

Patterson Receives 1980 Title

Texas Bandmasters Association, the largest state band association in the world, has named that Pat Patterson has been named the "Texas Bandmaster of the Year" for 1980. This tribute goes to one of the best band directors in the state of Texas. The award was begun in 1955. This is the highest honor paid to any band director by the association. Mr. Patterson will be honored during the Texas Bandmasters convention in San Antonio from July 29-30, 1980. He joins a group of directors who have been named among the top musicians in Texas and the United States, including Prof. J. H. Brown, director emeritus of the H-SU Cowboy Band, and Wiley, formerly of Texas Tech and the late Lyle Skinner, Waco High School.

Mr. Patterson came to Sweetwater High School in 1952, he inaugurated the Sweetwater band festival in 1954, and it is now the largest band festival in the state of Texas. It serves bands who attend by providing them with the UIL rules and as well as offering the individual student an opportunity to compete in solo and ensemble

competition. The festival this year will be held March 8, with about 1,500 students in attendance. An average of 18 to 25 bands participate annually in the festival. In the early stages of the festival there was a Marching Show Night in Mustang Bowl and a parade downtown climaxing with all participating bands playing together.

The creation of a stage band in 1953 has proved to be one of the most popular programs with music students in the school and city of Sweetwater. The stage band has won 15 trophies including the top band in its class in Brownwood as well as winning the Texas Tech festival twice, and the Ballinger festival. The band attended the Brownwood contest from 1954 until it closed after the death of its founder in 1974. The Sweetwater stage band was runner up band for top honors eight times. The stage band has played for programs at the school and for organizations in Sweetwater including service clubs, and the chamber of commerce banquet several times.

In 1965, Patterson began a series of vaudeville type revues that were extremely popular and featured

nostalgia music, skits, comedies, black-outs, with Patterson being assisted by Jack Rhor, of Southern Methodist University, who furnished most of the music for these revues.

Patterson was born December 15, 1923 in Waco, Texas. He and his wife Carolyn have eight children, Ronny and Mike Patterson, Pam Smith, Sharon Herrera, Lisa, Barbara, Beverly and Kelly Brittain and three grandchildren, Jeramy, Amy and Sabra.

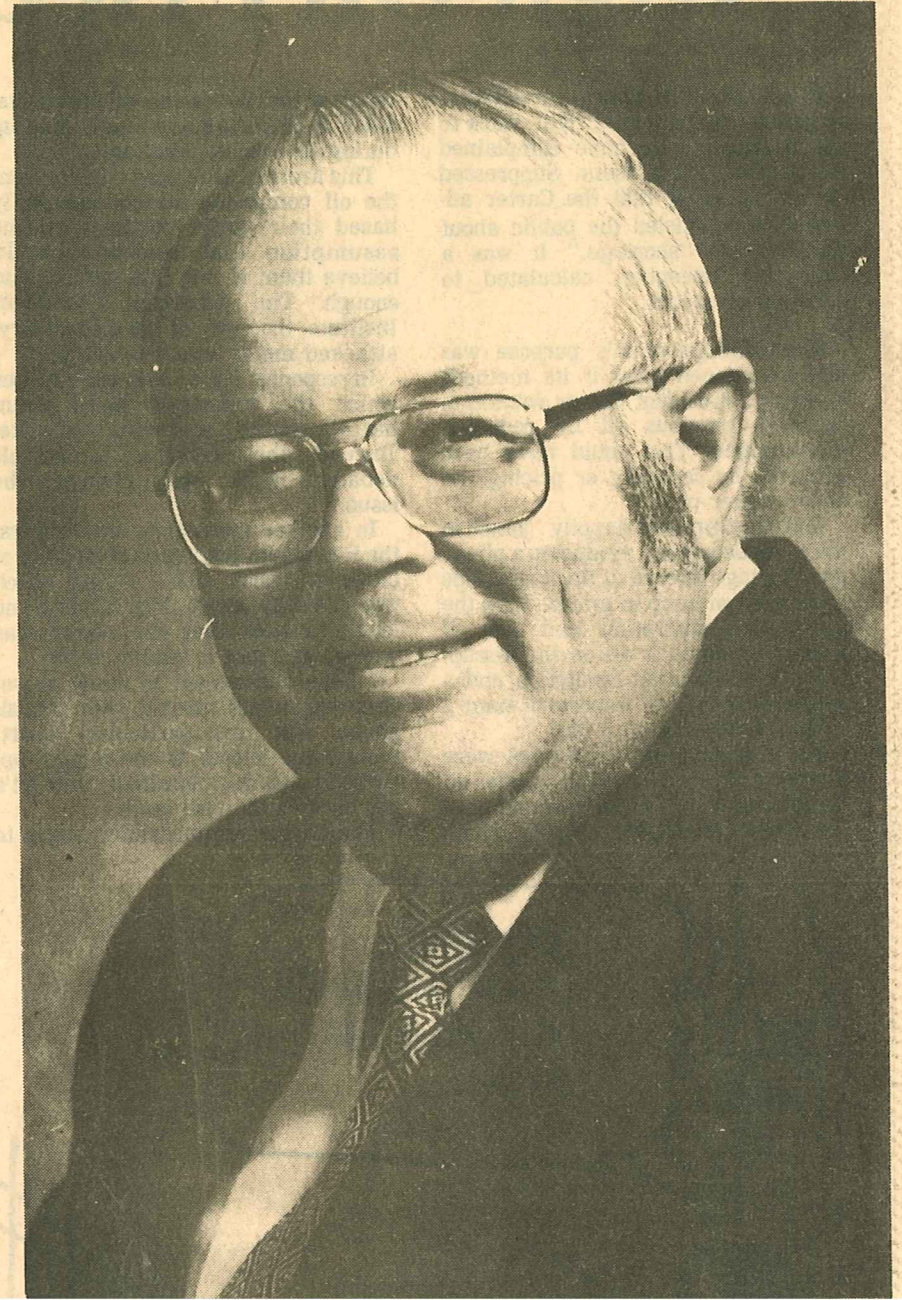
He graduated from Waco High School in 1941, played trombone under Lyle Skinner and was first chair in the All State Band three years in succession. Patterson attended Texas College of Mines, El Paso, received his BS from Hardin-Simmons University in 1950 and received his MME from Vandercook College of Music, Chicago, Ill., 1958.

