

Denny Whitley

Band Director

Timpson High School 1971-76

Clarksville High School 1976-89

Whitehouse High School 1989-2017





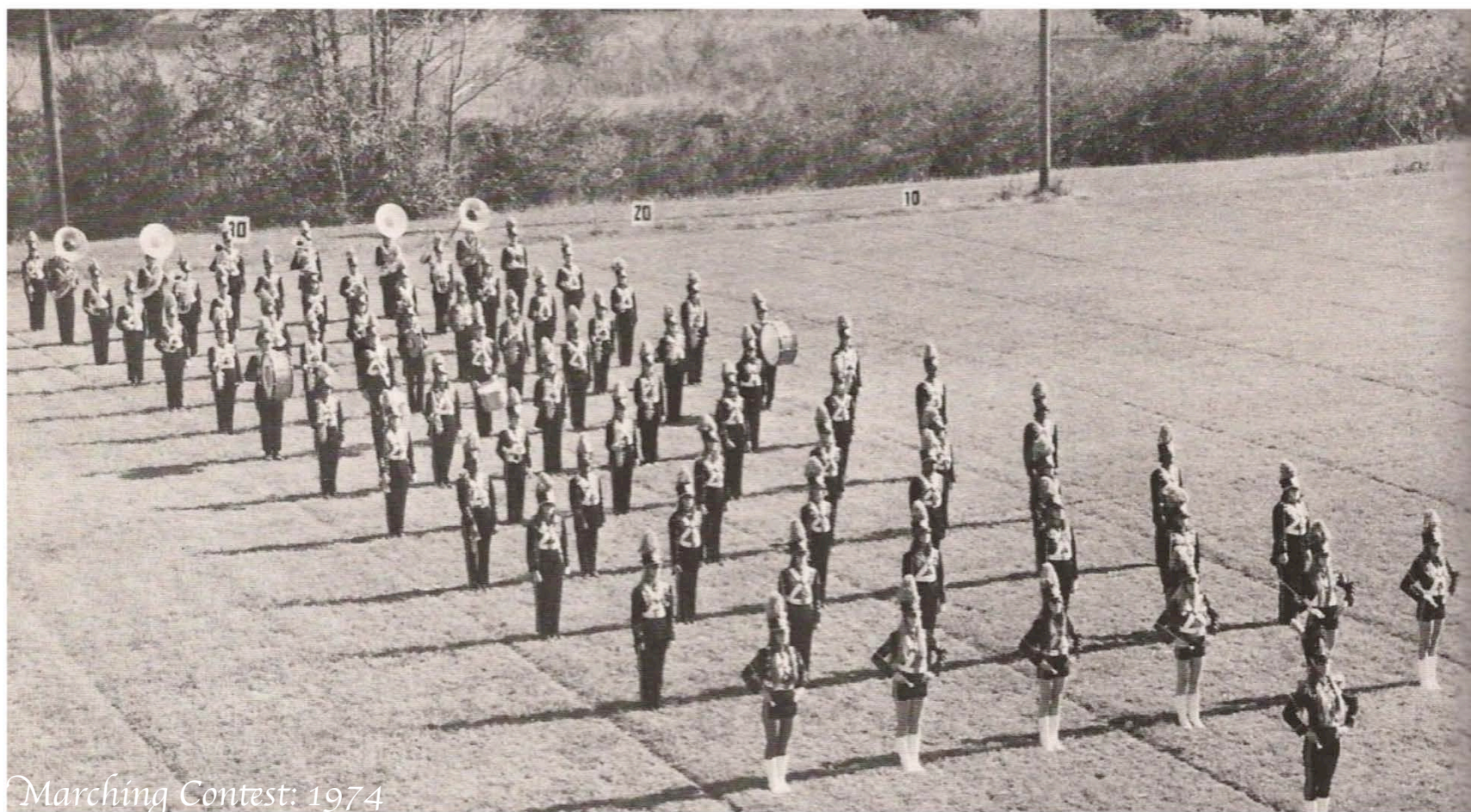
Denny Whitley
Honey Grove High School
7th Grade

Honey Grove High School Band 1965



(3rd row – first from the right)

