



PHILOSOPHY

Stated very simply, my philosophy of teaching is that the primary reason for the existence of a public school instrumental program is for the betterment of the boys and girls involved. I have spent 31 years trying to develop prize winning bands, but as I was doing this, my main concern was that I do everything possible to help build useful, dependable, school citizens who would soon be taking their places in an adult world. A public school band program provides opportunity for a very close relationship between teacher and pupils. Through this closeness a band director may have much influence on the lives of boys and girls. Through teaching and counselling one may instill those qualities of character that will help build men and women.

All children need to have a sense of accomplishment and a feeling of belonging. There is excellent opportunity to provide both through work with boys and girls in the band.

Young people need to feel that they are contributing to those about them. Through many public appearances we have opportunity to make many contributions to the school and the community.

CARROLL MCMATH

Robert Carroll McMath was born June 29, 1919 in Baylor Hospital, Dallas, Texas, to teacher parents Frank B. and Rosa Brashears McMath, who lived in Carrollton, Texas.

Following death of his mother, he and his father moved to Lubbock County in 1924. Attended two-teacher Southwest Ward School (part of Lubbock I.S.D.).

Began study of piano in summer of 1927 in Denton with Mrs. S. B. Graham, mother of Floyd "Fessor" Graham, of University of North Texas School of Music fame.

Attended Lubbock Junior High and was in first class to enter new Lubbock High School building in 1931.

Again while visiting in Denton in summer of 1932 began study of trumpet with Jack Wolfe, a North Texas student, on a \$10 King trumpet.

Joined Lubbock High School Band, directed by H. A. Anderson, in fall of 1932, and "soloed" (in a rest) at first rehearsal. Graduated from Lubbock High in 1934.

Planned to attend Hardin-Simmons University but changed plans and enrolled in Texas Tech in fall of 1934 after D. O. Wiley came to Tech as band director.

Was part of first Tech summer band school for high school directors and students and college students. Faculty members and guest soloists included the co-founder of Phi Beta Mu, Col. Earl D. Irons, and Milburn Carey, long-time national president of Phi Beta Mu. Austin A. Harding and Mark Hindsley were also guest conductors.

Tech band was one of first college bands to begin week-long concert tours to area high schools and communities. These concerts made major contributions to the early day development of the school band movement in West Texas.

McMath's father died in 1935 and D. O. Wiley played important personal role in his life as well as key role in his music education.

Tech band assisted John Victor in the development of the VICTOR BAND METHOD, the first band method adopted by Texas Public Schools.

Changed major from journalism to "Band Major" (no music major available) during Sophomore year. Bought new King "Master Model" cornet for \$95.00.

Following death of his father he lived with an aunt and uncle in Lubbock. Had \$10 a month N.Y.A. (National Youth Administration) job in band library and worked part time at local tailor shop to help defray school expenses.

Tech band played manuscripts for contest to select official Texas Centennial March in 1936. Winner was "Goliad March," by Joe Berryman, pioneer band director at Fort Stockton.

In fall of 1937 became charter member and vice-president of Alpha Omicron Chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi, national band fraternity. Also in fall of 1937 wrote the words for new Texas Tech fight song, which is still in use in 1991.

Did student teaching with Lubbock High School Band in spring of 1938. Part of assignment was to conduct a number on their spring concert. When he got on the podium his knees were literally knocking together until he reached down to turn the first page of the score. After that, he was never nervous again while conducting.

During same spring attended an event that had great influence on young band director-to-be: attended his first ever band contest in Big Spring with the L.H.S. Band. Hearing the good high school bands set a high standard of performance that he wanted to emulate. Hearing the "not-so-good" bands inspired him to want to help that type band.

Graduated from Texas Tech in 1938 with Bachelor of Science in Education degree.

For first band director job made decision between Texhoma, Oklahoma, which had an established band, and Crosbyton, Texas (closer to home), where a band program would have to be started. Taught band in Texhoma two years, also served as elementary principal, band bus driver, and at various times taught agriculture, woodwork, arithmetic, geography and reading. In summer of 1939 attended Panhandle A. & M. College at Goodwell, Oklahoma. In 1939 the band went to the Oklahoma state contest in Stillwater and in 1940 to the Tri-State Music Festival in Enid.

In summer of 1940 came to Denton, Texas to accept part-time job as Denton High band director. Also attended North Texas State Teachers College (now University of North Texas) and earned Master of Music degree in June, 1941. Later did post-graduate work at North Texas and earned supervisor's certificate from Texas Education Agency.

Married Roberta Ellison in Lubbock on August 7, 1941. Employed full-time by Denton I.S.D., teaching all band classes and one class of World History in Denton Junior High.

The band "won" the first contest it entered, a Christmas parade in Dallas. The winner had to appear both days of a two day parade--and the Denton High Band was the only band to appear both days!

An incident from that fall has never been forgotten: James, a clarinet player, had been nothing but trouble. One Friday afternoon as the band was getting ready to go to Gainesville for a football game, James decided to have a smoke--while in uniform--a very definite "no-no." James was told that he would not make the trip. At the edge of Denton a sound was heard from the top of the bus, the bus stopped and James was told to come down from the baggage rack. When the bus got to the Gainesville football stadium, there was James--having hitched a ride. Needless to say, James and the director had a very definite understanding the next Monday. "Several years ago at James' 40th class reunion he came up to me, hugged my neck, told me that he had said a prayer that I would be at the reunion, thanked me for his band days, then told me about his four clarinetist daughters, all four all-region and two all-state," McMath related.

Featured in January 1942 issue of THE SCHOOL MUSICIAN magazine on the page entitled "They are Making America Musical."

In September, 1942, enlisted in the U.S. Navy as a Musician. Served until November, 1945 at Naval Training Stations at Farragut, Idaho and Newport, Rhode Island, aboard the U.S.S. Guam, and on the business staff of the Navy Music School in Washington, D.C.

After discharge from the Navy, finished the 1945-46 school year as high school band director at Hereford, Texas, succeeding the late Ralph Smith, Sr.

In 1946 returned to Denton High School as band director. For several years used grades 7-12 in high school band. In 1956 the first assistant was employed, and the junior high band was separated from the high school band. About 1950 was designated Director of Instrumental Music.

Beginning in 1950 the Denton High band made six trips to the Tri-State Music Festival in Enid, Oklahoma, attending every three years. Among the band's judges there were many pioneer American public school and University band directors, including Austin A. Harding, Karl King, A. R. McAlister, Ralph Rush, Glenn Cliffe Bainum, Harold Bachman, Earl D. Irons, Frank Simons, J. J. Richards, and many others. Beginning in 1968 the band attended the Buccaneer Days Festival in Corpus Christi, Texas every three years. Judges there included Mark Hindsley.

In 1957 was elected to membership in Alpha Chapter, Phi Beta Mu, sponsored by Everett Maxwell. President was Robert Maddox and Jack Mahan was secretary.

Author of article entitled "Band Manual A Key to Building Better Bands," discussing the band manual used by the D.H.S. Band, that appeared in the February 1961 THE HOLTON FANFARE, a national trade magazine. The manual was developed by McMath and band officers and approved by band members and band parents.

In 1962 a group of the band members, instead of presenting Mr. and Mrs. McMath a trip sponsor appreciation gift during the Enid trip as was their custom, announced the beginning of "The Carroll McMath Music Scholarship Fund." Since that time scholarships have been awarded to Denton High graduating seniors nearly every year, with the fund now about large enough for scholarships to be awarded from the earned interest.

In 1963 was made honorary lifetime member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, national professional music fraternity, by Gamma Theta Chapter, University of North Texas.

D.H.S. Band participated in six of first Cotton Bowl parades in Dallas and in the 1965 half-time show.

In 1972-73 McMath was selected Denton Public Schools "Teacher of the Year" and was one of 10 finalists for Texas "Teacher of the Year."

Active in T.M.E.A. affairs, serving as Regional officer and contest chairman. Participated in state convention program as chairman of panel discussion on "Second Bands."

"Some events in life tend to bring one back to earth--real quickly," McMath related. "About 1974 the D.H.S. band was participating in the U.I.L. Concert and Sight Reading contest at Trinity High School in Euless. At sight reading I was handed a full score, with fine print. Somehow I overlooked a tiny Coda Sign and became hopelessly lost. The band finished in spite of my wild flailing, and still received a First Division. Jerry Longwell, Director of Fine Arts for the H.E.B. School district, presented to me a sheet of paper with a huge Coda Sign on it and inscribed with THIS IS A CODA SIGN." (Copy enclosed)

Just one more U.I.L. experience, this time on the concert stage at T.C.U. As if it wasn't enough for the cornet soloist's second valve to stick during his solo in "Procession of the Nobles," our All-State tympanist managed to put a mallet through a tympani head during his solo near the end of the same piece. You can hear both interesting results on the 1963 band record. We still got out "I"!

