A Family and Band Celebration



Greg and Gail Miller
Texas Bandmasters Association Convention 2022

"To make a difference in someone's life, you don't have to be brilliant, rich, beautiful, or perfect. You just have to care" Mandy Hale



FAMILY



Gregory Ray Miller was born on August 1, 1951, in Ft. Worth, Texas, to Lavoy Ray Miller and Zelma Victoria Davis Miller. It was so hot when his parents brought him home from the hospital, he had great difficulty breathing. His dad went to the local appliance store and bought a swamp cooler to help Greg breathe. The owner of the appliance store helped Lavoy install and set up the cooler the same day. This was the only "air conditioning" in the Miller household for several years. Greg and his older brother Johnny grew up and attended school in Azle, Texas.

When Greg started the sixth grade, he had the opportunity to join band, and Johnny was already playing alto sax. Thanks to the influence of Johnny and their parents, Greg made the decision to start playing an instrument. Guided by a desire to play something different from Johnny and Al Hirt's popular hit of the day “Java,” the cornet became the instrument of choice. Everyone in the family was excited about Greg being in band — except for their pet boxer “Fido,” who would often howl when Greg practiced. Despite Fido's protests, Greg practiced often, and when he was in the eighth grade, he decided to play a solo at the Cisco Band Festival. His judge was Hall of Fame director Warren Thaxton, and he received a "one” rating from him. Having been told by his director Greg Berry that Mr. Thaxton was a “hard” judge and that you had to earn your rating, it was the first time Greg ever thought he might be able to do something in the field of music.





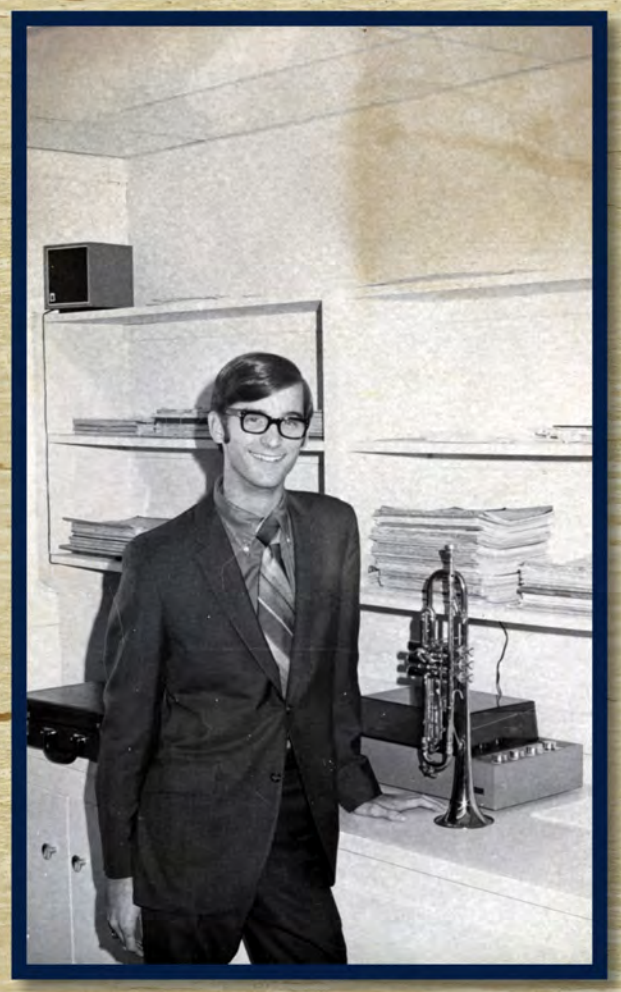
Azle Jr. High Band





Greg Berry was the band director in Azle until Greg's senior year when Darryl Phillips became the director. He was the drum major for both directors and learned one of life's great lessons from them. Simply put, “”There is more than one way to do a good job”. One of the highlights of Greg's senior year was when Hall of Fame director Ben Gollehon came for an all-day clinic on their UIL concert selections. It was the first such experience for the Azle band, and it was a great experience getting to rehearse with Mr. Gollehon.





After high school graduation in 1969, Greg decided after much deliberation to attend Howard Payne University in Brownwood. Johnny was already attending HPU, and Greg Berry was now the college band director. By attending Howard Payne, Greg formed several lifelong friendships including friendships with future band directors George “Buddy” Strickland, Frank Nelson, Chuck Christian, Dr. Darryl Trent, and Jim Alexander. At the beginning of his sophomore year, thanks to band and Johnny; Gail Wright of Bandera, a french horn player, caught Greg's attention.





Greg Miller of the Howard Payne College Symphony Band of Brownwood, rehearses in preparation for a performance at Canton school cafetorium on May 15 at 7:30 p. m. prior to their 1,500 mile tour of Germany.

Howard Payne College Symphony Band To Appear In Canton May 15

Howard Payne College Symphony Band of Brownwood will appear in concert in Canton on Monday evening, May 15, according to announcement made this week by Rev. Thomas Potter, pastor of the Little Hope Baptist Church.

The concert is being sponsored by the Baptist Youth for Christ of the Van Zandt Baptist Association.

The 55 member band presents secular concerts for high school audiences and sacred music for church groups. Various soloists are featured with the group in their program which includes all types of music in both the secular and sacred categories.

The group, members of which represent many parts of the United States, traveled over 4,000 miles last year performing for audiences in two states and will present concerts in eight German cities as part of this tour.

The public is cordially invited for the concert at 7:30 p. m.



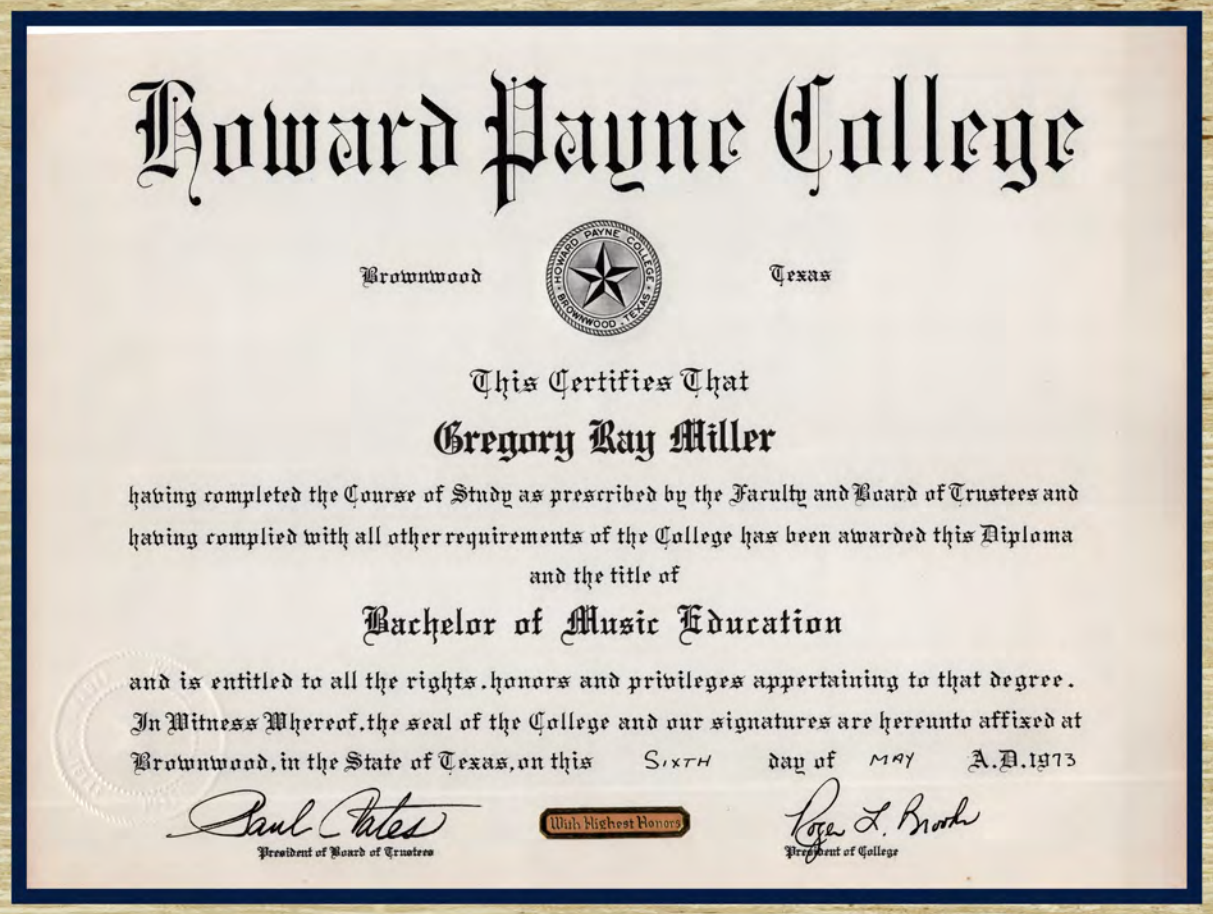


Swingin' Stingers of 1972-73 . . . making debuts in new places . . . hearing calls to return to play at old places . . . completing the Germany tour . . . planning other large scale tours for future years . . . Mr. Greg Berry pools his resources . . .

An organization on the move . . . growing by leaps and bounds each year . . . maintaining the fine rapport with audiences . . .

1. The Swingin' Stingers chose Gail Wright to be their sweetheart for 1972-73. 2. The Stage Band under the direction of Mr. John Farrell plays at many musical events. 3, 4. The marching band and twirlers: Pam Henning, Virginia Cornelius, Dana Humble, Paula Nichols, and Patty Ramsey (not shown) kept a busy schedule during the football season.

Greg graduated with a Bachelor of Music Education degree in May of 1973 and was hired by Iowa Park as the middle school band director in August. After Gail graduated in December, they were married on December 22, 1973. Gail started her own career in education in January of 1974 as a speech pathologist for the West Wichita County Co-op. However, she spent the last twenty-five years of a thirty-eight year career as a highly valued first grade teacher at Kidwell Elementary in Iowa Park. Both Greg and Gail finished their masters degrees at East Texas State University (now Texas A&M Commerce) in August of 1977.