Timpson High School Band



Marching Contest: 1974

Timpson High School Band 1971

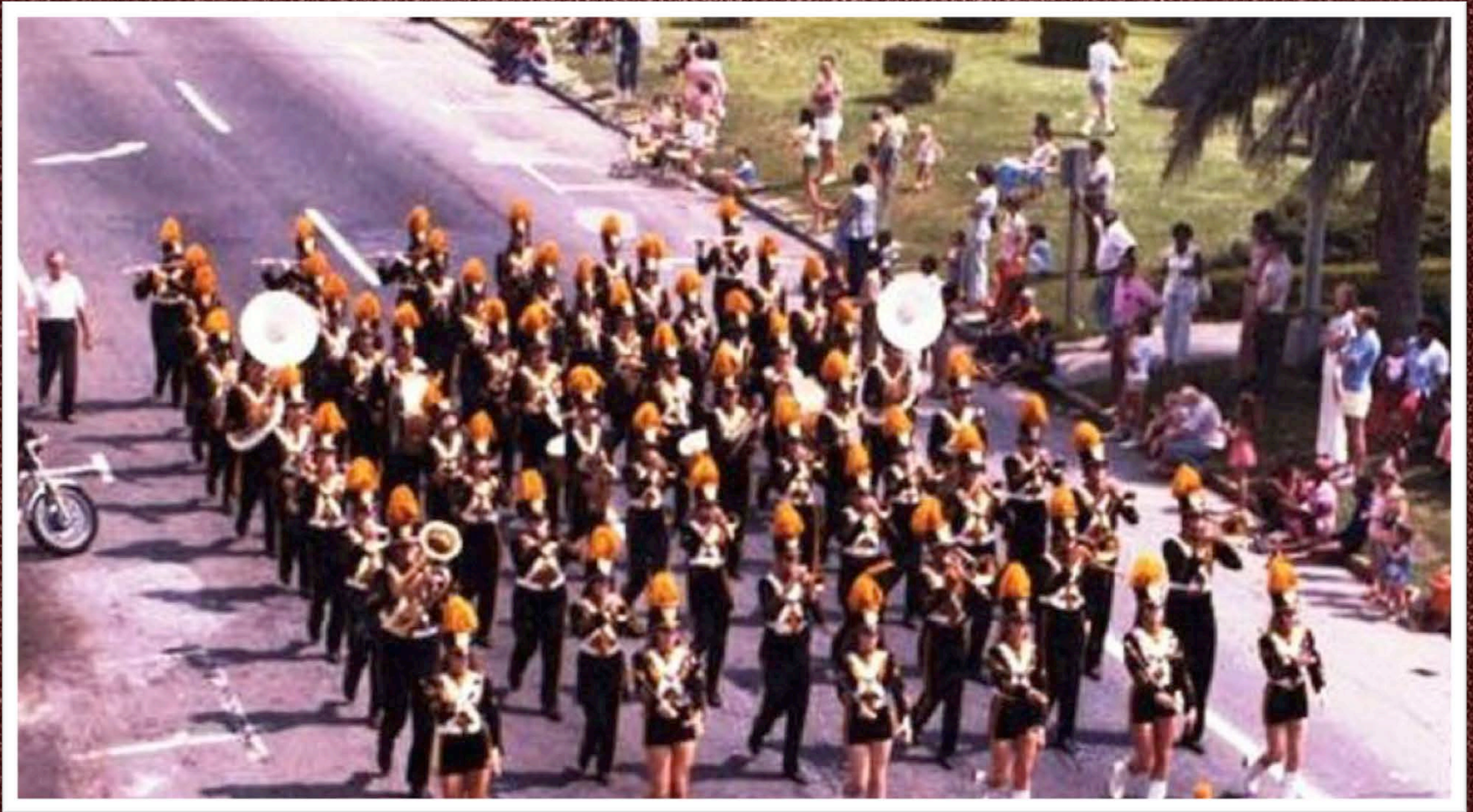


Timpson High School Band

1973-1974



Timpson High School Band 1975



Fiesta of Five Flags - Pensacola, Florida

Timpson High School 1976



Six Flags Band Festival

Timpson High School Stage Band 1975



STAGE BAND

Clarksville High School Band



Walt Disneyworld's Magic Kingdom Parade - 1987

Clarksville High School Band 1976-1977



Educator of the Year
1978



Clarksville High School Band 1979



*"Outstanding Band" Southwest Band Festival
Galveston, TX*

Tiger Band Is Smash Hit At Opryland Festival

The Eyes of Texas, and especially Clarksville, Texas, turned towards Nashville, Tenn., over the weekend as the Tiger High School Band walked away with the top honor in its classification at the American Musical Festival at Opryland U.S.A. in Nashville, Tenn.

Director Denny Whitley's CHS musicians, named by Gov. Bill Clements as Texas Good Will Ambassadors for the occasion, were awarded three 1st Division ratings and was named the Outstanding Band in its classification, receiving a beautiful 1st place plaque, at the Awards

Ceremony Friday night.

The competition was held on stage of the beautiful and fabulous Opry House home of the Grand Old Opry.

They performed "Peacemaker March" by Karl King and "Devonshire Overture" by James Playhar. Judges for the Music Festival were: Dr. Ralph Mills, Sam Houston State University; Kenneth Bloomquist, Michigan State University; and Howard Nicar, Vanderbilt University and some of the comments were: "Beautiful sound," "excellent job," "superb playing," "very outstanding band,

your community should be proud," and "you have gotten our day off to a terrific start" (the CHS Band was the first to perform Friday morning at 7:00 a.m.)

There were 55 bands from 19 states invited to perform at the two day Festival, each in their respective classifications according to total High School enrollment and were scored by points with the highest possible score being 280. The Clarksville average score was 236 which ranked as the 8th highest score out of all 55 bands, an excellent record.

The band left about 5 a.m.

Thursday morning and traveled all day, arriving in Nashville about 6:30 p.m. They left the motel Friday morning at 6 a.m. for the Festival for their performance at 7 a.m.

The rest of the day was spent touring Nashville and visited such sites as the "Ryman Auditorium" for many years the home of the Grand Ole Opry, Shelby Singleton's Recording Studio, drove down music row, downtown Nashville and its many points of interest, and drove by the homes of the late Tex Ritter, Minnie Pearl, who lives next door to the Governors Mansion, Webb Pierce,

Tammy Wynette and Ronnie Milsap. They also had a chance to see the County Music Hall of Fame and Wax Museum. Friday evening was spent at a Festival Party at Opryland for the awards ceremony. All day Saturday at Opryland U.S.A. which is a very entertaining amusement park for the whole family. The band returned home Sunday night at 10 p.m. very tired, but very proud and happy.

Bands from DeKalb and New Boston also competed at the Festival in Clarksville's division.

Chaperones for the trip were: Mr. and Mrs. Ben Fowzer, Mr. and Mrs. R.L. Poteet, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Holt, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Whitsell, Mrs. Betty Sargent, Mrs. Shirley Jones, Mrs. Lawrence Bell, Mrs. Dannie Eeds, Mrs. Bob Harvey, Mrs. Margaret Wilcox, Mrs. Travis Luman, Mrs. Clara Phillips, and Clarence Varley.