Was listed in 1973 OUTSTANDING SECONDARY EDUCATORS OF AMERICA.

Active in First Baptist Church, Denton, serving as interim Minister of Music for four years, Chairman of Deacon Council, church trustee for eleven years, Sunday School teacher and department director, member and/or chairman of many committees, including finance, music, search committees for pastor and Minister to Senior Adults, building committee for new church and chairman of sight-selection committee for same.

Active in Denton Kiwanis Club for many years and was on board of directors.

Served two terms as National Director of Phi Beta Mu.

Member and treasurer of Denton Classroom Teachers Association, member of Texas Bandmasters Association, Texas State Teachers Association and National Education Association.

73 members of D.H.S. band selected to membership in All-State Band or Orchestra while he was director. A number of graduates became successful band and orchestra directors, one is principal clarinetist in the San Francisco Symphony, one plays French Horn in the National Symphony in Washington, D.C., one is principal oboeist in the Louisville, one is principal bassoonist in the Monroe Symphony. Others play professionally in various music fields and in U.S. service bands. A U.S. Navy Rear Admiral and a U.S. Air Force Brigadier General give credit to their training in the D.H.S. band for help in the beginning of their military careers. Miss America 1975 was a good flute player in the band and played her flute during the pageant.

During his tenure the D.H.S. band received 79 First Division Ratings, 32 Second Division ratings and 2 Third Division ratings, plus 15 U.I.L. Sweepstakes. One of the III's was in sight reading at Tri-State, courtesy of Harold Bachman. The other III was in concert playing, the first year at Buccaneer, when the Texas Honor Band also got a III.

In 1972-73 all high school and junior high bands in the system received I's from all judges for all contests entered.

Retired from teaching in July 1977. Was honored at halftime of Denton High football game on September 16, 1977 by band, football team and Band Parents. Mayor of Denton read proclamation designating that day as CARROLL MCMATH DAY in Denton.

On August 1, 1977 began work in music sales at Pender's Music Company in Denton, owned by Harold Gore, former student teacher under McMath. While working there co-authored with Gore BAND METHODS AND COLLECTIONS, AN ANNOTATED GUIDE. This analysis of more than 400 band methods and collections was published by Studio P/R Publications.

On January 31, 1984 was guest conductor at Denton High Band winter concert and presented plaque naming him "Director Emeritus" of the band.

In January, 1985 he and his wife moved to Denton Good Samaritan Village where he has served as member and chairman of Resident Council. Continued hobbies of photography, genealogy and Civil War History.

The McMaths have two sons, Dr. Robert C., Jr., Professor of History and Associate Dean at Georgia Tech and William E., former Lewisville High School Band Director and presently head of the band music department at Pender's Music Company.

At the 1988 D.H.S. band reunion, the first ever, McMath expressed appreciation to a very helpful and supportive administration, outstanding assistants and junior high directors, his wife for untiring support, faculty and student teachers from the Schools of Music of the University of North Texas and Texas Woman's University, loyal band parents and hundreds of band members who were "the cream of the crop."

PRESENTING CARROLL McMATH

A man who reflects ideals of the teaching profession to the community in a superb way; one who with quiet, modest manner relates well with his co-workers; one who brings out the potential in each pupil, instilling pride, loyalty, and techniques of leadership along the way; that's Carroll McMath.

Those qualities that caused Denton teachers to cast an overwhelming vote to make him the Denton Teacher of the Year may possibly be pointed up by a sampling of stories.

One evening as the band was returning home from contests in Oklahoma with enough winnings under their belts to produce benevolent satisfaction, talk centered on possibilities of a suitable material expression of gratitude to Mr. Mac. When mention of a scholarship was made by one student, the suggestion met with instant approval and discussion subsided as naps took over. Starting with \$100 of their own money, the idea developed until to date the fund has already given financial aid to some five or six students entering college.

McMath's knack of building rapport is rare. One boy of hefty adolescent stature was of especial worth to the corps because he was big enough to shoulder the responsibility of carrying a tuba in the marching band. His real talents shone best in his good grades and his ability as an excellent photographer. Deeming it inappropriate to wear band regalia when he was photographing the games, he donned white coveralls for that stint. Then with quick change artistry at the proper time, he would appear marching in purple and gold splendor, compahing lustily in useful tempo. Steadily he refused to accede to his mother's suggestion that he was overextending himself. Convinced of his own worth as a totter of heavy brass, he couldn't drop band because he didn't want to "let Mr. Mac down."

Perhaps one secret of McMath's success may be found in his habit of putting in whatever amount of time the job requires. C.C. Jones, who himself knew a lot about overtime (a check-the-boiler-in-the-morning-and-the-gate-locks-at-night kind of man, he was), indicated Mac as he still toiled in the field after a game. "That's one man," he remarked, "that I'm willing to admit puts in as much overtime as I do."

That is Robert Carroll McMath, Denton's nominee for Texas Teacher of the Year.

Submitted by

Denton Classroom Teachers Association
Alva Proffer, Chairman Nominations
Committee
Jane Cole, Chairman TEPS Committee
Anne Hall
June Kirl

October 13, 1972

FORMER STUDENT
SUCCEEDED McMATH
AS DENTON HIGH BAND
DIRECTOR IN 1977

To Whom It May Concern:

I am beginning my tenth year as a band director. Presently, I am band director at South Garland High School in Garland, a 4-AAAA school with enrollment of around 2,000 students. Many times, I have thought back to the time when Carroll McMATH saw to it that I had a chance to play in the band. My parents could not afford to provide me with an instrument even though my music aptitude test showed me to have a great potential for music. So Mr. McMATH gave me a school-owned baritone horn and plenty of encouragement so that when my high school career was over, I was in the All-State Band and had won many medals, awards, and a college scholarship.

During the time I was in the Denton High School Band, I came to know Carroll McMATH well because the band hall was the place I spent most of my time. He was not only an excellent teacher, his bands consistently winning top ratings in the many contests we competed in, but a fine example of dedication, determination, and high ideals both in his professional and personal life. He was never too busy to help me with any problems I might have and we admired him for the fair way he dealt with us all.

I think the greatest tribute I can pay to this man who has had such a profound influence on my life is that I now know him as an adult and a colleague in the band directing profession, and I admire and respect him a hundred times more. He has given his community and the school in which he teaches years of excellence in his bands - and everyone in this field knows how hard that is to do, even once. He has influenced countless lives with his quiet dignity and dedication to his students and his profession. The one word that comes to mind when you mention the name of Carroll McMATH is "Gentleman", for he truly is one in a time when that is rare. He is an inspiration to me and to everyone who has ever been fortunate enough to know him.

Respectfully yours



Arthur Barnard
Band Director
South Garland High School
Garland, Texas 75040

DENTON HIGH SCHOOL BAND

CARROLL McMATH, DIRECTOR

DENTON, TEXAS

Oct. 21, 1972

CO-TEACHER

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

As assistant band director at Denton High School, it has been my pleasure for over 2 years to be Carroll McMATH's closest co-worker. I am honored to be allowed to express my sincere feelings about this fine gentleman, who has very deservedly been selected TEACHER OF THE YEAR in the Denton Public Schools.

Carroll McMATH is not only a director of instrumental music. He is a music EDUCATOR, with more concern for the welfare of his students and colleagues than anyone else I know in our profession. His high musical standards are surpassed only by his ability to inspire bandmen to be ladies and gentlemen first, musicians second! Mr. Mac, as he is affectionately known by all, also inspires leadership and creativity through student participation in band administration. Rules and guidelines, important decisions, fund-raising matters, intra-squad contests, discipline, and other pertinent non-musical affairs are handled through joint efforts of the students and directors. Mr. McMATH's Bronco Band Manual, written and amended by students, is known and imitated all over the country. Mr. Mac solicits and carefully studies the students' opinions, primarily for the maturation and development of these students as productive members of adult society.

As his assistant, I am constantly impressed, amazed, and usually humbled by his ability to handle the occasional crisis which every school organization faces. His understanding and patience is phenomenal, but when it is necessary to discipline a student, he has a special kind of firmness that seems to say to that student..."I love you".