Howard Payne College

Brownwood Texas

This Certifies That

Gregory Ray Miller

having completed the Course of Study as prescribed by the Faculty and Board of Trustees and having complied with all other requirements of the College has been awarded this Diploma and the title of

Bachelor of Music Education

and is entitled to all the rights, honors and privileges appertaining to that degree. In Witness Whereof, the seal of the College and our signatures are hereunto affixed at Brownwood, in the State of Texas, on this SIXTH day of MAY A.D. 1973

Paul Yates
President of Board of Trustees

With Highest Honors

Roger L. Brooks
President of College



East Texas State University

Commerce, Texas

Be it Known That

Gregory Ray Miller

having successfully completed the Course of Study as prescribed by the Faculty and Board of Regents and having complied with all other requirements of the University, has been declared a

Master of Music

and is entitled to all rights and privileges appertaining to that degree. In testimony whereof, the Board of Regents, upon recommendation of the Faculty, has granted this Diploma, bearing the seal of the University. Done this the twelfth day of August Nineteen Hundred Seventy-seven.

CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF REGENTS

J. H. McDowell
PRESIDENT OF UNIVERSITY

A new family begins





Wright-Miller Wedding

Gail is the rock of Greg's life, and he is thankful for her love and support. Greg and Gail soon had their own version of "My Three Sons", Kyle, Zachary, and Grant. Kyle was a special needs student in school. Zac and Grant excelled in both academics and extra-curricular activities such as band and athletics. Both Zac and Grant were ATSSB all state band members.













As of 2022, Gregory “Kyle” Miller resides in a special needs group home in Lubbock. Zachary Miller also resides in Lubbock with his wife Marcie McDaniel Miller and their son, Davis. Grant Miller resides in Abilene with his wife Monica McNeill Miller and their children, Reagan and Samuel. And yes, Nana and Oompa love to spoil the grandkids.





Greg and Johnny Miller



Lavoy and Zelma Miller

Since Junior High

Miller Makes Music

Influenced from a big brother's shiny, new horn, Greg Miller decided to join the band!

At the age of 12, Mr. Miller explained that when his brother played "neat" songs like "Mary Had a Little Lamb," he decided that he wanted to play an instrument, too. So, he joined the junior high band program in his hometown, Azle, located 16 miles from Ft. Worth.

His participation in junior high and high school band programs led him to major in music education at Howard Payne College in Brownwood. Mr. Miller received music scholarships while in college. He also played in the college's band called the "Swinging Stingers." Although Mr. Miller's main instrument was the coronet, he learned to play all instruments "to some degree."

At Howard Payne he was named to Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities and Alpha Chi, a society for students with high grades. Mr. Miller also participated in many music organizations.

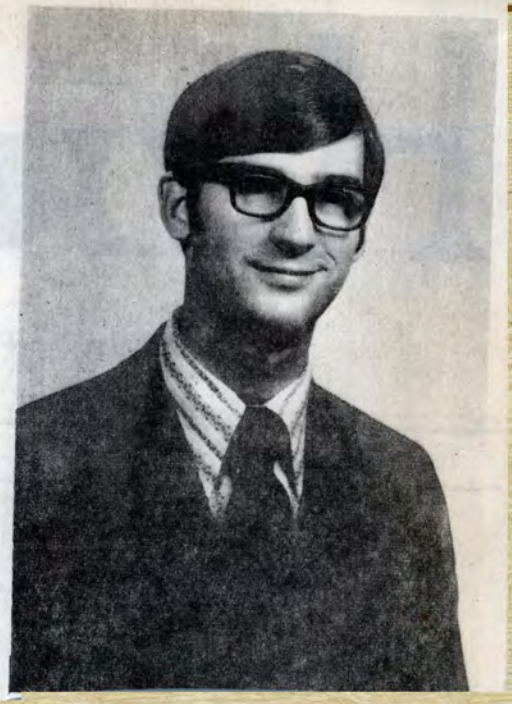
All kinds of music appeals to Mr. Miller if the music is well written. He is interested in stamp collecting and all sports. If he had not chosen teaching band as his career, he would like to have been a coach. Mr. Miller considers teaching a hobby because it is so enjoyable to him.

A first year teacher, Mr. Miller is very pleased with his job. His goal at Iowa Park Junior High is to offer an enjoyable experience for the band students. Someday he hopes to be a high school band director.

A typical day for Mr. Miller consists of working with the high school band from 8:30-9:30 a.m. He then meets with David Mooney, high school director, for a conference period. After lunch he arrives at the junior high for honor and varsity band classes. In this schedule, he also helps with beginner band at Valley View.

Mr. Miller's plans for this year include a concert with the choir Oct. 22 and a Christmas and spring concert. He also hopes to have some parties for the band. Contest will be next month in Wichita Falls.

A brother's influence led Mr. Miller all the way to Iowa Park Junior High. Both Millers still share the same interest! Mr. Miller's brother is a band director in Coahoma.



Six Twirlers Perform

Six Hawk twirlers perform at pep rallies and football games.

Twirlers include eighth graders Robin Grove, Kimberly Hamilton and head twirler, Carrie Cole. Lisa Carter, Joann Curry, and Jill Koonce are the seventh grade twirlers.

The twirlers are planning to enter the UIL contest Nov. 7 at Memorial Stadium in Wichita Falls.



Greg began his forty-year teaching career with David Mooney in Iowa Park in 1973. It was his fervent prayer and desire to be a positive influence for his students through band and music. Greg quickly realized how blessed he was to have done his student teaching with Hall of Fame director James Mallow in Brady, Texas. From his first day, Greg used many of the techniques he learned from Mr. Mallow until his own retirement. In the 1975 -76 school year, the W.F. George Middle School band received its first ever three event UIL Sweepstakes award. Yes, middle school bands really did march in UIL marching contests at that time!

W.F. George
Middle School Band
1973 - 1974



Iowa Park Junior High Band
1974 - 1975



FIRST EVER - The first Sweepstakes trophy ever earned by an Iowa Park Junior High band is exhibited by, from left, Deanne Patterson, drum major, Joanni Jennings, president, and Carrie Mahler, vice president.





TO: MR. GREGG MILLER













Since Mr. Gregg Miller came to Iowa Park Jr. High three years ago, it has changed slowly but greatly. With his understanding and just temperament he encourages students to put forth their best effort. This year he brought a band that could barely do anything into a great award winning band. He might think the band deserves all the credit but we do not agree. Yes! The band worked hard, but not nearly as hard as he did.



Most days before contest he remained at the Jr. High until 8:00 working with certain sections so they could be perfect. He has taught the band to care and trust each other. But, most of all he has made this last year of Jr. High for the eighth graders something really special because his heart was full of love, care, and understanding, but most of all by being a friend to all!

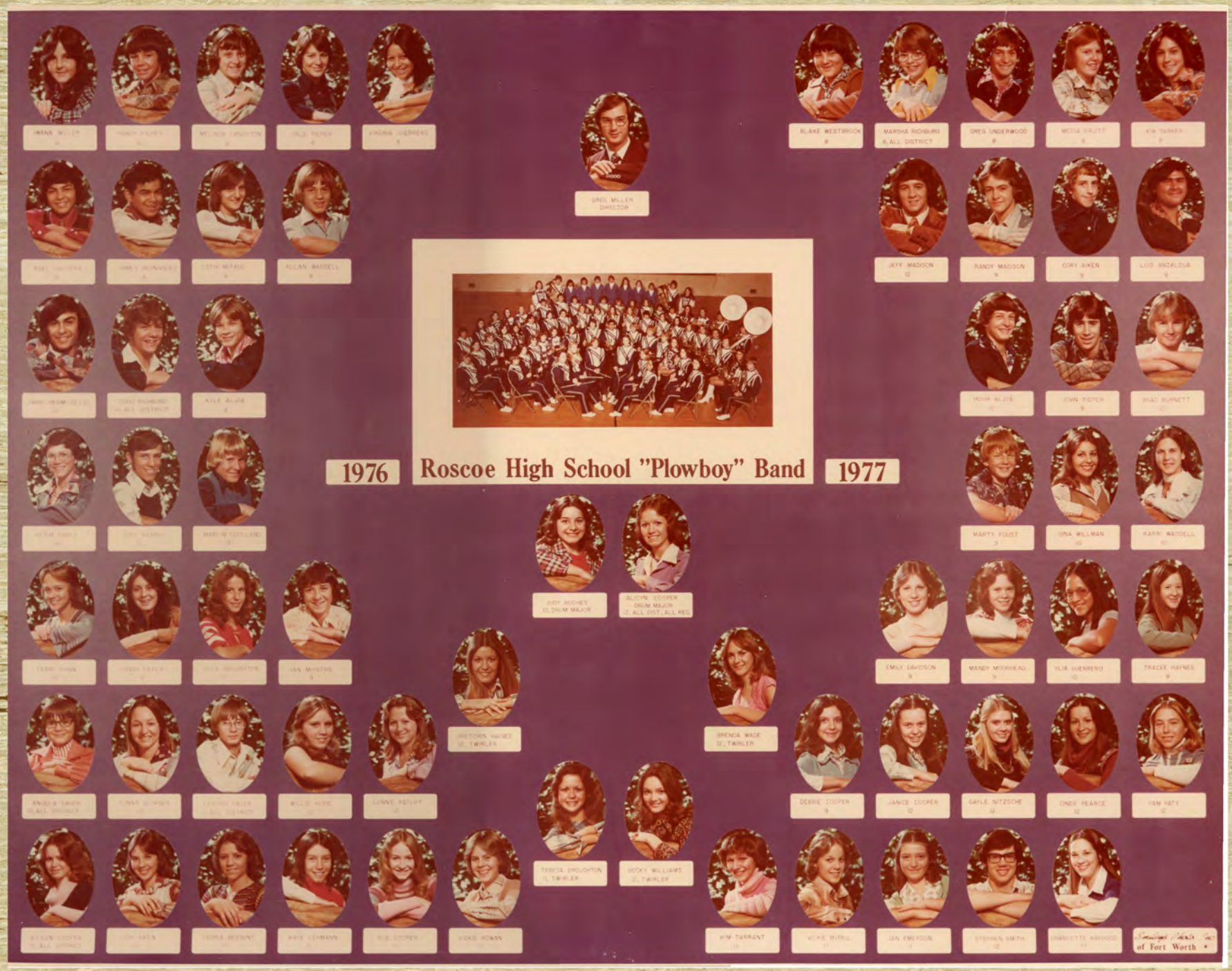


IT' A FIRST! -- For the first time since Iowa Park schools have had a band program, both the Junior High and High School bands earned a Division I rating in the UIL marching contest. The Hawk Band has taken the highest award before, but the Junior High did it for the first time.