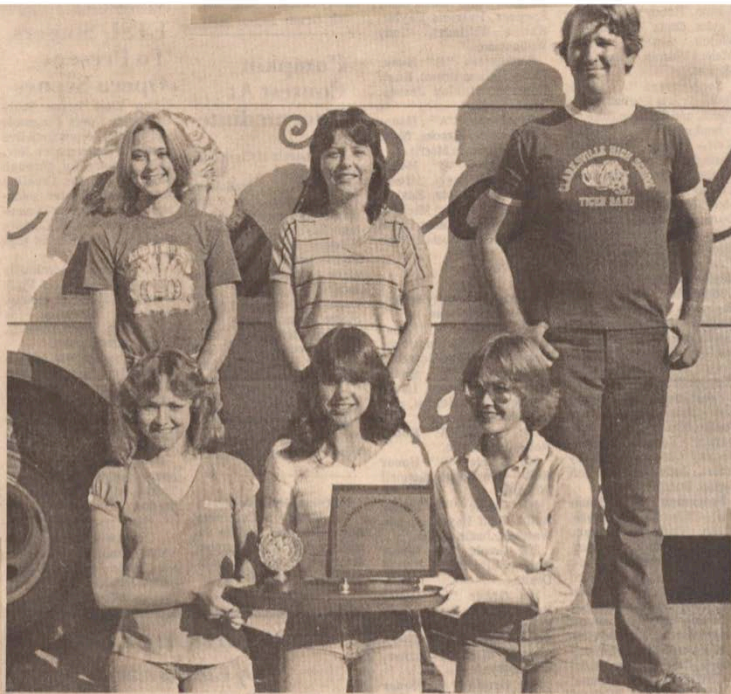
Spring Concert

The band will present their annual Spring Band Concert along with the 6th grade band and Junior High Band in the Title I gym on Tuesday night May 12, at 7:30 p.m.



Opryland
American Music Festival
"Best in Class"
1981

Clarksville High School Band 1982



MARCHING WINNERS—Members of the Clarksville High School Band received a first division rating in a recent UIL marching contest, the first such prize for a Clarksville band. Senior members of the band include: back row, from

left, Sherly Jackson, Brenda Whiteman, and Steve Champe, and , front row, from left, Rhonda Williamson, Paula Ballew, head majorette, and Carmen Eeds, drum major.

CHS Band Wins Top Rating

The Clarksville High School Tiger Band, under the direction of Denny Whitley and Ben Fowzer, competed in the University Interscholastic League Marching Contest at Hallsville near Marshall on Wednesday, Nov. 4 and was awarded a 1st division rating for their performance.

According to U.I.L. records this is the first time a Clarksville High School Band has ever won a 1st division rating at the U.I.L. Marching Contest.

The band was judged on marching competencies as well as musical competencies. Some of the comments

from the three judges were: "Band shows a lot of pride and enthusiasm and has obviously worked hard to prepare for contest," "good style of playing and marching," "good opening sound," "good balance and blend." General appearance of the band is excellent, "excellent drill."

Band director Denny Whitley said that the band members had worked very hard all year and that he was very proud of everyone and appreciated their hard work very much.

The Tiger Band received a I in sight reading last year and that was the first division rating in any UIL com-

petition for a Clarksville band since 1967.

In 1979 the band received 1st division ratings at the Southwest Band Festival in Galveston and was named the outstanding band in its class. Also, in 1981 won 1st division ratings at the American Music Festival in Nashville, Tenn. and again was named the Outstanding Band in its classification.

Band seniors include: Pauls Ballew, head majorette; Carmen Eeds, Drum Major; Steve Champe, Sheryl Jackson, Brenda Whiteman and Rhonda Williamson.



Harry S. Truman Presidential
Library and Museum

Clarksville High School Band 1983

World's of Fun Band Festival Kansas City, Missouri



Clarksville High School Band Washington D.C. 1985



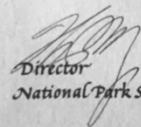
The President of the United States

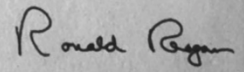
presents this

Certificate of Appreciation

to
Clarksville
High School Band

for performing in
the President's Park
1985


Director
National Park Service


The White House
Washington, D.C.

