

Weather

HIGH THURSDAY 72
LOW TODAY 49
NOON 59
FORECAST: Fair and cooler
tonight. Fair through Satur-
day.

(UPI, NEA) 10 Cents

iving Climb



ROBERT GANS

Bandmasters Group Honors Robert Gans

Robert Gans, band director at Borger High School for the past six years, has been honored by the Texas Bandmasters Association with a certificate of recognition for 20 years of continuous membership in that elite organization.

Now in his 21st year of teaching, the New Haven, Conn., native holds bachelor and master of music degrees from Hardin-Simmons University. He taught at Midland, Winters and Ranger College before moving to Borger in 1965.

A member, and former Region 1 president of the band division of the Texas Music Educators Association, Gans also holds membership in the Texas Bandmasters Association and Phi Beta Mu band directors fraternity.

During Gans' six years as band director, the Borger Band has gained statewide acclaim for its excellence of performance in both marching and concert playing. The greatest honor was the invitation extended to Gans and the Borger Band to participate in the Cotton Bowl Classic on New Years Day two years ago.

Oct. 26 the Borger band will be participating in the Regional UIL Contest in Canyon trying to retain their sweepstakes honor won last year. According to Gans, Borger Bandsmen are scheduled to march at 3:08 p.m. Tuesday.

The Borger Band's Christmas concert is scheduled Dec. 14, Gans said, adding it will be held in the high school auditorium.

Newspaper article
Borger, Tx
Oct or Nov, 1971

This Is West Texas

BY GEORGE DOLAN

"Why," demanded a coffee drinker, stirring in sugar, "do newspapers only carry stories about kids who steal hubcaps, drive 110 miles an hour and shoot their stepfathers? Why don't they give more space to the kids who make A in citizenship and mow the neighbors' lawns?"

The answer, of course, is public reaction.

Write a story about a kid who has 15 years of perfect Sunday School attendance, and 117 mothers will write and call about their kids, all of whom have 16 years of perfect attendance.

The same principle applies to stories about peaches that grow in clusters, about squashes that grow nine feet long and about 32-year-old grandmothers.

Someone always comes along to top the story.

* * *

BOMBED BY BANDS

Take high school bands . . .

Bending under the persuasive eloquence of Pecos' Jo W. Camp, I wrote a piece about the outstanding record of the high school band there.

Band directors' mothers, band directors' wives, band directors' students and band directors' friends wrote, called and buttonholed, each claiming a band record as good or better.

Most persistent was Bob Rose of Winters, who was lobbying on behalf of Robert Gans, who directs the Winters Blizzard Band. And elementary bands. And the junior high band. And the high school choir. And a girls' ensemble and a swing band.

In five years under Gans' direction, Rose points out, the high school band has won five sweepstakes awards, 31 individual trophies and 176 first division medals.

The band won eight major trophies in a single year, says Rose. Also, Gans each year has placed at least one student on the all-state band.

One wonders, naturally, the motive of a Rose who campaigns so conscientiously on behalf of a Gans.

"I just admire him," he explained.

One stares at him, still not satisfied.

"I respect him?" he quavered. More staring.

"Well," said Rose, cracking under the strain, "it's like this . . ."

* * *

THERE'S A REASON

One year, when Winters was host for an Interscholastic League band contest, Rose was grooming the marching field.

Gans, inspecting the turf, walked up behind him.

At that moment, Rose's tractor-drawn lawnmower hit a rock.

A piece of rock hit one of Gans' finger. It was the forefinger, a digit that is indispensable to a band director. The finger was broken.

"Mr. Gans," confesses Rose, "was not a happy man. Not only did it work a hardship on him the next day at the contest, but for several days to come it interfered with other obligations such as piano and organ playing at the Lions Club and at church . . ."

Maybe other West Texas band directors can top Gans' efforts. But one thing's sure:

No one has a better reason to speak up on a band director's behalf than Rose. He's got some making up to do . . .

TEACHER PAY I

August 10, 1961 - Abilene Reporter News
11:20 a.m.

ROBERT R. GANS

Robert R. Gans devoted his life to music. As a distinguished high school band director for more than 40 years, he inspired his students. As a result, they earned award after award. Their successes were the result of his high standards of personal discipline and hard work balanced artfully by his genuine concern for his students. He was and continues to be, an inspiration to his students, his family, his friends, and colleagues.

