

# Former Students Honor Roberts

By BEVERLY O'BRIANT  
Family News Staff

"The hardest decision I ever made was to leave Dunbar High School as band director," said Roy Roberts, who filled that position for 18 years, from 1952 to 1970.

An integral part of Dunbar High School for almost 30 years, Roberts will be honored by former band students and other community members at an "honorary dinner and dance" Saturday. The event will be held at Sir Williams Place on the old Slaton Highway, beginning at 6 p.m.

The celebration will honor him for his "many years of dedicated service" as band director and will be sponsored by ex-Dunbar band and orchestra students who were under Roberts' direction.

Roberts left that position in 1970 to become assistant principal at Estacado High School. The decision to take a new role in the lives of local students was a hard one for Roberts, particularly that year. He says it was a good year for the Dunbar Band, which won high honors in marching and other contests and earned a great chance to win "Sweepstakes." He left Dunbar just after spring break.

A year later, he was back at Dunbar when he accepted the position he still holds of school principal.

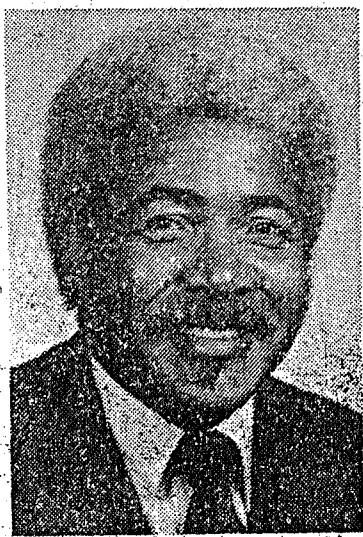
A native of Muskogee, Okla., Roberts has been deeply involved in music most of his life. A band member in high school, he went to Wylie College in Marshall, where he played in a jazz band. He left school to play professionally until World War II, when he found himself in the Navy — playing in the Navy Band in the Great Lakes area and in Virginia.

Determined to be a professional musician, Roberts went to Los Angeles, Calif., after he was discharged from the service, to play the club circuit. He still hadn't found what he was looking for, so he returned to college — this time to Sam Houston College in Austin. While there he still played professionally, and in 1949 he received his B.A. in music.

Returning home, he was offered a teaching position in Frederick, Okla., where he spent 2½ years developing a band program

for the school. His competitor in musical competitions, E.C. Struggs — then principal at Dunbar — saw Roberts in action and offered him a position. He accepted and came to Dunbar in 1952.

Dunbar had a small band at the time but the old school didn't even have a band room. Roberts says, "It was a challenge to build one of the best bands going. The students were very eager to learn and we practiced morning, noon and night." Roberts points out he tried to instill pride, dedication



ROY ROBERTS

and the determination not to give up in his students, and he feels those concepts helped many of them become successful later in their lives.

Roberts has made Lubbock his home for many years and has no desire to change. He and his wife, Harvey E. Roberts, have three children — Michael, 28; Joey, 20, and Royle, 18.

Why does Roberts stay in Lubbock? The warm, smiling man offers several reasons.

"Educationally, Lubbock was what I wanted. The people are friendly and accepting. I didn't want a large city to raise children in. Besides, the people cooperated and helped my goals to become a success. There is no way I could leave and go anywhere else," said Roberts.

When music was his life for so many years, how could he leave his position of band director to become an administrator?

Even more than music, Roberts found he "enjoyed working with young people." The methods he used in directing music have served him well in his present

position. He says, "I believe in being closely connected with students and working with them. I call them by name."

Roberts' wide experience with people in all walks of life through his professional and naval experience have stood him in good stead as high school principal. He went back to Dunbar as principal in its second year of integration and three weeks after he began, one student shot and killed another in a classroom.

"I didn't whether to give up or what. I stuck it out and it worked out pretty well." The biggest concern of Roberts and his students at the time was that the incident was seen as a racial problem, rather than a quarrel between two students, one of whom happened to be white and the other black.

During the past nine years, there have been a lot of changes in the school, says Roberts. After becoming a magnet school, Dunbar received many specialized courses such as commercial art, piano and electronics. "The kids have a great opportunity to learn," said Roberts.

Socially, the changes have also been good. Roberts states, "The students are more unified now. They see themselves as just students; there is not so much racism. They accept each other."

Roberts' future goals are simple; "I am looking forward to continuing on this road to success. My greatest goal is that each child get the best education possible to get what he's really after." With Roberts' kind heart and understanding ear, those goals appear greatly possible.

For more information on Saturday's dinner, call Mrs. Frances Bunton Bell at 762-3600. Tickets are available at: Caviel's Pharmacy, 1719 Avenue A; Shirley's Barber Shop, 1523 E. Broadway; Dillard's Kwik-Stop, 1710 E. 4th St.; and Kinner and Evans Barber Shop, 1701 Parkway Drive. Cost is \$25 per couple, \$12.50 per person.

## Dunbar Band Wins Honor

Dunbar High School walked away with most of the top honors given during the fourth annual Tech Stage Band Festival Friday and Saturday under the auspices of the Texas Tech music department and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, professional music fraternity.

Jackie Clark of Dunbar was named best jazz musician Saturday during the conclusion of the festival.

Dunbar took first place in class 3A high school competition and placed two students on the all star band.

Other schools taking top honors in their divisions were Arlington Bailey Junior High School, Junior High; Mustang Oklahoma High School, Class A; Phillips High School, Class 2A and Big Spring Golden band, Class 4A.

## Dunbar Band Is Tops In Music Festival Here

Dunbar Junior-Senior High School band was awarded sweepstakes honors at their annual Invitational Music Competition Festival here Saturday.

The band received first place ratings in sight reading and concert playing in both the marching and concert contests.

Schools with first place ratings in band, choral or orchestra divisions will receive plaques and individuals with the top rating will be awarded medals.

Judging the contests in the band division were D. O. Wylie, Dean Killion and Keith McCarty, Lubbock, and Robert Davidson, Plainview. Choral judges were Gene Kenney, Marjorie Magness, Mildred Carver and Wayne Hinds.

Orchestra judges were George Robinson, Lubbock, and Richard Kidwell, Amarillo.

Group winners and their ratings in concert and sight reading are as follows:

Choir—Odessa, 3, 4; Abilene, 1, 1; Amarillo, 1, 2; Midland, 3, 3; Lubbock, 2, 4. Boys' ensemble—Abilene, 2.

Orchestra—Dunbar, 1, 2. Band concert—Amarillo, 3, 3; Odessa, 1, 2; Abilene, 2, 1; Midland, 3, 2; Lubbock, 1, 1.

Band, marching—Odessa, 1, 2; Midland, 1, 2; Lubbock, 1, 1.

Individual winners from Lubbock and their ratings are as follows:

String solos—Christopher Griffin, 2; Alberta Lincoln, 2; Jimmy Theresa Walker, 2.