Clarksville High School Band 1987

Sea Escape Cruise



Clarksville 6th Grade Band 1988

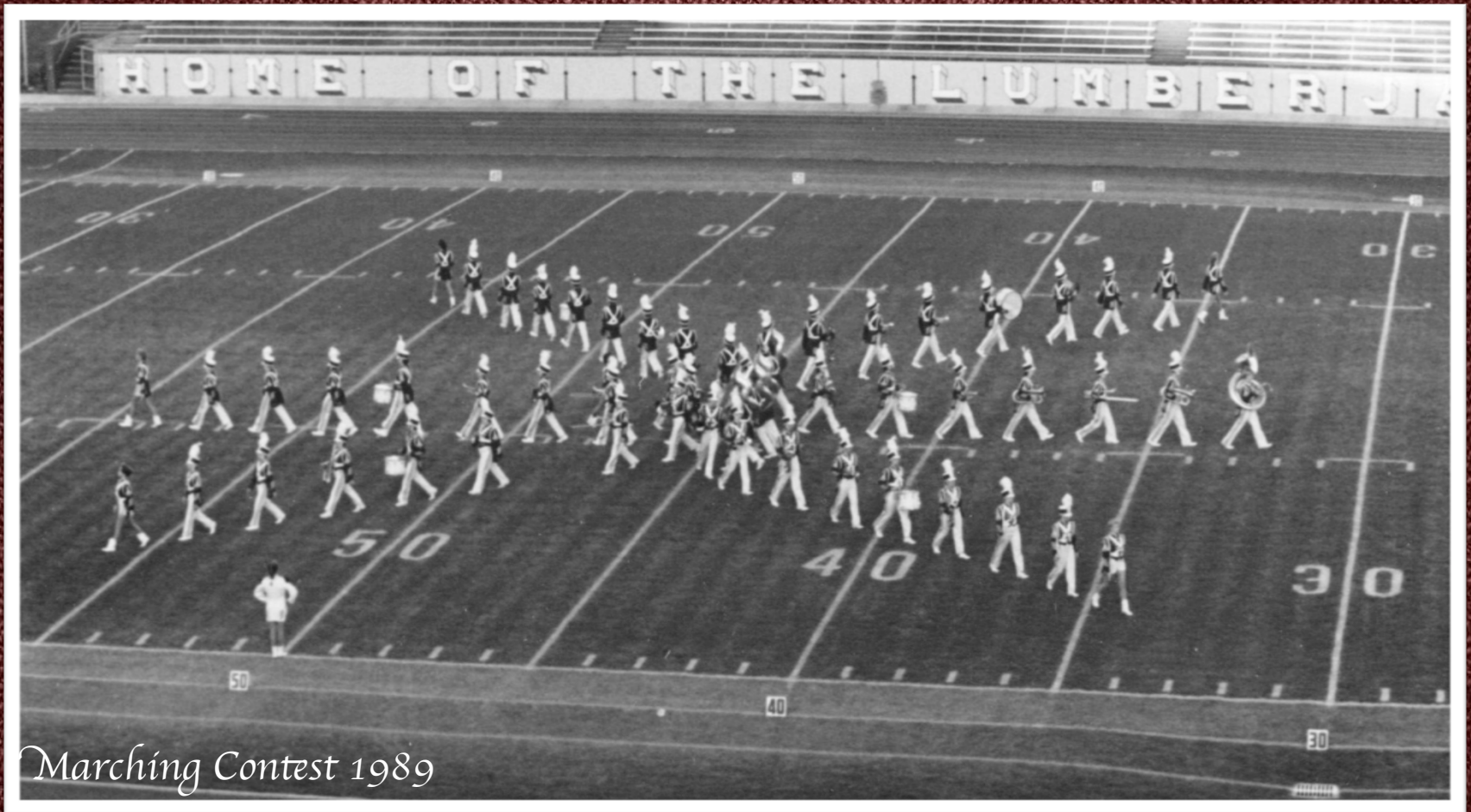


Clarksville High School Band 1989



Opryland "American Music Festival"

Whitehouse High School Band



Marching Contest 1989

Whitehouse High School Band



WILDCAT BAND OFFICERS celebrating the receipt of a First Division Superior Rating at UIL Marching Contest are (left to right) Allison Garlock, Jennifer Thompson, Zach Vaughn, Randy Allen, Daniel Moran, Nathan Newman (kneeling), Randy Kiser, Nathaniel Moran, Kari Williams, Michael Hall, and Director Denny Whitely.



1991-1992

Whitehouse High School Band



"From Whitehouse to the White House"
1993



Whitehouse High School Band



1994-1995

Paw Prints

Volume 18, Issue 2

Whitehouse High School

Whitehouse, Texas

October 13, 1995

Band Director Leads Faculty

Denny Whitley named Educator of the Year

By Mandy Amberson

Editor

Working on weekends and long after school hours to make each performance perfect, band director Denny Whitley has succeeded in earning the respect of his co-workers and students. This respect is evident as he is awarded the high school Educator of the Year award for outstanding performance in teaching. Teachers nominated and voted for their fellow worker regarding this honor.

"They feel like Mr. Whitley is a professional educator dedicated to teaching students and feel that he has worked hard since he's been here to build a music program," principal Jimmy Jennings said. "I do give him, for the most part, the credit for the band. He's done a really good job and he is a good man."

The characteristics of Educator of the Year that he possesses are the love for students and knowledge in the field, Whitley, who also received Teacher of the Year in Clarksville in 1979, said.

"I am honored and humbled, but there are so many teachers at Whitehouse that are equally deserving," Whitley said. "Whitehouse is really fortunate to have the teachers that we have."

The teachers feel that Whitley is up-beat with a pleasant and witty personality, English teacher Linda Rash said. "He works with a large number of our students and he is respected by students as well as teachers," she said.

Whitley joined the band program in 1989 when there were just 54 band members, and since then it has increased to 170 members.

"The quality has always been here," Whitley said. "The quantity is what has improved. I try to make the kids enjoy be-

ing in the band."

Whitley also teaches woodwinds at the sixth grade level and is the assistant at the middle school.

"He has taken a band program that was down and built it into one of the fastest growing in East Texas," assistant band director Adam Bird said. "He created an environment that kids want to be associated with. He is a great person to work with, a tremendous organizer and he truly cares about the kids and the band."

The students agree that Whitley is the kind of band director who puts others and the entire band before himself.

"Mr. Whitley's dedication, hard work and love for us has made our band the best that it's ever been," senior drum major Lisa Parker said. "We can't thank him enough for what he does for us."

"No matter how good or bad we do, he's always there encouraging us to do better and he always seems like he cares," junior Shane Baker said.

Whitley, who had been a band director for 25 years, constantly strives to do better on the field and at contests. He makes up all of the drills himself instead of using a computer or pre-designed drills like some other directors.

"I just sit with my marching pad at home and doodle," he said. "That's what makes it enjoyable, to write and see something performed on the field."

The band has been compared to a family with Whitley as the father.

"I'm honored that the kids do think of me as a father because a lot of kids don't have a father," he said. "I try to make this a family." One time Whitley even escorted one of his students down the aisle in her wedding.

The students want to have a good band, Whitley said.

"The band members really respect him and even though he gripes from time to time they understand he is only trying to make them better," Bird said. "And he helps anybody that has any kind of problem, personal, school-related or family."

Whitley put together last year's Florida trip himself instead of going through a travel agent to keep the costs down. He also writes a humorous poem every year at Christmas that describes marching season and does something special for the seniors.

The Chamber of Commerce will have a banquet October 17 to honor the five educators from the WISD campuses. There one person will be chosen as the District Educator of the Year.

"He really deserves it because he works really hard and he tries all the time to make things better for everyone, not just for himself," sophomore Mary Metcalf said.

"If it wasn't for Mr. Whitley, our band would not be what it is today," sophomore Justin Law said.