He has taught for a total of 31 years, from 1949-1952 at Anson High School. Patterson has taught at Sweetwater High School since 1952. His bands have won 88 trophies for UIL events and stage band festivals, and has appeared in the Cotton Bowl New Years Day as a featured band. He has

taken the Mustang Band to the Battle of Flowers Festivals and parade twice and has been the guest of Southern Methodist University several times.

Patterson has played with the orchestras of Jack Teagarden, Anson Weeks, Ted Fiorito, and Sonny Dunham, and in the Waco, Austin, and El Paso symphonies. He played in the Army Air Force Dance Band for over three years. Patterson has played in numerous college, private, and area dance bands, ice shows, rodeos, Ringling Bros. and Barnum Bailey Circuses, and has served as West Texas Rehab Musical Director and conductor for the past seven years working with top entertainers such as Bob Hope, Helen O'Connell, Jimmy Dean, Sheri Lewis, Rex Allen, Helen Forest, Pat Boone, and many more.

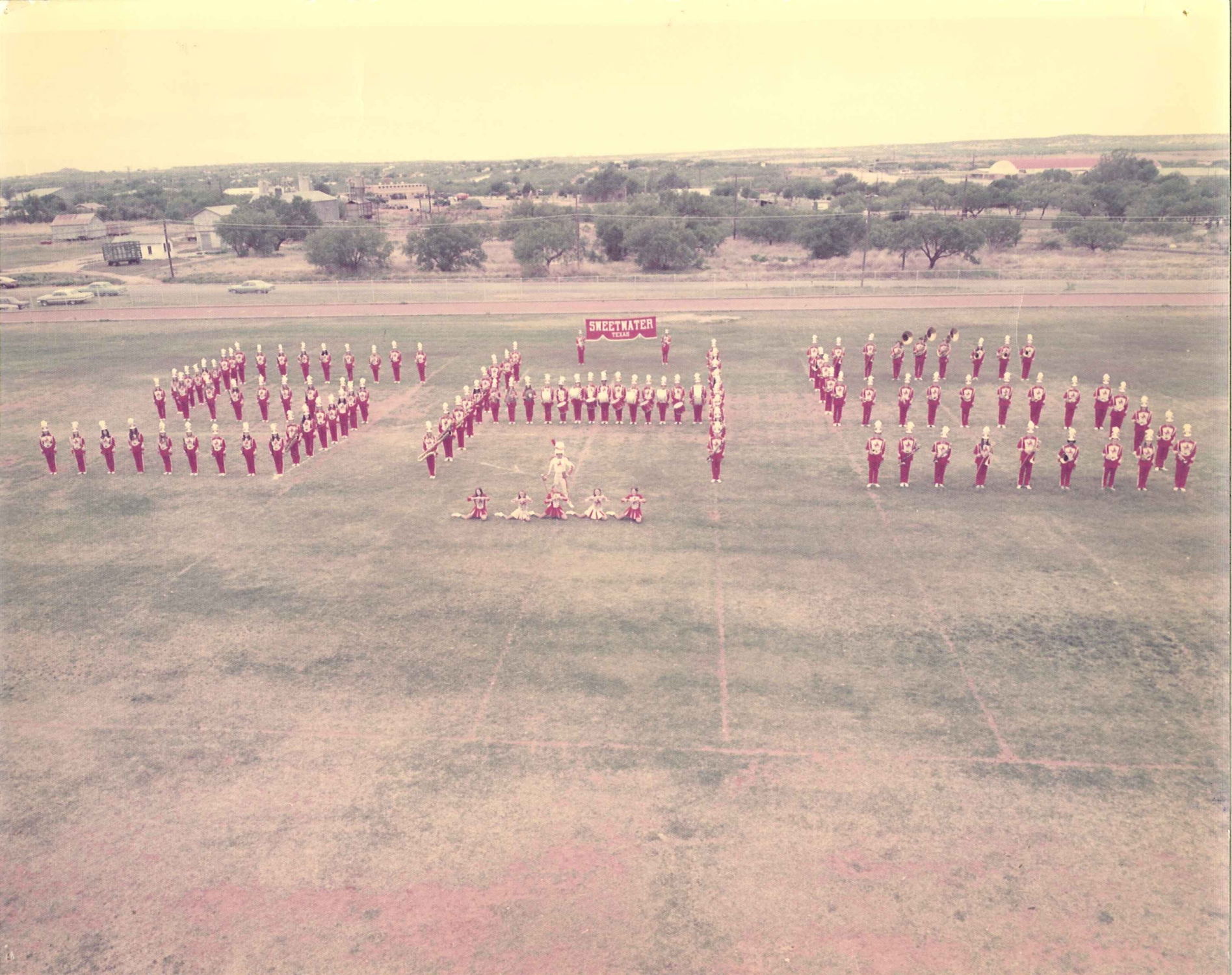
The Sweetwater instructor has served the Texas Bandmasters Association in each of its officer positions and was president two years, 1959 and 1970. He has been Executive Secretary for TBA for 20 years and Executive Secretary of the Texas Choral and Orchestra Directors Association for 11 years.



Sweetwater Reporter









American School Band Directors' Association
Twelfth Annual Convention

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

December 27 - 30, 1964



former Sweetwater High School band director, but I listened and put in my two cents worth every chance I got.

I spent six years (combined) in the Reagan Junior High and Newman High School band. All were under the direction of Head Band Master Pat Patterson. I had looked forward to joining the band for several years after observing half-time performances, parades and gradeschool programs.

At Philip Nolan, the junior high band visited and performed in assembly. Their most popular number was *Who's Afraid Of The Big Bad Wolf* (the story of the Three Little Pigs with sound effects), which for that age audience, brought down the house.