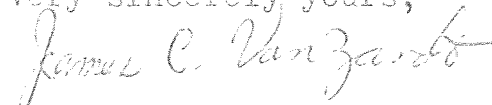
Carroll McMATH's Christian ideals, devotion to duty, and love for his students and his profession make him stand out as an educator. Unlike some, he is sympathetic to the needs of other departments in the school, and is willing to "give and take" for the betterment of the total program. He is an avid sports fan, and attends all programs and functions of other school organizations. He is active in many professional organizations, some quite exclusive, and has held offices in several of these. In short, Carroll McMATH is a Professional in every sense of the word.

I have mentioned very little about Mr. Mac's actual teaching of instrumental music. Words are really superfluous, because the Bronco Band's history speaks for itself. For 30 years, Mr. Mac has been the mainstay of a strong Denton band, and it is now one

of the strongest in the state, with over 700 students in the current band program.

As his assistant, I am constantly learning from him...learning not only about the organization and direction of bands, but about working with people. But even more striking, Carroll McMath is still learning. He is flexible and open-minded after 30 successful years! He is never quite satisfied, and is willing to get new ideas even from relative beginners like myself. I repeat... Carroll McMath is a PROFESSIONAL! To me, wherever I am, "Mr. Mac" will always be "Teacher of the Year"!

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James C. Van Zandt". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a prominent initial 'J'.

James C. Van Zandt
Assistant Director



Carroll McMath Has Been Band Director To About



THE DENTON RECORD-CHRONICLE

Sunday, March 16, 1969

MORE →

—STAFF PHOTO BY TOM BEESLEY

1,200 Denton High Students

25 Years As Band Director Makes McMath's Job Steady

By KEITH SHELTON
Staff Writer

Carroll McMath had a tough time getting to be a full-time band director, but once he got the job, he kept at it.

He's in his 25th year as director of bands for the Denton public schools.

It's not that he wasn't trained for the job. He got his bachelor's degree in music education from Texas Tech. But his first job was at Texhoma, Okla. He taught band, okay. But he also taught math, geography, shop and agriculture and drove the school bus.

After two years of that, he came to Denton High School, but he also had to teach seventh-grade history.

Then the war came along and he went into the Navy. He was in a ship's band, but instead of playing, most of his duties consisted of damage control.

Of course, now he's got a full-time band job plus assistants. And he's built up one of the most distinguished records of any bandsman in the state.

His bands have won first-division ratings—the highest you can get — 15 times in marching, 17 times in concert and 21 times in sightreading. He has produced 44 members of the Texas All-State Band.

And he's been the band director of about 1,200 students.

Many of them will honor him by attending the annual Spring Concert of the Denton High School band Saturday at 8 p.m. at the high school. All the former band students have been invited to attend. Tickets are 50 cents for students and \$1 for adults, with proceeds to go to the Carroll McMath Scholarship Fund, which helps band students.

McMath's biography winds through West Texas, but keeps ending up back in Denton.

He was born in Carrollton, the son of a school teacher. But the family moved to Lubbock when he was a child and he attended public schools there.

His family had ties to Denton, however, and he spent his summer here. Mrs. S. B. Graham, mother of Denton's Floyd Graham, started him on piano at the age of nine. Floyd

Graham also later found him a trumpet teacher and a used trumpet for \$10.

Yet, he started out to major in journalism at Texas Tech. He got a new cornet while playing in the Tech band, however, and slowly migrated into band work.

He was graduated in 1938 into the dust bowl job in the Oklahoma panhandle. Oh, yes, he also was elementary school principal there.

Courses in Oklahoma history, art and agriculture were required to teach in Oklahoma in those days, so McMath went to summer school at Panhandle A&M, Goodwell, Okla.

The course in agriculture helped encourage him into a musical career.

So, the summer of 1940, McMath started to North Texas and became the band director at Denton High. He got his master of music degree in 1941.

In September of 1942, he went into the Navy. He was stationed various places before being assigned to the U.S.S. Guam, a battle cruiser, spending six months in the Atlantic doing damage control drills.

Finally, he got sent to the Navy Music School in Washington—in the business office receiving and shipping instruments to fleet units.

When he got out in 1945, he went to Hereford, where Chester O. Strickland was the school superintendent. When Strickland came to Denton in 1946,

McMath came with him—back home. He also married the present Mrs. McMath, Roberta,

a Lubbock girl.

His first band had 40 members. This year, he has 120. He also now has bands in junior high and in eight elementary schools.

McMath is now teaching the children of former students. "It'll be bad when the grand kids start showing up," he muses. Some of his former students have grandchildren, but they're not old enough for band yet.

Many of McMath's former students have made names for themselves in the music world.

David Breeden, an All-State band member at DHS, now is in the U.S. Navy Band in Washington.

Arion Gibson, another All-Stater, plays oboe with the Austin and Fort Worth symphonies and recently won a prize with the San Angelo Symphony, which will include a solo appearance with the orchestra.

Silvia Brummett, another McMath student, is a successful band director in Colorado. Arthur Bernard is a junior high director in Garland.

Among his students also have been two sons of the famous trumpet player Harry James. Jeff and Tim, who lived in Denton with their mother, the former Louise Tobin, and his own two sons, Bill and Bob. Bill, a freshman at North Texas, plans to be a band director. Bob is working on his Ph.D. in history at the University of North Carolina.

Aside from those who make music a profession, other students also get something from band, in McMath's opinion.

"One of the biggest gains is the participation in a worthwhile activity that makes the student feel a part of the school," he says. "They can't all be great football and basketball players."

The band director says he knows of many cases in which band has made the adjustment to high school easier and more enjoyable for students.

"The association with an above-average type of students is valuable, too, along with an appreciation of music."

Of course, not all of the students are outstanding. But most of them like band.

McMath recalls, for example, the case of one student who violated the rules to the extent of being barred from a band trip to Gainesville.

En route, McMath heard a thumping on top of the bus and ordered the driver to pull off the highway. Sure enough, there was the offending student clutching to the roof of the bus.

"I don't know if he got to Gainesville or not," McMath recalls, "but he didn't get there with the band."

McMath is quick to heap word of appreciation on the three principals he has worked with and on Superintendent Strickland. He also praises the junior high band directors "who have kept the flow coming."

All of which is not to say that McMath is about to retire. Far from it. He finally got a full-time band job and he's going to keep it.

MR. MAC

Band Leader Is Entering 27th Year

By PATI GRAHAM

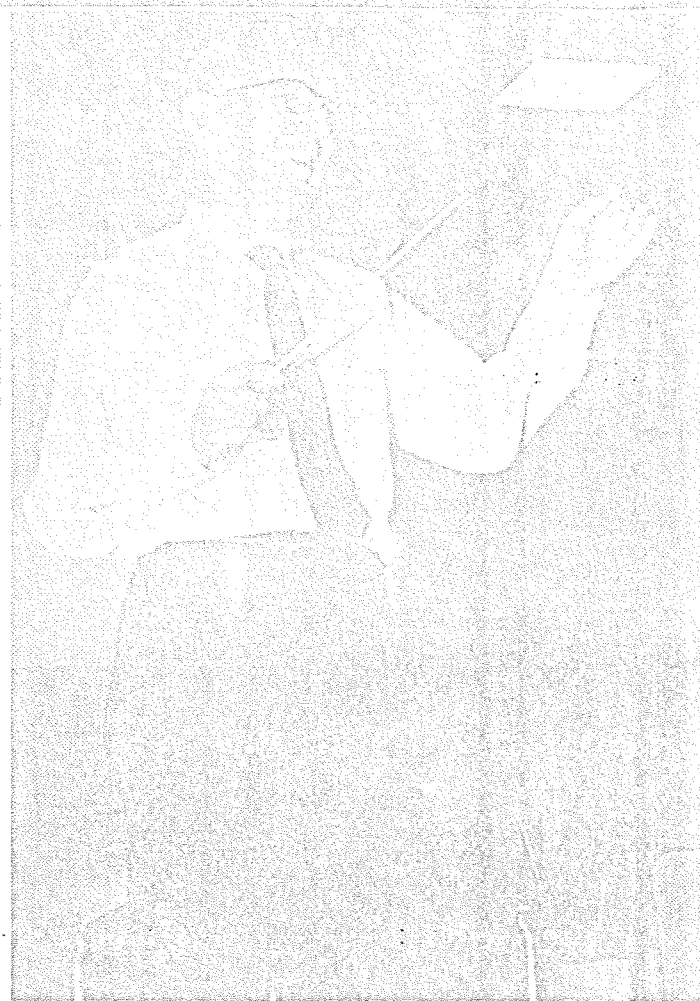
Mr. Carroll McMath is the DHS music man. In 1940, he marched his first 45-piece Bronco Band onto the field. Tonight, 1970, he will again march the Bronco Band — now 141 strong — onto the field for Homecoming.