Photo by Keely Turnipseed
Denny Whitley directs the band during practice.



Educator of the Year Whitehouse ISD 1995

Whitehouse High School Band 1997



Whitehouse High School Band 1997



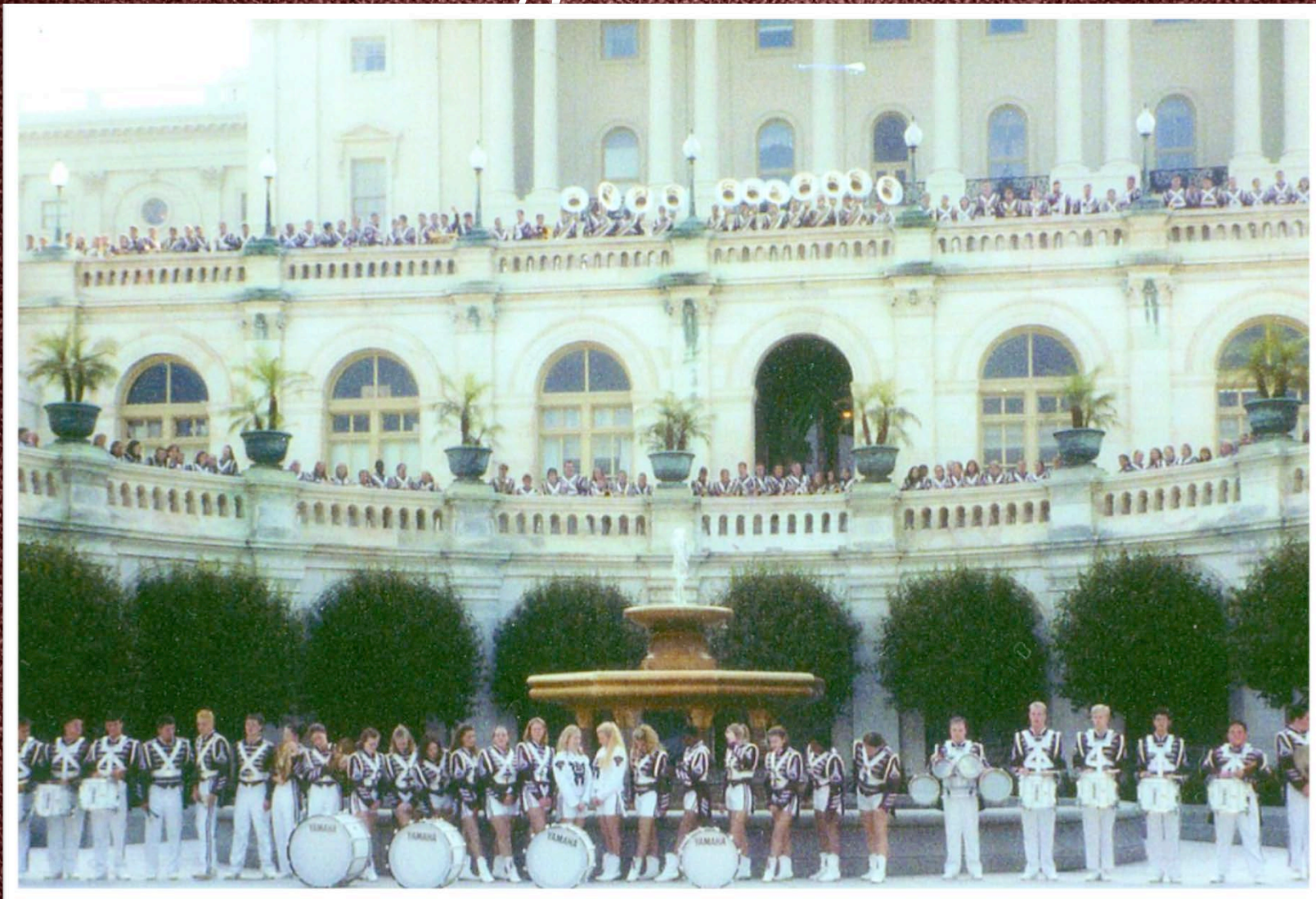
NAAMB Marching Contest at Texas A&M University

Whitehouse High School Band



1997-1998

Whitehouse High School Band Washington D.C. 2001



Band marches to Whitley's beat

by natalie green
staff writer

The Wildcat Marching Band is what many would argue to be the pride of Whitehouse.

A glance at the numerous awards in their trophy case, or the sound of thundering applause at the end of one of their halftime shows illustrates where this pride comes from.

With contest season here, the band is again preparing to show everyone what they are made of.

And behind all of the halftime performances and consecutive sweepstakes awards lies band director Denny Whitley.

Whitley has been a band director for 33 years. A graduate of East Texas State University, now Texas A&M Commerce, Whitley knew early what his career would be.

"I decided in high school that I wanted to be a band director," he said.

A unique aspect of the Whitley is that he not only teaches



photo by brandon sims

Members of the Wildcat Marching Band practice their drill for marching contest. They will perform a routine on Saturday at Stephen F. Austin that was created by Band Director Denny Whitley.

the marching drills to the band, but he creates the drills himself, while most other schools hire someone else to do that for them.

"That is my job," Whitley

said. "That's what the school district pays me to do."

When coming up for ideas for drills, Whitley said there is no real method he follows when creating them.

"Some of it is stuff I've done in the past, and sometimes I sit down and it just comes to me."

One of Whitley's most challenging times during the year is thinking of a drill that is original enough to stand out for the UIL marching contest, which is held at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches.

They are judged and given a score of 1 through 5, with 1 being a superior rating and 5 being the lowest. The band has received a superior rating for 12 consecutive years.

"It's challenging to compete to have the best drill and to play the best songs," Whitley said.

"I think they will do their best, and hopefully that's good enough."

Winning certainly isn't the only factor that motivates Whit-

ley.