Displaying the hardware are Jo Ann Jennings, left, president of the Junior High band, while Mark Stucki, Hawk Band vice president, holds his organization's trophy. Behind them are junior high director Greg Miller, left, and David Mooney, head director.



With aspirations of being a high school director, Greg left Iowa Park in the fall of 1976 and became the band director at Roscoe High School. In fact, on July 4, 1976, our Bicentennial Birthday, Greg was in Roscoe being hired by the school board. The time in Roscoe was another rewarding and invaluable experience for Greg. Hall of Fame member Wes May, of May and Duncan Music, would take the time when visiting the band hall to encourage Greg in his career. Greg also benefited from the assistance and advice of Hall of Fame directors Bill Woods and Dr. Charles Traylor. While teaching in Roscoe, the band earned back-to-back sweepstakes for the first time in their history.



Goes Into More Homes In The Roscoe Trade Territory Than Any Other Newspaper

The Roscoe Times

In The Heart of The Blackland Divide

ROSCOE, TEXAS, 79545, FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 1978.

Greg

'nament In High
ım Thru Saturday

Plowboy Band In Sweepstakes Win

On Wednesday of this week the Plowboy Band completed the requirements for the coveted Sweepstakes Award.

To earn this pinnocle ,the Roscoe bandsters received a Division I in Concert and Division I in Sightreading Wednesday in competition with other area bands at Hamlin..

The first leg of the Sweepstakes had been earned last fall, a Division I in marching.

The Sweepstakes honor is highly rated in band circles, and is a most difficult accomplishment.

The last Plowboy Band to the 1973-74 unit.
achieve this distinction was

Some of the comments ot judges Wednesday were: "'A nice loooking band and very attractive;" "This is a good band, I enjoyed listening to you;" "Your community should be proud of your;" editor's note: it is) Good ensemble, nice percussion;" "special commendation to the low brass;" "good ensemble, nice percus- and many others of similar praise.

"The band members worked hard," according to Band Directod Greg Miller, "and I am very proud of their efforts. They truly earned and deserved the Sweepstakes."



Plowboy Band 2nd Straight Sweepstakes

Roscoe Plowboy Band won Sweepstakes at the UIL Band Contest in the Abilene Civic Center Wednesday.

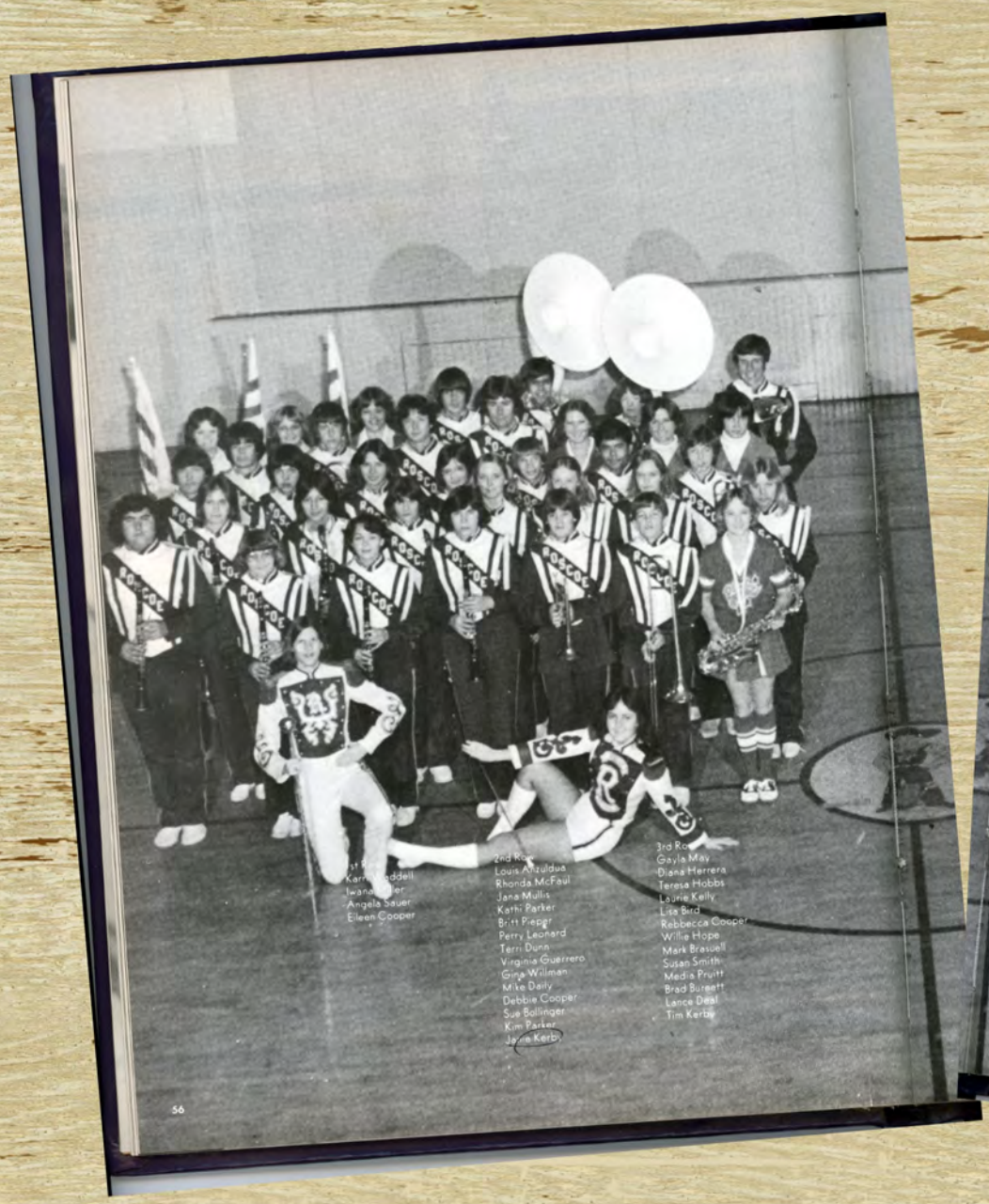
It received a score of 1, the highest mark possible, from all three judges in every event: marching. sight reading, and concert.

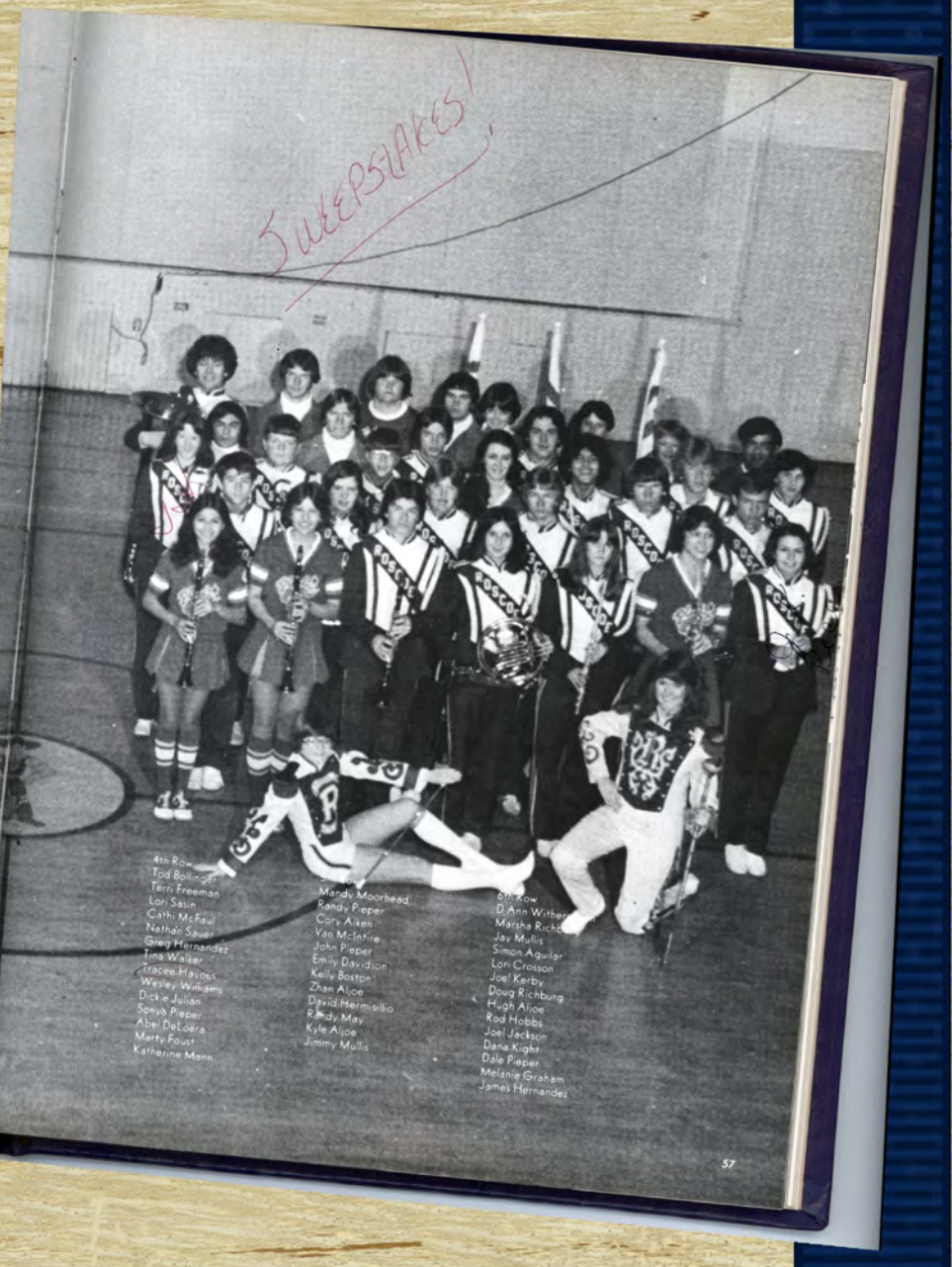
It was the only band to receive all 1's.