Bob Gans was born in New Haven, Connecticut to Mary Freed and Aaron Gans on August 11, 1912. He was the oldest of three after they emigrated from Russia. The oldest of three sons, at age five he began piano lessons. Bob's father was helping support the family playing for silent movies, in clubs, and burlesque. He graduated from New Haven High School in 1938 and moved to Greenwich Village "where the music scene was."

In 1942, Bob was drafted into the U.S. Army and assigned to Huntsville, Texas as a German interpreter in a POW camp. Bob also served his country musically as pianist in both the Manhattan, Kansas USO and the Green Barkley Service Club Orchestra. While in the Army, Bob met and married Joysue Self on September 11, 1943. He was graduated from Hardin Simmons University with a Bachelor of Music degree in 1944 and was awarded his first Master of Music degree ever conferred by Hardin Simmons in May of 1950. Bob's master's thesis was titled "An Investigation of Class Piano in the Public Schools." While at Hardin Simmons he was elected Young Man Among Students in American Colleges and Universities for 1947-48. He also was elected to membership in Alpha Chi National Scholarship Society, whose members rank in the top 10 percent of the student body. Bob was a member of the world famous Hardin Simmons Cowboy Marching Band and had the opportunity to perform as piano soloist at many invitational events, such as the inauguration of Governor Buford Lester. After completing his college education, he also performed with the Jack Freese Orchestra of El Paso.

Bob began his teaching career in Ranger, Texas in a dual role as high school band director as well as instructor of music theory at Ranger Junior College. During his two-year tenure from 1950-52, he wrote the "Ranger High School Bulldog Fight Song," which continues to inspire students and Ranger football fans today. In 1952, Bob accepted a position as conductor for the Cowden Junior High School Bands in Midland, Texas and remained there from 1952-1954. From Midland he accepted a position as band and choir director at Northport Junior High in Tarrant County, a secondary school to the small North Texas communities of Rhame, Kennedale, and others.

Even during his early career, Bob Gans managed to enrich each high school music program he participated in, always leaving a program better than he found it. In 1955, however, when the Winters Independent School District Superintendent and School Board recruited him to head the Winters ISD Music Department, Bob had his chance to do what he did best—to build music programs and to enrich the lives of those who were involved.

In Winters, Bob was charged with restructuring the Winters band and choral programs from the ground up at a high school. The School Board gave him two years in which to win a first division in Concert competition for the high school band. He did it the first year. In 1955, and for the next ten years, the Winters High School band won the Sweet Briar College University Interscholastic League (UIL) competition. This success was the result of Bob's personal dedication and hard work. He integrated every aspect of his department, gradually "growing" his student body and providing challenges for all. He produced at least one All-State band member each year and a number of All-State choral soloists. The band won first division awards in every festival they entered. Through his efforts, students learned musical and life lessons. Skills instilled in the students to ensure the dedication of the 1957 Golden Winters High School Band.

ROBERT R. GANS

Robert R. Gans devoted his life to music. As a distinguished high school band director for more than 30 years, he inspired his students. As a result, they earned award after award. Their successes were the result of his high standards of personal discipline and hard work balanced artfully by his genuine concern for their welfare. He was, and continues to be, an inspiration to his students, his family, his friends, and colleagues.

Bob Gans was born in New Haven, Connecticut to Mary Freed and Aaron Gans on August 23, 1921, seventy years after they emigrated from Russia. The oldest of three sons, at age five he began helping support the family playing for silent movies, in clubs, and burlesque. He graduated from New Haven High School in 1938 and moved to Greenwich Village "where the music scene was."

In 1942, Bob was drafted into the U.S. Army and assigned to Huntsville camp. Bob also served his country musically as pianist in both the Y. Barkley Service Club Orchestra. While in the Army, Bob met and married Joyeuse Self on February 27, 1945. He was graduated from Hardin Simmons University with a Bachelor of Music degree in 1948 and was awarded the first Master of Music degree ever conferred by Hardin Simmons in May of 1950. Bob's master's thesis was titled "An Investigation of Class Piano in the Public Schools." While at Hardin Simmons he was elected to National Alpha Chi and also was elected to membership in Alpha Chi Omega. He was a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and had the opportunity to perform as a soloist at many convitational events, such as the inauguration of Governor Buford Jester. While pursuing his college education, he also performed with the Jack Freese Orchestra of

Bob began his career in Ranger, Texas in a dual role as high school band director as well as instructor of music theory at Ranger Junior College. During his two-year tenure at Ranger Junior College, he wrote the Ranger High School Song, which continues to inspire students and faculty. In 1952, he accepted a position as conductor for the Cowden Junior High School in Midland, Texas, where he served as band and choir director at Northview High School in Tarrant County. He moved from a secondary school to the small North Texas community of Rhame, Round Rock, and Justin.

