# Alpha Chapter PHI BETA MU

Texas Band Masters

## HALL OF FAME

## John "Pete" Kunkel

*Inducted* **July 26, 1999** 

#### PHI BETA MU HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE

WAYMON BULLOCK, BILL DEAN, BEN GOLLEHON, BILLY HARRELL, DURWARD HOWARD, BARBARA LOVETT, CHARLES NAIL, O.T. RYAN, RANDY STORIE, BILL WOODS

February 1999

John Charles Kunkel Rt 4, Box 289A Carthage, Tx. 75633

Dear John:

It is with great pleasure that we notify you officially of your selection for entry into the Phi Beta Mu Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame. Induction ceremonies will be held during the Texas Bandmasters annual convention in San Antonio on Monday, 26 July 1999, at 2:30 PM, in the Mezzanine Salons of the Marriott Riverwalk Hotel.

While family members and friends are most welcome, only two places of honor in the front row will be provided for you and a family member. All other attendees are requested to sit in the audience. Family members may join you at the podium for the presentation.

Immediately, or as soon as possible, we must have an 8x10 bust/head photograph in color or black and white (color preferred). Phi Beta Mu will frame the photograph and attach an engraved name inscription to the frame for permanent display in the Hall of Fame which is currently housed in the office headquarters of Texas Music Educators Association in Austin. The photograph will also be displayed during the induction ceremony.

Please begin assembling personal memorabilia which will be placed in a permanent file in the Hall of Fame. Items which you should include are programs, newspaper clippings, awards, honors, personal letters, papers, compositions, articles you may have written, contest records, photographs of your bands and their activities, etc. If there are original items which you wish to retain, please photocopy for Hall of Fame files. In addition, you should prepare a cassette recording of at least three of your favorite band compositions as they were performed by your groups during your teaching career (if such is still available). Please bring all memorabilia with you to the Induction Ceremony. Large scrapbooks are not acceptable. All memorabilia should be contained in a school size notebook or similar folder no larger than 10" x 12".

For the public reading of your history and accomplishments, a biographical sketch will be prepared by your sponsors, however, it could be lacking in vital information. Actually, we would prefer that you prepare a brief, succinct autobiography of pertinent, interesting and even amusing facts. This should not exceed two typewitten pages, double spaced. Please forward a copy of this information to me at the earliest possible date. You will be receiving further information as induction time approaches.

If you should have questions or concerns, please contact me. Should you require housing in San Antonio during the convention, it will be necessary for you to contact Al Sturchio, Executive Secretary of TBA, at 210-599-7585, and request a hotel registration form.

Please accept our congratulations on your election to the Hall of Fame. We hope to see you in San Antonio on July 26th.

Warm regards

Ben R. Hollihon

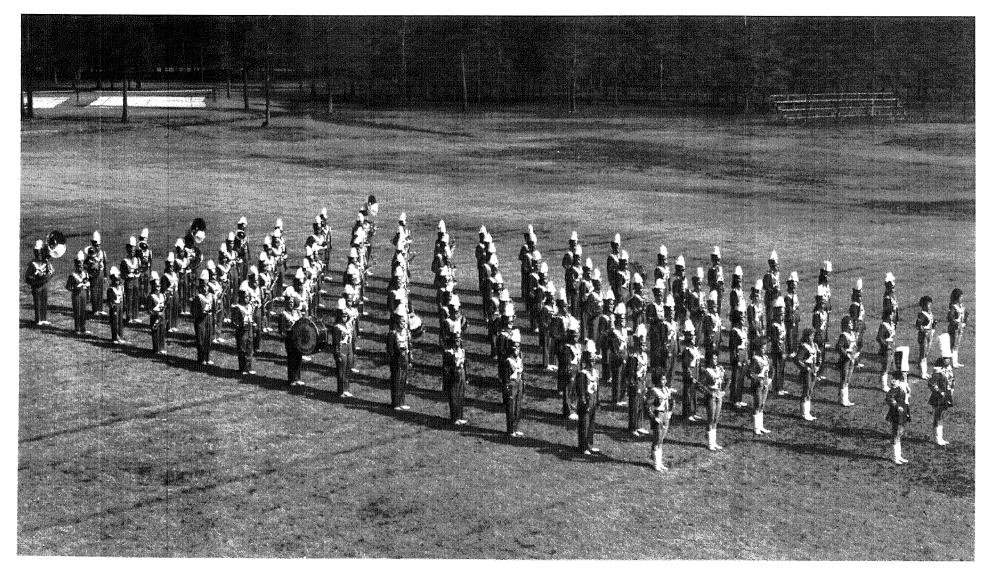
Ben Gollehon, Chairman Hall of Fame Committee Box 670407 Houston, Tx 77267-0407

281-875-1214

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ATTACHED IS A QUESTIONAIRE DEALING WITH MARCHING CONTEST. MR. WADENPFUHL HAS ASKED ME TO MAKE A SURVEY OF OPINIONS AND METHODS THAT WE MAY USE TO IMPROVE OUR MARBHING CONTESTS. YOU WILL BE MOST HELPFUL IF YOU WILL FILL OUT THE ENCLOSED SHEET AND SEND IT TO ME BY RETURN MAIL. THIS QUESTIONAIRE IS BEING SENT TO THOSE DIRECTORS THAT PARTICIPATED IN MARCHING THIS YEAR.

WY: SINCERELY ENJOYED BEING YOUR HOST LAST SATURDAY AND HOPE THAT YOU WERE HAPPY WITH US AND OUR FACILITIES. IF WE WERE HAVING ANOTHER CONTEST THIS SATURDAY THERE ARE A FEW THINGS THAT WE WOULD CHANGE BUT ALL-IN-ALL WE HOPE THAT THE CONTEST WAS ENJOYABLE AND PROFITABLE TO YOU AND YOUR BAND. LET ME COMPLIMENT YOU FROM OUR ADMINISTRATION ON THE EXCELLENT BAHAVIOUR OF YOUR STUDENTS. THERE WAS NO DAMAGE TO ANY PROPERTY AND THEY ALL CONDUCTED THEMSELVES WITH GREAT CREDIT TO BANDS IN THIS REGION.



## - JOHN KUNKEL

TO ONE WHO HAS ENCOURAGED
OUR GROWTH AND TAUGHT US
PRIDE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT
WHOSE LIFE IS CROWNED
BY DEDICATION AND SINCERITY
ROYAL BRAVE BAND
1964 - 65

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### MEMBERSHIP



### CERTIFICATE

# Thi Beta Mu

NATIONAL SCHOOL BANDMASTER FRATERNITY

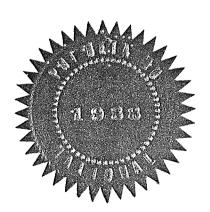
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JOHN KUNKEL

AS AN ACTIVE MEMBER

ALPHA CHAPTER

AND IS ENTITLED TO ALL THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES THEREBY CONFERRED



The mith

PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY

February 1968

DATE

#### VIRGINIA BEACH MUSIC FESTIVAL RESULTS

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## Lobo Band Arrives At Virginia Beach

By JUNE MOORE
VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. —
They may tease us about our
Texas drawl, but they'll remember us most by the courteous "Yes M'ams" and "No
Sirs" they receive from Lobo
Band members when asking
about Longview, Texas.

By "they" we mean the chaperones and adults from the other states of the 25 represented here at the most fantastic beach resort that anyone can

imagine.

This teen-ager "paradise" (and teen-agers are all you can see for miles) was a welcome haven for 120 Longviewites who arrived at approximately 3 p.m. Sunday after a non - stop trip—with the exception of stops made for two bus breakdowns. The scheduled night stop had to be canceled because of these delays. However, four stops were made for meals eaten en route.

But after much-needed showers and plenty of good, hot food, they were back in shape and ready to play their roles as ambassadors of Texas at the Third Annual Music Extravanganza portion of the Ninth Annual Virginia Beach Festival of Music held Sunday night. The first portion of the two and one-half hour concert was presented by the 1969 winning band of the festival, the Holmes High School Band of Covington, Ky. The portion second by was a military School of Music Dual Faculty Band and U.S Rock Ensemble.

The space age designed domed civic center where the concert was held was filled to capacity with clean cut and scrubbed young people of America—quite a contrast to the large

number who were here for a pop festival which was ending funday.

There hasn't been time for the beach yet. However, the Aloha Motel (headquarters for the Lobo Band) is located a block and a half from the white caps of the Atlantic Ocean. Would you believe the weather is a rare fall type (according to natives) — 75 degrees on arrival and very chilly at night?

The 10 chaperones each have 10 cooperative young people to supervise. Sunday night's bed check was 11:30 p.m., and

(See BAND, Page 2-A)

### Local Band's Performance Wins Praise

By JUNE MOORE
VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. —
"An excellent band". . "a
pleasure to inspect," were only
two of the comments made by
military officers after their inspection of the Longview Lobo
Band Monday night.

While preparing for the inspection and doing final line up, chaperones rushed feverishly about making last minute adjustments on belts that had been put on the wrong side out, touching up shoes with white shoe polish and cutting ravels from uniform patches. The waiting was more tense than the inspection itself. Director John Kunkel got a muscle spasm in his leg at the last minute and was hardly able to walk, but he continued to issue instructions, and the students were cooperative and outstanding in every way.

Each mom and dad would have swelled with such overwhelming pride, just as we chaperones did.

After inspection, the Long-(See BAND, Page 2-A)

#### BAND-

(Continued From Page 1)

view band marched for one hour in the Grand Festival Parade down the main street bordering the ocean.

Director Kunkel told the band that they marched as if they were being paid \$100 a minute. He said they had perfect stride and carriage, and that if they had been competing in Texas, there would be no doubt that they would be the best. Kunkel also told the students that each one of them should be very proud of his performance, because he was really working and proving that he wanted to win.

Only two band members had to walk out of formation to the side of street during the long parade route because of the strenuous pace. However, both were fine after resting.

All along the parade route the band was applauded, and while a reserve in uniform was walking along the street, scores of people stopped her to say that the Longview band was excellent,

As of Monday night there still was not much time for the beach. The weather is still cool, and Virginia Beach has everything.

There are hundreds of gift and curio shops lining the main street. There are also midways, unique miniature golf courses and all kinds of attractions which are interspersed with the shops and hotels.