THE BAND MASTER...
E. C. (PAT) PATTERSON

No wonder the band was so large then; so many of us were motivated by these programs to join. At the end of the year, Mr. Patterson visited the gradeschools to sign up those who wanted to join the junior high band.

David Charles Heap, and we never let him forget his middle name, was the junior high band director the year after Tommy Fry left. Then came Gene Curry. All were popular and well-liked band directors. We got a treat being led by Mr. Patterson often. Our dream—our goal—the Big Red Mustang Marching Band.

Mr. Patterson was marvelous as a band director. He earned the student's respect and had some outstanding bands. We usually won sweepstakes. This past Veteran's Day was not as colorful due to the absence of the band at the VFW flagraising.

Our Veteran's Day band performance started out on the old courthouse steps, southside, where we played the national anthem for the downtown flagraising, then on to the VFW for breakfast.

This was voluntary, but a large part of the band volunteered. Pep rallies on Thursday night were downtown. For a time, the band assembled on the northside courthouse steps. You couldn't see the trees for the people!

Then we'd line up in later years on the steps in front of Etz Studio and Camera Shop (general area) and the cheerleaders led yells from the sidewalk while cheerers filled that block of Third Street.

From that six years in the band I would like to name a few, some identical to Mr. Patterson's picks, who made up an overview of outstanding band students. (My observation only and not to be confused with anything official). There was Leigh Curry, of course, on the trumpet and Linda Evans was second; Tommy Leonard, clarinet with Betty Jamison, second; (Lita Reyna McEachern and I were good on the clarinet too, but we didn't let that interfere with the fun we had in band); Linda Martin Fry, flute; Larry Geron, baritone; Gus Steiner, tuba; Judy Eaton Carson, bells; Bill McCarley, drums; Jenene Headstream Taylor, French horn; Ronnie Bredemeyer, trombone.

