Monday night.

For 150 band members and their parents, the second consecutive state championship made every minute of hard work from August to this week worth it all. More than 100 Dickinson Band Booster Club members, teachers, administrators, students and fans made the trip to Austin Monday to see the band take it all again.

Band members have practiced before school, often starting at 6 a.m., since before the first day of classes. They also have practiced at night after school as the band qualified to advance to regionals and, later, state. Gator Band members kept up a demanding practice and performance schedule all the while excelling in their classes and with their homework.

With its latest victory, the

# Gator Band Retains Championship



Gator Band has won the state marching championship three of the last five years (1986, 1989, 1990). The band has finished in the top four of the state every year since the University Interscholastic League began the state marching contest.

The band and color guard are led this year by drum

majors Molly Dale, Christian Salvato and Melissa Williams. Head band director is Don Owens; assistant band director is John Gossett. McAdams Junior High School Band Director is Wade McDonald; Dunbar Middle School Band Director is Cheryl Eby.

Dickinson residents have a lot to brag about this fall: a state champion marching band and the District 24-4A Tri-Championship football team. The students, parents, teachers, coaches and directors made it all possible because of their hard work and belief in the DISD motto, "Success Starts With Me." The next time you see one of these hard-working folks, tell them thanks!

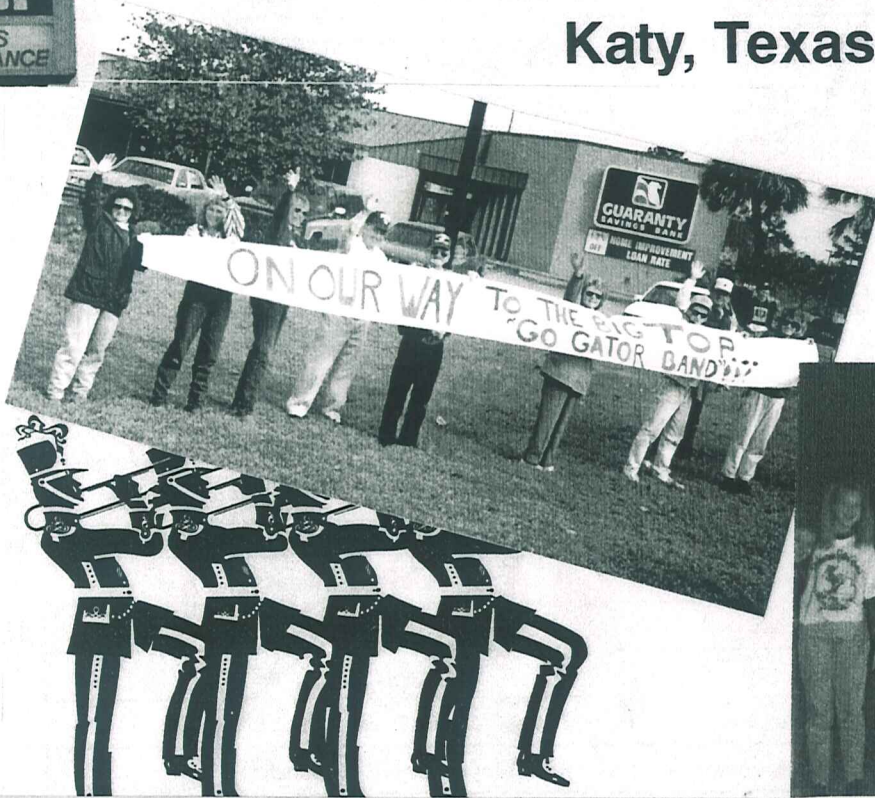
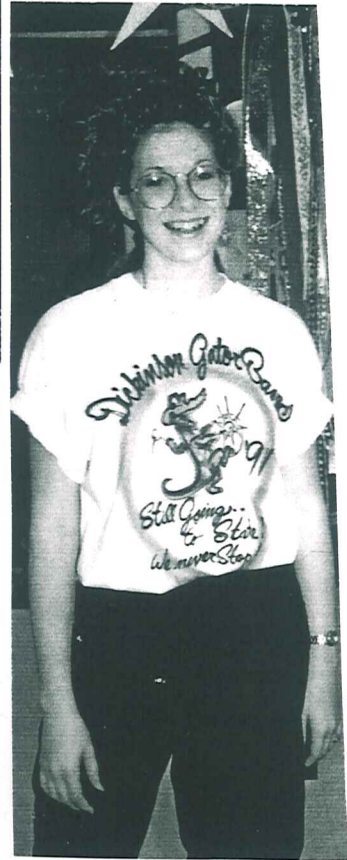


## Class AAAA

Time	School	Director(s)
10:00	Taylor	J.D. Janda, Melissa Batchelor
10:15	Friendswood	Robert MacWilliams
10:30	Santa Fe	Boyd Rowden/Steve Shields
10:45	LaMarque	Denis Kidwell
11:00	Dickinson	Don Owens, John Gossett
11:15	Brazosport	George Mitchell/Jerry Crummel
11:30	LUNCH	

# Region 17 U.I.L.

## Marching Contest October 26, 1991 Rhodes Stadium Katy, Texas



# Band Will Defend State Title

The Dickinson High School Gator Marching Band will try to make it three in a row when they defend their state marching championship Monday in Austin. The band advanced to state after finishing with all five first-place votes in the Area F Contest Nov. 2 in Houston.

The Dickinson High School 4A band advancing to state, will compete against 12 other 4A bands from across Texas in the preliminary contest at 11 a.m. Monday at Nelson Field in Austin. The top five bands will advance to the state finals at 8:35 p.m. Monday in Memorial Stadium on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin. This marks the sixth consecutive year the Dickinson

band has advanced to state, said Director of Music Don Owens. The band won the state championship in 1986, 1989 and 1990, and finished fourth in 1987 and second in 1988. A contingent of several hundred Dickinson ISD supporters will make the trip to Austin to support the band Owens said. Nelson Field is located near the intersection of

U.S. 290 and Berkman Drive in northeast Austin. On 290, turn north onto Berkman Drive and follow on Berkman to the stadium entrance, which is across the street from Reagan High School. Memorial Stadium is located on the UT campus and can be reached by taking an UT exit on Interstate 35.

# GATOR BAND NO. 1



Staff photo by Jim Stotts

Dickinson High School Gator Marching Band drum majors Ali Curtis, left, Spencer Williams the band won the state Class 4A marching band competition Monday in Austin. The band and Ginny Reynolds show off trophies after is directed by Don Owens.

## Gators win 3rd in row

The Dickinson High School Gator Marching Band won its third consecutive Class 4A State Marching Championship Monday night in Austin. The 170-member band received the highest number of points of the five finalists from a panel of 10 judges.

The band, under direction of Don Owens, advanced to the state contest by finishing first in the Area F competition Nov. 2 in Houston. Fourteen Class 4A bands marched in the preliminaries of the state contest Monday in Austin, including Houston-area schools New Caney, Dickinson, Santa Fe and Port Neches-Groves. Dickinson was the only Houston-area school picked to compete in the finals Monday night at Memorial Stadium on the University of Texas campus.

Monday night's final round was held before a crowd of over 20,000. More than 300 Dickinson fans and supporters made the trip to Austin. After the Gator band was proclaimed the winner, the fans and band members flooded the astroturf floor of Memorial Stadium to celebrate until the lights were turned off. The band returned to Dickinson in the early morning hours on Tuesday.



### Dickinson High School Band

#### Recent Accomplishments

First place, State Marching Contest: 1986, 1989, 1990, 1991; Fourth place, 4A State Marching Contest: 1987; Second place, 4A Championship 1988; Texas; Contest 1990; Best of Class Cavalcade of Music Concert Contest, Colorado Springs 1991; Outstanding 4A Band LaMarque Rotary Marching

Contest 1990, 1991; Outstanding Drum Majors, LaMarque Rotary Contest 1991; 14 All-State musicians in past two school years; Director Don Owens one of 10 recipients of UIL Denius Award for outstanding contributions to UIL 1991.





# DICKINSON YOUTH BAND

## RALLY



## RALLY

# RALLY GATORS

# RALLY!

## DHS Band to perform

The Dickinson High School Band will perform for the Republican National Convention from 6 to 7 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 20 at the Astrodome, announced Band Director Don Owens.

The band was among a handful of Houston-area musical organizations invited by Convention Executive Producer David Nash to perform at the convention. Owens said about 100 members of the band will play for conventioners as they enter the Astrodome. "They have promised us the students will get to see the exhibits and will be fed," Owens said.

The invitation caps off a summer of honors for the DISD music program. The McAdams Junior High School Band captured third place in the state junior high division honor band competition. Band Director Wade McDonald entered the competition by submitting concert contest recordings to the state judges.