The Roscoe Band has won the Sweepstakes Award five times in its history, but this is their first time to win it two years straight.

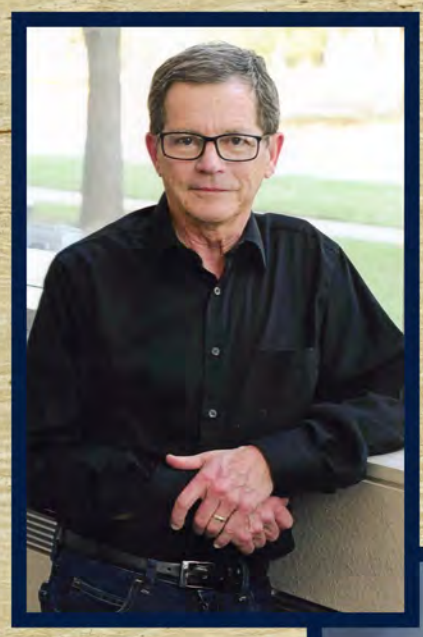
Mr. Miller haid all jdges were very complimentary, and much impressed..


PRIDE OF PLOWBOY LAND
ROSCOE
BIG PURPLE
MARCHING BAND


Karrie Caddell
Iwana Cooper
Angela Sauer
Eileen Cooper
Louis Anzuldua
Rhonda McFaul
Jana Mullis
Kathi Parker
Britt Pieper
Perry Leonard
Terri Dunn
Virginia Guerrero
Gina Willman
Mike Daily
Debbie Cooper
Sue Bollinger
Kim Parker
Gayla May
Diana Herrera
Teresa Hobbs
Laurie Kelly
Lisa Bird
Rebbecca Cooper
Willie Hope
Mark Brasuell
Susan Smith
Media Pruitt
Brad Burnett
Lance Deal
Tim Kerby
56


Sweepstakes
Tod Bollinger
Terri Freeman
Lori Sasin
Cathi McFaul
Nathan Sauer
Greg Hernandez
Tina Walker
Tracee Haynes
Wesley Williams
Dickie Julian
Sonya Pieper
Abel DeLoera
Marty Foust
Katherine Mann
Mandy Moorhead
Randy Pieper
Cory Aiken
Van McIntire
John Pieper
Emily Davidson
Kelly Boston
Zhan Aloe
David Hermosillio
Randy May
Kyle Aloe
Jimmy Mullis
D Ann Wither
Marsha Richb
Jay Mullis
Simon Aguilar
Lori Crosson
Joel Kerby
Doug Richburg
Hugh Aloe
Rod Hobbs
Joel Jackson
Dana Knight
Dale Pieper
Melanie Graham
James Hernandez
57

In the fall of 1979, Greg returned to Iowa Park as the high school director. He remained in Iowa Park for the next 34 years until his retirement in June of 2013. After three years as the only director in Roscoe, it was nice to return to Iowa Park where there were two directors. In the mid-nineties, the school board graciously granted permission to hire a third director. Greg was blessed to work with many wonderful co-directors in Iowa Park and enjoyed his time with all of them. They include Mark Cartwright, Bill Monroe, Ed Hefti, Jeannie Lunney, Norene Cannedy, Troy Walker, Teresa Archambo, Curtis McCarthy, and Elizabeth Witherspoon. Greg would especially like to acknowledge Ed Hefti. Rusty Stowe, a mutual friend and former band director, introduced Greg and Ed to each other. It was an answer to prayer on many different levels. Greg and Ed worked together for so long that the community was often unsure which one was which. Mr. Miller soon became "the bald one" and Mr. Hefti became "the short one". It is wonderful to have a co-director that is an outstanding musician, educator, Christian, and close friend. Another great mentor and friend was Hall of Fame director Charles Enloe of Wichita Falls. Charles had started coming to Iowa Park in the Fall of 1987, helping the band and directors. He did so until the end of 2013 when he was well into his nineties. Charles was a wealth of knowledge, and his insights into band, music, and life were invaluable to all he touched. Other directors who assisted with the Iowa Park band over the years included L.E. Gray, Gerald Tilford, Ted James, Jerry Floyd, Bill Parks, Elton Milford, and Sheryl Cyrus Kingcade.



Ed Hefti



Charles Enloe





Texas State
U.I.L.
Marching
Competition
1996



William "Bill" Monroe



Troy Walker



Teresa Archambo



Mark Cartwright

Not pictured
Norene
Cannedy



Jeannie Lunney



Elizabeth "Liz" Witherspoon



Curtis McCarthy

IOWA PARK LEADER, Iowa Park, Texas, Thursday, March 20, 2008

IOWA

Vol. 39, No. 25 IOW

25 IN A ROW!

IPHS Hawk Band picks up 25th consecutive sweepstakes award

The IPHS Hawk Band reached a milestone of sorts Thursday, capturing the UIL Sweepstakes award for the 25th consecutive year for their performance at the UIL Regional Concert and Sightreading Contest held at Gainesville High School.

Director Greg Miller said the band earned a first division in both concert and sightreading. Those ratings, combined with a first division rating in the UIL Marching Contest held in October, earned the band the coveted sweepstakes.

"We were very pleased with the students' performance both on and off the stage," said Miller. "There were many positive comments about the students and Iowa Park."

Some of the judges' comments from Thursday's competition included:

"Nice band sound. Very mature sounding group. Very musical performance. I enjoyed hearing you today! Congratulations."

– Chris Lovejoy, Whitesboro

"Really good sounds. I enjoyed hearing you today. Good style on all three pieces. Very musical."

– Wendell Gideon, Stephenville

continued

Band

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"Tone quality and intonation is very secure. Impressive detail work, style is marvelous! Nice appearance and professionalism! It was a treat to hear you! I had heard much about this group and all the positive comments were affirmed!"

– David Christy, Durant

"Great job band. Thanks for playing today."

– Sean Hill, Pilot Point

"Good job of tonal center. Great job overall! Good reading!"

– Danny Prado, Grapevine

"Really great sounds. This is the best band I've heard today. Super job! Congratulations!"

– Ben Davis, Rockwall

Vol. 39, No. 26 IOWA PARK, WICHITA COUNTY, TEXAS 76367 Thursday, March 27,



CELEBRATING 25

Members of the IPHS Hawk Band spell out "25" on the group's practice field Tuesday in reference to the band's 25th consecutive UIL Sweepstakes Award, earned recently at UIL Concert and Sightreading Contest in Gainesville, in addition to the Superior rating earned last fall at the UIL Marching Contest.
photo by Kevin Hamilton



Greg Miller (left) and Ed Hefti

One secret to the IPHS Hawk Band's 25 years of consecutive sweepstakes awards is the direction and friendship of two men - Greg Miller and Ed Hefti

STORY AND PHOTO
BY KEVIN HAMILTON

Iowa Park High School's Hawk Band winning the UIL Sweepstakes recently for the 25th consecutive year is a remarkable accomplishment.

What makes it even more unique is the fact two directors worked together throughout the two and one-half decades to mentor each IPHS band.

In that time, Director Greg Miller and Assistant Director Ed Hefti have formed as tight a bond of professional and personal friendship as two men can. According to both, people have commented "...we are either married, or twins!"

Their combined talents (Hefti's expertise is woodwinds, Miller's brass) is just one way to start explaining the chemistry that has helped the Hawk Band excel year in and year out.

The two were interviewed recently concerning the 25 consecutive years of UIL Sweepstakes, which includes receiving a Superior Rating in the fall's Marching Contest, and a Superior Rating in both Concert and Sightreading each spring.

Following are excerpts of their responses:

Twenty-five consecutive years ... seems a considerable milestone. Is it for you, personally?

MILLER - Personally, I don't know. The numbers are kind of fascinating. Mr. Brooks asked me several years ago about another school. They were like 23. At that time I said I can't even imagine ... so many things have to go right. Sometimes you have to be lucky. We've had our share of luck at times. Personally, the other one that struck me was year 20. Then to hit 25 – when I look at it in terms of a quarter of a century, I go "yeah!"

Miller & Hefti

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Are you aware of other schools doing the same?

MILLER - There are a number of schools that have done it. I'm sure of it. There are too many quality programs in the state of Texas.

And that's what Iowa Park is ... a quality program?

MILLER - We try to work that way.

What do you attribute that to?

MILLER - I would have to go back to the previous answer and add to that the support of the community, the schools, the students, the parents. There are so many factors involved, there's absolutely no way that anyone could sit there and say I did it, or we did it.

The longer I've taught, the more I've thought how much like a watch a school system is. With everything having to work together .. the support staff, maintenance, transportation ... just everything and everybody you could think of."

You know how other band programs work. Is there something that is consistent with band students that maybe not sets them apart, but makes it possible for such a successful program? In other words, is there something unique to Iowa Park?

MILLER - I don't know about unique to Iowa Park. It goes back to the original answer. And I guess consistency from the standpoint, anytime you contribute to change, in the classroom.

I tell the students, they probably put more pressure on themselves than anybody else. I try to keep it off the students. It's not to me necessarily a healthy thing. I do have an appreciation for programs that manage to keep a consecutive streak going year after year after year. I do understand what they are going through from a student standpoint or what have you. And I tell the students all the time, it could happen anytime (breaking the streak). Doesn't matter when. It's just like having a string and a pair of scissors. That could be stopped at anytime. It could happen next year. You hope it doesn't. But it could. You never know.

Twenty-five years of sweepstakes is substantial, but maybe it's even more special because two directors were a part of the same program through all those years.

HEFTI - Twenty-five years is not necessarily a big milestone, because there are some bands with 50. But for two people to work together long is definitely unusual in the music world. One of the philosophies that we have had – and we have had a number of directors ask us 'how do you make that work?' – I do everything I can to make him look good, including taking a bullet. In turn, he does everything he can to make me look good.

We have used that philosphy over the years to teach our kids the team concept, so that when they step out into the world, the skills they have learned are not just music skills, but life skills. How to work with people, how to be a team member, how to respect authority.

Because Greg and I disagree on different things ... and kids know that we disagree on different things. But what they see is that it doesn't really matter. What matters is the result. The team concept for the better good.