In high school we enjoyed the chartered buses for trips to football games. Breckenridge was the big rival and it was always fun to take the "long trip" to Brownfield.

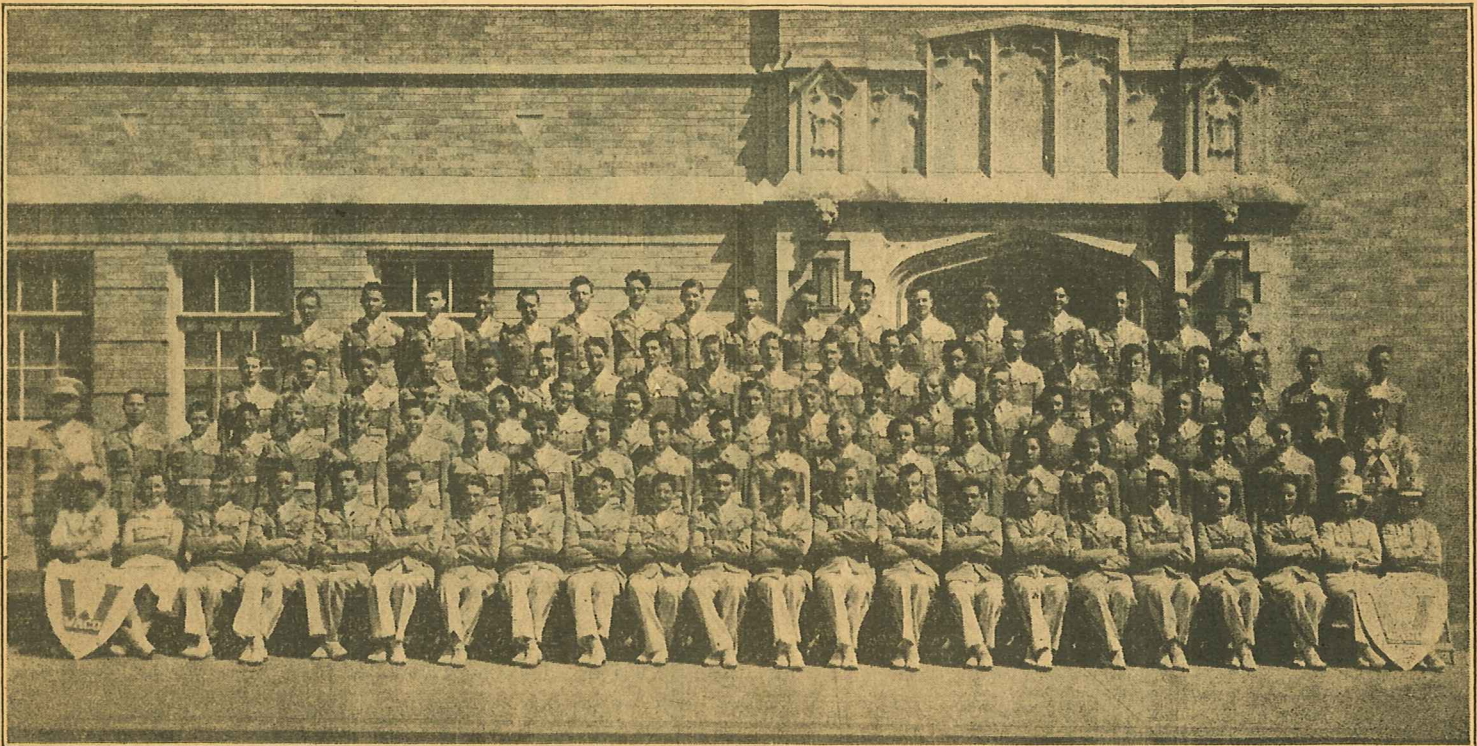
Mr. Patterson had a great sense of humor in leading the band. He had a continuous "feud" with Gus Steiner which kept everyone in high spirits. Marching mistakes were not tolerated. If you got out of step while practicing, Mr. Patterson was on the microphone in the press box ready to announce your name. I'll never forget when he bellowed over the loud speaker early one morning: *Miss Manner, you are out of step!*. In the band room later, I told him he never had gotten my name right. It wasn't Manner, it was Maner—Ma-ner--Maner. He grinned back with *No ma'am. It's Man--er--Manner.*

During his interview here last month, we talked about the white satin tuxedos and top hats the twirlers wore in the early 1950's. I had been so impressed with these as a child.