Tuesday's schedule began with breakfast at 8 a. m., then there was a morning practice. There was an afternoon practice, and at 9 p.m., there will be a marching contest (the third of four portions of the festival contest) at the First Colonial High School Stadium.

After the marching contest, the Lobo Band will participate in a massed band concert.



Photo by Kirby Harrison

# Texans tops at festival

Jubilant members of the Longview, Tex., High School band hoist director John Kenkel to their shoulders last night as he holds the trophy marking the group as the top band in the Virginia Beach Music Festival. A total of 17 high school bands from 11 states participated. Others awards given at the festival windup included: second place to the Charlotte, Mich., high school band; third place to the Falls Church high school band; third place to the Falls Church high school band; outstanding parade band, Marple Newtown High band from Newtown Po.; outstanding drum majorette, Barbara Garson of Marple Newtown; and outstanding drum major, John Lighthill of Charlotte, Mich.

Number One At Virginia Festival

# Lobo Band Gets Big Welcome Home

By BOB WHITE Staff Writer

Welcome home signs and banners were in place, covering the face of the band hall and every fence pole on the block.

Moms and Dads by the score paced around, talking, sometimes laughing, but mostly waiting anxiously.

A nine-piece welcome home

band made up of ex-Longview High bandsmen and area band directors rehearsed a few selected tunes.

They waited, and the sun beat down, but no one seemed to mind. No one got discouraged and left.

Then someone yelled, "They've been sighted," and the (See BAND, Page 3-A)



'NUMBER ONE' BAND RETURNS — Cheering crowds of parents and well-wishers were on-hand Saturday afternoon to greet the "Number One Band at the Virginia Music Festival," Longview High School's Lobo Band, as it returned home from a week-long

trek, Here, band members hoist Director John Kunkel and Ricke Towler, assistant director, on their shoulders while displaying the banner, trophy and medals collected at Virginia Beach. (STAF PHOTO by Don Anderson).



GOVERNOR RECOGNIZES LHS BAND — State Representative John Allen of Longview, left, is pictured as he presents three official documents from Texas Governor Preston Smith to John Kunkel, Longview High School Band director. The three documents are being presented in recognition of the band's accomplishments and in particular the winning of the title of the "most outstanding" band at the Ninth Annual Virginia Beach Music Festival in Virginia Beach, Va. last year. Now as the band prepares to return to Virginia Beach as honor band, the governor has issued two proclaimations and is presenting the resolution passed in the House of Representatives Friday. One proclamation names the LHS Band official "ambassadors of goodwill" from Texas, the second, which will be presented the concluding night of the four day festival, designates Charles Forbes, general chairman of the VBMF as an honorary Texan. The resolution, passed by Allen, commends the LHS Band and the director for being honor band and representing the state. (See Story, Page 1-C) (STAFF PHOTO).

#### TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

#### COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

DIRECTOR
TEXAS AGGIE BANDS

November 17, 1972

Mr. John Kunkel Members of the Longview High School Band Longview High School Longview, Texas

Dear John:

I just wanted to take this opportunity to tell you and the members of the band how much I enjoyed your outstanding performance at the marching contest last Thursday.

I cannot recall seeing and hearing a high school band that thrilled me as much as this band did. Your performance was superb in every respect and the sound of the band was tremendous.

I know that every band director dreams of having a band that could render a perfect performance and sound so fine that the people in the audience would all stand and cheer and want an encore. The audience at this contest reacted in such a manner. I know you are aware of the standing ovation these people gave you. The "Battle Hymn" finale was just superb.

Congratulations Longview, and thank you for an inspirational performance I shall never forget. We would certainly be happy to have any of your fine seniors as members of the Texas Aggie Band upon graduation, if they are so inclined to come this way to continue their education.

Best wishes,

JOE T. HANEY ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

P.S. John, I would appreciate your sending me one part for each instrument on the "Battle Hymn". I do not mind copying the parts if this is necessary. Don't forget to watch the Aggie Band on November 23rd. This is a night game. Come see us.



November 17, 1972

Mr. Pete Kunkel, Director Longview High School Lobo Band P. O. Box 3268 Longview, Texas 75601

Dear Mr. Kunkel

Mr. Wally Read, Ranger Band Director, reported to me that the marching and playing performance of the Lobo Band at Pittsburg was superior to any high school band he had ever seen in competition. I am proud of you and the band members. Congratulations for a job well done.

Sincerely yours

Charles F. Mathews

Executive Vice President

nab

## Richardson Independent School District

400 S. GREENVILLE AVE. RICHARDSON, TEXAS

JOHN F. ROBERTS ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR INSTRUCTION

RAYMON L. BYNUM ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Nov 17, 1972

BOARD MEMBERS STANLEY B. MCCALEB, PH.D. PRESIDENT VICE PRESIDENT LEO J. EVELETH, JR. SECRETARY CHARLES A. RICHARDSON, D.D.S. JERRY P. OWENS CHARLES WEST JOHN A. STALLINGS

To John Kunkel And Longview BANd -Very seldon do people see something done with Thre excellence - These times become RARE you are the best marching and playing band I have ever seen - Not one of the best - The best! you students are very lucky to be A PART of Something so unusual in these times of such medicerity. Don't take your situation for granted - you are one of A Kind - Keep trying to widen the gap - you are lucky to have each other - Students + director. You must know you do this better than everyone else - Just thought you might like to know someone else thinks you do Also URRY Sincerely -

Eddie Green

# The Director Believes In Pride

Pride may "goeth before a fall" as the old adage maintains, but price is the guide which John "Pete" Kunkel uses in teaching his band students.

"I think the most rewarding thing about teaching is to have the kids be proud of something they have sacrificed and worked for," Kunkel said.

Tradition and the pride that come from traditionally having a good band are factors which make the Longview High School band a success according to Kunkel.

"The Longview High School band is full of the tradition that makes the student want to work even harder. There is nothing finer than a band receiving a standing ovation for a performance which is good because of the time sacrificed and the work involved," he said.

A band rich with the tradition of winning, the Longview High School band has had more all · region band members than any other in UIL Region IV. The band has also averaged 100 lass I solo and ensemble medals yearly — more than any other. All since Kunkel became band director five years ago.

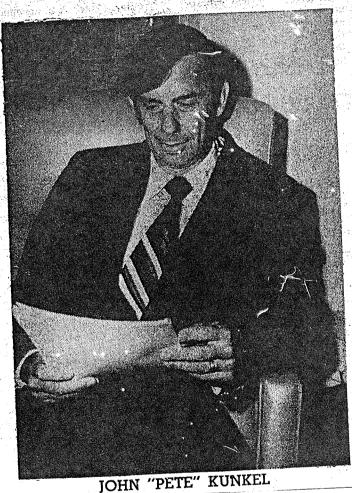
Under Kunkel's direction, the LHS band has won five Sweepstakes trophies, an award given for outstanding achievement in marching, concert playing and sightreading.

Last year's marching contest performance brought letters from all over the state praising the band, including letters from the A&M band director. He said that "the students and director of the Longview High School Band were very lucky to have each other."

"This is not one of the finest

performances I have ever seen, but the finest," wrote Eddie Green, band director of the Texas AAAA High School Honor Band. Green later admitted that he had never before written a complimentary letter to a competing band director.

Films of the LHS band were shown at a recent bandmaster's convention, at Iowa State University and Kunkel received more letters from impressed band directors and musicians



who said the LHS band was the "hit of the corvention."

Kunkel began his music career in White Oak where he was a member of the band and a piccolo player, hence the nickname "Piccolo Pete."

"My high school band director, Roy Swicegood, and the experiences I had as a member of the band in high school influenced me to become a band director," he said.

Kunkel added that he would never forget the time his high school band played in Yankee Stadium. He said that he looked up after marching out from the dugout and he was standing on second base.

"I don't think I played a note," he grinned. "I just stood there and looked around. And it's things like that you always remember. They make an impression on you."

In Beaumont, where Kunkel was director for three years before coming to Longview, he had the opportunity to teach all three of the children of his former band director.

Kunkel and his wife, Mozelle, have two daughters, Kathy, who is a French Horn player, and Debbie. A graduate of Stephen F. Austin where he got his bachelor and masters degrees, Kunkel also worked in Cleveland for 10 years.

In his spare time he enjoys camping and fishing, and he directs the Texas Eastman Company Industrial band.

Recently introduced at a Beaumont music clinic as "the man whose bands always have pride," Kunkel has instilled more pride in a band which was already proud of its winning tradition.

End result?

More honors, more tradition — more pride.

#### STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY

NACOGDOCHES. TEXAS 75961

November 20, 1972

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Mr. John Kunkel Longview High School Longview, Texas 75601

Dear Pete:

Let me congratulate you again on the tremendous performance by the Longview Band at the marching contest in Pittsburg. This is one of the finest marching performances I have seen by a high school band in a long time and shows much hard work on the part of the directors and the band.

The Longview Band is always sharp, but I was especially impressed this year with the maturity and cleanliness of your sound. It was outstanding, and I share this opinion with everyone that I have talked with.

If you have a film or two from previous years that you would not mind lending, I would like very much to show them to our marching techniques class at SFA as soon after Thanksgiving as possible.

Keep up the fine work and best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

Mel Montgomery Director of Bands

MM/lb

P. O. Box 94 Kingston, Tennessee February 2, 1973

Mr. John Kunkel, Director Longview High School Band Longview, Texas

Dear Mr. Kunkel:

Last month I was in Longview attending the National Security Seminar and had the opportunity of hearing your fine band play at the opening ceremonies.

The band is an outstanding musical organization, reflecting the effort of long hours of practice, training, and discipline. In visiting with some of the members of the band, they evidenced great pride in belonging, indicating that they practiced long and hard but that it was worth it. Each of the students was friendly but courteous and each is a credit to his school, his family, and to himself. Between pieces there was a minimum of noise and during the playing, the bandsmen watched the conductor. These two facets show good training and discipline.

The capabilities of the band showed up in pieces they played. Even the more difficult pieces were played with facility and accomplishment. All the long hours of work showed up in a polished performance.

The young ladies of the Viewettes were a nice addition to the performance, having to maneuver in a rather cramped area.

Again, my congratulations to a fine musical aggregation.

Very truly yours,

T. F. Wagner

TFW:egc

#### LONGVIEW HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT



LONGVIEW, TEXAS

Dear Mr. Kunkel and Band members.

Our efforts and to congrabulate you for your fine accomplishments. You faith and belief in we is what makes us strong. I have never been anywhere where so many good people cand areas something. Beople caring about people and your something. Beople caring about people and your something.

Organd want to Thank you for making our year one to remember 1975 Lito and Coaches

I now feel a Brise in Longius High School that wasn't here before. When Beople work together unselfestly not a wing who gets the credit great things are always accomplished.

## People of our community who

John "Pete" Kunkel's desire for excellence, his love for good music, and his firm belief in the unlimited potential of his students are factors in his success as Longview High School Band Director.

Under his enthusiastic and dedicated direction, the Longview High School Band has won numerous national Under his enthusiastic and dedicated direction, the Longview High School, his bands have won nine consecutive honors and state awards. During his 10 years at Longview High School, his bands have won nine consecutive University Interscholastic League sweepstake awards. And this year, 67 students made All-Region Band, representing the largest number of chairs ever for this region.

In order that he may share his musical expertise with other district music teachers, he was recently named Longview Independent School District Music Chief. His new duties also entail coordinating all music programs, in-

cluding strings, choir and band.

A native Texan, Kunkel grew up and attended schools in White Oak where he received early training for his career by playing a piccolo in the White Oak Band. Inspired by his band director, Kunkel won a full scholarship to attend Stephen F. Austin State University, earning his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music Education degree.

Pete Kunkel's career has encompassed twenty-five years, and includes service at Nacogdoches Junior High Pete Kunkel's career has encompassed twenty-five years, and includes service at Nacogdoches Junior High School, Hemphill High School, Cleveland High School, and Forest Park High School. Kunkel is the Regent Chairman for the Texas Music Educators, the Sergeant at arms for the Texas Band Masters Association, and is a member of Pi Beta Alpha, a national fraternity for band directors.

John and his wife Mozell have two daughters, Kathy and Debbie and attend the First Methodist Church of Longview where he directs the chancel choir.

# LONGVIEW BANK & TRUST

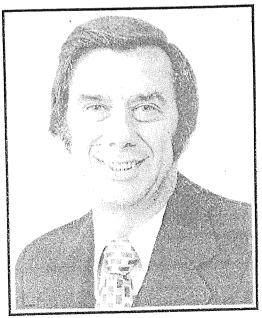
300 East Whaley (corner Green & Whaley)

P.O. Box 3188 • Longview, Texas 75601 • 214-753-7681

## make a Difference

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John Kunkel



October 28, 1975

John Kunkel
Band Director
Longview High School
Longview, Texas 75601

Dear Pete:

Once again my heartiest congratulations on your band's performance last Friday night. I really enjoyed the playing and marching; the snap, precision, and musicality were outstanding. I also enjoyed having the opportunity to meet you and I hope that we can get over again in the near future. As I mentioned before, I would certainly like to bring the Band over to Longview to perform in concert this Spring. We would certainly welcome the opportunity. I will also be in touch with you in the future regarding bringing down Sinta for a clinic. Once again, congratulations and we'll be in touch soon.

Sincerely,

James F. Keene Director of Bands

East Texas State University

Commerce, Texas 75428

JFK/xzd



Dear Pete. Suit a brief note to pay Something that lie felt for a Long tithe and not found the time win place that seemed appropriate to passit on. Yavire a pleasure to Le professionally associated with. Your sincelity, your excellent teaching s latts, your kide, your at Lonestan, and it helps me do a better fes. You've one of a very very few people, mosicions and teacher that live ever been associated with, and it makes Lonestan Music Clinic a good place to be.

Thanks for the contribution to the art.

P.s. Have a hell fa year.

# SIX FLAGS OVER GEORGIA

BAND FESTIVAL

This is to Certily that

Lov	raview High	a School	
	_	a Distinguished	
Performance in	Concert	on the10	In day
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Judge

# Certificate of Appreciation



#### LONGVIEW HIGH SCHOOL "BIG GREEN MARCHING MACHINE"

ur sincere gratitude is extended to you for your vital contribution to the enrichment and entertainment of our guests at WALT DISNEY WORLD during this, our salute to the United States' bicentennial celebration. Your talents, and the spirit of cooperation and enthusiasm in which they were offered, typify the individual and group efforts which are the very basis for this tribute to our nation.

Presented on this day,	May 17	, <sub>19_76</sub>
Class los ( ) XI lhes		m B. Tatum
President, Walt Disney Productions	Chairman	n of the Board, Walt Disney Production



## **COTTON BOWL**

HARRY BARTON, Director of Pageantry 8325 Lullwater Drive • Dallas, Texas 75218 • A/C 214-348-1185

#### LASSIC

January 5, 1977

Mr. Pete Kunkel Longview High School Longview, Texas

Dear Pete:

I want to express my thanks and appreciation to you and the Longview High School Band for their fine contribution to the 1977 Cotton Bowl Pageantry.

I was most impressed with their excellent preparation and their fine spirit of cooperation during the rehearsals. I regret the weather made it more of an ordeal than a happy experience.

It was a pleasure to work with you and Mr. Cooper, and the Longview High School Band.

Harry Barton

# Showtime on the 50 Yard Line

If the game doesn't keep fans on the edge of their seats, perhaps the halftime entertainment will

by Brenda Fuqua

#### LONGVIEW

"The Longview Band is the only one I've ever seen that gets a standing ovation just by coming to attention," says an envious rival band director. There's no doubt about it, adds another, "They're tough as a boot."

Longview High's Big Green Marching Band, under the direction of Pete

'People leave the game before halftime so they can be back in the seats to watch the band.'

#### Showtime

Kunkel, reigns as the undisputed high school champion of military march precision. The musical group hasn't changed its style much over the years, primarily because East Texas fans are steeped in the tradition.

"The military march can become monotonous," says Kunkel, "but we try to make it crisp and snappy. When we come to attention, we do it quick, fast and hard. If we get a reaction from the audience, we get excited. We want the audience to feel excitement when we're on the field."

The effort pays off. Boasts Dr. Glenn Neswick, principal of Longview High, "This is the only town I know of where people leave the football game *before* halftime so they can be back in their seats in time to watch the band."

Kunkel has 200 tenth- through twelfth-grade students in his unit and 100 more in the ninth-grade band. And, he says, they tend to be well-rounded and popular with the others. Few are heavily involved in sports, however, and dual membership in band and football is prohibited.

But football is good for the band program, Kunkel contends. "Our team has won district or tied for it for years," he says, "so, naturally, lots of folks turn out for our games. The little kids watch the band and want to be part of it."

As respected as the Longview Band is within Texas, it's especially gratifying when that reputation carries outside the state's boundaries. Kunkel and some of his students were invited to conduct a band camp in Mexico last summer. "Mexico has had marching bands in their high schools for only about three years now," he said, "so they're looking for ideas. The language barrier was a problem for just a short time, then it all came together. It was a real nice feeling." &

JOURNAL

# Kunkel Named LISD Music Chief

By JUNE BELLIS

Longview High School's John "Pete" Kunkel will share his expertise with all other music teachers of the Longview Independent School district, as he assumes the duties of supervisor of music.

The LISD Board of Education approved Kunkel's new duties at a special meeting held recently. He will remain at the helm of the Longview High School award winning band but now will coordinate all facets of the LISD music programs, which include strings, choir and band, including the elementary schools.

The Longview High School Band has gained statewide and national attention under the baton of the 45 year old band director.

Beginning his career in the music field 25 years ago, Kunkel has served in Longview for 10 years.

Under his direction, LHS band has won such honors as the "outstanding band" in 1970 in competition with some 20 bands from over the nation at the Annual Virginia Beach Music Festival, "outstanding band" in 1973 and 1978 at the Mexico City Invitational Cortest, superior in concert playing at Six Flags over Georgia in 1975, superior in marching in 1976 at Florida Music World Festival and an invitation to perform in the Cotton Bowl and parade in 977.

Additionally, nine consecutive sweepstakes

awards, the highest band award in the state given by University Interscholastic League, have been garnered under Kunkel.

Just this year, the LHS band garnered the largest number of seats of the entire region in the All-Region Band.

Kunkel is called upon to adjudicate each year numerous contests and clinics thoughout Texas and in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Kentucky.

Both his bachelor of music degree and the M. Ed degree in music are from Stephen F. Austin State University where Kunkel attended on a full scholarship.

When Kunkel was asked when he began his traning, he recalled entering the White Oak School band program when he was a small lad, all of four feet tall, in the seventh grade.

Not knowing for sure what instrument he would play, he made a snap decision when he observed a classmate carrying her piccolo with such ease. Thus, when he told the band director, Ray Swicegood, about his decision, the teacher stuck a piccolo in his pocket and said from this day forward, you will be "Piccolo Pete." It has stuck all these years, but now is reduced to just Pete by his friends. When he was in the eighth grade and still only four feet tall, Kunkel played his first piccolo solo as a member of the White Oak High School Band as they

performed "Stars and Stripes Forever" (the now six-feet- two inches tall Kunkel stood on his chair so he could be seen).

Kunkel says concerning the success of his band program in Longview, "There is no secret to success, band students have to like and be proud of what they are doing. This pride is instrumental in Longview High School's success."

He noted that the past four or five years the band has held a summer band camp at Beaver's Bend and this has been an asset to the program.

"The spirit and esprit de corps gained here is invaluable in a band program he said."

Always striving for perfection and sometimes chided for his strong discipline of band members, Kunkel observes, "I feel a band reflects the personality of the director and will perform like the director.

"If you fool around and waste their time, you cheat them. Students can tell if you are sincere and will accept it," said the educator. "Kids are no different today, even though they look and talk different, they will still work just as hard as they used to," he said.

"Actually, today you can get more from them because they have so much more potential and if you don't motivate them to produce—they are being cheated," reiterated Kunkel.



JOHN KUNKEL



#### National Band Association

W. J. JULIAN, President

#### MARCHING BAND COMMITTEE

.R. CASAVANT, Chairman Box 1124 Chattanooga, TN 37401 615-842-5244

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

DAVE CATRON
JAMES K. COPENHAVER
TOM C. RHODES
TOSEPH T. SMITH
DAVID WELLS
JAMES R. WELLS

Mr. John Kunkel, Dir. Longview High School Band Longview, TX

Dear Mr. Kunkel:

I am happy to advise you that your band has been nominated for consideration to the top ten bands of the United States. The recommendation was made by Tom C. Rhodes. The final selections will be made by the NBA Marching Band Committee from audio-visual materials. Please send to the letterhead address as soon as possible a 16mm sound-color film of your band in performance.

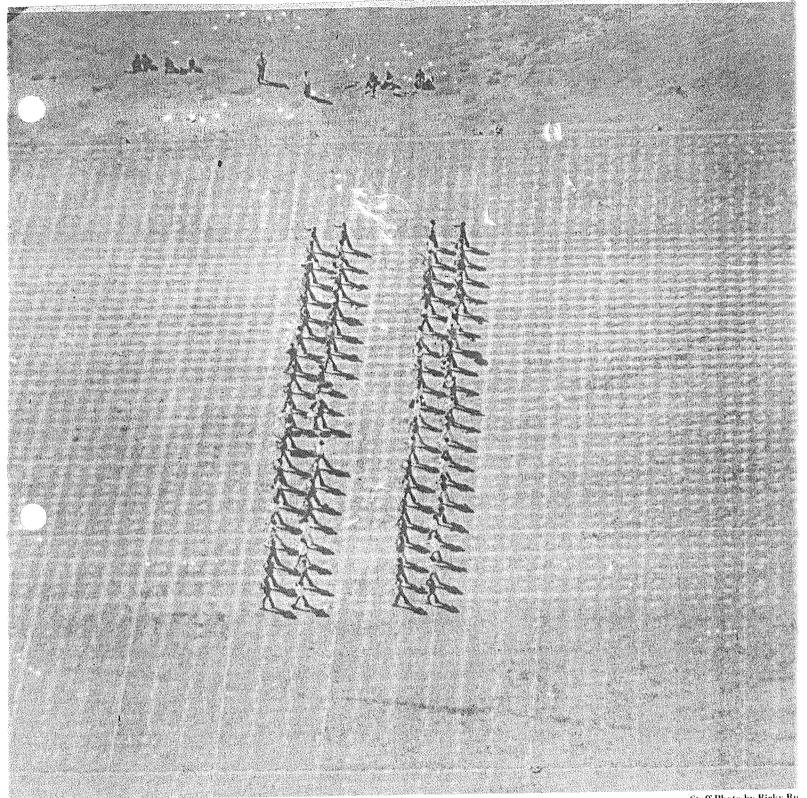
For any additional information of if you have questions, please feel free to contact me in this matter.

Sincerely,

November 21, 1979

A. R. Casavant, Chairman NBA Marching Band Comm.

ARC/ssb



Staff Photo by Ricky Ru

#### That's A Lot Of Practice

act in their steps, and in their "pivot points," that instead of saring out the autumn grass evenly, the bandsmen have left it in a

e cadets at West Point would be humbled to see the practice field the Lobo Band at Longview High School. The students are so right flank, left flank or to-the-rear movement. We have visually the cadets at West Point would be humbled to see the practice field stippled condition. A pivot point is where a marcher execut right flank, left flank or to-the-rear movement. We have visually the cadets at West Point would be humbled to see the practice field stippled condition. A pivot point is where a marcher execut right flank, left flank or to-the-rear movement. evidence of one reason the Lobo Band has consistently won hig marching ratings.



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For 24 Years Of

Devoted Teaching and Superb Leadership

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Our Sincere Appreciation

And Highest Esteem

Longview Band

**Booster Club** 

May 21, 1979



who as "Zachary" has perform with the circus evening at the Conven-

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nued, Page 12, Col. 1.)

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See Page 3-A.

Antonio Light

Year — No. 193

# BALDMASTERS MEETINS.A.

## Japanese Band To Perform

More than 800 delegates are in San Antonio for the convention of the Texas Bandmasters Association at the Convention Center and Villita Assembly Hall,

Assembly Hall,
The convention will continue through Saturday.

The agenda during the convention will include a performance by the Sony Concert Band, under the conduction of Toshio Akiyama.

Jazz drummer Ed Shaughnessy will also participate in the convention.

The Texas Bandmasters Association was first organized in Texas in 1923, before there were any public school bands as such.

It was called the Texas Band Teachers Association. These early bands were comprised of students, adults in the city and professional musicians.

One - of the first, if not the first, of all high school bands was formed by Dr. R.T. Bynum in 1926, at the Abilene High School. In those days, there were very little money set asise for bands.

Dr. D.O. Wiley, who is now retired and living in Lubbock, was one of the foremost college directors in Texas in the early days, an association spokesman said.

There were many outstanding band directors who helped to form the Texas Bandmasters as such in the 1920s.

In addition to Bynum and Wiley, organizers include Lyle Skinner of Waco, Weldon Covington of Austin, and Alto Tatum, T. Ward Moody and Everett McCracken of Baylor University.

These and many other men guided TBA into the 1930s when the choral and orchestra people began to have programs within the high schools and talk was instigated for the formation of an organization that would embrace all three types of musical organizations in the schools.

The result was that the Texas Music Educators Association was born and the superintendents of school began to work with the musical organizations to set up rules and regulations for competition, which later was delegated to the University Interscholastic League for governing.

In the 1930s and 1940s, there were also national contests.

The Texas Bandmasters, not wanting to lose their identity after the formation of TMEA, continued to meet as a state organization, holding annual or semi-annual meetins at the TMEA convention and the state and national contests.

During the war years, 1941-1946, travel was restricted and there were no contests. The TBA continued in name, with a few band directors trying to assemble at some point in the state each year for talk and social visiting.

In 1947, Lyle Skinner of Waco and Pat Arsers of San Artonio were instrumental in the con-quation of



DR. BILL MOFFIT First vice president.



DICK WHITTEN
Second vice president.

the TVXX TBA. The decided that a convention for band directors of the state was needed to meet specific demands of bands.

A convention was held the following year in San Antonio at the Alamo Heights High School.

There were only a couple of tables, and Sol Frank, C. Brun and Southern Music, all musical stores in San Antonio, brought a few instru-



DERB CRAIN President.



DR. CHARLES TRAYLER Secretary-treasurer.

ments, uniforms and music sheets for the directors to see.

Growth continued and the convention was held at Jefferson High School, then the White Plaza Hotel, then the Gunter Hotel, and finally, in 1968 it moved to the Convention Center.

Eldon Janzen, University of Arkansas, will conduct a clinic during the convention.



ELDON JANZEN
To hold clinic.



JOHN C. "PETE" KUNKEL Sergeant-at-arms.

TBA officers include Derb Crain, Dumas High School, Dumas, president; Dr. Bill Moffit, University of Houston, first vice president; Dick Whitten, Mackinzie Junior High School, Lubbock, second vice vice president; Dr. Charles Trayler, Abilene Christian University, secretary-treasurer; and John C. "Pete" Kunkel, Longview High School, Longview, sergeant-at-arms.

# Top Musicians Will Thrill Audiences

The 1979 Texas Bandmasters Association meeting will include performances by several well-known musicians.

Toshio Akiyama will conduct the Sony Concert Band during a performance at the Theater for the Performing Arts.

The Tokyo-based band was formally organized in 1957. Akiyama was appointed the official conductor.

The band had its first public performance in 1958 in ToKyo. It had 25 members. In 1959, the band got first prize at the Tokyo Area Band Contest in the Class B Industiral Band Group.

It first appeared on television in 1960 in Tokyo.

In 1964, the band won first prize in the industrial band group at the All Japan Band Contest.

In 1960, the band organized a baton twirling team.

The band has conducted annual concerts since 1965. In 1974, the band held a special concert in Kosai City, with William Gower of the University of Southern Mississippi as the guest soloist.

The band performed in a special concert in 1976 to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Sony.

The band is comprised of employees of Sony who participated in band programs in high school. All instruments, equipment, music and uniforms are furnished by the company.

Another participate in this year's convention is Ed Shaughnessy. The drummer is the author of two instruction books, "New Time Signatures in Jazz Drumming" and "Big Band Drummer's Reading Guide."

He is one of today's most sought after drum set clinicians in international music education.

Shaughnessy is the drummer in Doc Severinsen's band on the "Tonight Show."

He has performed with every major symphony in the United States, countless big bands and has backed almost every creative ensemble ever to enter a recording studio, a spokesman for the association said.

## SOUVENIR EDITION Compliments of Mrs. Carl L. Ester PUBLISHER

# Longview Morning Iournal

> "East Texas' Largest and Most Complete Morning Newspaper" -

LONGVIEW, TEXAS, SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 20, 1970



# Lobo Band Wins Top Festival Honors

#### By JUNE MOORE Staff Writer

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. -Shouts of "We're number one" and "Hook 'em Horns" filled the ter here as teary-eyed Longview High School bandsmen were n a m e d "Outstanding Band" of the 1970 Virginia Beach Music

witnessed the unraveling of much emotion and tension Thursday night, as the 120-member Lobo Band hoisted director John Kunkel into the air. overly crowded dome civic cen- marched to the stage and sang "The Eyes of Texas."

Band" was the last to be presented, and a dramatic hush swept over the overflowing A standing-room-o nly crowd crowd as an enormous banner



JOHN KUNKEL Band Director



RICKEY TOWLER Asst. Band Director

The award for "Outstanding



## Longview Citizens To Welcome Band

pared Friday to give a big welcome to members of the Longview High School Lobo Band, Thursday night named "Most Outstanding Band" at the 1970 Virginia Beach Music Festival. Comments from city leaders vealed pride in the band's ac- system." complishment.

The city of Longview pre- cation. While congratulating the band, we also commend the Band Boosters Club and the community for the solid moral and financial support given this fine group of young people. All of us are proud of the national honor the band has brought to and civic - minded citizens re- our splendid city and school

Dr. Charles Mathews, super-

with "Virginia Beach Music Festival Outstanding Band, Longview High School, Longview, Texas," was unfurled.

Boys and girls and chaperons alike, screamed with joy, and, of course, cried when the announcement was made.

Winning the coveted title culminated months, even years of hard work-three years of hard practices and captured titles for the Lobo Band and its director, and some three months of spirited campaigning by local citizens to raise funds for the journey.

Preceding the top award, Charlotte, Mich., band members claimed the second place award, and Falls Church, Va., won third

It was not an easy contest to win. There was stiff competition from 18 excellent, top-rated

bands, representing 12 states. Competition included marching, sight reading, a military-like inspection and concert perform-

But, as Kunkel predicted in April, the Lobo Band "wowed" them in Virginia.

"Longview, in their performances, undoubtedly topped any previous winner in the nine years we've had the festival throughout the festival," Al Mailhes, executive vice president, Virginia Beach Chamber of Commerce, said Thursady

The local chamber sponsored the music festival.

Military officers who inspected the band commented: "An excellent band . .. a pleas-

ure to inspect." "Their precision drilling is excellent, their movements look al-

most mechanical, they look just like a military band," were a few other comments made by spectators at the four-day festi-

From the rigid military inspection, to the Grand Festival Parade through the crowded streets of Virginia Beach; from the sight reading contest, to the "2001: A Space Odessey" concert performance, the Lobo band glittered like gold.

When the band returned to the motel, last year's winner and this year's honor band visited them, and performed a short concert in their honor.

The Longview band has been invited back to the 1971 Music Festival as Honor Band, having won the 1970 competition.

Nothing definite has been said about leaving, but feeling is the band will be starting for home

about 2 a.m. Friday. Since it is about a 30-hour trip, they should arrive in Longview between 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday.

U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. T. W. Adcock presented the Lobo band with the following citation at the conclusion of the Thursday night ceremonies:

"The Commanding Officer, School of Music, takes pleasure in commending Mr. John Kunkel and the Longview High School Band, Longview, Texas for outstanding performance as set forth in the following

"For superiority in competition during the 1970 Beach Music Festival. Your demonstrated proficiency in areas of marching drill, concert performance and sight reading, rank you among the very best of high school bands in the United

States of America. Your team competitive spirit a intense desire to excel are commendable. You are a credit to your parents, your school and your country."

Oh, yes, rumor had it that Lobo band members planned a near-midnight swim for Director Kunkel. Though the talented director doesn't know how to swim, tell Mrs. Kunkel not to worry-the pool is only six feet

## Longview Band Has Total Of 115 Members

The Longview High School Lobo Band, which took first place honors in the Virginia Beach Music Festival Thursday night, has a total of 115 mem-

Lobo band members are: Rodney Adkins, Fred Allen, Joe Alotto, Vickie Armond

Rosemary Baccus, Maragret Ballew, Marty Baumgardner, Duane Baushke, David Bischoff, Julia Blachley.

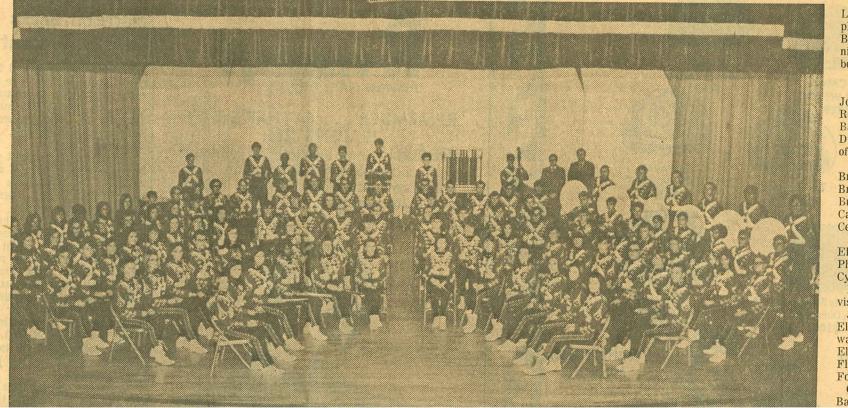
Sherry Borders, Michael Brooks, Patricia Brown, Becky Brown, Valerie Brown, Deborah Burgess, Gloria Burgin, Steve Canter, Mike Carlisle, John Cessna.

Harry Clark, Dennis Cochran. Elizabeth Cole, Chris Coleman, Phyllis Collins Steve Comer, Cynthia Condray, Lynn Cooper,

Eleanor Crump, William Da-

Jack Douglas, Debra Dowd, Elizabeth Durham, Brad Edwards, William Edwards, Danny Ellison, Sherry Field, Brooks Flemister, Deborah Floyd, Ann

Gerald Fricks, Ann Furge, Barbara Glass, Georgia Grant,





JOHN KUNKEL Band Director



RICKEY TOWLER Asst. Band Director

# Longview Citizens To Welcome Band

come to members of the Longview High School Lobo Band, Thursday night named "Most and financial support given this Outstanding Band" at the 1970 fine group of young people. All Virginia Beach Music Festival. Comments from city leaders and civic - minded citizens revealed pride in the band's accomplishment.

A warm welcome is being planned for the band when it returns to Longview Saturday (now tentatively scheduled for anytime between 12:30 and 3:30 p.m.)

Mayor Bill Rice will designate a mayor pro tem to represent him and the City of Long-

Also on the program will be Ferris Brown, president of the Longview Band Boosters Club, and a representative of the Longview Ministerial Alliance.

The three buses will be escorted into the city by the Longview Police Department, the Sheriff's Department and the State Highway Patrol.

The program will be staged at the entrance to the band hall on Fourth Street.

Ferris, Bill Renfro and B. F. Shepherd are in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Carl Estes, whose newspapers had a staff writer in Virginia Beach to report day-today activities of the band, said she was thrilled by the news that Longview had won the highest competitive honor, "We are very proud of, and happy for, every member of the band. the band director and the assistant director. The accomplishment is a great reward for their fort and for the tremendous many hours of work and dodi

The city of Longview pre- cation. While congratulating the pared Friday to give a big wel- band, we also commend the Band Boosters Club and the community for the solid moral of us are proud of the national honor the band has brought to our splendid city and school system."

> Dr. Charles Mathews, superintendent of the Longview Independent School District, commented, "We are proud of our excellent Longview High School Band. We feel it is one of the top bands in the entire United States. The band has brought honor to the school, to the city of Longview, and to the state of Texas. I extend my congratulations to the director John Kunkel and to the Lobo band members. We're looking forward to having them come home."

> Royal J. Carby, president of the Longview Chamber of Commerce, said, "It is a great honor to the community and especially to the boys and girls who are members of the band. It was a great opportunity and the winning of this honor has been instilled in their minds. We wish them continued success. This demonstrates what can be done as to teamwork. No one can do it alone."

> Said Ferris Brown, president of the Band Booster's Club for the past year, "We're extremely delighted. This is an excellent conclusion to a fine year. Furthermore, we appreciate what the Longview News, other media, and the people of Longview have done to help us with this project. Thank you for the support in our fund - raising ef-

Preceding the top award, Charlotte, Mich., band members claimed the second place award, and Falls Church, Va., won third

It was not an easy contest to win. There was stiff competition from 18 excellent, top-rated

The local chamber sponsored the music festival.

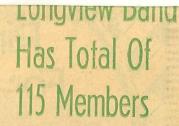
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Harry Clark, Dennis Cochran, Elizabeth Cole, Chris Coleman, Phyllis Collins Steve Comer, Cynthia Condray, Lynn Cooper, Eleanor Crump, William Da-

Jack Douglas, Debra Dowd, Elizabeth Durham, Brad Edwards, William Edwards, Danny Ellison, Sherry Field, Brooks Flemister, Deborah Floyd, Ann Forester

Gerald Fricks, Ann Furge, Barbara Glass, Georgia Grant, Luwilda Grant, Charlotte Graves, Martin Gruver, Beverly Hall, Bill Hammons, Elaine Hart.

Pamela Hart, David Harwell, William Hewell, David Hickey, Howard Hobbs, Alice Holt, Jack Hopkins, Brenda Houck, David Houck.

Phillip Hunter, David Johnson, Donnie Jones, Lynnette Kirkley, Nancy LeTourneau, Sheryee LeTourneau, Margaret Lockett, Carlos Lyons, Susan Martin, Carol Mayo.

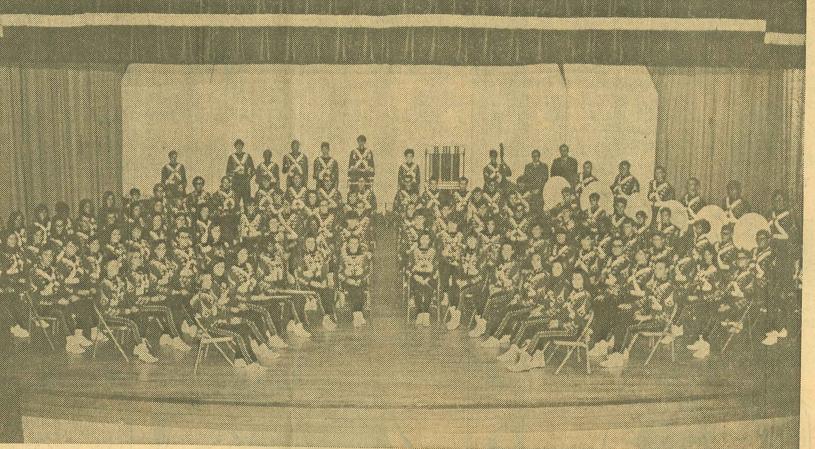
Robert McFee, Gay McCasland, Debbie McCratic, Debbie Miller, Brad Mitchell, John Montgomery, Roger Moore, Theresa Myers, Randy Nelms, Timmy Nelson.

John Ogden, Ken Parker, Marilyn Parker, Larry Phillips, James Pierce, John Power, Richard Presson, David Prothro, Kevin Prothro, Shadaria Reese. Reese.

Kathleen Reeves, Billy Renfro, Belinda Roach, Lloyd Rogers, Vickie Rollins, David Sammons, David Sanford, Fred Siglar, Larry Sills, Mike Siscoe.

Eddie Slaback, Gary Smith, Hardy Smith, Stephen Smith, Charles Starnes, Deborah Stevens, Susan Temple, Jackie Thomas, Judy Thomas, Harold Todd, Belinda Vinson.

Pat Wages, Ben Waller, Vickie White, Sharon Williams,



val." (STAFF PHOTO).

TOPS AT VIRGINIA BEACH—The Longview High School Band was named said the Lobo Band was "the best ever to compete in the nine-year-old festi-

"outstanding band of the festival" Thursday night in ceremonies at Virginia Beach, Va., Music Festival. A Virginia Beach Chamber of Commerce official

as to their time for arrival home. We certainly want to welcome them back in style."

B. F. Shepherd, chairman of the financial committee of the Band Booster's Club, had this to say: "It is a thing we had hoped for, but didn't dare expect, because some of the stiffest competition in America was present. Truly we are elated. We just knew they could do it. The time for arrival is uncertain. We'd like for as many as can to meet the band.'

Jim Parker, incoming president of the Band Booster's Club, commented, "I'm just as proud as can be. All of the parents are proud of the news from Virginia Beach. I've just been so excited since hearing of the honor. As the only parents with two children making the trip, we are doubly happy. The band members did it and they should take the credit. We're making plans for a big entry when they arrive in Longview."

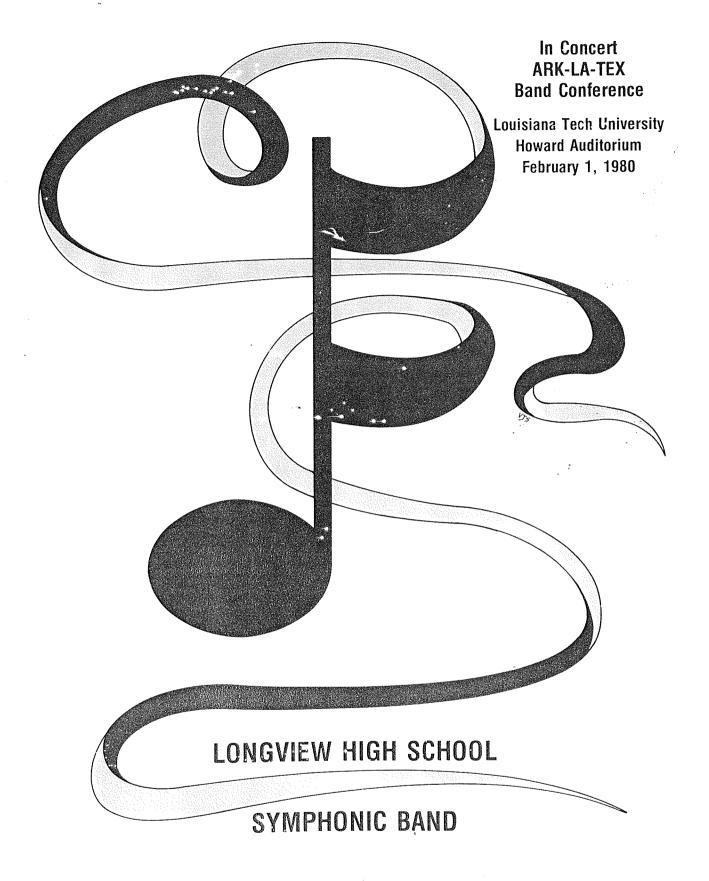
hibited. We are most interested sion, stated, "Naturally we were in getting word from the band all pleased. It is an honor for Longview to have young people of this caliber. It's a thrill to have them become interested in the fine arts. With so much ugliness going on in the world, this is a good thing for our city to publicize. It is a real honor for them to show such a measure of success,"

> Bill Rice, mayor of the city of Longview, said, "All of us are proud that the Longview High School band went to Virginia Beach to compete and serve as good - will ambassadors for our city. For them to win first place in the competition brings special honor for the band, the school and our city.

Bob Boyett, past president of the Band Booster's Club said, "It's great! I've had a continuing interest in this program for many years through four different directors. My interest still continues. I'm just real proud of these kids. There are harder. It really pleases us that Mrs. F. R. Jackson, member an honor of this type would be



hardly any others that work THEY LIKE FINE MARCHING - It's self-evident how much these young spectators at Virginia Beach appreciated the splendid marching of the Longview High School Band. The Longview musicians were given hig ovations every time they performed in y



JOHN KUNKEL, Director

RICHARD PARK, Assistant Director

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Orome McBetts

To The Longuers High School Band-Congratulations - your concert at the Ouls- In- Dex Climi was absolutely Superb. You should he very proud of attaining such a high level of musicionship and Best Wiles

Representing: Southern Music Co. San Antonio, Texas

College of Arts and Sciences Department of Music

February 5, 1980

Mr. John Kunkle Director of Bands Longview High School Longview, TX 75601

Dear Pete:

My sincere congratulations for the very fine performance by the Longview Symphonic Band at our ARK-LA-TEX Band Conference. We had a very successful conference this year and your concert was a valuable asset toward our goal of excellence.

You are to be very proud of your band. They played beautifully and truly represented themselves as most outstanding. We were very proud to have the Longview Band perform at the conference and commend every member of the band for a job well done.

I wish for you continued success. My warmest regards!

Sincerely,

RAYMOND G. YOUNG, Head Department of Music



Director

Dr. Roger V. Foss Assistant Director

#### Northeast Louisiana University

Bands

Monroe, Louisiana 71209

(318) 342-2139 February 4, 1980

Mr. John Kunkel and the Longview High School Band Longview, TX

Dear Folks:

Let me take this means to express to each and all of you my most sincere congratulations on the very outstanding performance at the Ark-La-Tex Conference this past weekend. It was most exciting and musical and very well prepared. I was really impressed with the technical ability of your band as well as the attention to the nuances of the music. :

I can imagine the hours of both individual and group rehearsal that went into the concert. You have every reason to be proud and I know your parents, school, and community are indeed quite proud of you both for the present accomplishments as well as those in the past. Keep the high standards going and continue to be an example for bands everywhere! I personally appreciated your concert for many reasons. Thank you for this "musical high".

Best wishes for the future. I hope I get the opportunity to see and hear your great band, again, in the future.

Sincerelv.

Jáck W. White

Director of Bands

#### Arkansas School Band and Orchestra Association



May 1, 1980

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John Kunkel Band Director Longview High School Longview, Texas

Dear Pete,

I wanted to drop you a line to express my appreciation, and that of our entire association, for the highly competent adjudication by you and your associates at the Arkansas State Band Contest. Your consistency was a high water mark in this state in my memory.

My wish is that we could have you back every year.

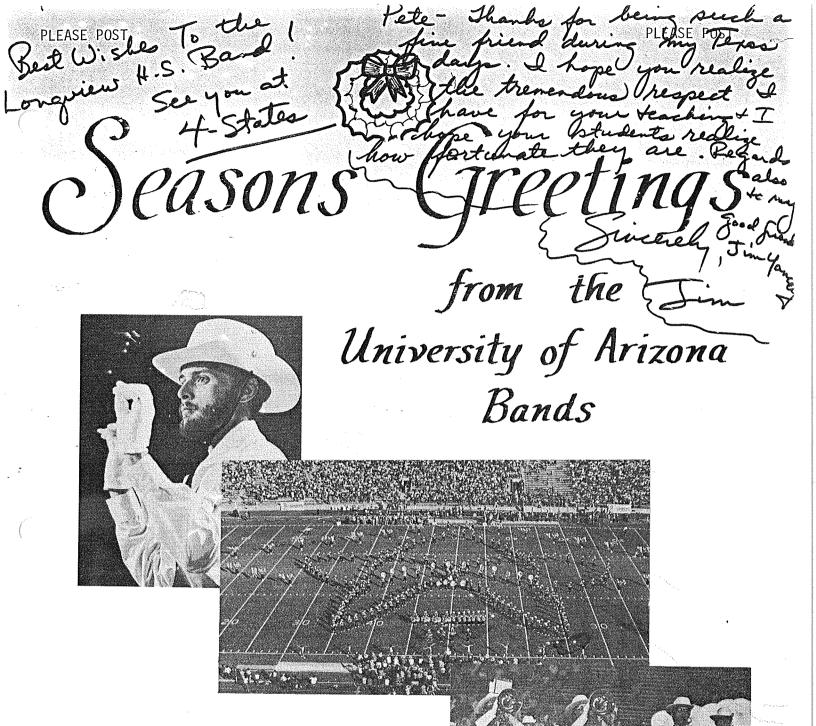
Please accept my warmest regards and wishes for your continued success.

Sincerely,

Ramey Herren

LAMAR COLE
Arkansas Activities Association
Bus 372-0383

PHIL BURNS



James Keene, Director

Dana Rothlisberger, Asst. Director

Dave Massey, Graduate Asst.

Marching, Symphonic, Concert Bands - Wind Ensemble - Pep Band

#### Four States Bandmasters Association



Robin Watson - Executive Secretary New Boston High School New Boston, Texas 75570

January 29, 1981 -

John Kunkel Longview High School Eand Longview, Texas

Dear Pete,

Thank you for bringing your wind ensemble to perform January 10 at the F.S.B.A. Convention. I have heard many great comments about your performance from the area band directors. We had over 100 directors and 500 band members involved in our convention. We hope to have you and some of your students continue to participate each year in Four States.

I hope this was a valueable performance for your group and that the remainder of the year will be successful.

Sincerely.

Robin Watson

# Stephen F. Austin State University

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC



#### HALL OF FAME

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FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76107

September 23, 1982

Members of the Band Longview High School Box 3268 Longview, Texas 75601

Dear Band,

As I drove up to the school on Wednesday, September 22nd, the driveway was filled with all of you running over to the practice field, I mean really "going". I thought to myself, "Boy, the last person must get electricuted or something".

I went on into the school, tended to my business, and drove back out. I saw all of you there in formation. I parked and walked over and stood next to Mr. Cooper and watched you practice. Band, I must say that if you give your fans the dedication and determination that you displayed that afternoon, your fans should be very proud of you. I know that sometimes Mr. Kunkel might seem like a D.I., but we need more like him. My comment to Mr. Cooper was, "I hope that my daughters and son will have an opportunity to be able to know what genuine productive discipline is, like you do, because they, in turn, will get to know what success will be".

Band, a lot of people think that the best way is the easy way. Well, it "ain't" so. I see you all puffing and huffing, snapping into place, closing your eyes and wishing you were standing someplace else or lying down in the shade. But knowing that you stuck it out and kept going that extra mile - that's the difference between success and failure. Each day that you keep sticking to it, I promise you that it will pay off in life, because you will stick to it there also. If you get sloppy now, you will see it over and over again the rest of your life. Keep working on that next step, make it sharper and the next note cleaner, and it will show in the future, because it starts right now.

Thank you for your involuntary display of coordinated perserverance. Keep up the good work and have a great year.

My very best to all of you.

Sincerely yours,

David "Smiley" Irvin



11 / 17 / 82

Mr. John Kunkle Longview High School Longview, Texas 75601

Dear Mr. Kunkle and the Longview High School Band,

Congratulations! You people continue to amaze me. You are the banner carriers for the great Bands of this whole area and just keep on turning out fantastic performances.

I know you all work very hard but it really pays off. You are not only the pride of Longview but of all East Texas.

Sincerely,

Band Director

Kilgore College

# Washer pitching

### Longview duo shows expertise in formal competition

By JEFF LOUDY Staff Writer

On the afternoon of Feb. 17, Pete Kunkel and Neil Grant, both of Longview, marched to the center of the Houston Astrodome to defend Gregg County's honor on the field of sport.

It was to be competition of the highest sort, with 50 competitors representing 25

Texas counties.

By the end of the day, Kunkel and Grant, through sheer concentration and skill, were ranked fifth in the state.

In washer pitching.

"The correct term is washer pitching," Grant said. "But we call it washer chunking."

The game of washer chunking is played much like pitching horseshoes with the obvious difference being the equipment.

Players chunk 2½-inch diameter washers at holes 21 feet away. The holes are just slightly larger than the washers and the of the game is to get the washer in the nole.

The washer chunking tournament was sponsored by the Houston Fat Stock Show and while it may be the newest competition on the state circuit, washer chunking's been around for a long time.

"In the rural areas it's been going on for as long as I can remember," Grant said.

"When I was growing up there was a certain season for everything," Kunkel said. Washer chunking came in the early spring, right before baseball.

He said that in some rural counties, washer chunkers gather on courthouse lawns to pass the time of day with their favorite sport.

The beauty of washer chunking, accord-

Staff photo by Mike Gibson

Pete Kunkel, left, and Neil Grant practice washer pitching.

ing to Gregg County's two experts, is that it can be played nearly anywhere anytime.

"We have get-togethers and cookouts and chunk washers till dark," Kunkel said. "It's just something to do — cheap entertainment."

It's also something their wives will tolerate.

"They'd rather us be doing this than

some of the things we do," Grant said.

Kunkel, Longview High School band director, and Grant, of Tatum Music, say that washer chunking's popularity transcends societal lines.

While on a band trip to the Bahamas Kunkel said, he and Grant chunked wash ers with Greek tourists.

And, Kunkel said, it's easy to learn to chunk washers.

"That's why it's such a good game," he said. "Anybody can learn."

But, Grant warns, there is some technique.

"You don't throw it flat," he said. "Pitclit at an angle." That way, when it hits the ground it won't bounce away.

Also, much like horseshoe pitching chunking washers requires a smooth delivery

ery.
"It's just a natural sense of rhythm,
Kunkel said.

The Houston Fat Stock Show was the pair's first formal competition; a competition they feel they might have won.

"We didn't practice enough," Grant saic "We felt we would have won if we'd practiced some more."

They led through the first half of the competition, but a couple of wild throw set them back.

There's always next year, though. An Kunkel and Grant fear the publicit they're getting is going to bring out the challengers.

"We may have to have some playoffs, Kunkel said. "I was hoping we could kee it hid from everyhody."

it hid from everybody.'



Director of Bands

MICHAEL PIERCE Associate Director

Box 13043 - Stephen F. Austin State University Nacogdoches, Texas 75962 - (713) 569-4702

January 21, 1982

Pete Kunkel Director of Bands Longview H.S. Longview, Texas 75601

Dear Pete:

Just heard the news about the phenomonal success of the Longview students at the All-Area tryouts and was so elated to hear of the large number of students who made All-State against the tough competition of the Dallas-Ft. Worth area.

Needless to say we are extremely proud of the way your students have represented the East Texas area and are even more proud of the fact that these fine group of students are taught by our present "Hall of Fame" graduate of Stephen F. Austin.

Please convey my congratulations to your students and that I look forward to seeing and hearing them in the All-State Bands in San Antonio.

Best wishes for your continued success.

Sincerely,

Mel Montgomery

Director of Bands

MM/lw

#### PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, John Kunkel has devoted his life to the world of music through teaching young people; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kunkel has spent (tireless) hours in rehearsals and practices to build one of the finest high school band programs in the nation and has, for fourteen years, lead the Longview High School band to Sweepstakes Awards at UIL Contests and has loved and loyally supported the green and white during those fourteen years; and

WHEREAS, he has served as department head at Longview High School and has been an innspiration to other band directors at Longview High and across the state; and

WHEREAS, he has become a friend, confidante and role model to young people:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mitch Henderson, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Longview, Texas, do hereby PROCLAIM September 6, 1983, as JOHN KUNKEL DAY in Longview, in celebration of his birthday and in honor of this gentleman and his devotion to public education.

IN WITNESS, WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great seal of the City of Longview, Texas, to be affixed, this lst day of September, 1983.

Mitch Henderson

Mayor



## JOHN C. KUNKEL

PRESIDENT

1983

TEXAS BANDMASTERS ASSOCIATION





Mr. Pete Kunkel Director of Bands Longview Public Schools Longview, Texas 75601

Dear Mr. Kunkel:

I am presently a senior in high school and president of the DeKalb High School band. First, let me say how much I admire the great bands of Longview High. I have been watching the last few years of the UIL marching contest on video tape and attended your spring concert last year at Longview. I also have seen your fine band at UIL marching contest for the last four years.

I am planning to pursue a PhD degree in a double major of music education and composition upon my graduation from high school. In the process of planning to become a band director, I have begun my own personal library of band music and recordings. I presently working on expanding my standard military march section. Being from DeKalb, I have come to know many marches and that precision drill marching is the best type. I currently have around one hundred marches in my library but I am having trouble locating some that I wish to have. Mr. Foster, before he retired, told me of the great library you have at Longview and was planning to borrow some of the marches I wanted from you this year, however he left me.

We meet briefly twice this summer. I play tenor saxaphone and your judged me at the Lone Star Band Clinic (First Chair remember?) and again we spoke briefly when you attended one of the rehearsals of the SFA Band Camp Honor Band. I realize with all the kids you come in contact with you probably don't remember me, but I at least wanted you to know we have meet.

Would it be possible for me to borrow a few of your marches overnight so that I may copy the score and parts to them? I will only do the ones which are out of print that I need. I will come to Longview and pick them up and bring them back to you the next day. I will greatly appreciate this and you'll be helping out a future band director.

Thank you for taking time out to read this and I hope to hear from you soon.

Yours truly,

Lins Rhea

Tim Rhea

IN APPRECIATION TO

11

PETE KUNKEL

FOR 18 YEARS OF
OUTSTANDING SERVICE AS
LOBO BAND DIRECTOR

LONGVIEW HIGH SCHOOL

STAFF FACULTY AND STUDENTS

1986

Presented To Mr. Fohn "Pete" Kninkel A CARDO For Your Hard Work and Dedication . To Make The Royal Braves Band "A WINNING TRADITION" May 19, 1990

IN HONÒR & RECOGNITION QE\_\_\_\_

11

JOHN "PETE" KUNKEL

FOR YOUR DEDICATION AS OUR

BAND DIRECTOR

FRIEND

THE YOUNG MEN

& DARLIN'S

1993-94 PANOLA BAND

10000000

# TEXAS MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION REGION XXI



. Presented To

Mr.: John Kunkel:

January 22, 1994

For His Leadership and Dedication As
REGION BAND CHA:IRMAN

1986-1993



# School guides will not motivate

If children were writing the rules to motivate adults toward excellence, I doubt if they could ever write a law-as wacky as House Bill 72.

Only a pack of Ph.D.s could ever dream up a plan to motivate children based on the idea that the way to encourage children to love to learn is to take away the very things they love most about school.

I've had about how a bellyful of the sanctimonious tough-talk from professional educators about what education is and what education is not.

Education is not only learning how to execute an algebraic formula. It isn't only diagramming sentences or memorizing how a bill becomes a law.

Given enough time, any idiot can memorize the captial of Rhode Island, but what good is it to have a head full of facts if you haven't got enough confidence to put facts to productive, creative use?

Confidence, pride, social skills — whatever you call that intangible ability to do things well — is what you learn by being a member of a band, choir, drill team, drama club... yes, even a football team.

#### Something learned

Who knows? Learning how to speak before crowds by participating in school plays may give a student enough self-confidence to try other things — like reading, writing, or arithmetic.

who react well to a steady diet of negative incentives. Asking high school students to give up band and football until they conquer mathematics makes as much sense as asking Texas legislators to give up booze and sex until they write perfect laws.

For kids, the magic grade is 70.

Any kid who makes a grade below 70 on "real" subjects, such as chemistry and English, gets kicked out of so-called "extra" activities for six weeks.

One of the problems with this law is how it punishes indiscriminately. Suppose you were in a play and the lead actress couldn't perform because she made 69 on a history test.

#### **Another question**

If the play is going to be canceled anyway, why should you break your neck studying to pass all your classes?

While it's true that some students are able to improve their grades enough to get back into the band or the pep squad, some aren't, and those are the ones we never hear about.

I have no doubt that tightening controls on extracurricular activities will force average students to make better grades, but not all students can be molded into the State Board of Education's image of 70 as acceptability.

Some kids can't make 70 on a test, no matter how much pressure you bring to bear on them. In fact, the only thing threats produce in some students is lousier grades.

If House Bill 72 had been the law in Texas when I was in high school, I probably would have dropped out of school and become a hobo.

#### Band to the rescue

You see, I couldn't make 70 on a math test if my life depended on it, but what I never managed to learn in math classes, I made up for in band.

John Kunkle, a hard-driving band director, taught me enough about pursuing excellence to last a lifetime. Every single day of the year, he marched us up and down a football team, teaching us to do our individual and collective best.

People who've had just one teacher like John Kunkle are lucky.

The number of teachers who have both a love of their subject matter and a love for their students is so small that you could fit the entire population in the state of Rhode Island.

It doesn't matter if they teach trigonometry or tidddlywinks. A good professor teaches much more than the subject matter. A good teacher helps a student love to learn.

Threats and negative incentives will produce a population of future Texans who can operate on a passing level. But we are going to need more than mediocre minds to run this state.

Excellence can't be mass produced. It has to be cultivated, in both regular and irregular ways, with

Tuesday Feb 12 SA Express





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September 21, 1994

Mr. John Kunkel Panola College Rt. 4, Box 289-A Carthage, Texas 75633

#### Dear John:

On behalf to the Board of Directors of the Texas Bandmasters Association, it is a privilege to inform you that you will be recognized as the TBA BANDMASTER OF THE YEAR at this summer's clinic in San Antonio, Texas, July 23-25.

As you know, Texas Bandmasters Association is the oldest and largest organization of music educators of its type in the world. This summer's meeting will be the fortyeighth annual convention in San Antonio, and you will be the forty-first recipient of TBA's Bandmaster of the Year.

Pete, it is a singular honor to be serving as President of TBA when you are our Bandmaster of the Year! You have contributed so much to our profession, and your reputation spans the entire state of Texas and beyond. Your bands in Hemphill, Cleveland, Forest Park, and Longview set the standard for the rest of us in East Texas. It is a personal privilege to be in the same profession as Pete Kunkel--we all have learned so much from you.

Congratulation for this honor! No one better represents our fraternity of band directors than you, and we all look forward to this opportunity to recognize your outstanding career.

Sincerely,

Jim Hagood President

CC: Al Struchio

World's Largest State Band Association Building Better Bands!

\* 47th Annual New Music and Marching Band Clinic July 24-27, 1994 Convention Center San Antonio, Texas

### **East Texas**

# Kunkel named bandmaster of year by TBA

By Mike Elswick East Texas Editor

John Kunkel, band director at Panola College and former director of Longview's Marching Lobo Band for 17 years, has been selected Bandmaster of the Year by the association representing school band leaders from across the state.

Jim Hagood, president of the Texas Bandmasters Association, said the group is the oldst and largest organization of music educators in the world.

"(Kunkel has) contributed so much to our profession," Hagood said. His "reputation spans the entire state of Texas and beyond."

Hagood cited Kunkel's tenure at Longview, Hemphill, Cleveland and Forest Park as setting the standard for directors across the region.

"No one better represents our fraternity of band directors,"

Hagood said.

While Kunkel is winding up a career that has spanned 41 years at public institutions in Texas, he said his 17 years at Longview were the highlight, and the recognition his Lobo Bands received was a big factor in his selection for the TBA honor.

"We had some great years in Longview," Kunkel said Friday. When he was LHS band director, the bands won 17 consecutive sweepstakes awards at state University Interscholastic League competition.

But that was just part of continuing a winning tradition. In fact, that streak of taking top state honors for Longview High bands is now nearing 50 years, he said.

."I become more impressed with

the Longview band as the years go by," Kunkel said. "My 17



Kunkel

years in Longview was the highlight of my career, Kunkel said. "You couldn't buy that experience with a million dollars. We had a lot of success stories and a great bunch of kids."

For the past seven years he has been band director at Panola College in Carthage. And, while it has been a big change from working with high school bands with 200 or more students to junior college bands with 50, it has been a pleasant transition, he said.

Kunkel said he has been conducting workshops and clinics throughout the area.

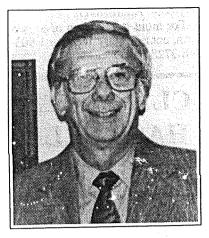
When he retires at mid-term, Kunkel plans to continue to do clinic work with area bands.

"I've really enjoyed my years at Panola, it's atmosphere," he said. a nice

Throughout his tenure in the band directing profession, Kunkel has been active in the Bandmasters Texas Association.

He said membership has provided an opportunity to attend state conventions every summer, network with other directors and continue learning. "This is a really unique profession," he said, one he would not have traded for anything.





Pete Kunkel

### PC's Kunkel named top director

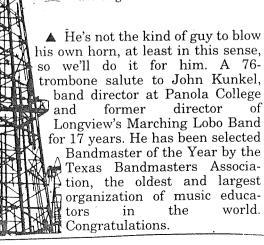
Panola College band director John "Pete" Kunkel has been singled out as the state's outstanding band director.

The Texas Bandmasters Association, an organization of college and high school band directors, has named Kunkel Bandmaster of the Year. He was presented with the award at the TBA convention in San Antonio this summer.

Kunkel, who served in 1982-83 as present of the TBA, says he is honored to have been chosen by his colleagues for the award.

"To receive this is really a great honor," he said. "I'm really thrilled about it."

Kunkel this year celebrated his 41st year in TBA and in education. He began his career as a band director at Hemphill High School, moving on to Cleveland for 10 years and Beaumont for three. He spent 17 years at Longview High School before coming to Panola College as director of the concert and stage bands.



July 29, 1995

Mr. John "Pete" Kunkel Rt. 4, Box 289-A Carthage, TX 75633

Dear Mr. Kunkel,

I cannot describe the pride I felt when I heard you had been awarded the 1995 Bandmaster of the Year. It was only made more complete by seeing the tremendous show of love and admiration from your colleagues at TBA.

It is possible that I have never told you how much you had to do with my becoming a band director. I have so much to thank you for, and I am afraid I have let a lot of time go by without ever saying so.

Thank you for making me play rhythmically accurate (something I still worry about!)

Thank you for expecting me to play expressively.

Thank you for playing such great pieces of music with us--it was in band that I met Shostakovich, Bernstein, and Wagner.

Thanks for letting me write for the band--how lucky I was to have the instant feedback that orchestration students would love to have. You encouraged me to pursue this, and I appreciate it.

Thank you for holding me accountable for my actions.

Thank you for being a strong role model for all of us in the band.

There was never any doubt in my mind that something very special was happening in the Longview High School band: those days were musically fulfilling for me. It was inevitable that the entire state would recognize the standard of excellence you established, not only for Longview, but for all of East Texas. I have always been proud to say that I was your student, but that pride was compounded by seeing the entire membership of TBA rise to thank you for all you have done. Congratulations!

With great admiration,

Fred J. Allen

TEXAS BANDMASTERS ASSOCIATION BANDMASTER OF THE YEAR 1995







:DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

OUTSTANDING MUSIC ALUMNUS

1997

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John-"Pete": Kunket

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John "Arte" Kunkel

in appreciation for · your 11 years of hard work and dedication with the. Panola College Band.



97-98



STAGE BANDS & CONCERT BANDS

# THE TEXAS BANDMASTERS ASSOCIATION 50TH ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION AWARD OF APPRECIATION

PRESENTED TO

#### JOHN AND MOZELLE KUNKLE

FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATION
TO THE BAND DIRECTORS OF TEXAS

AS

PRESIDENT 1983
BANDMASTER OF THE YEAR 1995

JULY 28, 1997

# A Salute to John "Pete" Kunkel

Guest Conductor for Lobo Band

hen John Kunkel entered the band program in the White Oak school system, he had no idea that he was setting the course for his life, or for changing his name. Since that sixth grade year, the flute and piccolo player has been called "Piccolo Pete" or just plain "Pete" by the thousands of people his life has touched.

John "Pete" Kunkel received his Bachelor of Music degree in 1954 and the Master of Music Education degree in 1955. Pete and his wife Mozelle met and married when they were students at Stephen F. Austin. Mozelle is an SFA graduate with a major in Home Economics. They have two daughters: Kathy, who lives in San Francisco, and Debbie Rogers of Longview. They also have two grandchildren: Justin and Megan Rogers.

Pete recently completed 43 years of teaching in Texas schools with experience at Nacogdoches Junior High School, Hemphill High School, Cleveland High School, Forest Park High School in Beaumont, Longview High School and Panola College.

Pete was High School Band Director and Music Supervisor of Longview ISD for 17 years. Under his leadership, the band won 17 consecutive UIL Sweepstakes Awards. His band members earned over 2,000 Class I medals at UIL Solo and Ensemble Contests and he placed 72 students in the Texas High School All-State Band (nine in just one year, 1982). His band won the Outstanding Band Award at the Virginia Beach Music Festival in 1970 and returned in 1971 as the Festival Honor Band. His bands received superior rating at every festival and contest in which they participated, including Six Flags Over Georgia (two years), the Mexico City Band Festival (two years), and the Florida World Music Festival.

During most of his years of teaching, Pete has been active in UIL and TMEA on both the regional and state levels. In 1981, he received the prestigious "Hall of Fame Award" presented by Kappa Kappa Psi of the Department of Music at SFA for the Outstanding Educator in instrumental Music. He is past president of the Texas Bandmasters Association (1982-83), an organization of which he has been a member for nearly 40 years, and in 1994-95, he was named Texas Bandmaster of the Year.

Pete was the flute instructor at the first SFA Band Camp 45 years ago. He taught at the camp until 1986.

His memberships in professional organizations include: Texas Bandmasters Association, Texas Music Educators Association, Texas State Teachers Association, Texas Junior College Teachers Association, and Phi Beta Mu International Band Fraternity.

#### RESOLUTION

Adopted January 26, 1998

WHEREAS, Mr. Pete Kunkel has served Panola College as Band Director and Teacher from 1986 to 1997; and

WHEREAS, he has effectively discharged his duties and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kunkel has been loyal to and promoted the institution and served beyond his required duties; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kunkel has shown special concern for his students and their welfare both as a teacher and as band director; and

WHEREAS, he worked to continue to improve his skills and to improve his profession by maintaining membership in professional and civic organizations; and

WHEREAS, he will leave Panola College, December 19, 1997, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the members of the Panola College Board of Trustees go on record expressing their appreciation to Mr. Pete Kunkel for his interest in and loyal support of the institution; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be entered in the official minutes of the Panola College Board of Trustees and that a copy be presented to Mr. Kunkel.

Attested:

Dr. Dennis Golden, Chairman

**Board of Trustees** 

Dr. William Edmonson, President

Panola College

# Longview High School Band

## University Interscholastic League Comment Sheets

# Seventeen Years of Sweepstakes

1969-70 through 1985-86