We've obvioiusly been very successful in modeling that.

MILLER - I am still learning. I am, we are. We are all still learning. We are doing things different this year than we did last year. A lot of the things are the same. But how I go about doing those things are the same, and some of ... there have been some new things, maybe one or two ... but it's always different, and every group is different.

So you have to – while you approach things the same – you still approach each group differently than you did the year before.

Have the new things helped to sustain your interest?

MILLER - It helps. Anything you pick up new – personally as an educator – does help bring some freshness to what you are doing.

What has Ed Hefti been for you?

MILLER - Oh gee. How do I answer that one? We have spent so many years together. We pretty much know what the other one is thinking. And eventhough he's been retired and only part-time these last couple of years, that didn't disappear.

There's been times when people accused us of being either married, or twins. Many times over the course of the years we knew what the other was thinking and could finish the other's sentence. And sometimes, there's not even a matter of finishing a sentence. Someone standing around us might not have a clue what we were talking about, but we both knew and understood about what area or subject we were conversing on.

We've had people stop us

continued on next page

Miller & Hefti

continued from page 5A

and go 'Wait a minute ... is there anything in that conversation I needed to know?'

How many years have you worked together?

MILLER - Professionally, 25. In fact it was a friend of ours who brought us together. Rusty Stowe ... he was minister of music at First Baptist ... and he knew there was the potential a person was leaving and he said to me 'I know just the guy. You two would get along great!'

Ed came up to interview ... one of those spring days when the weather was pretty nasty and potential tornado. We were in the band hall at the middle school when we see trash cans running down the road. And tree limbs. All this stuff blowing down the street. And he goes 'Heh, you think we ought to get out of here?' And I'm going 'Naw, we are ok where we are.'

Of course, he was worrying about his wife Diane at the time.

What did Ed bring to his job?

MILLER - Far as skills, ask him! Easiest way to describe ... we compliment each other. It's kind of like Mutt and Jeff. We spent a lot of the first years teaching going 'Why do you do that?' And the usual response was 'I don't know. It's just something I learned. But how about doing it this way?'

Between the two of us, nothing was ever a major issue. If it was an issue, we'd sit down and talk about it. I don't have a memory of us being upset or mad at each other.

Greg said he can't remember cross words between you two.

HEFTI - That's never happened. Those are musical things. Like I'd like to have more sound in this area ... or it needs to go a little slower here ... and he'll say 'Well, no, I'd like for it to not go slower there.' It's those kinds of things.

It's really a marriage, is what it comes down to. After being together for this long. In fact, we did it just the two of us for a number of years, and then when we'd have the opportunity for a third director to come in, they would kind of feel left out. Greg and I would be talking, and he'd start the conversation and say 'Did you know? ... and I'd say 'Yeah.' And he'd say 'Are we?' ... and I'd say 'Yeah, we've already taken.'

It's like a sentence with no nouns or pronouns. And the other director is going 'What did ya'll say?' We had to kind of expand our conversations to include the other individual to know what we were talking about.

The Hawk Band has been the beneficiary of such a relationship.

HEFTI - Yes. My strengths and weaknesses, with his strengths and weaknesses. That manifests in marching season, because I'm not visual. When we rehearsed the marching band for all those years, I did music, and he did the visual part ... the actual drill part.

And we could always tell when the kids were getting close to contest, because then we'd start to lap over. When I started noticing the marching, that was about the same time he started noticing the music. We've used beneath my wings. He is the one that has helped spur me to a higher professional development, because of his personal and professional committment to everything he does, from taking care of his oldest son, to being involved with this band program, juggling everything in his family life to professional life to extra-curricular life.

He's my hero.

I'm sure he feels the same about you in many ways.

HEFTI - We have a very special relationship.

Your thoughts about when this all ends?

HEFTI - It's like all things. It will end sometime.

What we've always told our kids ... you do the best you can ... all the preparation that you can. When preparation and opportunity meet, that is where success is.

Too often, success is measured in things like this – winning a contest — or how much money you make. Measured in how much stuff you've accumulated over your life.

But, in reality, that is not what success is all about.

We try to get the kids to understand that you prepare the fundamentals, you prepare the music to the best of your ability, and go do it. And when you walk off the stage or the football field, and you are pleased that you've done the best possible job that you can, then you are successful.

Where do you go from here?

MILLER - Other than the junior high in 30 minutes?

Are you still excited about what you are doing?

MILLER - I take that as 'Do I still enjoy the process and preparation of teaching.'

My middle son has told me I'm unusual ... teaching 35 years in the same job.

I didn't know early on if I'd be a history or social studies teacher. Life is what happens to you when you are making plans about what you want to do.

Note - Both Miller and Hefti made mention of the tremendous contributions of their assistants over the years, including Jenny Lunny, Teresa Archinburg, Troy Williams, Curtis McCarthy, Norene Kennedy, and Elizabeth Wetherbee.

Bald Ranger and Sqanto
{sound effects Theme from The Lone Ranger - trumpet - Dum, ta da dum, etc.}

There we were in the bandhall -
Minding our own business.
All of the sudden, Fb came upon us,
What were we to do?
How were we to finger it?
Suddenly {sound effects}, from nowhere,
Riding in a '64 Chevy;
A masked rider and his faithful partner,
A tall hairless creature and his short stubby friend
Came to our aid.

"Young man," he said with a shout, "Fb is really an E natural."
We were astounded, we had seen the light.
Fb WAS REALLY E NATURAL.
"Thank you masked strangers and sun glassed one, "we said.
"No problem," he said, and as they rode in their trusty '64 Chevy, he yelled,
"Hi ho Staccato, away!"
And there upon the ground, what did we see --
A silver baton that he had left for us.
And as the dust settled upon the horizon,
We asked, "Who was that hairless one?"
Why that was
The Bald Ranger and Sqanto!

Ronald and Donald Young



30th CONSECUTIVE SWEEPSTAKES

Hawk Band does it again!

The Iowa Park High School Hawk Band has done it, yet again.

For the 30th consecutive year, the Hawk Band has earned the UIL Sweepstakes Award.

On Wednesday, the Iowa Park musicians earned a First Division (superior) rating at the UIL Region 2 Concert and Sightreading Contest at Wilbarger Auditorium in Vernon.

That, combined with their First Division (superior) rating in the fall Regional UIL Marching Contest enabled the Hawk Band to continue their impressive streak for the 30th straight year.

"Congratulations to all the band students," said Director Greg Miller.

"We were really pleased with the students both on and off the stage," said Miller in a joint comment for him and assistants Ed Hefti and Elizabeth Wetherbee. "They did a terrific job representing our school and community. Just a fantastic day. We received so many compliments from other people on the students and their performance."

JUDGES

Comments from judges on the Hawk Band's Concert and Sightreading performance include:

"Very clean...Good tone on full band. Percussion very accurate"

– Elmer Schenk, McKinney

"Excellent band sounds. Band plays with great technique. Excellent work with details. A confident and musical performance. I enjoyed it."

– Bryan Ferrell, Whitesboro

"Excellent ensemble sounds. Nice blend and balance of all voices. Excellent attention to details, nice clarity of rhythmic figures. Wow!! Wonderful musicality, style, phrasing and dynamics. Congrats for an excellent enjoyable performance today. I really enjoyed hearing your selections."

– George Strickland, Liberty Hill

"Very good fundamental sounds! Nice style! Very good job by students! Enjoyed your performance."

– Pat Dietz, Keller

continued on page 5

BAND

continued from page 1

"Really nice characteristic sounds in all sections. Very good intonation within and between sections. What a musical performance! Great attention to dynamic changes. Great attention to the different styles. I really enjoyed hearing you today. Congratulations to you!"

– Jim Alexander, Kennedale

"Wow! What a wonderful band sound! You all play with great individual and ensemble sounds. Good job today with all the technique. Thank you for playing so well today! Great musicality throughout. Congrats to a fine band."

– Jim Cude, Whitesboro



Iowa Park Leader 75¢

TWO FRIENDS TAKE A FINAL WALK FOR IOWA PARK

Hawk Band Director Greg Miller (left) and Assistant Director Ed Hefti take their traditional walk onto the turf at Memorial Stadium last October prior to the band's performance at the Region 2 Marching Contest. The band earned a Superior (1) rating, and later, achieved a milestone with its 30th consecutive UIL Sweepstakes Award, all under the mentorship of Miller and Hefti. Both announced they will retire at the end of the school year. Story below.

Photo by Kevin Hamilton

ol. 44, No. 35 IOWA PARK, WICHITA COUNTY, TEXAS 76367 Thursday, May 23, 2013

It was during these years that the Iowa Park Band achieved thirty years of consecutive UIL Sweepstakes awards. The band was a consistent performer at the UIL Area B Marching Contest for 4A bands often being named as the alternate to the UIL State Marching contest. In 1986 and 1996, the Iowa Park band placed second and then fourth at the state marching contest. During this time, many students performed well in individual UIL, TMEA, and ATSSB events with several earning All State Band honors in either TMEA or ATSSB. The band program also produced several band directors over the years including Mike Lunney, Phil Clements, Tim Bradberry, Charles Bradberry, Karen Schell Brunker, Jared Pruett, and Steven Mitchell. Upon Greg's retirement, Charles Bradberry was hired as the director of bands in Iowa Park.

Miller, Hefti retiring with lasting legacy

BY KEVIN HAMILTON

After helping compile one of the most impressive and consistent programs in Texas high schools for 30 years, IPHS Director Greg Miller and Assistant Director Ed Hefti have announced plans to retire following the 2012-13 school year.

Iowa Park school trustees approved the retirement plans during Thursday's meeting, in addition to those of three other longtime mentors in the local schools – Wendy Meadows, Lee Ann Bryant, and Kellie Gibson.

What made the careers of Miller and Hefti especially noteworthy was the fact two highly capable music instructors managed to forge a relationship and work alongside one another for three straight decades, something that is indeed rare.

The two also led a highly competitive program that earned 30 straight UIL Sweepstakes Awards, which means the Hawk Band earned Superior I ratings 90 consecutive times in marching, concert and sightreading competitions. Few high school bands in Texas can boast of such a fete.

One of the strengths exhibited by the Iowa Park band program was the development of the younger students, from fifth grade into junior high, and finally high school. Assistant Director Elizabeth Wetherbee worked alongside Miller and Hefti to mentor the youngsters and grow their skills.

