

Floyd Weger - Conducting and Teaching Career

Floyd Weger began his career as a music educator in 1935 at Shidler, Oklahoma where he developed award winning chorus, orchestra and Band. His Band won superior in the National contest at Little Rock in 1939.

He moved to Paris, Texas in 1941, to become Supervisor of music. He organized the first ninety piece orchestra, a one hundred voice acapella choir and the first symphonic band. After only one year he enlisted the air force band in 1942 and spent the next three years there, returning in 1946 to continue as Chairman of the music department. The program became so large he hired an assistant to take over the chorus in 1954. He continued with band until his retirement in 1978.

He was selected by the City of Paris to conduct the Paris Municipal Band in 1949, a band he continued to conduct after 44 years. This is one of the few remaining Municipal bands left in the nation. Concerts are every Friday evening at Bywaters Park during the summer. In appreciation of his concerts in the parks and at the annual July 4, fireworks in Paris the Paris Rotary clubs presents him the "You Make Paris Proud" award in July 1990.

On April 5, 1949 the University of Texas Interscholastic league selected the Paris High School acapella choir conducted by Floyd Weger to perform selections from the entire contest list on radio station KFJZ in Fort Worth over the seventeen stations of the Texas State Network. One thousand directors and choir members heard the broadcast.

The year before in 1948 the Paris Junior Chamber of Commerce presented Floyd Weger the outstanding young man of the year award.

The High School Band won its first superior in contest and sight reading in 1946. After that came superiors in contest and sight reading for twenty seven years.

In 1961 Paris was selected the honor band and played a full length concert for the first four states Band Masters Association in Texarkana. In 1962 they were one of five bands in the nation to play a full length concert for the Mid-East Band Masters Association in Pittsburg, Pa. In 1966 Paris Band was selected as the official Texas representative band to parade in the Mardi-Gras in New Orleans. That same year they performed for the Lions International convention in Los Angeles California.

In 1969 they paraded in the Indianapolis 500, and in 1975 they received the outstanding band award in its class at the Worlds of Fun Festival in Kansas City Mo.

In 1983 Weger was guest conductor of the Fort Worth Symphony for a full length "Pops in the Park" concert which featured his son Steve, who was principal trumpet with the orchestra, as featured soloist a few years earlier where Steve was principal trumpet with the Kansas City Philharmonic. The conductor called Floyd from the audience to conduct the orchestra in a solo Steve was playing.

Floyd was lucky to have Irene Weger, his wife, as his assistant for the last thirty years of his teaching career.

They have two children, Jeannie Larson, principal flutist with the Dallas Symphony and Flute assistant at Southern Methodist University, and Steve Weger, principal trumpet with the Fort Worth Symphony and Chamber Orchestra and trumpet instructor at Texas Christian University.

From the early '50s Floyd became active as contest judge and instructor over a five state area, an activity he continued until his retirement in 1978.

Upon his retirement in 1978, the Paris Board of Education, at the request of hundreds of former students, named the fine arts building at Paris High School the Weger Fine Arts Center, and finally in 1993 the Paris Education foundation honored Floyd and Irene Weger in the prestigious "I Love Paris" award and a gala celebration was held in their honor and a large amount was contributed to the scholarship fund in their honor.

The Weger Phenomenon

Floyd Weger came to Paris High
In nineteen forty-one.
He brought along Irene, his wife.
She was the pretty one.

They came from Shidler, Oklahoma.
Shidler's loss was our great gain.
Floyd's forte was the orchestra --
When hired he thought it was plain.

They also gave him choir and band.
He did it all. Wow! What a man!
Our high school song he quickly banned.
A thing he thought we couldn't stand.

"When the Paris Wildcats Fall in Line"
Just wouldn't do -- we nearly died!
He handled it with great finesse
Until all were on his side,

And "Loyal and True" soon became
A symbol of our school pride.
His talent changed our once brass band
To symphonic known far and wide.

Irene handled the beginners --
Gave them a good foundation.
To help make our wonderful band
An outstanding sensation.

The Blue Blazes could now compete
In contests throughout the land.
Bill Murphy was his right hand man
And helped out our marching band.

At our band's stunning appearance,
All students rose to their feet.
Each time that band was on the field,
We knew it just couldn't be beat!

In forty-three Floyd went to war.
We didn't know what we would do.
He left Irene to take his place.
He knew she could see us through.

Then peace brought him back to us --
How nice to have this special luck
We love you, "POP," and furthermore,
We want to say, "Thanks so much."

You have enriched our lives galore
With music with that classy touch,
And to prove how much you're adored,
Since you gave all this and much more

Talent, knowledge, even your wife,
Your loyalty and friendship, too;
So, all because of your great life,
We dedicate this night to you!

Bonnie Ruth Majors Coker
1993

Entertainment

Bandmaster Floyd Weger to conduct

By DAVE HERFORT
News Staff Writer

When the *Battle Hymn of the Republic* echoes through the auditorium of Paris High School on Tuesday night, a flood of memories could be invoked for veteran director Floyd Weger.

The combined bands and choirs of Paris, Prairiland and North Lamar High Schools will be led by Weger in a *Musical Collage*, to begin at 7:30 p.m.

A native of Durant, Okla., Weger obtained a bachelor of music degree from Southeastern State College at Durant and a master of music degree from Colorado State College at Greeley, Colo. He began his teaching career as music director at Schidler, Okla. in 1935.

Weger said parades were held frequently on Saturday mornings in Schidler "for no reason at all." Over a thousand people from the Osage County oil fields would come into town, he said, just to see the band march.

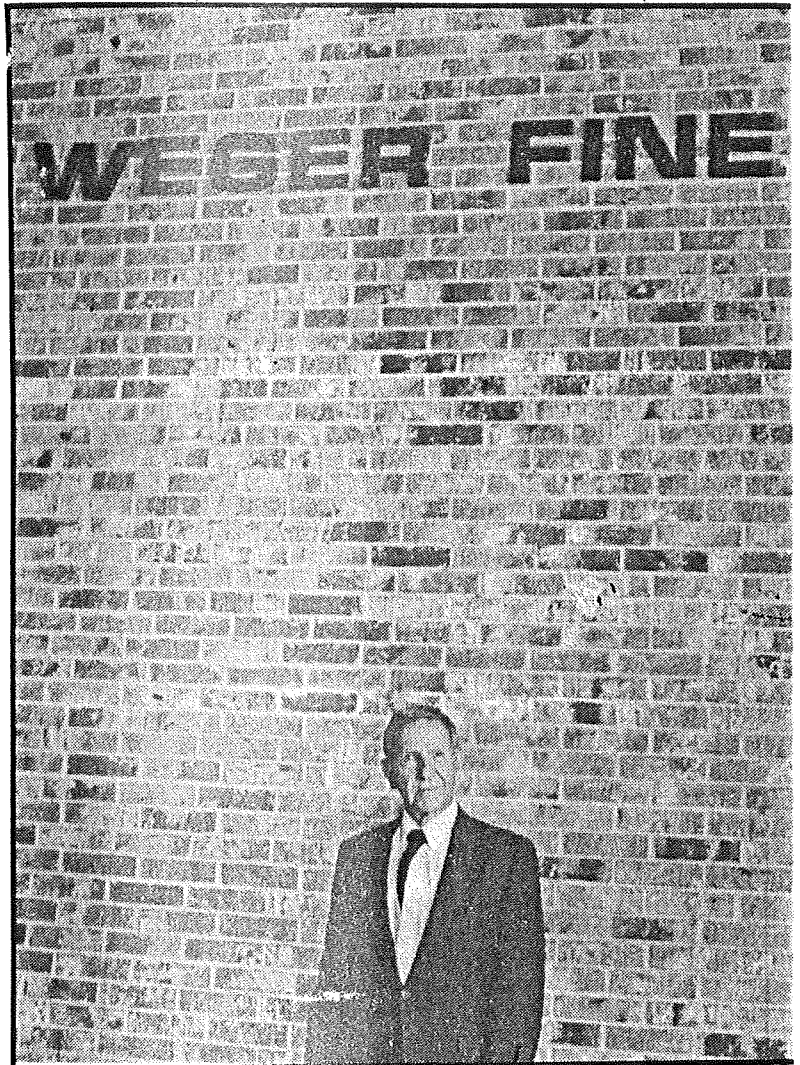
During the summer months in the late 1930s, Weger and his wife, Irene, journeyed to New York City, where he studied at the Juilliard School of Music. Weger fondly remembers the master classes taught by trombone virtuoso Arthur Pryor.

While still teaching in Schidler, and during one of his New York City summer visits, Weger performed on his trombone for Major Bowes' Amateur Hour, which was then broadcast weekly on the NBC network. He played an Arthur Pryor solo, *Variations on My Old Kentucky Home*.

Weger said his performance was heard by bandleader Horace Heidt, who offered him a job playing with his nationally-known orchestra, The Musical Knights. Heidt's offer was rejected, however, and Weger resumed his teaching career.

Weger first came to Paris High School in 1941 as director of the orchestra and chorus. After a three-year tour of duty in the U.S. Air Force during World War II, he returned to PHS in the fall of 1945 as choral and band director.

Beginning in 1949, Weger assumed the directorship of the Paris



WEGER FINE ARTS CENTER — Veteran bandmaster Floyd Weger is shown in front of the Weger Fine Arts Center at Paris High School. After Weger's retirement in 1978 from a 34-year teaching career at PHS, a group of former students dedicated the fine arts wing in his honor. (Staff photo by Dave Herfort)

Municipal Band. He said there is still a "great deal of (public) interest" in the band's six-week summer concert series at Bywaters Park.

In 1956, Weger relinquished his choral music duties at PHS and continued as band director until his retirement in 1978.

Several of Floyd Weger's former PHS students have had successful professional careers in music. He recalled three bassoon players in particular.

Six weeks after Marsha Robertson graduated from Paris High School, Weger said she was offered a job as bassoonist by Arthur Fiedler, then director of the Boston Pops Orchestra. She accepted his

offer and also performed with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, he said.

PHS graduate James Jeter is presently a free-lance bassoonist in New York City and Kent Townste plays bassoon with a symphony orchestra in Berlin, Weger said.

In addition to daughter Jeann Weger Larson (principal flutist with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra) and son Stephen (first trumpet with the Fort Worth Chamber Orchestra), Weger former pupils also include Albe Moore, former trumpeter with the Minneapolis Symphony; and J.V. Blasingame, woodwind specialist of Dallas.

July 10, 1990 Paris News

Weger has brought sweet music to Paris for decades

When the Paris Municipal Band strikes up a beat, the man out front with the baton is Floyd Weger. It has been that way for 41 years.

The quiet, friendly and ever-smiling director of the city's outstanding orchestra is a native of Oklahoma, but fortunately he was adopted by the Paris populous many years ago.

Weger's musical abilities have touched nearly every person in the Paris region. As band director at Paris High School, he taught hundreds of young people how to play instruments and how to enjoy music. He retired from teaching in 1978, but has continued to give musical enjoyment to the people of Paris through the Municipal Band.

Weger began directing the city orchestra in 1949, and has missed only one performance by the group in 41 years. What a record, and what dedication.

Repaying him for his contribution and dedication to his community and the people in it is impossible. But, he was given some recognition last week when the Paris Rotary Club and the band members presented him with special awards. "Making Paris Proud" was the name of one award, and Weger surely does that.

Weger will probably want to retire from the Municipal Band one day, but his positive influence on musicians in the area will be evident for decades to come.

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Abolishing savings & loans

The Bulletin, Bend, Ore.

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the insurance funds.

F

TCU band concert to feature Weger family

A Texas Christian University band concert featuring three members of the Floyd Weger family will be presented to members of the Texas Music Educators Association at their annual convention in San Antonio Friday night.

Weger, a former Paris High School band director, will be guest conductor for the concert that will be attended by an estimated 2,000 band directors from around the state.

Joining Weger as a guest trumpet player in the band will be his son Steve, who is a PHS graduate. He is currently a member of the Fort Worth Symphony and also teaches trumpet at TCU.

Steven Weger, son of Steve Weger, is a junior music major at TCU and plays trumpet in the university's band.

TCU band director Bob Blanton, a 1960 graduate of Sherman High School, extended the invitation to the Wegers.

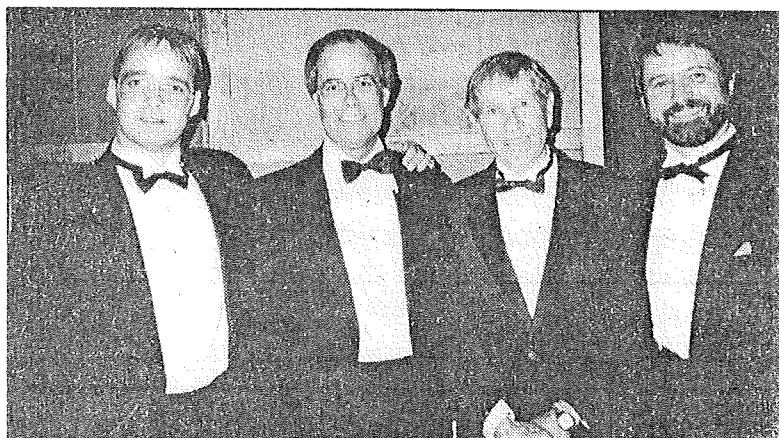
TCU and the University of North Texas at Denton bands won honors to perform concerts during the con-

vention. The selection resulted from being chosen by a committee of judges in a competition rating of taped music presentations.

Weger retired in 1978 after serving 37 years as band director at PHS. A native of Colbert, Okla., near Durant, he received a BA from Southeastern, his MA from Colorado State College in Greeley and has done additional study at the famed Julliard School of Music in New York City.

He and his wife Irene live on their ranch near Faught in northeast Lamar County.

On Campus



Reunion

Retired Paris High School band director Floyd Weger served guest director recently for the Texas Christian University band in San Antonio at the Texas Music Educators Association annual meeting. Pictured left to right are: Stephen J. Weger, member of the TCU band and Weger's grandson; Bob Blanton, director of bands at TCU in Fort Worth; Weger; and Steve Weger, Weger's son and a member of the Fort Worth Symphony. The meeting included performances by the Texas State Band, Orchestra and Chorus. The TCU band was selected to play due to its outstanding achievements during the past year.

WEGER TO DIRECT

PHS Chorus to Host District Workshop

Paris High School Chorus will be host for a Region 15 Choral Workshop to be held Thursday. The workshop will last from 9 a. m. until 3:30 p. m. and will be held at the Paris High School band hall.

Floyd Weger, head of the music department at Paris High School, will direct the massed choir taken from a region that extends east to Texarkana and Atlanta, south to Daingerfield and Winnsboro, and west to Greenville and Bonham.

Weger came to Paris High School in 1941 as orchestra and chorus director. In 18 months he had built up a 90 - piece symphony orchestra and an 80-voice chorus. He entered the service and upon returning in 1946 took charge of the school's band and dropped the orchestra. In 1948 his chorus was asked by the Texas Interscholastic League to sing a program of con-

test numbers over the Texas State Radio Network. In 1954 he turned the chorus over to the present director, Miss Celia Donaldson, due to a full schedule.

Since 1946 Weger has brought 22 honors to Paris High through his work with the chorus and band. He is married and has two children.

Purpose of the planned workshop is to increase the interest of schools in Region 15 to larger and better choral groups. All schools in this area are urged to register as soon as possible.



FLOYD WEGER
... To direct Region Chorus

10-DAY TOUR

PHS Band Back From Pittsburgh

The Paris High School Band cruised in home early this morning in three chartered busses after a 10-day tour to Pittsburgh, Pa., and a concert performance at the Mideast Bandmaster's Association clinic held there last week.

Tired and weary from their exhausting 2,500-mile tour, the 88-piece band was excused from classes until noon today.

Floyd Weger, band director, was highly pleased with the tour. "It was very successful for the students and they gave an excellent performance," he says. Each member of the band was presented with a plaque for the concert given in the Penn-Sheraton Hotel before professional musicians and composers.