Being able to work with the students and building lasting friendships with them are the most fulfilling aspects of his career.

"It's rewarding to watch students do their best and make their best better," Whitley said.

"I start with these kids when they're in the 6th grade, and I get to watch them grow and then watch them graduate."

He has influenced many of the students he has taught throughout the years, including his own children, who all participated in the band program.

"Many people call my dad their second dad, and I feel very lucky to have him as my real dad," senior Jamie Whitley said of his father. "He's my hero."

And perhaps even more important than any trophy, his son added, "I want to be like my dad when I grow up."

The band competed Saturday and resulted will be published in the next edition of Paw Print.

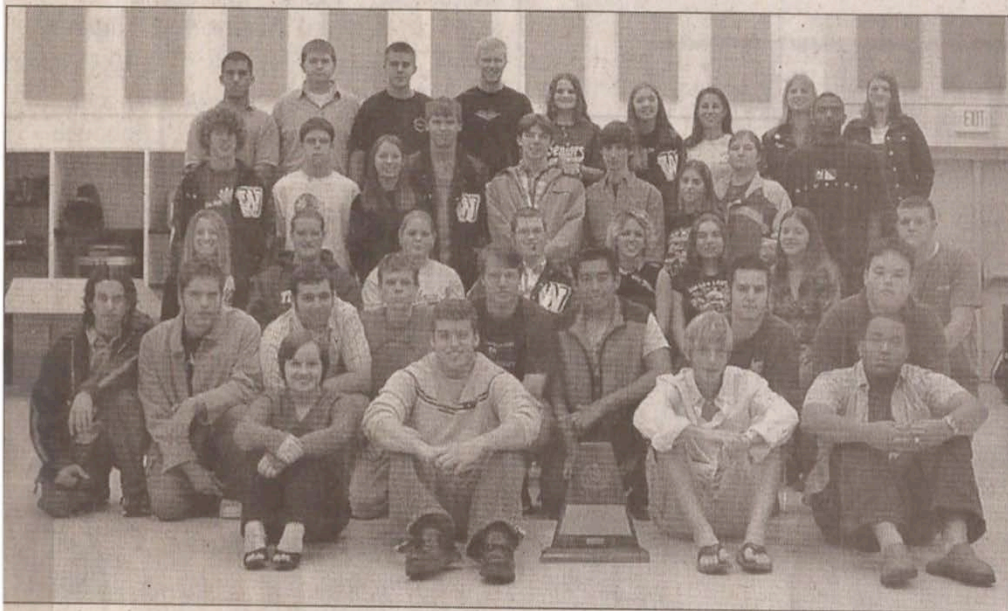
Whitehouse High School Band



Marching Contest 2003

Whitehouse High School Band

Whitehouse earns "Superior"



Photo/Submitted

Band Seniors: Row 1: Lauren Ivy, Jamey Whitley, R.J. Cowan, Anthony Austin; Row 2: Jason Barnes, Bryan Peace, Justin Miller, Blaine Hine, Brandon Beddingfield, Francis Verdan, Bryant Davis, Braden Reese.; Row 3: Carla Williamson, Courtney Castle, Brandi Arnett, Randy Brown, Ginny Kennemer, Jessica Tijerina, Samantha McFaddin, Kris Downey; Row 4: Chad Hutchins, Jeff Wright, Katie Scott, Mark

Warren, Brandon Moore, David Gober, Brittany Ballard, Sarah Ethridge, Jamar Fortune; Row 5: Josh Rodriguez, Ross Melton, Jonathan Schlattner, Nicholas Head, Meredith Bourassa, Jessie Waters, Krystalin Aguilera, Leslie Miller, Tami Stanley.
Not shown: Nicholas McHugh, Kristen Harris, Mallory Novak, and Darren Alford.

The Whitehouse High School "Wildcat" Band participated in the Region 21 University Interscholastic League Marching Contest on October 18th in the Homer Bryce Stadium on the campus of SFA in Nacogdoches and was awarded a "Superior Rating" for the 11th consecutive year.

Some of the judge's comments were: "Great job Band! Well executed drill; Great quality sound; many fine players in this band; Excellent marching fundamentals; Great Drill concepts; Such a pleasure to see your performance!"

The band was led on the field by Drum Majors Nicholas McHugh, Brittany Ballard, and Ashley Thompson.

The Wildcat band performed Boys of the Old Brigade March, Ponderosa March, The Aggie War Hymn, Texas Fight, Baylor Line, Pride of the Illinois, and Triumph Fanfare.

The band is directed by Denny Whitley, Jim Clifton, Beth Clifton, Stanley Walker and Jerry Gober.

2003-2004

TRI COUNTY LEADER

VOL. 18, No. 36

34 PAGES IN 3 SECTIONS

WHITEHOUSE • TROUP • LAKE TYLER • SOUTH TYLER

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2005

50 CENTS

Thought for the Day

Veterans' Day
is Nov. 11



Honor our
veterans on
this special day!

Sports



'Citizen of the Year' is Denny Whitley

Whitehouse Chamber dinner well attended

By ROGER MCKENZIE
Editor

Whitehouse High School Band Director Denny Whitley knew he was getting the Whitehouse Chamber of Commerce's Secondary Educator of the Year Award at Tuesday night's annual Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner. He and the Elementary Educator of the Year winner, Holloway Middle School's Melanie Causey, had already been recognized by WISD at

the beginning of the school year. But he was completely surprised when the Chamber also called out his name for its "Citizen of the Year Award." It was a double treat for an educator who has influenced thousands of lives over the span of a 34-year career.

A large, enthusiastic crowd gathered in the WHS cafeteria to eat barbecue, pass on the torch to new Chamber members, and recognize the contributions of individuals and businesses/organizations that have made Whitehouse a community to be proud of.