Owens recently was selected to adjudicate the 5A honor band contest July 26 in San Antonio, as well as the state marching band contest Nov. 9, in Austin. The DHS band will not be eligible to compete in this year's contest because 4A finals are held on odd-number years only.

The Dickinson High School Band will perform for the republican National Convention from 6 to 7 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 20 at the Astrodome, under the direction of Band Director Don Owens.

The band was among a handful of Houston-area musical organizations invited by Convention Executive Producer David Nash to perform at the convention. Owens said about 100 members of the band will play for conventioners as they enter the Astrodome.



Members of the Dickinson High School band and drill team rehearse during a recent early morning session at the school.

The students are scheduled to perform at the Republican National Convention in Houston.

# 1992 REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION

HOUSTON TEXAS

## Band preps for Grand Old Party time

By SCOTT FITZGERALD  
The Daily News

DICKINSON — Grand Old Party members will march to the tunes of the Dickinson High School band, which will perform at the Republican National Convention Aug. 20.

"The kids are really looking forward to it," said band director Don Owens, who is beginning his 20th year of band instruction. "We've got a 50 percent chance of seeing the president. Even if we don't, we should see some important dignitaries anyway."

The Gator band is one of six in the area that have been invited to perform at the convention. The performance will be from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Aug. 20 at the Astrodome.

Besides getting a firsthand glimpse at a political convention, band members are getting a lesson in national security. They have had to submit their names and Social Security

numbers to security personnel, who also will inspect all musical instruments. Each member of the band will be subject to a metal detector test.

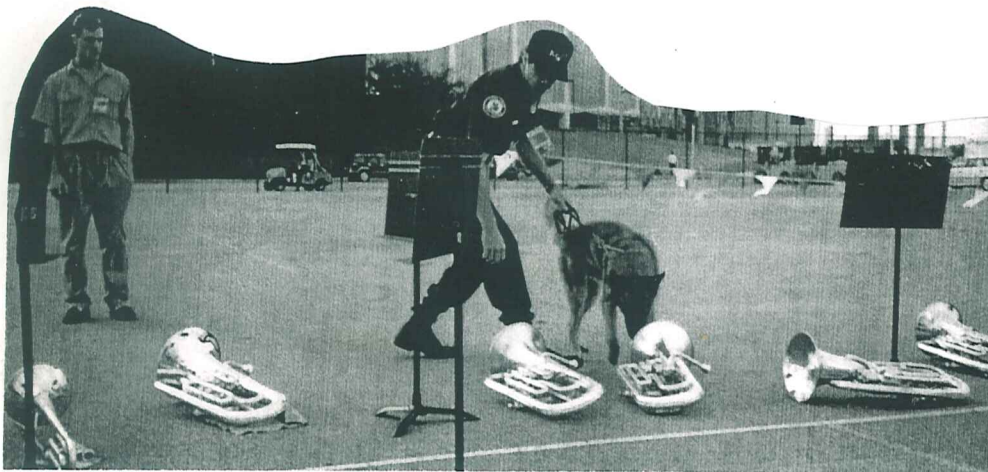
"This is a high-security type deal," Owens said.

President Bush is expected to accept the party's nomination the evening the band performs, he said.

Band members have been invited to the AstroHall to view exhibits and eat after their hour-long performance.

About 100 of the band's 150 members have been selected to perform. They will play pieces by John Philip Sousa, Owens said.

Getting selected to perform at the Republican National Convention adds to the band's long list of accomplishments. The band has captured top honors in state marching band competition four times since 1985.



**BANDS OF AMERICA**

**1992 REGIONAL CHAMPIONS**

**PRELIM PASS**

**COMPETING BAND**

**1992 REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS PASS**

**COMPETING BAND**

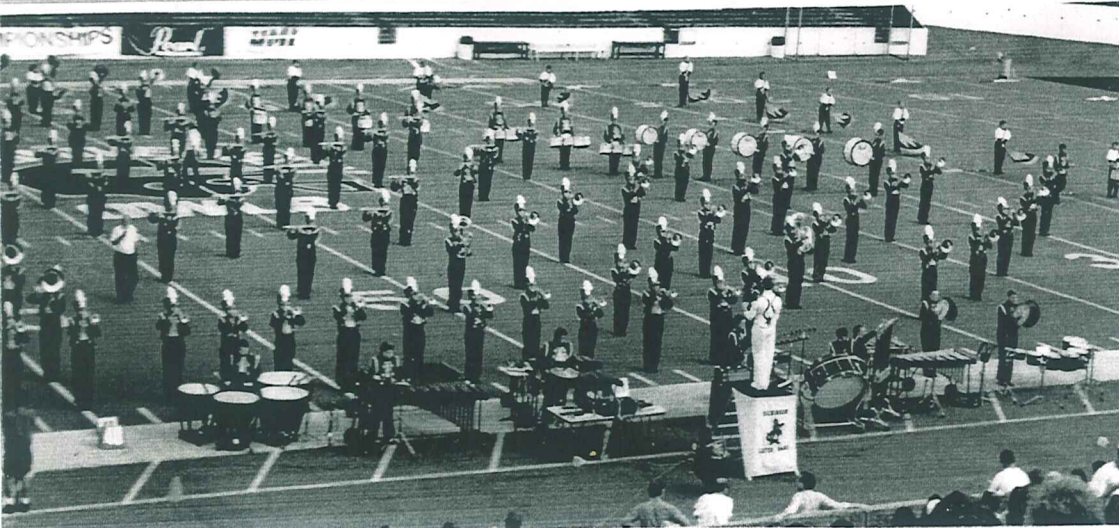
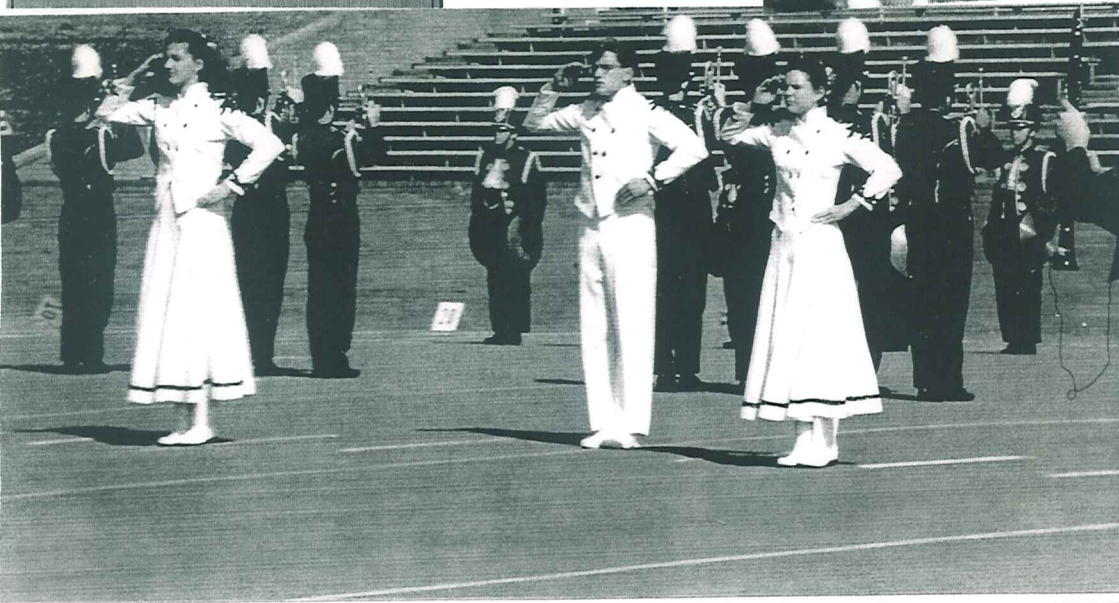


**Dickinson High School**

**HOME OF THE AWESOME GATOR BAND**

**THE BEST IN TEXAS**

**89 90 91**



**DISD band awards**

DICKINSON — Although the reigning Class 4A state champion Dickinson High School Gator Marching Band will not be able to defend its title this year, the band is accumulating other awards in area contests this fall.

The band will not get a chance to return to Austin this month, since the University Interscholastic League moved state 4A marching contests to odd-numbered years only.