A man directs quite a few marches in 27 years. McMath adds variety to the band's repertoire by selecting not only familiar, traditional marches and fanfares, but also arrangements of musicals popular songs, heavy rock, and classics.

Affectionately called "Mr. Mac" by his students, Carroll McMath has maintained student interest in the band, resulting in

a yearly increase in its size.

Despite the general disapproval by youth of Establishment-type organizations, the Bronco Band continues to be a success. Rehearsals every



MR. CARROLL McMATH, 1970 — Mr. Mac gives the smile familiar to thousands of students through the years. Here, he directs an after-school sectional in the band hall.

HORSHOE

Published by the Students of Denton High School

Friday, October 23, 1970

morning at 7:45 a.m. and after school rehearsals once a week contribute to the band's excellence in performance every Friday night.

"The main thing has been the building of the tradition through the years of winning (contests) by the desire of the kids — plus a lot of hard work," explained McMath.

Through the years, he has had many students who have gone into music. David Breeden, winner of several awards, while in the Bronco Band and the son of Leon Breeden, Lab Band director at North Texas State University, is presently a member of the United States Navy Band.

Sylvia Brummett directs her own band in Colorado; Arthur Barnard, also former DHS band member, is the South Garland band director; Dean Shank, now a doctoral student in music at NTSU, was formerly head of the Music Department's Recording Department.

One member of Mr. Mac's

own family also leans toward the field of music. His younger son, Bill, drum major of the Bronco Band in 1968, is presently drum major of the NTSU Marching Band, directed by Mr. Maurice McAdow. Mr. Mac's older son, Bob, is working at the University of North Carolina on his PhD in history. McMath's wife, Roberta, is Executive Secretary, in charge of Medical Secretaries at the Denton State School.

McMath is a member of Kappa Kappa Psi, Phi Beta Mu (the National Bandmasters' Fraternity), Phi Mu Alpha, and Le Band Music Educators' National Advisory Board. He is also a deacon in the First Baptist Church and has served three years in the Navy.

McMath came to NTSU in 1940 to study for his masters degree in music, after changing his major from journalism to music in his sophomore year at Texas Tech.

Bronco Band members are proud.

glad he made the switch. "He is truly dedicated to the band; he gives his ALL to the students," commented Gordon Henger, senior.

"He's a REAL person who really works for the kids," said Geary Rachel, senior.

Patty Clifton, sophomore, said, "In my two months at DHS, I have found him to be very reasonable; he really tries to be fair. I enjoy working under him."

Karen Watson expressed the secret behind McMath's success and popularity with the students: "Mr. Mac is truly concerned about EACH INDIVIDUAL and band member. He really cares."

To you, Mr. Mac, thank you for everything you have given DHS — your time, effort, concern, talents, and dedication have made the Denton High School Bronco Band truly a band of which we can all be proud.

The School Musician

15¢ A COPY
\$1 A YEAR



JANUARY 1942

teachers who have worked with us for the advantages their efforts have gained for us, especially during that period known as "Recruit" drill. In this stage the theory and practice of obedience (obeying commands) is mastered by the familiar close-order-drill. This is a very easy matter for one trained in band maneuvers. Half of the ability to obey a command is being alert enough to hear it.

Upon completion of the "jaw-bone" work in a training camp, the volunteer, selectee, trainee, yard-bird, or whatever you call him, is dispatched to a regular unit and there he is placed in rank according to his army classification. His former employment or pursuits as civilian determine this to a large extent.

Those of us who have some musical abilities are transferred to a morale unit called the Band. The duties of this unit consist of playing for various programs for the entertainment of the personnel, and for the formal military formations,—Reveille, Guard Mount, Regimental Review, Honor Guards for celebrities or visiting officers, parades on special occasions, and the Retreat Parade at which time the colors are lowered. Persons who live near a post should take advantage of these colorful ceremonies.

Although we bandsmen are often dubbed "Gold-brickers", we work hard under the efficient guidance of a commissioned Warrant Officer. The morning hours are spent in rehearsal and practice formations. The afternoon affords time for individual practice and study preceding the regular formations.

The band concerts usually occasion the use of light music since the majority of the Service men do not understand nor appreciate that great music called the Classics. Due in part to this fact, the dance orchestra (composed of band members) which plays for the social affairs, is very popular.

We men of the First Infantry are proud of its record which has been honorable ever since its organization as the first U. S. Army unit in 1789. On our list of Commanders we have the former President Zachary Taylor and today we work under the brilliant command of Col. J. E. Ardrey, who was recently in charge of the Infantry School. Our Warrant Officer, Mr. Howard Marsh, was a pupil of Chicago's famous trumpeter, E. Lewellyn. Upon graduation from the Washington, D. C. Bandmasters college, he served in Panama and was transferred to the First Infantry soon after the emergency was declared.

We send our very best wishes to the musicians of the schools, as well as to **THE SCHOOL MUSICIAN**.—Pfc. Thomas E. Wilson, Band, First Infantry, 6th Division, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Music Contests

The SCHOOL MUSICIAN:

Inasmuch as our country is now at war with the axis and the supply of rubber has become a crucial matter in our defense program, do you not think that it would be a forward step for the music directors of the country to consider the possibility of abandoning the music contests for this year?

To recognize the necessity for this step in advance and to take some immediate action would be a "scoop" for the music

(Turn to page 25)

Presenting—



Carroll McMath, Denton, Texas

Carroll McMath is the director of the Denton, Texas high school band which was recently awarded \$100 in prize money at the Dallas Centennial Christmas parade, in which the musicians competed with the best bands in Texas. Mr. McMath was educated at Texas Technological college in Lubbock where he majored in band under the tutorship of Dewey O. Wiley. An excellent cornetist, he was active in summer and clinic work at Lubbock under A. A. Harding, Mark H. Hindsley, Herbert L. Clarke, A. R. McAllister and Earl D. Irons. A charter member of Alpha Omicron Chapter, Kappa Kappa Psi, National Band Fraternity, Mr. McMath at the age of 20, took over as his first job, the direction of the Texhoma, Oklahoma high school band, where he raised money for new uniforms and built up a First division organization. The Texhoma band travelled over 2,000 miles during Mr. McMath's directorship. His work with the Denton, Texas band is spectacular and the musicians are adept in both concert and colorful marching. The most recent of their numerous concerts were presented December 5 and December 16. An ardent disk fan, Mr. McMath's hobby is collecting fine recordings of both the classics and band music.



HOLTON

Fanfare

FRANK HOLTON & CO.

ELKHORN, WISCONSIN

3



No American musician is more vitally active in behalf of American music than Howard Hanson. As Director of the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester, he is in the forefront of American music educators; as composer and conductor he has established wide contacts with an international public; as public speaker he has in this country added argument to practical accomplishment. "Fanfare" is proud to welcome Dr. Hanson to its growing roster of eminent contributors.

IN THIS ISSUE

- | | |
|---|----|
| The Mission of the Music Educator | 3 |
| By Howard Hanson | |
| The Present and Future of Band Instrumentation | 5 |
| By William D. Revell | |
| Teaching the Tuba | 9 |
| By Hugh McMillan | |
| Band Manual Key to Building Better Bands | 10 |
| By Carroll McMath | |
| French Horn Clinic | 11 |
| By Philip Farkas | |
| Importance of Breath Control (II) | 12 |
| By Alfred F. Barto | |
| Selling Administrators on The Instrumental Program | 13 |
| By Steve Pyron | |
| You, Too, Can "Pack the House" | 13 |
| By Otto Werner | |
| Building a Good Marching Band | 14 |
| By Robert K. Powell | |

Several types of vibrato are possible on the tuba. The combination throat-diaphragm type is not, in the opinion of many players and teachers, a desirable one. The hand vibrato is used by some players, but the most widely used type is probably the lip vibrato. The latter is produced by mouthing the syllable "Wah Wah Wah," etc. Care should be exercised to see that the speed, width and regularity are carefully controlled. The vibrato should not be introduced until the player has developed considerable control of basic tone quality and intonation. *The player should not overuse this device.* Since it is basically a solo tone color, it should rarely be used in band or orchestra playing unless called for by the conductor.