Bass violin—Chester Griffin, 1. Twirling solo—Eileen Woods, 1; Irene Bolden, 2.

Trumpet solo—Don Rutherford, 1; Ollie Hill, 1.

Woodwin trio—Mattie Rutherford, Judith Struggs and Faye Barrow, 1.

Sousaphone solo—Willie James Ellis, 1. Flute solo—Sandra Sutton, 1.

Oboe solo—Faye Barrow, 2. Bassoon solo—Judith Struggs, 1.

Clarinet solo—Billie Thompson, 1; Robert Pillow, 1, Mattie Rutherford, 1.

Saxophone solo—Donald Scott, 1; Della Newman, 1; Edward Lester, 1.

Cornet solo—Alford Hervey, 1; David Mitchell, 1; James Page, 2.

Brass quartet—Ollie Hill, Pearlina Holmes, Willie Smith and Don Rutherford, 2.

Brass sextet—Billy Tucker, Burnett Anderson, Rose Gamble, David Mitchell, Esthel Hibbler and Danny Douglas, 1.

Baritone horn solo—Mary Lawson, 2.

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
LUBBOCK, TEXAS

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

MR. ROY ROBERTS  
MUSIC DIRECTOR  
DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL  
LUBBOCK, TEXAS

DEAR ROY:

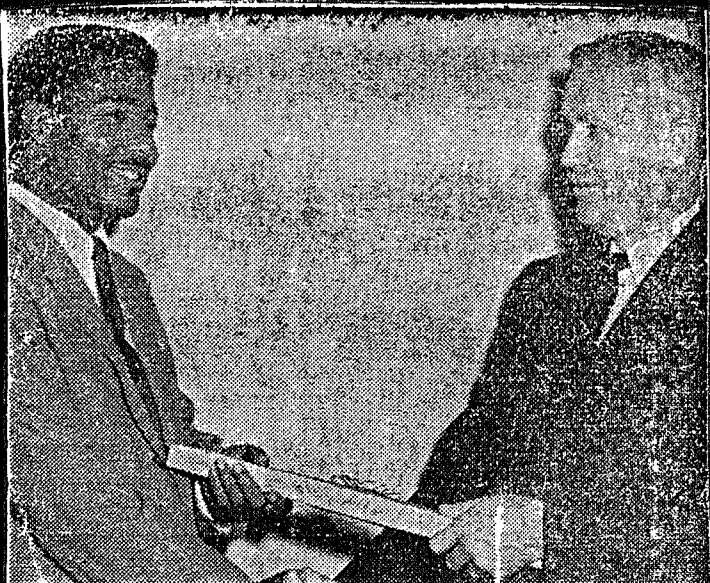
MY SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU AND YOUR FINE STAGE BAND-- IT CERTAINLY IS NOT SURPRISING THAT THEY WERE WINNERS IN THE RECENT TECH STAGE BAND FESTIVAL. IF ANYONE IN THIS AREA KNOWS WHAT STAGE BAND IS ALL ABOUT, IT CERTAINLY HAS TO BE ROY ROBERTS.

I WAS EXTREMELY HAPPY TO SEE THAT SEVERAL MEMBERS OF YOUR FINE GROUP WERE SELECTED FOR THE ALL-STAR BAND. AS ONE DRUMMER TO ANOTHER, YOU TELL THAT PRETTY MASS OF FEMALE PROTOPLASM WHO DROVE YOUR GROUP WITH FANTASTIC AUTHORITY THAT I FLIPPED OVER HER TIME. WITHOUT TIME, THE REST HAD BETTER PACK THEIR HORNS AND FIND SOMETHING ELSE TO DO. AS USUAL, JACKIE'S GUITAR WORK IS MATURE AND TASTY.

YES, YOU TOLD ME YOUR BAND WAS A YOUNG BAND, BUT THANKS TO THE TALENTS AND EXPERIENCE OF ROY ROBERTS, THIS FINE GROUP FROM DUNBAR "H" TOLD IT AS IT SHOULD BE TOLD".

ROY, YOU'RE A FINE GENTLEMAN AND GREAT EDUCATOR--PERSONS LIKE YOU MAKE ME PROUD TO BE PART OF THE MUSIC EDUCATION PROFESSION. SINCERE BEST WISHES FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS.....

VERY TRULY YOURS,  
*Paul T. Mazzacano*  
PAUL T. MAZZACANO  
DIRECTOR  
TECH JAZZ ENSEMBLE



**BAND DIRECTOR HONORED**—Roy Roberts, left, director of Dunbar High School Band, was presented a gift by Nat Williams, superintendent of Lubbock public schools, in behalf of the citizens of Carver Heights community at a special banquet in the Plains Co-Op Oil Mill Dining Room Wednesday night. Roberts was named Carver Heights' "Man of the Year." The gift was a "lighted-tip" baton. Members of the Dunbar Band were also present at the affair. (Staff Photo.)

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## Dunbar Band Head Gets 'Man Of Year' Honor At Banquet

Roy Roberts, director of the Dunbar High School Band, was honored as Carver Heights' "Man of the Year" at a special banquet Wednesday night in the Plains Co-Op Oil Mill Dining Room. Supt. Nat Williams of the Lubbock School District, presented Roberts with a "lighted-tip" baton, in behalf of the citizens of Carver Heights community.

### Band Members Honored

The affair also honored members of the Dunbar High School Band, one of three bands in the state, to win the sweepstakes at the state band contests. The Dunbar band won both the marching and concert playing titles in the Negro Class AA division in the state meet at Prairie View College last February.

Dr. Ted Crager, Monterey High School band director, and music co-ordinator for the Lubbock school system, was principal speaker at the banquet. He told those attending that he had worked with many musical groups, but the Dunbar students were the most attentive and hard-working group that he had ever met.

### Praises Work Of Band

"What you young people have done this year, working hard with a sincere attempt to do your utmost, and working together as a team to succeed in winning the state championship will help to mold your future life in business, profession or other walks of life," Crager told the band members.

Roberts was named as Carver Heights' Man of the Year not only for his outstanding work with the Dunbar band, but also for his outstanding work with youth at the Mt. Vernon Methodist Church and his eager helpfulness with all civic programs of the community.

The special banquet was sponsored by the citizens of Carver Heights and arrangements were made by the Carver Heights Men's Social and Civic Club.

George Williams, president of the men's club, was master of ceremonies for the occasion.

## National Bandmasters Fraternity Adds Director Roy W. Roberts To Roster

Dunbar's band director, Roy W. Roberts, was named a member of Phi Beta Mu National Bandmasters Fraternity February 10.

Nominated for the honor by Rex Shelton, band director of Monte-

rey High School, Roberts was chosen on the basis of his outstanding performance as band director and his dedication in the field of music.

"I feel quite honored having received this outstanding recognition as a member of the Phi Beta Mu Fraternity," he commented. A native of Eufaula, Oklahoma, he has served as band director for 18 years: two years in Oklahoma and 16 at Dunbar.