No wonder I had looked forward so to my "band years" and have such fond memories of the Band Master—Mr. Patterson.

School Band Is an Embassy of Good Will Wherever It Bringing Honors and Trophies to the City of Its Origin

Waco Senior High School Band Seeks New Honors



Pictured above are members of the senior band of Waco High school, 30 girls, 60 boys, four standard-bearers. The director is Lyle Skinner. The young musicians are planning to win additional honors in state and national contests for their school and city during the coming year.

forcers. Your greatest asset is the variety of the literature, different voicings and the instruments you use daily. All of these areas give the music teacher an edge in the ability to be successful with his appraisal. You are fortunate to have been using all of these methods for years.

In closing, I encourage all of you to be positive about this system, it is excellent for all of us. But to ensure continued success, do your work at home with the policies, attendance cards, lesson plans, and all that paper work which makes you organized and helps your administrators at home know you **are** indeed "above expectations".

PAT PATTERSON BELOVED FRIEND by Francis McBeth

January 28, 1986 — The space shuttle exploded, Matthew Benjamin McBeth was 22 years old and Pat Patterson died. Two catastrophes and a birthday — a day when I missed a rehearsal in Lawrence, Kansas, because the pilot of TWA's flight 540 from St. Louis to Kansas City broke his seat.

After deplaning, I milled around the loading gate for about two hours while workers replaced the pilot's seat. It seemed (according to the airline) that it failed to lock and had to be replaced. After my initial disgust with the delay, knowing that I would not make the rehearsal with the University of Kansas band, I realized that a pilot's seat on a 727 that would not lock in place could be very dangerous. My mind was scrambled and disoriented with the death of seven people on the space shuttle — distracted only by the fact that my son was 22 years old that day. Thank God that I didn't yet know that Pat had died.

I first met Pat in the living room of my home in Dallas, Texas in the summer of 1949, when I was 16 years old and he was dating my sister. He had come to meet my (her) parents. Pat was the first person that I ever met that had actually played with a "Big Name Band," and I was in absolute awe of him.

The first TBA that I attended was in the summer of 1953. Pat had told me about the organization which he had attended the year before and said it was worthwhile. The clincher for me

was the fact that any member of TBA who wrote music could turn in his score and parts and the new music reading band would read it on Wednesday afternoon. I decided to attend since I had a new piece I wanted to hear. The work had a most imaginative title — it was called "March in E^b."

Pat Patterson, Winfred Reed and I headed for San Antonio, TBA was held at Thomas Jefferson High School at that time, and we got a motel in the vicinity. The requirement for motel choice was that it had to have a TV. Having grown up in Dallas, my family had TV when I was in high school, but Pat and Winfred (being from West Texas) had only seen it once and that was during their attendance at TBA the previous year. We found a motel and as with all of them at the time, the TV was coin operated, you got 30 minutes for a quarter. Pat went to our room armed with five dollars in quarters. When our 30 minutes ran out and the set turned itself off, Pat would do a backflip to get another quarter in it, even in the middle of a commercial.

There were three displayers at that convention, Southern Music Company, Sol Frank, and the other one I can't remember. Walter Beeler was the guest clinician. I was thrilled to meet Charles Lee Hill (Sam Houston College at Huntsville) because his Red Rhythm Valley was one of my high school favorites.

All of these wonderful days were spent in the company of Pat Patterson. Pat and I had so much in common and so many mutual friends that our lives have always been intertwined. He and I were both graduates of Hardin Simmons University. He taught at Anson and Sweetwater, Texas, and I lived in both of those towns in the 1940's. We were both racing enthusiasts and would go anywhere to find a good car race, and Pat had one of the truly great model train collections. I always looked forward to the Southern Music Company party at TBA because we got to "talk old times" for a whole evening.

In the Holidome at Lawrence, Kansas, when my wife told me during my "call back" that Pat had died, all these memories kept "rerunning" through my mind, all the wonderful memories of my friendship through the years with this dear man, Pat Patterson.

Pat Patterson was a gentle man, and in this life they are rare. He was gentle

in the concern for the feelings of others, he was gentle in his business dealings with TBA. He was a kind and gentle person, and I loved him.

Southern Music Company, John Bell and Pat Arseners started TBA and Pat Patterson brought it to full fruition. The TBA will always stand as a monument to the work of this dear man. My heart has a vacant place because of his passing, but my life has been blessed because of his friendship.

January 28, 1986 — It was a day indelibly printed in my mind — the space shuttle exploded, Pat died and my son was 22.

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