Six teachers, including Whitley and Causey, were recognized as Outstanding Educators on their respective cam-

pus. Attorney-at-law Tom Tatum was presented with the Chamber's "Business of the Year Award" for years of service to the community. The Chamber's "Beautification Award" went to new business Rough & Ready Outfitters.

New Chamber officers were announced. Succeeding Von Johnson as president will be Conaway Homes' Brent Conaway. Other officers for the upcoming year are: Gay Smith, first vice president; Jed Dillingham, second vice president; Sandra Knackstedt, secretary; and Von Johnson, treasurer.

Look for more coverage of the Chamber event in next week's *Tri County Leader*.



WHS Band Director Denny Whitley holds his "Citizen of the Year Plaque" flanked by presenters Jed Dillingham and Nancy Terry.



2005 Awards
Whitehouse ISD Educator of the Year
Citizen of the Year" by Whitehouse
Chamber of Commerce

Whitehouse High School Band



World War II Monument Washington D.C.
2005

Whitehouse High School Band



Whitehouse High School Bands



Whitehouse High School Band



2012

Whitehouse High School Band



TWO IJIMA MEMORIAL WASHINGTON D.C. 2013

Whitley directs 450-plus Whitehouse halftime shows

By SUZANNE LOUDAMY
Editor

Friday night's Whitehouse Wildcat Band halftime may have been a rainy mess but there was a great celebration with their performance. The group honored their director, Denny Whitley, on his 450th game of directing.

"It's probably more than 500 if you count the playoff games," Whitley said. "I just hope the kids from 450 games have a lot of good memories."

Whitley began his career as a band director in Timpson, then moved to Clarksville for 13 years and has been at White-

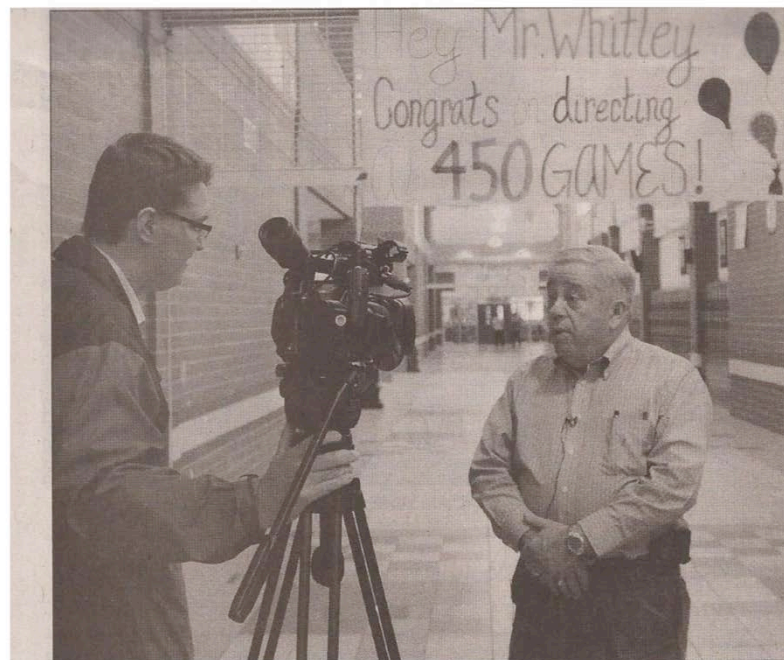
house for 27 years.

"It is all about teamwork and school spirit and pride," Whitley said. "The games involve a lot of kiddos from football teams, to band to cheerleaders to drill team, to coaches, sponsors, ground crews, people in the press box to concession stand workers. There was a lot of popcorn sold in 450 games. So now, we do what we always do, get ready for the next one!"

Whitley never forgets to say thank you to the directors who serve with him. They are Chris Huffty, Daniel Southerland, Nick Hardy, Denny Whitley, Christina

Thomas, Scott Smith and John Gaertner.

"I still remember getting on the bus with the Timpson band kids going to our first game and I remember the feeling of not knowing what in the world was about to happen and without their love and support the rest would not have been possible," Whitley said. "I have had a great staff of directors throughout my career that I appreciate very much, and of course none of this would be possible without the love and support I get from my family. Now on to game 451!! I really have to say a big 'Thank You' to my High School Band Director Tom Neupert."