Director Roberts' "Pride-of-Pantherland" band has gained outstanding recognition since his affiliation with it, the most recent honor being the achievement of a first place rating in U.I.L. competition. As a result of his outstanding contributions to the field of music, Roberts is well known and well thought of in Lubbock and the entire state of Texas.

He resides at 1827 Manhattan Drive with his wife and three children.



Mr. Roberts



EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH

P. O. Box 558 • Lubbock, Texas 79408 • Phone 806 / 763-4256

May 1, 1984

Mr. Roy Roberts  
Dunbar-Struggs High School  
2010 East 26th Street  
Lubbock, TX. 79403

Dear Mr. Roberts:

On behalf of the staff at LEARN Educational Talent Search, I want to extend our sincere congratulations to you on your upcoming retirement. You have given many years of dedicated service to the Lubbock Public Schools and your retirement is richly deserved.

Mr. Roberts, our agency owes you a tremendous debt of gratitude and I feel that words cannot adequately express our appreciation. You have supported the Talent Search program since its beginning and I know that without your support and positive attitude, it would not have been successful. However, I think you have seen the needs of our Lubbock youth that others have not seen. I feel that it is that perception, and the desire to try and fulfill those needs that has made you the very special and exceptional educator that you are. You will be greatly missed by the students, faculty, and the educational community. We thank you Mr. Roberts for all you have done for us and we wish you much success and happiness in all your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Johnson, Director

MAJ/ol

*"Opening a Door to Higher Education"*



Staff Photo

## Special presentation

Texas Heritage Chapter of ABWA recently presented Irene Jernigan, group president, and Roy Roberts, principal of Dunbar-Scruggs High School, with Woman and Boss of the Year awards. The group has also raised \$1500 for scholarships this year.

# Ex-Band Director To Head Dunbar

The man who lead Dunbar High School's band for 18 years will lead the whole school operation this fall.

Roy Roberts, 47, who was assistant principal of Estacado High School last school year, is replacing William Powell, who is to head up the Lubbock Public Schools' special desegregation programs.

Roberts is an Oklahoma native and graduated from Samuel Houston College in 1949 with a degree in music education. He came to Lubbock in 1952 from Boyd High School in Frederick, Okla., where he had also been a

band director. Mrs. Roberts (Esther) is a teacher at Bayless school.

Powell, who has been principal at Dunbar for two years, will be joined in his new duties by Abel Acosta, who was director of bilingual education. Powell and Acosta will serve as school liaison men to community groups under the federally-funded Emergency School Assistance Program which is designed to help local districts with school desegregation.

Supt. Ed Irons announced the changes Thursday, along with two reassignments of veteran members of the district's business staff.

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ROY ROBERTS

Rupert Pearce, assistant purchasing director since 1965, will become director of purchasing, replacing Harold Glasscock who was named assistant superintendent for business affairs in May.

Mrs. Marguerite Key, formerly manager of the school business office, is acquiring the new title of director of finance.

Pearce is a 1949 graduate of Texas Tech University's school of business and joined the Lubbock school system as senior accountant in 1953. His wife Lometa is a teacher at Wheelock school.



## High honors

Update photo GARY DAVIS

Educators Association presented their annual awards at last week's joint public relations banquet. Parent volunteer Linda Kinman, left, received LCTA's Friend of Education Award; Roy

Roberts, Dunbar High School principal, was LCTA's Administrator of the Year; and Frances Wilson, superintendent's secretary, was honored with LEA's Friend of Educators Award.

# Three Lubbock teachers win association's highest honors

By Jeff South  
Update Staff Writer

Helen Walker, Dunbar High School's librarian, tells the story this way:

Four students were discussing their schools at a state convention. "We have carpeting," one teenager bragged. Said another: "Our school is air-conditioned." And the third: "We've got a student lounge."

Among the group was a Dunbar student. He smiled. "We have a principal."

That principal is Roy Roberts. He has been selected by the Lubbock Classroom Teachers Association (LCTA) as the school system's 1978 Administrator of the Year.

"Rarely is a school shaped in one person's image. But this is the way it is at Dunbar High School. And that person is Roy Roberts," Miss Walker said in presenting the award at the public relations banquet held by the LCTA and the Lubbock Educators Association.

She said Roberts is a "model of good human relations" and during his seven years as Dunbar's principal has succeeded in promoting such qualities as "unity, dignity, cooperation and companionship" at the school.

Roberts' philosophy on managing a school is simple. "I believe in treating people with respect. My door is always open, and I'm never too busy to talk to any student, parent, teacher or staff member," the Dunbar principal said.

He describes himself as a "believer in strong discipline — discipline that is fair, but firm."

Roberts says the key to a good school is a "sense of pride. At Dunbar, we stress that every student must take pride in himself and in his school. And from that pride comes excellence — both for the individual and the school as a whole."

Roberts is an accomplished musician. He received a degree in music from Samuel Huston College (now Huston-Tillotson) in Austin in 1949 and before that, played three years in the U.S. Navy band.

In fact, it was by chance that his career led him into public education.

After completing college, he was on his way to Denver,

Colo., to play saxophone in a professional band. En route, he stopped off at the city of Frederick in his home state of Oklahoma to check out an opening for band director at Boyd High School.

"It turned me on seeing kids light up so when they played a musical instrument," Roberts recalled. So he stayed at Frederick.

In 1951, the Boyd band performed at a football game in Lubbock. E.C. Struggs, noted educator and then principal of Lubbock's Dunbar High, was so impressed he offered Roberts the band directorship at Dunbar.

Roberts accepted the position in 1952. He directed the Dunbar band until 1970, served one year as assistant principal at Estacado High and became Dunbar principal in 1971.

A native of Eufaula, Okla., Roberts has been active here in many community projects, including the Human Relations Commission, Boy Scouts, South Plains Children's Shelter Board, Kiwanis Club, American Legion Pose 808 and Omega Psi Phi fraternity. He is a steward and Sunday School superintendent at Mount Vernon United Methodist Church.

Roberts and his wife Harvey Esther, a Bayless Elementary teacher, live at 1827 Manhattan Drive.

Also at last week's banquet, Frances Wilson, administrative secretary to the superintendent of schools, was presented LEA's Friend of Educators Award. Linda Kinman, a Bayless parent volunteer, was given the LCTA's Friend of Education Award.

Miss Wilson, past president of the Texas Educational Secretaries Association, has been the superintendent's secretary since 1945 under three administrations — those of R.W. Matthews, Nat Williams and Ed Irons.

A product of the Lubbock school system and graduate of Texas Tech University, she is the daughter of hardware dealer Smylie Wilson, a Lubbock pioneer, school board member in the early part of the century and namesake of Smylie Wilson Junior High School.

Mrs. Kinman, coordinator of parent volunteers for the City Council of Parents and Teachers, was honored for "strengthening the tie between the community and school" through her work at Bayless.