Multiple Articulations

For the advanced player double tonguing (using the syllables T-K, T-K, etc., or Dee-Gee at faster tempi) is a valuable technical device which can be very effectively employed in fast passages in duple rhythm. Triple Tonguing (T-T-K, T-T-K, etc. — or Dee-Dee-Gee) is also an excellent and necessary technical device to be used in both solo and ensemble playing.

Great care should be taken by the player to practice both double and triple tonguing at very slow tempi at first in order that control of evenness and tonal balance may be achieved. When the player can do the articulations satisfactorily in each of several speeds, double and triple tonguing become very useful.

Three Basic Note Lengths A "Must" in Teaching Good Style

A. *Legato length* — Continuous tone with rhythmic impulses (necessary for changing notes or playing repeated notes) accomplished with the syllables "DAH" or "RAH."

B. *Regular (or 3/4 length)* — Used for marcato playing at moderate tempi. Play a quarter note as though it were a dotted eighth followed by a sixteenth rest.

C. *Staccato length* — The dot staccato means HALF LENGTH. Therefore a staccato quarter note should be played as an eighth rest. This should be practiced slowly as well as fast in order to achieve the feeling of roundness which a staccato note should have. *The short (or accented) staccato* marked with a triangular wedge over the note is played shorter than the dotted type and with considerable accent.

Inflection and Phrasing

A. Suggestions for teaching better inflection in a phrase line: When notes in the phrase progress upward, tend to make a slight crescendo; when the notes go downward, a decrescendo is indicated UNLESS specifically marked otherwise.

B. "Phrase-offs" at the end of a phrase or on slurred duplets: (1) In slow passages, play the last note of the phrase with less intensity and volume. (2) In fast passages it may be desirable, also, to shorten the last note.

Hugh McMillan's excellent introduction to the teaching of tuba first appeared in the Belwin Band Builder—a symposium of articles on instrumental instruction that should be a part of every band director's library. Copies are available free of charge from Belwin, Inc., Rockville Centre, L.I., N.Y.

Band Manual A Key To Building Better Bands

By CARROLL McMATH

Band Director
Denton (Texas) High School

• "If I had known that earlier, my daughter would never have been in the band."

Why didn't that unhappy mother have that information before her daughter became a member of the band? After all, she was entitled to know what was to be expected of her daughter after she got in the band.

Although the idea of some sort of band manual had been passing through my mind from time to time, it took the above statement to drive me to take action on the matter.

When I began to jot down the things a new band member should know I was amazed at how rapidly my stack of notes was growing



Carroll McMATH

As soon as our student officers were elected in the fall of 1950, we took them to a lake side cabin for a twenty four hour band officers camp. In addition to several hours of instruction in drill procedures, we prepared the first draft of the Denton High School Bronco Band Manual.

I knew that if such a project was to be a success that it must be the work of the members themselves. I merely served as a guide and counselor. We discarded some of my ideas and added many of their ideas. We then took the manual back to the entire band, and after much discussion and more changes, the band adopted the manual. About five years later several needed amendments were added. Last year the manual was completely revised and brought up to date. It now consists of seven and one-half legal size mimeographed pages.

The manual does not solve all administrative problems, of course, but it has been a great help. Parents and students alike appreciate the manual. At least, everyone knows what is expected of band members before they get in the band.

The manual opens with the following statement: "This manual was prepared by the officers and director of the Denton High

School Band and approved by a majority vote of the band membership. All changes and amendments must be approved by a majority vote of the band."

No person is considered an official member of the band until he and his parents have read the entire manual and returned to the director a card, signed by the student and his parents, accepting all provisions of band organization and government, as set forth in the manual."

Space will not permit a detailed discussion of each of the 21 sections of the manual. Of course, many of these details would apply only to our own situation. The first section on Class Organization sets forth the policies regarding admission to the first and second bands, credit and non-credit students, football playing band members, etc.

One of the most important sections is on Attendance. Herein are discussed the regulations regarding school absences, attendance at extra rehearsals, public appearances, and out-of-school jobs.

As one feature of our induction program for incoming band members, the new students join the Juniors and Seniors for a week of rehearsals and a concert in July and pre-school rehearsals in August. Several paragraphs are devoted to regulations and suggestions regarding the use and care of uniforms, music, and both private and school owned instruments.

A very important factor in any success that our band has had is the use of elected student officers. We use a military type officer set-up, with a captain, lieutenants, and sergeants, plus drum major, student directors, librarians, and property managers. The manual lists the qualifications and duties for each of these officers. One paragraph discusses the selection and work of the majorettes.

Since we are in a college town and use college student teachers, it is very important that our members understand their relationship to the student teachers.

We are fortunate in having adequate practice rooms, and we have listed regulations regarding their use. Many parents and even some pupils do not have a clear understanding about the music competition-festival entered by the band and by individuals and groups. We have tried to explain that in the manual. Our jacket award system is discussed in detail on another sheet, but brief mention is also made here.

Like most band directors, I have not found the perfect grading system for band members. At the present time our six weeks grade is based on attitude, playing ability, and outside practice. In addition to the report card, each member receives a separate attitude sheet covering the following points: effort, co-operation, loyalty and dependability, promptness, humility, initiative and self-reliance, sportsmanship, and courtesy. To me, if these factors are in good shape, the instrument playing will usually take care of itself.

Our band travels a great deal, so the most detailed set of rules in the entire manual is in the section on trips. As a result, our pupils know what is expected of them, and we have very little trouble on trips.

We are fortunate in having a strong, co-operative Band Parents Club, and this organization is discussed in the manual.

No school organization will be made up

completely of boys and girls who co-operate 100% all of the time. The manual has two paragraphs on disciplinary punishment.

The manual concludes with a brief discussion of our section ratings and challenge system. The rules for this are posted on the bulletin board.

Mr. John Q. Taxpayer is interested primarily in the finished product that he sees on the football field on Friday night or on the concert stage in the spring, but if a manual such as this can help the busy band director prepare that finished product, its preparation will be worth all of the trouble involved. In our case, the band manual has been a great help.

French Horn Clinic

By PHILIP FARKAS

This excerpt is from Mr. Farkas' authoritative book, "The Art of French Horn Playing," © 1956 Summy-Birchard Publishing Co., Evanston, Illinois, reprinted by permission. The complete 100 page book is a "must" for all horn players. At music and book stores, \$3.50 a copy.

• There is nothing more disheartening than to break the first note of a passage, as one then feels he has "ruined" the passage before he has fairly started. And yet this first note seems to be the one most often missed. There is good reason for this, as it is usually the most difficult note of the passage, psychologically speaking. Once under way, a certain momentum seems to carry us along; but that first note, coming in "cold," seems to be the difficult one much too often. Frequently, in the classics, there is just one isolated solo note to hit, high and *pianissimo*, and this can cause about as much mental anguish to the anxious horn player as an elaborate solo. So the study of clean attacks is at once a fundamental study for horn players and also a means of clearing up a large percentage of potentially missed notes.



Philip Farkas

Very slowly — Take mouthpiece off lips between notes

♩ = 60

Alternate $\begin{cases} p-f \\ f-p \end{cases}$

Shown above is an exercise which, if used from five to ten minutes a day—but *every day*—will give very gratifying results in the production of clean, accurate attacks. The notes are purposely combined in an unrelated manner so that the ear will aid as little as possible in the attacks. Of course, try to hear the notes and intervals before each attack; but particularly for the purpose of this exercise, try to "taste" each note. Every note has a distinct muscular setting, almost a "flavor" of its own. It is this distinction in taste and feel, almost instinctive, that we wish to develop for each note on the horn. Play each note as cleanly and clearly as possible. Take two or three full seconds between each note, during which the mouthpiece is to be taken *completely off* the lips and then reset for the next note.

Now alternate the dynamics, playing one note *forte* and the next note *piano*. The following day reverse these dynamics, playing the *forte* notes of the day before *piano*, and the former *piano* notes *forte*. After a few days of this practice, you will become increasingly aware that certain notes on your particular instrument are more treacherous than others. Here our penalty system again comes into good use. When an attack in this exercise is missed, insist on three consecutive

clean attacks of the same note before continuing, each separated by a complete removal of the mouthpiece for an instant. Automatically, the more uncertain, dangerous notes will get much more attention than the easier notes, which is the only real way to conquer them. Remember, one day's work on this exercise will accomplish nothing. It is faithful daily repetition which brings results. This is an excellent exercise to include in the daily miscellaneous problems to be practiced after the warm-up, as I have suggested in the chapter on PRACTICE.

This exercise can also be used to advantage in conjunction with the other exercises suggested in the chapter on TONGUING.

Recommended etudes for gaining accuracy:

Kopprasch, 60 Etudes; Nos. 20, 23, 32.

Gallay, Opus 13: Etude 8. Opus 27: Etudes 1, 12, 18. Opus 43; Etude 10. Opus 57: Etudes 2, 9.

Maxime-Alphonse, Book 3: Etudes 5, 12, 16. Book 4: Etudes 1, 5, 16. Book 5: Etudes 3, 4, 13, 15. Book 6: All Etudes.

Muller, 12 Etudes for Horn: Etudes III, IV, V.

Schantl-Pottag, Preparatory Melodies: Nos. 21, 38, 52, 91, 97.

Franz, Complete Method For Horn (30 exercises): Nos. 20, 26, 27.

Texas Education Agency



- STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
- STATE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
- STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

201 East Eleventh Street
Austin, Texas
78701

November 10, 1972

Mr. Robert C. McMath
High School Band
Denton High School
Denton Independent School District
Denton, Texas 76201

Dear Mr. McMath:

Let me congratulate you for being selected as a nominee for the Texas Teacher of the Year. It is an honor to be recognized by your professional colleagues as one who exemplifies teaching excellence and professional competence. We have received information on so many excellent nominees that I know the selection committee will have a most difficult time in making a decision on only one individual.

You are a winner regardless of whether or not you are selected as the one Texas nominee to the National Teacher of the Year award. I want to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to you for your contributions to the educational program in Texas. Teachers like you set the standards for quality in education in Texas. I hope that the community that enjoys your professional services realizes how fortunate it is to have you as a teacher of its children.

Best wishes for your continued success.

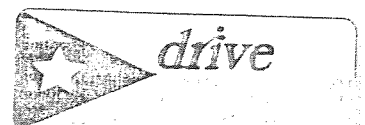
Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "L. Harlan Ford".

L. Harlan Ford
Assistant Commissioner for
Teacher Education and Instructional
Services

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Waurine Walker".

Waurine Walker, Assistant Director
Division of Teacher Education
and Certification



The ten teachers selected for the final review were:

Mrs. Mary Cross Brown--Journalism
Stephen F. Austin High School
Houston ISD

Mrs. Juanita M. Brownlee--Mathematics
Austin Junior High School
Beaumont ISD

Mrs. Bettye Sue Carr--Reading
Judson Junior High School
Longview ISD

Mrs. Delia G. Garcia--Biology
Grapevine High School
Grapevine ISD

Mrs. Geraldine Haggard--Reading
Mendenhall and Sigler
Elementary School
Plano ISD

Mrs. Helen G. Hall--Third Grade
Ridglea Hills Elementary School
Fort Worth ISD

Mr. R. C. McMath--Music
Denton High School
Denton ISD

Mrs. Jean McMillan--History
Lanier High School
Austin ISD

Mrs. Leslie Owen--Reading
East Elementary School
Taft ISD

Mrs. Carroll Pamplin--Resource
Wilshire Elementary School
North East ISD



2-1-1984

Director emeritus

Staff photo by ERIC GAY

Former Denton High School band director Carroll McMath directs the DHS band Tuesday night. The DHS band booster club honored McMath, who was band director 32 years, by naming him director emeritus. The club also established a

\$5,000 endowed scholarship in his name. The fund will provide a scholarship each year for a graduating DHS student who plans to study music.

2-9-84

From the 'Director Emeritus'

One of the highlights of my life was the double honor bestowed on me at the Jan. 31 concert of "The Pride of Bronco Country" Band. I have tried to thank all of those directly involved, but there are so many more people who made that evening possible, that I would like to share a few thoughts through the pages of your paper.

Words cannot express my true gratitude to the band members and directors for making me their "Director Emeritus" and to the Band Booster Club for bringing the Carroll McMath Scholarship fund up to \$5,000. I am proud to be the "Director Emeritus" of such a great high school band. The scholarship fund was begun in May, 1962, by a group of band members who wanted to give a lasting gift to the band program. Many students were involved, but Barrett Robinson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Don Robinson, was one of the leaders and spokesmen. The fund was enlarged by students, then was sponsored by the D.H.S. Band Parents Club for several years. Six years ago the Band Booster Club set the goal which was reached last week. Many Denton High School graduates have continued their music education as a result of this fund.

I want to publicly thank all who helped in any way to develop the band program in the Denton Public Schools. The administration has always been very supportive. Hundreds of great young people actually did the work of producing fine bands and made my part much easier. Even so, we could not have accomplished our goals without the help and cooperation of concerned parents. I am very grateful to the fine staff of directors that assisted

me and to my co-workers at both universities. I must name one of those who worked very closely with me for nearly 30 years. Dr. S.M. Trickey was for many years director of the N.T.S.U. Laboratory School Band and coordinator of instrumental student teachers. His help in so many ways was invaluable.

Your fine newspaper, and especially you as a writer and editor, were very helpful in telling the public about our band program.

As I mentioned at the concert, the person who was my greatest helper during my years as director was my wife, Roberta.

I close by urging parents and other concerned citizens to be aware of the drastic changes that are taking place in the fine arts programs of Texas Public Schools. Find out what is happening.

"Thank ya' much."

Carroll McMath
Denton

The Morning Muse

Carroll McMath is the
man this rhyme is about
He's a soft spoken person
but often must shout.

He's a top flight
leader in this land
In fact he's the director
of the famous Bronco Band.

He has been at Denton High
for many many years
Receiving many plaudits
and enthusiastic cheers.

And we'd like very much
to give you this clue

He's loved by the students
and the other people too.

He's stern but kind to
the members of the band
And when his name is mentioned
he receives a lusty hand.

His band shows precision
on the football field
Which proves every time
they've been properly drilled.

But each Friday night
as he takes to his bed
He hears constant beating of
drums in his head.

—Brooks Holt



DENTON CITY SECRETARY

ANNOUNCED D.H.S. FOOTBALL GAMES & HALFTIMES

Retiring:

Band director quitting after 33 years at DHS

6/12/77

Carroll McMath, band director at Denton High School for 33 years, will soon embark on a new career.

He's retiring, courtesy of Gov. Dolph Briscoe, from teaching music to selling music at a local music store.

He announced his retirement, effective June 30, Friday immediately after the governor signed into law a new teacher retirement bill. Denton school trustees will receive notice of his retirement at their Tuesday morning meeting.

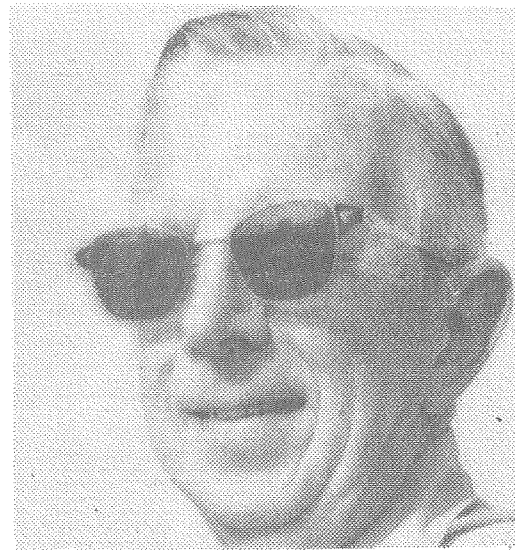
The bill made it financially possible for McMath, 58, to retire after his years of teaching and pursue a career he's had a hankering for since World War II, he said.

"I considered going into the music business after the war, but I got cold feet," McMath, who has marched thousands of feet through thousands of band routines, said. He will work at Pender's Music Store after his retirement.

"Somehow, we always anticipated there would be one more year (each year) before he would do this," Supt. Robert McGee commented, paying tribute to McMath's accomplishments.

McMath, Denton schools' first fulltime band director, compiled a distinguished record during his career. His bands consistently won first division ratings and he's sent numerous students to the all-state band and into careers. He was chosen teacher of the year in 1972 by the Denton Classroom Teachers' Association.

McMath was born in Carrollton and raised in West Texas from first grade through Texas Tech University. After graduating in 1938, he taught in Texoma, Okla., for two years before moving to Denton in the summer of 1940. He began teaching music and seventh grade history while working on a master's degree in music at North Texas State University. In 1942,



CARROLL McMATH
Retiring At DHS

after completing his degree, he joined the Navy.

His first teaching job after the war was in Hereford, where Chester Strickland was superintendent. When Strickland came to Denton in 1946, McMath came with him.

During his tenure, he built bands at Denton High School up from 40 members to more than 200 members this year.

The Monday

DENTON RECORD-CHRONICLE

15 Cents

74TH YEAR OF DAILY SERVICE — No. 282

DENTON, TEXAS, MONDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 27, 1977

16 Pages in 2 Sections

Mr. Mac: DHS' 'music man' putting baton away

If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away.

Henry David Thoreau

By DIANA KUTSKY
Education Writer

That's not quite the way it was on the playing fields of Denton High School. Because the members of the Bronco Band had Carroll McMath for a director.

And direct he did. Mr. Mac, as he is known to two generations of band students, led his students through marching, concerts, festivals and contests with honor.

The trophies and plaques and students who drop by to chat in his office in the band hall attest to Mr. Mac's skill at eliciting a total greater than the combination of individual efforts. In University Interscholastic League competition alone, the Bronco Band has won the sweepstakes award 15 times, based on performances in marching, concert and sightreading. In all contests, the band has won first division ratings 85 times, second division ratings 43 times and third division ratings 3 times. Seventy-three band students have been chosen All-State band members.

However, the time has come for Mr. Mac himself to follow a different calling. Come Friday he will no longer be director of the Bronco Band. Instead, he will be working in a local music store, Pender's, and fulfilling an ambition he has harbored for many years.

his cubbyhole office off the band hall, clasp his hands behind his head and reflect on what he's done.

"What I've enjoyed the most was seeing the kids grow and develop," he commented quietly. "Maybe they've not become great musicians, but it's helped them become part of a team and produce more than they felt capable of doing."

Through music, students have learned to respect themselves and others, and "if they can do that, other things take care of themselves," he added.

Feeling a sense of belonging in high school is vital if students are to succeed after graduation, Mr. Mac believes. How well he filled that need is reflected in a scholarship fund established in his name by band parents in the mid-'60s and by his selection as teacher of the year in 1972 by the Denton Classroom Teachers Association. He was also one of 10 finalists for the statewide honor.

Understanding his philosophy of helping students through music should make it easier to understand why he said he doesn't encourage many kids to try music as a profession.

"Relatively few of them have any business going into it from a teaching standpoint," he said. "In the performance field there's so little room and it takes a very special talent."

Nonetheless, ex-students have pursued successful careers in music. David Breeden is now a member of the San Francisco Symphony; Sylvia Brummett is a music teacher in Washington; Marion Gibson plays with the Kansas City Philharmonic



Photo by JIM MAHONEY

Carroll McMath raises the baton for rehearsal as his lengthy teaching career draws to a close

music consultant for the Garland Independent School District. Son Bill McMath is a band director in a Lewisville middle school.

McMath himself didn't start out in college as a music major, but in journalism. However, his roots were bound into teaching, music and Denton.

He was born in Carrollton, the son of a school teacher, but moved to Lubbock when he was a child and attended school there.

Summers, however, found him back in Denton where Mrs. S.B. Graham,

Graham, started him on piano at the age of nine. Floyd Graham later found him a trumpet teacher and a \$10 used instrument.

But at Texas Tech, Mr. Mac began in journalism. However, participation in the Tech band on cornet and as a student conductor helped steer him into music education. He received his degree in 1938 and taught two years in Texoma, Okla., before coming to Denton as high school band director and junior high school history teacher.

World War II came along and

Navy from 1942-45. At the end of his service, he directed bands for a year in Hereford.

Chester Strickland, then Hereford school superintendent, prevailed upon McMath to return to Denton with him when Strickland became superintendent in 1946.

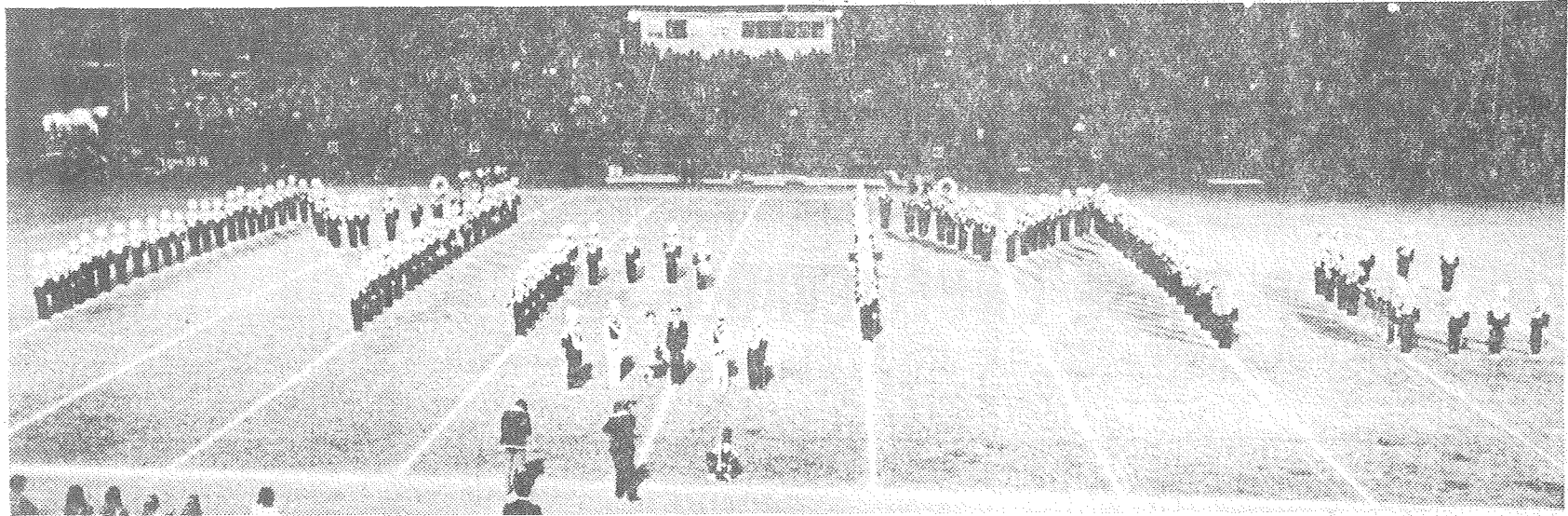
And here McMath has stayed! His first band had 40 members; in 1976-77, it had 725 members. From a staff of one, the band program in Denton schools has grown to a staff of six, with three additional persons on the orchestra staff.

Along the way, McMath developed his system of discipline, which he said boils down to trying to be consistent and fair. He also initiated the idea of a band students' manual and set up the band in squads, with sergeants to delegate further student responsibilities.

"There's never been a dull moment ... there's always a public appearance to prepare for ... you never stop, even in summer," he remarked.

However, the tempo is changing for Mr. Mac.

And, "if I've gotta have a year to quit in this is a good one," he said.



Surprise Works

Band Honors McMath

By JOYCE HOPKINS
Education Writer

As much a tradition for the Denton High School Bronco Band as bringing home trophies is finding a new way to honor their director Carroll McMath that will come as a surprise.

And by his own admission, the band's Friday night half-time show came as a complete shock to McMath.

Instead of the carefully rehearsed—before his eyes, anyway—show, the band's formation began to disintegrate.

"I thought they'd gone crazy out there," McMath admitted, "then I realized something was up."

He did not, however, realize he was the target until the formation spelling out "Mr. Mc" was complete.

"I absolutely, on my word of honor, had no idea," McMath, who was a finalist in the Texas Teacher of the Year contest last year, said.

The band gave him a plaque engraved with the words with which McMath ends rehearsals, "Thank you much."

Assistant director Jim VanZandt, with the help of choral director Rex Wilson and orchestra director Carol Nunez, pulled the surprise off without a hitch.

Nunez arranged a rhapsodized version of "For He's A Jolly Good Fellow" for the band to play in formation, and Rex Wilson, whose choir sang a special arrangement of "America the Beautiful," kept McMath on the sidelines during halftime.

VanZandt praised the band members for their efforts which included extra secret rehearsals at 7:10 a.m., before their regular 7:45 a.m. practices, and additional time on the field from 5 to 5:30 p.m. after the usual afternoon practice.