The Leader posed a number of questions to Miller and Hefti recently, and here are their responses.

What prompted your decision to retire at this time?

Miller – There was really no one thing. There was a lot of prayer and thought taken into consideration and a feeling or knowing that it was time to retire. I have talked to educators for years about how you know when it is time to retire and the response was always the same. You will know when it is time to retire and for me, i is time to retire.

Hefti – As I mentioned at ou spring band concert, in order to understand the decision, you must understand the journey. In 2006, I retired for all the "right reasons" except one.....it was not in God's time. God graciously allowed me to teach another seven years at Iowa Park CISD, for which I am extremely grateful. Dianne and I prayed that God would show us when actual retirement should occur and He was faithful. This is the right time.

Was there anything in '30 consecutive sweepstakes' that came into play with this decision?

Miller – No. Getting to 30 was

continued on page 5

MILLER, HEFTI

continued from page 1

nice, but it was really a matter of coincidence.

Hefti – No ... being able to teach and work with great students was the blessing. 30 sweepstakes was the gravy!

Can you provide the total number of years you were at IPCISD? Are there any highlights while at Iowa Park that you can share?

Miller – 37 of my 40 years of teaching have been in Iowa Park. The three years I was not here, I was teaching in Roscoe, Tx, a small town just west of Sweetwater. There have been a lot of highlights while teaching in Iowa Park. The first is simply being blessed and fortunate to work with Ed for the last 30 years. For me, Ed was actually an answer to prayer. I really wanted to get someone that would be willing to stay in Iowa Park for several years that was a great teacher and a great human being as well. Believe me, Iowa Park has been fortunate to have Ed and his family for all these years. And I think both of us have Rusty Stowe to thank for getting us together. Rusty was the minister of music at First Baptist Church in Iowa Park at the time. If I am not mistaken, he was always telling me before Ed and I knew each other, "I know the guy you want for this job. Ya'll would enjoy working together. I think it would be a perfect match." Rusty was right.

As for other highlights, wow, there have been so many. I guess one highlight would the first time we went to the state marching contest in 1986 and made the finals. Just the fact that it was under the lights in the evening at Memorial Stadium in Austin with about 30,000 people cheering the band onto field still sends chills up my spine.

Hefti – I will be finishing my 30th year teaching at Iowa Park

There were several times over the past three decades that have always stayed with me. One was the State Marching Contest of 1986. We were the "Cinderella team", barely making it out of Region, Area and even the prelim contest to get into the finals. But what a performance for the finals! It was such a great feeling for the "Mean Green" and all the bands (which at that time was 1A - 5A) to step on the track at the University of Texas Football Stadium and see 30,000 plus fans supporting their efforts. When the results were read ... we finished second ... such a proud moment!! Only to be repeated in 1996 with another trip to the state marching contest.

You both are leaving a lasting legacy at iphs. will you have any input/involvement in determining your replacements?

Miller – I am sure we will be involved to some degree regarding the next directors coming to Iowa Park.

Hefti – We have been requested to provide some direction as the administration gets to making a decision. The final decision will be left to the administration.

What do you plan to do now?

Miller – My wife and I would like to do some traveling from time to time. And of course, now we will have more time to bop in on our sons and their wives. I am sure they will love that idea. Gail is still working at Kidwell on a part time basis and as for me, we shall have to wait and see. It is probably the only time in my life that I do have not anything definite planned although I have a couple of things I want to do now that my time will be freed up. There is also a possibility I could be doing some contract services work.

Hefti – My plans are to spend more time with my family, do a little bit more hunting and fishing and get back into woodworking. I will also be available for contract services, clinics, judging, performances and teaching private lessons while continuing to serve at First Baptist Church Wichita Falls.

What did you tell the band when you announced your intention to retire?



Greg Miller and Ed Hefti. photo by Kevin Hamilton

Miller – I don't know that I can remember what was said all that clearly. There were plenty of tears in the band hall that morning including my own. Those were some of the hardest words I have had to speak. Simply telling the students I was retiring at the end of this school year was difficult. I explained or tried to explain that this was the right time for me to retire. We all have choices or decisions we make based on need, want, or simply because it is the right thing to do. And my decision was based on this is the right thing to do at this time for everyone. I also mentioned that yes, this means there will be changes or that things will be different. I want the students to understand that if they are open to changes and are willing to try new and different things, then they will be able to go to new areas or places they have never imagined. Some of the new and different things may take a little courage, but the rewards for everyone can be enormous.

Hefti – We discussed how change in our lives is inevitable ... sometimes it is by choice and other times not. In either instance it is an opportunity to

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MILLER, HEFTI

continued from page 1

grow spiritually, mentally and physically. We discussed how everything does not always remain the same and that change is good. Having someone new come in to teach them is a great opportunity for learning....so give them a chance to make this program better and to push it to the next level.

Is there anything else you wish to share for this story?

Miller – Honestly, no. But I would like to thank the community, schools, and students of Iowa Park for the support they have given to the band program. It has been a tremendous honor and privilege to teach in Iowa Park so many years. And I cannot think of another place that would have been so gracious and supportive to my family and me over these many years. Just one big huge thank you to everyone.

Hefti – This has been an incredible journey of Faith, friendship, and following what God has planned for my life. Dianne, Erin and I moved from Navasota, Texas to Iowa Park with the hopes and dreams of being part of a winning program. Greg Miller was an answer to our prayer. I had two job offers on the table. One was with the Texas Department of Corrections and the other was with Iowa Park CISD. When Greg offered the position to me, Dianne and I agreed it would be better to teach and keep students out of prison rather than teaching them in prison. Never in my wildest dreams did I think that I would be here for thirty years and be part of such a great tradition. I cannot express how grateful I am to Greg and his family for being such a major part of our lives.

Greg has been a member of Phi Beta Mu, TMEA, TMAA. ATSSB, and TBA. His entire teaching career was spent in what was then TMEA region 2 (now region 7 as of 2022). Greg served as the TMEA region 2 secretary and eventually as the region vice-president. Later, he served as the region 2 coordinator and Area North coordinator for ATSSB. He also served as the first region representative for region 2 for the Texas Bandmasters Association.

In 1986, Greg was named the "Outstanding Educator of the Year" by the Iowa Park Chamber of Commerce. Later, he was the recipient of the "Mirabeau B Lamar Excellence in Education Award" presented by the local Masonic Lodge.











Finally, Greg was truly honored when the directors of ATSSB region 2 created the "Greg Miller Scholarship Award" which is presented annually to an outstanding senior band student in the region band.



y-morning stroll at Gordon Lake Tuesday.

Former IPHS band director to be inducted into hall of fame

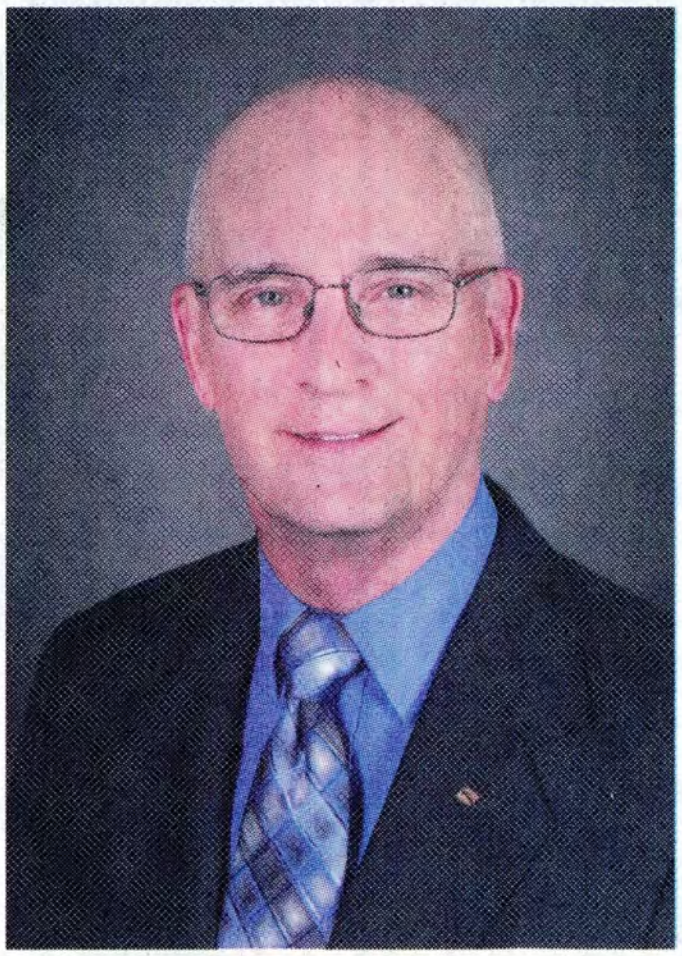
"To make a difference in someone's life, you don't have to be brilliant, rich, beautiful, or perfect. You just have to care." – *Mandy Hale*

Former IPHS Band Director and longtime Iowa Parkan Greg Miller was instrumental in helping the Hawk Band achieve four decades of excellence in marching, concert and sightreading.

Next Saturday in San Antonio, Miller will be acknowledged for his vast achievements in the field of music education in Texas by being inducted into the Texas Bandmasters Association Hall of Fame.

The ceremony will take place at 2 p.m. at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center in San Antonio.

Much of Miller's career in the music field spanned the over four decades living in Iowa Park.



Former IPHS Band Director Greg Miller

"My time in Iowa Park is really my adult life," he said recently. "It was obviously an enjoyable time, or I would not have stayed in Iowa Park for 45 years. Yes, there were many ups and downs, (like anyone else has in their own life) but I would not change any of those experiences either personally or professionally. Our family formed many close relationships over the years and have many dear friends in Iowa Park. The community, school, and Methodist church all played a vital role in the life of our family."

SHAPING HIS LIFE

"I think that I may have been prepared for Iowa Park from a young age," Miller said. "I grew up in a town very similar to Iowa Park with the same school colors, with the same fight song (Trio from Brasses to the Fore), and a similar school song. In fact, the first time I heard "Brasses to the Fore" in my first Summer Band in Iowa Park of 1973, I truly almost fell out of my chair. It also made me feel like I was meant to come to Iowa Park.