Office of the mayor  
CITY OF LUBBOCK

# PROCLAMATION

*Whereas:*

Roy W. Roberts has resided in Lubbock since 1952; and,

WHEREAS: Mr. Roberts has worked with students in our community for 28 years; and,

WHEREAS: Mr. Roberts as a band instructor and as an administrator has dedicated himself to the education of the young people of Lubbock; and,

WHEREAS: Mr. Roberts has worked and served his community faithfully; and,

WHEREAS: The heritage of music in Lubbock is richer as a result of the musical contributions made by Mr. Roberts;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill McAlister, Mayor of the City of Lubbock, do hereby proclaim June 28, 1980 as

ROY ROBERTS DAY

in Lubbock and urge all citizens to give due recognition as they recall all the contributions he brought to music life and to young people in Lubbock.



In official recognition whereof,  
I hereby affix my signature this  
26th day of June, 1980.

*Bill McAlister*  
MAYOR

Roy W. Roberts attended school in Muskogee, Oklahoma, where he played alto saxophone four years in the Manual Training High School marching, concert, and jazz bands. Upon graduation from high school, he received a scholarship to Wylie college in Marshall, Texas. Since music was his deep involvement at the time, he played in the Wiley Collegians Jazz Band, playing baritone saxophone for two years. He left school to play professionally with Russell Jacquett's Orchestra in Houston, Texas. While playing in Houston, he was drafted into the U.S. Navy, where he played in the Great Lakes Naval Band for 1½ years and in Portsmouth, Virginia for 1½ years. Upon discharge from the Navy, he went to Los Angeles, California, to play the club circuit. Having still not finalized his goals, he returned to college at Samuel Huston College in Austin, Texas where he continued to play in the college band and orchestra, as well as professionally with Johnny Simmons Orchestra, until he received his B.A. Degree and teacher's certification in music. He later received his Master's Degree in Educational Administration from Texas Tech University.

His first teaching assignment was back home in Frederick, Oklahoma where he spent three years developing a band program for Boyd High School. His career in the Lubbock Independent School District began in 1952 when E.C. Struggs--then principal at Dunbar High School--saw him in action in musical competition and offered him a position. Moving to Lubbock, he assumed the duties as band director at Dunbar High School, where he developed a marching, concert, and jazz band. In 1957 and 1959 the Dunbar Band won Sweepstakes in the Prairie View Interscholastic League. In 1960 the Black West Texas League was formed, and his band won sweepstakes from 1960-1965. In 1967 the Dunbar High School Band was accepted into the UIL where they won several first places in marching and concert band. In 1970 the Dunbar Band was very successful. They won a first place in marching and the outstanding Jazz Band at Texas Tech.

After 18 years as band director at Dunbar High School, he made a decision to take a new role in the lives of the local students and became assistant principal at Estacado High School. One year later he returned to Dunbar with a promotion to principal where he stayed until he retired in 1984.

Throughout his career he has been active in community service and organizations such as Omega Psi Fraternity, Committee for the 80's as Chairman of the Educational Committee, Advisory Committee of the Boy Scouts of America, Lubbock Civic Center Board, South Plains Children's Shelter Board, Kiwanis Club of Lubbock, American Legion Post 808, Scoutmaster for Boy Scouts of America--Troop 102, Chairman of District 3-AAA UIL Competition, Draft Board of Lubbock County, Citizen's Advisory Committee, Youth Council and Human Relations Commission, Advisory Committee Board-YWCA Outreach Program, Board of Planned Parenthood, Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church. In addition, he was selected as Administrator of the Year for the Lubbock Independent Schools in 1978 and Man of the Year by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority in 1980.

ROY W. ROBERTS

----Attended school in Muskogee, Oklahoma

----Played alto saxophone four years in the Manual Training High School  
marching, concert and jazz bands

After graduating from high school in 1941, he received a scholarship to Wiley College in Marshall, Texas. There he spent two years in the Wiley Collegians Jazz Band, playing baritone saxophone.

He left school to play professionally in Houston, Texas with Russell Jacquett's Orchestra. While playing in Houston, he was drafted into the U.S. Navy, where he played in the Great Lakes Naval Band for 1½ years, and in Portsmouth, Virginia a year and a half.

After three years of service, he went to Los Angeles, California to play the club circuit. Still not satisfied, he returned to Samuel Huston College in Austin, Texas where he continued to play in the college band and orchestra, as well as professionally with Johnny Simmons Orchestra, until he received his B.A. Degree and teacher's certification in music.

His first teaching job was in Frederick, Oklahoma where he spent three years developing a band program at Boyd High School.

Moving on to Lubbock in 1952, he assumed the duties as band director at Dunbar High School where he developed a marching, concert, and jazz band. In 1957 and 1959 the Dunbar Band won Sweepstakes in the Prairie View Interscholastic League. In 1960 the Black West Texas League was formed, and his band won sweepstakes from 1960-1965. In 1967 the Dunbar High School Band was accepted into the UIL where they won several first places in marching and concert band.

In 1970 the Dunbar Band was very successful. They won a first place in marching and the outstanding Jazz Band at Texas Tech.

In 1970 he went into administration with the Lubbock Independent School District.

## Alumni Highlight



### Roy W. Roberts selected for band directors Hall of Fame

Roy W. Roberts('49) attended school in Muskogee, Oklahoma, where he played alto saxophone four years in the Manual Training High School marching, concert, and jazz bands. Upon graduation from high school, he received a scholarship to the Wiley Collegians Jazz Band under the direction of Bertrand Adams, playing baritone saxophone for two years. He left school to play professionally for Russell Jacquet's Orchestra in Houston, Texas. While playing in Houston, he was drafted into the U. S. Navy. He played in the Great Lakes Naval Band and in Portsmouth, Virginia for one and one half years each. Upon discharge from the Navy, he went to Los Angeles, California, to play the club circuit. Having still not completed his goals, he entered college at Samuel Huston College in Austin, Texas where he continued to play in the College band and orchestra under Bertrand Adams. Mr. Roberts also played professionally with the Johnny Simmons Orchestra, until he received his B.A. degree in Educational Administration from Texas Tech University.

His first teaching assignment was in Frederick, Oklahoma where he spent three years developing a band program for Boyd High School. His career in the Lubbock Independent School District

began in 1952 when E.C. Struggs, then principal at Dunbar High School, saw him in action in musical competition and offered him a position. Moving to Lubbock, he assumed the duties as band director at Dunbar High School, where he developed a marching, concert and jazz band. In 1957 and 1959, the Dunbar Band won Sweepstakes in the Prairie View Interscholastic League. In 1960, the Black West Texas League was formed, and his band won sweepstakes from 1960-1965. In 1967, the Dunbar High School Band was accepted into the University Interscholastic League where they won several first places in marching and concert band. In 1970, the Dunbar Band was very successful. They won a first place in marching and the outstanding Jazz band at Texas Tech University.