John Cacavas, a composer who conducted the local band, praised the group. He said that the Paris High Blue Blazes Band was the finest high school band that he had ever conducted.

The caravan, composed of 97 people, left Paris Sunday, March 18 and journeyed to Pittsburgh via Memphis, Nashville, and Cincinnati. They returned by traveling through Indianapolis, St. Louis, Springfield and Hot

Springs, arriving in Paris around 1 a.m. today.

In addition to the two-hour concert played by the Blue Blazes, the group also heard the U.S. Air Force Band and two other high school bands at the huge convention.

Students were given extensive tours through the Pittsburgh area, Weger says. They saw the steel mills and other large industries located in the area. On the return trip, they stopped for a visit at the world-famous St. Louis Zoo.

Money to finance the trip was raised through efforts of the band members, and private donations from individuals and business concerns here.

WEATHER

NORTHEAST TEXAS.—Fair and a little warmer today and Wednesday. Low tonight 45 to 55. High Wednesday 80 to 84.

LOCAL.—U.S. Weather Bureau information for the 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. Tuesday, courtesy of Observer W. J. Thomas. High temperature 72. Low and overnight low 44. No rainfall. Total rainfall to date this year 7.89 inches. Total rainfall to this date last year 6.08 inches. Humidity 70 per cent. Barometer 30.20 and rising.



BAND HONORS—Kenneth Lee Griffin, (left), president of the Paris High School Blue Blazes Band, and Jeanie Weger, drum major of the band, admire the plaque that was awarded the PHS band at its recent concert in Pittsburgh, Pa. for the Mid-East Instrumental Music Conference at Duquesne University. Griffin is first chair trombonist and Miss Weger is first chair flutist. (Paris News Staff Photo)

APRIL 9, 1993

our guest and visiting Rotarians
! L C O M E !
y at noon this is the place to be.
ome back to be with us anytime and
njoy your fellowship again.

P R O G R A M

EEK Wally Kraft presents Keith Oakley
rell, Texas. Keith is a State
bative (from district 4 representing
Kaufman counties) serving on the
ental Regulation committee.

EEK Hoot Gibson is assisting Jim
with our program next week. He
m Ragan of St Joseph's Hospital with
resting information and demographics
ar, Delta and Red River counties.

G PROGRAM SCHEDULE

GRAMS - Ray Armstrong, Chairman
LOCAL MEETING - DISTRICT CONFERENCE
ohn Good & Ross Richardson
GRAMS - Daon Wall, Chairman
onnie Dear & John Reddell
ck Deaton & Ray Sissel
m Farris & Robert Norment
ohn House & Robert Parker

OTARY EVENT CALENDAR

'93 District Conference, Longview
District Assembly, Mt. Vernon
'93 Int'l Convention, Melbourne AUS

YOUR PARENTS ALWAYS TOLD T YOU DIDN'T WANT TO HEAR

ys work for good for those who love
-- Bible, Romans 8:28

y happy man is one who can enjoy the
even when he has to take a detour.

r revenge a man is but even with his
out in passing it over, he is

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Is Rotary important to you? Do you feel good
when you smile and greet a fellow Rotarian?
Most of us do not know much about Rotary;
although, we've been in Rotary for a long
time. The annual District Conference is THE
MOST IMPORTANT ROTARY EVENT OF THE YEAR.
This conference is not just for the "big
wigs" in Rotary. It is for you and I to have
fellowship with Rotarians just like
ourselves. It is for you and I to learn how
to be more involved in the spirit of Rotary.
It is for you and I to enjoy the
accomplishments of all the clubs in our
district! There really are some "neat"
Rotarians in our district, and the only way
you will ever get to meet and visit with
them, is to attend the district conference!

To quote DG Jim Fitzgerald, "When you join
Rotary and say to the world, 'I am a
Rotarian,' you become different. You become
special."

Return the reservations form you received
last week, and let's all have a wonderful
time together in Longview on April 23-24. At
least come to the banquet meeting on Friday
night -- it will be worth the trip, believe
me!

REAL HAPPINESS IS HELPING OTHERS

PORTRAIT OF A ROTARIAN

FLOYD C. "POP" WEGER

This SA Paul Harris Fellow has been
intermittently involved in our club since
1947. Floyd was born in Colbert, Oklahoma on
April 9, 1918. Yes -- today is his birthday!

In 1935 Floyd received a BA degree from
Southeastern State University in Durrant,
Oklahoma where he majored in music and
minored in English. In 1938 he completed
Guilliard School Of Music in New York City

and in 1947 he received a MA degree in music
education from Colorado State University in
Greeley.

During WWII Floyd spent three years in the
Air Force and was discharged in 1945 as a
PFC. He married Lillian Irene Scales in New
York City on August 4, 1938. They have two
children: Steve and Jeannie Larson and five
grandchildren.

In 1978, after thirty-seven years with Paris
Independent School District, Floyd retired as
superintendent of music. A job he hasn't
retired from is director of the Paris
Municipal Band, a position he has held for
forty-four years since 1949.

Floyd and his Rotary-Ann, Irene, jointly were
the honorees for the Paris Educational
Foundation's 1993 fund raiser, I Love Paris.
The foundation raised the largest sum in its
history at a single fund raising event --
just a token of the Wegers' high community
esteem.

DID YOU KNOW

This week's RotaRooter Award goes to Norment
Montgomery. Norman never "runs out of gas"!

GIVE US SOME NEWS AND GET SOME ROTABUCKS!!!

ROTARY INFORMATION

Rotarians are responding to The Rotary
Foundation Trustees' call for each Rotary
district to add 75 new Benefactors to the
Foundation's Endowment for World
Understanding and Peace between 1991-92 and
1995-96. As of March 15, six Rotary
districts had met the goal of 75 new
Benefactors. Overall the numbers of new
Foundation Benefactors have increased from an
average of 15 per week in January 1992 to
almost 100 per week in January 1993. In the
first two weeks of March alone the Endowment
gained 402 new Benefactors.

Wegers Honored at High School Music Festival



PLAQUE PRESENTATION.—Mrs. Wayne Whittington, president of the Paris Music Study Club, left, is shown with Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Weger after the presentation of a bronze plaque to the Wegers Friday night at the High School May Music Festival.

The plaque was inscribed as follows: "From the Paris Music Study Club to Floyd and Irene Weger in deep appreciation of their contribution to music in the City of Paris, Texas. May, 1951." (Paris News Staff Photo).

An appreciation plaque was presented to Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Weger for their contribution to music in Paris at the annual Paris High School May Music Festival Friday night at the high school gym. The plaque was given by the Paris Music Study Club and presented by Mrs. Wayne Whittington, president.

In her presentation, Mrs. Whittington cited the honors the Paris High School band and chorus have won under Mr. Weger's direction and she commended Mrs. Weger's work with the cadet band of ward school students. Mr. Weger introduced and expressed appreciation to Miss Cella Donaldson, who assists him in the music department.

The surprise presentation of the plaque was made at the intermission of the program which was received by a large and appreciative audience. Mr. Weger directed the program, which was a pre-National Music Week event here.

The band presented a varied program of symphonic and band music. One of the highlights of the program was the number, "Folk Song Suite" featuring bass horns played by Jimmy Alexander, Arthur Lewis Gibson, Jimmy Gage, and Sonny Simmons.

Alfred Mackin won a rousing applause when he conducted the band in "Magnus Overture" (Me-

sang). He recently won a superior rating at the band contests as a student conductor.

A trumpet trio composed of Bobby Robinson, Margaret Haley, and Johnny Thoms, played "Tripolet" (Leonard) for a well-earned applause, "Juke Box," a syncopated medley, featured George Rodney Johnson, trombonist; Bobby Robinson, trumpet; Kenneth Humphreys, saxophone; and Sally Moody, clarinetist, and was a program favorite.

The chorus numbers featured solists Sally Moody, Dan Abeles, and the girls trio, composed of Sally Moody, Patsy Caldwell, and Sandra Staples. The entire choral group of number was well received.

The combined A and B choruses joined with the band in presenting a Fred Waring arrangement of "Battle Hymn of the Republic" as a finale to the program. As an encore, the chorus sang "God with You."

Following the program, the Music Study Club entertained with a reception honoring Mr. and Mrs. Weger at the home of Mrs. Benton Fisher, 531 Graham St. Attending were members of the club, City School Superintendent and Mrs. Thomas Justiss, High School Principal and Mrs. Dee Cunningham, and Miss Donaldson.

Paris News Sunday May 6, 1951

P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, Floyd Weger has served the City of Paris as its Municipal Band Director from 1941 to 1978; and,

WHEREAS, Floyd and Irene Weger did serve the citizens of Paris and surrounding areas as Paris Public School's teachers of music from 1941 to 1978, with Floyd Weger directing the Paris High School Band, Chorus and Orchestra and Irene Weger directing the Elementary School Band; and,

WHEREAS, Floyd and Irene Weger through their community service in the field of music, have earned a place in the hearts and memories of many citizens and former students and the designation of their day in Paris, Texas, as special thanks and recognition for their outstanding contributions in making Paris, Texas, a more enjoyable and better place to live;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, George Fisher, Mayor of the City of Paris, in the name and by the authority of the office of Mayor of the City of Paris, do hereby proclaim February 20, 1993, as

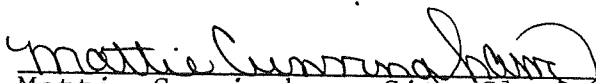
FLOYD AND IRENE WEGER DAY

in Paris, Lamar County, Texas, and urge all citizens to join in making it known to the Wegers, our affection and deep appreciation for their good citizenship.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have signed my name and caused the seal of the City of Paris to be affixed hereto this 19th day of February, 1993.


George Fisher, Mayor

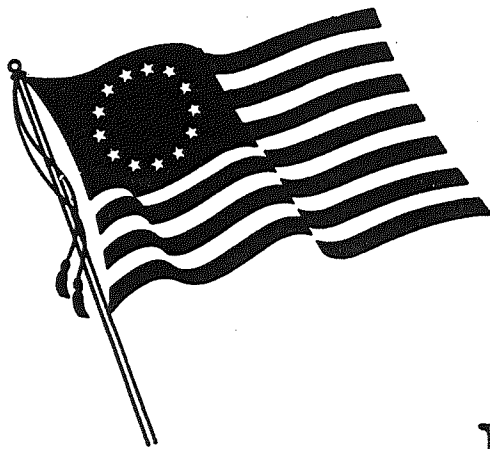
ATTEST:


Mattie Cunningham, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


T. K. Haynes, City Attorney

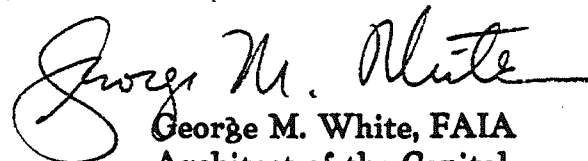




THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

This is to certify that the accompanying flag was flown
over the United States Capitol on February 20, 1993,
at the request of the Honorable Jim Chapman,
Member of Congress.

This flag was flown for Floyd and Irene Weger in
recognition of over 50 years of musical expertise and
dedication to community service and education.


George M. White, FAIA
Architect of the Capitol

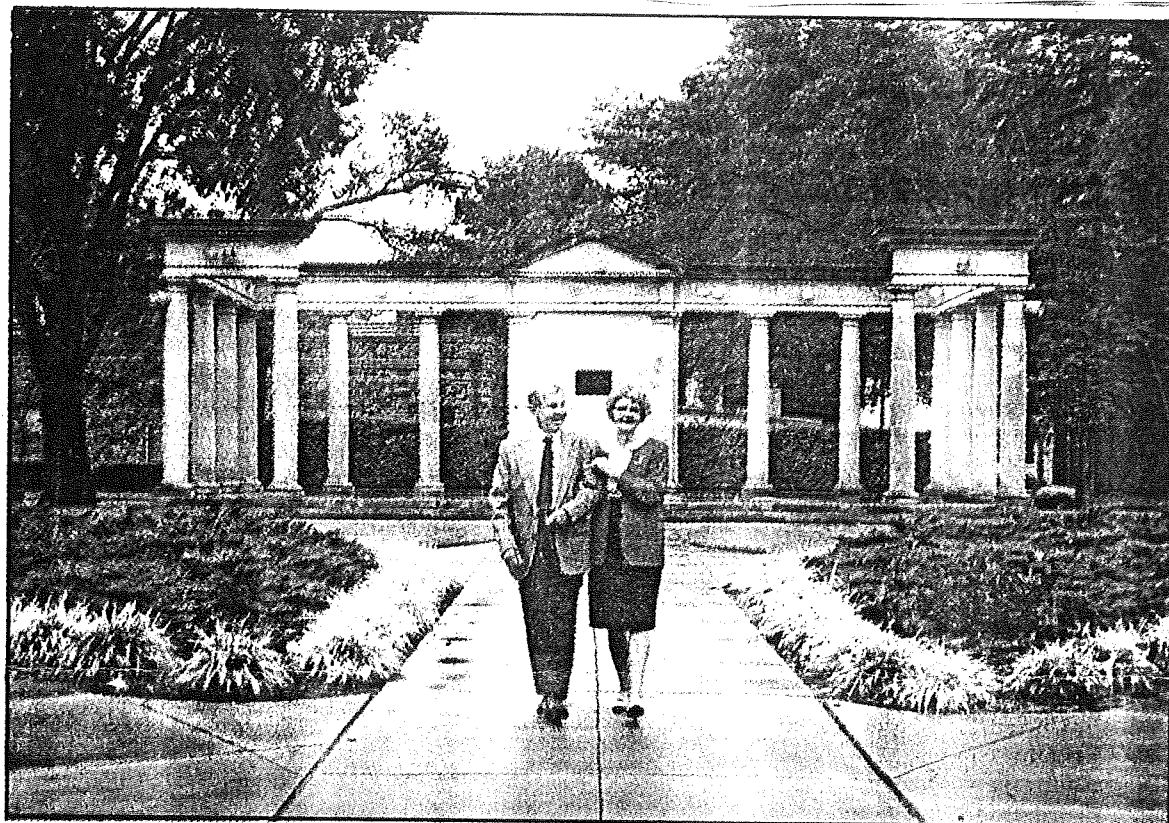


Photo by Marvin Gorley

Side by side

Floyd and Irene Weger stroll through Bywaters Park, where Floyd has conducted so many of the Paris Municipal Band concerts. The couple, both longtime music teachers within the Paris Indepen-

dent School District, have been named 1993 "I Love Paris" honorees by the Paris Education Foundation.

Floyd, Irene Weger are 'I Love Paris' honorees

By Dana Allen

The Paris News

Longtime music teachers Floyd and Irene Weger have been named 1993's "I Love Paris" honorees by the Paris Education Foundation, according to PEF Executive Director Sandra Strom.

"Floyd and Irene Weger are so deserving of this honor," Mrs. Strom said. "Yet, for all their many contributions to our community and all the accolades they have brought our way, they are still such humble, self-effacing individuals."

"I Love Paris" is an annual event sponsored by PEF to benefit its scholarship endowment fund. This past year, the Foundation gave 21 scholarships to Paris High School seniors. Past "I Love Paris" honorees include Raymond Berry, Sr. and Judge Henry Braswell.

The event, scheduled for Feb. 20, will include some changes this year, Mrs. Strom said.

"The event this year will be a bit different from those of past years," Mrs. Strom said. "It will still showcase student projects and talent but will be held at Paris High School in the Weger Performing Arts Center with a catered reception immedi-

ately following in the cafeteria."

"The Wegers genuinely feel the most important goal of 'I Love Paris' is to help students, not necessarily to honor them — though we feel both goals are equally important," she said. "Of course, their entire lives are a testimony to their love for students."

Together, the Wegers logged 73 years of teaching music in the Paris area. After they both completed studies at New York City's Julliard School of Music in 1941, they moved to Paris, where Floyd was hired as a conductor for Paris school bands. Irene had been teaching on a volunteer basis, and when her husband joined the Air Force during World War II, she took over his teaching duties.

The couple's accomplishments include building the first symphonic-style band at PHS, developing a 90-piece orchestra with 55 string players in the elementary schools and forming the first 100-voice a cappella choir.

After teaching music to Paris students for two generations, Irene retired in 1977, and Floyd retired in 1978.

Their two children — Jeanie and Steve — are both professional musicians as well.

WEGER ENDOWMENT UNDERWRITERS

(Continued)

SPONSORS:

Brenda Kinnaird Aune
Thomas Belew
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Berry
Bill Castleberry
Geron Crumley
Claire Castleberry Dotson
Mrs. Lucille Eckrote
Bobby and Jan Floyd
Joseph L. Garrett
David and Vicki Hilliard
Mr. and Mrs. William Lancaster
James and Cathy Maxwell
Bill and Bonnie Neely
William C. Patterson
Mark and Jan Seiler
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Starnes
St. Joseph's Hospital & Health Center
Rick and Dicksie Walker
Betty Jopling Weger

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS:

Jim R. Lynch
Mr. and Mrs. Elvis Kinnaird
Betty Fennel Kirkindoll
Sandra Brown Mercer
Moderne Music Club
Paula Martin Portugal
Mrs. Jan L. Reed
Nancy Hagood Roark
Mark W. Wallace

I GUESS I WAS ONE OF THE FEW WHO STARTED BAND IN THE FOURTH GRADE. I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER HOW OR WHY I DID - PROBABLY BECAUSE STEVE AND I WERE IN THE SAME ROOM AND I HAD A BAD CRUSH ON HIM.

I BEGAN MY BAND CAREER WITH A CORNET, A REALLY "SECOND-HAND" CORNET. HOWEVER, AFTER A FEW CLASSES, MRS. WEGER CALLED ME ASIDE AND ASKED IF I WANTED TO TRY THE FRENCH HORN. OF COURSE, I WAS DELIGHTED. SHE TOLD ME I HAD THE "LIPS" FOR FRENCH HORN. BUT, I'M CONVINCED SHE DID THIS BECAUSE MY CORNET WAS SO BAD, AND THE SCHOOL FURNISHED FRENCH HORNS.

STEVE AND I WALKED TOGETHER FROM FOURTH WARD SCHOOL TO THE BAND HALL FOR CLASS. HE WOULD CARRY MY FRENCH HORN SINCE HIS MOTHER USUALLY HAD HIS TRUMPET. "WAS I EVER IN HEAVENLY BLISS."

I WENT ON TO HAVE A LONG WONDERFUL CAREER WITH THE WEGER'S. DURING JUNIOR COLLEGE, I WORKED FOR MR. WEGER AS HIS SECRETARY AND LOVED EVERY MINUTE OF IT.

AS EVERYONE HAS EXPRESSED, I TOO, HAVE FOND MEMORIES OF THAT PART OF MY LIFE, AND STILL LOVE BOTH OF THEM DEARLY.

THEY HAVE TRULY TOUCHED THOUSANDS OF LIVES.

CAROLYN WHITAKER WHITE

The Paris News Society

— THE PARIS NEWS, SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 1949 —

PHS Chorus Will Broadcast Tuesday on "Clinic by Air"

The University Interscholastic League, in cooperation with the Texas State Network, is sponsoring a radio broadcast of the Paris High School Mixed Chorus, one of the finest vocal groups in the state, over a 17-station network Tuesday, April 5, from 2 to 2:30 p. m. The broadcast originates from Station KFJZ at Fort Worth.

This broadcast is a "clinic by air" as the Paris Chorus will sing numbers from seven prescribed lists of music being used in this year's Regional Competition - Festivals. Schools of Texas who are members of the League will act as judges, who will criticize the performance.

This year more than 40,000 students, from elementary through high school grades, will compete for honors at the various music meets. Competition began March 12 and continues on successive weekends until May 7. More than 300 bands, 45 orchestras and 300 vocal groups, plus better than 5,000 soloists, will take part in the League's music program before the year ends.

The Paris Mixed Chorus, under the direction of Floyd Weger, consists of 90 voices, including 13 tenors and 15 basses.

Arrangements for the broadcast have been made by F. W. Savage, director of music activities for the Interscholastic League, who has mailed judging sheets to 1,400 directors and organizations throughout the state for their opinion of the performance by the Paris Chorus.

Stations carrying the broadcast April 5 are: KRRV, Sherman; KNOW, Austin; KABC, San Antonio; KFRO, Longview; KCMC,

Texarkana; KGKL, San Angelo; KTHT, Houston; KGV, Greenville; KPLT, Paris; KCRS, Midland; KBST, Big Spring; WRR, Dallas; WACO, Waco, KFJZ, Fort Worth; KBWD, Brownwood; KRIO, McAllen; KRBC, Abilene.

The program which the Paris Mixed Chorus will present consists of these numbers: "Onward Christian Soldiers," arranged by Harry Simeone; "Cherubim Song, No. 7" by Bortnyansky; "Verdant Meadows" by Handel; "All in the April Evening" by Robertson; "Praise the Lord, O. My Soul" by March; Prayer from "Hansel and Gretel" by Humperdinck; "O Jesus, Grant Me Hope and Comfort" by Franck; "Religion Is a Fortune" arranged by Cain; "Country Style" arranged by Simeone and "Now the Day Is Over" by Barnby.

In addition to his duties as director of the Paris Mixed Chorus, Mr. Weger also directs the 80-piece high school band and the 50-piece Paris Municipal Band. During his career at Paris, Director Weger has produced many fine musical organizations. The Mixed Chorus featured on the April 5 broadcast won a First Division Rating, the highest rating given, at last year's Competition-Festival.

Overnight

out complimer
I feel proud
young man

The Dallas Morning News Feb 8, 1993

CLASSICAL MUSIC REVIEW

BLANK SLATE

Trumpeter shines, but
guest conductor adds
little to FW Symphony

By John Ardoin

Music Critic of The Dallas Morning News

FORT WORTH — The guest conductor for this weekend's concerts by the Fort Worth Symphony is Catherine Comet, formerly music director of the American Symphony Orchestra and associate conductor of the Baltimore Symphony. She has to her credit as well several national awards for programming and conducting.

I can only presume — or rather hope, given her background — that Saturday evening's performance in the Tarrant County Convention Center Theatre was the exception rather than the rule. Her music-making on this occasion was uneventful and lacked any sort of personal stamp.

I left with no idea as to what Ms. Comet feels about the symphonies of Bizet and Dvorak (his Eighth) that were the main works in her care. At best, she mustered only a proficient response from the players; often they produced a good deal less, with some unsettled playing in which the strings sounded thin and the brass heavy-handed.

But what was most disturbing was the faceless character of the playing and the lack of ideas behind it. There was no lift to melodies or a sense of direction. Notes flickered by without fitting into a natural or convincing flow.

What ultimately made the evening worthwhile was the bright, handsome performance of the Concerto for Trumpet and Orchestra by Johann Nepomuk Hummel given by the Fort Worth Symphony's first trumpeter Steve Weger as soloist. More than any other work in Hummel's large output, this concerto keeps his name alive today, a bit of irony as the piece was long forgotten and unpublished.

A student of Mozart's, Hummel began life as a child prodigy and eventually his fame equaled and his fortunes surpassed those of his teacher. Whenever his music surfaces today, which is not often enough



The Dallas Morning News: Michael Ainsworth

BRASSY CONTRIBUTION: Steve Weger performs a trumpet solo with the Fort Worth Symphony at the Tarrant County Convention Center Theatre on Saturday night.

to suit me, it is noteworthy not only for its craft but its disarming sense of humor. The Trumpet Concerto, with its lively third-movement romp, is no exception.

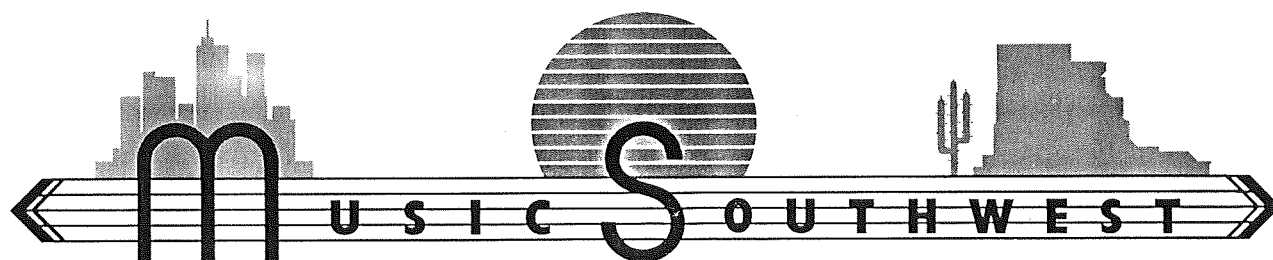
Mr. Weger obviously relished the score,

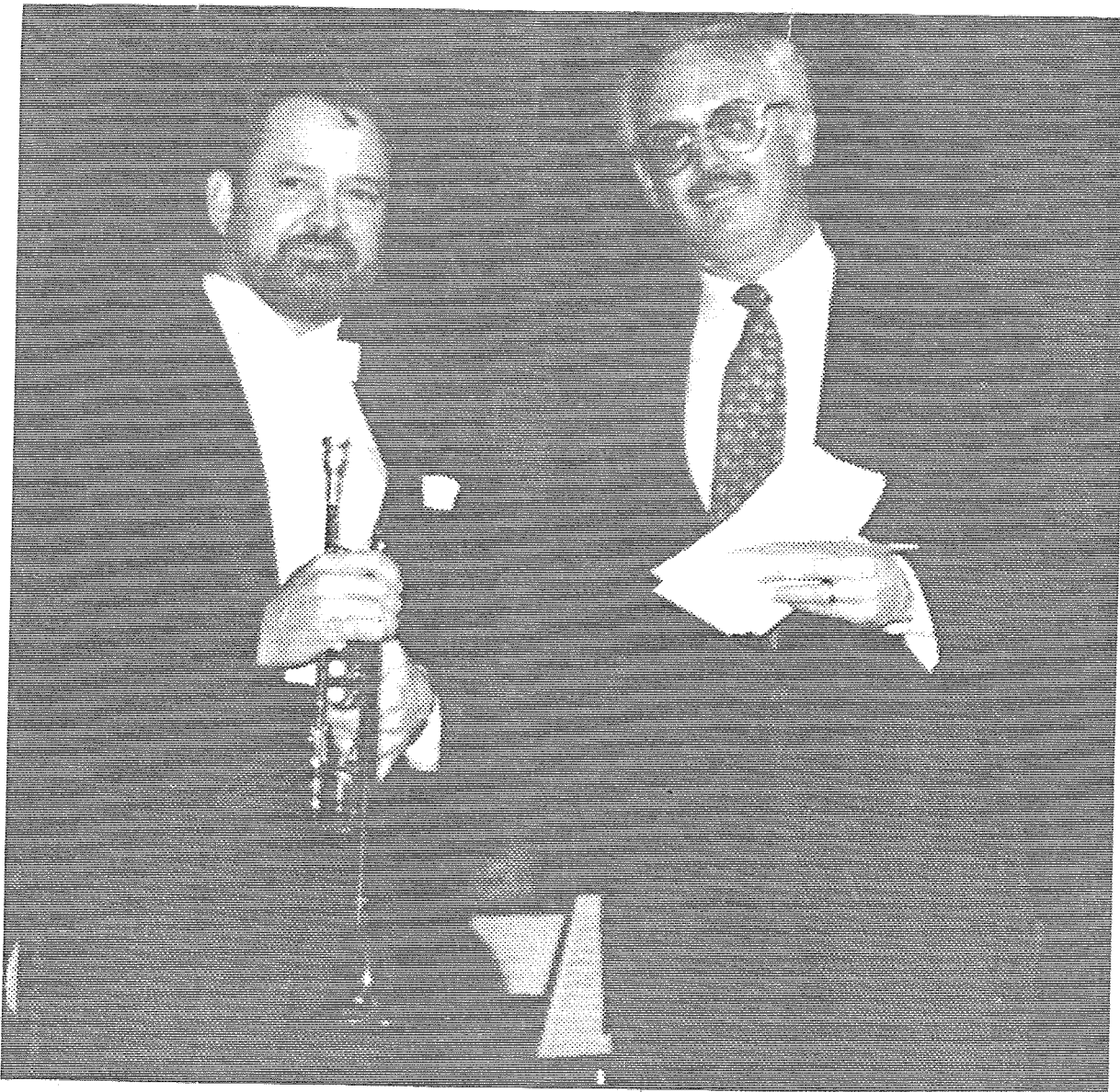
and his playing was filled with the sort of involvement, subtlety and imagination that was lacking in the balance of the concert. The program was repeated Sunday afternoon.



Jean Weger Larson

The ravishing solo flute sound of Jean Weger Larson has graced many orchestras, including the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the Midland-Odessa Symphony, the Richardson Symphony, the Dallas Chamber Orchestra, and the Fine Arts Chamber Players. In her capacity as principal flutist of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra Ms. Larson has recorded for Angel/EMI and Telarc. She is also an active recitalist, chamber musician, and clinician. Prior to her association with the Dallas Symphony, Ms. Larson was a student of Jean-Pierre Rampal. She is currently on the faculty of Southern Methodist University, and performs annually in Colorado for the summer festival, "Music in the Mountains". The summer of 1989, Ms. Larson will perform as soloist at the "Mainly Mozart" festival in San Diego.





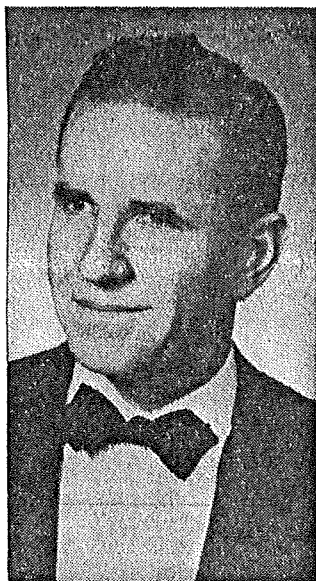
Steve Weger and Dan Hagan

Photo: GLENN KILLMAN

Oct 23, 1993

DISTINGUISHED MUSICIAN AWARD

The 1993 American Airlines Distinguished Musician Award was presented Saturday evening before the Fort Worth Symphony performance at Fort Worth/Tarrant County Convention Center.



FLOYD WEGER
... All-State Director

Weger Draws All-State Band Honor

The longtime director of the award-winning Paris High Blue Blazes Band, Floyd Weger, has been selected to conduct the Texas All-State Intercollegiate Band in Houston Feb. 6-7-8.

The selection, announced this week, was made by officials of the Texas Music Educators and College Band Masters Association. Sharing the conducting responsibility will be Douglas Wiehe, director of Big Spring bands.

This is the highest of many awards accorded Weger through

See WEGER Page 5, Col 8

★ WEGER

(Continued From Page One)
the years.

At the same time, Feb. 6-7-8 in Houston, the All-State High School Band for Texas will appear in concert. And Weger's daughter, Jeanie, is one of four Parisians named to play in the All-State band. She is a flutist.

The father-daughter combination will be a unique feature of the 1964 event. Others from Paris chosen to play in the All-State Band are Thomas Seay on bassoon, Bill McClanahan on clarinet and Leslie Stallings on cornet.

The All-State High School Band will be conducted by Mark Hindsley, director of bands at the University of Illinois, and Weston H. Noble, chairman of the Department of Music at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa.

Weger came to Paris High in 1941, and has been with the school since, with the exception of three World War II years in the Air Force. His wife, Irene, is band director at the elementary and junior high level. And their son, Steve, is a student at the University of Texas where he is an outstanding trumpet player.

4/8/64

sales and a resulting decrease in increased production, said.

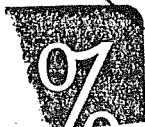
dition will bring the pro-
mloyee total to 590 and
an additional 200 sal-
poyes at the plant, he
new production em-
scheduled to be on the
end of April.

HOUSE

House, burning,
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House—ask for
fashioning pads.



Zino pads



2,000 Expected At Band Clinic

TYLER, Texas (Sp.) — About 2,000 musicians from 20 East Texas junior and senior high schools will be in Tyler from Wednesday through Saturday for a band clinic at Tyler Junior College.

The critiques at the end of the sessions will be presented by James T. Mathews Sr., band director of the University of Houston, and Floyd Weger, band director of Paris High School and the Paris Municipal Band.

Pledged to Duvalier

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

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Cecil Mackin: 61 years with the Paris Municipal Band

Mackin has been his horn with the Municipal Band as long as there has and. The close of the season last week his 61st year as st with the band.

ven't played con- y for that long," he 've taken a few ough the years."

t when the young ckin came to Paris rant, Okla. in 1921, worn off music, had is clarinet and e because he felt ould distract him work, bookkeeper England-Haynes e Grocers.

ere re-organizing and that year," recalls, "and told Sam Reed, the that I could play. ed me into joining I had to borrow \$25 Staples Sr. to buy d-hand horn so I y."

beginning the city s supported by the ts and a special had to be called e band became city d. "Bill Staples, the and Frank Murphy, ggist, were in- al in starting the at to gain city Thomas Steely, and others also n that project," he

n those days, band ore uniforms e were no regular ght concerts. member we wore orms once and I r cream colored e. We played only on then and we played erent places. I r concerts on the Lake Crook and at rk and the pavilion to be there."

nd also competed in d concerts then. two first places in



Cecil Mackin has been playing the clarinet "on and off" for 61 years with the Paris Municipal Band

university band. The director was a man named Erbe who played bass under John Phillip Sousa. I've probably learned from Floyd Weger (present director of the band) than from anyone."

Cecil must have inherited some of his musical talent. His father was a professional pianist and traveled across the country playing with the Gilbert and Sullivan operattas. The family lived in Waxahachie in those days and when the father died, they moved to Durant, Okla. so Cecil's mother could study. She later moved to Ada where she became Dean of Women at East Central College and Cecil moved to Paris for his job with England-Haynes.

He can't help but smile when he reminisces about the early days of the band. "Sam Reed was a good

came along, the band was inducted and the town was without a band during the war years. It was re-organized in the 1940's with Slick Howard as director and he stayed until Weger came."

Cecil has played for five directors and thinks Weger is by far the best. "Floyd is particular, he wants it played just right and I appreciate his striving for perfection. I also think the present band is the best the city has ever had. The members are so regular. They always come to practice. (Practice sessions are held two nights each week during concert season.) I wouldn't dream of trying to play a concert for Floyd Weger if I missed a practice session," he added.

At one time, three members of the Mackin family played regularly in

Mackin Bookkeeping and Tax Service.

Other than music symbols and numbers, Cecil's passion is chess. "I used to play by mail. I belonged to a chess association and they assigned you partners — up to five at a time — and the moves were written down and mailed to your partners. I did that for ten or 15 years, but now I play mostly with Marie or my grandson," he said.

His relaxation comes from the clarinet. I practice at home...I have to. When you get older — you know what I mean — the reflexes and the eyes get weaker, but it's relaxation for me. I'd just as soon blow a few sour notes as watch some of the programs on television."

There's no one in the band

today who was there when Cecil started in 1921. He's played with some of town's best known citizen — Ed Castleberry (the present announcer for the band), Mark Hodges, Bob Staples Sr., Bill Staples Sr., Bill Staples Jr., Bob Staples Jr., John Fangio, Richard Stringfellow the late Bob Swaim, Louis Williams and many others. "I've played with many, many musicians," he remembers, "If they were all together, we'd have enough members for five or six bands."

Cecil plans to extend his 61 years with the Paris Municipal Band. "I'm going to keep playing as long as I can...as long as the reflexes and eyes hold out so I can read the music," he said.

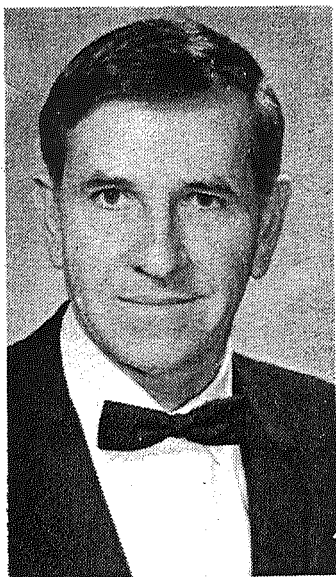
DAILY REVIEW

75751 Price 10c

Sentence

Florida Modern

By RAY BELL
Associated Press Writer
ATLANTA, Ga. (AP) — A
modern Flying Dutchman—a
German submarine
has drifted



Floyd Weger

Weger To Lead Annual HCJC Band Festival

The seventeenth annual Henderson County Junior College Band Festival will be held Friday, April 2. Twelve junior and senior high school bands from surrounding cities will perform in concert throughout the day in the HCJC auditorium.

The climax of the festival will be reached at 8 p.m. Friday, when the HCJC Select Honor Band will present a one hour concert. Guest Conductor-Clinician will be Floyd Weger.

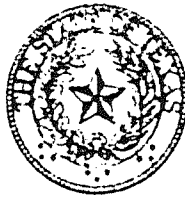
Weger is chairman of the music department and director of the Paris High School Band which has won 46 superior awards in concert and sightreading since 1946.

He also directs the Paris Municipal Band which plays concerts in the park every Friday night during the summer months.

Two years ago he was awarded the outstanding teacher award of the Paris Independent School district and the same year was the dedicatee of the Paris High School annual.

Weger regularly has clinic and judging engagements over a four state area here in the southwest.

Paris bands under his leadership have played for the Mid-East Band Masters Association in Pittsburg, Pa. The Bi-State Festival in Fort Smith, Ark.; the Four State Band Masters Association in Texarkana. They have paraded in Los Angeles for the Lions Convention, at New Orleans for the Mardi Gras, and at the Memorial 500 Races in Indianapolis.



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

ANN W. RICHARDS
GOVERNOR

February 4, 1993

Greetings to:

Floyd and Irene Weger

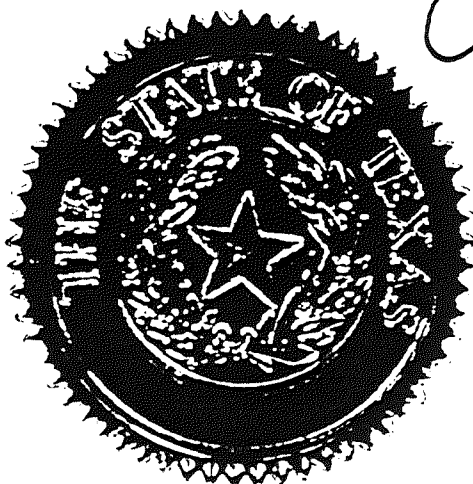
It is my pleasure to congratulate you on being honored by the Paris Education Foundation during the "I Love Paris" celebration.

The contributions you have made to the Paris community as teachers and musicians are immeasurable. Your love of music is contagious, and you have helped countless young people learn to appreciate it as a significant art form and as an important part of their lives. You have helped to bring a very special beauty to Paris, and I'm proud you are being honored for your remarkable achievements.

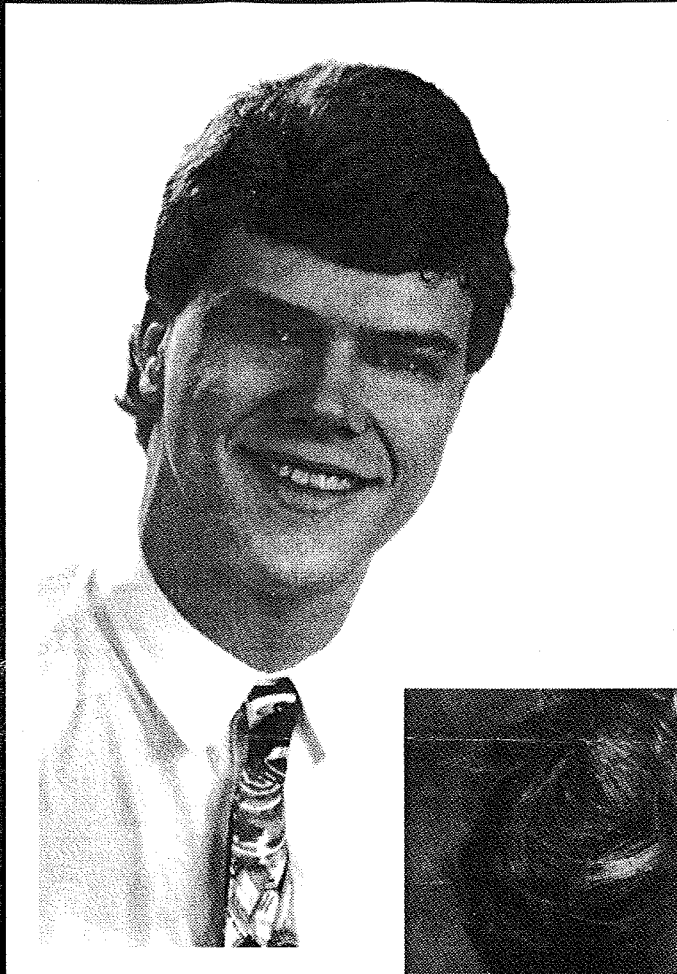
Congratulations, and best wishes for the future!

Sincerely,

Ann W. Richards
ANN W. RICHARDS
Governor



Paris Junior College Concert



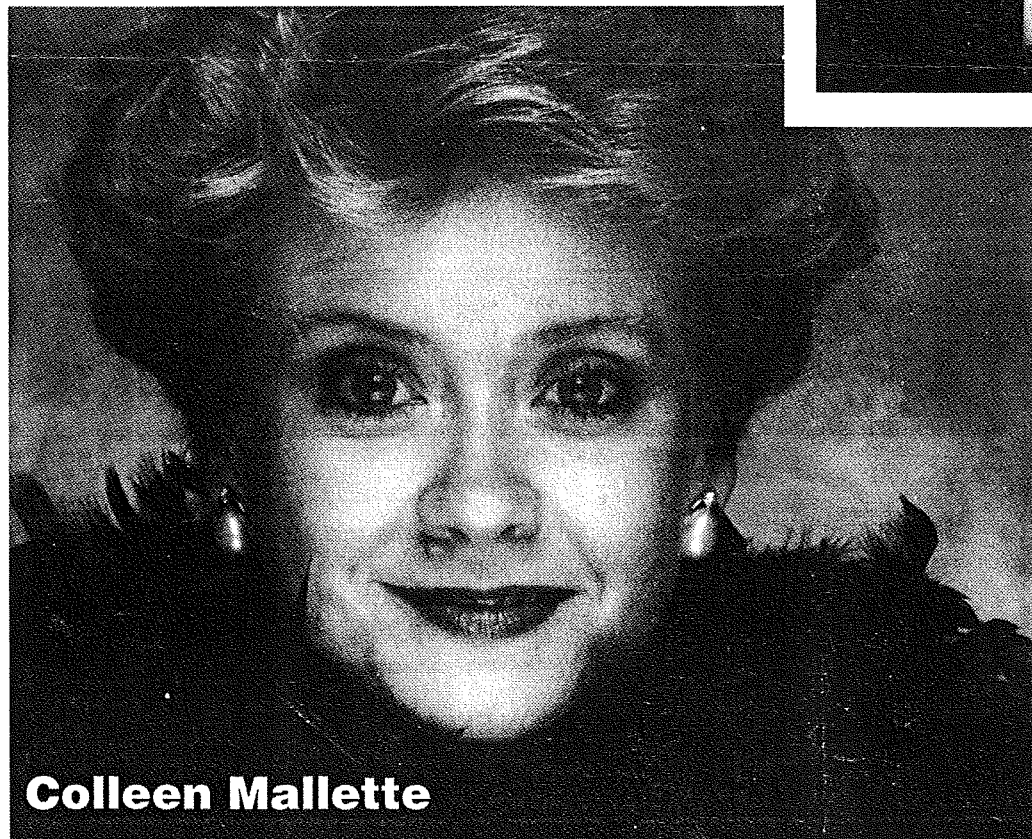
Shields Bray

Soprano Colleen Mallette, keyboard soloist Shields Collins Bray and trumpet soloist Steve Weger are performing May 19 to help raise monies for Paris Junior College's general scholarship fund.

The event is set to begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Theater for Performing Arts on the Paris Junior College campus.



Steve Weger



Colleen Mallette



Jeannie Weger Larsen Appears With Beverly Sills

By Mercedes R. Gardner

It will come as no surprise to those who know Jeannie (Weger) Larsen and her musical talent that she was chosen to accompany Beverly Sills on the flute when the singer was in Dallas recently performing with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra.

The opera was Lucia di Lammermoor in the mad scene where the flute, the only instrument, takes equal parts with the soprano, climaxing with a cadenza where it imitates the singer's notes, then ends in harmony between the two. It is a difficult passage, requiring deep concentration, Jeannie said.

Mrs. Larson had very little advance notice that she was to accompany Miss Sills and none that she would be standing with her on stage. "But once I was there I was relaxed," she said. And Miss Sills, gracious lady that she is, took Jeannie by the hand as she took her bows.

Jeannie is into her fourth season as principal flutist with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and her husband Lorin is a member too, playing the French horn. And she is a member of the Dallas Woodwind Quintet which does mainly children's and novelty concerts, some with educational purposes. She also teaches private students at Southern Methodist University. Last summer she was featured soloist with the Symphony's park concerts. A mixed chorus she has directed won first place in a sing-song contest.

She was only six years old when she decided she would play the flute and eight when her parents gave her her first instrument. (She won her first medal when she was that age and by the time she had graduated from high school she had won 23 in the Interscholastic Music League in all. This information came from another source--Jeannie was too modest to mention it.)

But Jeannie has not devoted her life completely to music. She enjoyed the usual youthful pursuits and when she was ten decided seriously that she was going to quit playing the flute and give all of her time to climbing trees. She was a majorette in high school and was voted by the faculty as being the best all-round student, an honor that she still cherishes, particularly because of the high regard in which she held her teachers. While she was still in high school she was a member of the All State Paris High School Band and during that competition in Austin she met her husband, Lorin Larson for the first time. They did not meet again until both were students at the University of Texas. While there Jeannie played in University groups and with a semi-professional symphony orchestra and she and Lorin were members of the All

American tour of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra). While she was in college she was featured soloist in both band and orchestra. She won the Midland-Odessa Symphony Young Artist Award.

Jeannie studied with John Hicks at UT and earned a graduate assistantship and taught two years there while working on her Masters degree. She has also studied with James Pappoutsakis. After graduation and marriage she and Lorin spent the summer in Nice where she studied with Jean-Pierre Rampal who she said is the most famous flutist in the world. She had studied with him in Master classes at the University of Texas and when he was teaching such classes in Dallas he taught one for her students at SMU.

And during her childhood Jeannie also had a master teacher, of course--her father, Floyd Weger. Only one year was she taught by another--her mother Irene Weger said.

Professional musicians have been studying for most of their years, Mrs. Larson said, a fact that many people forget--their training period is much longer than that of most professional people, even doctors and lawyers. And even though they do not work a regular eight hour day, they may have two rehearsals in one day which is exhausting, particularly if their instrument is a horn. "And there is mental strain, too, she said. "We play as much for our colleagues as we do for the audiences." Some practice regularly several hours a day, but Jeannie practices mostly for specific programs with occasional periods of routine practice.

Monday, orchestra members may call their own and can do as they please. Jeannie pleases to garden much of the time. She uses the organic method and learned it mostly from her grandmother, she said. She also bought books and studied them and has a vegetable garden in her back yard. "Lorin is a gourmet cook," she said, "so I can stay outdoors a lot."

With her brother Steve Weger and his wife Betty, Jeannie and Lorin own land about five miles from that of her parents at Faught, where they run some cattle and harvest good hay crops. She doesn't know if they will ultimately live there, but said: "It is nice to own a piece of land, anyway."

Jeannie is only one member

of the musical Weger family. Her father, Floyd Weger is Chairman of the Music Department of the Paris Public Schools, has taught band, orchestra and chorus and directs the Paris Municipal Band Summer Concerts. Irene Weger, her mother, teaches instrumental music in the Paris schools. Steve Weger is principal trumpet with the Kansas City Philharmonic Orchestra and professor of trumpet at UMKC. And Lorin, Jeannie's husband, fits perfectly in the family circle--in addition to playing French horn he plays principal horn with the Fort Worth Symphony and teaches horn at ETSU.

Jeannie and Lorin were recent visitors in the home of her parents when she consented to this interview.

MUSIC

Weger leads Municipal Band for 45 years

By Michael Tribble

The Paris News

After 45 years of conducting in Paris you would think that Floyd Weger would tire of band things. However that isn't the case.

Mr. Weger, who has directed the Municipal band since 1949 has received recognition and awards for his timeless direction of the Municipal Band, High School Band, and choirs.

Recently he has been notified that he will be inducted into the Phi Beta Mu Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame in July. Personal memorabilia will be placed, along with a photograph, on file at the Texas Music Educators Association in Austin.

Weger has lent his talent to Paris in many ways.

First, he established the first symphonic style band at Paris High School. Then he orga-

nized and developed a ninety-piece orchestra in the Paris High School with a large string program in the elementary school. He also developed and directed the first 100 voice A'capella choir at Paris High.

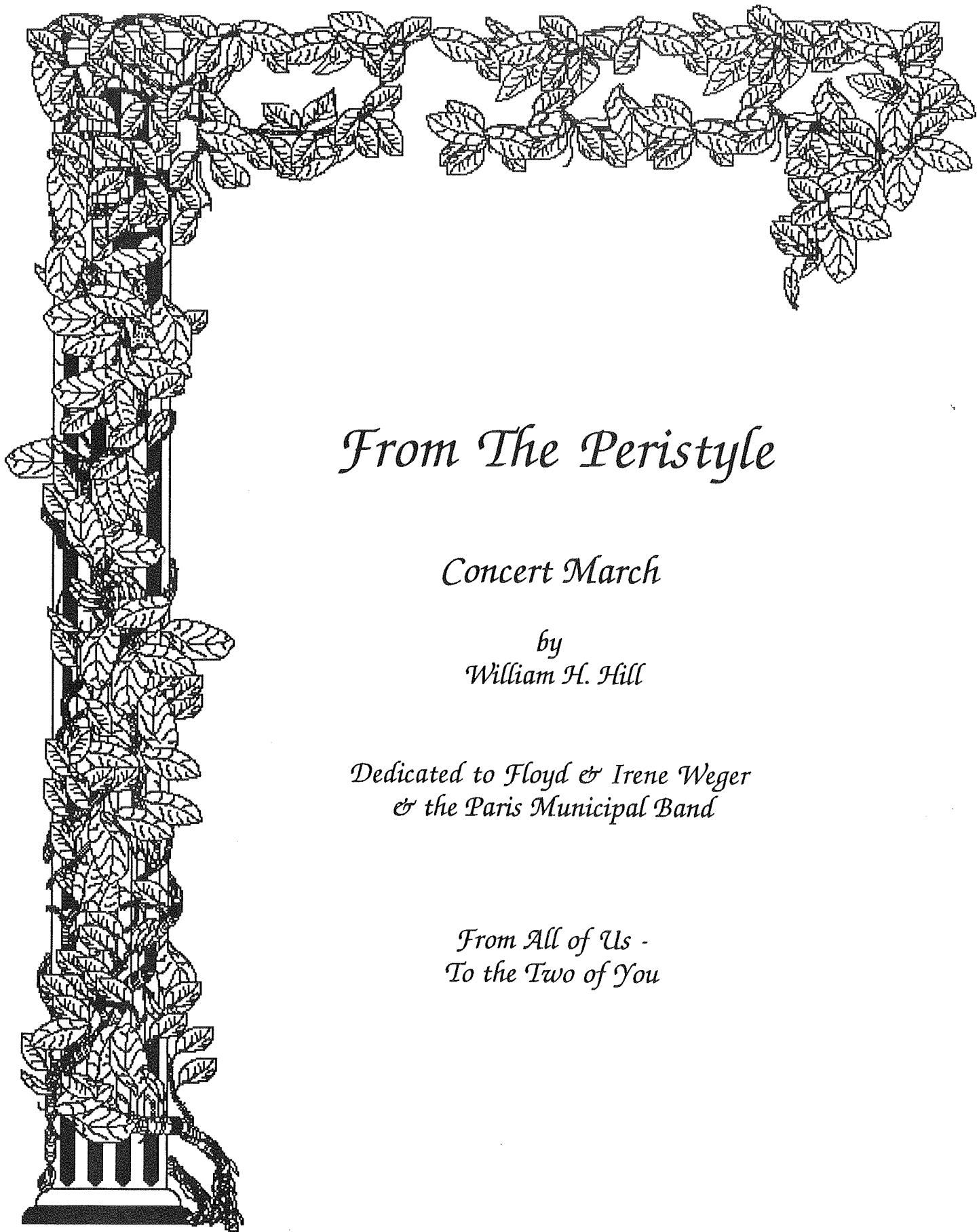
Then there are his kids.

His son, Steve Weger is the Principal Trumpet with the Ft. Worth Symphony Orchestra and a professor at Texas Christian University. This year he was named the "Most Distinguished Musician" by Symphony players and by the American Air Linco.

His daughter is the principal flutist with the Dallas Symphony and was last weekend in Houston as a soloist for a premier performance of music by the well-known composer Simon Sargon.

All in all Weger has given to Paris something that is grand.

Music.



From The Peristyle

Concert March

by
William H. Hill

Dedicated to Floyd & Irene Weger
& the Paris Municipal Band

From All of Us -
To the Two of You

From The Peristyle March

by

William H. Hill

Program Notes

This work is dedicated to Floyd & Irene Weger on the wonderful occasion of their being honored by the Paris, Texas Educational Foundation. Floyd Weger was the director for many years of the Paris High School Band and continues in his fifth decade conducting the Paris Municipal Band. Irene Weger taught for many years in the elementary and junior high school instrumental music program, assisted with the high school band and for many years played cornet in the Municipal Band. These are the two most outstanding Musicians-Educators it has been my honor to know. I am very proud to have been one of their students and have always relied on them for professional and personal advice. They are truly outstanding, both as professional musicians and as wonderful individual caring people. Irene had infinite patience in rehearsing the accompaniment for my many alto saxophone solos in addition to playing for hundreds of other students.

The name, *From The Peristyle March*, was chosen because it is where the Paris Municipal Band plays its summer concerts, On The Peristyle in Bywaters Park. Hosts of musicians, teachers, citizens and people from all walks of life have benefited from the training or the culture of listening to the Paris Municipal Band. This has continued for many years and it is the hope of the composer that it will continue for many more; for the city, county, state or nation that denies its artistic heritage is indeed culturally bankrupted.

Although this march is original, it contains many of the sounds that I heard as a youngster growing up, playing both in the Paris High School Band and the Paris Municipal Band. Without the help, experience, and love of Floyd and Irene Weger, I would have had no musical career at all. Even though I am listed as the composer of *From The Peristyle March*, a more fitting dedication to the march would be from "All Of Us To The Two Of You".

Citizenship Award to Floyd Weger

Paris High School Director of Music Receives High Honor

The Distinguished Service Key awarded each year to the outstanding young man of Paris was presented to Floyd Weger, Paris High School music director, in a brief but impressive ceremony at the Junior Chamber of Commerce ladies' night dinner held in the main dining room of the Gibraltar hotel Wednesday night. The presentation was made by Thomas S. Justiss, superintendent of Paris schools, who praised Weger for the service he had rendered the school and the community.

The recipient for this honor is selected by a committee of older business men of the city, although the award is given by the Junior Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Weger came to Paris from Shidler, Okla., in 1941 to accept the position as director of music for the high school, giving particular attention to development of the high school band, although he afterward organized and directed a choral club in the school that won honors and distinction. He had been here only a year when war came to this country and he immediately enlisted in the Army where he served until the close of hostilities. He received his honorable discharge in 1946 and returned to Paris to resume his duties with the school. As pointed out by Mr. Justiss, the entire community has felt the influence of Floyd Weger and his musical ability. He has made a valuable contribution to the cultural welfare of the city.

Mr. Weger is married and there are two children in the family. For the past several months he has also been directing the Paris Municipal Band, which has shown much improvement under his leadership.

Ray Sissel was master of ceremonies at the dinner and his clever re-



FLOYD WEGER

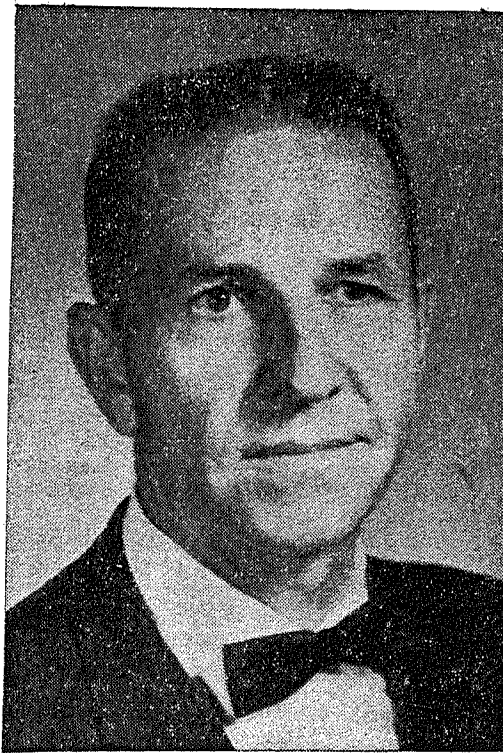
marks were enjoyed by those present. The invocation was given by Rev. Wesley Hite, pastor of the First Methodist Church. Musical numbers were rendered by a group from the high school band.

Pat Beadle is Speaker.

Guest speaker for the occasion was Pat Beadle, Clarksville lawyer, a former county attorney of Red River County and known to many in Paris as a member of the Paris Junior College football team when he attended that institution several years ago. He was introduced by Leighton Cornett. The speaker stressed the importance of community service as applied to activities of the Junior Chamber of Commerce. He took occasion to thank the local group for sponsoring a Jaycee organization in Clarksville. He was accompanied to Paris by Mrs. Beadle.

Ray Wunsch, president of the Paris Jaycees, closed the meeting by presenting Mr. Weger with a distinguished service certificate issued by the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Paris to Note National Music



FLOYD WEGER
... Mr. Music



IRENE WEGER
... Mrs. Music

BIG INFLUENCE

The Floyd Wegers 'Mr. and Mrs. Music'

"Mr. and Mrs. Music" is the name best suited to Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Weger. This National Music Week, the Paris Music Study Club, along with countless hundreds who have come under the influence and teaching of the Wegers, will join in this tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Weger.

National Music Week is sponsored throughout the nation by the National Federation of Music Clubs and Paris joins hundreds of cities across the nation in the observance.

It was the year 1941 when Floyd Weger first came to Paris High School. That was the beginning of the war years. Floyd Weger took what he had and worked to make the best band he could. He had just started, in December 1942, when he was called into duty in the armed services.

It was then Mrs. Weger came into the school system. She was elected to fill in while Mr. Weger was away. Irene Weger took over where Floyd left off, and continued to build to his beginning. By 1945 when Floyd returned, the band was organized, recognized and developing the music students at Paris High.

Floyd Weger stepped back into command, and in 1946, Paris High continued to produce prize winning band as well as individual students who brought home honors for Paris and the school. Those were the "After War" years when a period of adjustment was being made everywhere. Floyd Weger taught in the Paris High School gymnasium and the band met there for rehearsals. It was not uncommon in those days

to find as many as five or six different instruments being played in as many different corners of the gym or under the bleachers, with as many different tunes, which created a small bedlam. Yet, the man, Floyd Weger, had a special touch, and even under most adverse circumstances, turned out students who gained honors and bands which brought home, year after year, superior ratings in competition from regional, state and tri-state meets.

Floyd Weger worked long hours with patient kindness to produce the kind of band and the kind of students he considered acceptable. He inaugurated many firsts for his bands: The Rose Festival at Tyler, the Tri-State Competition, the band competition at Hays, Kan. and the band's appearance at Cleveland, Ohio, all trips which further gave wide reputation to Paris, and to the Paris High School Music Department.

The Wegers have two children, both born in Paris and both musicians, Jeanne, Blue Blazes drum majorette who graduates from Paris High School this year, and Steve, who is graduating from Texas University, and is a member of the Austin Symphony. Jeannie plays flute, and no doubt will be given an immediate seat in the symphony where she attends school. Steve, who plays cornet, will have a teaching fellowship at the University while he works on his master's degree. Both are good musicians and a credit to their parents.

In 1955 Floyd Weger's big dream came true when the Paris High School Band Hall was built. It is a hall with

no rafters showing... perfect acoustics and ample practice rooms... a far cry from the old bleachers in the gym... and Floyd Weger continues to turn out superior bands and top rated students.

The need for music on an elementary level was cited and Mrs. Weger stepped prominently into the picture, when she was named to train the elementary students in instruments, thus providing a feeder to the Paris High School band. Her students are given the same careful training which prepares them for Paris High School's A Band and which brings recognition on the elementary level to students in competition.

Several years have come and gone since the Wegers came to Paris, and Paris can point with pride to those who have gone into musical fields, and who have received their foundation in Paris thru the Wegers. Take a few... Beth Brooks with the Beaumont Symphony, Marcia Robertson with The Boston Pops, Sandra Brown and Jackie Redus with The Beaumont Symphony, Steve Weger with The Austin Symphony, Bill Hill with The Denver Symphony, Albert Moore with the Lubbock Symphony, Paul McMahan and J. W. Blassingame, both serving in service bands, Paul Green, director of The Baptist Hour, Rip Cannon, The Paris High Choral. Texas has many band directors who got their start with the Wegers, John Tucker, Scott Lewis, Bill Collier, Steve Heuberger, Fred McCreight. There is Sharon Mason, who is a music major at Texas University. See WEGERS, Pg. 10, Col. 8

The concert will begin at 8 p.m.

FRIDAY EVENING

Paris Bands to Unite For Music Festival

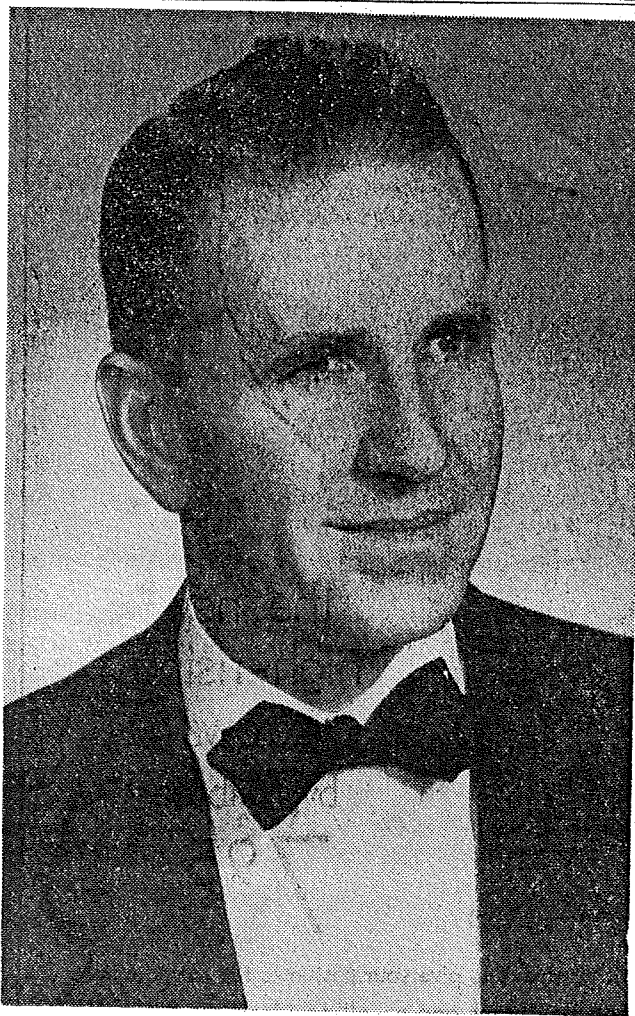
The FESTIVAL OF BANDS, a special Music Week concert featuring the Paris Blue Blazes Concert band, the Travis Texan Band and the Crockett Volunteer Band, will be presented in the Paris High School gymnasium Friday evening, May 8, at 8 o'clock.

This will be the first performance of the three bands on the same program and it is fitting that it should be during National Music Week.

The Blue Blazes Band only recently won its 32nd and 33rd consecutive Special Awards for superior rating in both concert and sight reading in Interscholastic League competition.

Honors won by the band in the past are guest concert band for the Bi-State Festival at Fort Smith, guest concert band for the Four States Festival at Texarkana, and guest band for the Mid-East Band Masters Association in Pittsburgh, Pa.

The concert is free. All Parisians are invited.



DIRECTOR FLOYD WEGER

PARIS PROFILE—

FLOYD WEGER: GREAT BANDS FROM PARIS HIGH

The series of outstanding Blue Blazes bands from Paris High have brought honor and considerable fame to our city.

And this has not been by a mere stroke of good fortune.

The man behind the bands is Floyd Weger, a quiet, extremely congenial man who turns out one superior musical unit after another with as little fanfare for himself as possible.

Professionally, he is one of the outstanding bandmasters in the Southwest.

Personally, he'd prefer to stay in Paris, which he terms "the finest place I've ever found in which to raise my children."

The subject of this week's Paris Profile has spent 15 seasons at Paris High, directing the orchestra, chorus and band. For a time during World War II, he handled all three.

The present Paris High band is typical of his tireless work in moulding a fine musical and marching group. The marching band has 96 pieces, the concert band 88. He could make them larger, but seeks quality, too.

From the present band, two dozen have won either all-state or all-regional honors. The band has drawn favorable comment at every appearance, and is easily one of the finest in the state.

Only one of the 15 bands Weger has produced failed to win a superior rating. He doesn't even remember which one it was, but it was in the earlier years when he was building the Paris High band program.

Music didn't come naturally for Weger, but rather was a requirement of his mother who insisted that her children be musicians.

He was born in Durant, Okla., in 1918. He attended Durant High and received his degree in music from Southeastern. Because his mother insisted that he take music, and practice regularly, he first took it up at an early age. There has been no regret.

Floyd's major instrument is the trombone, although he plays them all. The rest of the Weger family followed suit.

His "kid brother," Roy, is presently band director at Bowling Green State University and is an outstanding band director. The album of the Bowling Green band, with Roy conducting, was recently released as the first full symphony on the market.

Brother Ray is a Durant businessman, and still plays in a

dance band. One sister plays the piano, the other plays the piano and sings. Pleased with the musical result of the family, of course, are Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Weger who still live at Durant.

Floyd taught music four years at Shidler, Okla., attending summers at Julliard School of Music in New York then later the Colorado State College at Greeley, Colo., from which he holds his Master's Degree.

Mrs. Weger—known to Paris friends as Irene—also took her music at Southeastern and Julliard. They were married during the second summer at Julliard.

While visiting friends in Paris, Weger inquired of Superintendent A. H. Chamness as to the prospects in Paris schools. He found Paris needing an orchestra and chorus director, who could also fill in for band director O. M. Barnett who was in the service. Weger accepted, and for a time, handled all three.

But late in 1942, he entered the Air Force for a three-year stay. Upon return, he became band director when Barnett chose not to return to Paris High.

The end result has been a series of superior bands and choruses, although more recently he has handled only the band.

Weger is in constant demand to judge band contests and conduct clinics in Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas. He accepts all that his time allows. Despite offers from colleges and larger high schools, he has chosen to remain in Paris.

The large reason for his continued stay here is the fact that he and his family like Paris. All are musicians. Mrs. Weger is elementary band director for Paris schools. Son Steve, 16, is an all-state trumpet player as a junior. Daughter Jeanie, 13, is a flutist in the North Star Band and attends Fourth Ward.

All have similar interests, even after music. They enjoy the family farm near Faught, spending as much time in the out-of-doors as possible. In the evenings, on weekends and in the summer, they join in the farm chores.

Home base is 1100 Pine Bluff Street.

The outstanding band program of Paris, which has produced hundreds of outstanding young musicians and many young band directors is a tribute to the Wegers. Paris, at present, has five bands—the Beginning, Cadet, North Star, Blue Flames and Blue Blazes.

Mrs. Weger starts the youngsters off, and by the time they reach Paris High, they're well versed in fundamentals. Weger than fits them into the Blue Flames or Blue Blazes bands. Headquarters is the recently-constructed band hall on East Houston Street.

And although the successes of Paris High bands is attributed directly to the young musicians, themselves, the man behind them is a talented, dedicated Floyd Weger.—BILL THOMPSON.

The Paris News

(AND THE DINNER HORN)

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Paris County

Newspaper Dedicated To The Welfare Of The City Of Paris

PARIS, TEXAS, FRIDAY MARCH 26, 1954

"PRIDE OF THE BLUE"



FLOYD WEGER

"Mr. Weger doesn't tell you how to play a passage of music — he shows you."

By NAN JO WHITAKER
Echo Staff Writer

Over a thousand people crowded into the Paris High gym Friday, March 12 to hear the spring concert of the Blue Blazes band. Students, parents, ex-bandsmen, friends and music lovers were thrilled as the ninety piece concert band gave their best. They applauded as the soloists demonstrated their poise and skill. They patted their feet to the fast moving Latin-American numbers, and sat in awe as these musicians played the difficult classical compositions. All the time and work that preceded the concert seemed small as the band was called back for three encores.

The people of Paris would have been just as proud of their home town band if they had attended the Bi-State Music Festival in Fort Smith, Arkansas, on Friday, March 19 because they again gave a wonderful performance. But, to be in a

band isn't all taking encores and bowing — it's a lot of long, hard hours of practicing. All ninety of the kids in the Paris High band are just average high school students, and yet they have won superior ratings at every contest they have ever entered; they have always made spectacular performances at half-time shows at football games; they have always come through for parades; they have attended the Tri-State Music Festival in Enid, Oklahoma; yes — this bunch of average kids make up quite an outstanding band.

Perhaps no one except a bandman can understand just what can convert ninety average kids into a top rate band, can realize what it is that makes this band tick, and can explain what the stimuli behind them is. The answer is simple — Floyd Weger.

Mr. Weger doesn't tell you how to play a passage of music — he shows you; he doesn't force anyone to prac-

tice, but he is always handy to practice with you; he doesn't dictate how a performance will be given — he asks the band's opinion. There is something about the way he says, "I'm counting on you," that brings forth your very best. His daily routine ranges from dashing to and from a woodwind practice in the music room to help a trumpet trio practicing in the foyer. Of course there are numerous stops along the way to tune a baritone, listen to the umpa of a French horn, and invariably, to help someone search for his lost music. Somewhere along the way he finds time to plan band shows, rewrite music, order uniforms, repair instruments, and run the business end of a band. But no matter how busy he is, he always has time to take a personal interest in each band member.

This year has been one of the biggest in the band's history. Between football parades and half-time performances they played in the band show in the Cotton Bowl in October, placed five Paris students in the All-State Band in December, played a concert for the Texas Music Educators in January, performed in the music clinic at Paris Junior College in February, gave a concert in March, were the guest concert band at the Bi-State Music Festival also in March, and found time for innumerable public performances. In April they will be found in Kilgore entering the music contests and in May they hope to win the outstanding band award at Tri-State for Mr. Weger. After this they will give their annual spring concert as a grand finale to a terrific year.

So it's hats off to the man behind the band, to the man who with a great deal of understanding, a lot of hard work, undying personal interest, and very little facilities, has done more for music education in Paris than any other one person.

Paris band in concert at PHS tonight

Jeanie Weger Larson and Dr. Kent Ziegenbein will be the guest soloists during the Paris Municipal Band's final performance scheduled for Friday at 8:30 p.m. at the Paris High School auditorium.

According to Floyd Weger, Friday night's concert will be part of the Bastille Day festivities and will precede the crowning of the Crape Myrtle queen.

Jeanie Weger Larson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Weger, is a graduate of Paris High School and received a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from the University of Texas in Austin where she studied under John Hicks. In 1971 she joined the Dallas Symphony as the principal flutist. She also attended the Tanglewood Music Institute and studied under James Pappoutsokis of the Boston Symphony. In 1970 she spent a year in Nice, France studying with Jean-Pierre Rampal.

Mrs. Larson will be making her first appearance as flute soloist with the Municipal Band during the Friday night's concert. She has appeared on stage with Beverly Sills in a flute and voice duo and recently appeared in a duet with James Bowsman during the world premier performance of Orlando Furioso by Vivaldi.

See BAND, Pg. 4



MRS. JEANIE WEGER LARSON
... guest flutist

anyone's privacy. We're use us."

Weger will conduct symphony orchestra

Floyd Weger, conductor of the Paris Municipal Band for the past 34 years, has been asked to conduct the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra this Sunday, Sept. 23, in a full concert entitled *Marching Along with Sousa*.

The program will begin at 3 p.m. in the Botanical Gardens on University Drive in Fort Worth.

"It's one of the highest honors I've ever had in music," Weger said Thursday afternoon.

Weger, who taught many students while band director at Paris High School, was selected to conduct the orchestra because of his

many years of experience in music. Weger's son Steve is a member of the symphony, which toured China earlier this year.

The John Philip Sousa selections in the program include: *El Capitan*, *Liberty Bell*, *King Cotton*, *Sempre Fidelis*, *Invincible Eagle*, *The Thunderer* and *Hands Across the Sea*.

Other selections include *Poet and Peasant* by von Suppe, a trombone solo *Blue Bells of Scotland*, *Carnival of Venice* by Staiger, *Barber of Seville* by Rossini, *Light Cavalry Overture* by von Suppe, and the *William Tell Overture* by Rossini.

Building knocked out

Monday night, accepted a

Steve Weger's solo featured in Kansas City

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Steve Weger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Weger of Paris, Texas, was featured soloist when the Kansas City Philharmonic Orchestra performed the last of its summer concerts for the season recently.

Weger was introduced by the orchestra's director, Frank Collura, as "the first trumpeter in our orchestra and the finest trumpet player in the country..."

Weger and his wife, Betty, have two children and live in North Kansas City. Mrs. Weger is the daughter of the late Dr. J. L. Jopling and Dr. Anna Jopling of Paris.

Our famous people

Paris has its share of "famous people", those who have gone on to greater heights after growing up and getting their high school educations here.

Sports stars, artists, business men and women, musicians, and even a journalist or two. That brings us to my point. There must have been, and still are, adult leaders (i.e. parents, teachers, preachers, and good citizens) who have influenced this track record.

Two of those people are Floyd Weger and his wife, Irene. They both taught music for many years in the Paris Independent School District and have turned out a number of professional musicians.

Floyd is retired now, but he still puts that extra little touch in leading the singing at the Paris Rotary Club, not to mention other civic projects in which he and his wife are involved.

One of the Weger's "former students" is their daughter, Jean Weger Larson. Louis Williams brought me a copy of the Dallas Symphony Association's Mercedes Summer Music Festival program, which pictures Jean among the leading artists in the summer series.

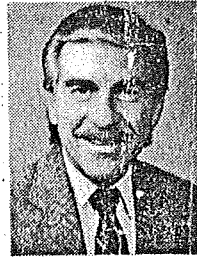
Jean is the Dallas Symphony Principal Flute, and as Louis says, "She's probably the best there is in the country." I have no doubt of that, having grown up with the outstanding teachers in her household.

There son, Steve, is also an outstanding musician in the classical music world. He has performed with some of the principal symphonies in the country.

Former students who have studies under Floyd and Irene are now professional musicians in high schools and universities as teachers, and in symphonies, orchestras and groups as musicians.

Quoting Louis: "I have heard it said that (the Wegers) probably have more former students in the professional world than any other high school instructors in Texas."

It is certainly a fact that these two outstanding



Paul Bailey

Paris teachers have a legacy of many outstanding musicians, and Paris is proud of that fact.

* * *

Since summer is arriving, which brings about the thought of travel and vacations, I should let you know that you really shouldn't leave Texas to take a vacation.

The reason is that Texas is the third most popular state into which vacationers travel, so if you leave, you'll just be meeting all these cars and wondering where they are all going. Another surprise to me is that 4.9 million international travelers visit our state annually.

Travel and tourism ranks as the fourth largest industry in Texas, generating \$17 billion for the state's economy, along with \$712 million in state revenue and almost \$220 million in local taxes annually.

* * *

To many, it wasn't a big deal, but if you have been a Fig Newton lover for as long as Charlie (Chitwood) and I have, the celebration of the cookie's 100th birthday last week was significant.

The cookie was named for its fruity fig filling, and the town in which it is made, Newton, Mass. Thousands of Fig Newton lovers turned out for the celebration, including country singer Juice Newton.

It is interesting to note that the Fig Newton has survived, while most other cookies that were introduced in the 1890s have been discontinued. As a matter of fact, the Fig Newton is flourishing. Nabisco said more than 1 billion are consumed annually, with sales up 24 percent last year, and 27 percent so far this year.

In the 1890s, the Fig Newton was larger and were usually served two in a bowl and topped with ice cream. They sold for 14 cents per pound — about a tenth of their current retail price.

Goes to show you that some good things can last forever.

(Paul Bailey is managing editor of *The Paris News*.)

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Floyd Weger recognized for service

□ Directed Paris Municipal Band for past 41 years

By Dave Wessel

The Paris News

The fifth annual fireworks display sponsored by the Paris Rotary Club and the Greater Paris Rotary Club drew thousands to Noyes stadium last Tuesday evening.

The featured attraction was a concert by the Paris Municipal Band and the fireworks that followed.

A sidelight to the evening, however, were two awards of appreciation presented to Floyd Weger, the Paris Municipal Band Director for the past 41 years.

Weger was given a "You Make Paris Proud" award by the Paris Rotary Club before the band's performance, and a plaque by the band members after the concert.

Weger had no idea he was to receive either award, and was appreciative of both.

"It really was a surprise for everyone since neither one of the two groups that gave the plaques knew that the other one was going to give one," he said.

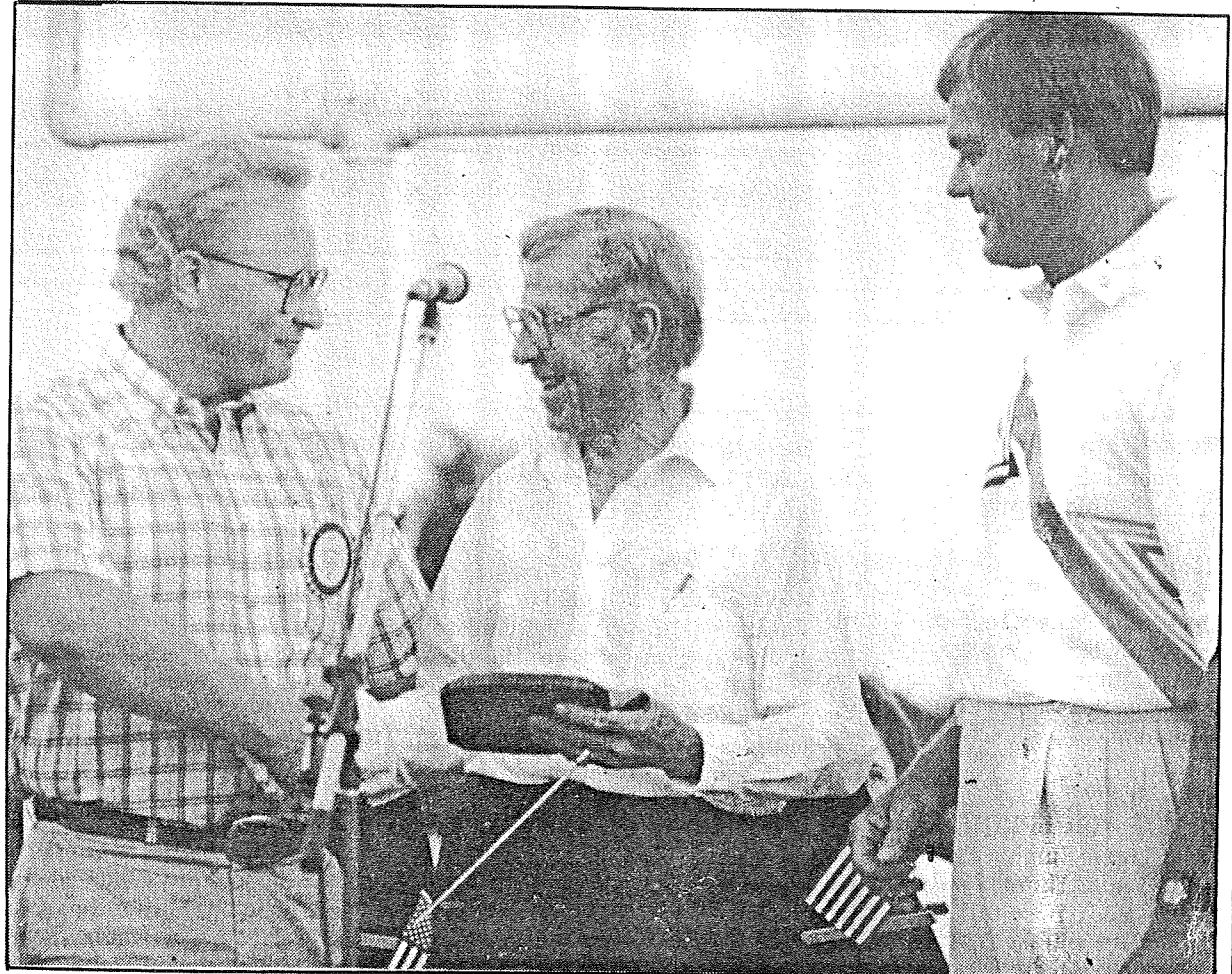
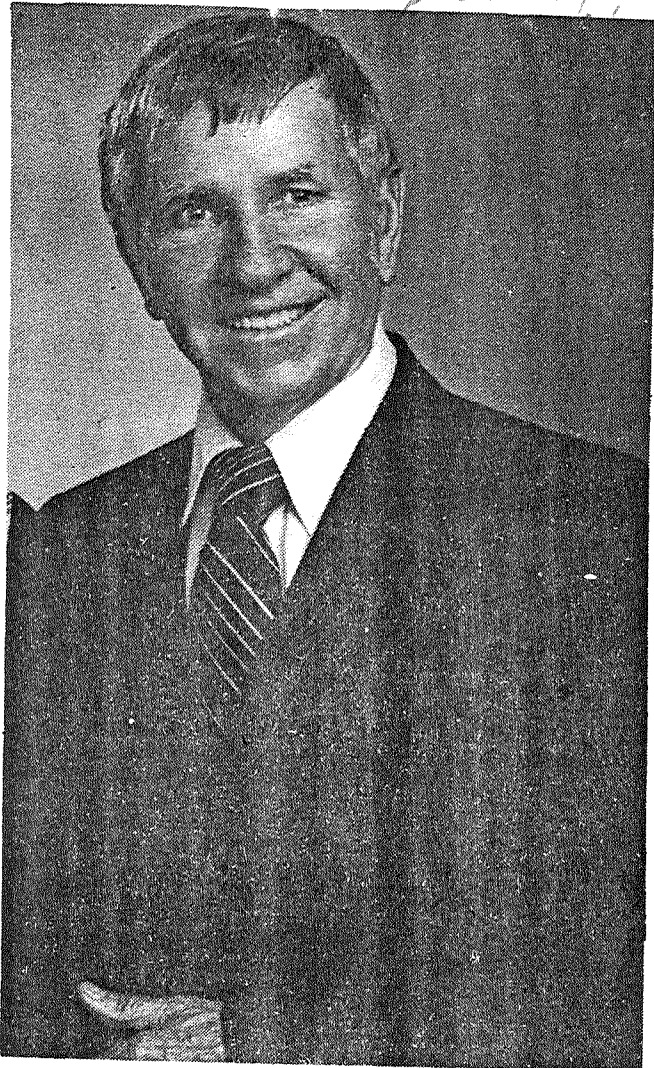


Photo by Marvin Gorley

YOU MAKE PARIS PROUD: Outgoing Paris Rotary Club President Jay McCollum (left), and current president Paul Trull presented Paris Municipal Band Director Floyd Weger with the club's "You Make Paris Proud" award during Tuesday's

concert and fireworks display at Noyes Stadium. Weger has been the conductor for the band since 1949, and has missed only one performance in 41 years.

April 24, 1980



Floyd Weger

Former band director returns as guest

Former Shidler Band and Chorus director, Floyd Weger, will return to conduct at the Shidler Bands' "Spring Coronation Concert." Mr. Weger taught in Shidler from 1937 to 1941 earning straight Superior ratings at District and State Contests. In addition, the Shidler Band earned a 'I' rating at the National Band Contest, which no longer exists, in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1941. He moved to Paris, Texas, that year and then spent the next four years in the Air Force Band. Floyd returned to Paris in 1946 as the Music Department Chairman for the Paris Public Schools as well as being director for the band, orchestra, and chorus.

Under his direction the orchestra grew from 3 to 90 members and became a 'Superior' winning group as did his widely recognized chorus. The chorus was chosen to perform contest selections state wide over the Texas Quality Network. The Paris band has received 53 "Superior" plaques in sight reading and concert performances. Mr. Weger's bands at Paris have been selected as 'guest bands' at the Bi-State Festival, Four State Band Festival, and Mid-East Band Masters Clinic. They have been sponsored by the Lions Club to perform in Hollywood, have played for the "Indianapolis 500 Races" and have been state representatives from Texas to the "Mardi Gras."

Mr. Weger has received the "Joyce's Distinguished Service Award" from the community, been selected as the "Outstanding Teacher," and has had the school yearbook dedicated to him.

His wife is the former Irene Scales, once the band director at DeNoya, Okla. They have two children; Steve who is principal trumpet with the Kansas City Philharmonic Orchestra, and Jeanie Larson who is principal flutist with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. Floyd and Irene have three grandchildren.

Irene assisted Floyd in the elementary and middle schools for 30 years. Pictures of them hang in the foyer of the recently constructed auditorium and rehearsal hall complex which has been named the "Weger Fine Arts Department."

Floyd retired from teaching in 1978 but continues to conduct the Paris Municipal Band and judge festivals throughout the southwest while running his real estate business. He has commented many times to friends that he has never forgotten the influence that W.G. Ward had upon him and that it has remained throughout the years.

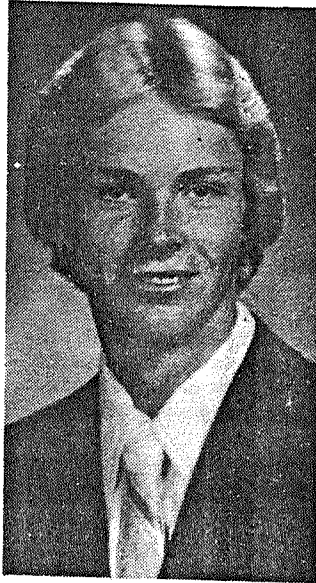
Mr. Weger will conduct on the 7:00 P.M. April 29 Coronation Concert. Friends and former students are invited to visit with Mr. and Mrs. Weger after the concert and during their stay here.

Shidler

"Where the S

VOLUME 53 NUMBER 50

USPS 49418



Band King
Mike Smith

Mike is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Smith of Shidler. He is 1980 Shidler High School Valedictorian. He is member of the National Honor Society, State Honor Society and is also listed in Who's Who Among American High School Students. Mike is a member of the basketball team and was named basketball captain this year. He is a member of the Baptist Church in Shidler. Mike plays cornet in the band.



Band
Car
Karla

Karla is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Shidler. She has been a member of the band five years. She was elected Sophomore Band Captain this year. She is a member of the Junior-Senior Society, Shidler School for the Baptist Church of Shidler. She is an attendant at the coronation.

Escort

Rob Morgan

Rob is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Morgan of Shidler. Rob is a member of the Baptist Church. He played football and plays drums in the band. He was also this year's carnival king.

CB Club

The Shidler will meet Monday at the P.M. Club. All are encouraged to attend. There will be refreshments after.

Daylight Savings Time

Paris Municipal Band keeping town in tune

Conductor Floyd Weger begins 36th year

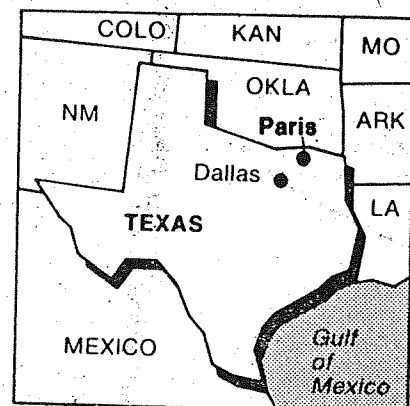
By David Westerfeld
Special to The News

PARIS, Texas — Like a fiddler on the roof, musician Floyd Weger is playing the music for a community's tradition — a municipal band that is one of the last surviving organizations of its kind in the country.

"Tradition is very important to people. Some of those things of the past should be retained," Weger said. It's just like a treasured piece of art."

This spring, Weger begins his 36th year as conductor of the Paris Municipal Band. The annual six-week series of summer concerts begins at 8:30 p.m. June 14 and continues through July 19 on the front lawn at Paris Junior College.

"The town band was of tremendous importance to communities before TV and radio," he said. He



knows of no other remaining municipally funded bands in the state. "It's nice to retain some of that which was. It was done many years ago, but people enjoy going to see it. That's the main thing I like about the Municipal Band."

Weger, a quiet man with a powerful talent, assumed the duties of

conducting the band Sept. 2, 1948, when a man named "Slick" Howard resigned, but he didn't actually direct the group until the following summer. Through the years, a tradition was established, and now the band draws hundreds of people from Texas and Oklahoma to the outdoor concerts, which, until last year, were held in the Romanesque peristyle in Bywaters Park. Until a renovation of the peristyle is completed, the band will play at the junior college.

"At one time, we thought of taking the band to the people," Weger said. "One time the people in West Paris would hear the band, and the people over in Wade Park would hear it another time, and then the people at various other parks would hear it. The last roaming concerts were played about 15 years ago." Several band listeners would arrive at the concerts by street car or by horse and buggy.

Dedication on the part of the musicians, who are paid only a minimal amount, if anything at all, has enabled the band to play on through some difficult times. When they rehearsed in winter months many years ago, musicians would carry buckets of coal to an upstairs rehearsal room over a dress shop to provide some heat. At least one member — a man named Will Gorham — walked two miles just for the rehearsals.

World War II disrupted many lives, but the band persevered, with several high school students joining the older members. In 1947, 90 percent of the 26-man band was composed of former servicemen. Today about 42 men and women — doctors, secretaries, dentists, housewives, attorneys, businessmen, school teachers — comprise

Please see PARIS on Page 76A.



Flutists (from left) Linda Abeles, Laura Jones and Katie Bryant practice before an

evening performance of the Paris Municipal Band.



Floyd Weger is beginning his 36th year as the Municipal Band's conductor.



The Municipal Band's brass section rehearses before a recent performance.

Special to The Dallas Morning News: Marvin Gorley

Paris Municipal Band leader keeping ensemble's music alive

Continued from Page 71A.

the Municipal Band. Some travel from other counties to play with the band. The driving force of the group, though, is still Floyd Weger.

"It just seems natural to direct the band now," he said. "I guess it's in my blood. I've been doing this all my life. I wouldn't feel natural if I didn't do it some, anyway, after all the years that I've conducted."

Weger, who served with the Air Force during World War II and who is a retired high school band teacher, is a trombone player, and his wife, Irene, plays the trumpet and cello. Their son Steve often plays trumpet with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, and their daughter Jeannie is a flute player with the Dallas Symphony Orches-

tra. Her husband, Lorin, plays French horn with the Fort Worth Symphony.

With his own family almost a band unto itself, the Municipal Band is a second family for Floyd Weger. He is thankful for men like Frank Murphy, an oboe player who led the fight for city support of the band when it was first organized in the 1920s. Though on some occasions one or two people have tried to take the band out of the city budget, the efforts were not successful. In the 1984-85 fiscal year, the city allotted \$7,770 to the band.

Weger sees to it that the concerts feature a variety of music, from John Philip Sousa marches to Mozart, from selections from *Gigi* to *Anything Goes*. Each performance

features a guest soloist or musician, such as Dr. Neill Humfield, professor of music at East Texas State University and one of the country's leading trombonists.

Street cars have now rumbled into silent museums. The horse and buggy is reserved for romance and postcards. Many a note has been played since a band member last carried a heavy bucket of coal to heat a rehearsal room. Yet, through all the changes, including the deterioration of the peristyle where they prefer to perform, the Paris Municipal Band embraces its heritage as Floyd Weger prepares to raise the baton for his 36th consecutive year.



Special to The Dallas Morning News

An audience gathers to listen to a performance of the municipally funded band in the

Romanesque peristyle at Bywaters Park in Paris, Texas.

The Paris News

Serving Northeast Texas & Southeast Oklahoma

The Paris News

125th Year, No. 323

Paris, Texas 75460

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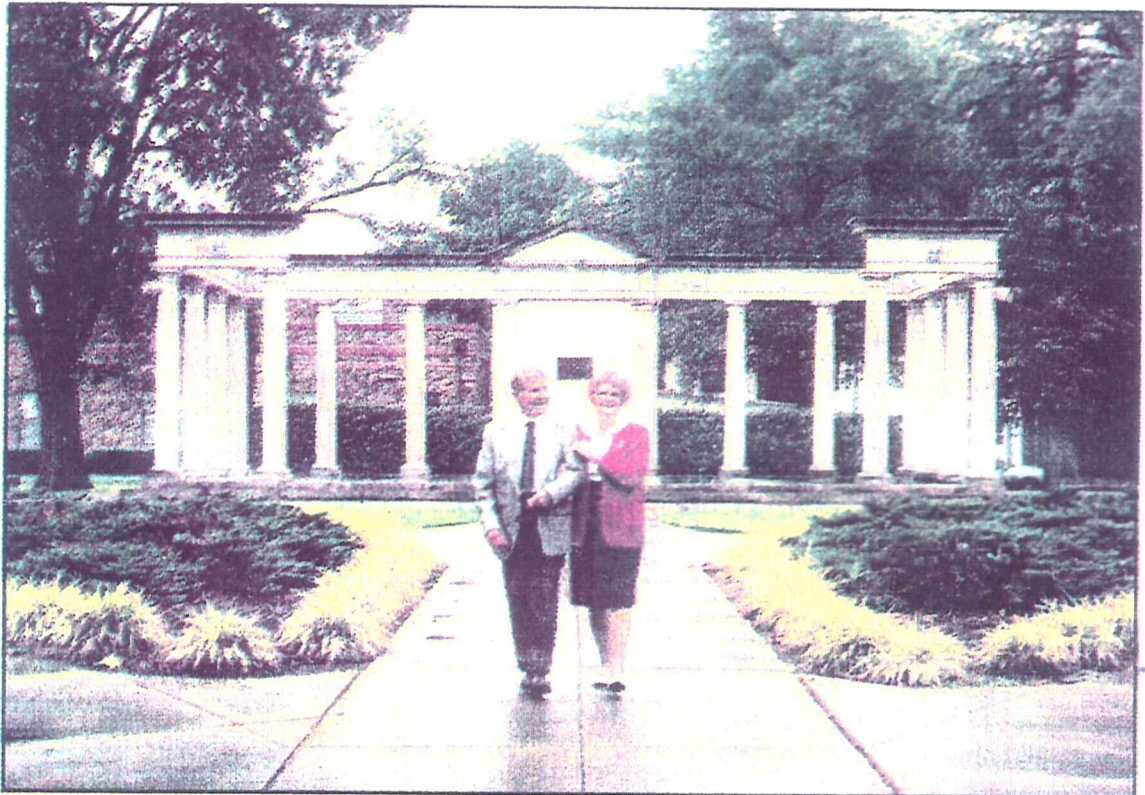


Photo by Marvin Gorley

Side by side

Floyd and Irene Weger stroll through Bywaters Park, where Floyd has conducted so many of the Paris Municipal Band concerts. The couple, both longtime music teachers within the Paris Indepen-

dent School District, have been named 1993 "I Love Paris" honorees by the Paris Education Foundation.

Floyd, Irene Weger are 'I Love Paris' honorees

By Dana Allen
The Paris News

Longtime music teachers Floyd and Irene Weger have been named 1993's "I Love Paris" honorees by the Paris Education Foundation, according to PEF Executive Director Sandra Strom.

"Floyd and Irene Weger are so deserving of this honor," Mrs. Strom said. "Yet, for all their many contributions to our community and all the accolades they have brought our way, they are still such humble, self-effacing individuals."

"I Love Paris" is an annual event sponsored by PEF to benefit its scholarship endowment fund. This past year, the Foundation gave 21 scholarships to Paris High School seniors. Past "I Love Paris" honorees include Raymond Berry, Sr. and Judge Henry Braswell.

The event, scheduled for Feb. 20, will include some changes this year, Mrs. Strom said.

"The event this year will be a bit different from those of past years," Mrs. Strom said. "It will still showcase student projects and talent but will be held at Paris High School in the Weger Performing Arts Center with a catered reception immedi-

ately following in the cafeteria."

"The Wegers genuinely feel the most important goal of 'I Love Paris' is to help students, not necessarily to honor them — though we feel both goals are equally important," she said. "Of course, their entire lives are a testimony to their love for students."

Together, the Wegers logged 73 years of teaching music in the Paris area. After they both completed studies at New York City's Julliard School of Music in 1941, they moved to Paris, where Floyd was hired as a conductor for Paris school bands. Irene had been teaching on a volunteer basis, and when her husband joined the Air Force during World War II, she took over his teaching duties.

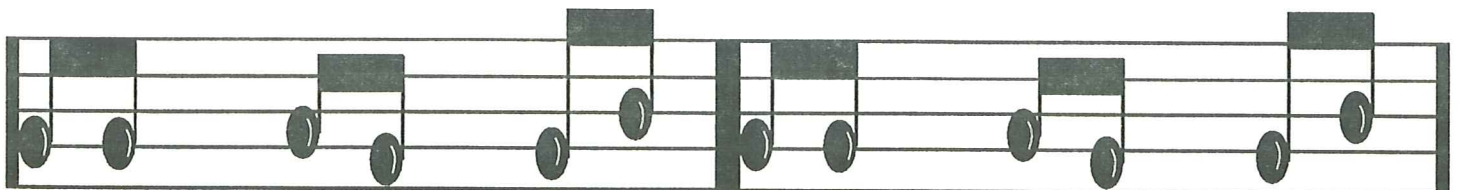
The couple's accomplishments include building the first symphonic-style band at PHS, developing a 90-piece orchestra with 55 string players in the elementary schools and forming the first 100-voice a cappella choir.

After teaching music to Paris students for two generations, Irene retired in 1977, and Floyd retired in 1978.

Their two children — Jeanie and Steve — are both professional musicians as well.

Paris Education Foundation





WELCOME:

Floyd Weger has been described as a "natural in his field." "I have spent my life trying to bring order out of chaos," expresses his philosophy of education. These profound words also define the main purpose of "I Love Paris," — to honor two educators — Floyd and Irene Weger — who have dedicated hours during and after school, "trying to bring order out of chaos."

Sharing this genius with students has brought the Wegers pride and self-fulfillment as hundreds of their students have established themselves in prestigious positions as choir and stage band directors, teachers, and members of symphonic orchestras throughout the nation. The Wegers' thirst for excellence has extended beyond the musical field as they have encouraged all students, friends, and associates to experience an excitement about life that every human being deserves, and according to the Wegers, a major source of such excitement is an educated mind.

This momentous event provides an opportunity for all of us to renew our dedication to the cultivation of the minds of our children. The Paris Education Foundation appreciates the support that you have provided since its inception in 1989. You have contributed to the overwhelming success of each "I Love Paris." Such commitment to education has been confirmed by the continuous donation of your time to PEF programs such as the teacher enhancement, scholarship, and mentoring.

Through your contributions, the Foundation endeavors to instill within young students the determination to educate themselves beyond the secondary level, creating a continuum of educating subsequent generations with the fervor and delight equal to that of Floyd and Irene Weger whom we honor tonight.

Joan Mathis
PEF President

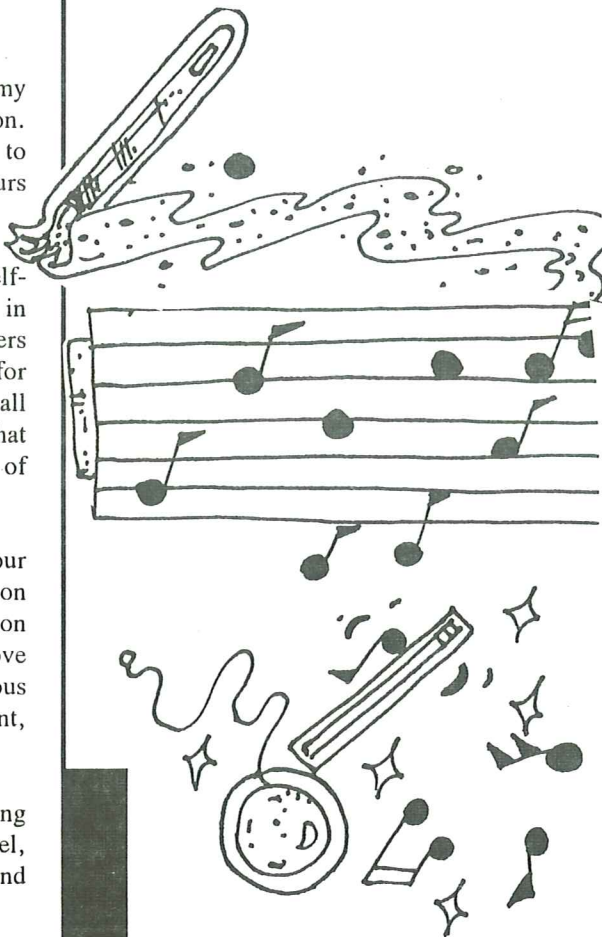
Dear Friend of PEF:

Welcome to the 1993 "I Love Paris" gala. Tonight we honor Irene and Floyd Weger, the Paris Education Foundation's 1993 endowment scholarship honorees. Mr. and Mrs. Weger continue to be music teachers, motivators, counselors, "parents", and friends of their former students. Over the years they have instilled into each student self-confidence and an appreciation for all types of music. The Paris Education Foundation, former students, and friends, salute you, Irene and Floyd Weger, by establishing an endowment scholarship fund in your names. We thank you for your many years of unselfish dedication to the field of music, to your students, and fellow man.

"I Love Paris" has benefitted not only students who received scholarships to attend college, but also teachers and programs designed to motivate young people to become better students and citizens. Fifty-two Paris Education Foundation scholarships have been awarded to deserving students, and approximately \$86,000.00 has been generated at the "I Love Paris" events.

The Paris Education Foundation would like to thank you, who have contributed to the endowment scholarship fund and all who have dedicated many hours to make tonight's event possible. Thank you for giving the students of today and the future an opportunity to further their education. Thank you for your support.

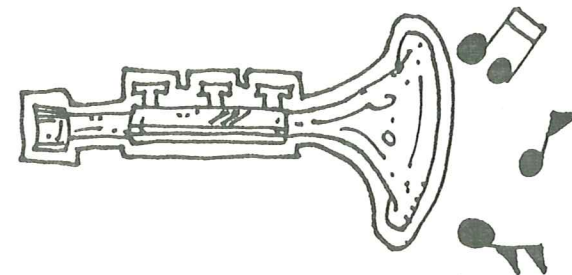
Becky and Bob Swaim
Co-chairs, "I Love Paris"



I Love Paris

Steering Committee

Bob and Becky Swaim, Chairmen
Elaine Ballard
Pat Barbee
Jim Bell
Derald Bulls
Edmond Castleberry
Bailey Clements
Jeanne Coker
Felix Gibson
Bill Kennedy
Joan Mathis
Suzanne Patty
Anita Roden
Sandra Strom
Eric Tate
Linda Williams



I Love Paris Endowment Committee

Betty Antoine Hutchison - 1942
James Brunette - 1943
Melba Woodard Bunch - 1944
Ann Walberg Good - 1945
Callie Ayres Shelton - 1946
Martha Morgan McCaskill - 1947
Patsy Williams Davis - 1948
Janis Buffington Reed - 1949
Dorothy Stinson Boyd - 1950
Sandra Staples Christian - 1951
Bob Robinson - 1952
Dorothy Meadlin Bridges - 1953
Doyle Whitaker - 1954

Bob Swaim - 1955
F. D. Mallory - 1956
Martha Mackey Smith - 1957
Ginna Hinds Walker - 1958
Plug Clem - 1959
Charles Herring - 1960
Carolyn Whitaker White - 1961
Billy Gene Golden - 1962
Sherry Kay Jones - 1963
David Kennemer - 1964
Larry McGee - 1965
Barbara Hagood Kohls - 1966
Vicki Crigler Perry - 1967

Special Thanks

Elaine Ballard
Derald Bulls
Sally Cecil
Pam Christian
Jeanne Coker
Karol Davis Insurance
Glenna Ford
Michelle Friede
Randi Haggard
Mark Hardy
Gail Hogue
Sally McGee
Gary Meggs
Susann Moore
Paris Area Arts Alliance
Paris High School Blazettes
Paul Stuart & Paris High School Staff
Judy Price
The Print Shop
Shawn Ridgedell
Anita Roden
Jayna Shull
Eric Tate
Janet Walker
Jean Wear
Barbara Wilson

Brenda Kinnard Aune - 1968
Randy Bunch - 1969
Tommy Hunt - 1970
Rhonda Rainey Morris - 1971
Claire Bone Anderson - 1972
Derald Joe Bulls - 1973
Steve & Rebecca Jetton
Clifford - 1974
Beth Bankhead Edwards - 1975
Jan Westbrook Floyd - 1976
Vicki Daugherty Hilliard - 1977
Chris Kosterman - 1978
Jeff Starnes - 1978

Curtain Calls

STEPHEN F. WEGER

Stephen F. Weger, son of tonight's honorees, is a 1961 graduate of Paris High School. He received undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Texas at Austin, studied abroad as a Fulbright Scholar in Denmark, and did additional graduate study at Boston University. For twelve years he was the principal trumpet with the Kansas City Philharmonic. At present, he is on the faculty of Texas Christian University and is principal trumpet with the Fort Worth Chamber Orchestra and the Fort Worth Symphony.

N.E. TEXAS SYMPHONY

The Northeast Texas Symphony is embarking upon its third season as an independent nonprofit organization. This year the orchestra will conduct a series of docent programs and school concerts within the city of Commerce, as well as performing major concerts in the cities of Paris, Sulphur Springs, Greenville, and Commerce. The orchestra hopes to be a unifying force for quality music and education, as it brings the resources of each city together for a singular purpose...to provide the citizens of Northeast Texas with the highest quality of life possible through the arts and music.

SCOTT C. YORK

Scott Crawford York serves as Music Director for the Northeast Texas Symphony. Mr. York received his Bachelor's Degree from East Texas State University and his Master's Degree from the Eastman School of Music. He was recently invited to participate in the American Symphony League's international competition and workshop in Houston and will be the guest conductor when the newly formed Longview Opera Company presents "Madame Butterfly."

W. B. (BLAKE) NEELY

William Blackstone (Blake) Neely, IV is a native of Paris, Texas. He studied music and theory with Jenine Cannon and Catherine Biard and

(Neely, con't.)

learned the fundamentals of music notation and structure from Simon Sargon of Dallas. Mr. Neely graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1991 and now lives in Beverly Hills, California, where he is the administrative coordinator for Hollywood Records, a division of The Walt Disney Company. He has written two symphonies, a piano concerto, a string quartet, and many other songs and instrumental works. He has said of "Texas Suite": "The work is a symphonic picture of impressions I have from growing up in Texas...the various moods and themes represent the diverse people, places, landscapes, ideals and spirit of Texas." He has dedicated "Texas Suite" to his Texas family and friends and in particular, his wife Elizabeth.

PHS CHORALE

The Paris High Chorale is made up of fifty-one students, freshmen through seniors, who audition for this performing ensemble. The Chorale is consistently awarded the UIL Sweepstakes Award at the Concert and Sightreading Contest. This year Paris High students were awarded thirty-two places in the All-District Choir, twenty places in the 9-10 All-Region Choir, and seventeen places in the upper level Region Choir. Seven students progressed to the Area level, and two students were named to the All-State Choir. Janet Lea Walker is in her first year teaching choral music at Paris High School. She received her education at Temple Junior College and Texas Christian University and her Masters of Music in Conducting from Hardin Simmons University, where she served as graduate assistant to Dr. Lloyd Hawthorne. She comes to us from the Iowa Park/Wichita Falls area where she successfully led choirs to UIL Sweepstakes awards for seven years.

PHS SYMPHONIC BAND

The Paris High Symphonic Band is a try-out group consisting of sixty-

(Symphonic, con't.)

three students of all grade levels. This year to date twelve students made the All-Region Band, four students made the All-Area Band, and one student made the All-State Band. Clayton Karrer is the first Band member to make All-State since Mr. Weger was the Director. Gary Meggs, the director of the Paris High School Band is a native of El Dorado, Arkansas, having received his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. Mr. Meggs' bands have accumulated many District, Region, and State awards. Though Mr. Meggs realizes the importance of band contests and first division awards, he believes the most important reward is the musical experience a student receives from band.

WILLIAM H. HILL

William H. Hill was a member of the Music Department of California State University, Los Angeles from 1972 until 1992. He is an internationally recognized conductor and composer of Orchestral and Wind Band works. His compositions have been performed throughout the United States, Europe, Japan, and Australia. Having received his B.A., B.M., and M.A. degrees from the University of Northern Colorado. Mr. Hill did post graduate studies in the Ph.D. program at UCLA. As a recitalist and chamber musician on flute, clarinet and saxophone, Professor Hill has soloed with some of the outstanding bands and orchestras in the Western U.S. and has performed as an accompanying musician for some of the greatest stars of the last forty years. He has said of "From the Peristyle March," that "it contains many of the sounds that I heard as a youngster growing up and playing in this group. Without the help, experience and love of Floyd and Irene, I would have had no musical career at all."



Paris

Program

<p>Welcome</p> <p>Invocation</p> <p>Paris High School Chorale</p> <p>Steven Weger, trumpet soloist</p> <p>Today's Rhythm Band/Tomorrow's Municipal Band...</p> <p>Paris High Symphonic Band</p> <p>Northeast Texas Symphony Orchestra</p> <p>Recognition of Honorees</p>	<p>Derald Bulls, Master of Ceremonies</p> <p>Ray Starnes</p> <p>Janet Walker, Director</p> <p>Arr. Paul Christiansen</p> <p>George Oldroyd</p> <p>Houston Bright</p> <p>Arr. Parker-Shaw</p> <p>Aaron Copland</p> <p>Herman Bellstedt</p> <p>Del Staigers</p> <p>Gary Meggs, Director</p> <p>David R. Holsinger</p> <p>William H. Hill</p> <p>Scott C. York, Conductor</p> <p>Aaron Copland</p> <p>Blake Neely</p> <p>John Philip Sousa</p> <p>Becky & Bob Swaim, Chairmen</p>
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"Loyal and True"

I Love Paris



FLOYD WEGER
DIRECTS THE PARIS
MUNICIPAL BAND FOR
ANOTHER SUMMER OF
ENTERTAINING FRIDAY
EVENING MUSIC