"The school system in Iowa Park taught me to be a professional educator and the right way to do things as a professional educator," he continued. "I have often said if most school systems in Texas had been operating as Iowa Park CISD did when I started teaching, we would never have heard of Mark White and H. Ross Perot in the 1980's. Honestly, it felt like many school districts in the state were trying to catch up to Iowa Park. This is a strong impression that has stayed with me all my adult life.

THE SUPPORT

"The Methodist church (other churches as well) and community of Iowa Park expressed how much love, care, and support they had for my family and the band program," Miller said." All these groups willingly provided their support and care in various ways. You always knew they wanted the best for your family,

continued on page 3

MILLER *continued*

the band, and in return, you simply wanted to give your best back to the students and Iowa Park. I am extremely grateful to Iowa Park for the impact that was made on my life and the lives of my family."

GIVING THANKS

"What I really want to do is give thanks to the students and all the people that had such a positive influence on my life," Miller remarked. "This includes all the people in the school system, students, churches, and the community itself. I must also thank the co-directors who worked with the band and put up with me: Mark Cartwright, Bill Monroe, Jeannie Lunney, Norene Cannedy, Troy Walker, Teresa Archambo, Curtis McCarthy, and Elizabeth Witherspoon. I especially want to recognize and thank Ed Hefti who was an answer to prayer many years ago."

Hall of Fame Honorees 2022



Greg Miller



Cody Earl Myers



Jack Nall



Susan Scarborough



Ronnie Touchstone



Robley Louis Toups, Jr. (Rob)



Evelio Villarreal



Bill Watson

TEXAS BANDMASTERS ASSOCIATION
HALL OF FAME
2022
INDUCTION CEREMONY

Texas Bandmasters Association Convention

Stars at Night Ballroom
Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center
San Antonio, Texas
July 23, 2022
Ceremony II - 2:00 pm

Alpha Chapter
Phi Beta Mu
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BANDMASTER FRATERNITY



Program

TBA Welcome	Roland Sandoval, President Texas Bandmasters Association
Phi Beta Mu Welcome	Tom Harrington, President Alpha Chapter, Phi Beta Mu
Introduction of Honorees	Phi Beta Mu Alpha Chapter Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame Committee Members Barbara Lambrecht, presiding
Closing Remarks	Richard Crain, Former Executive Secretary Phi Beta Mu International

Honorees

Greg Miller
Cody Earl Myers
Jack Nall
Susan Scarborough
Ronnie Touchstone
Robley Louis Toups, Jr. (Rob)
Evelio Villarreal
Bill Watson

Hall of Fame Committee Members

Chairperson: Barbara Lambrecht
Members: Gerald Babbitt, Al Cortinas, Scott Coulson, Richard Crain, Ben Gollehon, David Lambert, Cindy Lansford, Don Lawler, Cody Myers, Bill Woods

Program

TBA Welcome	Roland Sandoval, President Texas Bandmasters Association
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Honorees

CEREMONY I

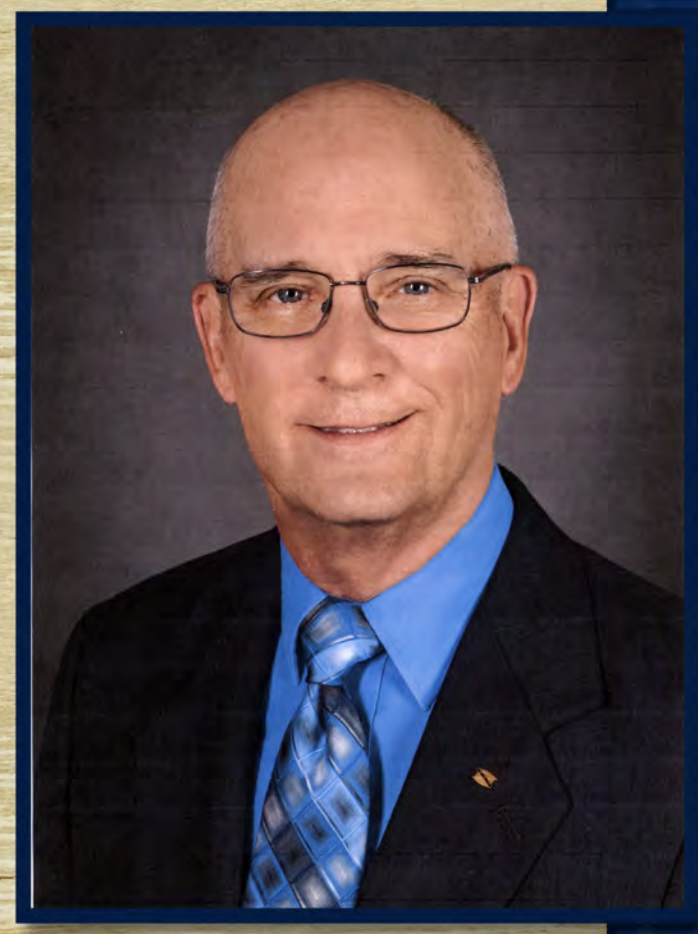
Stuart Bird
Cindy Bulloch
Nancy Caston
Joe Grzybowksi
Scott McAdow
Norman Wade McDonald
Cindy Mikel

CEREMONY II

Greg Miller
Cody Earl Myers
Jack Nall
Susan Scarborough
Ronnie Touchstone
Robley Louis Toups, Jr. (Rob)
Evelio Villarreal
Bill Watson

Hall of Fame Committee Members

Chairperson: Barbara Lambrecht
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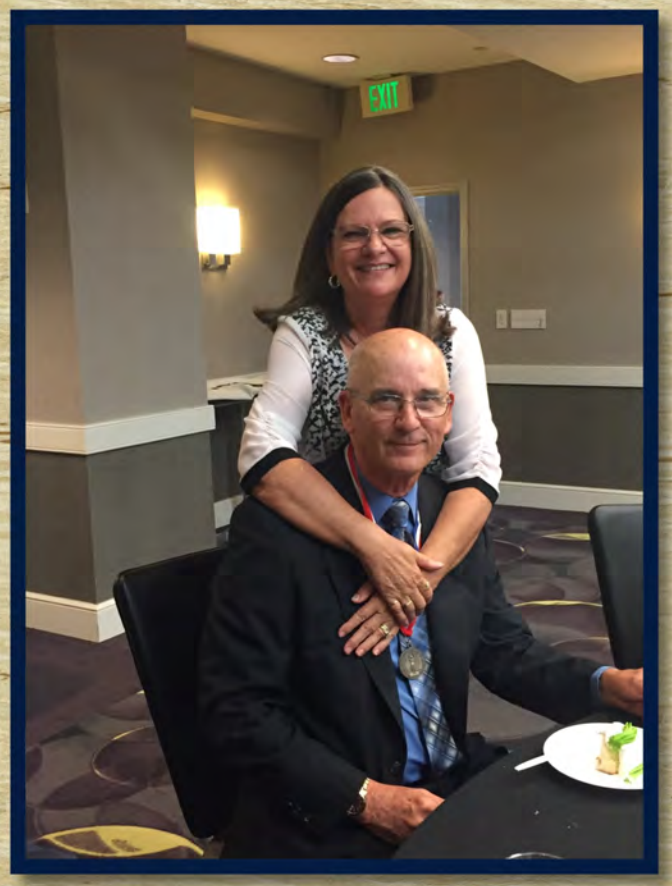






The Miller Family









Gail and Greg and the Miller family coming into the reception.







Zac and Grant





Buddy and Melinda
making sure all is good







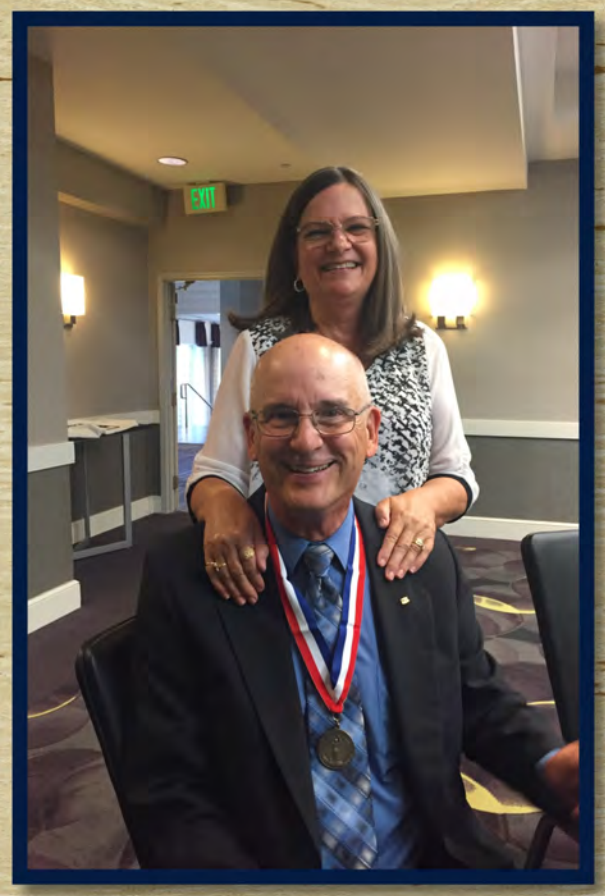
Monica, Marcie and the grandchildren
- Sam, Davis, and Reagan