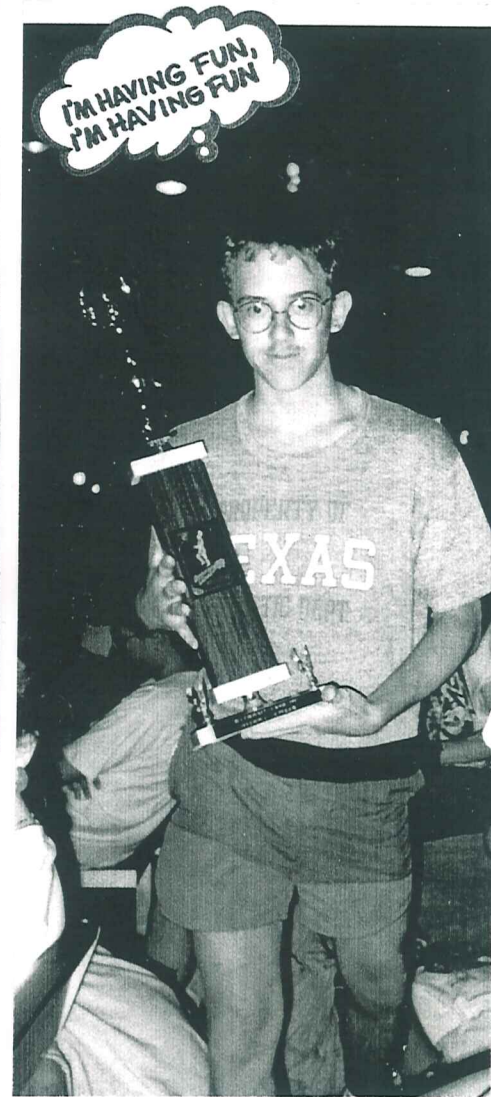
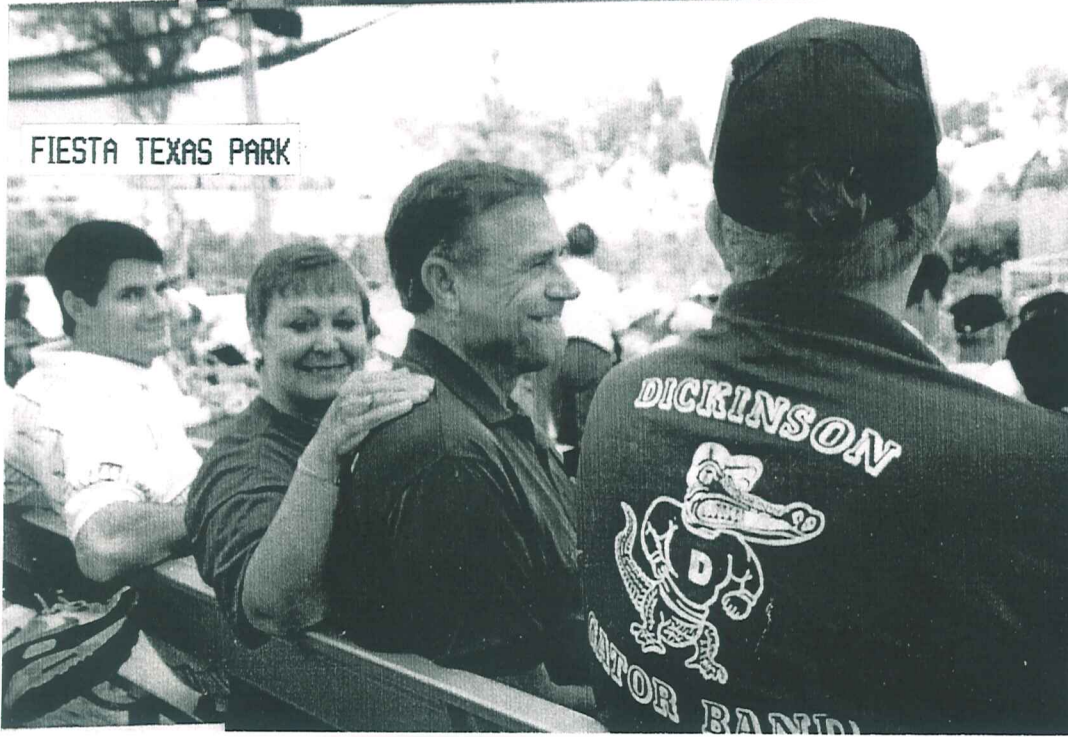
The band left the Bands of America Southwest Regional contest at Rice Stadium in October with its best finish ever in that prestigious

event. The band was the only Class AA group to advance to the finals against larger Class AAA schools such as Klein and Westfield. The DHS band finished sixth out of 24 bands overall and won the High Music and High Visual Awards and Class Champions in Class AA.

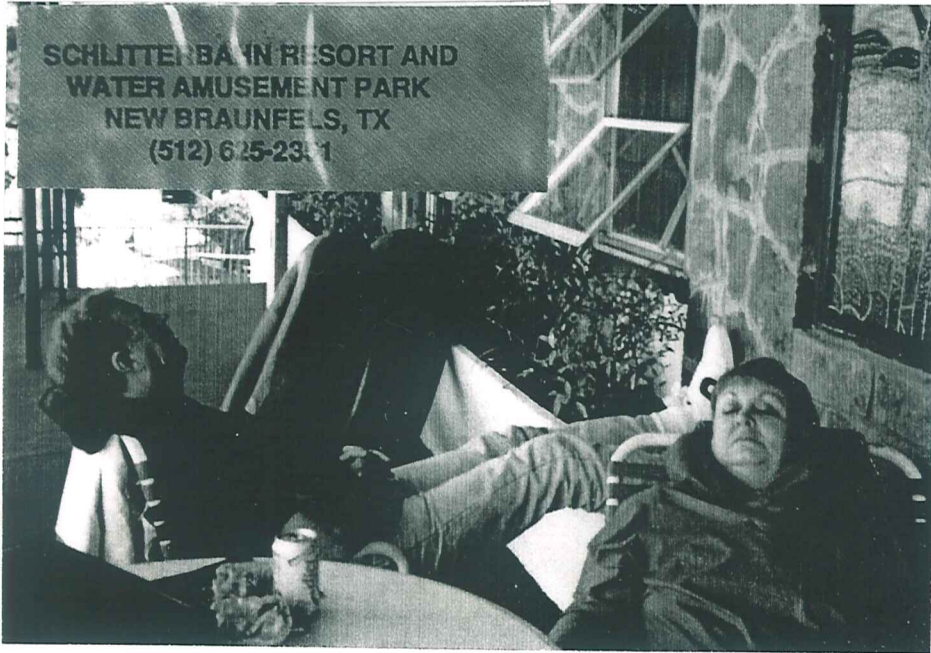
The band captured all First Division ratings at the UIL District contest on Oct. 24 in Katy.

The band will enter its last marching contest of the season Nov. 7 at Sam Houston State University.

FIESTA TEXAS PARK



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WATER AMUSEMENT PARK  
NEW BRAUNFELS, TX  
(512) 625-2311



1993-1994

UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE  
STATE MARCHING BAND CONTEST



November 8, 1993



# DHS band win streak continues

Although they didn't get a shot at defending their state championship, the members of the Dickinson High School Gator Marching Band racked up an impressive array of honors in individual and group competition this fall. The University Interscholastic League (UIL) changed the format for state marching contests, moving class 4A finals to odd-numbered years only, thus denying the DHS band the opportunity to repeat as champs.

The Gator Band nonetheless received straight First Divisions from the judges in the UIL District Marching Contest in November. In lieu of going to state, the band competed in two marching contests it usually does not attend.

The band achieved a Division I rating, Outstanding Class AA Band, and three high achievement citations at the Bands of America contest in Rice Stadium. The Gator band was the only Class AA band to advance to the finals against larger divisions, finishing sixth out of 24.

At the Sam Houston State University Marching Festival, the Dickinson marchers finished second out of 31 bands. DHS competed in the largest division against schools twice its size, remarked Director of Music Don Owens.

The band also made its traditional appearance at the LaMarque Rotary Club Marching Festival, receiving a Division I rating, Outstanding Percussion Line and Outstanding Class 4A Band.

In individual competition, 13 Dickinson High School band students were named to the Region 17 All-Area Band in recent tryouts, while 26 students made the All-Region Band and 41 made the All-District Band.

Competing against 5A schools with two to three times the enrollment as Dickinson High School, the Gator band placed three more students in All-Region than its closest competitors, Fort Bend Clements and Pearland high schools. Dickinson High School placed a greater number of students than any other school in Region 17 in each of the band categories.

Following are the DHS band students who made honor bands this fall. All-State tryouts are Jan. 9.

**All-Area, All-Region and All-District Band:** Jonathon Anderson, Robert Baker, Chad Belanger, Matt Carmona, Erin Denney, Karen Feagins, Jason Hillman, Adrian Jakubas, Lee Ann Janik, Kim Nolen, Elsa Rennie, Brenden Steber, and Christie Watt.

**All-Region and All-District Band:** Nancy Blasberg, John Burescia, Yvette Carbajal, Darren Carney, Jenni Carter, David Funk, Zoe Funk, Jennifer Harms, Kaaren Harstad, Aimee Heidt, Jennifer Lamm, Lisa Monford, Robert Pendergast and Michelle Ross.