Even during his early career, Bob Gans managed to enrich each program he participated in, always leaving a program better than he found it. In 1955, the Winters School District Superintendent and School Board recruited him to help build music programs and to work on restructuring the Winters band and choir programs. He had his chance to do what he did best--to build music programs and to work on restructuring the Winters band and choir programs.

In Winters, Bob was charged with restructuring the Winters band and choir programs. The School Board gave him two years in which to win a first place award in Concert competition with the high school band. He did it the first year. In 1955, and for the next ten years, the Winters High School band won first place in University Interscholastic League (UIL) competition. This success was the product of Bob's perfect vision for his students and his program. He integrated every aspect of his department--band, choir, stage--by providing challenges which stretched the band member each year and a number of awards in every festival they entered. He inspired his students to win the dedication of the 1957 Glenn Winters High School yearbook.

In 1965, Bob moved to Borger High School, Borger, Texas, where he found another music program. As in Winters, his students and his program enjoyed immense success in the music program. True to form, he produced Sweepstakes bands for seven of the directed high school musical presentations of several Broadway shows including "The Fair Lady", and "Hello, Dolly," personally transcribing the Broadway scores original to scores suitable for wind ensemble. His talent and drive integrated three previously separate choir, and drama--into a harmonious unit producing a string of first-class performances. His students' abilities and provided exposure to yet another area of music education. Once again with special recognition and dedication of the high school yearbook, The [unclear] of Bob's tenure occurred when the band was chosen to participate in the New Year's halftime show.

In 1973, Bob moved to Grand Prairie, Texas to become the Director of Music for Grand Prairie again leaving a quality organization for the opportunity to build another. At Grand Prairie, he succeeded by setting the highest of standards and defining the strictest of discipline. Grand Prairie won many first division awards in the next eight years and in 1980 won its first state title before Bob retired.

Though Bob demanded loyalty from his students, he worked hard to earn theirs in return. On a limb for his kids. When several boys from the Borger band got carried away with a civil war cannon from a rival high school, they panicked and called Bob in the interest of school spirit. Bob helped them place the cannon on the front steps of his home and for the rest of the night, worried about getting fired. As a result of this inspiration, many of his former students became band directors and/or professional musicians. The years confided to Bob that he was the only reason they stayed in school.

Bob Gans was above all a showman! He was known to promote not only school spirit but showmanship. He credited his flare for showmanship to (Prof) Raymond T. Bynum, for whom he taught at McMurray College Summer Band School. It was not unusual for the audience at the end of the final patriotic number which was always presented with great panache. Bob's showmanship backfired, as it did when Bob managed to set the rodeo pens adjacent to the band on fire with his fireworks display, ending a halftime program literally in a "flame out."

Throughout his career, Bob was active in various professional associations. From 1954 to 1957, he was adjudicator for state-wide band and choir contests. In 1956 and 1957, he was married and hosting UIL marching contest at Winters. Bob also served as President of Phi Beta Kappa and the Texas Bandmasters' Association. In addition, he served as Dean of the McMurray College for many years.

Bob Gans was known for his high standards and strict discipline--his love of music and his students he taught. He required absolute loyalty to the band organization not only from his students but from his parents. He continually set what were perceived by some to be impossibly high standards of whom continued to meet and exceed them year after year. He was respected as a teacher, and is sorely missed.

Bob is survived by his wife, Joanne of Grand Prairie; his daughters Tamala, Bobbie, and as well as 11 grandchildren. In his memory, Bob's family has established the Robert Gans Education Scholarship Fund, a fund of North Texas benefiting future generations. Donations may be sent to: Robert Gans Education Fund, P.O. Box 13557, University of North Texas, 76208-2557.

1913-14
yearbook dedication:
Grand Prairie High School
1973-74

DEDICATION

He's our little band man, our musical dynamo.
He overcomes all obstacles to get "on with the show."
He teaches music and marching, precision and pride;
He's more than director; he's a friend and a guide.
With untiring efforts to build the best of all bands,
He's a giant among men, our own

ROBERT GANS