Roy Roberts was selected for the Phi Beta Mu's Hall of Fame. Directors nominated for the Hall of Fame are outstanding band directors in the State of Texas, and each must receive a unanimous vote from the Phi Beta Mu Board of Directors. He is being recognized for his contribution to the development of the band program in Texas. He will be inducted into the Hall of Fame during a ceremony at the Texas Bandmasters Association in San Antonio in July.

Roy is joining Pat Murphy and James Polk as directors of the Golden Unity Orchestra, which will furnish musical entertainment for Huston-Tillotson College's Reunion activities on May 16, 1991. Roy, band directors, and musicians, worldwide are symbolic of the rich musical heritage of Huston-Tillotson College's past. Right-on Roy!



### Senor Alvin Moore y Rams Beisbol

Coach Alvin Moore('73) and his Ram's baseball team are one of the great success stories of Huston-Tillotson College. Especially noteworthy is the number of baseball players constantly on the honor roll of the College. Rams baseball is the epitome of what the College is about; athleticism, scholasticism, international in nature, and represents a broad spectrum of society. Currently the Rams contain virtually all ethnic groups, with practically fifty percent being Hispanico Tejano. Los Hispanicos come mostly from the Valley, San Antonio and Austin high schools, with the remainder of the players coming from all over the United States and the Virgin Islands.

The following Huston-Tillotson baseball players have been drafted into major league baseball. Carl Randle and Juan Martinez are currently in spring training.

Juan Martinez	Atlanta Braves
Tim Warren('84)	New York Mets
Ronald Jackson	Los Angeles Dodgers
Maury Gooden('86)	New York Mets
Reginald Coker	Cleveland Indians
Anthony Johnson	Atlanta Braves
Earl Luckett('88)	Houston Astros
Tyrone Sims('90)	Kansas City Royals
Carl Randle	Texas Rangers

The Rams play home games at Downs Field in Austin and as of this date have eight games remaining on schedule. Congratulations, Coach Moore, keep up the good work!

# LUBBOCK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

## INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

FROM: Howard Price, Director of Secondary Education  
TO: Ed Irons, Dr. Leslie, and Jay Gordon  
DATE: May 23, 1972  
SUBJECT: Roy Roberts

My poverty of the English language makes it impossible to be able to give to Roy Roberts the praise he deserves. No one in the public schools has done a better job than Roy. Mr. Roberts is greatly respected and appreciated by his faculty, student body, and community.

I had the opportunity of observing his graduation exercise rehearsal this morning. I have not heard a principal in several years handle a student body as firmly, fairly, and efficiently as did Roy. He runs a good school and demands excellent behavior whether it be in the classroom, assembly, or campus. All who have worked with him this year truly appreciate the tremendous improvements that have been made under his leadership.

In closing, again let me say that I wish for the ability to put into words the tremendous job he has done this year and also that we need more men of his ability, dedication, and courage.

## Services set for educator, ex-principal

Services for Roy W. Roberts, 71, of Lubbock will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday in First United Methodist Church with the Rev. Todd Rasberry officiating.



Roberts will be in Resthaven Memorial Park under direction of Ossie Curry Funeral Home.

There will be an Omega service at 7

p.m. today in Ossie Curry Funeral Home Chapel.

Roberts died Saturday, Sept. 30, 1995, in Lubbock's Methodist Hospital.

He was born Nov. 18, 1923, in Eufaula, Okla. He attended Muskogee, Okla. High School and graduated from Manuel Training School. He served in the U.S. Navy and he played in the Navy Band for three years. He graduated from Sam Houston College in Austin with a bachelor's degree in music education. He earned a master's degree in educational administration from Texas Tech University. He was a member of Mount Vernon United Methodist Church, where he was past Sunday school superintendent, past chairman of the Board of Trustees and a member of the Usher Board. He was a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and was past president of the Hub City Kiwanis. He married Harvey Esther Roberts.

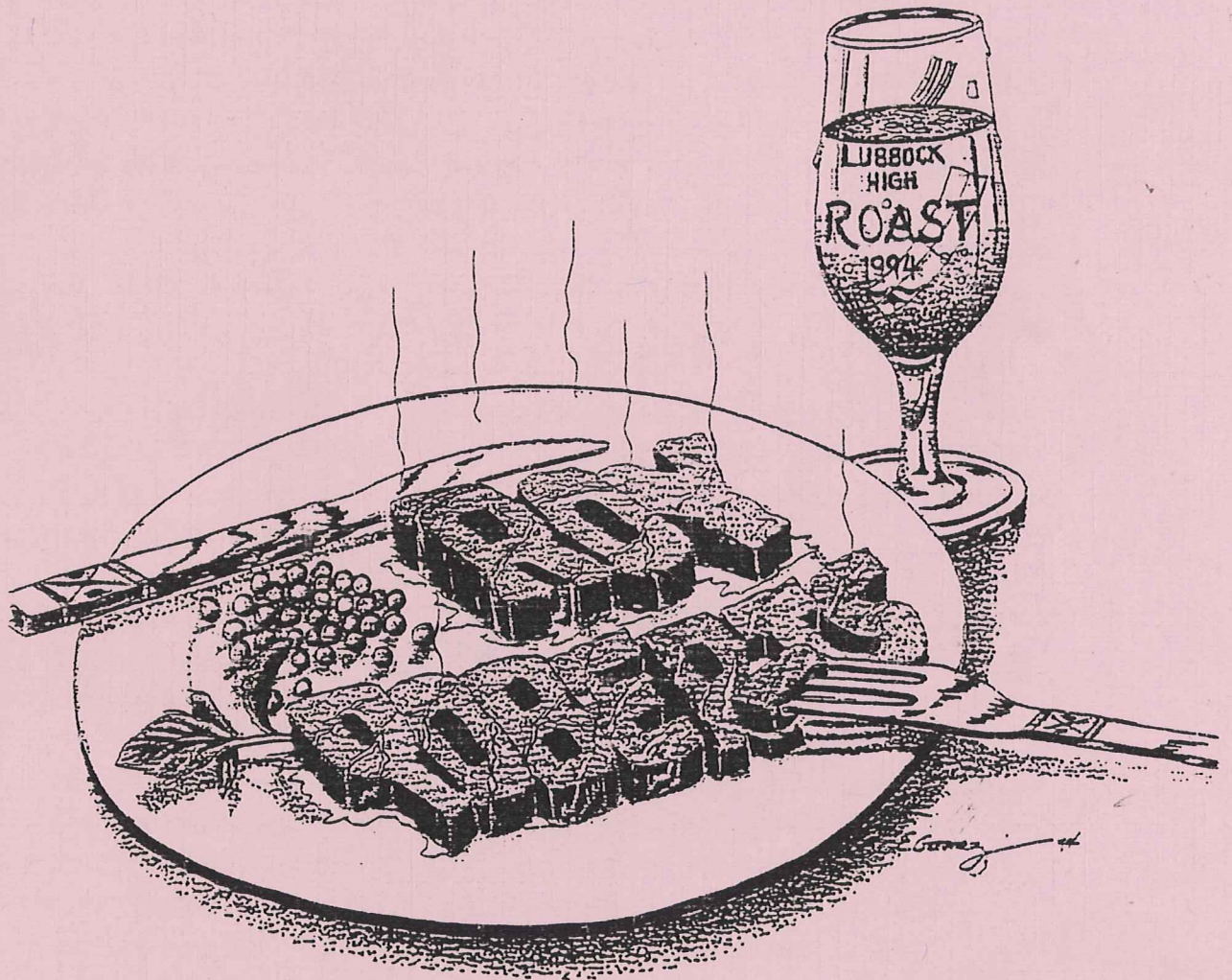
He taught school at Boyd High School in Frederick, Okla., and he served as band director at Dunbar High School. He served one year at Estacado High School as assistant principal, and he returned as principal of Dunbar High School. He retired in 1984.

Survivors include his wife; four sons, Roy Jr. and Ramon, both of Inglewood, Calif., Michael of Tacoma, Wash., and Joey of Seattle, Wash.; a daughter, Royle Gossett of Allen; two sisters, Bernice Braxton of Lubbock and Aldine Alexander of Tacoma, Wash.; eight grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

The family suggests memorials to Mount Vernon United Methodist Church or to the Roy Roberts Scholarship Fund to the Black History Club of Lubbock High School, c/o Mrs. Gloria Carter.

Roy ROBERTS

# A Black History Month Celebration



Holiday Inn Civic Center  
Lubbock, Texas  
February 26, 1994

# ROY W. ROBERTS

On November 18, 1923, a son was born to Ruby and Leroy Roberts in Eufaula, Oklahoma. Because education was of top priority, Leroy Roberts wanted to provide the best possible opportunities available to his son, Roy. Roy attended high school in Muskogee, Oklahoma. He played alto saxophone for four years in the Manuel Training High School marching, concert, and jazz bands. Upon graduation from high school, he received a scholarship to Wiley College. Roy left school to play on the professional circuit. He played in the Houston, Texas area until he was drafted into the United States Navy. He played in the Navy band for three years and upon receiving an honorable discharge, returned to the professional world of music. Something was missing. Roy realized the need for him to complete his formal education. He returned to school, this time attending Samuel Houston College in Austin, Texas, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Education. He later received his Master's degree in Educational Administration from Texas Tech University here in Lubbock.

Roy's first teaching position was in Frederick, Oklahoma where he spent three years developing a band program at Boyd High School. It was during this time that E.C. Struggs, principal at Dunbar saw his productiveness. Prof Struggs offered Roy the position of band director in Lubbock and he accepted.

In 1952, Roy and his family moved to Lubbock, assuming the duties as band director at Dunbar High School. Little did anyone know the impact this man would have on so many lives in this city and around the state.

Dunbar had a small band, and the school didn't have a band room, but that did not keep Roy from accepting the challenge to build the best band possible. The students were eager to learn and practiced morning, noon and night. Roy instilled **PRIDE, DEDICATION, DETERMINATION, AND PRESERVANCE** into the hearts and minds of his students. Those concepts helped many of them to become successful citizens later in life.

The Dunbar Band first attended contest at the Prairie View Interscholastics League for blacks where they won sweepstakes ratings. Because of their superior caliber, area directors asked, that the Dunbar Band be allowed to stage "exhibitions" of marching during the U.I.L. marching contests, even though they could not compete. In 1960, the Black West Texas League was formed. Dunbar again won sweepstakes awards. In 1967, the Dunbar Band was accepted into the University Interscholastics League where they continued their superior ratings.

Because of the outstanding achievements attained as Dunbar's Band Director, Roy was



A-J Photo/Liana J. Griffilth

**Gloria Carter draws a smile from Roy Roberts at a roast in his honor Saturday night at the Holiday Inn Civic Center.**

# Roast honors local musician Roy Roberts

By **RAY WESTBROOK**  
Avalanche-Journal

# local musician

## Roy Roberts

By RAY WESTBROOK  
Avalanche-Journal

More than 500 well-wishers paid tribute to veteran musician and educator Roy Roberts Saturday night in what the Lubbock High School Black History Club says is the first roast of an African-American in Lubbock.

E.C. Leslie, former superintendent of Lubbock schools and one of the roasters, said he has known Roberts since he came to Lubbock in the early 1950s to work at Dunbar High School.

"Roy and I go way back to the time when he was band director — before his hair turned white," Leslie said.

"He is one of the most loyal people who has played one of the largest roles in our transition in desegregation and all the social transitions we have had. I would say Roy Roberts was the key figure in this town."

Despite the overselling of tickets to the roast and faulty sound equipment, Roberts seemed composed, laughing at jokes and smiling at tributes. Four of his five children attended the event.

Jane Moore, a surprise guest, said Roberts' presence was readily apparent when he was principal at Dunbar High.

"When he walked down the hall, he commanded respect," his former secretary said. "There was an aura about him."

Mike Moses, who greeted the group on behalf of the LISD, wished Roberts good luck in front of the 14 roasters assembled at the event.

The list included Celestine Kyle, former teacher at Dunbar High School; Rose Lincoln, former choir director, LISD; Doyle Gammil, director of music education, LISD; Gilbert Weaver, superintendent of the Greenville Independent School District; Clarence Priestly, retired principal at Bozeman Elementary; Herman Moten of Austin, a cousin of Roberts; Rafael Madrid, executive director of personnel, LISD; Tom Brown, director of At Risk Services, LISD; Dr. Damon Hill Jr., Dunbar alumnus; Ed Irons, former superintendent of schools, LISD; Charles Henry, retired teacher, Dunbar High School; and Mike Payton, director of student services, LISD.

Roberts moved to Lubbock in the 1950s to be band director at Dunbar. He is credited with elevating the band to such a high level of quality that it was allowed to perform during University Interscholastic League marching contests, although it didn't get to compete. In 1960, the Black West Texas League was formed, and Dunbar won the sweepstakes awards.

In July 1991, Roberts was inducted into the Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame in San Antonio. He is one of 52 inducted since its inception in 1975.

# Hidden treasures

## Professionals find comfort in Manhattan Heights

Roy Roberts, musician and educator, found that his saxophone was a ticket for success. He and his family call Manhattan Heights home.

Story by  
BRIAN COFER

Photo by  
JOE DON BUCKNER



*When Heenan Johnson Jr. moved his family into the*

Manhattan Heights subdivision in 1959, it was practically in the country.

"There were a few cotton patches here and there," said Johnson, a dentist.

But the neighborhood, established in the mid-1950s as a haven for black professionals, was a good place to lay down roots. It still is, he said.

"I've never had a desire to live anywhere else. Both of my children were raised there. They attended Dunbar High School. I'm proud of the heritage there, and I don't want to give it up."

Johnson is not the only professional who feels that way. The attitude surprises some visitors to East Lubbock, who expect a scarred cityscape marred

by poverty and crime.

But take a drive through the neighborhood, located near Dunbar, and you'll find comfortable, substantial homes with upscale cars in the driveways. Almost 40 years after its founding, Manhattan Heights remains a symbol of success and money for East Lubbockites.

According to 1990 census figures, nobody on the city's eastern edge makes more than \$100,000. But 165 of the households earn more than \$50,000 per year, and 27 make more than \$75,000.

"It's probably one of the best kept secrets in Lubbock," said City Councilman T.J. Patterson. "We have money over

here. I think more people need to know that."

Vivian Cooke just has to look out her front door on Manhattan Drive to recite a who's who of East Lubbock.

"This is probably one of the most educated streets in all of Lubbock," she said, naming successful neighbors, whose children also have gone on to become doctors and lawyers.

Her husband, C.F. Cooke, was sent to Lubbock in 1951 to sell insurance for Atlanta Life.

"I always enjoyed selling, because I can talk better than anything else," he said. "It's a good business. You don't have to worry about making money."

For 40 years Cooke built up a customer base in East Lubbock. It served him well. By the time he retired in 1991, he was sitting on the company's board of directors.

For Roy Roberts, who lives down the street, the saxophone was his ticket to upward mobility.

"It helped me put two kids through Baylor at the same time."

He came to Lubbock from Oklahoma in 1952 to direct the band at Dunbar. Roberts led the band to sweepstakes victories among the then-segregated black high schools of Texas. In 1970, he became assistant principal at Estacado High School, returning to Dunbar High

School a few years later to serve as principal until his retirement in 1984.

"East Lubbock has been good to me," he said, looking back on his career. "There are a lot of good people and a lot of good students here."

Although the neighborhood defies popular stereotypes of East Lubbock, its population has been aging. As dentist Johnson put it, "We have a lot of residents over 40."

He didn't speculate on why that is, but Mrs. Cooke described a brain drain of young black professionals.

"The young people don't want to stay. There's nothing for them here. All of our children left Lubbock."

# A TEACHER'S HAR

## Roberts lives music's magic

By WILLIAM KERNS  
A-J Entertainment Editor

**T**hey called him Mr. Roberts. They still do. They are the thousands of students who learned about music, discipline and pride from Roy Roberts during his many years as an educator and a school administrator. And Roberts, who left a career as a professional musician to accept \$150 a month to teach music to Oklahoma students who didn't even have instruments, has no trouble remembering his students' eagerness and accomplishments.

Now retired from administrative duties, but still playing hits at private clubs and private parties with his combo, Roberts' eyesight isn't what it used to be. He'll search for his glasses before trying to read a business card these days. But the musical chops are still there — and the memories.

Relaxing in an easy chair at his fashionable Lubbock home, Roberts admitted that he never intended to teach. Accepting that job in Frederick, Okla., was just supposed to be a temporary detour, something to do when times were slow after the war.

But as he put it, "I got hung up on the kids." It was in 1949 when he received a call from the principal of Boyd High School in Frederick. And Roberts — who studied at Manual Training High School in Muskogee, Wiley College in Marshall and Sam Houston College in Austin — wasn't sure how he was going to make the job work. For one thing, he knew he'd be teaching all instruments, and he was much more comfortable with just a saxophone in his hands.

For another, where would he find those instruments?

"I wound up ordering instruments from a place called Meyers Music in Detroit, Mich.," he recalled, "and would you believe it? They shipped them to me without a penny in advance. The students later earned the money to pay for them by pulling cotton."

Asked if he worked at their sides, Roberts said with a chuckle, "I was the teacher. I was there, but I was the one doing the weighing."

Roberts didn't stop playing. He'd put together a little group that performed in places ranging from Fort Sill to Lawton, Okla. But he also had to learn before he could teach. "Really, the only instrument that gave me a lot of trouble was the trombone. I was pretty comfortable teaching trumpet, clarinet, sax. But I'd have to practice the trombone at night before I could teach it the next day."

He wound up putting together a 35-piece band at Boyd High School and, with the money he was making with his combo, was pretty happy. Then he took the band to Lubbock to perform at halftime at a high school football game, and that trip would change his life. The game was at Chapman Field, and E.C. Struggs, then principal of Dunbar High School, couldn't be sure that those Oklahoma kids were really supplying that big sound.

So he walked down and sat between two band members.

Roberts was hot. "I don't allow anyone to sit with my band," he recalled saying aloud, only to be told by a Dunbar student, "That's our principal."



A-J Photo/Joe Don Buckner

### Retirement allows saxophonist Roy Roberts more time to perform at the Lubbock Club.

Roberts let it pass. The next day, Struggs called Roberts with a job offer.

Roberts declined.

In fact, he turned down the job of Dunbar band director six times. He wouldn't even interview for the position. Later, when he was visiting a site near Lubbock, he acquiesced and told Struggs that he'd drive in and talk to him. But even that conversation almost never took place. Roberts said, "I remember my wife (Harvey Esther) telling me I got to get up and go to Lubbock. I said, 'I'm not going.'"

"And she said, 'You gave that man your word, and you're going,' and then she kept hitting me until I said OK."

The Lubbock Independent School District made Roberts an offer he couldn't refuse. He didn't even wait to confer with his wife; she'd made it obvious that she was ready for a move anyway. He accepted the position before he left Lubbock that day.

"That was on Jan. 3, 1952," said Roberts, "and coming to Lubbock was the best decision I ever made."

Dunbar High School was different. There were more students, most of them already renting or

owning instruments. And Roberts had to prove himself, teaching regular classes for a while before being allowed to concentrate only on music instruction. Before long, he was in charge of the marching band, concert band and Dunbar combo.

He stayed at Dunbar from 1952 until 1970, at which point Nat Williams, then LISD superintendent, called Roberts and said, "We need to talk."

Roberts drove to that meeting wondering what he'd done wrong, assuming he was being called on the carpet. Instead, he was offered the job of assistant principal at Estacado High School — but the offer wasn't going to stay on the table for long. Roberts enjoyed making music with students at Dunbar, but he knew he'd reached a salary ceiling there. He asked for 30 minutes to discuss the offer with his wife.

He was told that his answer was wanted in exactly 30 minutes.

"I drove home in no time, and I had these big crocodile tears," said Roberts. "My wife said, 'Oh Roy, you got fired.' I said, 'Girl, I didn't get fired. They want me to be an assistant principal.'"

He accepted the position, calling for another potentially tearful farewell with students.

# MONY

However, he noted, "The kids at Dunbar thought I was leaving to be band director at Estacado. When they found out the truth, I think they understood."

And Roberts would not be away from Dunbar for long. He was assistant principal at Estacado for 18 months and then accepted the job of Dunbar High School principal, a position he would retain from 1971 through 1984.