The band brought home its 17th first division for marching last week, and was scheduled to present parts of its contest routine.



Staff Photos

PROUD DIRECTOR — A grinning Carroll McMath looks at his band as they play a special arrangement of "For He's A Jolly Good Fellow" and spell out "Mr. Mc" during their Friday night show.

Payne, McMath Honored

Two educators with a combined service of half a century were voted Teacher and Administrator of the Year by the Classroom Teachers of Denton.

Carroll McMath, director of instrumental music in the DISD and high school band director, joined the school system in 1940. Crillon Payne, assistant superintendent for business, came to Denton as a teacher and a coach in 1950, and in 1956 he became the district's first business manager.

Payne was probably the more surprised of the two about his selection.

"I didn't get a ballot — I didn't even know it was that time of year," he said.

The former Kiwanis Club president has also held office in the state organization for school business managers.

"In all his dealings with his associates he is fair and has the highest moral standards and truly lives the Christian life daily," Alice Orgain, Payne's secretary, said of her boss.

"He is one of the finest persons anyone could want to work for."

Music education nearly lost McMath, who began his studies at Texas Tech as a journalism major.

McMath sees being a band director as somewhat different than being a regular classroom teacher.

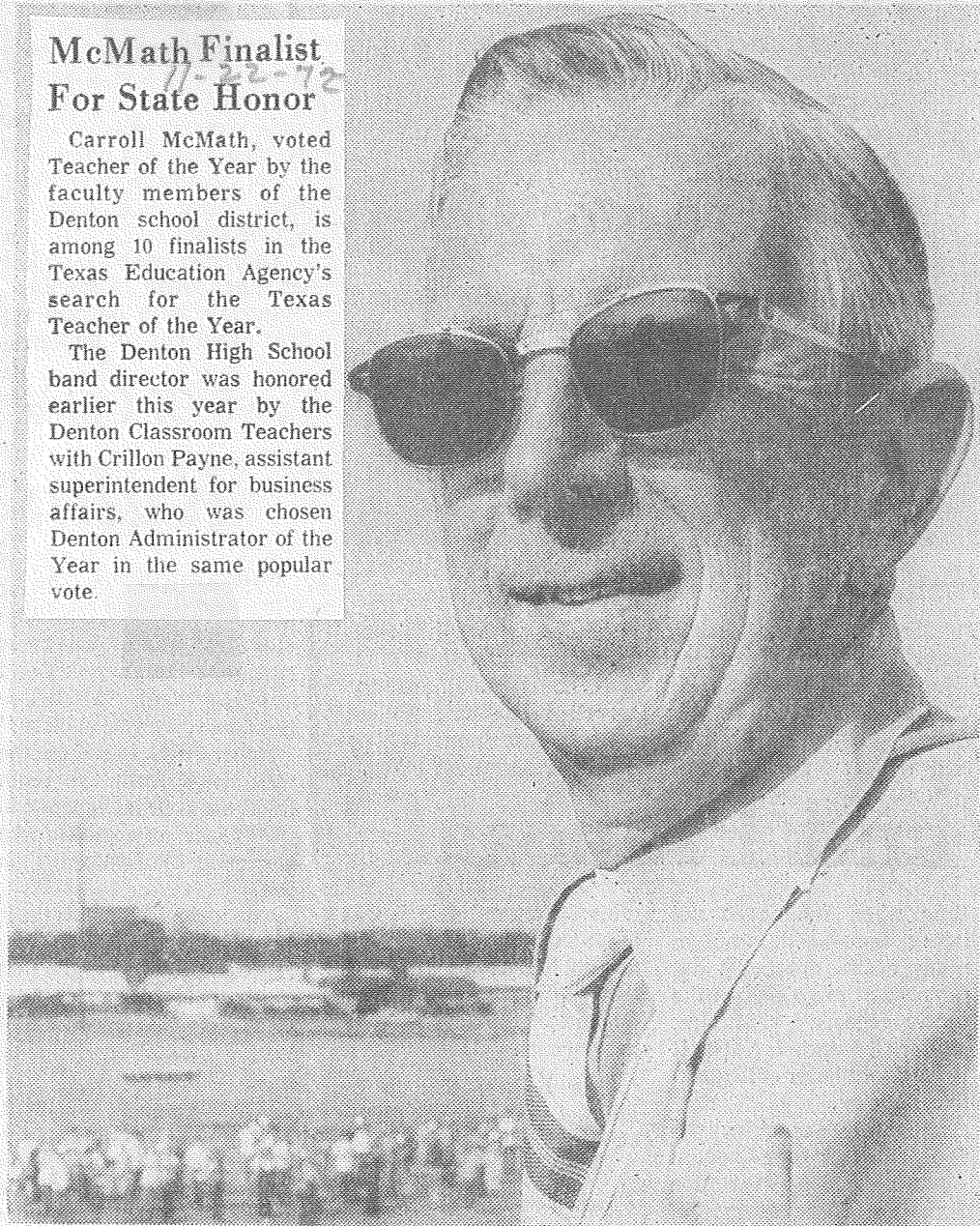
"First, I have select students to work with which in some ways makes it easier," he said. "Only the students who are definitely interested are still participating in the program."

And his work is put on public display every week during football season, and can be reflected in the some 67 first place or sweepstakes trophies his bands have won over the years.

McMath Finalist For State Honor

Carroll McMath, voted Teacher of the Year by the faculty members of the Denton school district, is among 10 finalists in the Texas Education Agency's search for the Texas Teacher of the Year.

The Denton High School band director was honored earlier this year by the Denton Classroom Teachers with Crillon Payne, assistant superintendent for business affairs, who was chosen Denton Administrator of the Year in the same popular vote.



Staff Photo By LARRY BARR

BAND PLAYS ON FOR TEACHER OF THE YEAR Carroll McMath Oversees DHS Marching Practice

Sunday, September 6, 1970

Bronco Band Shapes Up

Marchers Perfect Fall Performance

In the middle of August a group of Denton High school pupils went back to school to begin getting in shape for football season. But many of them would not begin to qualify for the team. They are members of the Bronco Band and, according to Band Director Carroll McMath, it takes as much to get them into physical shape for the season as it does for the football team.

"All that marching and blowing a horn at the same time can be very exhausting," McMath said. "So we have to get them into good shape before the season starts."

"They have to be able to march with good posture, knees high, toes pointed and arms swinging. This can be very strenuous — especially on the ankles and stomach," he said.

McMath and his assistant, Jim Van Zandt, have spent four hours a day since Aug. 11 working with the band to prepare the half-time shows for the games. Part of this time is spent in the band hall working on the music and part on field practicing the routines for the shows.

The band is preparing a different show for each game, although some of the music and some of the

precision marching drills will be repeated several times.

McMath and Van Zandt plan the routines, then make charts that are passed out to the band members. The charts show movements for small squads and these groups learn their part of the show before the band tries the routine together.

"It usually takes three to four weeks for the new kids in the band to learn how to coordinate themselves for marching," McMath said. "Too many of them want to glide across the field instead of picking up their feet."

This year for the first time the band is meeting at two separate class periods during the day. This was necessitated, McMath said, because of the increase in size. The two groups practice together for an hour before school and for an hour and a half after school. The after school practice is also new this year.

The band mostly uses traditional marches, but McMath said the tastes of the members are beginning to lean more toward popular tunes arranged in march time. These are usually used only for the drill team's part of the show.

Drum major for this year's band is Bill Eden. He was elected by the band last spring after try-outs in which he conducted the group in the band hall and lead a group through a march routine on the field. McMath worked with him after his election to help him with the basics of directing.

Four majorettes are also featured during the half-time shows. These girls are members of the band and must work out their own routines for the shows in addition to the time spent in band practice. This year they are Rene Elmore, Rhonda Ward, Belinda Murray and Mellissa Faulkner.

The Bronco Band will field 123 instrumentalists this fall, along with the drum major and majorettes. McMath said it's the largest band that the high school has ever had.

Three and a half hours of practice every day plus keeping up with their school work is not easy on the band members, but McMath said the most commonly heard complaint is interference with social life.

"But I don't put much stock in that," he said. "I've been to too many band weddings that were the result of romances started in the back of the band bus on the way to a game."

Text by

Kathi Reese



Director McMath signals start of practice.



Band members line up as practice begins



Van Zandt calls out instructions to marchers on band field