WHITEHOUSE | AWARD-WINNING TEACHER

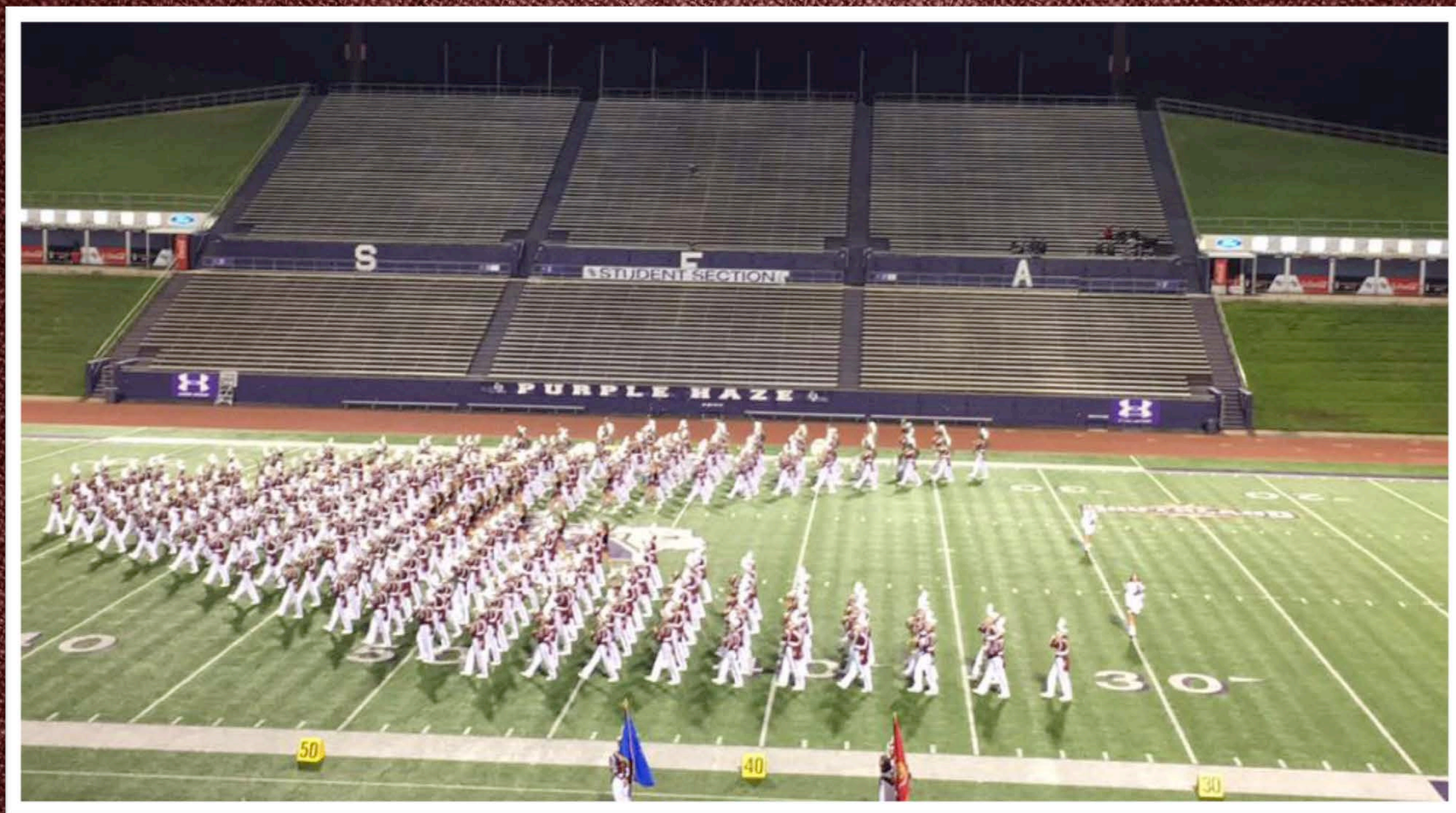
'Make Your Best Better'



ANDREW D. BROSIG/STAFF

WILDCAT BAND DIRECTOR Denny Whitley (center) keeps time stepping in place as his students learn marching technique on the first day of field practice Thursday at the high school in Whitehouse. Whitley received the 2016 Meritorious Achievement Award for Outstanding commitment to Music Education from the Texas Bandmasters Association during its convention in July in San Antonio.

Whitehouse High School Band



Marching Contest 2016

Whitehouse High School Band



2016-2017

Whitehouse High School Band Staff



Whitley: Hall of Fame band director

By SUZANNE LOUDAMY
Editor

It has been an exciting year for Whitehouse ISD Director of Bands Denny Whitley.

In June 2016, Whitley was selected by the Texas Bandmasters Association as a 2016 Meritorious Achievement Award Winner.

It was October 2016 when the Wildcat Band received a Superior rating at UIL Marching Contest. It was the 26th time the band has received a Superior rating in the past 28 years.

And during the Texas Music Educators Association Clinic/Convention in San Antonio last week, it was announced the Texas Chapter of Phi Beta Mu International Fraternity of Band Directors will be inducting Whitley into

the Band Directors Hall of Fame during the TMEA convention this summer.

The announcement came as a complete surprise to Whitley.

"Every year at TMEA they announce the selections of the Texas Bandmaster Hall of Fame so Thursday night was no different," Whitley said. "I am always excited to see if any are friends of mine and some were. When they got to the last one I thought they said my name but I knew that wasn't right but all the guys around me were pushing me to stand up and one of the gentlemen that was on the Hall of Fame Committee said 'That is you! Stand up!'"

Whitley is still scratching his head over how this all happened.

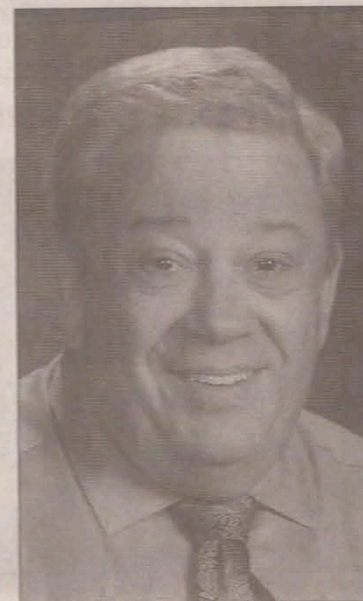
"Since I was still teaching I didn't think it was possible to be put in the Hall of Fame," Whitley said. "I am not

sure of all the qualifications but I know you have to be retired and over age 65. I retired in 2005 and am 67 years old so..."

The humble man who continues teaching his passion is in his 28th year with WISD and is in his 46th year as a high school band director.

"I am so humbled by this honor which I always thought was the highest award for a band director," Whitley said. "I share it with every student that has sat in front me for my 46 years, every parent and booster club member, every assistant director that has worked with me, every administrator, friend and colleague and most of all my family."

The Hall of Fame presentation will be this summer during the Texas Bandmasters Association Convention in San Antonio, July 20-22.



Courtesy Photo

DENNY WHITLEY



2017

The Whitley Family



In 2005, Denny decided to retire from the world of band directing but as summer band approached he somehow had this crazy void inside of him that only a hot pavement with painted yard lines in 100 degree weather, the great fragrance of sweat induced marching shoes and the joy of choosing pep rally songs could only fill. So in fall of 2005 he was back on the podium and taught for another 12 years retiring at the end of the 2017 school year with 46 years as a Music Educator. He would like to thank Phi Beta Mu Alpha Chapter and Texas Bandmaster's Association for selecting him to the Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame.