

Welcome to my digital scrapbook. I've included, in chronological order, events that are meaningful to me that represent the many students I've taught through the years. I wish to thank Phi Beta Mu and TMEA for this great honor. I've been blessed with many talented and hardworking young musicians, and they are the ones who truly deserve this recognition...I especially thank all of them.

I really like this picture, as I think it represents my passion for teaching and conducting. It was taken in 1986 by band graduate Bradley Wilson when I was at Westlake HS. I also like it, as my hair was still dark without photoshopping. Since both of my children graduated from Permian HS, and since Jean likes the MOJO picture better, I was outvoted on the choice of pictures for my front page. I apologize to any of my former Lee HS students who might see it...I hope you know how special you will always be to me!

Finally, thank you for looking. I hope that in doing so, you'll get a sense of who I am and my sense of humor. I also hope you'll get a sense of my teaching, my love of bands and band music, and especially my love for my family, of which thousands of former students are a part.



It must begin with family. Here are my dad, mom and sister, Beth, who is 8 years my junior and played clarinet and twirled. Neither of our parents were musically trained, as they grew up during the Great Depression followed by WWII. They loved music, however, and it was always present by phonograph, radio or my dad whistling. I can still hear "Oh that Strawberry Roan." It was a wonderful time.



Wow...look at those hand positions! I remember it being heavy for a 4th grader...another good reason to not start beginners that young.



1955-56 Woodrow Wilson Elementary School Band, grades 4-6. I'm on the right end of the 2nd row. That's my oldest friend, Jim Barnard, next to me - playing a metal clarinet. There must be at least 10 in this band. What a sound that must have been!



From my 1960-61 Robert E. Lee JHS yearbook - my 9th grade year.
Hall of Fame member Joe DiCosimo was my band director.

Looks like I'm 2nd chair to
Randy Holmes...probably because
Mr. D didn't like my Fabian haircut!



First Row: From inside left—Pam King, Thomas Warren, Skip Warren, Sally McKnight, Marieke Long, Debra Sublett. Second Row—Martha Pattillo, Marilyn Davenport, Larry Veale, Marvin Branson, John Wiley, Steven Spidell, Billy Ragsdale, Kermit Koen, Randy Williams, Larry Barton, Ralph Bradford. Third Row—Beverly Langley, Jane Heaton, Kay Brooks, Judy Mercer, Carolyn Osborne, Carole Peeples, Melody Geyer, Cheryl Forman, Gary Hankhouse, Don Rader, Brenda Nickens, Brenda Thompson, Molly Cornutt. Fourth Row—Barbara Zimmerman, Calvin Calloway, Donna Rake, Lonna Gillin, Mauna Davidson, Suzette Searle, Jo Ellen Duncan, Linda Stevens, Martha Morris, Pam Redmond, Pat Fischer, Dale Gallimore, Helen Moffitt, Wayne Lemons, Phillip Smith, James Nediffer, Jim Barnard, Gerald Carter, Charlotte McDonald, Jerry Johnson, Glen Alleman, Wesley Willhoite, David Edgerton, Doug Skaggs, Van Ragsdale, Randy Holmes. Fifth Row—Kenneth Lemons, Mark Brown, Terry Scoggins, Morris Johnson, Jackie Young, Kaye Forkel, Steve Palmitier, Kenneth Baxter, Mr. DiCosimo. Sixth Row—Charles Yahne, David Wilks, Tommy Thompson, Emmett Saltzman, James Allen, Kenneth Brewer, Charles Graham, James Winkleblack, George Shelton, George Bullard, Sharon Hackley, Gayle Gallemore, LaNita Fenton, Johnny Elder. Officers—President, Martha Pattillo; Vice-President, Marilyn Davenport; Secretary, Van Ragsdale.

I remember being Drum Major, but I'm listed as a twirler...surprising...my Little Joe Flips & Time Tosses were lousy! Now you get a better look at my haircut...and if you remember Fabian, you're as old as I am!



Twirlers

Van Ragsdale

Brenda Nickens

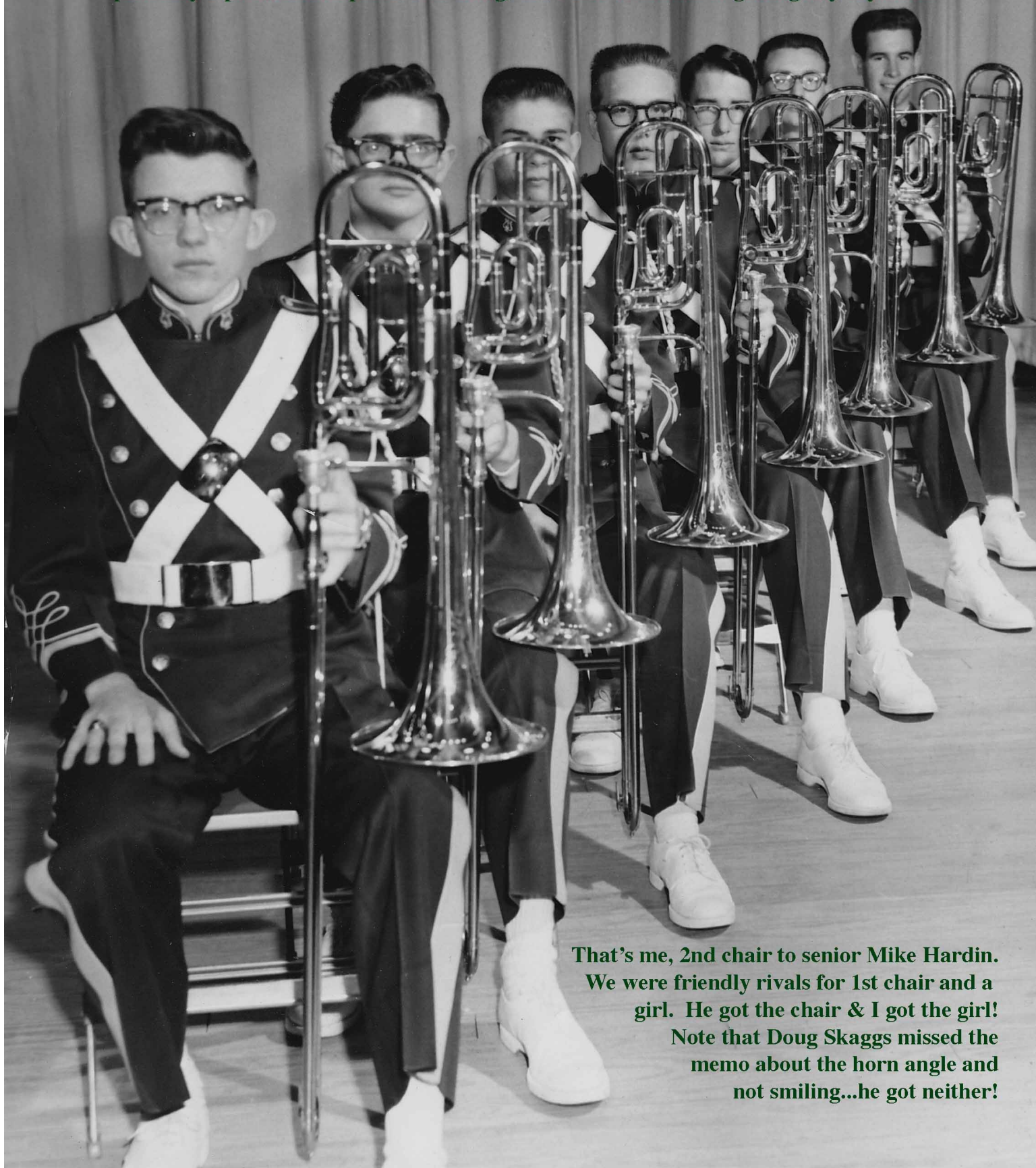
Beverly Langley

Brenda Thompson

Donna Rake

Rebel Band

1962-63 - my junior year at Pampa HS. Bill Tregoe, band director my sophomore year, had moved to Lubbock to work for Earl Ray Music Co. and Fred Stockdale had taken his place. Both are members of the Hall of Fame. Note we're all playing King 4B silver bell trombones... probably a promotional picture for King, but I don't remember getting any royalties!



That's me, 2nd chair to senior Mike Hardin.
We were friendly rivals for 1st chair and a girl. He got the chair & I got the girl!
Note that Doug Skaggs missed the memo about the horn angle and not smiling...he got neither!

March, 1965 - my Freshman year at Eastern New Mexico University. This is from the annual band tour program. Note, I'm 2nd chair trombone (on the left, 2nd riser) and featured in the trombone trio "Holiday for Trombones" by David Rose. Be sure to read my additional notes below.

The Concert Band

The Concert Band of Eastern New Mexico University, making its seventeenth annual tour, is one of the most widely-known and appreciated bands throughout the Southwest. Annually, the group presents a score of concerts. Engagements have included two appearances in Chihuahua, Mexico, four at El Paso, Texas, Sun Carnival, three concerts for conventions of the Music Educators National Conference, Southwest Division, and one for the National Convention of the American Bandmasters Association. Members of the band are chosen by audition and must meet stiff competition to win places. Many former members of the organization are rapidly becoming known as outstanding band directors in public schools.

The Band Director



As director of bands and associate professor in woodwinds at Eastern New Mexico University, Floren Thompson is recognized throughout the Midwest and Southwest as an outstanding band conductor, adjudicator, and clinician.

A native of Missouri, he received his bachelor of science degree from the Northeast Missouri State Teachers College, Kirksville, and his master of arts degree from the State University of Iowa. He has had further study at Iowa toward the doctor's degree. Mr. Thompson has studied with such well-known teachers as Russ Howland, Himie Voxman, and Eleanor Cisco Leek. During World War II he was principal clarinetist with the Thirteenth Armored Division Band.

He has served as grand president of Kappa Kappa Psi, national college band fraternity; secretary-treasurer for six years of the New Mexico Music Educators Association; and is now President of the Southwest Division of C.B.D.N.A.



It was common for college bands to tour a full week at high schools in the 1960s. We began with a Sunday concert on campus, then began the tour on Monday. Note the varied program and the tour schedule. Mr. Thompson was a master at programming, with each concert featuring at least one solo or ensemble. Mr. T would check each morning as we loaded the buses, and the soloist/ensemble with the most blood-shot eyes played the 8:00 or 8:30 concert...it was always the trombone trio...for four years!

Program

Itinerary

CLASSICAL AND STANDARD

Fantasia for Band	Giannini
Symphony for Band	Gould
Tulsa	Gillis
Canzona	Mennin
Miniature Set for Band	White
Liebestod, from Opera "Tristan and Isolde"	Wagner-Bainum

MODERN AND POPULAR

Fantasia on Dixie	Emmett-Dragon
Dixieland Front and Center	Warrington
La Bamba de Vera Cruz, Mexican Dance	Tucci-Hunsberger

SOLOS AND ENSEMBLES

→ Holiday for Trombones	Rose-Herfurth
Fred Ratliff, Van Ragsdale, Charles Love	
Murillo	Terschak-Putnik
Janet Zeisler, Flute	
Trumpets on Parade	Nagel
Jesse Phillips, Dick Echols, Ralph King	
Fantasia di Concerto	Boccalari
Clifton Otts, Baritone	
Concerto for Horn	Hermann
William George, French Horn	

MARCHES

Jubilee	Kenny
The Purple Carnival	Alford
Bombasto	Farrar
Freedom Seven	Udell
Anchors Aweigh	Zimmerman
The Stars and Stripes Forever	Sousa

MARCH 7

Eastern New Mexico University

MARCH 8

Morton High School
Littlefield High School
Muleshoe High School

MARCH 9

Lovington High School
Hobbs High School
Jal High School

MARCH 10

Artesia High School
Hagerman High School

MARCH 11

Eastwood High School, El Paso
Bel Air High School, El Paso
Ysleta High School, El Paso

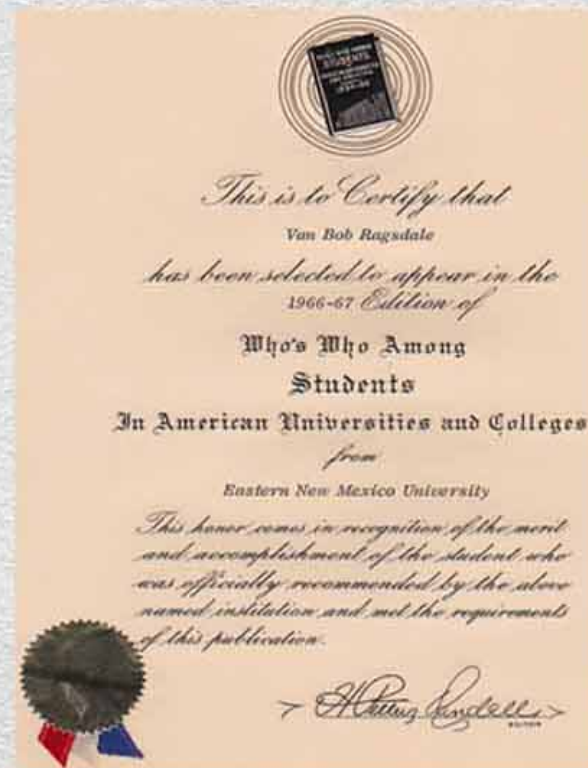
MARCH 12

Alamogordo High School
Ruidoso High School

From the "Who's Who" section of the 1967 ENMU yearbook "The Silver Pack"



Junior, Van Ragsdale, has served as treasurer of Kappa Kappa Psi, the Kappa Sigma pledge trainer, Junior Class president, a member of the University Brass Choir, and vice president of the University Band. Van has also been a Yucca Beau. He is majoring in instrumental music education with a minor in trombone.



Jean Parker was a vocal major from Santa Fe, NM who I met in the music listening room at ENMU. We began dating my junior year, and I recruited her for the band after she told me she had played flute through high school. Jean has been an amazing “co-director” throughout my career. After 45 years of marriage, I’m still paying her back for standing me up on our first date!



October, 1968 - South Eastern NM Marching Contest - Hobbs
My first band contest & the first trophy of the new school
Yucca JHS - Clovis, NM - Division 1



1968-69 - Yucca JHS - Clovis, NM - my first band. We started with 29 kids, but I found some more in the halls of the brand new school, and we marched 42 at marching contest. Opened show with "Love is Blue," followed by "Confidence" (NFL theme on CBS back then), Trio from "Daughters of Texas," and closed with "Giant." For Concert Contest, we played "La Banda Nascente" (Sbraccia), "A Stravinsky Suite" (Erickson, arr.), and "A Festival Prelude" (Reed). Funny how some things are unforgettable!

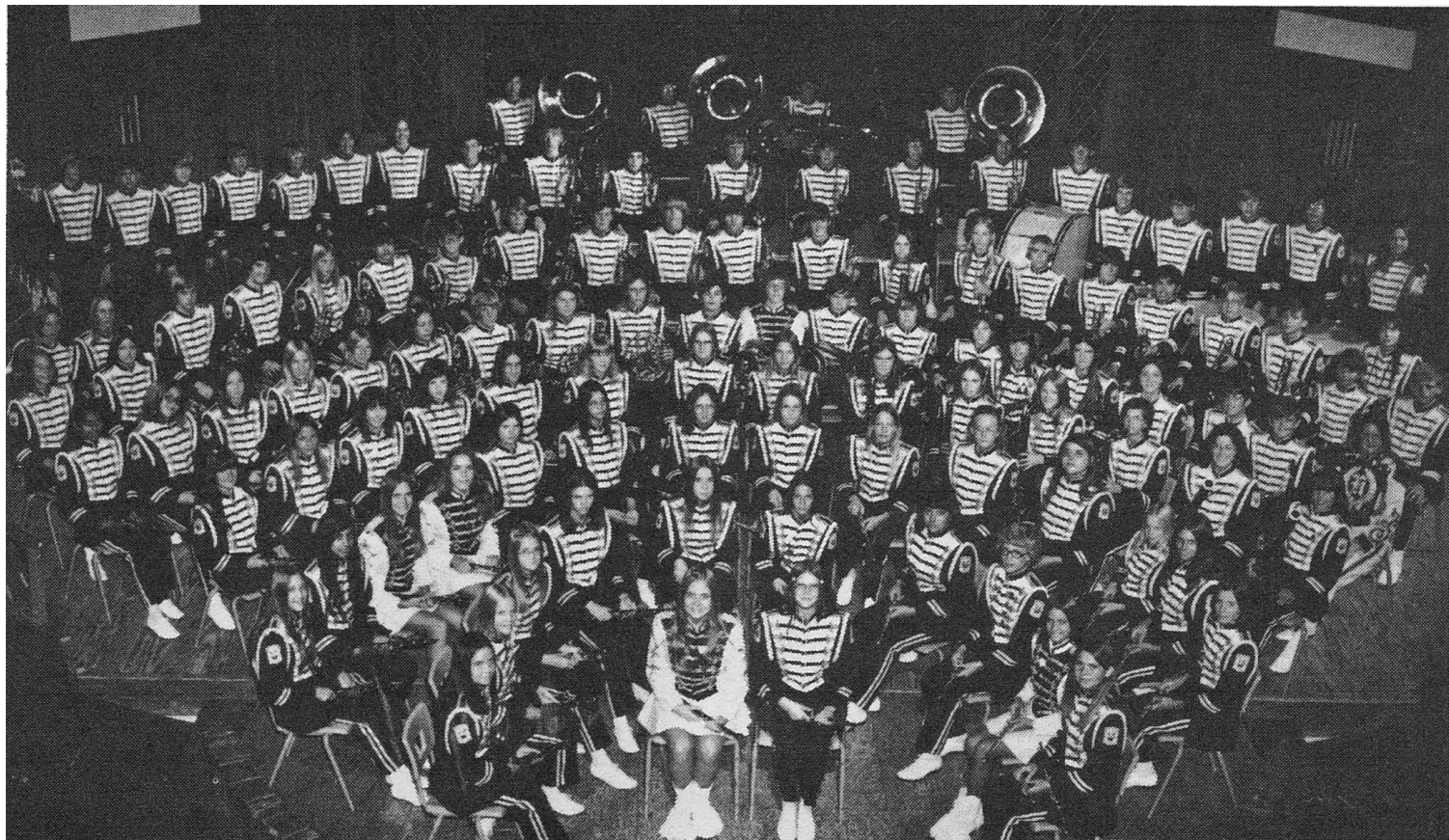


1968, Yucca JHS - ENMU Homecoming Parade - 2nd place...yeah, but Dick Echols band at Gattis JHS was always incredible. He was, and is, a great friend and mentor. Holding the trophy is Band President and saxophonist Gina Flores. To her left is V-P Jimmy Baseler who played cornet. The tall guy to Gina's right is Robert Simmons, best tuba player I ever had. He was NM All-State 5 years...1st chair in the All-State Concert Band in the 8th grade, then overall 1st chair the next 4 years. In the 9th grade, he played the "Rondo" from Mozart's Horn Concerto with the Clovis HS Band at Midwest and brought the house down. The program didn't state that he was a 9th grader...the audience might have torn the chandeliers off the ballroom of the Sherman House had they known that! Robert was the Drum Major for our marching band (blew the whistles, anyway). He's been a successful middle middle school band director in Midland since 1989.



1970-71 Yucca JHS Band - around 75 now, with a cadet band of 25 or so. This band played several movements from “Carmina Burana,” the “March” from Jager’s 3rd Suite, and I don’t remember what else. Talented bunch of students!





Hood Junior High Class CCC TMEA Honor Band 1974

BAND DIVISION

By
Eddie Galvan

The John B. Hood Junior High School Band of Odessa is the 1974 Class CCC Honor Band. Under the direction of Van B. Ragsdale, the Hood Band is one of several outstanding bands in Odessa and West Texas.

Odessa bands have long been recognized as among the finest in Texas. In 1964, the Permian High School Band, directed by J. R. McEntyre, was chosen the Class AAAA Honor Band. In 1969, the Bonham Junior High School Band, James I. Nail, director, was chosen the CCC Honor Band. In 1971, the Hood Band, then directed by Wayne Maxwell, was runner-up in Class CCC Honor Band competition.

These and many other accomplishments come as a result of the quality of music education in Odessa. General music instruction in Ector County begins in the first grade and is conducted by highly-qualified music specialists. Formal band instruction begins in the seventh grade and continues through high school.

Hood Junior High School has an enrollment of nearly 900. Of these, 200 are in the band program. The Performing Band, which represents the school in all U.I.L. activities, consists of 120 students. These students rehearse for one and one-half hour each day and have one section rehearsal each week.

Through the years, the Hood Band has developed a great sense of pride in its accomplishments. It has become a consistent Sweepstakes winner, and has not received less than a first division from any judge in marching and concert competition for the past seven years. This past year, in addition to earning Sweepstakes and receiving ratings of I, I+, and I++ for its U.I.L. performance of *Marche des Parachutists*, *Couri Festival*, and *Mvt. III of La Fiesta Mexicana*, the band also placed 40 members in the Odessa All-City Junior High Band.

In addition to band activities, many band students are also student body leaders. The president of the Student Council is a member of the band. Over one-third of the National Junior Honor Society is composed of band members. Band students also participate in all sports, drama, and other school activities.

Long recognized as a major strength of the Odessa band program is a high level of cooperation among band directors through team-teaching. Assisting

at Hood Junior High on a week-to-week basis are Permian High School directors Charles Nail and Terry Milligan, Bonham Junior High director Andy Anderson, and Nimitz Junior High director Ed Handley. One woodwind teacher, Carol Jessup, teaches some 60 private students throughout Odessa each week.

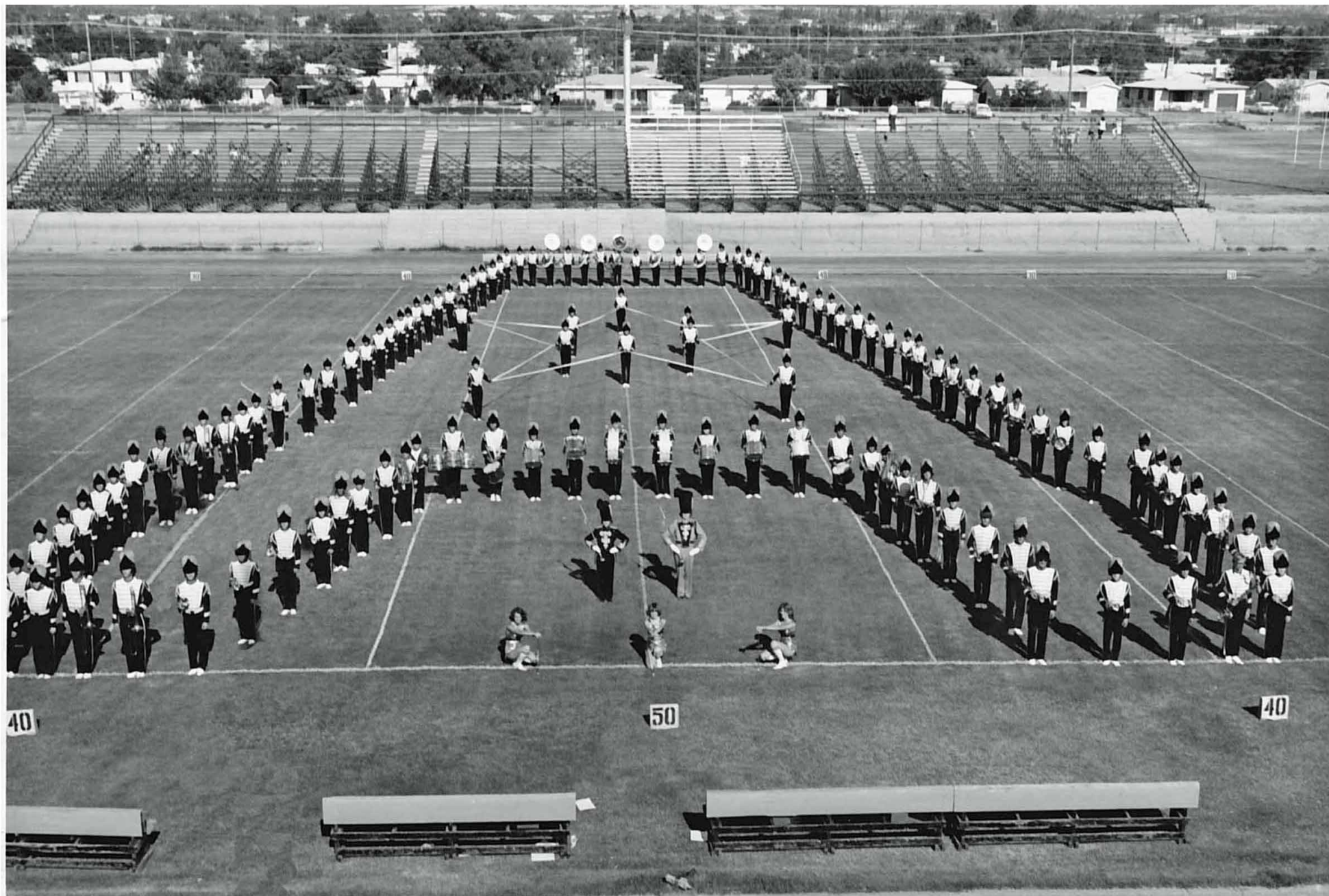
Before coming to Odessa, Ragsdale taught for three years in Clovis, New Mexico. While there, his bands earned Sweepstakes trophies, and in 1971 received both the Outstanding Marching and Outstanding Concert Awards at the Greater Southwest Music Festival in Amarillo, Texas. Ragsdale is a graduate of Pampa High School and received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, New Mexico. He is a member of TMEA, TBA, TSTA, Kappa Kappa Psi, Kappa Sigma, is listed in Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities, and is listed in The World Who's Who of Musicians. This is his third year to teach at Hood Junior High.

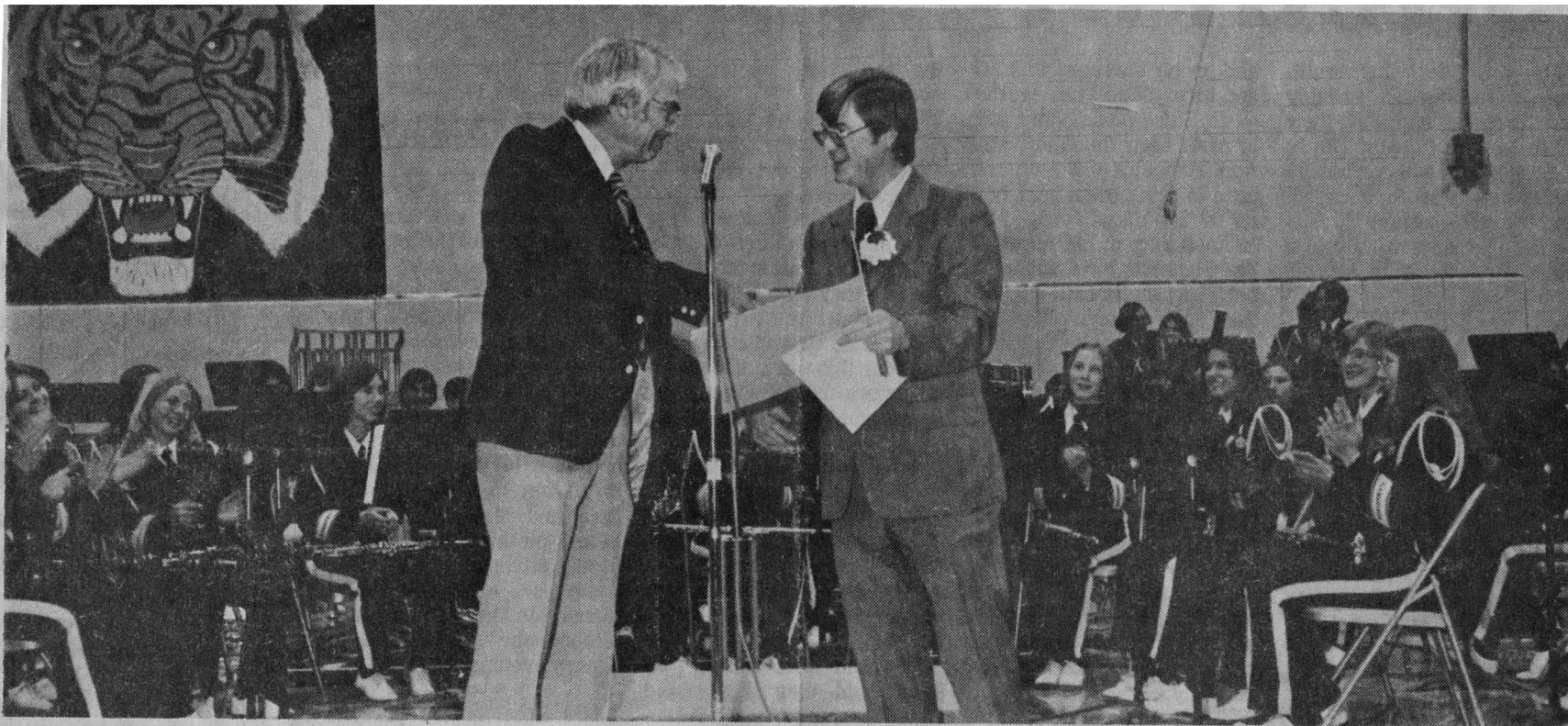
The Ector County I.S.D. includes three high schools and six junior high schools. William Holm is Superintendent of Schools, William Clark is Principal of Hood Junior High, and J. R. McEntyre, immediate past-president of TMEA, is Coordinator of Music.

This is the Hood Band from 1972-73. Their recording is the one that won the Honor Band with a unanimous vote by the judges of 5-0. They were perhaps the most talented and hardest working group I ever had. For contest, they played "March of the Belgian Paratroopers" (Leemans/Wiley), "Court Festival" (Latham), and the "Carnival" (mvt. 3) from "La Fiesta Mexicana" (Reed). The next year (Honor Band year), we played "The Gallant Seventh" (Sousa/Fennell), mvts. 1&2 from "Lincolnshire Posy" (Grainger), and "Italian In Algiers" (Rossini/Cailliet). The following year, was "Joyce's 71st NY Regiment March" (Boyer/Lake), mvt. 2 from Persichetti's "Symphony #6," and "Finale, Symphony #4" (Tchaikowsky/Safranek). That band was the most technically proficient of my junior highs. I chased so many notes with a condensed score of the Tchaik, when Cindy Bulloch played it 20 years later at Nimitz JHS, I made her a full score. That edition is now published by Carl Fischer. Even today I love looking at these kids' faces....they were so fun to work with and be around. They demonstrated my deep belief in Merton's Self-Fulfilling Prophecy: the limits of students are often only placed on them by adults.



Fall, 1975 - Alamogordo HS (New Mexico) - my first high school band and a great bunch of kids. I got this idea at a marching clinic done by the Auburn University marching band director during the marching band workshop in 1975 at the WTSU Band Camp. In those days, we band directors did our own drill writing (we called it charting). It was part of the job, so we all went to clinics and workshops to learn the latest marching techniques. Dean Killion from Texas Tech would also show films at TBA and diagram the most innovative drills. Two summers later (1977), Gary Garner brought Larry Moore from Kentucky to the WT workshop, and corps style marching began seriously in Texas. Those were great days!





Clyde Barnes, Alamogordo High School English teacher, left, presents Band Director Van Bob Ragsdale with the mayor's proclamation declaring April 3 "Van Ragsdale

Day" in conjunction with the Southwestern District Music Festival here.

Surprise proclamation

'Ragsdale Day' slated

Van Bob Ragsdale didn't know what to expect last night when his musical program was interrupted.

Ragsdale, symphonic band director at Alamogordo High School, stood silent while English teacher Clyde Barnes read a city proclamation making Saturday, April 3, "Van Ragsdale Day" in

conjunction with the Southwestern District Band Festival to be held at the local school.

A standing ovation and cheers from the band followed.

Barnes read from the proclamation: "No event could be more deserving of recognition that the request

by the music students that a time be set aside for them to show their gratitude and respect for Van Ragsdale.

"Therefore ... the city calls upon our citizens to join in saluting Van Ragsdale and in expressing our grateful appreciation for his dedication to our community, and further calls upon our citizens to

attend the district music contest being held in our city as further support of the joint accomplishments of Van Ragsdale and the music students."

A smile spread across Ragsdale's face.

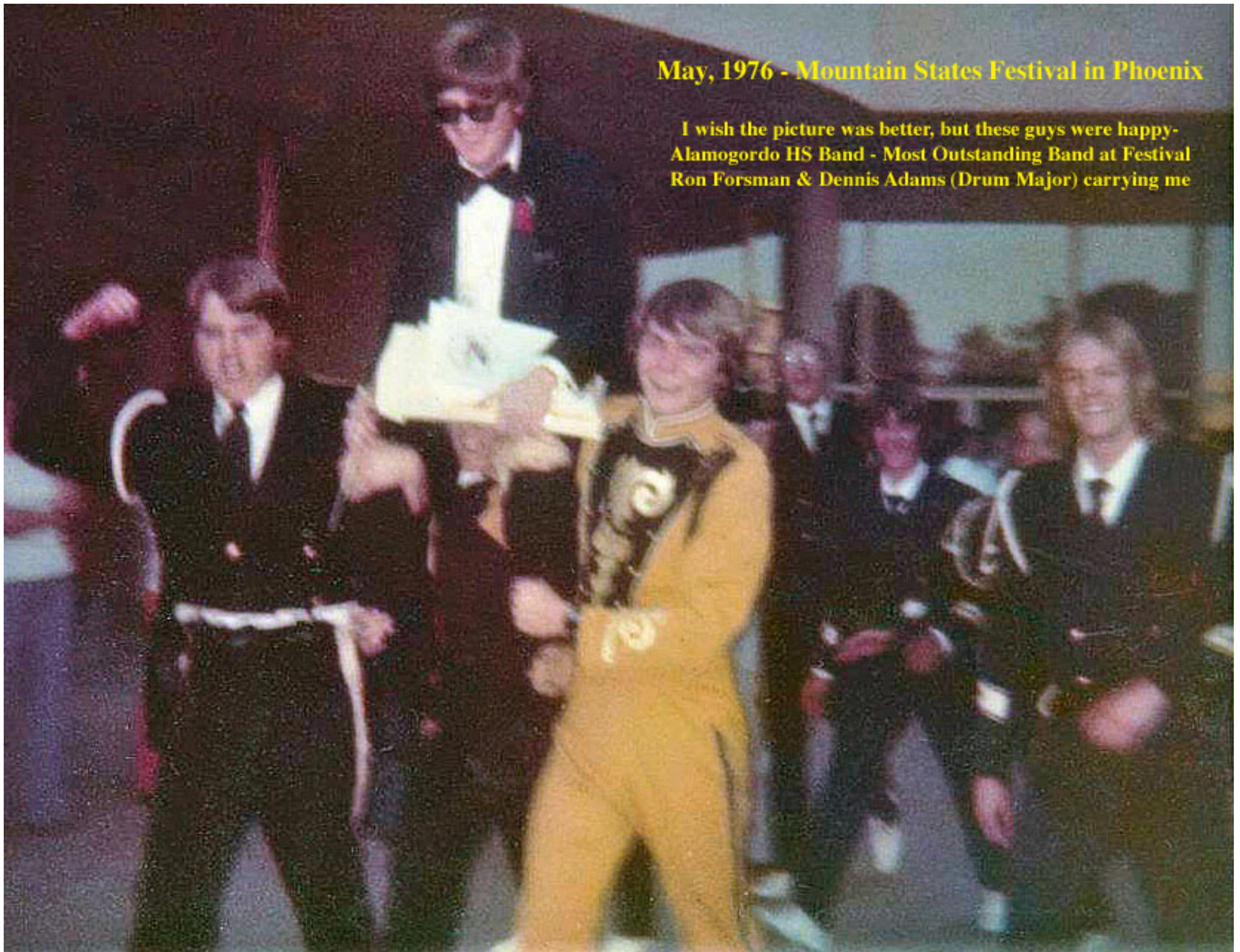
"Band members were responsible for getting the proclamation prepared for the surprise presentation," of-

ficials who joined in preparation of the event noted. "Ragsdale apparently has won the hearts of the students, who will be competing for top ratings again Saturday."

Under Ragsdale's direction, more students have won places in the All-State Band than ever before, the spokesman said.

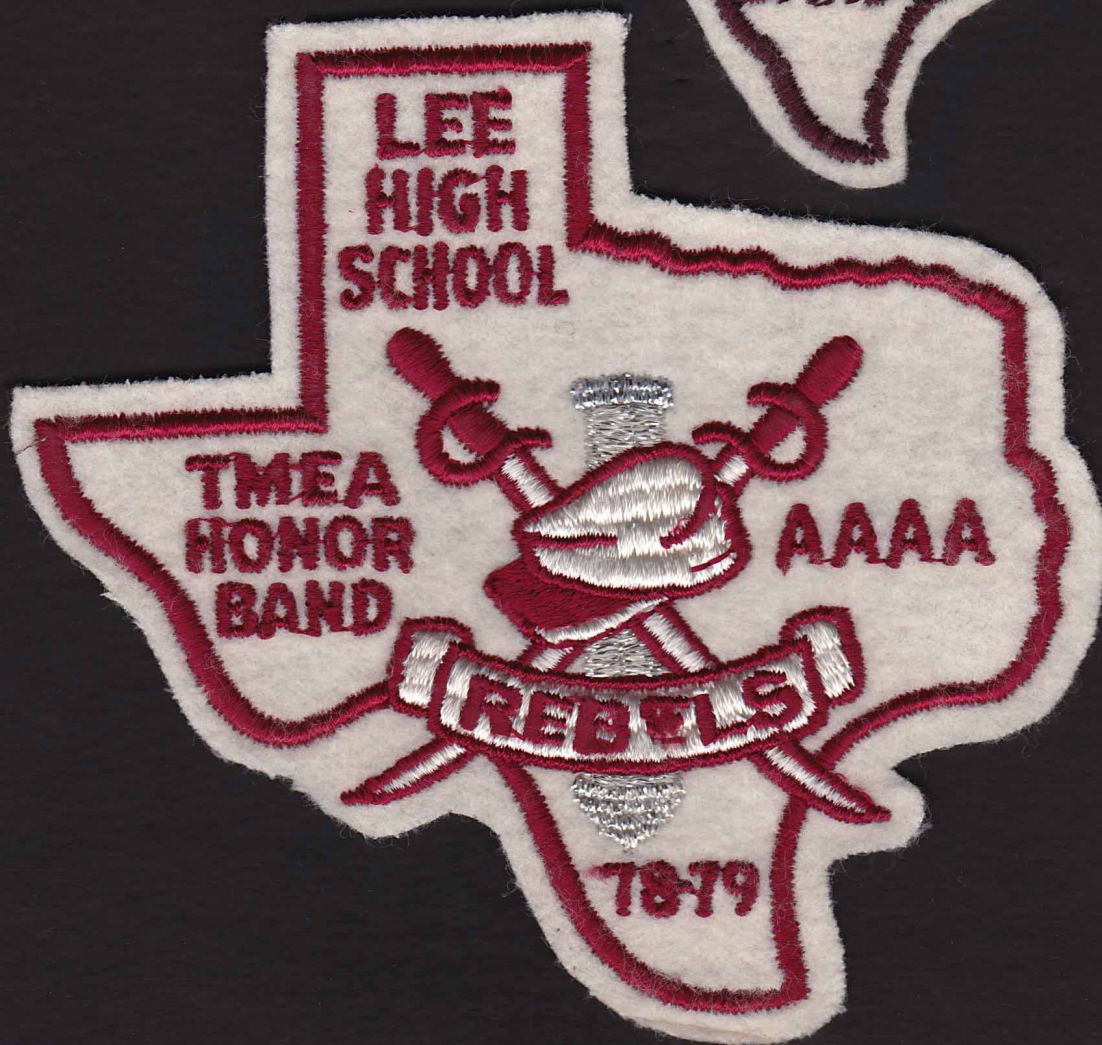
May, 1976 - Mountain States Festival in Phoenix

**I wish the picture was better, but these guys were happy-
Alamogordo HS Band - Most Outstanding Band at Festival
Ron Forsman & Dennis Adams (Drum Major) carrying me**



My first high school band, Alamogordo, NM, had some great students....many still actively playing or teaching. Jim Chaves was 1st chair clarinet and took a ceramics class his last semester. I guess I talked a lot about how great Texas was, and no doubt the bands in Texas, as he made me this ash tray showing Texas inside New Mexico. The Alamogordo kids would often just crash our house and hang out. They were a fun bunch to be with. Jim was a monster clarinetist. We played "Rocky Point Holiday," and he practically sight read it. Although I talked about Texas bands (look at a map and you'll see that the next closest town of any size is Las Cruces, and you have to cross a mountain range to get there, so we didn't have lots of good bands nearby), the Alamogordo band could hold its own anywhere in the country. The year before I went there, they played "Music for Prague." Along with "Rocky Point." we played "Hands Across the Sea" (Sousa), "Symphonic Movement (Nelhybel), and all of "La Fiesta Mexicana" (Reed). I don't remember why we did four pieces, but I have them on a record, so we played them for contests. I've always stressed the importance of reading, so the band could read just about anything. I also have programs from that year of the band playing the Bach "Toccata and Fugue," the Chance "Elegy," and much more. Wonderful kids, parents, faculty, principal, but the sorriest central office administration anywhere!





BAND DIVISION

By

Bob Floyd

MIDLAND, TEXAS

Located in West Texas, halfway between Fort Worth and El Paso, Midland is the administrative center of the Permian Basin oil fields of West Texas and South-eastern New Mexico. Impressive tall buildings house offices of more than 700 oil companies and affiliated businesses. With a population of only 80,000, Midland ranks fourth among the cities of Texas in rentable office space.

The Midland Independent School District is comprised of two high schools, two freshmen schools, three junior highs (7 & 8) and twenty elementary schools. General music classes begin in the 4th grade, with string instruction starting in the 5th. Band instrument instruction is begun in the 7th grade.

Instrumental activities at Lee High School include the marching band, two concert bands, a stage band and a Dixieland band. The band has earned sweepstakes the past five consecutive years and was chosen the Honor Band at the Mountain States Music Festival in Tempe, Arizona in 1977. During the past three years, over twenty-five band students have participated in Texas All-State Organizations.

Band members are very active in student affairs at Lee. Several class officers are band members and over 50% of the band holds membership in the National Honor Society. Band students participate in sports, choral, speech, drama and other school-related activities. Of last year's graduating seniors, 98% are attending college.

One of the reasons for the success of the band program at Lee is the cooperation between junior high and high school directors. Austin Freshman School director Dan Green, Scott Lewis at Goddard Junior High and Tom Dillon at Alamo Junior High are invaluable in their assistance with the Lee Band. In addition, nine specialists offer private lesson instruction.

Also contributing to the success of the band program at Lee is the parent, community and administrative support. The Bandoliers Club is comprised of many dedicated parents. The Midland mayor's wife, Mrs. Penny Angelo is president. Superintendent of Schools James Mailey, Lee High School Principal Joe Smith and Music Coordinator Bill Cormack support the music programs with professional advice and encouragement.

Other secondary schools in Midland include Midland High, Clyde Wilson and Chuck Hazlewood, directors; Edison Freshman school, Melvin Scott, director; and San Jacinto Junior High, Randy Storie, director.



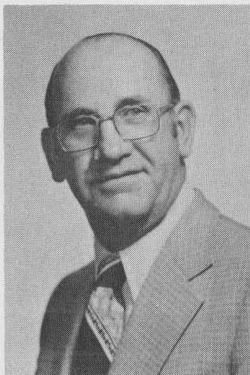
Midland Lee AAAA High School Honor Band

ROBERT E. LEE HIGH SCHOOL



MIDLAND, TEXAS

*This concert is dedicated to
present and former Rebel Band members,
and to their pursuit of musical excellence
through the motto:
"Nothing We Have Done in the Past
Will Ever Be Good Enough Again."*



MIDLAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
MIDLAND, TEXAS 79701

JAMES H. MAILEY, SUPERINTENDENT

To the Music Educators of Texas:

The selection of the Lee High School Band to perform before the Texas Music Educators Association is a very great honor and a source of pride to the students and faculty of the school. The Board of Trustees and the members of the community join me in expressing our sincere appreciation for the designation of the Lee High School Band for this honor.

The achievement of a high level of excellence in music performance requires years of intense study and hard work on the part of students and strong leadership of dedicated faculty members. The devoted support and encouragement of parents and parent groups is also mandatory. The major accomplishment of all who participate is the acquisition of valuable appreciation, skills, and knowledge.

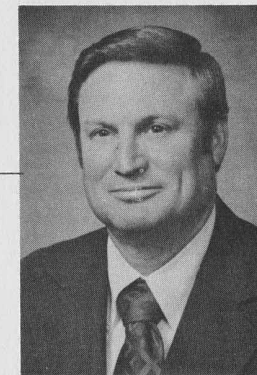
The opportunity to perform before this highly professional association is an occasion for which all musical organizations strive. The attainment of this honor is a fine tribute to the leadership of two men, Mr. Bill Cormack, Coordinator of Music, and Mr. Van Ragsdale, Band Director.

Thank you, again, for awarding this great honor.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Mailey
Superintendent of Schools

JHM:pm



ROBERT E. LEE HIGH SCHOOL

NELLY & TARLETON STREETS
MIDLAND, TEXAS 79703

OFFICE OF THE
PRINCIPAL

To The Texas Music Educators Association:

Music education at Robert E. Lee High School is producing results that bring great pleasure and pride to the citizens of Midland. The Rebel band, under the superb direction of Van Ragsdale, has had numerous accolades, but none greater than the distinction of being selected by your prestigious association as TMEA Honor Band.

These students have demanded much of themselves and their families in this quest for excellence. They have provided us with the meaningful and pleasurable experience of listening to their renditions.

Music competition among the outstanding bands of Region VI is keen but healthy. I hope your critical ears will agree that today you have heard some of the best of this competition.

Joe T. Smith, PhD
Principal



HONOR BAND PERSONNEL

PICCOLO

Marit Olson 1, 2, 3, 6

FLUTE

Barbara Day
Mary Downs
Carol Finch
Karen Gravitt
Stacy Lewis
Leah Owens 1, 3, 6
Anita Proctor
Darcie Raymond
Jean White

OBOE

Teresa Brown 1, 2, 5
Dana Dyer

E♭ CLARINET

Rachel Frizzell 1, 3

B♭ CLARINET

Francoise Broe 1, 2, 3
Melanie Brown 1
Sheryl Derington
Lisa Evers 1
Jessica Huddleston 1, 3
Brenda Johns
Tana Mason 1
Tonya Patterson 1

Susan Pullig 1
Sid Roberts 1, 2, 3, 6
Dee Ann Wortham

ALTO CLARINET

Melissa Lutke

BASS CLARINET

Jeff Boortz 1, 3, 6
Melissa Shattuck
Sharla Southerland

CONTRA-BASS CLARINET

Bruce Phillips 1

BASSOON

Debbie Grigsby
Camille Victour

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Kenneth Barton
Stacey Carson
Tom McLaughlin

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Lance Smith

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Susan Roop

CORNET

Robert Barton
Paul Brown 1, 2, 5
Mark Causey
Doug Flaten
Gary Hicks 1
Paul Landers
Karen Lewis
Jim McCain
Allan Smith 1, 2, 3, 6

FRENCH HORN

Glynn Chiolo
Jannifer Crawford
Bryan Hill
Joel Huddleston

TROMBONE

Tony Brooks 1
Austin Gould
Philip Harley 1, 2
Eddie Pleasant 1, 4
Steve Richardson 1, 2
Travis Stice 1, 2, 3

BARITONE

Scott Beatty
Scott Collyer
Michael Ybarra

TUBA

David Byers 1
Rick Galbreath 1
Jayme Terrell

PERCUSSION

Roxie Barrett
Peter Brewer
Gary Burnett
Julie Dunn
James Graham

AUXILIARY PERCUSSION

Stacy Lewis
Dee Ann Wortham

PIANO

Sid Roberts

- 1 All-Region Band
- 2 All-Region Orchestra
- 3 Area Winner
- 4 All-State Choir
- 5 All-State Orchestra
- 6 All-State Band

PROGRAM

TOCATA AND FUGUE IN D MINOR

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH
TRANS. ERIK LEIDZEN

Some of Bach's greatest compositions are his works for organ, including the **Tocatta and Fugue in D minor**. It consists of a brilliant introduction, alternating slow and fast, followed by the fugue, the subject of which is a short figure in sixteenth notes. After the announcement of the theme, the rhythm of sixteenths continues almost without interruption to the coda. Erik Leidzen has prepared numerous arrangements and original compositions for the concert band.

MARCH, OPUS 99

SERGE PROKOFIEFF
ED. PAUL YODER

Prokofieff's **March, Opus 99**, is a flawless example of his facility in any medium. In its brevity and jewel-like balance it makes one wish that it might have been the "scherzo" of a suite of similar highly musical miniatures for winds. Paul Yoder has adapted it for modern American band instrumentation.

IRISH TUNE FROM COUNTY DERRY

PERCY ALDRIDGE GRAINGER

Grainger's arrangements of English, Irish and Scottish folk-tunes have been enormously successful. In his compositions he attempted to recreate in art music the free flow of instinctive songs of the people. **Irish Tune From County Derry** is dedicated to the memory of Edvard Grieg who was most enthusiastic about Grainger's talent.

DANCE SCENE

MICHAEL HENNAGIN

Dance Scene is a highly rhythmic piece with numerous meter changes around a constant eighth note pulse. It is reminiscent of **Rodeo** by Aaron Copland, with whom Hennagin studied. Hennagin has composed in virtually all media, including music for television and motion pictures. He is currently on the composition faculty at Oklahoma University. **Dance Scene** will be available this year from Jenson Publications.

CAPRICIOUS WINDS

CHARLES WEST

Capricious Winds, for clarinet quartet and band, has a Latin American "beguine" flavor, with considerable use of 7th, 9th and 11th chords. A native of Fort Collins, Colorado, West holds degrees from the University of Northern Colorado and the University of Iowa, where he studied with Himie Voxman. He is currently professor of woodwinds at New Mexico State University. Featured clarinetists are students of Mrs. Judy Green.

DOUBLE QUARTET:	Francoise Broe	Tonya Patterson
	Lisa Evers	Susan Pulling
	Rachel Frizzell	Sid Roberts
	Jessica Huddleston	Dee Ann Wortham

ARMENIAN DANCES (PART II) 3. LORVA HOROVEL

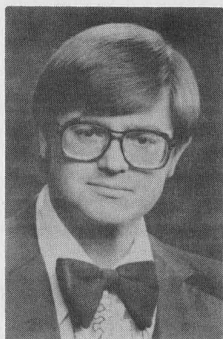
ALFRED REED

The **Armenian Dances**, Parts I and II, constitute a four-movement suite for concert band or wind ensemble based on authentic Armenian folk songs. The concluding movement, **Lorva Horovel**, is rich in rhythmic and melodic structure, revealing elements dating to pre-Christian times. The folk song is connected with the farmer and his physical and spiritual being during his work. Alfred Reed has dedicated the suite to Harry Begian, Director of Bands at the University of Illinois.

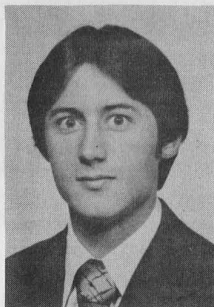
DIXIE

MORTON GOULD

Morton Gould has composed and arranged extensively for concert band, and has had considerable influence on original band literature. **Dixie** is one of several familiar American tunes arranged by him. The Rebel Band has chosen to conclude its Honor Band Concert with this excellent arrangement.



VAN RAGSDALE has been Director of the Lee High School Bands for three years. He taught for one year at Alamogordo High School in Alamogordo, New Mexico, four years at Hood Junior High in Odessa, and three years at Yucca Junior High in Clovis, N. M. He is a graduate of Pampa High School and holds a Bachelor of Music Education and a Master of Arts degree from Eastern New Mexico University.



BRUCE COLLINS joined the Lee staff as Assistant Director of Bands this past fall. He is a graduate of Clovis High School, Clovis, New Mexico. He holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from West Texas State University, where he has done additional graduate work.

DAN GREEN, Austin Freshman School Director
TOM DILLON, Alamo Junior High School Director
SCOTT LEWIS, Goddard Junior High School Director

1978 GRADUATING SENIORS

FLUTE

Kim Biggs 1
Ellen Christensen 1, 2, 3, 4
Kathy Rogers 1, 3
Val Stokes
Gena Thompson

OBOE

Susan Landenberger 1, 2, 3, 4

B♭ CLARINET

Chris LaFontaine
Anita Shipman 1
Janet Stice 1, 2, 3, 4

BASS CLARINET

Tammy Collins
Craig Jordan
Charliss Smith 1

CONTRA-BASS CLARINET

Arthur Pare 1, 3, 4

BASSOON

Paula Bynum

CORNET

Andy Cox 1, 2, 3, 4
Tom Evans 1, 2, 5
Kevin Lewis
Lynda Millwee

FRENCH HORN

Rhonda Mack 1

TROMBONE

John Prindle 1
Steve Sides

BARITONE

Teena Kirby
Andy Williams

PERCUSSION

Sheri Talley 1

1 All-Region Band
2 All-Region Orchestra
3 Certified to Area
4 All-State Band
5 All-State Orchestra

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. James H. Mailey
Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Douglas W. Brown
Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Garland R. Chapman
Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Bill R. Cormack
Fine Arts Coordinator

Dr. Joe T. Smith
Principal, Lee High School

Mr. C. Glenn Woods
Assistant Principal

Mr. Henry L. Kitzman
Assistant Principal

Miss JoAnn Montgomery
Assistant Principal

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Mr. Joe H. Dominey
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Miss Jan Zook, Oboe
Mrs. Judy Green, Clarinet
Miss Beverly Johnson, Saxophone

Mr. Randy Blakely, Cornet
Mr. Dale Sterling, Cornet
Miss Sharon Chase, Trombone
Mr. Richard McKee, Tuba

Mr. James Rennier, Percussion

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Mr. R. D. Southerland, 1st Vice-Pres.
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Mrs. Frances Dyer, 3rd Vice-Pres.
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Mrs. Mary Ann Stice, Reporter

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Allan Smith, Captain
Mark Causey, 1st Lieutenant
Roxie Barrett, 2nd Lieutenant
Tonya Patterson, 2nd Lieutenant

Steve Richardson, 2nd Lieutenant
Leah Owens, Chaplain
Rachel Frizzzell, Drum Major
Rick Galbreath, Drum Major

Craig Easley, Equipment Chairman

We wish to thank the many others, especially parents, who unselfishly give so much support to the advancement of the Lee Bands.

November 11, 1977

Band Takes Compliment

A very touching story was related to me the other day by a good friend of mine. It has a special meaning to me because of its reality. This actually happened and was not the product some writer's pen. It concerned a boy who was mentally retarded, a condition most of us have no conception of whatsoever. This young person had never been able to speak, even though his dedicated parents had put forth great efforts to help him. He had never been able to speak a complete sentence until last week, when he happened to be listening to the Lee High Band practice. He was very impressed and told his mother so. In my opinion, this is the highest compliment anyone has ever paid the band.

This is a very beautiful compliment to the band. When an accomplishment like this is achieved - it just makes everyone feel good all over. In this case, the band should feel especially good.

Ed



TERRY WILLIAMSON

Fall 1976

Lee band part of writer's life style

I'm very well aware of the fact that there are some important area games slated for this weekend, but there is one item that I must get out of the way before the current football season comes to a cloae.

That item concerns the ranking of high school bands. I rate the Midland Lee band as the best in the state.

Now before Midland High band members and fans get all upset, I would like to mention the fact that I am no expert in this field. I've never tooted a horn, and when I was young, I picked up a football instead of the drums. The only thing I know about bands is what my wife tells me—she was once a drum major.

It must also be noted that I've never seen a haltime performance by Lee or Midland High. It seems that I'm always traveling the wilds of West Texas on Friday nights.

THE FACT is that I really have no right to make a rating decision, but I can't ignore my observations. After all, the Lee band is part of my life.

The reason I select Lee as the top band is because I live right behind Lee High School, and if sheer work makes a band good, then Lee is tops.

They dutifully wake me up every morning before the sun has a chance, and if I'm home during the day, they play for my lunch. Sometimes they

give me music during the evening news, and that makes Walter Cronkite and Barbra Walters bearable.

The Lee band is also an unending source of entertainment for my two-year-old daughter Shane. Everytime the Lee bandeers take to the practice field, Shane wants to go into the alley and watch. The Lee band facinates her, and as a dutiful father, I've spent hours on end watching the Lee band practice.

LEE ALSO has plenty of volume. The Lee drummers and tuba players are great as fallen plaster and rattling dishes in the house can attest.

Shane, Daddy and Momma will hate to see the football season end. It will be rough going back to that old alarm clock, making fewer trips to the alley with Shane and eating without free stereo music.

With all the work the Lee band puts in, I was worried for a while that they were violating some of the University Interscholastic League rules. After all, Coach Jim Acree would be run out of the state if he worked his football team the same hours. Fortunately, I can find no rules that have been violated by the band, and the only injuries have been puckered lips.

The only thing I'm missing is seeing Lee march in a real game's haltime.

I'll miss them again this week since I will be in Andrews Friday night. Such is the life of a sports writer.

I APOLOGIZE to my area readers for spending so much time talking about the Lee band, but Lee band director Van Ragsdale has a super bunch of kids. I feel that I know everyone of them. Van runs a taut ship, but the kids seem to respond. I'll bet they'll be out there tonight. John Phillip Sousa would have been proud.

Since there is no space left for the picking game, just let it be known that I pick Andrews, Lake View, Ozona, Mason, Stanton, Kermit and Marfa to come away with victories this week.

Klein High School - November, 1981

**State Marching Contest Prelims
Berger Field - Austin**

3rd place in prelims & in finals



**Ahh...symmetry. Where has it gone? Same place as the flowers.
(and if you get that, you're as old as I am!)**



Klein in the 1980s was such a great place to be! Superintendent Don Collins began the Germanfest to recognize the German settlers of the community 100 years earlier. Great fun, but in one of the KISD schools, so NO BEER! What's a Germanfest without German beer? Somehow we survived. Thanks to all the groups and people who performed through the years...music for the German band was provided by Kenny Bierschenk. Bottom right, Robert Hastings and I are searching for right notes...well, I was anyway!

The Sun, March 17, 1982

Germanfest honors heritage of Klein, Texas



AN FEAST -- Kyle Baden of Klein Road finds the wide selection of German foods to his liking. The Germanfest featured German cuisine, music and dancing.



TAKE OUR ADVICE -- Girls in the Lemm Elementary School choir seem to be voicing words of wisdom as they sing an old German folk song. The Germanfest is held each year to honor the heritage of Klein, Texas.

Photos by
Carol Shugart



IN TUNES -- The Trinity Lutheran School choir sings a variety of German tunes.



UM PA BAND -- Robert Hastings and Van Ragsdale sport German finery and entertain guests with authentic German music.

August 28, 1986 at Westlake HS - gave downbeat for Summer Band Concert, and the band played "Happy Birthday." Funniest thing of all is that assistant band director, Ted Bartley, has the exact same birthday, so they played/sang to us both. I'm 8 hours younger than Ted.





Van Ragsdale deserves special recognition. He is always willing to bend when it is necessary. Students with special needs under special circumstances are always given the consideration that they need. Van is wonderful to work with - even when it gets close to contest and he is under pressure. We at Westlake are fortunate to have him on our staff.

!!!!DRUM ROLLS TO YOU!!! VAN RAGSDALE!!!!

This is from Westlake HS, but I don't remember when or who wrote it. I suspect it was either the Head of Guidance & Counseling, Toody Bird (yep, that's her real name!) or my all-time favorite Assistant Principal, Lynne Roeglin. Regretfully, I've lost track of them both. I also don't know why I'm wearing an SCV shirt, but it must have been marching season.

WHS band wins Laffite trophy

By Bradley Wilson

Special to the *Picayune*

Four years ago when the Westlake High School Band attended the Contraband Days Band Festival, in Lake Charles, La., the band won five awards. One judge remarked that if the band had competed in all three competitions, they would have accumulated enough points to win the prized Jean Laffite trophy.

This year the band did compete in all three competitions, parade, field and concert, and they did win the prized Jean LaFitte trophy along with seven other awards.

"We gave a solid performance in all three events but it took a lot of preparation," senior Julie Greyer said. "It was a good way to finish out four years in band."

Although the students returned from the trip exhausted, band captain John Blanton said the three-day trip went smoothly and the approximately 120 students, 12 sponsors and directors had a lot of fun. "We were expecting to

find swamps and crocodiles but it was more civilized," he said. "I especially enjoyed the carnival."

Sandy Holt, a parent sponsor, agreed with Blanton. "The kids were great," she said.

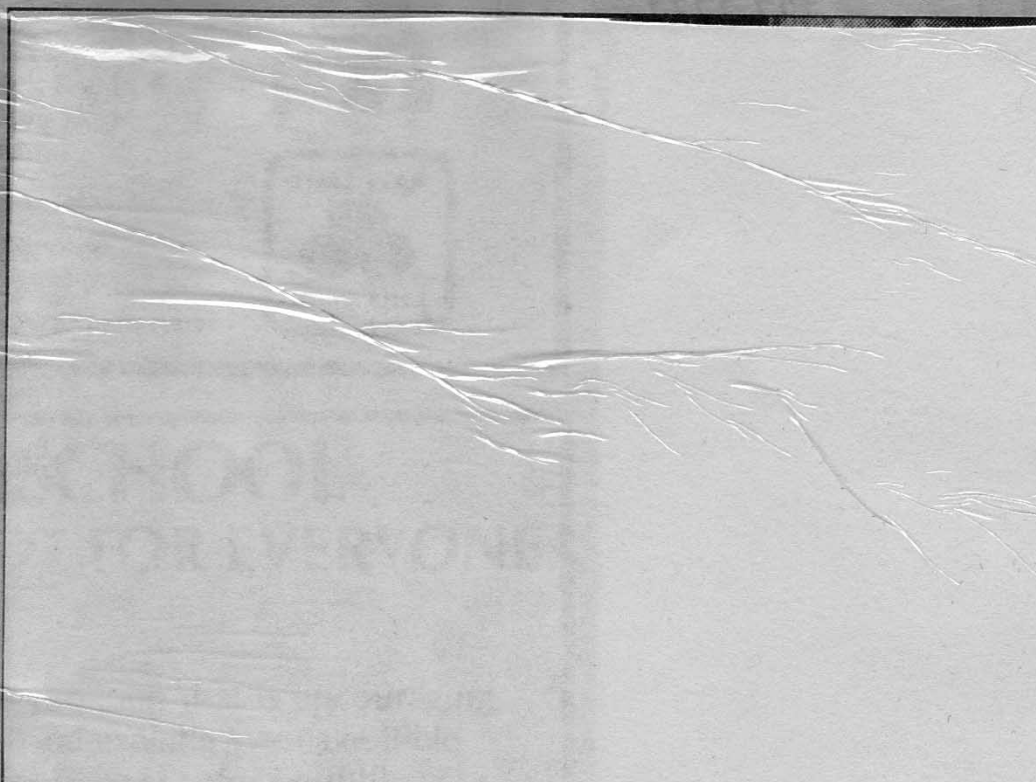
The symphonic band received first divisions in concert, parade and field competitions and best in class in all three divisions. They were also named the outstanding marching band regardless of class and received

the Jean Laffite Grand Champion award for most points accumulated in the various competitions in which over 40 bands competed.

The concert band received a second division in concert and the jazz band received a second division rating in a separately sponsored jazz festival.

The bands are directed by Van Ragsdale, Andy Davidson and Ted Bartley.

5-13-87.



June, 1988 - Westlake HS
Cruises are great...next time without 120 of my closest friends!



Look at that embouchure! Jean's impressed (or amused)!



You won't believe me, but I had the Phantom of the Opera idea before the Vanguard did and worked with a magician in Austin known as "Peter the Adequate." At the the conclusion of our performance at the Westlake Marching Festival, I heard two grandmotherly ladies talking as the drum major Phantom disappeared and then magically reappeared in the center of the field. Their paraphrased conversation:

#1: "Where did the Phantom go?" #2: "I don't know!"

#1: "Look, there he is, in the middle of the field!" #2: "How'd he get over there?"

#1: "I don't know!" #2: "Well.....I think they dug a tunnel under the football field!"

And that is the power of magic and just what I wanted!!!



TEXAS U.I.L. DISTRICT XVIII MARCHING BAND CONTEST
Austin * October 18, 1988 * Texas

Like the Budweiser commercial, this says it all!



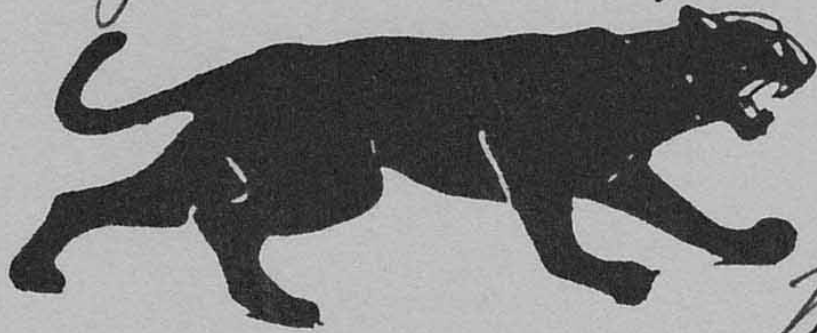
PERMIAN HIGH SCHOOL

P.O. BOX 3912

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YOU ARE WHAT MAKES... MOJOMENTUM!!!!!!

Mr. Ragsdale + Band:
Just a short note to let
you know how much the football
staff and team appreciate your support.
You do a great job! We appreciate
it



Football Team + Players,
Mrgs. + Coaches.

Teacher's Signature

In the good ole days, when a district football championship really meant something and only one team per district advanced in the playoffs, the state championship was determined in five weeks. Hence, if a team went 5-0 in the playoffs, it won the state crown. The Permian Band first played "Hawaii 5-0" in 1970 at a football game, and it soon became the playoff fight song, complete with a drum break...tradition was born and was still alive and well 25 years later in 1995. So, we searched for as many original 5-0 drummers (they weren't called "percussionists" in those days) as we could find and featured them at a Saturday football game. Biggest challenges included finding enough 15" drums & slings and then tuning them as low as they were in 1970! We drummed up (pun intended) 11 for the game. The next slide is a picture from that game. A highlight for me was riding the drum bus to Ratliff Stadium and hearing the old guys chant: "High drums, high drums, we don't like no high drums" followed by the young ones chanting: "Low drums, low drums...." Knowing drummers as I do, I didn't let it go beyond those chants! BTW: I had the MOJO banner made by Fruhauf when we got new uniforms in 1991. It's also in my profile picture.

The band plays on

10-7-95



Odessa American: Larry Beckner

Percussion members of the 1970 Permian High School Marching Band, from left, Glynn Cooper, Rehay Oliver, Steve Harris and Mike Christopher, play drums Friday morning with George Love, far right, a senior at PHS, in a practice room.

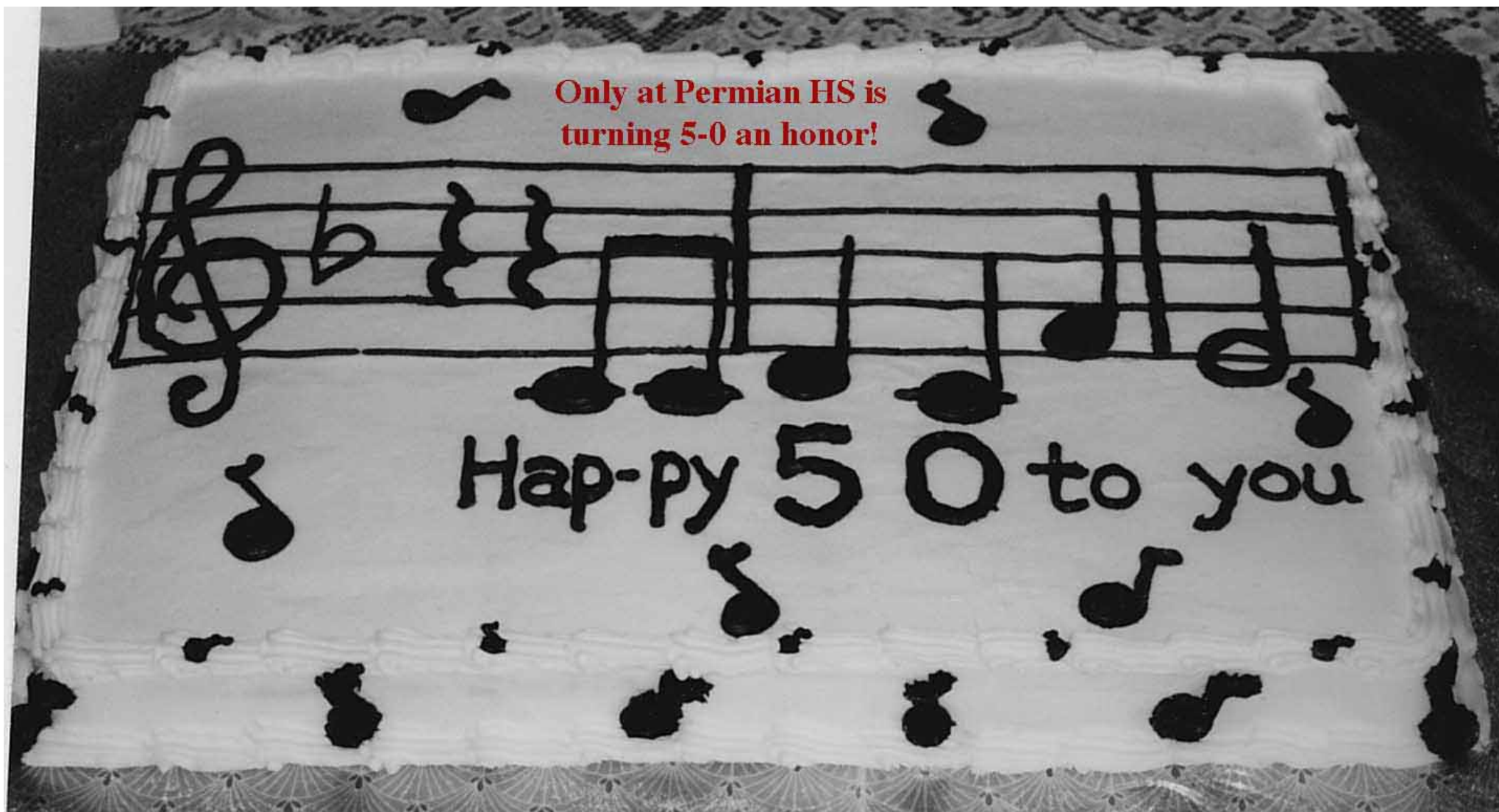
Drummers who played in the band 25 years ago visited their school, playing the drums with the current percussion section. The ex-band members will sit with the band during Saturday's game and play the theme from 'Hawaii Five-O' at halftime.

What a sound these 11 made! They're looking forward to 2020,
when the 5-0 tradition will be 5-0!



Only at Permian HS is
turning 5-0 an honor!

Hap-py 5 0 to you



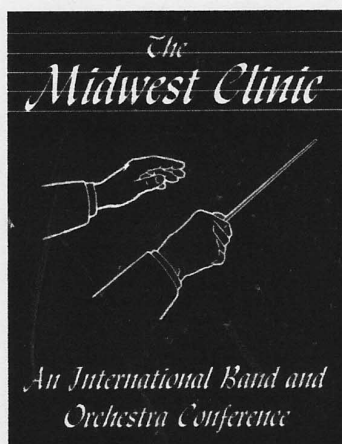
I've judged lots of contests through the years...marching, concert, sightreading, festivals. State marching contests include: Texas (4 times), New Mexico (twice), Arizona (twice), Tennessee and Oklahoma. This contest was the most fun! Maybe I should wear this badge when I shop at Fiesta Supermarket? Nah, I didn't think so either!



Fiesta Bowl ®

VAN RAGSDALE

Band Judge



Friday, December 18, 1998
10:30 am - 11:30 am
Waldorf Room
Chicago Hilton and Towers

THE ART OF TEACHING BAND

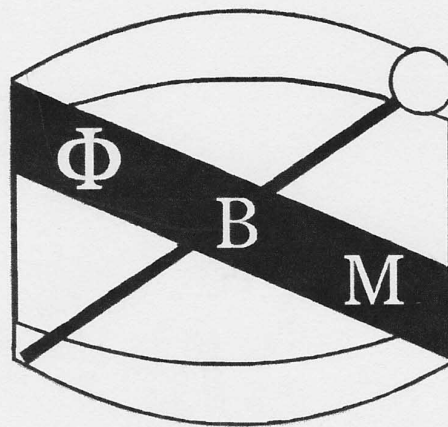
A Systematic and Practical Approach

presented by

Van Ragsdale
and
Cindy Bulloch

Nimitz Junior High School
Odessa, Texas

sponsored by
Phi Beta Mu
International Bandmasters Fraternity



This is a copy of the program at which the Sudler Cup was presented to the Nimitz Band, and at which "A Walk With McCarley" was premiered in 1998. It is listed on the 2nd page as "Celebration in Memorium." I wrote it to serve two purposes: "Celebration" of the Sudler award and "Memoriam" to Cindy's ex-principal Robert McCarley. The opening theme had come to me late one night the previous November while listening to Christmas music in my car. I originally envisioned it as a simple carol and didn't begin writing the present arrangement until two weeks before the concert. Mrs. McCarley had stopped by the Nimitz Band Hall to tell Cindy and me that she had received her invitation and would be at the concert, as it would be the one year anniversary of her husband's death, and he would have been extremely proud of the band. I was so overcome with emotion, I told Cindy afterwards that I wanted to write a piece for the concert based on an idea I had for a Christmas carol. Mrs. McCarley knew nothing about it until we called her to the stage and presented her with a plaque. It was her suggestion that I seek publication. The original was one step higher than the published version. The final title was Cindy's idea several weeks later, as she and I both wanted Mr. McCarley's name in the published title. Note that I was in such a hurry, I mis-spelled "Memoriam" on the program.

PROGRAM

Welcome Steve Brown, Principal
Nimitz Junior High School

BEGINNING BAND

The Best of George M. Cohan George M. Cohan/John Kinyon, arr.
Van Ragsdale, Conductor

One of America's theatrical greats, Cohan was a child of the theater, as both of his parents were headline vaudevillians. Like Irving Berlin and a few others, he composed his songs using only the black keys on the piano. This medley consists of three of his most popular songs, *The Yankee Doodle Boy*, *Mary*, and *Give My Regards to Broadway*. (Notes from *The American Song Treasury* by Theodore Raph)

Two English Dances John O'Reilly, arr.
Cindy Bulloch, Conductor

In some agricultural districts in England, teams of "Morris Men," decked out with jingling bells and other finery, can still be seen dancing to such traditional Morris tunes as the two used in this arrangement, *Shepherd's Hey* and *Country Gardens*. (Notes from *Band Music Notes* by Norman Smith and Albert Stoutamire)

Fight, Admirals, Fight/Anchors Aweigh Van B. Ragsdale, arr.
Van Ragsdale, Conductor

Fight, Admirals, Fight was originally written as *Fight, Raiders, Fight* for Texas Tech University by Vic Williams. Following a long-standing U.S. Naval Academy tradition, Academy Bandmaster Charles A. Zimmerman wrote *Anchors Aweigh* for the graduating Midshipmen of 1907. (Notes from *March Music Notes* by Norman Smith)

ADVANCED BAND

By Land and Sea Kenneth J. Alford
Charles Nail, Conductor

While serving as its Music Director, England's "March King" composed this march for the British Royal Marines. It is typical of the ceremonial slow marches used by the British. The trio section incorporates bugle calls from the three divisions of the Royal Marines at that time: The Portsmouth Division, the Plymouth Division, and the Chatham Division. (Notes from the U.S. Marine Corps compact disk *Sound Off!*)

Serenade Derek Bourgeois
Cindy Bulloch, Conductor

Bourgeois originally wrote this "Serenade" for his own wedding, to be played by the organist as the guests left the ceremony. Not wishing to allow them the luxury of proceeding in an orderly 2/4, he wrote the work in 11/8. Just in case anyone felt too comfortable, he changed to 13/8 in the middle! This delightful miniature has entered the band repertoire throughout the world. (Notes from the LDR compact disk *British Masters*)

American Overture for Band Joseph Willcox Jenkins
J. R. McEntyre, Conductor

This overture was written for the U.S. Army Field Band. With strong Lydian and Mixolydian modal flavors, the musical material borders on the folk tune idiom although there are no direct quotes from any folk tunes. The work calls for near-virtuoso playing by several sections, especially the French horns, and is a favorite of advanced high school and university bands. (Notes from *Band Music Notes*)

Presentation of the Jason Hardesty Memorial Band Camp Scholarship

Who's Who in Navy Blue John Philip Sousa/Frank Byrne, ed.
Gladys Stone Wright, Conductor

As with *Anchors Aweigh*, this march was written for a graduating class of the U.S. Naval Academy. But *Who's Who in Navy Blue* was written for the class of 1920 by the American "March King" himself, John Philip Sousa! Sousa dedicated the march to Tecumseh, the famous Indian whose statue stands on the grounds of the Academy in Annapolis. Sousa also wrote the following words to the melody of the trio: "The moon is shining on the rippling waves, The stars are twinkling in the evening sky, And in our dreams Tecumseh softly tells us we'll be Admirals by and by." (Notes by Frank Byrne, U.S. Marine Band)

Presentation of the Sudler Cup of Honor

Gladys Stone Wright, Sudler Foundation

Celebration in Memorium Van B. Ragsdale
Premier Performance
Van Ragsdale, Conductor

"Exactly one year ago today, the Nimitz community lost our dear friend and colleague, former principal Robert McCarley. During the Fall of 1997, Cindy Bulloch and I briefly discussed the possibility of commissioning a piece for the Nimitz Band in his memory. I decided then to take the task on myself, as I wanted to do something special for Cindy, the band, and the McCarley family. I wanted the music to be simple but not sad (he wouldn't go for that!), Scotch-Irish in nature, but with a slight 'Western' flavor. When I first began working on it, we didn't know about the Sudler Award, so its premier tonight serves two purposes: to honor the *memory* of someone very special, and also to *celebrate* an accomplishment by a group of students that he thought was very special (hence the title). No one would be prouder tonight than Robert!" (Notes by Van Ragsdale)

Recognition of 1997-1998 Advanced Band Members

West Side Story Leonard Bernstein/Jay Bocook, arr.
Cindy Bulloch, Conductor

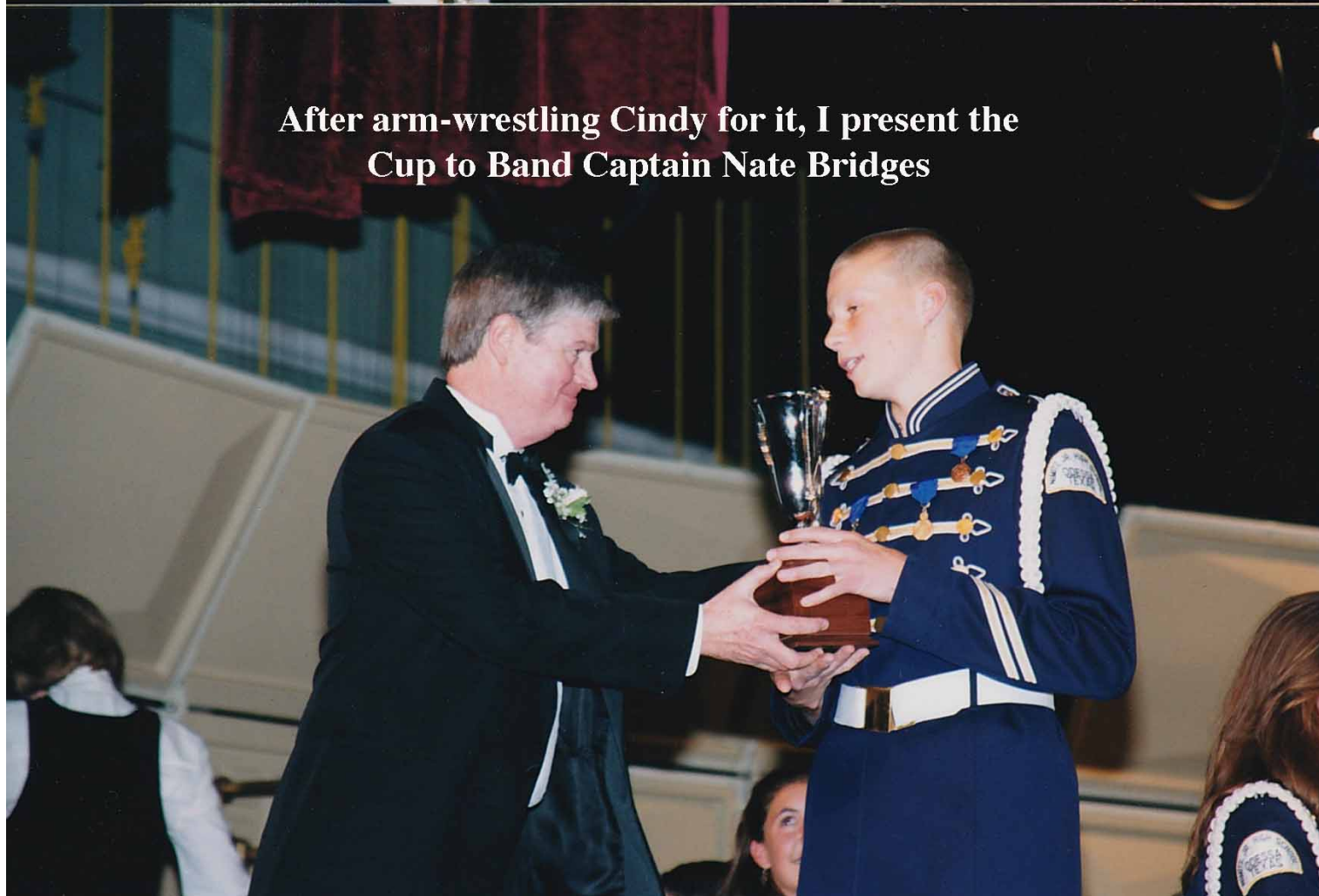
West Side Story has been characterized as an American *Romeo and Juliet*. With its romantic setting against a background of social and racial strife, Bernstein's music reflects the thousand and one moods which permeate Stephen Sondheim's lyrics. From a basic mood of studied nonchalance and defiance by the juvenile set, the music is at times devout and tender, or in contrasting sections, dynamic in intensity. Bocook's arrangement is a medley including *Maria*; *Tonight*; *One Hand, One Heart*; *Cool and Somewhere*. (Notes from *Band Music Notes*)

Reception Immediately Following in Jack Rogers Music Building

May 12, 1998 - Nimitz JHS Band - Odessa
Gladys Wright presents Sudler Cup to Cindy Bulloch



**After arm-wrestling Cindy for it, I present the
Cup to Band Captain Nate Bridges**



This is a picture of the plaque presentation to Dolores McCarley that I spoke of in the last slide. Mr. McCarley had passed away exactly one year earlier, on May 12, 1997. I began the piece two weeks before the concert and would score 16 measures or so daily and pass them out to the band so they would have time to rehearse it. I think I finished it the day before the concert. Mrs. McCarley knew nothing about it until Cindy called her up to the stage. Some moments are incredibly poignant.



Van Ragsdale

A Walk with McCarley



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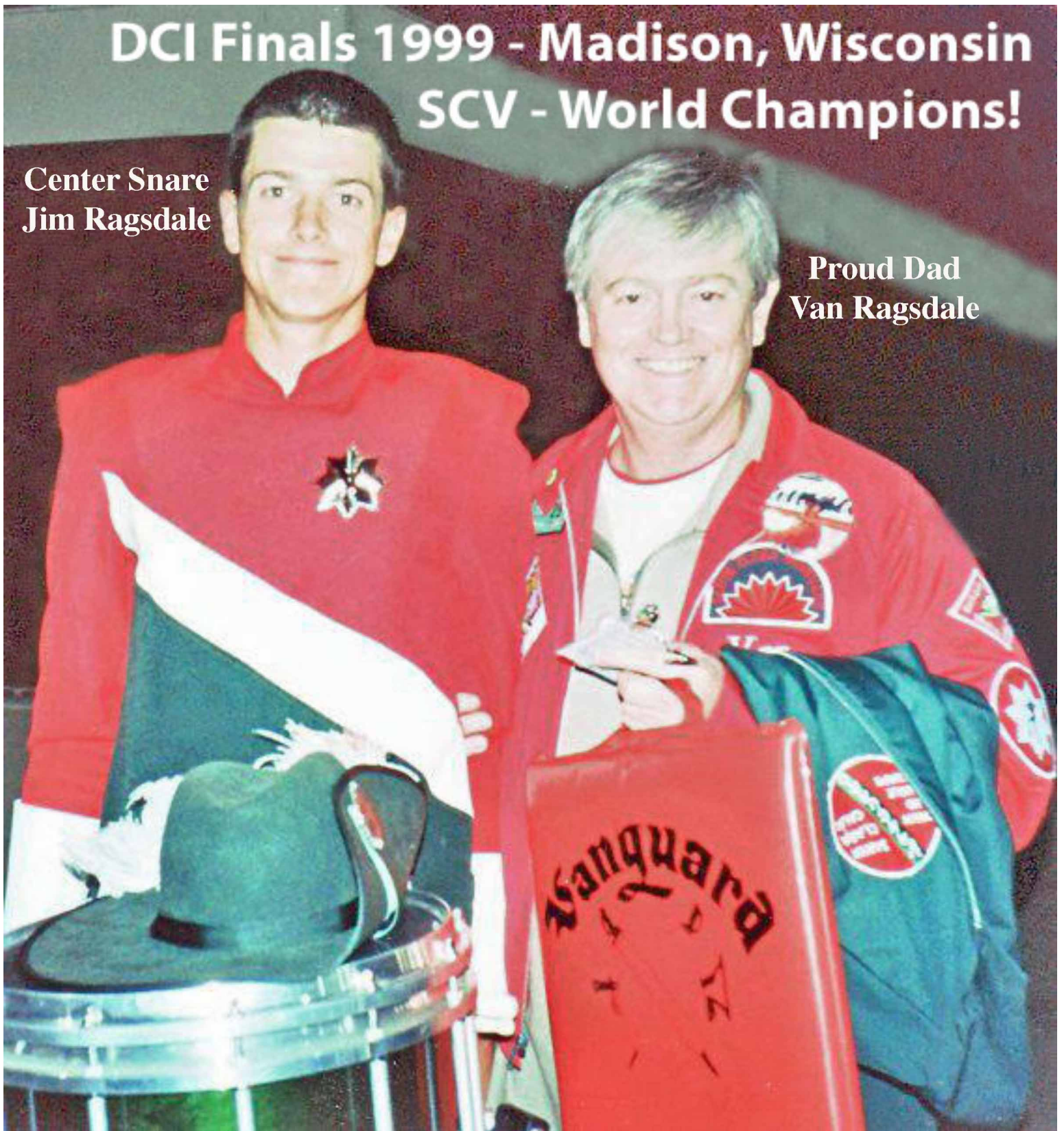
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San Antonio, Texas • 78292

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Center Snare
Jim Ragsdale

Proud Dad
Van Ragsdale





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SOUTH CAROLINA
ALL STATE BANDS
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CONDUCTED BY

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BILL CONNELL
DR. MALLORY THOMPSON

SPONSORED BY

SOUTH CAROLINA
BAND DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

HOSTED BY

FURMAN UNIVERSITY BANDS
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

MCALISTER AUDITORIUM • SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2001 • 1:30 P.M.

Steve R. Barnett, Editor
Phi Beta Mu
University Band
University, MS 38677



PHI BETA MU REPORT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BANDMASTERS' FRATERNITY • VOL 15 • ISSUE 1, NOV. 2002

"GREETINGS FROM YOUR INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT, VAN B. RAGSDALE"

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

My warmest greetings to each of you! I hope that 2002 has been good to you and that you are ready to embark on the fourth year of the new millennium with energy, enthusiasm and purpose. I encourage you to take the time to read all of the information and articles in this issue, as it contains much news about the present "State of the Fraternity." And, I must say that I believe Phi Beta Mu is better than it has even been! We are financially more secure than at any time in recent memory, the International Board of Directors is diligently steering the fraternity into the future, and fraternity membership is at an enthusiastic level, as evidenced by the attendance at last year's meetings at the Midwest Clinic.

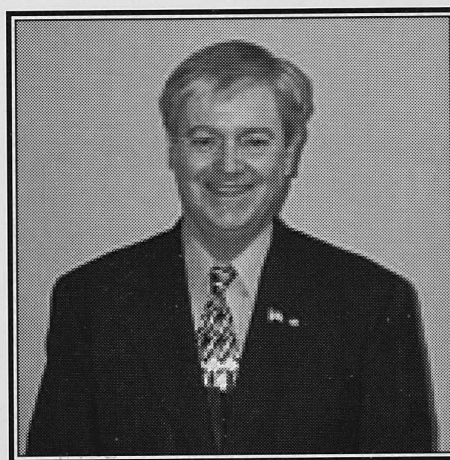
I would like to discuss three items with you here: (1) Fraternity highlights of Midwest 2001, (2) International's leadership through 2003, and (3) the revised Constitution and By-laws.

HIGHLIGHTS OF MIDWEST 2001

To me, the annual Awards Luncheon is the highlight of fraternity business each year at Midwest, as it reflects Phi Beta Mu at its most shining moment. In attendance were Al and Gladys Wright, Honorary Members and previous recipients of the Outstanding Contributor Award. Arthur Gurwitz, President of Southern Music Company, who is also an Honorary Member and previous recipient of the Outstanding Contributor Award, was also in attendance. The luncheon was especially memorable as we honored three extraordinary individuals:

Mallory Thompson, Director of Bands at Northwestern University, was presented the "Outstanding Bandmaster Award." She made several pertinent comments as she paid tribute to four teachers and colleagues who have influenced her life and career. They are Roger Bjorklund, high school band director and Phi Beta Mu member of St. Anthony Village High School in Minnesota, Vincent Chicowitz, professor of trumpet at Northwestern University, John Paynter, Director of Bands at Northwestern University, and Donald Hunsberger, Conductor of the Eastman Wind Ensemble. Not only is Dr. Thompson an outstanding and very worthy recipient of this prestigious award, she was also awarded Honorary Membership in the fraternity. I look forward to her response to me at Midwest this year regarding her Minnesota accent!

Keith Mann, former International President of Phi Beta Mu, was presented the "Outstanding Contributor Award" posthumously. Keith's wife Marilyn, who had recently been awarded Honorary Membership by Mu Alpha Chapter of Alberta, Canada, accepted the award. Marilyn



President, Van B. Ragsdale addresses International Assembly

spoke briefly about Keith's love of life, music, bands and Phi Beta Mu. This remarkable lady's words and presence brought a special meaning to all in attendance. Phi Beta Mu is certainly richer with her as a member. Thank you, Marilyn, and thank you, Mu Alpha Chapter!

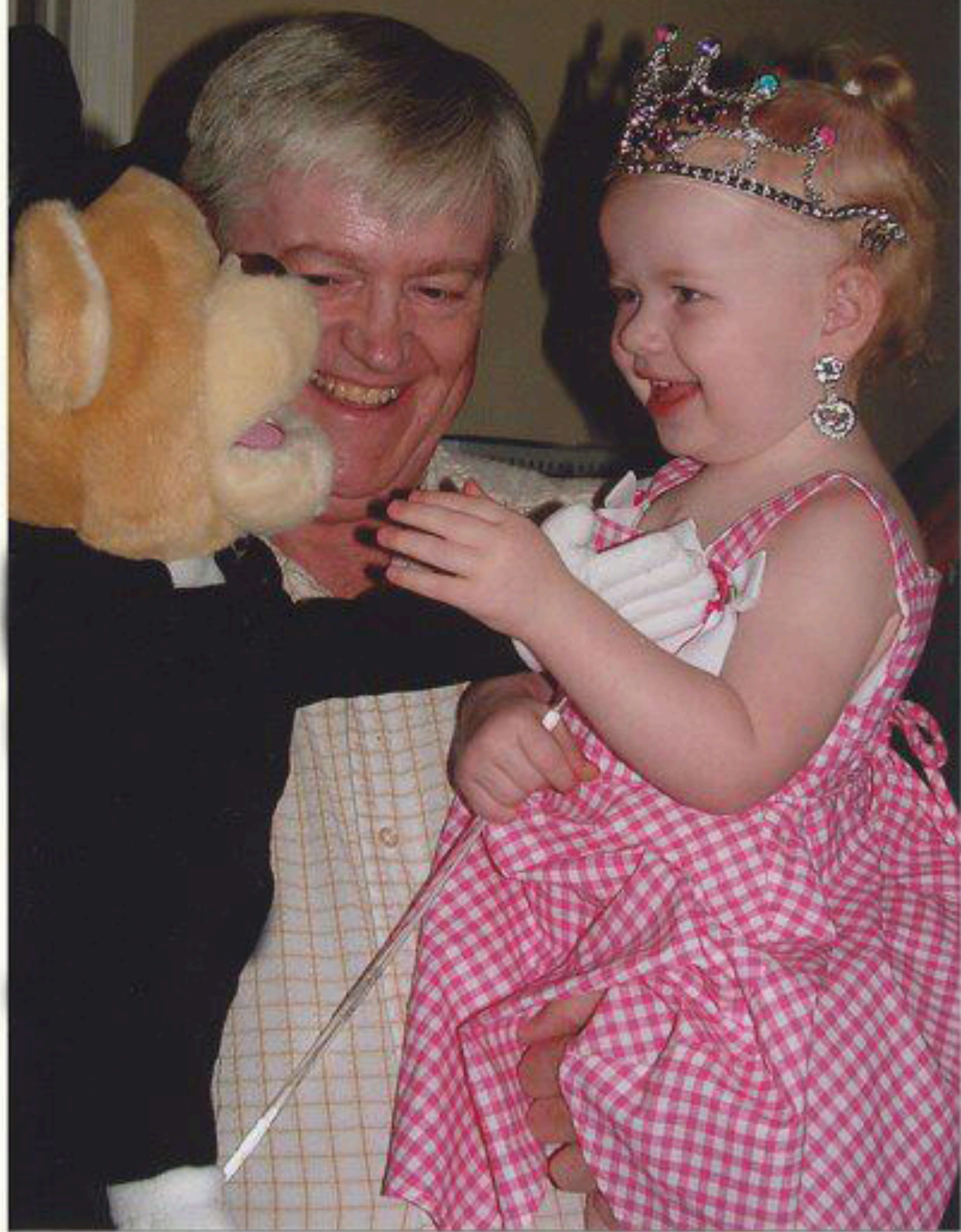
James Slutz, retiring editor of the "Phi Beta Mu Report," was presented a plaque of meritorious service in recognition of his years of dedication to the fraternity. Jim was our newsletter editor from 1982-2002, and what a tremendous job he did! The fraternity will continually be indebted to him for the many years of service that he so freely gave. With Jim, being editor was truly a "labor of love!"

Other great moments for Phi Beta Mu included the Thursday morning business meeting, which was packed with members from numerous chapters. I think we set a record and hope that this will continue! Of special note was the outstanding clinic on tone quality that was presented to a standing-room-only crowd by Gloria Ramirez of Spring, Texas and Don Shupe and Randy Sundell of Libertyville, Illinois. Richard Crain also spoke authoritatively, as always, in a clinic for first year teachers. Phi Beta Mu is indebted to these individuals for their service to the fraternity.

2007 - my granddaughter Avery had been buzzing her lips since she was 18 months old. I held a trombone mouthpiece up to her as she buzzed. She stopped buzzing and began humming...go figure. I could not get her to buzz with the mouthpiece. She's older now, still has a great buzz and wants to play French horn.



**This bear is reading Avery's mind.
How can he do that? It's magic!**



2008 - Distinguished Alumni Award at ENMU Homecoming
Whoever wrote that bio about me on the display needs
to be my speech writer!





ENMU Homecoming Parade
I woulda looked better in a convertible!



As part of the 2008 Homecoming activities, ENMU band director Dustin Seifert asked me to conduct the “Star Spangled Banner” at the game. Here he reminds me to think: “ground, end zone, sky, ground, end zone, sky...” And all this time I thought it was in 4/4!



Christmas 2009

Mimi

Jim

Vicki

Vandad

Avery

Buster

Max



The ENMU Alumni Band began in 1988 in conjunction with a reunion and retirement weekend honoring our band director, Floren Thompson, Jr. We informally agreed at that time to continue to meet one weekend in June of even-numbered years. Pat Henry served as reunion organizer for each event until his death in 2003. Mr. Thompson had passed away in 2002, so the future of the band was bleak. With the help of current band director Dustin Seifert, we organized the band formally in 2004, and I served as the first elected president. I have also been the Master of Ceremonies for each event until 2012, when I had to miss the reunion due to family obligations. At the 2008 reunion, the band reached its finest hour by raising over \$50,000 to have a new band hall named after Mr. Thompson. The picture below was taken on a stage adjacent to the newly completed Thompson Band Hall at Eastern New Mexico University.



June, 2010 - ENMU
Alumni Band

November 2010 Hood JHS Band Reunion - Hood Band Hall, Odessa

Lots of people organized this. Thanks to D. B. Hunt, Gloria McDonald, Susie Patterson, Paula Witt, Denise Little and others that I don't know about. Special thanks to current Hood band director Benjamin Grabber for giving up his time in making it all happen. And to Jean Wier...God bless all the parents who make our band programs work!



Almost 40 years later

This is a picture of a framed plaque and rhythm card that my Hood students gave me at the 2010 band reunion in Odessa. D.B. Hunt, Band Captain in 1972-3 was living in Australia and posted the card on Facebook, asking if anyone remembered it. This incited hundreds of comments about lots of things and was the impetus for the reunion. All of this reminds me of the quote by Henry Adams: "A teacher affects eternity. He can never tell where his influence stops." Sorry the picture is so bad, but I didn't want to dismantle the frame.



THE
MESQUITE SYMPHONIC BAND
PRESENTS
A 25TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

**“THE MUSIC
OF
VAN RAGSDALE”**

VAN RAGSDALE
JOHN KLINE
GUEST CONDUCTORS

DALE COATES
CONDUCTOR

MESQUITE ARTS CENTER
APRIL 9, 2011
7:00 P.M.

August, 2011 - several ex-Hood band members met in Dallas for my birthday.
They were always good for a party...and so funny...a megaphone announcing my age!



Christmas, 2011 at the Gaylord Texan

Vicki

Vandad

Puss in Boots

Mimi

Jim

Allison Sylvester

Avery



We've come to the end of my show. I appreciate your taking the time to look at it and hope you've enjoyed it. Feel free to drop me a note at: vrag1@yahoo.com.