**All-District Band:** Jason Browne, Jill Farris, Leslie Gerdes, Jeremy Gernand, Kim Gunn, Jennifer Hartenberger, Trey Janak, Van Johnson, Michael Kulvicki, Katie Luke, Jason Moss, Crystal Neesmith, Jamie Richards and Earnest Sparks.

**All-Region Orchestra:** Chad Belanger, Jennie Carter, Leslie Gerdes, Kaaren Harstad, Adrian Jakubas, Kim Nolen and Brenden Steber.

**Freshman All-Region Orchestra:** Heather Althoff, Jonathon Anderson, Robert Baker, Tiffany Braselton, Jennifer Harms, Kaaren Harstad, Philicia Jackson, Van Johnson and Elsa Rennie.

pete to be chosen as members of two possible all-state orchestras and two all-state bands.

"One out of every 400 students who try for the state level band and orchestra will make it," Owens said. "Last year, eight of our members made it. That's pretty incredible for a band of 161 students."

The 12 members named to the Region 17 All-Area Band are: Jonathon Anderson, Robert Baker, Chad Belanger, Matt Carmona,

Erin Denney, Karen Feagins, Adrian Jakubas, Lee Ann Janik, Kim Nolen, Elsa Rennie, Brenden Steber and Christie Watt.

Anderson, Baker and Rennie are freshmen.

"It's really exciting to know that they have three more years to compete," Owens said.

All-region and all-district band members include: Nancy Blasberg, John Burescia, Yvette Carbajal, Darren Carney, Jenni Carter, David Funk, Zoe Funk, Jennifer Harms, Karen Harstad, Aimee Heidt, Jennifer Lamm, Lisa Monford, Robert Pendergast and Michelle Ross.

All-district band members are: Jason Browne, Jill Farris, Leslie Gerdes, Jeremy Gernand, Kim Gunn, Jennifer Hartenberger, Trey Janak, Van Johnson, Michael Kulvicki, Katie Luke, Jason Moss, Crystal Neesmith, Jamie Richards and Ernest Sparks.

All-region orchestra members include: Chad Belanger, Jennie Carter, Leslie Gerdes, Kaaren Harstad, Adrian Jakubas, Kim Nolen and Brenden Steber.

Freshman all-region band members include: Heather Althoff, Jonathon Anderson, Robert Baker, Tiffany Braselton, Jennifer Harms, Kaaren Harstad, Philicia Jackson, Van Johnson and Elsa Rennie.

The Dickinson band ranked third highest on the number of students who reached the all-state levels.

# 12 Dickinson band members compete for All-State Band

By KAROLYN GEPHART  
ThisWeek Correspondent

A dozen band members representing Dickinson High School are competing at state level for places in the Texas All-State Band and Orchestra after having been selected to the Region 17 All Area Band.

bands in areas south of Houston and west of Interstate 45.

The 1,100 school districts in the state are divided into 22 regions.

"We are really proud of DHS band members, since they were competing with other schools in Region 17 with 3,000 to 3,500 students in their student body," band director Don Owens said. "This year's band ensemble is great because it is composed of team play-

ers, and that makes a great band."

The Dickinson band scored third highest in the number of students who reached the all-state levels.

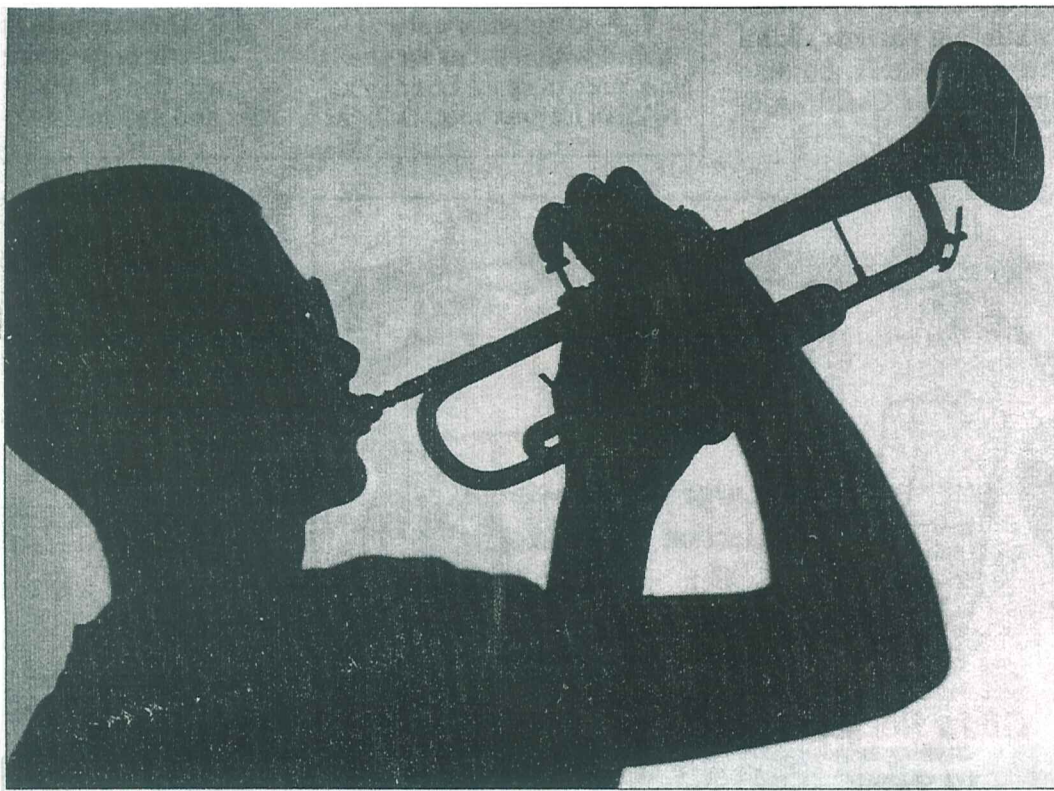
Owens, who has been involved with DHS band for more than 20 years, has seen students advance to the state levels for approximately 15 years.

"We have had outstanding bands consistently year after year, and that can really put the pressure on the members to continue the tradition," Owens said. "I believe that the strongest ensemble is only as strong as each musician is in the group, and like a chain with each link being important, so are the separate members that make up our band. This feeling carries over to our fall marching season, which is the visible way for others to see how good our group is."

At the state level, students com-

ONLY FIVE MORE HOURS UNTIL THEY UNLOCK THE SCHOOL AND I CAN GET IN THERE AND START REHEARSING MATERIAL FOR THE STATE CONTEST!





A Dickinson High School trumpet player is silhouetted as the band practices recently. Band members have been rehearsing into the

evening as they prepare for this weekend's competition at Rice University. (Photo by Kevin Bartram)

# Blasting the competition

## Dickinson High band hopes to march into record book

By ROBERT HOUGH  
The Daily News

It will be business as usual Nov. 8 when the Dickinson High School Marching Gators compete in Austin for the University Interscholastic League State 4A marching band championship.

It will not be business as usual if they don't win.

Hundreds of high school bands and athletic teams crave a shot at a state title, but the Marching Gators have worn the crown after the last three state competitions.

The Gators will have a tuneup performance Saturday in Houston at the Bands of America Marching Band Festival.

After that, band director Don Owens will lead 158 students onto the field to defend the title they earned in 1991. That was the first year of a rule change that set competition for larger, 5A schools on even-numbered years.

Dickinson and other 4A schools compete in odd-numbered years.

If the Gators win, they'll become only the second band in the 14-year history of the competition to win four years in a row, said Phyllis Broz, UIL music secretary.

Tens of thousands of people will be watching, but that's not a problem for the band members, said Zoe Funk, one of three drum majors.

The 17-year-old senior is an old hand at winning state titles. She played in the 1990 and '91 bands.

"It's pretty amazing, sort of breathtaking" Funk said. "You see the whole crowd and it makes you a little nervous, but everyone wants it so bad, that we settle down. Everybody's focused on doing their best."

Band members apply that attitude to their academic work, said Ron Alhorn, Dickinson High School principal.

"The class the kids have on the marching field carries right on into the classroom," he said. "The kids in the band generally make extremely good grades."

Although Dickinson is, as Owens said, a small bedroom community without the property or personal wealth of Clear Creek or Plano, the band can handle the best.

"It's an expectation of the program," he said. "There is a desire. We want to be on top. If you don't have the desire to be number one, you're not going to get there. If you do have the desire, you still might not get there. It's our responsibility as a staff to sell the kids on the idea that it's worth it."

### DICKINSON

#### Quick Look

- Bands of America Marching Band Festival
- Saturday, Rice Stadium
- Preliminary competition 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- DHS expected to take field around 12:30 p.m.
- Top 10 bands start final competition at 7:45 p.m.

The desire is by no means excessive, Funk said.

"Nobody gets too stressed out," she said. "We all enjoy being in the band and want to do real well, but I don't think people go overboard about it."

That desire to do well is such that Owens, a 21-year Dickinson school district veteran, is able to teach challenging songs.

"The band will take the field playing a fanfare and they'll play four movements," he said. "They'll play 'Symphonic Metamorphosis' by Paul Hindemith. It's real high-brow. It's 20th century music, but it's very deep-rooted."

Owens said his students enjoy and appreciate the esoteric tunes.

"Our kids love it," he said. "They absolutely love it. You could work on it for 100 years and never get tired of it, as opposed to pop music, which is here today and gone tomorrow."

Funk agreed that she and the rest of the band enjoy playing the music.

"It's some of the best music we've had in a few years," she said. "It gives you goose bumps when everybody gets it right."

# BAND ON A RUN

## Dickinson High marches to 4th straight UIL title

by NEIL ORMAN  
The Daily News

Tens of thousands of people watched the Dickinson High School Marching Gators dominate the competition Monday night to win its fourth straight state 4A band title at Memorial Stadium in Austin.

The Gators have won five state University Interscholastic League crowns — in 1986, 1989, 1990, 1991 and now 1993 — triumphing over hundreds of Texas high school bands.

### DICKINSON

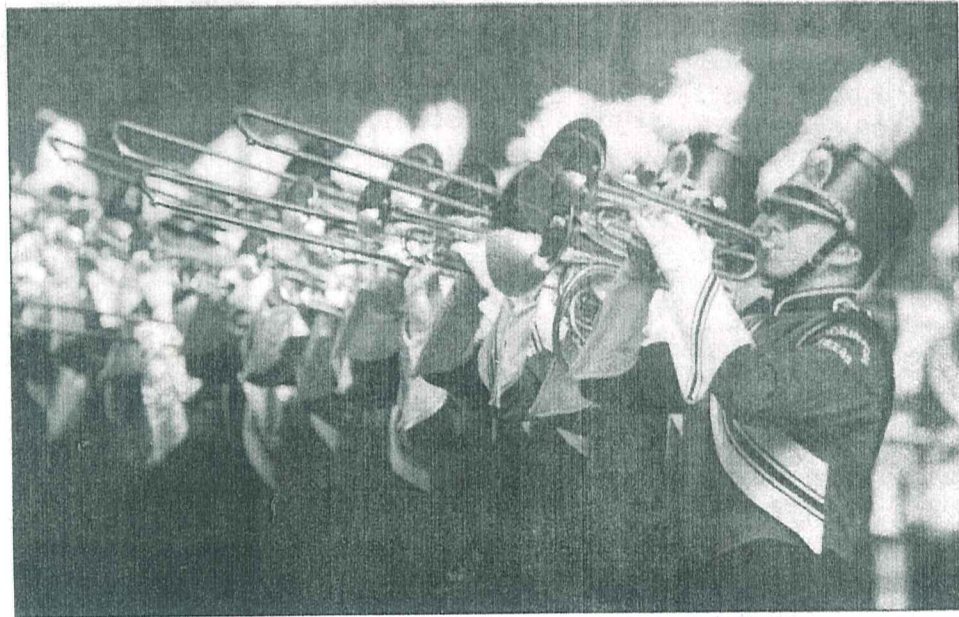
Dickinson did not compete last year because of a 1991 rule change that set competition for 4A schools in odd-numbered years.

By winning again, the Gators became only the second band in the 4-year history of the UIL competition to win four consecutive championships.

Dickinson band director Don Owens, a 21-year Dickinson school district veteran, said the band's continued success was due to long-range planning.

"You have to pick musical pieces with a high level of difficulty, in music and marching, that peak on the last day of competition," Owens said.

This year, the 158-member band



The Dickinson High School band performs during last weekend's Bands of America Marching Band Festival at Rice Stadium in Houston. On Monday,

performed four movements and a fanfare from the "Symphonic Metamorphosis" by Paul Hindemith.

"It's real highbrow," Owens said. "It's 20th-century music. But it's very deep-rooted."

The band progressed through several levels of competition to win the state prize, beginning with regional competition, in which every band in the state competes. The Gators then won the area competition and advanced with 14 other bands to the state competition.

Owens said the parents and students are the heart and soul of the Dickinson band, and they deserve the real credit.

the band won the University Interscholastic League 4A Marching Band competition for the fourth straight year. (Photo by Kevin Bartram)

After the performance, some of the band members worried that the band did not do well enough to win.

"We didn't feel like we did as well as we thought we could," said drum major Jennifer Hartenberger.

Fellow drum major Lee Ann Janik agreed.

"I didn't think we did that well," Janik said. "But I was satisfied after I saw the ... scores."

Apparently, it was the band's perfectionist spirit that helped propel it to victory in front of thousands of fans, despite their initial impressions.

"It was awesome," Hartenberger said. "It's so amazing to perform inside that stadium."

## Band seizes UIL Sweepstakes Trophy!

Kate Henderson

During the week of April 27, the Symphonic Band and Concert Band I traveled to Pearland High School in order to participate in UIL competition. The bands have made tradition out of the usually rare and outstanding score of all

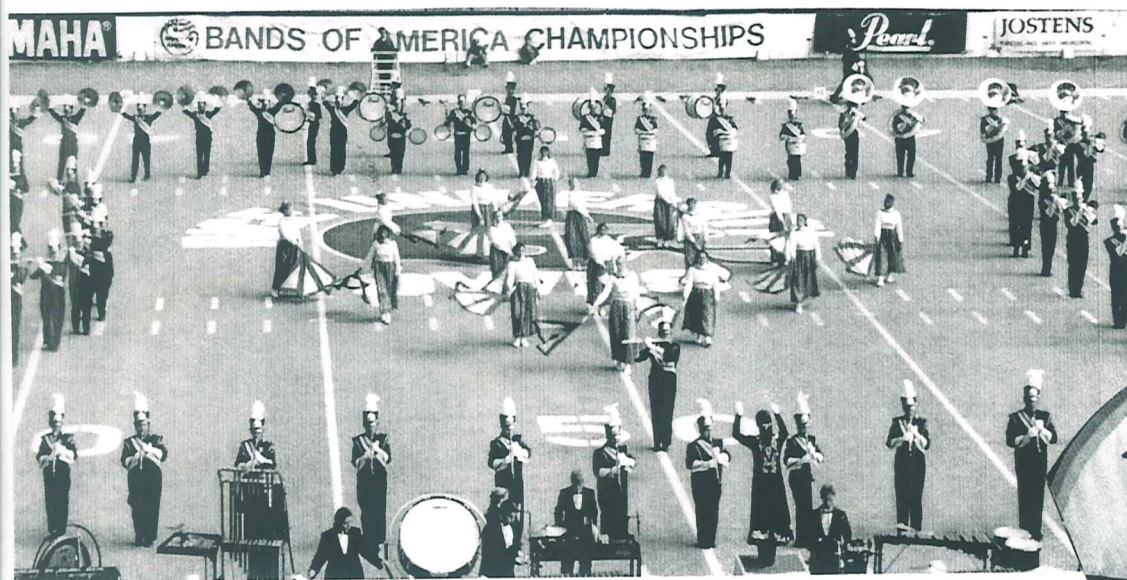
division I ratings on the stage and in sightreading. This score is the highest score you can receive at the competition though two of the judges were so moved by the Symphonic Band's performance that they wrote 1+'s on the score sheets.

## Symphonic Band wins yet another contest in Colorado!

Kate Henderson

The heavenly atmosphere of the Rocky mountains set the scene for another victory and spectacular performance by the band. Even with many unavoidable mechanical problems, they still rose high above any other band at the Winterpark Festival. Though

a good portion of the band felt they could have done much better with a little rest and some air that wasn't quite as thin, the judges still ranked our own DHS band highest out of the 46 bands participating with an avalanche causing score of 97.8 out of 100 points.



# 'Blue chip' band makes its DISD stockholders happy

DICKINSON — There's a company in Dickinson that if it were listed on the New York Stock Exchange, would be considered a "Blue Chip" and it's employees are not paid even a penny.

In fact, the company has no income but their product is in great demand, all across the country. The employees are at work often before the sun comes up and are so committed, they often work long after most employees at other companies have left for the day. This most successful company uses wood, brass, animal skin and some synthetic materials to manufacture their product.

While it doesn't take a college degree or even any higher education, it does require a considerable amount of dedication, pride, a desire to achieve excellence, and a tremendous amount of effort from not only the

employees, but their families.

Many folks say that it is a science, others believe it is an art — actually, it is the science or art of pleasing tones that most of us enjoy listening to, especially when it is the Dickinson High School Band. That's right, probably the most well-known band in the state and its CEO is Don Owens, band director.

Owens is a proud man, especially when it comes to talking about any of Dickinson's bands, whether it be the elementary, junior high or high school band. He says that there are so many recognitions and honors that his bands have received over 21 years, he could fill a notebook with single spaced entries of all their cherished awards.

He said, "You know, all I do is to lead these kids. They're the ones who put in the endless hours and effort

that brings recognition to the community of Dickinson and our school."

The Dickinson High School band has won hundreds of awards ranging from sweepstakes, division one's, Outstanding Bands, Regional, District, State, the "Best" of all Texas' 4A bands in the state. There's not another band anywhere in this area that can boast of such awards, stated Ron Ahlhorn, principal at Dickinson High School.

Owens proudly smiled when he began to list the honors achieved in 1992-93. "Under the marching band category, we won 12 different honors," he said.

"The kids got a Division One at La Marque in the Rotary Marching Festival, outstanding percussion line of the entire contest at the same contest, while they also earned an 'outstanding' in class AAAA."

AUSTIN - The Dickinson High School Marching Gator Band Showed again Monday that they are tops among 4 A schools by winning their fourth title in a row and fifth in seven years. This a tremendous accomplishment, considering that the band could not compete last year because of changes in the UIL contest, which alternates every other year between 3 and 5 A schools and 2 and 4 A schools. The band is under the direction of Don Owens.

## DICKINSON HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND MAKES IT FOUR IN A ROW

### Resolution

DHS Symphonic Band Member Amy Heidt read a resolution naming the high school band hall in honor of retiring Director Don Owens. Trustees unanimously approved the resolution. Trustees welcomed everyone to a reception for Don Owens in the Professional Development Center.



**Dickinson High School  
Symphonic Band  
Dickinson, Texas**

**Performing Saturday, March 26  
10:30 a.m.**

Band President: **Aimee Heidte**  
Band Booster Presidents:  
**Margaret & Dr. Darrell Carney**

For contest and festival purposes, approximately 1,150 Texas high schools are divided into five classifications (1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A) and 22 regions. Dickinson is a 4A school located in Music Region XVII. There is an estimated 115,000 bandmen throughout the State of Texas who choose approximately 250 All-State Wind and Percussion Players. The odds of making All-State are one out of 400 bandmen. The Dickinson Band Program is committed to excellence. Since 1973, the program has produced 103 All-Staters and has an average of 91% Division One ratings in solo competitions. The band has won the University of Houston Solo and Ensemble Contest 15 out of 17 times, is a consistent UIL Sweepstakes winner (Division I in Concert, Sight Reading, and Marching), and has been awarded "Best in Class" in Florida, Oklahoma, Georgia, Illinois, California, Colorado, and Texas. In marching, the band has won "Best in 2A" at the Bands of America Southwest Regional Competition in 1989, 1992, and 1993. The band was also named Texas Class 4A State Marching Champions in 1986, 1989, 1990, 1991-1992 and 1993-1994.

In 1980, McAdams Junior High School Band, the only feeder band to Dickinson, was named Honor Band of Texas. The McAdams Band consistently ranks in the top five in Texas and was one of the two schools in the United States that was awarded the prestigious Sudler Cup in 1993. The band is led by Mr. Wade McDonald, assisted by Mr. Ron Pruitt.

The strength of the program lies in the high quality of the students, parents, administration, and the strong support of the Board of Education and the community of Dickinson.

# DICKINSON

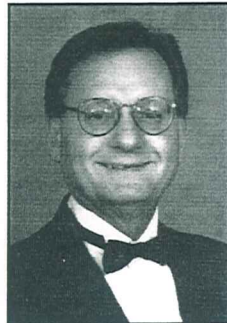
## High School Symphonic Band



### Mr. Don Owens, Director

Mr. Don Owens is in his 34th year as a high school band director in the states of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas. His bands acquired "honor band" status in each of those states. He received degrees from Southeastern State University, in Durant, Oklahoma, and North Texas State University, in Denton, Texas. For the past 21 years, he has served as Director of Music, Symphonic Band Director, and Marching Band Director of the Dickinson ISD. He frequently serves as a clinician and adjudicator, and has held many offices at the regional and state levels.

Mr. Owens was inducted into the Oklahoma Bandmasters Hall of Fame in 1982, and in 1990 (sponsored by his principal and superintendent) was chosen by the Texas Activities Association to receive the prestigious Denius Sponsor Excellence Award. Mr. Owens' instructional skills have been carried forward in his family as well, with all three of his children being members of the Texas All-State Band and Orchestra.



### Mr. John Gossett, Director

Mr. John Gossett has been the Assistant Director of Bands at Dickinson High School for 18 years. His teaching responsibilities include teaching all of the sixth grade beginning woodwind students, assisting the marching and symphonic band, and directing the concert band, which consistently earns first division ratings in UIL competitions.

A native of Durant, Oklahoma, Mr. Gossett received both a Bachelor and a Master of Music Education degree from the University of Oklahoma. Prior to teaching at Dickinson, he taught for seven years in Maysville and Blackwell, Oklahoma, where his bands received consistent superior ratings.

Mr. Gossett is a member of Phi Mu Alpha, Texas Bandmasters Association, and Texas Music Education Association.

### Community Background

Dickinson High School is located in Galveston County, midway between Houston and Galveston, and is home to the 1989 Heisman Trophy Winner Andre Ware. Dickinson Independent School District is a seven campus district, serving approximately 6,000 students.

The high school is a large 4A high school, offering 189 courses, including band, choir, and drama. There are 115 teachers and administrators on the campus, which has the largest number of National Merit Commended Students in Galveston County.

In 1991, the district adopted the Quality Schools concepts of Dr. William Glasser and the management concepts of Dr. Edward Deming.

The Dickinson High School Gator athletic program has accumulated a State Championship in football and numerous District, Bi-District, Regional, and Quarter Final Championships in a variety of boys and girls sports.

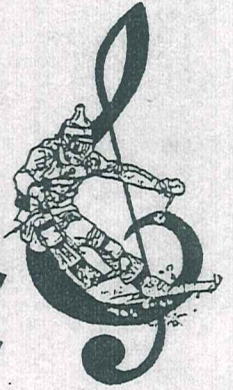


Dickinson  
High School



HOME OF THE  
NO 1 CLASS 4A  
MARCHING BAND  
IN ALL OF TEXAS

WINTER  
PARK SKI-  
Music  
FESTIVAL



APRIL 7-10 & 14-17

1994

The Don Owens  
Band Hall

A Master Teacher  
Who For Two Decades  
Inspired His Students  
to Achieve  
Unsurpassed Excellence

Dedicated  
1994



**Don Owens Honored with Dedication**

Dickinson Independent School District and members of the Gator Band recently held a dedication ceremony to dedicate the high school band hall to longtime and retired Band Director, Don Owens. Several hundred citizens, students, board members and administrators attended the event. Owens served the district for 21 years and band director. Under his leadership, the band won state championships in 1986, 89, 90, 91 and 93. Owens also was one of ten recipients of the Denius Award, a state-wide University Interscholastic League awards for excellence. Owens and his wife now live in Oklahoma.



**Owens Honored**

The Board presented a certificate of achievement to Director of Music Education Don Owens, who was named one of 10 recipients of the University Interscholastic League Denius Award. In its first year, the award seeks to highlight the outstanding contributions of UIL sponsors. Owens has been Dickinson High School band director since 1973, and has led the marching band to three state championships.



## TCHS Stingaree Marching Band product of fine talent, hard work

Editor: Last Friday night, I watched as the Sting Band took the field for the last time this year. I watched as the Drum Major led them onto the field in precision formation.

Her salute, the sprinkle of glitter and yes, even the tears were poignant reminders of the passing of time. I thought of all the band members, but especially the Seniors. The Class of 2002, a palindrome class.

This year represents a culmination of many years of hard work and devotion. I drove down Palmer Highway everyday to go to work.

I saw the band practicing in the parking lot on numerous early summer mornings and many late afternoons. I thought how they must have felt dragging themselves out of bed, while many of their peers "slept in." All those images cascaded through my mind as I saw the sharply dressed precision marching machine take the field. The whistles blew and the half-time show began.

I watched precise turns, crisp routines and rhythmic cadences. I recognized the hours of practice and dedication represented. I appreciate their hard work and I thought about how much we fans take for granted. I admired the gleaming tubas, the glittering brass keys and the awesome percussion. I thought of all the marching practices and countless music rehearsals involved. I realized that "Band" is not mandatory. None of those students are forced into the band, they chose it!!! In addition, they chose all the hard work that goes along with it. Maybe they always wanted to be in the band, 'way back in elementary school. Maybe they dreamed of Friday nights and the expectant hush from the stands. They are truly remarkable and I hope if you know a band member you thank them for their efforts and encourage them.

The next time you are at a football game, be part of the standing ovation, they earned it!!!

Donna Judy Alvarado Ortiz  
Texas City



Texas City H.S.  
2001-2002

**2002-2010: Turner/Clift M.S., Waxahachie, Texas (all beginners; 6th grade only)**  
 •All Division One Ratings for eight consecutive years  
 •“Outstanding Band of Contest” thirteen consecutive times

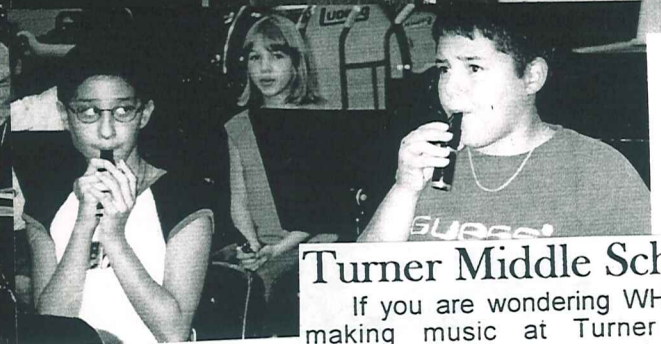
**Pre-Sandy Lake Contest: Six Division One ratings in concert  
 Five Division One ratings in Sight Reading**

**Sandy Lake Band Festival:  
 Attended 10 times: “Outstanding of Contest” eight times**

**Festival in the Sticks, Maypearl, Texas:  
 Attended one time: “Outstanding of Contest”**

**Beach Within Reach Contest, Ft. Worth, Texas:  
 Attended four times: “Outstanding Band in Class” four times**

**2002-2003**



**Turner Middle School**

If you are wondering WHOOOOS making music at Turner Middle School, it's 30 clarinets, 24 low brass, 3 oboes, 22 trumpets, 14 percussion, 14 French Horns, 23 flutes, and 7 saxophones. Ms. Mann, from the Junior High, teaches the 3 oboes and Mr. Browning, from the High School, teaches the percussion class. Ms. Owens, assisted by Ms. Hudgin, student teacher from the University of North Texas, teaches the remainder of the band classes.

As I have observed them every day, they have gone from putting the instrument together, to making squawking sounds, on to note sounds and now they are sounding pretty good on "Mary Had a Little Lamb." It has been interesting to see the transformation. And that is who is making music at TMS.



## TURNER NEWS

The Turner Middle School Band performed three numbers for the UIL Concert judges on Thurs., April 15, and received Division One ratings from all three judges. They performed *High School Cadets* by John Philip Sousa, arranged by Ralph Ford, *Dance Celebration* by Robert W. Smith, and *Ritmico!* by Robert Sheldon. Many positive remarks were made by the judges.

On Saturday, May 1, the TMS Band performed for the Sandy Lake Music Festival in Dallas. This time, they performed *High School Cadets* and *Ritmico!* There were thirty bands in the competition from Plano, Richardson, Carrollton, Dallas, Irving, Ft. Worth, and many other places. Once again, the TMS Band received Division One ratings from all three judges. At the end of the competition, the TMS Band was awarded "Best Band in Class" of the thirty bands that performed. Many parents were in attendance for the performance and for the awards ceremony.

In addition to a busy schedule in preparing for the Sandy Lake Festival, the TMS Band has learned additional music for our elementary school orientations. The Turner Middle School Band will perform its Spring Concert on Thur., May 20, 7:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center Auditorium. Admission is free. Mr. Michael Timms is Principal of TMS.  
~Donnie & Margie Owens

## TURNER NEWS

Turner finished the year with a very successful concert on May 20<sup>th</sup>, which was well attended. A recording was made at this concert and at the Christmas concert. A CD with both concerts on it will be available in June for the price of \$12. So far we have signed up 115 fifth graders for next year's band. We thank everyone for their support and wish you all a great summer.



Turner is rocking as the band is making music with the new arrangements being prepared for contests and concerts this spring. They have permission to play for a "rating only" at the the U.I.L. contest on April 15 at the High School Fine Arts Building. Mr. Davis, High School Band Director, made the arrangements so that Turner could perform at the end of the scheduled H.S. Bands. Turner band will compete at Sandy Lake again this year on May first. They will also perform for each fifth grade campus while they are at Turner for orientation during May. In addition, they will play a Spring Concert on May 20, also at the High School. Interviews with fifth grade students and parents will take place at their own elementary school with the following schedule: Dunaway..May 3; Shackelford..May4; Wedgeworth..May10; Northside..May13. The time for each campus is 6:30--8:30P.M. We

# Turner band brings home top honors

By JENNIFER A. HOWELL

Daily Light staff writer

For the third year in a row, Turner Middle School Band has won outstanding beginner band at Sandy Lake Festival. Each judge gave the band a 1-plus rating.

Although the contest continues through May 6, the sixth-graders received the highest score to date this year when they competed against bands, choirs and orchestras from grades six to 12 last week. The event began March 26 and claims to be the

world's largest music festival.

"You talk about an excited bunch of kids. The awards assembly was really gratifying," band director Donnie Owens said.

The 38th annual Sandy Lake Festival, in Dallas, began with 11 bands its first year and has grown to more than 1,640 organizations. Turner Middle School has participated since the early 1980s.

Judges of Turner Middle School's performance included Travis Almany, associate direc-

tor of bands at Texas A&M University; Don Hannah, 2007 inductee into the Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame and mentor for the Fort Worth ISD band program; and Col. Joe T. Haney, retired director of music at Texas A&M University.

"What a tremendous band you are. This was great. You play with such energy," read Hannah's notes on his scorecard.

"This was delightful in every respect," Haney wrote. "It's hard to believe that these young stu-

dents could play so well. This is rather difficult music for such a young group. They play with so much maturity and knowledge of music. I loved it. Congratulations to each of you."

Almany was equally impressed and wrote, "Wow! Such mature sounds. You do not play like sixth-graders. You are amazing. Such a well-disciplined, great-looking group with great stage presence. Very impressive in every way. Thank

you for all of the outstanding work that is obviously going on at Turner Middle School."

Owens' attributes the band's success to the students' "great work ethic."

"We had a professor from North Texas State University drive down to hear the TMS band (at Sandy Lake)," Owens said, saying that Haney, a world-renowned trumpet instructor, was a former college professor of his.

"He has judged us in previous years (at Sandy Lake), but he wasn't judging on Friday, he was just there to hear us play," Owens said, noting that the band is beginning to "pick up some pretty widespread recognition - throughout the U.S. even - because we repeatedly perform well."

"It's an amazing group of kids and it is showing up in their performance. It's an awesome group of parents, too. They're so supportive," he said, also giving recognition to TMS administration.

"This is such a good school," he said.



# Clift Middle School Band

2008-2009



Texas Bandmasters Association

Celebrating Over 60 Years of Service

14501 Blanco Rd.  
San Antonio, TX 78216

## SUNDAY

Subject: CONGRATULATIONS TO DONNIE OWENS!

June 29, 2008

# Leader of the band

## Donnie Owens earns TMA's Meritorious Achievement Award

This August, as sixth-graders walk into their brand new band hall at Clift Middle School, they will be greeted by band director Donnie Owens.

They will learn, as have the hundreds of previous sixth-grade band students, the words "band director" and Donnie Owens are, for all intents and purposes, synonymous.

During the past 46 years, as he has successfully developed public school band students into award-winning performers, Owens has earned numerous accolades and awards, including his most recent: the Meritorious Achievement Award from the Texas Bandmasters Association.

**CAROL  
KIMBERLIN**

**WISD BAND  
BOOSTERS**

The TBA was formed in 1920 to organize band contests and promote bands throughout Texas. During the past 88 years, the organization has grown into the largest state band organization, influencing every aspect of public school band work. The Meritorious Achievement Award, which recognizes teachers and directors in Texas for outstanding achievements, is one of the association's special honors.

It's a special honor for a special man.

Owens' journey began in 1960, when he received his bachelor's degree in music education from Southeastern Oklahoma State University, where he also served as band presi-

dent and student conductor. He earned his master's in music education from North Texas State University in 1967 while playing trombone in the summer lab bands as well as concert bands and orchestras. School districts benefiting from his experience and knowledge include Antlers, Okla.; Junction City, Kan.; Durant, Okla.; and Texas schools located in Dickinson, Arlington, Pearland, Fort Bend, Texas City and, most recently, Waxahachie.

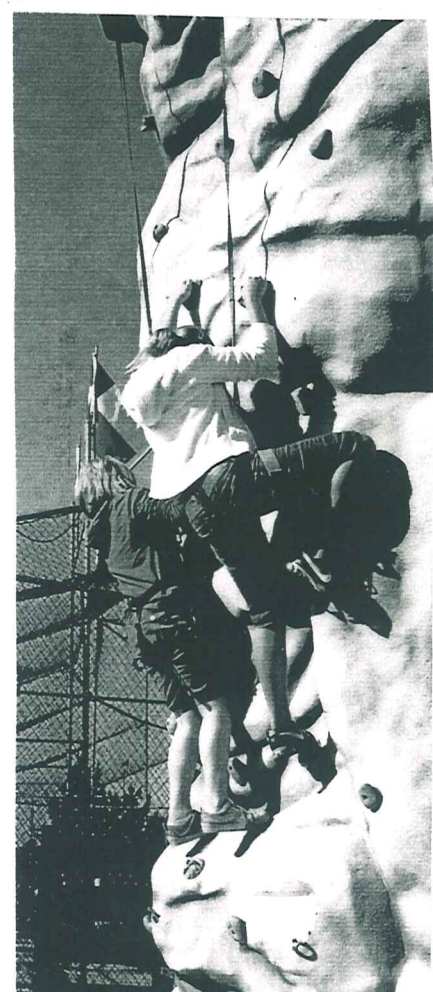
During Owens' tenure at Junction City, the high school band was invited to perform for the 1966 Kansas Music Educators' Convention and, under his direction, the Durant High School Band received an invitation to perform for the Oklahoma Music Educator's Convention while featuring alto saxophonist, Don Sinta. The Durant band also performed for the 1972 Midwest National Band and Orchestra Clinic.

Visitors to the Dickinson High School Band Hall are greeted by awards, plaques and trophies earned by the band with Owens as director. His efforts during a 20-year span produced included the Dickinson band earning TMEA Honor Band and the UIL State Marching Contest five times. The concert bands were also recognized with more than 40 outstanding of contest awards.

The past six years have found Owens serving as a catalyst for the Waxahachie ISD band program by forming the foundation of the youngest



## NEW SHIRTS



## CLIFT MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND GARAGE SALE

Saturday, October  
11

WHS Front  
Parking Lot  
8 am to 2 pm



COMING  
SOON!

Saturday, October 25

No instruments needed -  
only students and parents in need of a day of  
fun and "getting to know" your other band  
members! More info to come!

# The Waxahachie Independent School District

*proudly presents*



## The Clift Middle School Band

*In a Spring Concert*



**Conductor, Donnie Owens**

**Assisted by: Margie Owens  
Reggie Cook  
Dan Francis**

**Thursday, May 20, 2010, 7:00 P.M.**



### .....Program.....

- The Star Spangled Banner. . . . . Francis Scott Key, Arr. by John Kinyon  
(Assisted by the Waxahachie Boy Scouts of America, Troop 234)
- Espana Cani . . . . . Pascual Marquina Narro, Arr. by Michael Story  
(A selection for the Pre-Sandy Lake Performance on 4-15-10, the Sandy Lake Music Festival on 4-23-10 and the Beach Within Reach Contest on 5-7-10)
- Lullaby for Band . . . . . Robert W. Smith  
(A selection for Pre-Sandy Lake Contest and the Sandy Lake Music Festival on 5-1-10 and the Beach Within Reach Contest on 5-7-10)
- Hey! Baby!. . . . . Margaret Cobb & Bruce Channell, Arr. by Michael Story
- America, My Home. . . . . Teresa Jennings, Arr/ by Paul Jennings  
Featuring the Wedgeworth Elementary Choir  
directed by Leah Kelso
- Fresh Trash. . . . . Ed Argenziano  
Clift Middle School Percussion Ensemble  
Directed by Reggie Cook, WISD Percussion Instructor
- Jazz Band Jubilee. . . . . Steve Frank
- Arabian Dances. . . . . Roland Barrett  
(A selection for the Pre-Sandy Lake Performance on 4-15-10, the Sandy Lake Music Festival on 4-23-10 and the Beach Within Reach Contest on 5-7-10)



### Honors

- Clift M.S. Solo and Ensemble Contest:** Friday, February 26, Five Division 1++'s, 52 Division 1+'s, 140 Division 1's and 28 Division 2's.
- Pre-Sandy Lake Band Festival:** Clift Middle School, Thursday, April 15, Division One ratings in Stage Presence, Warm-up, Concert Performance and Sight Reading.
- Sandy Lake Band Festival:** Dallas, Texas, Friday, April 23. Division 1, 1+, 1+ in Concert Performance; Best Band In Class.
- Sandy Lake Band Festival:** Dallas, Texas, Saturday, May 1. Division I, I, I in Concert Performance; Best Band in Class.
- Beach Within Reach Festival:** Fort Worth, Texas, Friday, May 7. Division I, I, I in Concert Performance; Best Band in Class.

# Owens to receive honors

## From STAFF REPORTS

The Texas Bandmasters Convention will take place in July and Donnie Owens of Waxahachie is one of four Texas band directors being inducted into the Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame.

The honor was voted upon by Phi Beta Mu, the International Band Masters Fraternity.

Additionally, in January of this year, Owens was notified that he had been elected as a Bandworld Legion of Honor Laureate, sponsored by the John Philip Sousa Foundation.

Owens was selected by a committee representing all areas of North America.

In December, Owens will attend the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago, where he will be one of two band directors across the United States to be awarded this honor. He is the 15th Texas band director to receive this award since its inception in 1989.

His past achievements include being awarded the "Meritorious Achievement Award" by the Texas Band Masters Association in the summer of 2008, which

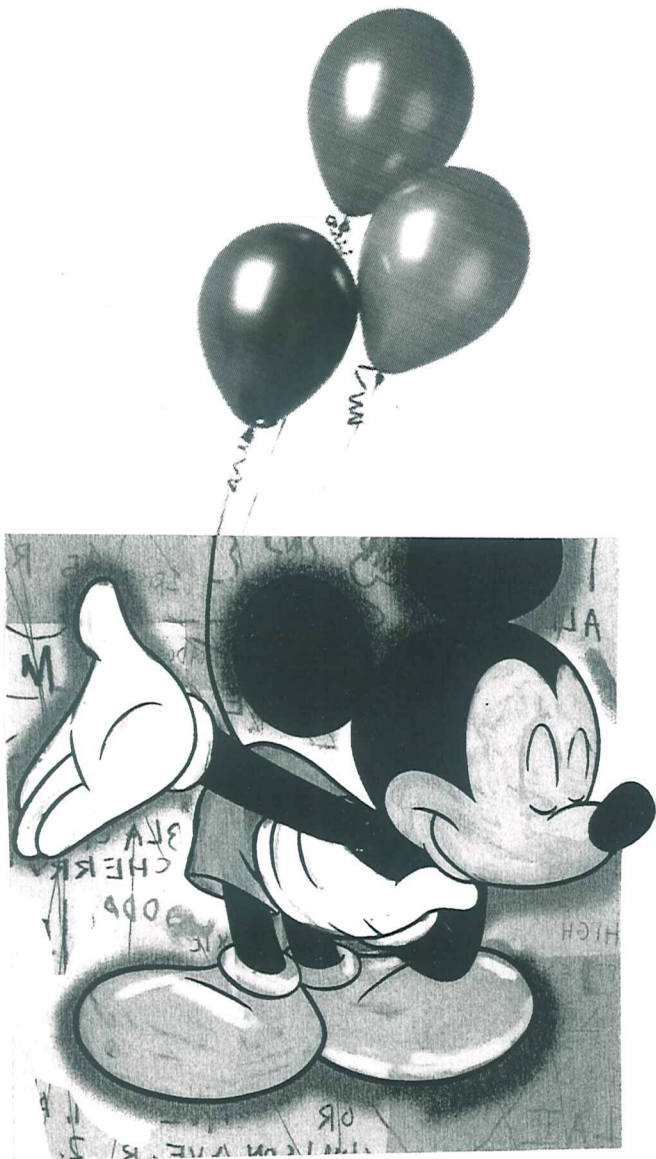
reads: "In recognition of your exemplary professionalism and invaluable contributions to the education of young people through the band medium.

Owens gives much credit to his wife Margie Owens, principal Ruth Sutton and all of the Clift Middle School employees for the honors being received.

The awards and honors were based upon an accumulation of awards and honors throughout Owens' 48-year teaching career.

**Grand  
Champion**  
of the  
**Sandy Lake Music Festival!**  
*Twice in one year -  
Way to go, CMS!*





If I had my career to do over, I would do it the same way. I have truly been blessed to have had forty-eight years of great students and parents, a cooperative band staff, and most of all, a family that understood and tolerated the many hours that I spent while working with children, especially my wife Margie. I am very appreciative to my Phi Beta Mu brothers and sisters for making it possible for this most prestigious honor—the Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame, Class of 2010.

Donnie Owens