For 13 years, he instilled respect, pride and a willingness to learn in students. He helped many gain scholarships and often was sought out for advice. He applauds what he terms "an excellent staff and teachers all those years," and beams while mentioning the Dunbar graduates who went on to become doctors and lawyers and, yes, band directors.

Roberts was named Administrator of the Year in 1978, and one reason may be that he made it clear from the start that his students would behave.

In a sense, he also restricted his own privileges during those 13 years. He stopped playing music.

Roberts didn't just gradually taper off playing. One day, he just placed his saxophone in its case, put the case in a closet and refused to bring it out for more than a decade. Most musicians would face agony with that decision; Roberts knew he was doing what was best for his students.

"I was having as much fun as ever playing saxophone," he recalled. "But one night I was playing at the Palm Room and I looked out and saw what looked like half my students out there.

"I told myself I have to have their respect. I can't be playing for them at night and have that respect I need the next day. So I put my horn down."

He retired at age 60. He'd put in his years, saved his money, put his children through college and felt it was time — even when E.C. Leslie, then LISD superintendent, called Roberts and told him he was too young to step down. Roberts recalled, "I was waiting until I knew for sure my daughter would be graduating from Baylor.

"She called me one day and said, 'Daddy, I'm marching in May.' And I said, 'That's fine, baby. I'm marching, too.'"

And it wasn't long before he blew the dust off of that saxophone, began practicing and then placed an advertisement in the *Avalanche-Journal* that let the world know that Roy Roberts was back and looking for musicians. Thus was born the latest version of the Roy Roberts Combo.

"It's not a hard job because I have a good group of musicians," he said. "It's not like back in Oklahoma, where I had to do all the blowing."

Roberts feels that he had timing in his favor almost all his life. Teaching today, he said, would be harder because, "Students don't want to take the time to learn the basics. They want to be stars right away and run off and cut a record. They don't want to make the sacrifice."

But regrets? Roberts doesn't have even one.

"None whatsoever," he said. "I got to play the saxophone. I got to see a lot of places and I had a pretty good reputation. As for going farther with it, Uncle Sam took care of that. (He was drafted in 1943.) But even then, I made it into a Navy Band and I got to keep playing. And then there was those kids in Frederick. I wish I could express how those kids got under my skin.

"I never intended to be a teacher. I never did."

In a little over a week, a roast will be held at Lubbock's Holiday Inn Civic Center in Roberts' honor. He's not a bit worried. He knows that many of his students will be there, but he said with a smile, "Anything they've got to say, I'm sure I can top it."

The savvy 70-year-old musician is, however, pleased that those students still respect him. And yes, he's sure that they'll still call him Mr. Roberts.

# Friends, fans to honor Lubbock musician

By RAY WESTBROOK  
Avalanche-Journal

A dozen or more roasters will recount the exploits of Roy Roberts Feb. 26 at the Holiday Inn Civic Center when they share with well-wishers some insights into Roberts' career as a musician and educator.

The event, organized by the Lubbock High School Black History Club, will coincide with Black History Month, according to Gloria Carter, club sponsor.

It is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. with a skit by the Lubbock Fire Department, followed by a greeting by Superintendent of Schools Mike Moses. The banquet and roast will be followed by a dance from 10:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.

"This will be the first roast of an African-American in Lubbock as far as I know," Carter said.

"We chose Roy Roberts because of all of the contributions he has made here in Lubbock, and because all of his band students have gone on to become productive," she added.

Many of Roberts' former students have be-

come band directors. One of those, Mary Jo Wilson, currently is director of the Dunbar Junior High School band.

"As far as his career is concerned, I think he is probably responsible for more young people being educated or being able to get a formal education than probably any other educator that I know of," Wilson said.

"He was able to get scholarships for those students who wanted to pursue a higher education. I am one of those who went to school on a full music scholarship — he was my band director at that time," she added.

Roberts, who served the Lubbock Independent School District as an instructor and administrator, also became band director at Dunbar. He currently is retired from the LISD but operates a music group called Roy Roberts' Combo.

According to Carter, ticket sales for the event will be closed on Wednesday. They will be available for \$20 and \$25 at Caviel's Pharmacy and at Lubbock High School.

Roberts will become the first recipient of the club's Black History-Maker Award, she said.

Virgil Johnson, former principal of Dunbar, will serve as master of ceremonies.

A partial list of roasters include Doyle Gammill, coordinator of music education for LISD; E.C. Leslie, former superintendent of schools; Rafael Madrid, executive superintendent of personnel for LISD; Mike Payton, director of student services, LISD; Dr. Damon Hill; Celestine Kyle, former teacher at Dunbar-Struggs; and Rose Lincoln, former choir director for LISD.

Tommy Braxton of Dallas, who heads the singing group No Compromise, will provide a portion of the entertainment.

Roberts began his professional music career in the Houston area, and after service in the U.S. Navy, studied music in Austin. He received his master's degree in educational administration from Texas Tech, and was appointed band director of Dunbar in 1952. He served as assistant principal at Estacado in 1970, and was named principal at Dunbar in 1971.

Proceeds from the roast will be used to provide funds for the Lubbock High School Black History Club and for scholarships.

## Getting to know Mr. Roberts

■ **BORN:** Nov. 18, 1923, in Eufala, Okla., the son of Ruby and Leroy Roberts

■ **FAMILY:** His wife, Harvey Esther. Five children: Roy Jr., Ramon, Michael, Joey and Royla Michele. Eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

■ **FIRST SONG LEARNED:** "When I played Count Basie's 'One O'Clock Jump,' I thought I was really cuttin' up."

■ **FIRST PLACE HIS PARENTS SAW HIM PLAY:** "They drove from Oklahoma to see me play at a place called the Blue Moon Cafe in Dennison, Texas." Roberts' mother died at age 97, his father at age 96.

■ **MOST MEMORABLE NIGHT ON STAGE:** "When I was in the Navy, we played at a place in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and the band just clicked. I was the youngest player in that band and I was so excited that I felt like I was 10 feet tall. One of my home boys was there, and he came up afterward and said, 'Roy, you should be proud to be playing in a band like this.' I remember there were just so many people there, so many happy people."

■ **FAVORITE SONG HE STILL PLAYS:** "Sunny Side of the Street"

■ **BEST ADVICE GIVEN:** Boston Russell, who was Roberts' high school band director, said, "Roy, you stick with your music and you're gonna make it."

■ **MEMBERS OF THE ROY ROBERTS COMBO:** James Braxton, tenor saxophone; Garnett Lee, keyboards; Joe Phea Jr., bass; Glenda Sims, vocalist; Scott Tieman, drums; and Roy Roberts, alto saxophone. Roberts said with a laugh, "My old baritone sax just got too heavy, so I sold it to Texas Tech."

advance or on the morning of the  
conference at 8:30 a.m.  
The workshop will be led by  
to participants.  
social work also will be awarded