Ed Hefti and Liz Witherspoon



Marcie and Zac



Greg and Gail



Mark Tucker



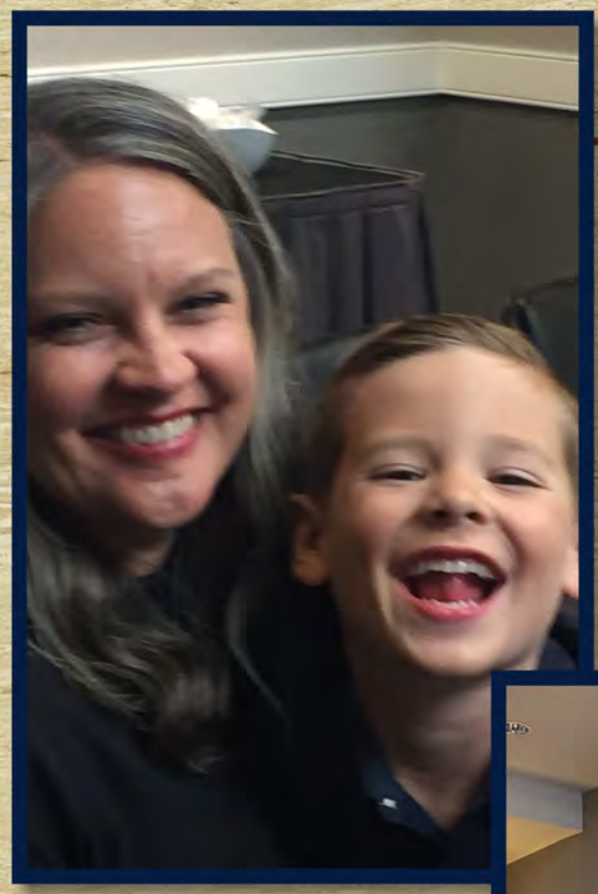
Charles Bradberry



Monica, Sam, and Reagan Miller



Cody and Starrla Myers and Greg



Marcie and Davis Miller



Chuck and Donna Christian - college friends



Rodney and Marilyn Bennett



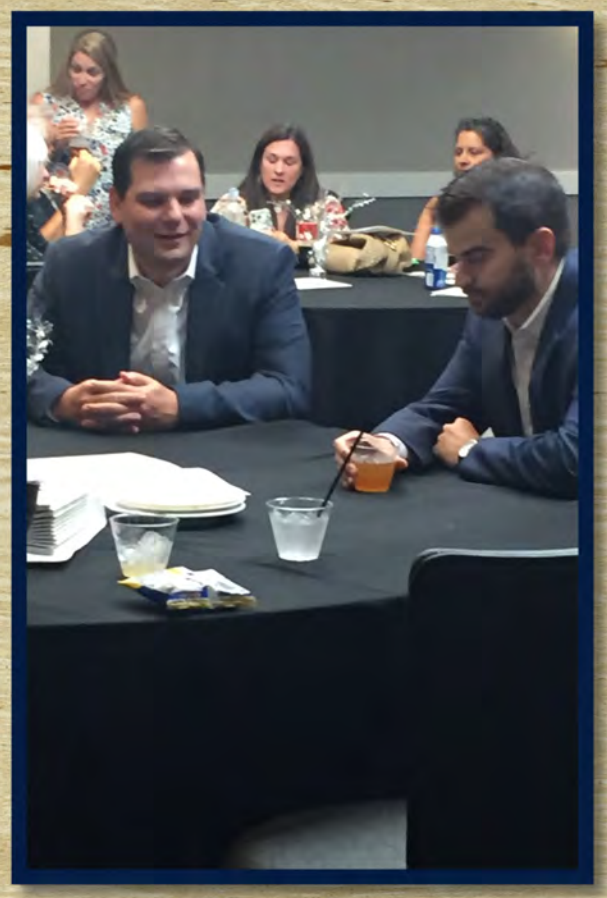
Dave Lee visiting with Greg Berry



Karen Brunker and Greg

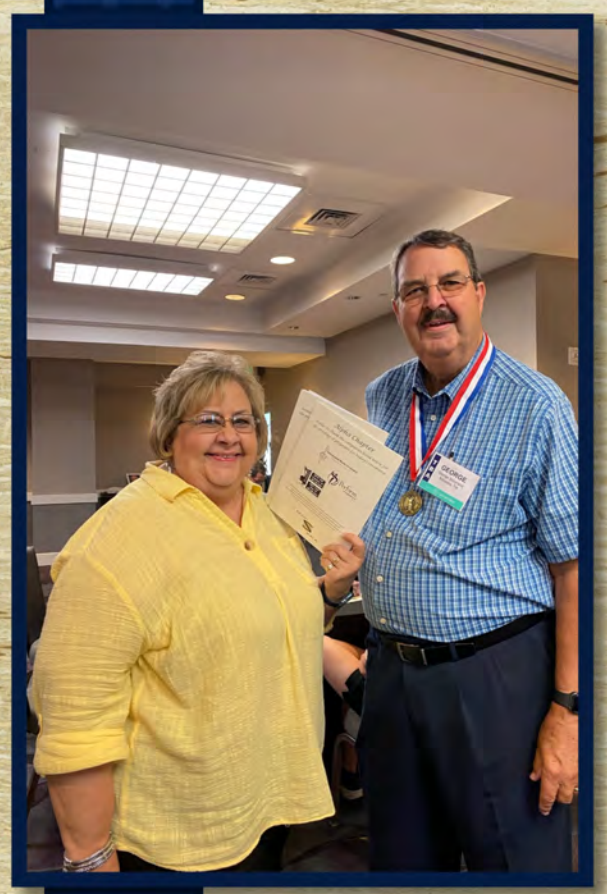


Charles Bradberry
and Greg





Penny and Terry Seigler with
Mark Tucker



Melinda and Buddy Strickland, Greg





Greg and Ed



Greg, Penny and Terry Seigler



Angel and Dane, directors



Dianne and Ed Hefti
with Curtis McCarthy



Priscilla Gibson & Ed Hefti



George Buddy Strickland and Greg



Sheryl Kingcade



Chuck, Donna, and Buddy



Karen Brunker, Priscilla Gibson, Sheryl Kingcade, Terah Kay Shawver, Dianne Hefti



Stefanie and Curtis McCarthy, Zac and Grant



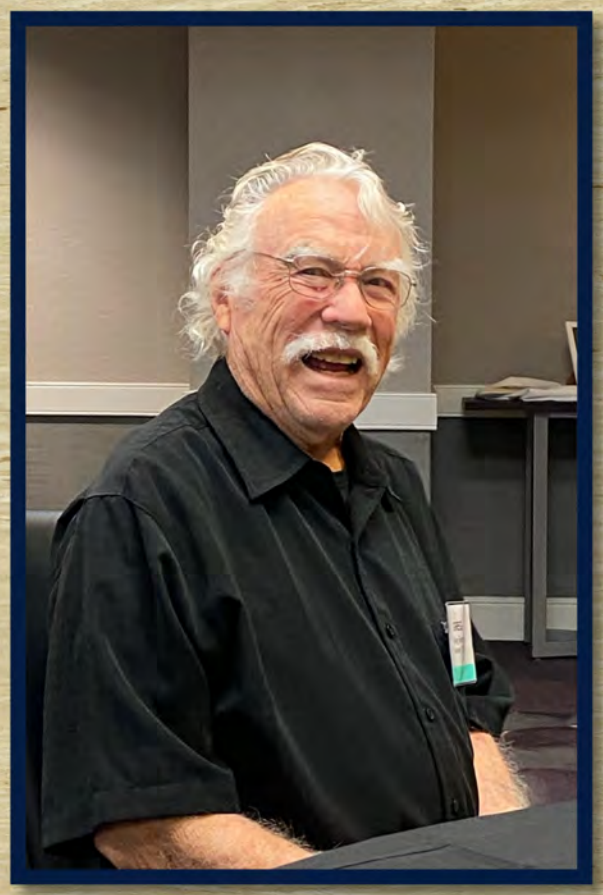
Stefanie McCarthy



Ed Hefti and Greg



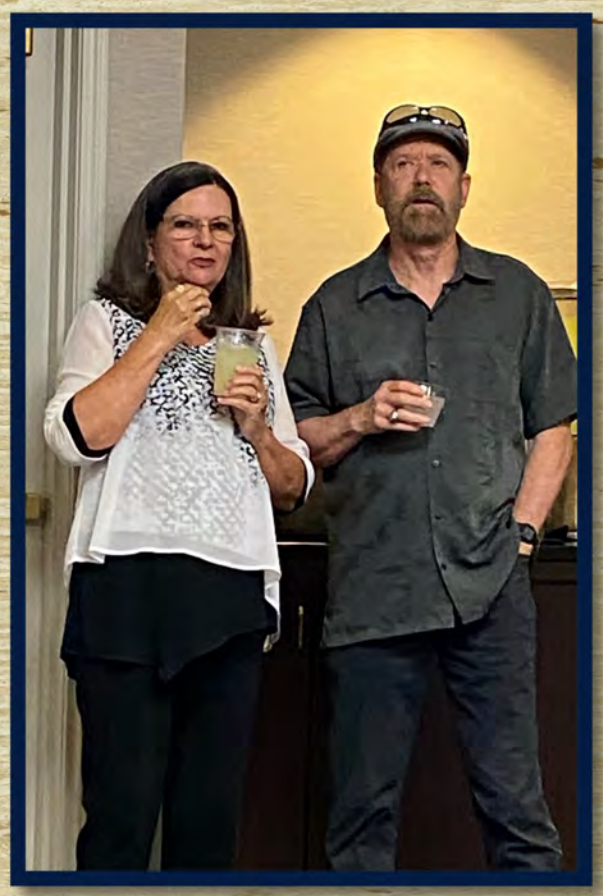
Phil Clements and Greg



Greg Berry, Greg Miller's HS and College Director



Phil and Amy Clements



Gail and Dave Lee



Stefanie and Curtis McCarthy



Monica and Sam



Robyn and
Steven Mitchell



McCarthys and Zac, Grant



George "Buddy" Strickland
and Ed Hefti



Terah Kay Shawver,
McCarthys, and Millers



Phil and Amy Clements



Monica and Marcie and
grandchildren

Greg and Gail would like to thank the schools, community, and First United Methodist Church of Iowa Park for being the village that helped raise their sons. This village or community is filled with people that make a difference in the lives of individuals and families as expressed by their actions of love and care for those people. Greg, Gail, and their sons were often the recipients of such love and support. Although Greg and Gail moved to Lubbock for family reasons in 2019, they love Iowa Park and will always consider it to be home.

Greg is humbled and honored to be inducted into the Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame. He thanks the Phi Beta Mu Hall of Fame committee for selecting him to be included with so many other prestigious directors. He shares this honor with his own family, former students, mentors, and the many colleagues that enriched his life. Greg is especially thankful for the many seasoned directors that freely offered their sage advice and wisdom when he was a young director. He is grateful for the opportunity and privilege he had to serve the many students in his bands and other bands across the state. It is an honor to be a Texas band director, and he considers his induction into the Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame to be one of the highest honors of his career. Thank you.







Good friends and fellow directors