

J. W. King, Jr.

Education: B. S. and M. S. from Texas Tech University. Additional graduate work in University of Texas, University of Colorado, Teacher's College, Columbia, and West Texas State University.

J. W. King, Jr. took leave from Texas Tech in 1941-42 after two years of college to direct bands in the Westbrook Public Schools for a year, and due to World War II enlisted in the Army Air Corps instead of returning to Texas Tech. From July of 1942 he was in Air Corps Bands at Perrin Field, Moore Field, Truax Field, Scott Field, and Stewart Field. After being discharged from the Air Corps in 1946, he returned to Texas Tech and completed the Bachelor's of Education in 1947. During his senior year, he served as Student Assistant to Dr. D. O. Wiley with the Concert Band and directed the Second Band. After graduation, he became the director of the Big Spring High School Band. During the six years at Big Spring, contest participation was resumed after several years of World War II. The first superior rating and the first sweepstakes in the history of the band were received. Beginning in 1950 and continuing through 1953 an increasing number of band members were earning places in the TMEA All-State Bands as well as participating in solo and ensemble contests. He and choir director Mary Jane Hamilton were married in 1950 and in the same year he became a member of Phi Beta Mu.

In 1953 he moved to Plainview and became band director in Hale Center until 1970. During this time, the Hale Center High School Band was runnerup for TMEA Honor Band in 1959 and 1962. The Hale Center Band was invited to participate in the Cotton Bowl Pre*Game and Half-time shows of the 1961 game as one of five high school bands and won their class in the Cotton Bowl Parade. The Hale Center High School Band was winner of the Lubbock Fair Parade in their class for eight consecutive years, sweepstakes winner in UIL competition fourteen of seventeen years. The Hale Center High School Band attended the Tri-State Music Festival, Enid, Oklahoma on an every other year basis and won Sweepstakes for overall points one year, and outstanding concert band in their class two other years. The Marching Band was invited to perform at half-times of football games at Texas Tech in 1962 and WTSU in 1963 and 1965.

J. W. King, Jr. became director of the Canyon High School Band in 1970 and was a consistent first division winner in UIL events, Greater Southwest Music Festival in Amarillo, Six Flags Over Georgia, and Mountain States Music Festival, Tempe, Arizona. The Canyon High School band won outstanding concert band and outstanding sight-reading band in 1973 and 1975 at the Greater Southwest Festival. The Canyon Band was selected to perform at the National MENC Convention, Anaheim, California in 1974, and played for President Gerald Ford in an appearance in Canyon in 1976. J. W. King, Jr. retired from teaching in Canyon in 1979 after 37 years and moved to Plainview. Here he re-entered teaching and worked as an assistant director at Plainview High School under director O. T. Ryan, retiring again in 1983 with a total of forty-one years as band director in the Texas Public Schools.

J. W. has been an active performer on French Horn, having played in the Lubbock Symphony, Amarillo Symphony, Roswell Symphony, and is currently principal horn and general manager of the Plainview Symphony Orchestra. He has been horn teacher and band director for 15 years at the Texas Tech Summer Band Camp, WTSU Summer Band Camp for 32 years, and 26 years at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas.

He has been named Citizen of the year in Hale Center in 1963, "They Are Making America Musical" in 1965 by the School Musician Magazine, The "Mac" Award by "First Chair of America" in 1979, and Bandmaster of the Year by TBA in 1977. J. W. was President of Phi Beta Mu in 1960, a member of the TBA Board for several years, being president in 1966. He was elected band chairman of TMEA for 1970 through 1972, then president of TMEA from 1972 through 1974. He is a member of American School Band Directors Association, American Bandmasters Association, TBA, TMEA and Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Mu. He and his wife Mary Jane have served as Church Choir Director and Organist for the First United Methodist Church in Plainview, and currently for the First Christian Church in Plainview. His children are Dr. Mary Karen Clardy, Professor of Flute at University of North Texas, Nancy Sanders, Clarinet and Woodwind instructor at McMurry University, and John King, Principal Trumpet in the California Symphony, Concord, California.

J. W. King, Jr. is presently beginning his sixth year as Executive Secretary of District 16, Music, UIL, in the Lubbock-Plainview area.